Funding & Technical Assistance

Small Business Administration - Disaster Loan Assistance
More info here. Small nonfarm businesses in 31 Colorado counties and neighboring counties in New Mexico are now eligible to apply for low-interest federal disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration. These loans offset economic losses because of reduced revenues caused by drought in counties that began Nov. 1, 2018. Primary Colorado counties: Chaffee, Crowley, Custer, El Paso, Elbert, Fremont, Huerfano, Lake, Las Animas, Lincoln, Otero, Park and Pueblo; Neighboring Colorado counties: Alamosa, Arapahoe, Baca, Bent, Cheyenne, Clear Creek, Costilla, Douglas, Eagle, Gunnison, Jefferson, Kiowa, Kit Carson, Pitkin, Saguache, Summit, Teller and Washington.

National Park Service Rivers, Trails, Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA)
NPS staff offer Technical Assistance with the RTCA program. Projects typically support four focus areas: to build healthy communities through parks, trails, and outdoor opportunities; to conserve natural lands, rivers, and watersheds; to engage youth in outdoor recreation and stewardship; or to strengthen the organizational capacity of project partners. Contact the Regional Program Manager for application support. Deadline: June 30, 2019.

Citizen's Institute for Rural Design Funds
Citizen's Institute for Rural Design offers opportunities that connect rural communities to design resources, enabling communities to act on ideas for improvements to a community's streets, buildings, public spaces, or landscapes to address the specific physical, environmental, social, and economic challenges facing rural areas. Application Deadline: July 22, 2019.

Groundwork USA Community Improvement
The mission of the Groundwork USA network is to bring about the sustained regeneration, improvement, and management of the physical environment by developing community-based partnerships that empower people, businesses, and organizations to promote environmental, economic, and social well-being. Letters of Interest must be received by July 31, 2019. The selected community will be eligible for up to $200,000 in funding and technical assistance from the National Park Service, US Environmental Protection Agency, and Groundwork USA to plan, establish, and build the capacity of a Groundwork Trust organization in their community. For more info. visit www.groundworkusa.org.

Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD)
The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) has announced that the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is available for its competitive grant program known as Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD, formerly known as TIGER). A total of $900 million was appropriated for this program in FY 2019. The NOFO, application, and webinar series describing how to construct a competitive application are on-line at https://www.transportation.gov/BUILDgrants. Deadline: July 15, 2019.

Our Town Creative Placemaking Grant Program
Our Town is the National Endowment for the Arts’ creative placemaking grants program. These grants support projects that integrate arts, culture, and design activities into efforts that strengthen...
communities by advancing local economic, physical, and/or social outcomes. Successful Our Town projects ultimately lay the groundwork for systemic changes that sustain the integration of arts, culture, and design into local strategies for strengthening communities. These projects require a partnership between a nonprofit organization and a local government entity, with one of the partners being a cultural organization. Matching grants range from $25,000 to $200,000, with a minimum cost share/match equal to the grant amount. Deadline: August 8.

ATV Safety and Trail Access Funding
The T.R.A.I.L.S. Grant Program, an initiative of Polaris Industries, provides support to national, state, and local organizations in the United States to ensure the future of ATV riding. Deadline: September 1. More info here.

The U.S. Department of Transportation Funds for Mobility Innovation
Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has announced that $15 million in research funds is available to transit providers, state agencies, and federally recognized tribes through the Integrated Mobility Innovation Demonstration program. Applications are due August 6, 2019. For more information, view the funding announcement posted here.

Support for Downtown Housing Projects through HUD
The HOPE VI Main Street Program provides grants to small communities to assist in the renovation of historic or traditional central business districts, or "Main Street" areas, by replacing unused, obsolete commercial space in buildings with affordable housing units. Deadline: July 30.

Rural Housing Preservation Grants
The Department of Agriculture Rural Housing Preservation Grant program is currently accepting applications. This program provides grants to sponsoring organizations for the repair or rehabilitation of housing owned or occupied by low-income rural citizens. USDA will award a total of $15.8 million in funding. The deadline to apply is July 8, 2019. More information is available here.

