

PRESS RELEASE

Betsy Dittenber, Executive Director
Chaffee County Community Foundation
719-204-4565
betsy@chaffeecommunity.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

First Responders Grant Awards Announcement, Funding Opportunity Added

CHAFFEE COUNTY, CO (Dec. 13, 2023) – The [Chaffee County Community Foundation \(CCCF\)](#), in partnership with the [Sangre de Cristo Electric Association \(SDCEA\)](#), announced First Responder Grant Awardees from the 2023 grant cycle, to include:

- **Tallahassee Fire Protection District** - \$1000 for training funds to cover the costs of the Colorado Wildland Fire and Incident Management Academy.
- **Custer County Sheriff's Office** - \$1000 to purchase the necessary mats for Arrest Control Training to be used for physical trainings throughout the year.
- **Canon City Police Department** - \$400 to purchase Garmin Pro 550 training collar set for new K9 and handler officer.
- **Fremont County Sheriff's Office** - \$1000 to purchase jackets for two deputies to be utilized as team identification and cold weather response.
- **Chaffee County Search and Rescue North** - \$1000 to purchase rescue equipment and medical supplies.
- **Howard Volunteer Fire Department** - \$800 to purchase light up stop/slow signs and wearable safety lights to increase safety during accident traffic control.

Due to high demand, SDCEA will be offering another round of funding, up to \$5,000, starting Jan. 8, 2024. This opportunity will include Saguache County first responders as well as Chaffee, Custer, Fremont and Lake Counties.

Starting Nov. 1, the grant process was opened on a rolling basis to organizations providing first responder services in Chaffee, Custer, Fremont and/or Lake counties. Funds were limited and awarded on a first come, first serve basis, until funds were exhausted. Requests were for materials, training, gear, or other expenses directly related to providing first responder services.

“SDCEA staff members and customers are extremely grateful for the work of regional first responders,” said SDCEA Communications Specialist Chris McGinnis. “Congratulations to awardees. These local heroes deserve the materials and equipment they need to keep our community safe. Due to the quantity of applications, we will be offering another funding opportunity in early 2024 in hopes of meeting the needs of those who provide life saving responses when emergency strikes.”

First responder services included fire, medical, police, search & rescue, and other services for whom the provider is among those responsible for going immediately to the scene of an accident or emergency to provide assistance.

“The Chaffee County Community Foundation is pleased to partner with SDCEA on managing the grant award process,” said Betsy Dittenber, Executive Director of CCCF. “We received an overwhelming

response for funding and SDCEA recognizes that and will generously offer another round of funding. It's great to see community partners leaning in to support the important work of first responders.”

For more information on CCCF grant opportunities, visit <https://www.chaffeecommunity.org/grants>.

About CCCF

Founded in 2018, Chaffee County Community Foundation is a public, nonprofit organization established to promote and facilitate philanthropy in Chaffee County, created by and for the people in that area. CCCF acts as a catalyst to inspire positive change through the power of philanthropy to enrich the lives of all people within the county. Its goals are to make informed philanthropy accessible to all, build local nonprofit capacity, and enable community conversations. Since 2018, CCCF has actively supported nonprofit organizations for the betterment of Chaffee County and the local communities. To learn more, visit www.chaffeecommunity.org.

About SDCEA

Sangre de Cristo Electric Association, Inc. is a member-owned cooperative providing electricity to 14,000 rural members in five counties throughout central Colorado; committed to providing safe, reliable, and affordable energy to members while supporting the communities it serves. For more information, visit www.myelectric.coop/.

###