Aid to Agencies Program Evaluation

MARCH 30, 2021 STUDY SESSION

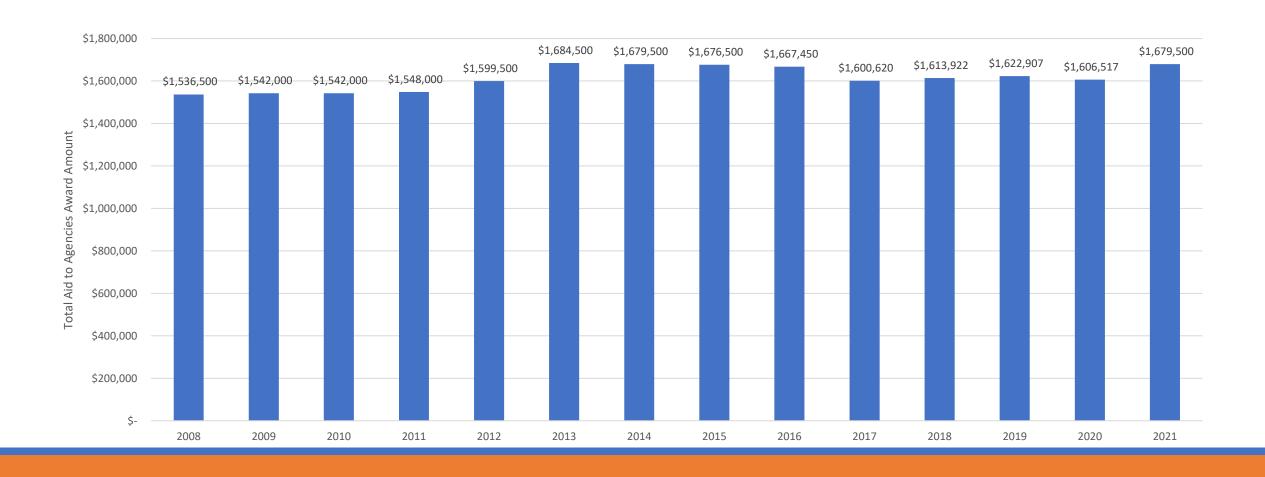
Purpose

- •With no new significant revenue expected in the near term, the Board will need to make decisions to create a sustainable budget for the next 5-7 years.
- •As part of that decision-making process, Arapahoe County is evaluating all programs and services including Aid to Agencies to implement fiscal belt-tightening in the years ahead.
- •A staff team comprised of Directors from Human Services, Community Resources, and the Commissioners' Office as well as the Aid to Agencies review team identified key areas of concern, reviewed similar programs conducted by other agencies, surveyed agency recipients to solicit feedback, and identified potential options to better align the program with the Board's new strategic plan.

Program Overview

- •Current Aid to Agencies process takes 9-10 months, start to finish
- Timeline
 - Application is posted in April with a deadline in June
 - Review team reviews applications from June through August
 - Review team meets in August to discuss scores and funding amounts
 - Funding recommendations are presented to the Board at a study session in September
 - Board approves the budget in December
 - Funds are sent out in late January/early February

