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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Grant Funding Available to Chaffee, Fremont, Lake, and Custer County First Responders

**CHAFFEE COUNTY, CO (Nov. 7, 2023)** – The [Chaffee County Community Foundation \(CCCCF\)](#), in partnership with the [Sangre de Cristo Electric Association \(SDCEA\)](#), invites qualified first responder programs in the Chaffee, Fremont, Lake and Custer communities to apply for its First Responder Grants.

The grant process is open on a rolling basis, with applications due no later than Dec. 31, 2023. Funds are limited and awarded on a first come, first serve basis, until funds are exhausted.

A total of \$5,000 is available in 2023 to entities meeting the eligibility criteria. Requests must be for materials, training, gear, or other expenses directly related to providing first responder services.

Apply [HERE](#) through the CCCC Grant Portal.

“First responders face a wide range of scenarios from pandemics to medical emergencies, extreme weather to wildfires,” said Chris McGinnis, SDCEA Communications Specialist. “We want to ensure these local heroes, who regularly put themselves in harm’s way, have the equipment and training they need to successfully do their jobs. On behalf of SDCEA employees and our members, we are grateful to firefighters, law enforcement officers, paramedics, emergency medical technicians, search and rescue and other individuals who respond to emergencies.”

Organizations registered 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), 501(c)(6), faith-based and government organizations providing first responder services in Chaffee, Custer, Fremont and/or Lake counties are eligible to apply for up to \$1,000 per calendar year to support their first responder programs.

Applicants must actively provide first responder services in the approved geographic areas. First responder services may include fire, medical, police, search and rescue, or 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 to support first responders in our community,” said Betsy Dittenber, Executive Director of CCCC. “Our independent grant review process will ensure monies are allocated to eligible organizations to enhance the safety and well-being of those who respond to emergencies throughout the four-county region.”

For more information on grant eligibility requirements and exclusions, visit <https://www.chaffeecommunity.org/grants>.

Grant application questions can be directed to [Anna@chaffeecommunity.org](mailto:Anna@chaffeecommunity.org).

**About CCCC**

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](http://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. SDCEA is committed to providing safe, reliable, and affordable energy to our members, while supporting the communities we serve. To learn more, visit [www.myelectric.coop/](http://www.myelectric.coop/).