

# MESA COUNTY 2010 REQUEST FOR RESULTS

## Self-sufficient Individuals & Families

### THE RESULTS WE ARE SEEKING

“I want a community where citizens have opportunities to be self-sufficient.”

### INDICATORS OF PROGRESS

Indicator
Food Assistance Applications Jan-May 2009: 3049 Food Assistance Applications Jan-May 2008: 2691 Colorado Works Applications Jan-May 2009: 505 Colorado Works Applications Jan-May 2008: 523 <i>Source: Department of Human Services Dashboard</i>
Suicide Rate (an indicator of mental health) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2008 - There were 39 suicides in Mesa County</li> <li>• 2007 - There were 43 suicides in Mesa County</li> </ul> (Colorado's suicide rate is 17/100,000. Colorado ranks 8th in the nation)
Teen Fertility Rate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mesa County 29.1</li> <li>• Colorado 23.1</li> </ul> <i>Source: Vital Statistics Unit, Health Statistics Section, CDPHE 2005-2007</i>
2008 Child Welfare Clients (caseload): 1300 2007 Child Welfare Clients (caseload): 1299 2008 (SFY) Length of Stay (average days per year): 187.5 2007 (SFY) Length of Stay (average days per year): 205.7 <i>Source: Department of Human Services Dashboard</i>

### FACTORS

Three primary factors were identified that are critical to creating opportunities for citizens to become self-sufficient in Mesa County. These factors are inter-related and work on a continuum to help all citizens be self-sufficient if possible, and provide basic assistance when self-sufficiency is not possible.

#### **Factor 1: Safe and Secure Individuals and Families**

To ensure that all individuals and families are safe and secure, Mesa County must promote child and adolescent well-being, protect our most vulnerable individuals from abuse and neglect and promote healthy relationships within families. In addition, a quick effective response for families in crisis can prevent long-term or chronic reliance on the system.

#### **Factor 2: Basic needs**

In order for Mesa County Citizens to be self-sufficient they need to have access to those basic resources that every individual requires. Access to food and water are necessary for adequate growth

and development. Another basic need for self-sufficiency is access to various modes of transportation to reach employment and education. Access to emergent, preventive and primary physical health care are basic needs that also help citizens become self-sufficient.

### **Factor 3: Achieve and Maintain Self-sufficiency**

To achieve and maintain self-sufficiency, Mesa County needs strategies that will end generational poverty. To do this we need to create a culture of personal responsibility and self-reliance. Support services and training that will build work skills and abilities are key factors in self-sufficiency. Volunteer opportunities can provide all citizens with personal growth, can provide opportunities for the previously unemployed to gain experience and can provide efficiencies in many services Mesa County offers. If our citizens are self-reliant, we can help prevent over-reliance on benefits. Access to behavioral health services and family planning services help keep families self-sufficient

## **PURCHASING STRATEGIES**

We are seeking offers for programs that will contribute to Mesa County achieving the outcome of successful individuals and families. The following are some of the strategies that Mesa County believes will result in achieving this outcome.

### **Purchasing Strategy 1:**

#### **We want offers that promote safe and secure individuals and families**

- Offers that promote child and adolescent well-being
- Offers that protect vulnerable individuals from abuse and neglect
- Offers that promote healthy relationships within families
- Offers that provide services for families in crisis to promote self-sufficient families

### **Purchasing Strategy 2:**

#### **We want offers that promote access to basic needs**

- Offers that will promote access to basic needs and motivate individuals and families requiring assistance to reach self-sufficiency and/or optimal independence.
- Offers that provide access to modes of transportation to reach employment or education
- Offers that promote access to basic physical health care

### **Purchasing Strategy 3:**

#### **We want offers that achieve and maintain self-sufficiency.**

- Offers that provide strategies to end generational poverty
- Offers that build a culture of personal responsibility

- Offers that provide support services that will move citizens to self-sufficiency
- Offers that prevent the over-reliance on benefits
- Offers that provide opportunities to acquire skills and abilities for self-sufficiency
- Offers that provide families with the opportunity for family planning services to help them become self-sufficient.
- Offers that provide access to a continuum of behavioral health options with a focus on reducing the burden on county service providers, e.g. jail, human services.

**Special consideration will be given to offers that provide or encourage the following values:**

- Customer Service
- Efficient processes
- Community partnerships and collaboration
- Interdepartmental cooperation
- Evidence based programs or services
- Prevention and maintenance
- Effective communication
- Volunteerism

# SELF-SUFFICIENT INDIVIDUALS & FAMILIES STRATEGY MAP