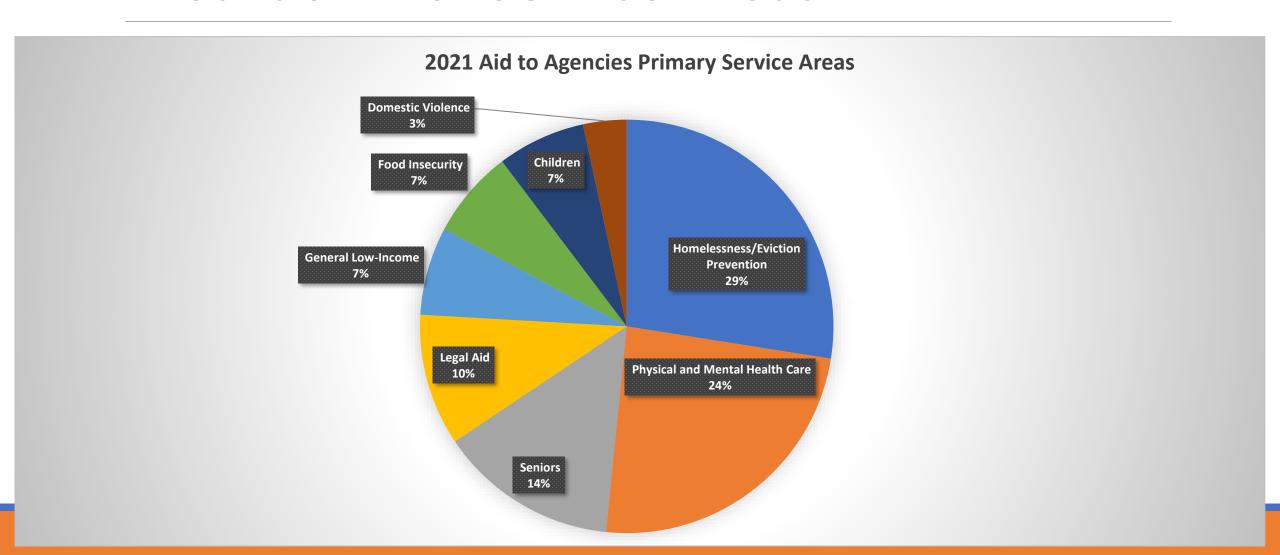
Funding History



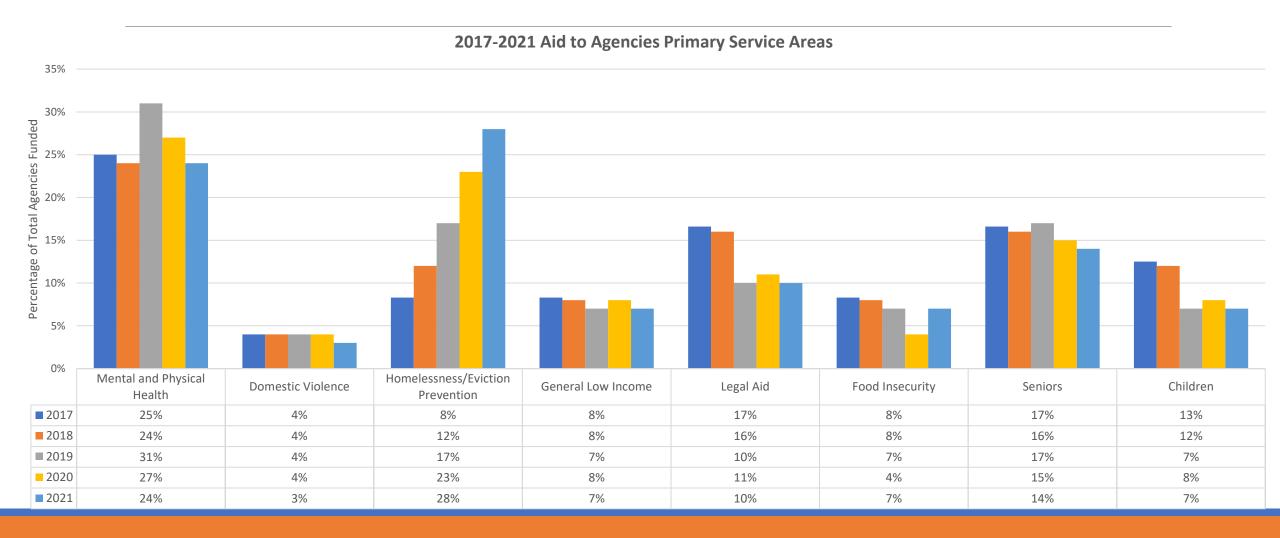
Historical Awards

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	20	13	2014	20	15	2016	2017	201	18	2019	2020	202	1
18th Judicial District Wellness Court					\$	43,500 \$	43,500	\$ 4	13,500 \$	43,500	\$ 39,150	\$ 39,15	50 \$	39,150	\$ 23,235	\$ 35,2	235 \$	35,235
A Precious Child																\$ 10,0	000 \$	10,000
Advocates for Children											\$ 15,000						000 \$	15,000
AllHealth Network	\$ 307,000	\$ 307,000	\$ 307,000	\$ 307,000	\$ 3	307,000 \$	307,000	\$ 30	07,000 \$	307,000	\$ 276,300	\$ 248,67	70 \$				40 \$	179,540
American Council of the Blind of CO/A3 Empowering People with Vision Loss															\$ 10,000			
American Lung Association											\$ 7,500							
Arapahoe County Council on Aging	\$ 3,000					3,000 \$			3,000		\$ 3,000		00 \$	3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,0	000 \$	3,000
Arapahoe House				\$ 280,000														
Aurora Interfaith Community Services			\$ 50,000			50,000 \$,	\$ 50,000		00 \$. ,	000 \$	51,000
Aurora Mental Health Center	\$ 260,000	\$ 260,000	\$ 260,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 2	200,000 \$	260,000	\$ 26	\$0,000	260,000	\$ 234,000							
Aurora Mental Health Center - Detox												\$ 176,12	29 \$	280,000	\$ 280,000	\$ 280,0	000 \$	280,000
Beacon Center	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000														
Broadway Assistance Center											\$ 15,000							
Comitis Crisis Center	\$ 65,000	\$ 68,000	\$ 68,000	\$ 68,000	\$	68,000 \$	68,000	\$ 6	88,000 \$	68,000	\$ 68,000	\$ 68,00	00 \$	68,000	\$ 68,000	, .	+	68,000
Community Housing Partners/Aurora Housing Corporation															\$ 10,000		000 \$	10,000
