
Northwest Colorado Council of Governments eNews April 2014



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Growing or Starting a Business Just Got Easier!

The NWCCOG Economic Development Committee promotes and coordinates economic development activities in our 5 country region (Pitkin, Eagle, Summit, Grand and Jackson) and has a brand new website that integrates information from many resources one might need to start or grow a business in our communities. This site links with our partners who can help with everything from creating business plans, to getting the

business funded. It is truly a wealth of knowledge and is growing every day.

The NWCCOG EDD is focused on six core objectives:

1. Build a business friendly environment
2. Recruit, grow, and retain businesses
3. Increase access to capital
4. Focus on projects that bolster tourism
5. Educate and train the workforce
6. Cultivate innovative technologies

This new site contains exciting new information! [So come take a look by clicking here.](#)

SAVE THE DATE: Health and Wellness Sector Partnership Forum -- "Moving Forward"
August 14, 2014 - Colorado Mountain College Breckenridge campus.

For more info contact Rachel at 970-468-0295x106 or rachel@nwccog.org

Broadband to Hire Regional Coordinator

With the completion of the Regional Broadband Strategic Plan, the NWCCOG has the go-ahead to hire a Regional Coordinator. The right person for this job will be responsible for the development and coordination of broadband projects within Northwest Colorado.



Interviews will be started in Mid April. If you know someone who might be a good fit, send them to:

[NWCCOG.org Employment Opportunities](#)

Focus on Seniors

The 2014 Senior Day At The Capital, hosted by the Colorado Senior Lobby, took place on April 2nd. The always well-attended event drew a large crowd again this year, with standing-room-only, to hear representatives and Lt. Governor Garcia address the attendees. Discussions from AARP, the Colorado Senior Lobby, elected officials, and Area Agencies on Aging, focused on bills in the current legislative session including homestead act revisions, licensure of in-home care providers, availability of affordable housing, crimes against at-risk elders, and regulation of telephone land lines.



SAVE THE DATE: 2014 Senior Awards Ceremony

This year's awards ceremony will be held on May 21st at the Summit County Community and Senior Center in Frisco, CO. The event recognizes the outstanding leadership and contributions in our region by seniors and friends of seniors. Seating is limited and RSVP is required for lunch. RSVP or questions to Erin at noc12@nwccog.org or 970-468-0295x117.

Northwest Loan Fund

Anita Cameron, Director of Business Lending

Anita@NorthwestLoanFund.org



Already in 2014, the Loan Committee has approved a loan in Grand County and one in Pitkin County. One loan helps to establish a new division with 5 additional employees; enabling them to export products internationally. The other loan is to be used to purchase additional inventory to better serve the demand from local customers.

The Northwest Loan Fund (NLF) offers business loans that will create or retain jobs and bring a value added product or income to the local economy in the 9 Northwest counties (Eagle,

Garfield, Grand, Jackson, Moffat, Pitkin, Rio Blanco, Routt & Summit). The NLF loans money for start-up and expanding businesses that may not qualify for traditional financing.

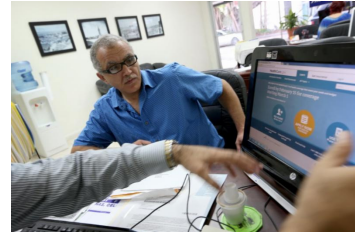
If you're thinking of applying for a loan, regardless of where you are in the process, Anita can help you decide the best funding strategy for your unique business needs. For more information, please contact Anita Cameron, 970.468.0295x119 or <http://northwestloanfund.org>

Connect for Health Colorado

TJ Dufresne, NW Region Hub Coordinator

tjdufresne@nwccog.org

NWCCOG serves as the Regional Hub for the Colorado Health Benefit Exchange for northwest Colorado, and provides coordination services to 19 assistance sites throughout 9 counties including NWCCOG's 5 counties (Eagle, Grand, Jackson, Pitkin, and Summit) as well as Garfield, Routt, Rio Blanco, and Moffat.



The Connect for Health Colorado Marketplace saw a surge of enrollment in the marketplace in the final few days of open enrollment. The numbers by county will be available in mid April and you can check out the number of enrollments here: <http://connectforhealthco.com/news-events/metrics/> including enrollment by county.

We were extremely pleased with the collaboration with the assistance sites throughout the 9 counties, and we're grateful we were able to help so many navigate through the Connect for Health Colorado Individual Enrollment system for Northwest Colorado.

At the state level, our focus now turns to strengthening our advertising, community outreach, small business outreach, and training opportunities. We are in the beginning stages of creating a certification process for Health Coverage Guide trainers, and creating more effective communication systems between the Assistance Sites and the centralized Customer Service Center. We continue to identify areas for improvement on the website as well as inter-departmental communication and training.

Regional Transportation Coordinating Council

Susan Juergensmeier, Coordinator

mobilitymanager@nwccog.org



We're one step closer to being able to provide regional transportation services throughout the 7 county area of northwest Colorado including Jackson, Routt, Grand, Summit, Eagle, Garfield, and Pitkin Counties.

