



COLORADO

Office of Children,
Youth & Families

Division of Child Welfare

SECTION 1: REQUEST FOR STATE APPROVAL OF PLAN

Identify which funding you are applying for (check all that apply):

- Chafee Program funds
- Colorado Foster Youth Successful Transition to Adulthood Grant Program (HB21-1094) funding
- Colorado Fostering Success Voucher Program (SB23-082)

Is the agency coordinating this application a county department of human/social services or is the local department a collaborative partner in this application?

- Yes
- No

Name of county department of human/social services: Mesa County

Will the program be providing letters of support from local youth serving organizations (Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) Providers, Continuums of Care (COC) and others) along with this application?

- Yes
- No

For guidance, background, and definitions that will be helpful in completing the applications you can follow this [link](#).

Please complete all portions of the plan for the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (Chafee) and/or application for the Colorado Foster Youth Successful Transition to Adulthood Grant Program (State Grant Program).

This application for funding is hereby submitted for Mesa County, for the performance period of **October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025** (Chafee) and July 1, 2024 through June 30th 2025 for the State Grant program

The Plan includes the following:

- Completed and Signed "Request for State Approval" form
- Completed "FFY25 Program Plan Cover Page" form
- Completed "Statement of Assurances" form
- Completed "Narrative Summary and Program Description" form
- Completed and Signed "Regional Collaborative MOU(s)" (if applicable)
- Completed "Financial Pre-award Questionnaire" form
- Completed "Budget and Budget Justification Form Workbook"
 - Completed "Population to be Served" Worksheet
 - Completed "Budget Template" Worksheet
 - Completed "Workload Worksheet" (for each worker)

This application and plan for the Chafee and/or State Grant Program has been developed in accordance with State Department of Human Services rules and is hereby submitted to the Colorado Department of Human Services, Division of Child Welfare for approval. If the enclosed proposed application and plan is approved, the



plan will be administered in conformity with its provisions and the provisions of State Department rules and plan requirements.

Application Instructions: Programs must fill out the application in its entirety for the funding you are requesting. Applicants only seeking funding through the State Grant Program do not need to complete questions that are specified as Chafee-only questions and will not need to complete Appendix A, as this section only pertains to applicants seeking Chafee funding. All applicants must submit a detailed budget on the included budget form which can be found: [here](#).

Please be aware that while State Grant Program Funds are available to non-county applicants, Chafee funds must include a County agency as the lead agency.

Only one agency will be awarded funds for each geographic area unless both agencies have an MOU that outlines how they will coordinate programming in a non-competitive manner.

Contact Information:

Primary Contact:

Name: Melissa Gutierrez

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Supervisor/Administrator Contact:

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Accounting Contact:

Name: Kelly McBride

Phone: (970) 256-2490

Title: Accounting Supervisor

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By signing below you verify that the information provided in this plan is correct and current and the county agrees to provide services in accordance with this plan. Your signature also acknowledges agreement to the statement of assurances found herein. If two or more counties propose this plan, the required signatures below are to be completed by each participant county. Please attach an additional signature page as needed.

DocuSigned by:

5/30/2024 | 15:49 MDT

Signature, Director, County Department of Human Services or Executive Director

DATE

Signature, CHAIR, BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS or Appointed Representative

DATE



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Chafee and Colorado Foster Youth Successful Transition to Adulthood Grant Program Combined Application Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2025 and State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2025

Applicant Agency Name: Mesa County

SECTION 2: NARRATIVE SUMMARY AND PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Positive Youth Development (PYD) is extremely important in guiding service implementation and should be taken into consideration and documented throughout the annual plan. The PYD principles are provided below.

- *Strengths-based - Taking a holistic approach that focuses on the inherent strengths of an individual, family or community, then building upon them.*
- *Inclusive - Addressing the needs of all youth by ensuring that our approach is culturally responsive.*
- *Engaging youth as partners - Ensuring the intentional, meaningful, and sustained involvement of youth as equitable partners in the programs, practices, and policies that seek to impact them.*
- *Collaborative - Creating meaningful partnerships within and across sectors to effectively align our work.*
- *Sustainable - Addressing long-term planning through funding, training, capacity building, professional development, and evaluation in order to ensure ongoing support and engagement of youth.*

When completing each section please provide the requested information for the two separate identified populations:

- **Population #1:** 14 through 17-year-olds (Chafee only).
- **Population #2:** 18 to 23-year-olds (Chafee and/or 1094 funds).

Identification, Outreach, and Waitlist:

I. Describe in bulleted detail how the program will identify and engage youth eligible for Chafee services in each of the eligible populations.

Population #1:

- Run the Pathways to Success Snapshot in the Trials Database System
- Child welfare caseworkers are notified to submit Chafee referrals for any youth over the age of 14 any time they receive a case
- Conduct outreach activities by attending team meetings with Child Welfare Social Caseworkers
- Host group activities and workshops (ie. Communication skills, self-care activities)
- Outreach to youth on social media (i.e. Facebook Messenger)
- Conduct outreach activities with local foster care providers to discuss Chafee services
- Conduct radio and TV interviews describing Chafee services and how eligible youth can submit referrals
- Information cards will be given to DHS Eligibility workers as well as TANF and WIOA workers regarding the program and how youth can be referred

Population #2:

- Run the Pathways to Success Snapshot in the Trials Database System



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- Conduct outreach activities by attending team meetings with Child Welfare Social Caseworkers
- Host group activities and workshops (i.r. Communication skills, self-care activities)
- Outreach to youth on social media (i.e. Facebook Messenger)
- Conduct outreach activities with local foster care providers to discuss Chafee services
- Meet with youth individually at restaurants and coffee shops
- Conduct outreach activities with the local RHY provider
- Conduct outreach activities with the local DYS Case Workers
- Conduct radio and TV interviews describing Chafee services and how eligible youth can submit referrals
- Information cards will be given to DHS Eligibility workers as well as TANF and WIOA workers regarding the program and how youth can be referred

II. Describe (in bulleted format) how the county will verify a youth meets the citizenship or qualified alien requirements before accessing Chafee services [SSA Section 472(a)(3), INA Section 245A(h), and INA Section 210(f)].

