Resources for Veteran Owned Businesses and Entrepreneurs

The Small Business Administration (SBA) offers support for veterans as they enter the world of business ownership. The Office of Veterans Business Development (OVBD) is devoted exclusively to promoting veteran entrepreneurship, and facilitates the use of all SBA programs by veterans, service-disabled veterans, reservists, active-duty service members, transitioning service members, and their dependents or survivors. SBA programs provide access to capital and preparation for small business opportunities. They can also connect veteran small business owners with federal procurement and commercial supply chains.

The SBA offers the following tools for veterans as they enter the world of business ownership (more details on each here):

- **Boots to Business**: An entrepreneurial program offered on military installations around the world and a training track of the Department of Defense (DOD) Transition Assistance Program (TAP). Boots to Business Reboot extends the entrepreneurship training offered in TAP to veterans of all eras in their communities.

- **Women Veteran Entrepreneurship Training Program** (WVETP): Provides entrepreneurial training to women veterans, women service members, and women spouses of service members and veterans as they start or grow a business.

- **Service Disabled Veteran Entrepreneurship Training Program** (SDVETP): Provides entrepreneurship training program(s) to service-disabled veteran entrepreneurs who aspire to be small business owners or currently own a small business.

- **Veteran Federal Procurement Entrepreneurship Training Program** (VFPETP): Delivers entrepreneurship training to veteran-owned and service-disabled veteran-owned businesses nationwide interested in pursuing, or are already engaged in federal procurement.
Free FEMA Community Planning for Economic Recovery
Nov. 14 in Salida
The Colorado Resiliency Office, in partnership with the National Center for Disaster Preparedness, is holding this workshop on Nov. 14 at the SteamPlant Event Center in Salida. This course will guide decision-makers to incorporate community planning for economic resilience and recovery from natural disasters. The curriculum includes practical tools to develop stronger partnerships between the public and private sectors, evaluate community hazard assessments through the lens of economic recovery, provide resources for public and private sector partners to use in a postdisaster environment, and offer planning templates for articulating these actions at the community level. For more information and to register, visit ncdpcourses.crlctraining.org.

Building Better Places Training
Feb. 10-12, 2020 in Grand Junction
Community Builders is offering a workshop, the Building Better Places training to help local leaders develop the skills they need to effectively plan for growth and change in their community. Because the American West is one of the fastest growing and rapidly changing parts of the country, local leaders are grappling with a lot of tough challenges. How can we ensure that growth and change isn't something that simply happens to us, but instead is harnessed into an opportunity to build a more livable, economically viable future for our community? The Building Better Places training invites applicants to build a community team of up to 8 local leaders to attend the training together. Nearly all participation costs, including lodging, are covered for accepted teams. Applications are due Friday, December 20, 2019. More info here.

Webinar: Creative Placemaking Opportunities for Underused Properties
Nov. 21 at 10 a.m. Mtn Time
The Center for Community Progress, in partnership with Metris Arts Consulting, released a national survey to explore the unique challenges and potential of creative placemaking efforts taking place on vacant, abandoned, and underused properties in communities across the country. The cumulative results of that survey are featured in the recently released report Trends in Creative Placemaking on Problem Properties. Hear about the trends, case studies, and survey responses from practitioners, residents, government officials, nonprofit leaders, and many others involved in creative placemaking efforts. More info and register here.

Land Use Law Annual Conference
December 5 & 6 in Denver
Now in its 25th year, Tom Ragonetti’s Annual Conference on land use law takes place Dec. 5-6, in Denver. This conference gathers the top experts and land use professionals from across the state to discuss the most important topics in land use law. In just two days, this conference gives new and veteran practitioners the opportunity to discuss critical current issues presented from a wide range of perspectives. To register, visit bit.ly/326YqAV.

Vail Valley Works in 2020
The Vail Valley Partnership presents Vail Valley Works in 2020 as the premier local program for developing, training, and supporting a network of aware and knowledgeable business leaders ready to take on the challenges of an ever-changing community. In 2020, Vail Valley Partnership will offer three Signature Courses- Community Leadership Academy (Jan. - July), Community Issues Bootcamp (May-Oct.) and NEXT Emerging Leaders (Jan. - June)- with the intended goal of deeper community engagement, a better understanding of the issues facing Eagle County and personal leadership development. For more information visit www.vailvalleyworks.com or contact Erik Williams at
Downtown Colorado Inc. Annual Meeting 2020 - Colorado Challenge Accelerator Program
Conference will be held April 14 - 17, 2020 in Colorado Springs
DCI is proud to announce the application process is open to participate in the 2020 Colorado Challenge Accelerator Program! DCI has worked with over 24 communities to transform a challenge into an opportunity. Does your community have challenges you’d like to turn into opportunities? We can help! We've assisted with a variety of issues from branding to housing to downtown design and financing. Applications due Nov. 15 - apply here.

Funding & Technical Assistance

Mobility for All Funding Opportunity
The U.S. Department of Transportation. The $3.5 million program seeks to improve mobility options and access to community services for older adults, individuals with disabilities, and people with low incomes. Funds will be awarded for innovative capital projects that seek to improve the coordination of non-emergency transportation services for the transportation disadvantaged. Deadline: January 6, 2020. More information here.