Grants Promote Community Bike Park and Pump Track Projects
PeopleForBikes Community Grant Program offers funding for important and influential projects that leverage federal funding and build momentum for bicycling in communities across the United States. Grants of up to $10,000 are provided for bicycle infrastructure projects and targeted advocacy initiatives that make it easier and safer for people of all ages and abilities to ride. Letters of interest for the fall 2019 grant cycle will be accepted from June 17 to July 26, 2019; full applications will be due October 18, 2019. Visit the PeopleForBikes website to review the grant guidelines for the fall 2019 cycle.

Training, Workshops, & Events

AARP to Host Online Rural Livability Workshop
June 19-20
AARP will host a livestream presentation led by national and local experts on rural livability, with a focus on creating intergenerational communities, strengthening transportation options, improving housing affordability and choice, enhancing community infrastructure, facilitating broadband and economic development, and preparing for extreme weather and disasters. For more information and to register, please click here.

Aspen Ideas Festival
June 23 - 29
This year’s tracks include Defining Economic Progress, American Reckoning, American Renewal, Hope Made Visible: Innovation by Design, and Coming to Grips with Climate Change. More info here.

Northwest Colorado Small Business Development Center Workshops
Join SBDC in the Vail Valley for these workshops - more info and register at www.northwestsbdc.org: Writing a Business Plan - July 11
Census 2020: Identifying Hard to Count Populations - ROAM and HTC2020 tools
Webinar: June 27 noon - 1:00 p.m.
SDO will be hosting a webinar demonstrating the use of the Response Outreach Area Mapper (ROAM) and the Hard to Count 2020 (HTC) tools to identify hard to count populations. This webinar will demonstrate these two tools and discuss strategies for reaching low-response census tracts. You can participate in the webinar by following the link below:
Please join the webinar from your computer, tablet or smartphone.
https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/954571013
Join the conference call:
Local (720) 279-0026; Toll-Free (877) 820-7831; Participant Passcode 830653

10th Annual Colorado SBDC Women’s Small Business Conference: "Building for the Future"
July 18, 2019 at the Sky Ute Casino Resort in Ignacio, CO - more info here
Learn from our business experts at our variety of breakout sessions, sign up for one of our free, confidential consulting sessions, get inspired from our engaging keynote speaker, or take advantage of our community of small business owners/experts and network!

Affordable Nonprofit Financial Leadership Training
July 11 | 9:00am - 4:00pm | Leadville
Offered by the Community Resource Center and Lake County Community Foundation. Strengthen your financial leadership skills and your organization. Build your organizational capacity around nonprofit accounting practices, financial oversight, and internal controls. Join us for an overview of the critical components of financial management for nonprofit organizations. This workshop will provide participants with an understanding of basic financial management terminology, policies and best practices for success. More info and register here.

Campsight Breck
Sept. 22-24
An innovation and marketing unconference for outdoor industry brands, adventurous visionaries and bold storytellers. More info here!

Drive, Lead, Succeed Conference - Economic Development Council of Colorado
October 9 - 11 at Cheyenne Mountain Resort, Colorado Springs CO - more info here
This annual conference aims to provide the knowledge, tools, and connections that are vital to foster a growing Colorado economy: Gather the industry's top influencers and thought leaders together to share knowledge and answer questions that no one else can; offer new and vital tools and solutions to pressing economic issues facing Colorado's professional economic development community; Facilitate quality collaboration and opportunity to exchange fresh, new ideas among Colorado’s leading Economic Development professionals, business and non-profit leaders, government officials and more.

State Demography Summit
November 1st at Arapahoe Community College
Save the date for the 37th Annual State Demography Summit. This one-day summit will present updates to SDO population estimates and forecasts, and provide up-to-date information for county and municipal planners, data analysts, economic development professionals, and others. This year’s summit will offer continuing education credits for real estate appraisers, real estate brokers and members of the American Institute for City Planners (AICP). Registration will open September 2, 2019.

Resources
Small Business Development Center has a new website!
The SBDC has a new website that we're very excited about!
We gave our website a much needed update and can't wait
for you to see it. All of our sub-centers will get the same makeover in the next couple of months so stay tuned. Check it out and let us know what you think!

11 Tips for Creating a Killer Small Business Environment in Your Downtown
Economically, our downtowns greatly out-perform their suburban commercial counterparts like malls, strip malls, and big box areas. Small businesses play a large role in this—adding to the vibrancy, authenticity, and economic synergy that make downtowns the economic powerhouses that they are.

Read about it here.