- Run the Pathways to Success Snapshot in the Trails Database System
- Check the client's demo screen in Trails and take a screenshot
- Request a copy of the youth's Birth Certificate and or social security card if needed
- Request an Affidavit of Citizenship be signed if needed

III. Describe how the program will operate a waitlist if there is a need for one. Include how the program will prioritize youth with the most need and on what criteria this is based.

The Mesa County Program prioritizes youth based on need, age, and length of time on the waiting list. The program uses the following criteria to prioritize youth:

- Risk or history of human trafficking
- Risk or history of homelessness
- Whether the youth has emancipated from Child Welfare or exited the Division of Youth Corrections after attaining eighteen (18), or is expected to do so
- Previous participation in Chafee services, or transfer of services from another county or state
- Enrollment and progress in workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act programs or workforce development activities
- Connection to permanent, supportive adults and personal support systems

If a waitlist is needed, the waitlisted referral will be kept in a Mesa County Chafee file for when a Chafee case can be opened for the youth. The Chafee Program Supervisor will send emails after the initial referral is received to update on the youth's waitlist status. Additionally, youth on the Mesa County Chafee waiting list are eligible to participate in all Chafee group life skills classes. All participants are notified when classes are scheduled and encouraged to attend.


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Program Narrative: *Describe in bulleted detail and short summary how the program will design and deliver individualized services to achieve the purposes below.*

I. Legal permanency and lifelong connections

- A. Describe how your program will partner with the County child welfare agency, will help young people identify, develop, and strengthen relationships with family, kin, mentors, and other supportive adults through the course of ongoing casework practice for youth who continue to have ongoing involvement with child welfare (Population #1).
- Complete Family Search and Engagement for youth and families when youth come into custody and regularly throughout the life of the case
 - Complete Roadmap to Success Plans with youth
 - Encourage youth to have permanent connections and positive support attending Family Engagement Meetings and Permanency Round Table meetings.
 - Complete Ansell Casey Assessment with youth
 - Complete connections activities with youth(ie. Ecomaps and genograms)
 - Participate in FEM's/PRT's/MDT's as a youth support
 - Encourage the youth to bring additional permanent support to facilitated meetings.
 - Introduce youth to the Former Alumni Mentors Program whose main focus is to connect current and former foster youth with mentors and each other, creating a community of support.
 - Support youth in engaging in positive community activities such as joining a club, gym, or outdoor activity.
 - Encourage youth to bring friends or positive support to Life Skill Activities
- B. For youth 18-23 describe how your program will help young people identify, develop, and strengthen relationships with family, kin, mentors, and other supportive adults, including your program's use of the [Youth Connections Scale](#) and other tools to support the development of lifelong connections.
- Go over previous Family Search and Engagement results with youth to see if there are any connections they would like to maintain.
 - Participate in FEM's/PRT's/MDT's as a youth support
 - Encourage the youth to bring additional permanent support to facilitated meetings.
 - Encourage conversations regarding healthy relationships and maintaining connections in individual meetings with youth
 - Complete an independent living skills assessment with each youth
 - Complete connections activities with youth(ie. Eco-maps, genograms, warm-hand offs to FAM)
 - Introduce youth to the Former Alumni Mentors Program whose main focus is to connect current and former foster youth with mentors and each other, creating a community of support.
 - Support youth in engaging in positive community activities such as joining a club, gym, or outdoor activity.
 - Encourage youth to bring friends or positive support to Life Skill Activities

II. Wellbeing

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- A. Describe the services the program will provide to help youth meet their physical, dental and mental health needs. Include your program's efforts to educate and enroll youth in Former Foster Care Medicaid.

The Mesa County Program will work with youth individually, helping them to identify medical, dental, and mental health providers in the community. The program will help the youth identify what is important to them in a provider and will support the youth in finding the right provider for them. The program will assist the youth in locating providers that accept the youth's health insurance and are located near the youth's residence. If transportation is a barrier to care, Mesa County Passages will assist the youth in obtaining a bus pass, a bike, or learning how to schedule a Medicaid taxi. Program coordinators will ensure all youth know their Medicaid eligibility for Former Foster Care Medicaid, and what they will need to do to enroll and ensure this remains active. The Mesa County program has formed a strong relationship with the DHS eligibility team allowing for communication regarding any barriers youth face with Medicaid. The program will support youth to schedule appointments and when needed, will role-play this with youth. Through individual sessions and group life skills classes, youth will understand what a co-pay is, and ensure they know how to access support if finances are a barrier to care. Youth will be given their Pathways to Success Snapshot if they want a copy. The Mesa County Program also has FYI binders where youth can track their appointments and other important events. Youth will be encouraged to utilize this binder however it may benefit them.

- B. Describe the services the program will provide to help young people make informed sexual health decisions and meet their sexual health needs.