Doctors Care	\$ 13,000	\$ 13,000	\$ 13,000	\$ 13,000	\$	13,000 \$	13,000	\$ 1	13,000 \$						\$ 11,700		700 \$	11,700
Families First											\$ 10,000	\$ 10,00	_	10,000	\$ 10,000			
Family Tree													\$		\$ 100,000		_	
Food Bank of the Rockies	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 26,000	\$	20,000 \$	20,000	\$ 2	20,000 \$	20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,00	00 \$	20,000	+ -,		\$	30,000
Freedom Service Dogs															\$ 10,000			
Gateway Domestic Violence Services	\$ 345,000	\$ 345,000	\$ 345,000	\$ 345,000					15,000 \$	345,000	\$ 345,000	\$ 345,00	00 \$	345,000	\$ 345,000	\$ 345,0	000 \$34	5,000
High Five Plains Foundation					\$	5,000 \$	5,000											
Homelessness Awareness ATF											\$ 7,500			7,500	\$ 7,500		500 \$	7,500
Integrated Family Community Services	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000	\$	80,000 \$	80,000	\$ 8	30,000 \$	80,000	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,00	00 \$	80,000	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,0	000 \$	80,000
Jewish Family Service of Colorado - Aging Care and Corrections (formerly Senior Solutions Center)													\$	33,000	\$ 33,000			33,000
Jewish Family Service of Colorado - Family Safety Net												Φ 45.00	20 6	45.000	A. 45.000		000 \$	15,000
Justice and Mercy Legal Aid Center											Φ 40.000		00 \$	-,			000 \$	20,000
Juvenile Assessment Center						Φ.	05.000	Φ 0	NE 000 A		\$ 18,000		00 \$	38,000	\$ 28,000	\$ 28,0	000 \$	28,000
Lutheran Social Services Nourish Meals on Wheels (formerly TLC Meals on Wheels)	ф о <u>г</u> ооо	ф <u>оо</u> оо	¢ 00.000	\$ 28,000	ı,					25,000				28,000	¢ 00.000	\$ 30.0	000	20.000
