



Courtroom Design Application

Prepared by Mesa County
for Colorado Judicial Department 2024 Underfunded Courthouse Cash Fund Grants

Primary Contact: Alec Anderson



Opportunity Details

Opportunity Information

Title

2024 Underfunded Courthouse Cash Fund Grants

Description

Grants to Colorado County Governments to provide supplemental funding for courthouse facility projects in the counties with the most limited financial resources.

Background:

The responsibility for providing adequate courtrooms and other court facilities lies with the individual county governments. However, courthouses across Colorado are impacted by expanding caseloads, the allocation of new judges to the district, or the aging of existing courtroom facilities. These circumstances cause operational and safety impacts to the performance of judicial activities. In some areas, the necessary maintenance and improvements to the courthouse have been delayed or are hindered by the financial limitations of the county. The Judicial Branch worked with the General Assembly to create the Commission to assist these counties and ensure that the courthouses meet current safety standards.

The Underfunded Courthouse Facility Commission was established by the General Assembly in 2014 as a result of House Bill 14-1096, which created the Commission and the corresponding cash fund. The goal of the Commission is to provide supplemental grant funds to counties in need of financial assistance for courthouse facility projects.

The statute mandates that moneys from the Fund be made available to Counties through grants for:

1. Commissioning master planning services
2. Matching funds or leveraging grant funding opportunities for construction or remodeling projects
3. Addressing emergency needs due to the imminent closure of a court facility

Grants are issued through the State Court Administrator's Office.

Awarding Agency Name

Office of the State Court Administrator

Agency Contact Name

Audrey Boller

Agency Contact Phone

720-625-5841

Agency Contact Email

UFF@judicial.state.co.us

Opportunity Manager

Audrey Boller

Public Link

<https://www.gotomygrants.com/Public/Opportunities/Details/7f163585-ecad-48e7-9411-e6453140b250>

Is Published

Yes

Funding Information

Funding Sources

State

Funding Source Description

Colorado Revised Statute, Section 13-1-301, et seq.



Award Information

Award Period

01/01/2024 - 12/31/2024

Award Type

Competitive

Capital Grant

Yes

Indirect Costs Allowed

No

Matching Requirement

No

Submission Information

Submission Window

08/25/2023 8:00 AM - 09/29/2023 5:00 PM

Submission Timeline Type

One Time

Allow Multiple Applications

Yes

Question Submission Information

Question Submission Open Date

08/25/2023 8:00 AM

Question Submission Close Date

09/29/2023 5:00 PM

Question Submission Email Address

UFF@judicial.state.co.us

Technical Assistance Session

Technical Assistance Session

Yes

Session Date and Time

09/06/2023 10:00 AM

Conference Info / Registration Link

<https://judicial.webex.com/judicial/j.php?MTID=mfac9cf994e25f31a6296d2847b4636f0>

Eligibility Information

Eligibility Type

Public

Eligible Applicants

- County Governments



Additional Eligibility Information

Colorado County Governments

Counties must meet at least two of the following four pieces of criteria to be eligible to apply for and receive grants. Counties that meet all four will be given the highest priority.

- a. Counties in which the total population is below the state median,
- b. Counties in which the per capita income is below the state median,
- c. Counties in which the property tax revenues are below the state median, or
- d. Counties in which the county population below the federal poverty line is above the state median.

ELIGIBLE COUNTIES (* indicates highest priority)

Alamosa
Archuleta
Baca*
Bent*
Cheyenne
Conejos*
Costilla*
Crowley*
Custer
Delta
Dolores*
Fremont
Gilpin
Hinsdale
Huerfano*
Jackson*
Kiowa*
Kit Carson
Lake
Las Animas*
Lincoln*
Logan
Mesa
Mineral*
Moffat
Montezuma
Montrose
Morgan
Otero
Ouray
Phillips*
Prowers*
Pueblo
Rio Blanco
Rio Grande*
Saguache*
San Juan
Sedgwick*
Washington*
Yuma*

Additional Information

Additional Information URL

<https://www.courts.state.co.us/Administration/Unit.cfm?Unit=undfunct>

Additional Information URL Description

For full information on this grant, refer to the Grant Rules and Conditions via the link above.

Award Administration Information



Other Information

This is a reimbursement grant for actual approved expenses incurred by the County during the grant period.

Grants from the Fund may not supplant any County funding for facility projects.

Funds shall not be used:

1. For the purchase of furniture, fixtures, or equipment.
2. As the sole source of funding for new construction.
3. As the sole source of funding for remodeling, unless the need for funding is associated with the imminent closure of a court facility.



Project Information

Application Information

Application Name

Courtroom Design Application

Award Requested

\$207,800.00

Total Award Budget

\$207,800.00

Primary Contact Information

Name

Alec Anderson

Email Address

alec.anderson@mesacounty.us

Address

544 Rood Avenue
Grand Junction, Colorado 81501

Phone Number

(970) 623-6827



Project Description

Underfunded Courthouse Project Information

1. Project Type

Identify whether funds are being requested for *Master Planning* or *Matching Funds*

Master Planning: Projects involve entering into contracts for professional design services or engineering consulting to determine construction or remodeling options, feasibility, or cost estimates for the proposed project. Planning projects do not include the creation or drafting of construction documents.

