

Community Budget Center

WHO WE ARE

The Community Budget Center (CBC) is a nonprofit thrift store that is entirely about its community. For forty-five years, the CBC has been a fixture in the northwest Colorado Yampa Valley. The CBC envisions a region where all basic needs are met and supported. We help to accomplish this vision by providing our region with resource connection, humanitarian services, and access to equitable assistance for those in need. We believe that everyone matters and has purpose, and everyone needs help sometimes. Whether patrons need affordable household items, life coaching, financial assistance, or just a friendly welcome while enjoying “retail therapy”, the CBC is here to meet them where they are. We offer a “hand-up, but not a hand-out” as we come alongside community patrons in need. We seek self-sustaining outcomes for those seeking assistance.

WHAT WE OFFER OUR COMMUNITY

The CBC is a marketplace offering budget-conscious patrons gently used clothing and household items as an affordable alternative to full retail prices. In addition, we welcome patrons into not just a thrift store, but a family. The CBC further provides emergency financial assistance to those in need in the following areas:

- General assistance (clothes or goods) from the store
- Temporary medical costs
- Temporary rent, mortgage, or shelter
- Utility costs
- Transportation costs
- Temporary food cost support
- Individual life coaching and family-specific budgeting
- Resource connections for needs unable to provide

WHO WE SERVE

The CBC administers financial assistance to approximately 800-1,000 patrons annually in the northwest Colorado Yampa Valley, primarily in Moffat, Routt, and Rio Blanco counties. In 2024, the Community Budget Center(CBC) distributed approximately \$175,000 to help 895 community residents in need. Community emergency assistance for 2025 is projected to be \$189,600 in helping 888 community residents.

Not only do we provide financial support, but the CBC seeks to offer structure and “re-sets” for those needing new starts. We regularly offer court-ordered community service work for both adult and juvenile courts, we attend recovery court processes to offer re-start support, and we partner with other community agencies to provide support for domestic situations (domestic violence, abuse, etc.).

HOW WE APPROACH OUR WORK AND MISSION

Each client seeking assistance receives a personal interview, undergoes a family budget analysis, and receives personal life coaching to ensure the best possible outcome and sustainable plan for independence. First and foremost, we want our clients to know that we care about them and that they are valued. We want to not only assist clients with their immediate need but also instill confidence in self-sustainability. We at the CBC realize that each life situation is different and require unique solutions for a sustainable plan forward. Thus, the CBC applies guidelines for assistance (not hard and fast rules) so that the best possible help can be offered to the client for a step forward toward self-sustainability.

OUR FUNDING SOURCES

Through the community’s donation of goods to our marketplace, the CBC seeks to be a self-sustaining model. All profits from the thrift store sales, augmented by grant funding, provide emergency financial assistance to those in need. Utility assistance funding includes grants from both Atmos and Energy Outreach Colorado(EOC). Basic human needs and short-term financial assistance funding includes grants from the Yampa Valley Community Foundation, the Rocky Mountain Health Foundation, and the United Way.

The requested funds from the Anschutz Family Foundation are sought to bolster our funding for these human needs in a time when the increased costs of food and housing has challenged personal norms. In addition, this is also a period of Coal transition, and transitional services will be a focus in the coming year. The CBC will continue to come alongside those struggling to help them adjust to economic challenges and household budgeting. We seek to instill confidence and self-sustaining life plan adjustments to avoid homelessness or other shortfalls of basic needs.