Out and About Colorado	\$ 25,000	\$ 26,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 28,000	Ф	26,000 \$	26,000	Φ 2	26,000 \$	26,000	\$ 26,000	\$ 20,00	10 \$		\$ 28,000		100 J	30,000
Ready to Work Aurora															\$ 10,000		¢.	24,992
Rocky Mountain Children's Law Center											\$ 10,000	¢ 10.00	2 00	10.000			φ	24,992
Rocky Mountain Crisis Partners				\$ 100,000	¢	40,000 \$	40.000	¢ 1	2 000 01						¢ 15.300	\$ 0.0	000 \$	10,000
Second Chance Center Colorado				\$ 100,000	φ	40,000 \$	40,000	Φ 4	ŧυ,υυυ ֆ	40,000	ў 20,000	φ 10,00	JO \$	17,100	ў 15,390	3 9,0	00 \$	24.992
South Metro Medical Equipment Loan Closet															\$ 10,000	¢ 10.0	000 \$	10,000
STRIDE (formerly Metro Community Provider Network)	\$ 60.000	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 70,000	¢	70.000 \$	70 000	¢ 7	20 000 05	70.000	\$ 63,000	¢ 56.70	2 00	52 965			79 \$	48.479
Sunshine Home Share	\$ 00,000	\$ 00,000	φ 00,000	70,000	Ψ	70,000 \$	70,000	Ψ	υ,000 φ	70,000	\$ 05,000	φ 50,70	υ φ	33,003	\$ 10,000		-13 φ	40,479
The Kempe Foundation					\$	10.000 \$	10.000	¢ 1	2 000 01	10.000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10.00	2 00	10,000	ψ 10,000			
The Salvation Army - Centennial Corps					Ψ	то,ооо ф	10,000	ΨΙ	υ,υυυ Φ	10,000	ψ 10,000	ψ 10,00	ψ	10,000		\$ 15,0	000 \$	15,000
Tri-Valley Senior Citizens Association	\$ 12,500	\$ 12,000	\$ 12.000	\$ 12,000	\$	12,000 \$	12,000	\$ 1	12,000 \$	12,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,00	2 00	12,000	\$ 12,000		000 \$	12,000
Via Mobility Services (formerly Special Transit)	\$ 12,300		\$ 12,000	+ ,		10,000 \$			10,000 \$				00 \$	10.000			000 \$	2.000
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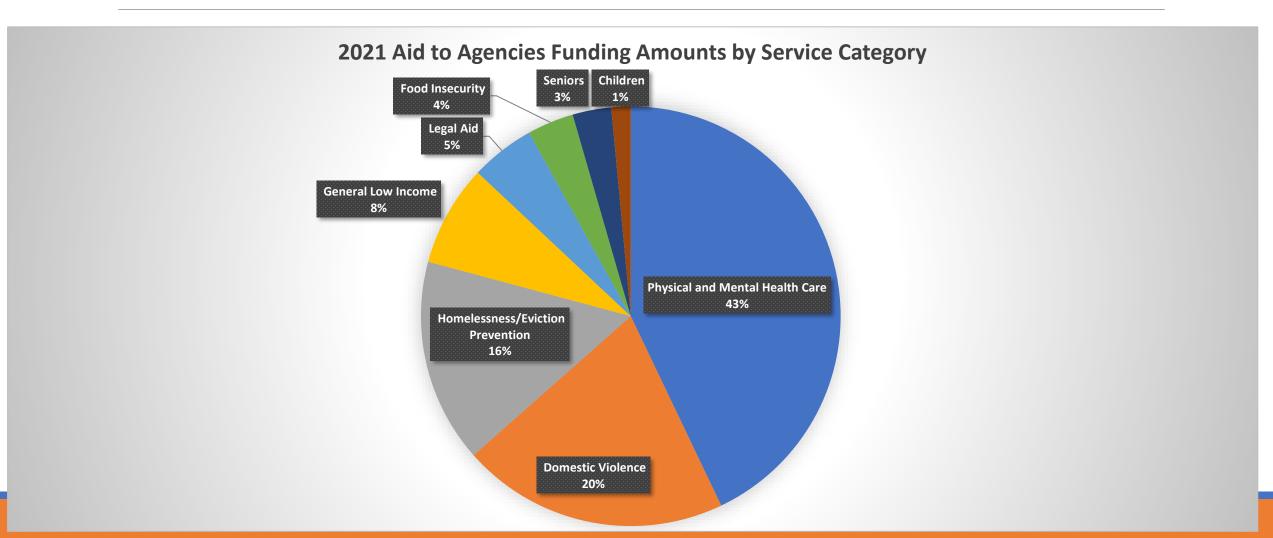
Breakdown of Service Areas