Matching Funds: Projects seeking funds to provide matching funds or leveraging alternative grant program awarded funds. Matching funds shall be awarded to provide funds required by the awarding entity. Matching grants include a proration factor equal to the grant award amount over the total project cost as indicated in Section 3 of this application.

Project Type:

- Master Planning
- Matching Funds

2. Project Description

Provide a detailed description of the project. This section should demonstrate the appropriateness of the project and the steps necessary to complete the project. Review the Grant Rules using the link below to ensure that the proposed project meets the intent and purpose of the program.

For referenece, see the Grant Rules at <https://www.courts.state.co.us/Administration/Unit.cfm?Unit=undfunct>

Description

Dear Grant Committee,

I am writing on behalf of Mesa County, Colorado, to respectfully request your consideration for a grant of \$207,800 to support the critical need for designing two additional courtrooms within our existing Justice Center located at 125 N Spruce St, Grand Junction, Colorado. Mesa County's growth and evolution have made it evident that our current courtroom infrastructure is inadequate to meet the demands of our justice system and provide the top-quality services our residents deserve.

Mesa County is situated in the heart of Western Colorado, encompassing a diverse population that relies on our local court system for fair and efficient administration of justice. Over the years, our county has experienced a notable increase in caseloads and legal complexities, putting a significant strain on our existing courtroom facilities. In this context, it has become imperative to enhance our courtroom infrastructure to ensure judges of the 21st Judicial District are able to provide timely access to justice and uphold the rule of law.

The primary objective of this grant proposal is to secure funding for the comprehensive design of two additional courtrooms within the confines of our existing Justice Center. Our current courtroom facilities were built more than two



decades ago and lack the necessary technology, spatial configuration, and accessibility features to facilitate the fair and efficient resolution of legal matters. Without the appropriate facilities, our judges, legal professionals, and support staff are constrained in their ability to carry out their responsibilities effectively.

The requested grant amount of \$207,800 will secure an architectural design service professional who specializes in modern court facility design. The design phase is projected to take approximately six months, during which we will collaborate closely with the chosen design team to ensure that the new courtrooms address the pressing needs of our community.

Mesa County's population is expected to grow by 48% in the next 20 years, as projected by the State Demographer's Office. This rapid growth further underscores the urgency of our need for upgraded courtroom facilities. With the new courtroom designs, we intend to optimize the use of our existing Justice Center to handle the increasing demand for legal services and proceedings.

In addition to this courtroom design project, Mesa County is committed to enhancing our justice system in other ways. We are slated to begin construction on a new probation office space at 200 S Spruce Street, Grand Junction, estimated at \$3.8 million, commencing in the spring of 2024. This project will complement our efforts to provide comprehensive and efficient justice services to our growing community.

Key factors that highlight the urgency of this funding need:

1. **Inability to fully use current judicial officer allocations and increasing workloads:** Mesa County is currently facing challenges in effectively utilizing its judicial resources and managing the increasing caseloads. Presently, the county is allocated six district court judges, yet it possesses only five district courtrooms. While efforts have been made to address this discrepancy through the use of a virtual courtroom, it is important to note that this solution has limitations, running at 51.8% capacity compared to a physical courtroom.

Anticipating potential future allocations of additional judges, Mesa County is confronted with a pressing concern: the lack of physical space to accommodate them. This space deficit places the county in a precarious position, hindering its ability to manage the growing influx of cases being filed. The consequences of this space shortage are profound, leading to significant delays in court proceedings and impeding access to justice for our community members.

Furthermore, recent trends highlight the urgency of addressing these issues. Mesa County has witnessed a notable surge in criminal trials, exacerbating the workload of existing judges. Concurrently, there are growing backlogs of civil cases, indicating a strain on the country's judicial system. These circumstances collectively underscore the necessity for additional courtrooms in Mesa County to ensure the efficient and equitable administration of justice.

2. **Community Growth:** Mesa County is experiencing population growth, which unfortunately often results in a higher volume of cases. A well-designed justice center with sufficient courtrooms can result in quicker trials, reduced waiting times, and a more efficient use of judicial resources. Investing in improved courtroom infrastructure within our existing Justice Center will support the legal needs of our expanding community for years to come ensuring a more streamlined process, the efficient handling of legal needs, and timely access to the justice system for a growing community.
3. **Proactive Service Delivery:** The continuation of specialized courts, such as drug courts and family courts, require dedicated courtroom space. These courts address sensitive legal matters like family law or juvenile court and benefit from specialized facilities including better security measures and separate waiting areas for victims, witnesses, and defendants. These new courtrooms will allow the accommodation of private and dignified spaces.

With your support, we aim to create courtroom designs that address these challenges comprehensively. By providing modern, technologically advanced, and accessible facilities, we can ensure that justice is delivered promptly, fairly, and transparently to every resident of Mesa County. This investment aligns with our commitment to upholding the principles of our legal system and fostering a thriving and just community.

