



Agenda Memorandum

Agenda Item – {{section.number}}.D.

City Council Meeting
May 19, 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:

Public Hearing and First Reading of Councillor's Bill No. 16 Re: An Ordinance Amending the 2025 Budget of the General Capital Improvement Fund and Authorizing a Supplemental Appropriation from the 2025 Estimated Revenues in the Fund and Accepting Grant Funds from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs Relating to Its Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance Fund-Climate Resilience Challenge

Prepared By:

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Recommended City Council Action:

Hold a public hearing and pass Councillor's Bill No. 16 on first reading to authorize signature to accept the Department of Local Affairs Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance Fund-Climate Resilience Challenge grant award and appropriate funding.

Summary Statement:

- On July 19, 2024, the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) awarded the City \$1,000,000 from Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance Fund (EIAF) Climate Resilience Challenge (EIAF Grant) (Attachment A).
- The EIAF Grant funds will provide the construction of a community education and resource center proposed to be located in a publicly accessible site near the new drinking water treatment facility on Westminster Boulevard (Center). The project is currently in the initial visioning phase.
- City Council is requested to adopt the attached Ordinance to accept the EIAF Grant award and appropriate the funding (Attachment B).
- The EIAF Grant requires a \$250,000 funding match from the City. These funds have already been approved in the City's FY 2025 Budget.

Fiscal Impact:

\$250,000 in expenditures from the City's local match requirement. The City will accept and appropriate \$1,000,000 in EIAF Grant funds that will be reimbursed to the City as expenses occur.

Source of Funds:

\$1,000,000 DOLA EIAF Climate Resilience Challenge grant funds
+ \$250,000 Westminster local match (Capital Improvement Fund)
\$1,250,000 total funding commitments

The awarded EIAF Grant funds come from the State's severance tax on energy and mineral production and from a portion of the State's share of royalties paid to the federal government for mining and drilling of minerals and mineral fuels on federally owned land.

The local matching funds are from the 2025 Capital Improvement Project Fund. These funds were appropriated in the FY 2025 budget process.

Policy Issue(s):

Should City Council Pass Councillor's Bill No. 16 on first reading to accept the EIAF Grant and appropriate funding?

Alternative(s):

City Council could choose not to accept the EIAF Grant award and appropriate funding.

Staff does not recommend this option because the EIAF Grant award offers significant financial benefit to the City. The awarded funds will reduce costs to the City to develop the Center by

\$1,000,000. The EIAF Grant award is clear validation from the State that this Center will be a transformational asset to Westminster and all of Colorado.

Background Information:

As indicated in the City’s 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 our natural environment and resources. Delivering on this commitment, the City is at the preliminary stages of developing a transformative community center that aims to empower residents and visitors to be active participants in the health and wellbeing of the environment and to mitigate and adapt to the increasingly severe impacts of our changing climate. The Center will be located on a publicly accessible site near the new drinking water treatment facility on Westminster Boulevard and proximate to open space.

The Center project is nearing completion of 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 the project. Additionally, Staff will engage City Council and provide updates.

The City aims to maximize the use of financial assistance and resources to develop the Center. As such, the City successfully sought and, on July 19, 2024, was awarded \$1,000,000 from the DOLA EIAF Climate Resilience Challenge grant program for the construction of the Center (Attachment B).

The EIAF Grant funds will be used for the design, engineering, and construction of the Center. EIAF 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 at least ten years after completion of the Center. Additionally, the EIAF Grant must be spent within a maximum of five years after the EIAF Grant contract is signed.

The City has one year to contract and accept the EIAF Grant after notice of award. This shall be accomplished, as per the City’s Grant and Federal Award Administration Policy, Memo 2023-04, through City Council action that simultaneously authorizes the use of the funding and appropriates the funding by ordinance (Attachment A).

Since the EIAF Grant funds are reimbursed after the City makes payments, it is necessary to appropriate the amount of the EIAF Grant funds, adding them to the project budget. This will be accomplished by the proposed Ordinance (Attachment A).

The appropriation will amend the General Capital Improvement Fund revenue and expense accounts as follows:

REVENUES

Description	Account Number	Current Budget	Amendment	Revised Budget
State Grant Revenue	7500.40620.0000	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
Total Change to Revenues			<u>\$1,000,000</u>	

EXPENSES

Description	Account Number	Current Budget	Amendment	Revised Budget
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Resource Resilience Center	82575035055.80400.8888	\$250,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,250,000
Total Change to Expenses			<u>\$1,000,000</u>	

The City's Strategic Plan Priority of Access to Opportunity will be supported by the Center's proximity to neighborhoods, open space, bike paths, and bus routes. As well, 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 will be 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 will be 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 will be supported by the Center's aim to advance careers in water utilities, environmental management, sustainability, and other related professions and trades. The City may also provide opportunities for local businesses to use the Center. The City's Strategic Plan Priority of Resilient Infrastructure will be achieved through the certification of the Center as a LEED Gold building that will demonstrate resource-saving building and landscape design practices. Last, the City's Strategic Plan Priority of Organizational Vitality will be 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:

Councillor's Bill No. 16 on First Reading to Authorize Signature to Accept the DOLA EIAF-Climate Resilience Challenge grant award and appropriate funding.

Attachment A – DOLA EIAF Notice of Award