The Mesa County Program will host workshops for youth of similar ages and work with youth one-on-one to discuss sexual health topics in a developmentally appropriate manner. The program will also work to refer youth to local resources such as the Colorado Health Network, Mesa County Public Health, and their primary care doctors for sexual health care and resources. The program partners with social caseworkers, therapists, and community members' expertise to develop updated and developmentally appropriate materials, training, and classes for youth. In addition to discussions regarding sexual health, youth will learn about healthy relationships, how to say no in peer pressure situations, and consent.

- C. Describe the services and support the program will provide to young people who are pregnant and parenting.

The Mesa County Program will speak with youth about local resources available to assist them such as WIC, Nurse-Family Partnership, The Parenting Place, Hilltop's Parents as Teachers Program, and Mesa County Public Health. The coordinators will help the youth locate a primary doctor if the youth does not already have one. The program will conduct a skills assessment that can be found at caseylifeskills.org with help to prepare pregnant teens and expectant parents. The coordinator will continue to speak with the youth and inquire about what they need and want regarding their pregnancy and being a parent. If a youth needs baby supplies, the program has a shed of new and donated items that the youth can take for free.

- D. Describe the services the county and program will provide to help young people make healthy and developmentally appropriate relationship decisions.

Group workshops and activities will be offered to this population in addition to individual meetings. The program will work with the youth, their caseworker, and the team to identify healthy



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relationships in their lives and how to strengthen them. The Mesa County Program will help to connect youth with community members with similar interests to add healthy relationships to their lives.

- E. Describe the services the program will provide to help young people make healthy lifestyle decisions (including but not limited to substance use, exercise, tobacco use prevention, etc.).

The Mesa County Program will invite community presenters to Life Skills classes covering various topics such as relationships, sexual health, healthy eating, budgeting, etc. that will challenge the youth to think about how they want to navigate these topics. The program coordinator will engage youth in conversations regarding their choices and use solution-focused questions and a strength-based approach to allow them to explore how their choices impact consequences. The Mesa County Program will expose youth to healthy activities and choices such as yoga, hiking, and healthy cooking, and will encourage them to participate in these even if they have not previously done so. The program coordinator will encourage youth to advocate for themselves and help them to identify substance abuse treatment programs if needed. The Mesa County Program will connect youth to the local inpatient and outpatient substance use clinics if youth are interested in these services. The Mesa County Program currently has Narcan that youth can take (with no questions asked) and also provides Narcan training regularly. The program has also created and maintains a Mesa Passages Pinterest page that youth can follow. This page pins healthy recipes, self-care activities, and sample workouts.

- F. Describe how your program will collaborate with family, kin, mentors, other supportive adults, community health and mental health centers, and community partners to support the wellbeing of young people in the program.

The Mesa County Program will attend Family Engagement and Permanency Round Table meetings with youth to help and encourage the voice of the youth in making health decisions. The coordinator will also collaborate with family, kin, mentors, other supportive adults, community health and mental health centers, and community partners to support the well-being of youth through presentations at Life Skills Classes.

- G. Describe how the program will collaboratively serve young people with physical and developmental disabilities. How do you adjust service delivery and make accommodations to meet the needs of all youth served?

The Mesa County Program will collaborate with organizations in our community such as the Center for Independence, Mesa Developmental Services, Ariel Clinical Services, Mosaic, Caprock, and STRIVE that provide life skills coaching, day programs, and host homes for youth with developmental disabilities. If a youth needs support accessing these partner agencies the coordinator will assist the youth in an application or referral to services. The Mesa County Program will also encourage youth interested in the Special Olympics to participate in this community activity. The coordinator will allow all youth enrolled in the program to participate in groups. Depending on the youth's needs, the program will assist in transportation coordination, and finding additional adults to facilitate groups so the youth may have additional assistance. The program will work with the youth's social caseworker and treatment team to learn what accommodations they may need to participate in groups.



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- H. Describe how the program will support the young people you serve when it comes to their culture, linguistic needs, racial and ethnic backgrounds, sexual orientations, and gender identities.

The Mesa County Program will learn this information in meetings with the youth by engaging in a coachlike way and asking powerful open-ended questions. The coordinator will use respectful and inclusive language while interacting with the youth. Each youth will be asked their preferred name and pronouns and the coordinator will use the preferred name and pronouns while speaking with the youth. The Mesa County Program will help the youth to identify resources in the community to serve their needs. This may include connecting the youth with established groups or clubs, programs offered at the public library, community centers, religious organizations, or local schools. A Casey Life Skills Assessment will be administered to each youth offering an opportunity for the youth to discuss their backgrounds and identities. The coordinator and Supervisor may attend training, webinars, and or read materials that educate about ways to support the cultural and linguistic needs of youth.

III. Safe and stable housing

- A. Describe how the program will strategically partner with relevant agencies, including the local county child welfare agency, to access the full continuum of financial housing resources for youth including Supervised Independent Living Placements (SILP), Chafee, the Foster Youth in Transition Program, Foster Youth to Independence (FYI), and Family Unification Program (FUP) vouchers.

The Mesa County Program is included as one of the positions in the Mesa County Child Welfare Division and therefore keeps in close contact with permanency/ongoing social caseworkers. The Program is well-versed in child welfare services and can connect youth with appropriate resources. The program coordinators are involved with all Supervised Independent Living Plans (SILPs, previously known as ILA), and work closely with the youth and their caseworker as they transition into the SILP. The program participates in regular meetings with the local RHY provider, Karis INC, as well as The Grand Junction Housing Authority, and Catholic Outreach to help manage both FUP and FYI housing vouchers for the community. Additionally, The Mesa County Program will provide Chafee funding for household startup items if appropriate. IN 2024 the Mesa County Program received the fostering to success housing vouchers with funding. Some of this funding was used to put on a landlord forum in order to educate local landlords in Mesa County about the housing vouchers offered to youth. The Mesa County Program is also strengthening partnerships with GJ Housing Authority, The City of Grand Junction, and Grand Junction Housing Resources to address housing issues in Mesa County

- B. Describe the status of the county and Chafee partners with local runaway and homeless youth (RHY) providers, and/or continuums of care (CoC). Include efforts underway, through those partnerships, to prevent youth from discharging from foster care to a homeless shelter facility or Chafee eligible who are being served through the homeless system.