Service Area Trends

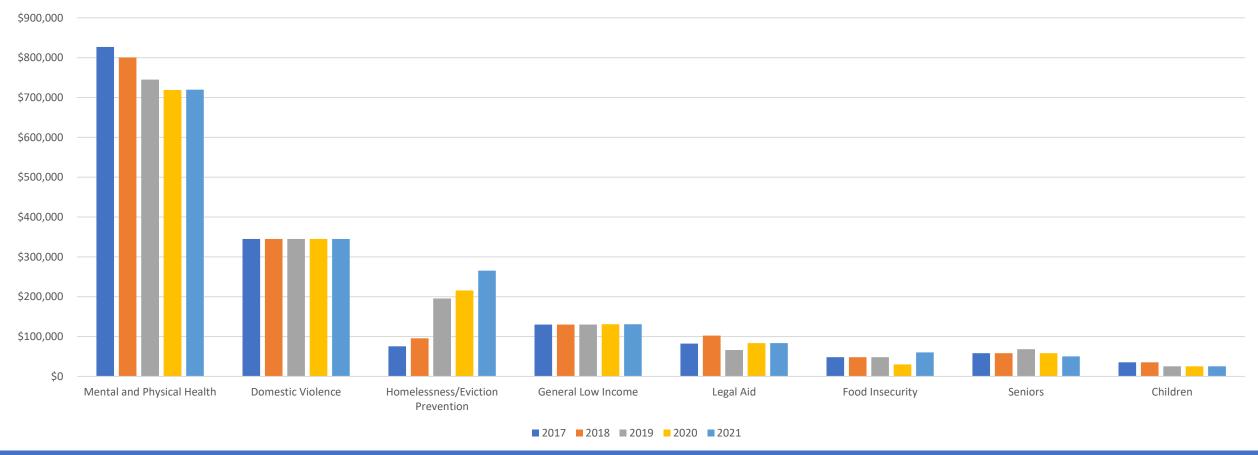


Breakdown of Funding Amounts



Funding Amount Trends

2017-2021 Funding Amounts



Stakeholder Feedback

- •Met with both internal and external stakeholders to find out what could be improved
- Sent a survey to agencies asking for their feedback on the program
- •Received 21 total responses
 - •90.5% strongly agree the purpose and expectations of the program are well-defined
 - •90.5% strongly agree getting answers to questions about applications or funding is easy
 - ■85.7% are very satisfied with the program and strongly agree the application process is straightforward
 - ■81% strongly agree the timeline for the process is clear
 - •66.7% of respondents said they would be willing to submit regular reports on how funding is being used; 23.8% responded "Maybe" and 9.5% responded "No"

Current Issues

- Some applicants receive funds each year which has led to a perception of it being a "guaranteed funding source"
- Agencies lack a contingency plan if funding were eliminated
- Funding amounts vary widely between agencies
- Process takes 9-10 months start to finish which is significantly longer than other programs
- Lack of reporting as to how the funds are being spent

Programmatic Considerations

- Clarify what types of services funding should be used for and what types of organizations are eligible
 - "Vulnerable populations" is very vague
- Minimize the perception that funding is guaranteed
- Improve communication with agencies to have a better idea of what work is being done with funds
 - Stricter reporting requirements
- •Leverage software tools for application and review process (Award Force)

Questions for Consideration

- •Are we still funding the right gaps?
- Is it really a grant program? If not, what do we want it to be?
- •Which agencies must be funded?
- Should the amount of funds awarded be standardized?
- Does the review process need to change? If so, how?

Comparative Programs

- Adams County:
 - Use general fund dollars to support grants through the Adams County Foundation
- Douglas County:
 - Phillip S. Miller grant program
- City and County of Broomfield:
- All agencies must provide a mid-year and year-end report through Google Docs
- Applications must specify how funds will be used specifically for Broomfield residents (not schools, community, etc.)
- Loudoun County, Virginia:
- Host a webinar where potential applicants can ask questions
- Lorain County, Ohio:
- Grants are split up into different categories (Arts and Culture, Education and Youth, Health and Human Services, Strengthening Lorain County)
- Onslow County, North Carolina:
- Agencies have an opportunity to give a five-minute brief to the Budget Team and BOCC

Stakeholder Survey Responses

- •Multiple responses were submitted to the question of how the program could be improved:
 - Add a question to the application related to the ability of an agency to provide culturally responsive care and address the needs of diverse populations
 - There is a missed opportunity to provide media coverage of how grant funds are used to help the community
 - Rather than submitting regular reports, each agency should present at Board meetings to provide real life examples of the impact of this funding
 - Make funding decisions earlier because announcing in December impacts the ability to create an accurate budget for the new fiscal year
 - Shorten the length of time from when award decisions are announced to the time funds are received

Possible Options

- Set a cap on the amount of funding an agency can receive (Recommendation is \$100,000)
- •Set a time limit of how many years an agency can apply for funding and how many years they cannot (Recommendation is three (3) years on, three (3) years off)
- Require reporting of how funds are being used that can be shared with the Board and the review team (Recommended frequency is quarterly)
- Create a list of three or four priority areas each year that we're soliciting applications for (gap areas)
- •If there are agencies that receive funding no matter what, take them off the top and make the rest competitive

Alignment with Strategic Plan

- Fiscal Sustainability
 - •Need to ensure the Aid to Agencies budget is structurally balanced
 - Delivery of funds needs to be as efficient as possible
- Provide essential and mandated services
 - •What agencies are required?
- Be community focused
 - •Many agencies support opportunities for physical and mental health
 - Many agencies focus on supporting individuals experiencing homelessness, domestic violence, or other situations to improve their quality of life

Alignment with Strategic Plan (continued)

- Accountability
 - Want clear standards, processes, and procedures
- Accessibility
 - Want to be timely in response
- •Inclusivity
 - •How can we make inclusivity a bigger part of this program?
- •Integrity
 - Want to be as responsive as possible to both agencies and individuals served

Questions/Next Steps

Tentative hold on April 20 for a follow-up study session