We are truly grateful for your consideration of our grant application and the potential to collaborate in enhancing our courtroom infrastructure. If you require any additional information or would like to discuss this proposal further, please feel free to contact me at Alec.Anderson@mesacounty.us. Thank you for your time and dedication to advancing justice in Mesa County.



Supporting Documentation

Please attach up to 5 items as supporting documentation. The Commission is very interested in exhibits and other attachments to aid in the review and selection of grant applications. Provide additional supporting documentation, photos, professional services reports, etc., that can be used by the Commission during the review process.

Attachment 1

FINAL - Summary Mesa County Projections - March 2022.docx

Attachment 2

Attachment 3

Attachment 4

Attachment 5

3. Project Timeline

Milestones - enter the key project milestones showing how the project will be completed (5 milestones required, additional milestones optional)

Milestone 1 - Date

9/21/2023

Milestone 1 - Description

RFP for design services closes

Milestone 2 - Date

11/30/2023

Milestone 2 - Description

The preferred vendor is identified and a contract is executed.

Milestone 3 - Date

1/31/2024

Milestone 3 - Description

Initial meetings with the chosen vendor, Mesa County, and the 21st Judicial District begin

Milestone 4 - Date

3/29/2024

Milestone 4 - Description

40 percent design is complete. Construction begins on probation's new office space.

Milestone 5 - Date

8/31/2024

Milestone 5 - Description

Courtroom Design is complete.



Milestone 6 - Date

10/31/2024

Milestone 6 - Description

Renovations for Probation complete.

Milestone 7 - Date

Milestone 7 - Description

Milestone 8 - Date

Milestone 8 - Description

Milestone 9 - Date

Milestone 9 - Description

Milestone 10 - Date

Milestone 10 - Description

4. Acknowledgements

I. In accordance with Section 13-1-305 (2)(b), C.R.S., the county acknowledges that grants from the fund may only be awarded to a county when: (I) The county has demonstrated good faith in attempting to resolve the issues before seeking a grant from the fund.

Yes

Describe the actions taken by the County to resolve the issues causing the application for grant funds.

To address the challenges prompting our grant application, Mesa County has made a resolute commitment to enhance its infrastructure by renovating the existing office space designated for the Probation department. This crucial project is estimated to require an investment of \$3.8 million and is scheduled to commence construction in 2024. The pivotal outcome of this renovation will be the liberation of valuable space within the Mesa County Justice Center, located at 125 N Spruce St in Grand Junction, Colorado. This newfound space will be instrumental in facilitating the construction of much-needed additional court facilities.

Furthermore, in collaboration with the 21st Judicial District, Mesa County has embarked on an exploration of potential options for the establishment of a temporary courtroom solution. This initiative aims to promptly alleviate the current strain on our judicial resources, bridging the gap until permanent facilities can be developed to meet our evolving community's needs.

II. In accordance with Section 13-1-305 (2)(b), C.R.S., the County acknowledges that grants from the fund may only be awarded to a county when: (II) The county has agreed to disclose pertinent financial statements to the Commission or the State Court Administrator for review.

Yes

5. Financial Information

Finance Contact responsible for acknowledgement above and financial information below

Finance Contact - Name



Pam Noonan

Finance Contact - Title

Finance Director

Finance Contact - Email

Pam.Noonan@mesacounty.us

Provide financial information for the County based on calendar year 2022 year-end totals

Total Budget Expenditures (General Fund & All Special Funds)

\$220,423,687

General Fund Expenditures

\$73,776,852

General Fund Balance

\$26,085,683

General Fund Balance (Uncommitted)

\$19,869,368

Provide the following information related to this grant request

Grant request \$

\$207,800

Funds contributed by applicant for this project \$

\$3,800,000

Funds received from other sources toward the project \$

\$0

TOTAL PROJECT COST from all sources \$ (should be the sum of the 3 lines above)

\$4,007,800

6. County Contacts

Applicant Information

Applicant - Name (person completing this application)

Alec Anderson

Applicant - Title

Executive Manager

Applicant - Email

Alec.Anderson@mesacounty.us

Applicant - Phone



970-623-6827

If awarded, who is the county representative authorized to sign the grant contract?

Signatory - Name

Janet Rowland

Signatory - Title

County Commissioner, Chair

Signatory - Email

Janet.Rowland@mesacounty.us

Judicial District Information

Judicial District (enter number)

21st

Chief Judge - Name

Brian Flynn

Court Executive - Name

William Sightler

Chief Probation Officer - Name

William Riebel



County Approval

County Representative - I have reviewed this application and approve the request. By checking Yes and typing my name below, I am electronically signing this application.

Yes

County Representative - Name

County Representative - Title

County Representative - Email



Judicial Department Approval

Clerk of Court - I have reviewed this application with the Chief Judge and he/she has approved the request. By checking Yes and typing my name below, I am electronically signing this application.

Yes

Clerk of Court - Name

Clerk of Court - Email



Budget



Performance Plan