Mesa County's Child Welfare Department and Mesa County Program have a close partnership with the local youth homeless shelter, The House. Meetings are held monthly to address training, development, and needs of the Family Unification Program and its youth as well as regular meetings to discuss eligible youth for the FYI program. Additionally, when youth enter The House, the case manager informs the Mesa County Program supervisor so that their foster care status and CFCIP and FUP eligibility may be verified. This way identification happens upfront and youth are connected with appropriate services early on. There are also monthly meetings held among some of the staff from The



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House and Child Welfare to discuss youth with complex situations that could lead to out-of-home placement to try and prevent this.

- C. Describe the housing supports including financial assistance (fees, deposits, rental assistance, and emergency funds), referral services, and assistance locating housing the program will provide to help youth secure safe and stable housing. Describe resources available through Emergency Service Grants (ESG), rapid re-housing, and other HUD resources (resources available through non-profits).

The Mesa County Program will work with youth in group settings, and through individual case management, to help them build a foundation for housing education. The coordinators will work with youth individually to locate housing based on their needs. Program funds may be used for fees, deposits, and rental assistance. The program will connect youth to state, local, and federal resources for financial assistance if appropriate. This program partners with Karis Inc. and its programs and will connect youth to transition housing resources and additional case management if needed. For youth with FUP vouchers, FYI vouchers, fostering to success vouchers, or a goal to obtain independent housing, the coordinators will assist youth in their search for housing. Coordinators will also help with reading rental applications and lease agreements, and in appropriate communication with landlords. Youth will be referred to the Almost Home Guide, a document of local housing options, and to the low-income housing lists in the Grand Junction area. Youth who are FUP or FYI eligible and who have a Teen Advocate through Karis' Street Outreach Program have the support of this person to assist them in finding housing. These youth also have case management provided to them while they are on the FUP or FYI to support them in learning house management skills. Additionally, in 2023 the Mesa County Program formed a strong connection with a local Non-profit, Foster Alumni Mentors (FAM), around housing. FAM supports any interested youth with housing vouchers with ongoing case management in addition to case management and support from the Mesa County Chafee program. The Mesa County Program will support eligible youth by covering application fees, security deposits, and first months' rent when appropriate. The program will work with youth to develop life skills around accessing resources available within the community and successfully communicating with landlords and the Housing Authority about vouchers and available properties. The Mesa County Program has also worked to put together apartment startup kits with bedding, household supplies, and kitchen basics that can be given to youth who are moving out on their own.

- D. Briefly describe barriers to securing safe and stable housing in the communities you serve and efforts your county is engaged in to address those barriers.

Barriers in Mesa County include difficulties finding adequate and affordable housing and landlords willing to rent to youth. Many youth have difficulties because of their lack of rental history, lack of credit history, lack of employment history, or criminal records. Mesa County partners with the Grand Junction Housing Authority, Karis Inc. and Catholic outreach to brainstorm ideas for these youth. The Mesa County Program has also worked to connect youth with YALA (Young Adult Legal Advocacy), an organization that offers free legal support to youth who are emancipating or who have been emancipated from foster care. With support from YALA, youth can expunge or seal their records so



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that past criminal history is not a barrier to housing. Over 2023 Mesa County also worked to organize a local landlord forum to connect with and hopefully partner with more local landlords. Mesa County is also partnering with the City of Grand Junction to educate youth on positive renting skills.

- E. Describe ways in which the program will collaborate with family, kin, mentors, supportive adults, housing authorities, or community partners to help young people secure safe and stable housing.

The Mesa County Program will participate in Permanency Round Table Meetings to gather and share information about the youth, identify needs, and build on strengths. The coordinator will identify youth supports through Ecomaps and the Circles of Supports activity and talk about how the youth is being supported and will be supported in the future. If a youth is struggling with homelessness then the coordinator will collaborate with the local youth homeless shelter to identify youth eligible for the FUP/FYI vouchers or Fostering to Success vouchers, and connect the youth with the Grand Junction Housing Authority, and assist the youth to secure housing.

IV. Secondary educational attainment

- A. Describe how the county and program will support or encourage young people as they work to complete their high school diploma or GED.

The Mesa County Program will work closely with the youth, their social caseworker, and the treatment team to support their education. Part of individual work with this population will include advocacy skills. The coordinators will participate in educational meetings, develop educational goals with youth, and will offer incentives through the Passages program for youth who graduate or pass the GED. The coordinator will work closely with youth and their identified supporters to encourage their continued education and self-advocacy. The Mesa County Program connects youth with the local workforce center if they are interested in completing their GED. If youth want to earn their high school diploma the program will support them in connecting with School District 51 and enrolling in school. When Mesa County Passages youth graduate or complete their GED, they are celebrated in a yearly celebration of educational excellence. This event is a collaboration with Karis INC, D51 schools, DYS, Probation, and FAM to honor youth who have achieved this milestone.

- B. Describe ways in which the program will collaborate with family, kin, mentors, supportive adults, and education and community partners to support the achievement of high school diplomas or GEDs by youth in your program.