The One Call/One Click call center is being formed to assist in providing transportation for veterans, older adults, and ADA eligible



individuals. Working with existing public and private transit providers our goal is to facilitate seamless access to transportation

for trips inside and outside our region. The call center will be able to track and bill for services in addition for arranging for transportation.

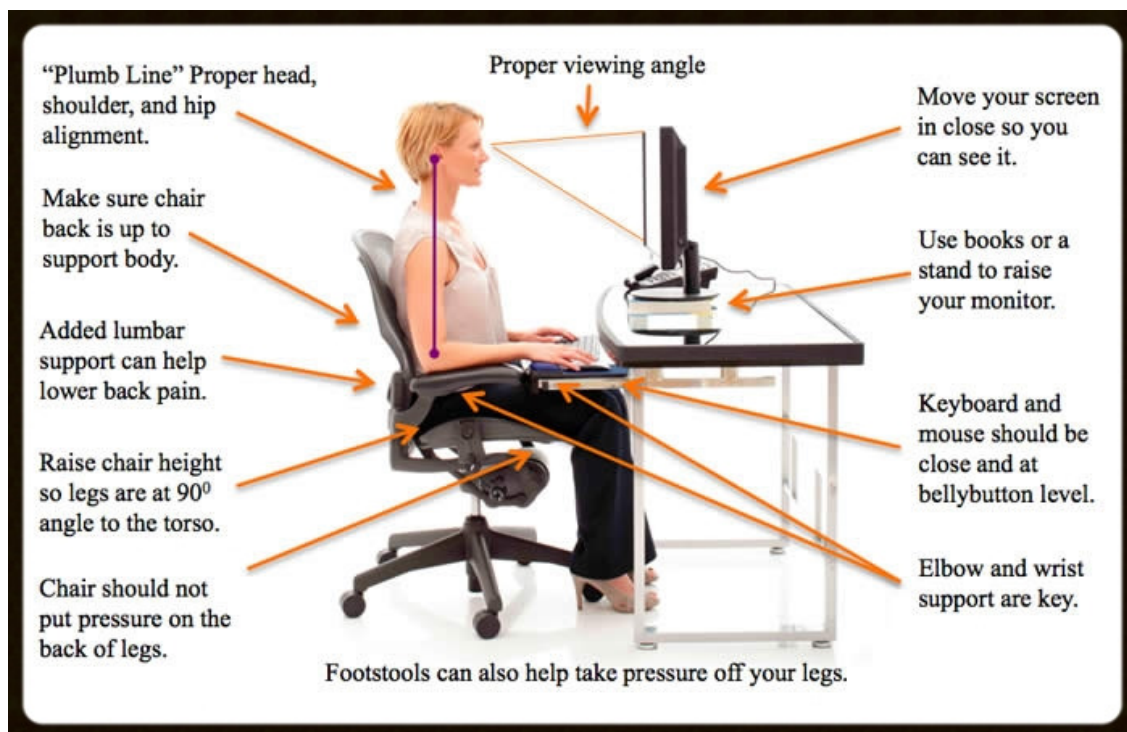
Mountain Ride was selected as the name of the program from a long list of suggestions submitted by stakeholders around the region.

You'll be seeing more about **Mountain Ride** as we continue to develop this program.

Safety Tips

We at the NWCCOG are always focused on safety as part of our everyday activities. This month our focus is on Ergonomics -- the art of setting up your work space in such a way that minimizes repetitive injuries and strains.

The image below provides a reminder that will help you reduce lower back pain, eye strain, carpel tunnel pain, improve circulation, and generally make your work day more comfortable.



Even when you are ergonomically "situated" it is important to get up and move around from time to time. Experts say, 20 to 30 minutes is long enough to sit at one stretch. So

at good stopping points throughout the day, get up, walk around, do some filing, get a drink of water, and maybe even do some simple exercises before getting back to work. Your body will thank you for it and you will be less prone to injury.

If you've got safety tips in your workplace -- we'd like to hear about them. You can send an email to Judi@NWCCOG.org.

2014 NWCCOG Meeting Schedule

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Full Council & Economic Development District Board Meeting
Location: Eagle County Courthouse, Garden Level Classroom
Time: NWCCOG - 10:00a.m.-12:00 p.m. ; EDD 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Thursday, July 24, 2014

Full Council Meeting
Location: NWCCOG Office /Conference Call
Time: 10:00 a.m.-noon

Thursday, September 25, 2014

Full Council & EDD Board Annual Planning Meeting
Location: Minturn Town Center
Time: 9:00 a.m.-3:00p.m.

Thursday, October 23, 2014

Conference Call to review draft 2015 budget

Thursday, December 4, 2014

Full Council & NWCCOG Foundation Board Meeting
Location: NWCCOG Office / Conference Call
Time: 10:00a.m.-noon

Northwest Colorado Council of Governments

www.nwccog.org

970.468.0295

THANK YOU FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN NWCCOG!

STAY CONNECTED



