



Agenda Memorandum

Agenda Item –
{{section.number}}.{{item.number}}.

City Council Meeting
May 12, 2025



Strategic Priority 1: Access to Opportunity

Advance access to opportunity and prosperity for all in Westminster through diverse housing choices, increased mobility options, safe and walkable neighborhoods, and strong social networks.



Strategic Priority 2: Community Empowerment and Engagement

Enhance the sense of community and connection in Westminster through engaging methods of communication and dialogue that improve accessibility, increase understanding, and encourage participation in civic and City life.



Strategic Priority 3: Community Health and Safety

Invest in innovative and collaborative approaches to provide a continuum of services that preserve, promote, and protect the health, safety, and environment of Westminster.



Strategic Priority 4: Economic Vitality

Promote and support a resilient economy that attracts and retains a diversity of businesses, workers, and industries, expands living wage jobs, and diversifies the City's tax base.



Strategic Priority 5: Resilient Infrastructure

Maintain and invest in resilient infrastructure that creates the highest return for safety, community connectivity, enjoyment of life, and local economic success.



Strategic Priority 6: Organizational Vitality

Develop and sustain an environment where employees and the organization are equipped and supported to deliver outstanding service to everyone in Westminster.

Subject: Colorado Department of Local Affairs Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance Fund
Climate Resilience Challenge Grant Award Update

Prepared By: Bridger Tomlin, Sustainability Administrator
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Recommended City Council Action:

This report is for information only and requires no action by City Council.

Summary Statement:

- The City received notice of a grant award of \$1,000,000 from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance Fund (EIAF) Climate Resilience Challenge on July 19, 2024 (Attachment A).
- The award is for the construction of a community education and resource center (center) located in a publicly accessible site near the new drinking water treatment facility on Westminster Boulevard.
- City Council will receive the first reading of an ordinance to authorize the signature to accept the grant award and to appropriate funds on May 19, 2025. The second reading will occur on June 9, 2025.
- This project is currently in the initial visioning stage and Staff expects to engage City Council and the community as the project progresses.

Background Information:

As indicated in the Comprehensive Plan, Sustainability Plan, and Strategic Plan Priorities, the City is committed to fostering the passion, knowledge, and expertise of current and future generations to be effective stewards of the natural environment and resources. Additionally, the City has a proven record of providing high quality programming and initiatives that benefit the community and environment. Staff continually aim to improve on success and deliver more robust and transformative initiatives. Expanding opportunities on this topic is critical to mitigate and adapt to the increasingly severe impacts of changing climate. To do so, the City is in the preliminary stages of developing a community center that aims to educate and equip residents and visitors to be active participants regarding the health and wellbeing of natural resources. This center will be in a publicly accessible site near the new drinking water treatment facility on Westminster Boulevard.

The project approach is to maximize the use of external financial resources to build and operate this center. As such, the City sought and was successfully awarded a grant from the DOLA EIAF Climate Resilience Challenge program. The City was awarded \$1,000,000 on July 19, 2024 for the construction of the center. This grant award is clear validation from the state that the center will be a transformational asset to Westminster and the entire state.

The DOLA EIAF grant funds will be used for the construction of the center. Specifically, the funds may be used for professional fees for engineering and architectural design, contracted labor, materials, bonding, insurance, permitting, required testing, inspection and/or commissioning costs, and project and construction oversight. Grant requirements include that the center be Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) gold certified and that the center may not change ownership or intended use for at least 10 years after completion of the grant. The awarded funds must be spent within a maximum of five years after the grant contract is signed.

To officially authorize and appropriate funds for this grant, City Council must pass an ordinance. The first reading of the respective ordinance is scheduled for May 19, 2025, and the second reading for June 9, 2025.

This grant is ideally one of many awards the City will receive for this project, and the City will actively identify and pursue funding opportunities as they present themselves.

Currently the project is in the initial visioning phase. As it moves out of this phase, the City will engage residents, prospective partners including organizations, non-profits, schools, and institutions of higher education, and additional stakeholders on this project. City Council will be engaged and provided updates.

The City's Strategic Plan Priority of Access to Opportunity is supported by the center's proximity to neighborhoods, open space, bike paths, bus routes, and the nearby Butterfly Pavillion. The center aims to be a community hub that improves social networks and connections. The City's Strategic Plan Priority of Community Empowerment and Engagement is met by the center's intended goal to connect residents and visitors with the knowledge, skills, and social connections to be active stewards of our natural environment. The City's Strategic Plan Priority of Community Health and Safety is supported by the center's future programming that may preserve, promote, and protect Westminster's health, safety, and environment. The City's Strategic Plan Priority of Economic Vitality is supported by the center's aim to advance careers in water utilities, environmental management, sustainability, and other related professions and trades. The Center may also provide opportunities for local businesses to utilize the space. The City's Strategic Plan Priority of Resilient Infrastructure is achieved through the planned certification of the center as a LEED gold building that will demonstrate resource-saving building and landscape design practices. The City's Strategic Plan Priority of Organizational Vitality is supported through the center serving as a space for Staff to advance their skills and expertise in natural resource and water utility management.

Respectfully submitted,



Jody L. Andrews
City Manager

Attachments:

Attachment 1 – DOLA EIAF Notice of Award