The Mesa County Program will participate in Permanency Round Table meetings with the youth and their supporters. They will utilize goal-setting worksheets to advocate for themselves in meetings and share their goals regarding education and employment.

V. Post-secondary training and educational attainment

- A. Describe how the program will support and encourage young people as they work to complete their postsecondary educational goals.



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The Mesa County Program will assist youth with the process of applying to college or other vocational/apprenticeship programs and class registration. They will assist youth with applying for FAFSA, Educational Training Vouchers, and other scholarships. Mesa County Passages will ensure all eligible youth know about their eligibility for free college in the state of Colorado. Through a direct partnership with Colorado Mesa University, Mesa County Passages has ensured that all eligible youth are supported through the enrollment process. The coordinator will help the youth develop plans for school breaks and summer housing and will assist in establishing contacts/connections for youth on campus (admissions counselor, financial advisor, mentor program for first-generation students). The coordinator will assist with purchasing textbooks and other educational/school supplies as needed. The Mesa County Program attended “Mav Days” this year with a group of youth in high school as a life skills class to have the youth start thinking about college. This event was a huge success and the Mesa County program plans to attend this event again in 2025

- B. Describe how the program will collaborate with family, kin, mentors, supportive adults, institutions of higher education, and community partners to support the achievement of postsecondary certifications or degrees by youth in your program.

The Mesa County Program will connect eligible youth with the local TRIO-SSS program for retention support. They will participate in Permanency Round Table meetings to identify youth goals and supports, youth needs, and build on strengths. As needed, tours of Colorado Mesa University and Western Colorado Community College will be incorporated into life skills classes. Other universities, colleges, trade schools, and Job Corps will be toured upon request and may be included in life skills classes dependent upon the needs of the youth. Youth in high school will be encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity they have to take certain college-level courses so they can explore their interests and experience the challenge of the coursework, and will also be encouraged to explore the ASSENT program, a program that will pay for the first year of college classes at CMU.

VI. Adequate employment

- A. Describe how the program will help young people gain the experience and skills needed to become or remain employed.

The Mesa County Program will connect youth with the local Mesa County Workforce Center and the youth employment services program. The Mesa County Chafee program and the Mesa County WIOA program now have a joint client list as well as joint ROI allowing for strong partnership for youth enrolled in both programs. The youth will be able to explore the Career Development programs, and job corps, and receive support with learning work-related skills. The program will assist youth in creating and developing a resume and cover letter. Youth will also be encouraged to engage with SWAP (School to Work Alliance Program) where they will be able to attend training designed to help them in the workforce. The coordinator will support the youth in shopping for interview clothing and will help purchase work outfits if needed. The coordinator will help the youth practice for job interviews, and will also help them create a plan on how they will get to and from work each day.

- B. Describe how the program will collaborate with family, kin, mentors, supportive adults, local workforce centers (WIOA), and community-based workforce programs to help youth prepare for and attain adequate employment.



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The Mesa County Program will connect youth with the Workforce Center to take tests such as Work Keys and others to help them identify skills and interests that will serve as a foundation to develop their career goals. Youth will be introduced to these programs, and depending on their age and needs may or may not be enrolled. The coordinator will speak with the youth about volunteer opportunities and use Family Engagement and Permanency Round Table Meetings to speak with the youth and their team about skill-building for job readiness. The coordinators also partner with mentors working with youth in their population to create goals to support job readiness

VII. Financial stability

- A. Describe how the program will work with youth to develop a functional knowledge of budgeting, money management, and basic financial literacy.

The Mesa County Program will help youth develop goals around budgeting and money management as it relates to meal planning, principles of savings/spending/giving, use of allowance, paying court fees, and other similar topics. The coordinator will use the online virtual activity “Play Spent” to help youth go through an activity regarding income, spending, and community resources. The coordinator will support youth in exploring budgeting, checking accounts vs saving accounts, debit vs credit cards, and life insurance classes. The coordinator will assist the youth in understanding credit scores and how to pay taxes each year. If needed the coordinator will include youth in credit remediation training offered by the Credit Builders Alliance. The Mesa County Program also has budget binders to give out to youth who prefer physical tools or recommends the app “Every Dollar” for those who prefer virtual tools.

- B. Describe how the county or program will provide youth in out-of-home care with practical money management experience prior to emancipation or discharge, including providing opportunities to open savings and/or checking accounts.

Youth will be asked to practice making a monthly budget, and will be given budgeting tools such as packets, or practice with free budget apps like “every dollar”. The coordinator will help take youth to banks so that they can open savings and/or checking accounts if appropriate, and make sure they have all of the needed documents to open a banking account. The program may provide tools to youth such as worksheets that can assist them in tracking their finances, and the Passages program will offer courses, books, and other resources to youth who are interested in education about their finances. When youth need housing items, clothing items, or request fun items they will be given a budget on what they will be able to spend. The Chafee coordinator will then help youth understand how they can track their spending and smart shopping habits.

- C. Describe how your program will collaborate with family, kin, mentors, supportive adults, financial literacy programs, and community partners to support the financial education and decision-making needs of young people in the program.

The Mesa County Program will include family members, kin members, mentors, supportive adults, and community partners to support the financial education and the decision-making needs of young people in the program. These individuals will be invited to groups for interactive discussions and activities regarding financial literacy. The coordinator will also work with the youth, their



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social caseworker, and their team to identify the family members, kin, mentors, and supportive adults to include in Family Engagement and Permanency round table meetings. These individuals will support the youth while developing a youth-specific roadmap to success.

