During a special meeting on Friday, March 20th, the Salida Board of Education moved unanimously to meet the challenge issued by the Salida City Council earlier in the day to support raising funds for the Chaffee County Emergency Response Fund. The Board of Education is acutely aware of how the current response to COVID-19 creates difficulties for working families. “We must do anything we can to support our main street businesses and workers at this time,” stated Superintendent David Blackburn.

This challenge grant opportunity would match, dollar for dollar and charitable donations from the community, up to $20,000. Collectively this challenge grant is anticipated to raise more than $100,000 for assistance to our workforce. More information will follow in the near future from the Chaffee County Community Foundation (CCCF).

This challenge grant is intended to provide temporary relief to individuals and families impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and the recent impacts to the Chaffee County workforce. Initial estimates indicated that as many as 5,000 workers may be impacted economically by this pandemic. This program is intended to work hand in hand with the Chaffee County Department of Human Services, which is still the first stop for any individual or household seeking financial assistance. If an individual or family does not qualify for CCDHS assistance, then the Emergency Response Fund can step in. The qualification and selection of assistance will be made on a case by case basis by the CCCF. Individuals and families will be eligible for up to $200 per household member OR $600 per calendar month. Household assistance will be initially limited to $1,200 per household per calendar year. CCCF executive director, Joseph Teipel says, "We are inspired by the leadership of our schools, and are committed to working closely with the Department of Human Resources and other partners to help our community--this is a simple idea with lasting impact."

The funds will be released to CCCF as community contributions are realized. The Board of Education hopes you will be inspired to give if you can. Salida Board President Jen Visitacion said, "We are all in this together."

To donate, please visit https://www.chaffeecommunity.org/ and click on "Donate to the Chaffee County Emergency Response Fund", OR contact Joseph Teipel at 719.204.5071.

Respectfully,
David Blackburn
Superintendent
www.salidaschools.com