

Town of Empire

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Rick M. Garcia, Executive Director
Colorado Department of Local Affairs
1313 Sherman Street, Suite #518
Denver, CO 80203

Todd Leopold, Regional Manager
Colorado Department of Local Affairs
1313 Sherman Street, Suite #518
Denver, CO 80203

March 15, 2023

RE: Application to the Energy & Mineral Impacts Assistance: RENEW grant program for Clear Creek County Animal Shelter Energy Upgrades

Dear Executive Director Garcia:

I am writing on behalf of the Town of Empire to express our support of Clear Creek County's application for funding to implement energy upgrades to the Clear Creek/Gilpin County Animal Shelter (a.k.a. Charlie's Place). Charlie's Place not only serves a critical function, but also holds a dear place in the hearts of the community. Today, Charlie's Place continues to experience the support from municipalities and residents that made its mission to provide a safe haven for homeless animals possible when it first opened in 2007.

Over the past year, the HVAC system at the Clear Creek/Gilpin County Animal Shelter has experienced significant issues that have led to the installation of several space heaters in the facility to compensate for the lack of an efficient heating and cooling system in the building in the short-term. As Charlie's Place approaches the end of a long, cold winter with only these space heaters to warm the animals and staff, we are committed to supporting the County's efforts to ensure that next winter is different by replacing the heating, ventilation, and cooling (HVAC) system. Charlie's Place is in desperate need of a solution to the issues that it has in order for it to continue providing the safe environment that it has in the past.

We are also staunchly in support of Clear Creek County's efforts to implement clean and renewable energy solutions throughout the County. The addition of solar panels to the Animal Shelter facilitates sustainability and advances clean energy strategies that will be important for the future health of our community.

In summary, we fully support Clear Creek County's project to replace the HVAC system and implement solar panels at Charlie's Place, and appreciate your consideration of this application. We pledge our support both in this letter and in the form of a one-time contribution to the local match in the event that this application for funding is awarded.

Sincerely,



Wendy Koch, Mayor of Empire