VIII. Successful transition to adulthood from foster care.

- A. Describe ways in which the program promotes and supports normalized experiences among current and former foster youth through age or developmentally appropriate activities.

The Mesa County Program provides Life Skills classes to cover a range of topics to help youth prepare for a successful transition into adult self-sufficiency including a SILP placement. The coordinator works with each youth and their caseworker to ensure that an emancipation plan has been created, the youth has access to their vital documents, and they are aware of local community resources for help. Mesa County also has a prudent parent policy that allows for youth normalcy. This will be referred to during case consultation and staffing. When issues arise and the Passages program does not believe youth is being allowed to experience normalcy they will meet with the youth's team to understand the situation and advocate for normalcy for the youth.

- B. Briefly describe any group classes or activities (focused on self-sufficiency) not already mentioned including the name of the group, purpose of the group, intended audience, expected frequency and length of time, and name of the curriculum used for the group, if applicable.

The following life-skills classes were offered between October 1 2022 and May Of 2024. These are examples of classes that will be provided in Fiscal year 2024-2025

- Pumpkin carving
- College Application and FAFSA
- Friendsgiving
- Car Maintenance
- Cookie baking and decorating
- Tax night
- snowshoeing
- Mindfulness
- Western Slope Celebration of Excellence
- Hiking
- Whitewater rafting
- End of Summer Lake day/BBQ
- Art Gallery Tour
- Air show
- Vision boards
- Mesa Experience day
- Naloxone Training
- WIOA night

- C. Describe any services not addressed previously in this section that the program will provide to help young people develop life skills and self-sufficiency competencies. If through a collaborative partner then identify the provider.



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The Mesa County program works to highlight community partnerships so that youth and young adults have various supports throughout life. The Mesa County program regularly supports youth in connecting to the following community resources and works to have joint ROI's with each resource

- Mesa County DHS offices (TANF, Food Stamps, Medicaid)
- Mesa County DHS WIOA and GED programs
- Colorado Mesa University and CMU TECH
- Foster Alumni Mentors (FAM)
- Hilltop Community Partners
- Project 127
- School District 51
- Mesa Fitness
- Roper Music
- Wishes and Dreams Daycare
- ARC

X. Training and Program Support

- A. If the applicant is the county department of human/social services: Describe the training needs of staff in your program.

The Mesa County program could use additional training around substance use and ways to support people struggling with addiction. This team could also use additional training around human trafficking signs and how to best support young adults who may have been trafficked.

- B. *Only for applicants seeking Chafee funding:* Describe ways in which your county will help staff develop skills to more effectively work with youth and young adults, and gaps in training opportunities offered through the Child Welfare Training System and in the community.

The Mesa County Program will work closely with current Child welfare staff to host life skill training. This allows ongoing caseworkers to support youth in our system in a new way while teaching a lesson or life skill they may be passionate about. Additionally, Mesa County Passages is currently building a website for youth and staff to learn more about ongoing programs and resources. Additionally, all of the Mesa County workers are certified child welfare caseworkers for the state of Colorado and will participate in at least 40 hours of continuing education and trainings

- C. *Only for applicants seeking 1094 funding:* How will your program identify and support victims of human trafficking? Identify relevant services as well as community support.

Mesa County uses a High-Risk Victim Identification tool that was developed in Jefferson County to help in the identification of victims of human trafficking. This tool contains risk factors and enhancers for involvement in human trafficking so that case managers and other professionals working with youth can be more aware of youth who might be victims of human trafficking. Additionally, the Mesa County program partners closely with law enforcement anytime it is suspected that a youth/young adult may be a victim of human trafficking. The Mesa County program works with all youth to create emergency



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plans in case of danger and helps youth practice problem-solving ways they could get help if they are ever in a difficult situation.

XI. Program Reporting

- A. Chafee Applicants: Describe in detail how your county will engage foster parents and county caseworkers to ensure full documentation of all independent living skill activities in Trails.

All activities will be documented in Trails including life skills group attendance. The Mesa County supervisor will review Trails documentation each month for all open chafee cases to ensure data is being put into the system timely. Workers attend PRTs and FEMS and give updates, and upon request documentation of goals and progress can be requested by the case worker Mesa County Program keeps a copy of a completed independent living skills assessment in each youth's folder. Each time a coordinator meets with youth the contact will be documented in trials. Youth will be encouraged to share their progress and life skills goals with their foster parents to work on self-advocacy

- B. Describe ways in which your program will support efforts to contact youth participating in National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) surveys.

The county will use social media to help locate and contact any youth who is no longer in Mesa County care. Once the youth is located the coordinator will ask the youth if they would like any support in completing the survey, and will help them through the process if needed. The coordinator will support caseworkers in completing the NYTD surveys with youth who are in custody.

XII. Evidence Based Programing

- A. Is the program that will be implementing services for young people identified in the plan considered an evidence based or evidence supported program?

Yes No

- B. If you answered yes, what aspect of your program is considered evidence based/supported?

Mesa County is currently an intervention site for the Pathways model.

- C. How will your program ensure the program is implemented to fidelity?

Mesa County coordinators and supervisors engage in monthly coaching calls to practice skills and ensure that the program is implemented to fidelity. Mesa County also engages in monthly site-specific calls with CPR/Mathematica to ensure that data and evaluations are being completed and entered into the system timely



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regular coaching

- D. Is your program a part of an evaluation to support or improve the level of evidence for the programming you will be implementing?

yes

- a. If you answered yes to D, what type of evaluation is being conducted (ie Pre/Post, Quasi-Experimental, Random Control Trial)?
- E. ? Random Control Trial
- a. What agency is responsible for overseeing the evaluation and have they obtained approval from an Institutional Review Board?
- F. The Pathways team including CDHS and CPR/Mathematica are responsible for overseeing the evaluation.