Technical Assistance to Support Building Digital Economies
The Center on Rural Innovation (CORI) and Rural Innovation Strategies, Inc. seeks to help communities realize their vision of creating resilient, innovation-based jobs. CORI is announcing the start of a competitive application process for more rural communities to join the initiative to advance the creation of digital jobs and entrepreneurship strategies across America. Eligible communities are designated rural counties, as defined by the U.S. Census, or those that represent regional efforts that cover a majority rural area. Successful communities will ideally have a combination of the following attributes: existing high-speed broadband; significant portions of the community located in or near Opportunity Zones; partnership with a 4-year endowed residential college or university campus; committed local leadership; and a willing non-profit organization and/or local and regional government prepared to raise matching funds and lead the initiative. Deadline: November 18. More info here.

WaterNow Alliance Project Accelerator
Deadline: Nov. 22, more info here. The Project Accelerator provides cities and utilities with up to 250 hours of free program and technical assistance for three to six months (valued at $25,000) to advance a sustainable water project. WaterNow Alliance is particularly interested in working with municipalities and utilities in Colorado to support projects that integrate water and land use planning. For a watersecure future in Colorado, water efficiency must be incorporated into community planning and development. These projects could include (but are not limited to): Incorporating water efficiency into your comprehensive planning process or zoning code; Adopting a water-efficient landscape ordinance or design guidelines; Implementing requirements or incentives for water-wise new development; Creating an irrigation audit or rebate program.

The National League of Cities 2020 Leadership in Community Resilience program
NLC is now accepting applications from cities and towns seeking funding for resilience-related projects. Each municipality selected for the 2020 cohort will receive $10,000 in financial support, advisory services, and a site visit from NLC staff, as well as an invitation to NLC’s annual resilience summit for the mayor and a staff member. Apply at www.nlc.org/2020-leadership-incommunity-resilience-program-application. Deadline: Dec. 20.

Grants for the Benefit of Homeless Individuals
Department of Health and Human Services. The [Grants for the Benefit of Homeless Individuals program](#) supports the development or expansion of community infrastructure that integrates substance use disorder treatment, housing services, and other critical services for individuals (including youth) and families experiencing homelessness. The application deadline is December 16, 2019.

**Caring for Colorado Foundation**
Creating Equity in Health. Caring for Colorado stands together with rural, urban and frontier communities to create programs, policies and systems that support the goal that every child in Colorado has love, stability, support and opportunity. Two deadlines per year: First Friday in February; First Friday in August. More info here.

**Brownfields, Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, and Cleanup (ARC) Grants**
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Deadline: December 3, 2019. Grants offered by the Brownfields Program may be used to address sites contaminated by hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants (including hazardous substances co-mingled with petroleum) and petroleum. More info here.

**State Trade Expansion Program (STEP)**
STEP is a financial assistance program for aspiring and current Colorado exporters entering into a new global market and is now accepting applications for companies looking to attend the JEC World trade show. The JEC World trade show is the world’s largest event for the global composite industry held from March 3-5, 2020 in Paris, France. Awarded companies will receive a travel stipend of up to $3,500 and exhibit space in the Colorado Pavilion. Application and eligibility requirements are available at choosecolorado.com/STEP. The application is due November 21, 2019. For additional information, please contact Nicole Gunkle at nicole.gunkle@state.co.us.

**Defense Counsel First Appearance Grant Program**
The Defense Counsel First Appearance Grant Program is now accepting applications for funding. This program launched with the purpose of reimbursing, in whole or in part, costs associated with the provision of defense counsel to defendants at their first appearance in municipal courts. All Colorado municipal courts are encouraged to apply. For information, please contact Shawn Marandi at 303-864-8479 or shawn.marandi@state.co.us.

**Rural Health Network Funds to Improve Rural Health**
The Rural Health Network Development Program seeks to improve access to and the quality of healthcare in rural areas through sustainable healthcare programs created as a result of network collaboration; prepare rural health networks for the transition to value-based payment and population health management; demonstrate improved health outcomes and community impact; promote the sustainability of rural health networks through the creation of diverse products and services. Deadline: November 25, 2019. More information here.

**Program Funds Small or Rural Libraries**
Institute of Museum and Library Services - more info here
The Accelerating Promising Practices for Small Libraries program supports projects that strengthen the ability of small or rural libraries and archives to serve their communities. Topics of interest include transforming school library practice, community memory, and digital inclusion. The application deadline is December 2, 2019.

**National Park Service - Historic Properties and Collections Preserved**
The Save America's Treasures program helps preserve nationally significant historic properties and collections that convey the nation's rich heritage to future generations of Americans. Grants are made in two categories: preservation projects for properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places or listed as a National Historic Landmark, and...
projects involving collections, including artifacts, museum collections, documents, sculptures, and other works of art. The application deadline is December 10, 2019. More info here.

Resources

New Toolkit Features Resources for Small and Medium-Sized Communities to Prepare for Natural Disasters
The U.S. EPA Urban Waters Federal Partnership has released a new toolkit: How to Prepare for Natural Disasters: A Pre-Disaster Toolkit for Small to Medium-Sized Communities. This resource was developed to help small- to medium-sized communities jump-start their natural disaster planning process. The toolkit is divided into two sections - one for local government officials, including Emergency Management Coordinators (EMCs), utility district managers, and local elected officials - and a section for community residents. Each section provides information about the tools and resources available through federal and state agencies and disaster relief organizations, as well as At-a-Glance preparedness checklists.