**APPENDIX A: CHAFEE PROGRAM SERVICES PLAN SPECIFIC INFORMATION (Chafee Applicants)
Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2025**

Regional Chafee Collaborative Counties or Jurisdictions:

- This section should be utilized to identify other counties or jurisdictions which your program will be serving in FFY25.
- Identify the counties that your program has an official collaboration with (signed MOU - see page 11 for the template).
- It should also be used to designate those counties or jurisdictions that aren't being served by an existing Chafee program where your program is willing to serve.
- For those counties and jurisdictions that you include in this section they will be added to your county for the purposes of the calculation of your annual award.
- If two or more programs identify the same county that they are willing to serve the calculation will be split between those counties for the award.

Collaborative Counties or Jurisdictions (please indicate if you have an MOU with each county listed):

- | | | |
|----|-----------|-----|
| 1. | MOU: Yes: | No: |
| 2. | MOU: Yes: | No: |
| 3. | MOU: Yes: | No: |
| 4. | MOU: Yes: | No: |
| 5. | MOU: Yes: | No: |

Does your county program have a formalized agreement (MOU, Interagency agreement, etc.) with the local Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) Provider?

- Yes
- No:
- In-process:

Name of RHY Provider: Karis Inc

Additional Notes: Mesa County had a formal MOU with Karis, however, there are recent changes in management and this RHY is now being overseen by Hilltop. A new MOU is in process with management.

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Contracted Agency Name *(if applicable)*

Name of Agency Contracted to Provide Chafee Services on behalf of the County:

Agency Name:

CHAFEE PROGRAM ASSURANCES

CHAFEE PROGRAM SERVICES PLAN STATEMENT OF ASSURANCES

The following County(ies): Mesa assure that, upon approval of the Chafee Program Services Plan and notice of funding, the following will be adhered to in the implementation of the Chafee Program Services Plan:

Chafee Program - Federal and State Required Statement of Assurances:

1. Funds shall be used exclusively for the purposes specified in the plan (12 CCR 2509-4 (7.305.41);
2. Funds shall not be used to supplant, duplicate, or replace existing child welfare funds and;
3. Funds shall not be used for county budget shortfalls;
4. Assistance and services shall be provided only to Chafee-eligible youth [Social Security Act (SSA), Title IV-E, Section 477(b)(3)(A)] on a voluntary basis;
5. Not more than 30 percent of the amounts allocated for Chafee for a fiscal year (performance period) will be expended for room and board for youth who have left foster care because they have attained 18 years of age and have not attained 21 years of age [SSA Section 477(b)(3)(B)];
6. None of the amounts paid to the County Department from its Chafee award will be expended for room and board for any child who has not attained 18 years old [SSA Section 477(b)(3)(C)];
7. The County Department will make every effort to coordinate the Chafee program receiving funds with other Federal and State programs for youth (especially transitional living youth projects funded under part B of Title III of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974), abstinence education programs, local housing programs, programs for disabled youth (especially sheltered workshops), and school-to-work programs offered by high schools or local workforce agencies [SSA Section 477(b)(3)(F)];
8. Youth participating in the program under this section will participate directly in designing their own program activities that prepare them for independent living and the youth will be required to accept personal responsibility for living up to their part of the program [SSA Section 477(b)(3)(H)];
9. The County Department will enter data on services into the State automated reporting system (Colorado Trails);
10. The County Department will assure that National Youth in Transitions Database (NYTD) program evaluation and youth survey requirements are met; and
11. Ensure all youth 18 to 21 have documents that demonstrate legal presence in the United States before Chafee services are provided [SSA Section 472(a)(3), Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) Section 245A(h), and INA Section 210(f)].
12. Chafee services and funding are utilized only for those youth who qualify according to the eligibility standards contained in 12 CCR 2509-4 (7.305.42).



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The County's Chafee Program Services Plan is required to be approved annually. Given that services are not standardized across counties, it is important to provide detailed bullets of information about a County's projected services.

According to Volume 7, the Chafee Program is a federally funded statewide independent living program that is county administered.

The purpose of the Chafee Program is to provide flexible funding to enable programs to be designed and conducted for the following purposes [SSA Section 477(a)]:

1. Support all youth who have experienced out-of-home placement at age 14 or older in their transition to adulthood through transitional services such as assistance in obtaining a high school diploma and post-secondary education, career exploration, vocational training, job placement and retention, training and opportunities to practice daily living skills, substance abuse prevention, and preventative health activities;
2. Help children who have experienced foster care at age 14 or older achieve meaningful, permanent connections with a caring adult;
3. Help children who have experienced foster care at age 14 or older engage in age or developmentally-appropriate activities, positive youth development, and experiential learning that reflects what their peers in intact families experience;
4. Provide financial, housing, counseling, employment, education, and other appropriate support and services to former foster care recipients between 18-23 years of age to complement their own efforts to achieve self-sufficiency and to assure that program participants recognize and accept their personal responsibility for preparing for and then making the transition from adolescence to adulthood;
5. Make available vouchers for education and training, including postsecondary training and education, to youths who have aged out of foster care;
6. Provide the services to children who, after attaining 16 years of age, have left foster care for kinship guardianship or adoption, and
7. Ensure children who are likely to remain in foster care until 18 years of age have regular, ongoing opportunities to engage in age or developmentally-appropriate activities.
8. These services shall supplement existing independent living resources and programs in county departments, residential child care facilities and child placement agencies, and by federal statute, shall not replace or duplicate existing services.

Chafee Program funds shall not exceed 30% of a counties budget or be used for room and board for a youth under eighteen (18) years of age.

IX. Sex Trafficking Reporting requirement * *section IX is only for applicants seeking Chafee funding*

- A. Describe how your program will identify victims of sex trafficking according to the definition of Sexual Servitude of an Adult (C.R.S. § 18-3-504).
Mesa County uses a High-Risk Victim Identification tool that was developed in Jefferson county to help in the identification of victims of human trafficking. This tool contains risk factors and enhancers for involvement in human trafficking so that case managers and other professionals working with youth can be more aware of youth who might be victims of human trafficking.
- B. Describe the county's reporting procedure including who from the county program will make the report to law enforcement and to which law enforcement agency this report will be made. If the county provides Chafee services through an independent contractor, include the procedure for how the contractor will notify the county and how the county will ensure a report is made to law enforcement.

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If the youth is in Mesa County's custody, then the social caseworker will make the report to law enforcement. If the youth is not in the county's custody, then the Chafee Program Coordinator will make the report to law enforcement.

- C. Identify what information will be presented in the report to law enforcement.

Information presented in the report to Law enforcement will include the child's name, date of birth, approximate height, weight, residence address, the last time they were seen, who they were seen with, and any other details specific to the youth and their situation.

- D. Detail how and what will be documented in Trails about the report law enforcement.

The information that was reported to law enforcement will be included in a trails note along with the time and date the report was made and the case number.

- E. Discuss how your program will mitigate the potential effect of reporting youth to law enforcement and the impact that may have on the professional relationship.

The CFCIP will speak with the youth about personal safety, healthy relationships, and the Chafee coordinator's role as a mandated reporter around suspicion of human trafficking.

CHAFEE PROGRAM SERVICES PLAN FINANCIAL PRE-AWARD QUESTIONNAIRE

Per 2 CFR Part 200, effective July 1, 2015, DCW is also required to conduct a financial risk assessment for all sub-recipients **prior** to awarding grant funds. Counties must complete and submit this financial pre-award questionnaire and submit it along with their county plan.

Name of organization: Mesa County Department of Human Services

Name and title of person completing this form: Kelly McBride - Accounting Supervisor

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1) Please complete the following table (adding lines as necessary) or attach your own document detailing your organization's current sources of funding for services for the Chafee-eligible population (including CDHS grants). Provide the funding agency, the program name, the types of funds (i.e., Federal, State, local, private, etc.), and the contract/award budget amount:

Grantor Agency	Type of Funds	Program	Contract/Award Budget Amount	Contract/Award Period
CDHS	Federal	Child Welfare - Chafee	66,028	2023-2024
CDHS	Federal	Child Welfare - HB21-1094	53,701	2023-2024
CDHS	Federal	SB23-082 Colorado Fostering Success	43,320	2023-2024
CDHS	Federal	Child Welfare - Chafee	55,332	2022-2023
CDHS	Federal	Child Welfare - HB21-1094	24,532	2022-2023
CDHS	Federal	Child Welfare - Chafee	60,939	2021-2022
CDHS	Federal	Child Welfare - Chafee Supplemental	67,119	2021-2022
CDHS	Federal	Child Welfare - Chafee	90,066	2020-2021
CDHS	Federal	Child Welfare - Chafee Supplemental	56,194	2020-2021
CDHS	Federal	Child Welfare - Chafee	88,893,	2019-2020

2) Describe your experience managing similar awards. You may use the table below as needed.

Program Name	Program Dates	Program Description	Granting Agency	Amount
PSSF	FY16-17	Promoting Safe and Stable Families	CDHS	95,000
PSSF	FY15-16	Promoting Safe and Stable Families	CDHS	95,000


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PSSF	FY14-15	Promoting Safe and Stable Familie	CDHS	95,000
PSSF	FY13-14	Promoting Safe and Stable Families	CDHS	95,000

3) For the accounting/fiscal FTE assigned to this project, provide their name, title, and how long they have worked for your organization in their current role. Identify the person that is in charge of maintaining your accounting and financial records for this project and provide a brief description of their accounting experience and qualifications. Identify any new accounting personnel assigned to this project within the previous 12 months, and whether any of your accounting systems have changed within the previous 12 months. Kelly McBride, Accounting Supervisor, 3 years in current role, 11 years with Mesa County DHS

- 4) Does your organization receive an annual financial statement audit under:
- The Single Audit Act/OMB Circular A-133 (Government Auditing Standards) Mesa County 2022 Single Audit OR
 - Generally Accepted Auditing Standards (GAAS) _____
 - Click [here](#) for more information on audit requirements for sub-recipients.

If yes, please provide a copy (electronic preferred) or link to your most recent audit report and STOP HERE AND SIGN/DATE BELOW.

IF NO, PLEASE ANSWER ALL THE REMAINING QUESTIONS AND SIGN/DATE BELOW.

•

5) Are your organization's financial records maintained in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP)? _____

6) Are accounting records supported by original documentation specific to contracting with your vendors?

7) What controls are followed to ensure all of the following:

a) The reasonableness of cost;

b) The allowability of costs;

c) The allocability of costs to a contract?

8) Do you have available accounting policies and procedures to review? If not, please describe your organization's overall fiscal controls and structure to sufficiently:

a) Permit the preparation of financial statements.



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b) Allow the organization's staff, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent or detect misstatements in financial reporting or the loss of assets in a timely manner.

c) Compare the budget to actual expenditures.

Please Sign and Date Below:

Kelly McBride

Signature _____

05/27/2024

Date _____