

NWCCOG is Officially Designated as an Economic Development District by the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA)

NWCCOG is pleased to announce that, after many years of hard work by staff and economic development stakeholders in the region, we have been officially designated as an Economic Development District (EDD) by the U.S. EDA. This EDA designation will serve as a foundation for future economic projects and programs that will benefit NWCCOG's region. The EDA's mission is to "lead the federal economic agenda by promoting innovation and competitiveness, preparing American regions for growth and success in the worldwide economy". To further this mission, the EDA provides annual funding to EDD's across the country to assist in their pursuit of region-building economic development activities. NWCCOG will focus on activities which aim to stimulate growth and business expansion in order to strengthen the economies of member communities in our region. On behalf of all NWCCOG member communities and economic development stakeholders, we are very pleased to announce this new partnership with the EDA. For more information, please contact June Walters or at 970.468.0295 x119.

NWCCOG Holds Strategic Planning Session on August 23rd to Set the Course for 2013

The NWCCOG Council met with staff on Thursday, August 23rd for the annual strategic planning session where direction was set for 2013. After reviewing the 2012 member survey, the main area of priority for the organization was overwhelmingly to focus on efforts to improve rural broadband, as well as efforts to strengthen the economies of member communities. NWCCOG's recent designation as an EDA Economic Development District will certainly aid in this effort, as this designation comes with additional funding to the organization starting 2013. For more information, please contact Liz Mullen, NWCCOG's Executive Director (970.468.0295 x123).

Partnership with Colorado Energy Office and Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Provides Funding for the Weatherization of More Homes

The NWCCOG Weatherization Program received an additional \$58,000 in July for Weatherization activities in Rio Blanco County. The source of these funds is from fines levied by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) for pollution violations imposed on oil and gas drillers operating in Rio Blanco County. CDPHE has started a program that returns fine money to the county where the violations occurred, to fund "Supplemental Environmental Projects" (SEP's) to further assist environment protection. This additional funding has enabled NWCCOG to temporarily re-hire two workers from our New Castle office that had been laid off at the end of February due to the expiration of ARRA funds.

Last winter, NWCCOG worked with Garfield County Environmental Health on an SEP that replaced old, highly-polluting woodstoves with EPA-approved lower-pollution models. NWCCOG helped with identifying low-income homes that could benefit from a less-polluting model woodstove, and also cooperated with Garfield County to make sure all of the homes that received new stoves have also been weatherized, which reduced pollution even further by reducing the need for any form of heating fuels. CDPHE has established a working relationship with the Colorado Energy Office (CEO) to identify areas where fines can fund additional weatherization activities. CEO approached NWCCOG to carry out this SEP in Rio Blanco County, and NWCCOG was enthusiastic about piloting a program to use SEP funds for weatherization activities. NWCCOG appreciates the opportunity to work with CEO, and CDPHE, to accept SEP funds to bring the benefits of weatherization to as many homes as possible.

Save the Date: Community Builders Summit - October 25th - 26th in Glenwood Springs

Save the date for an exciting community and economic development summit called Community Builders, to be held October 25th and 26th in Glenwood Springs. This summit is being organized by the Sonoran Institute, a non-profit organization that works across the rapidly changing West to conserve and restore natural and cultural assets and to promote better management of growth and change. Because of NWCCOG's work in regional economic development, NWCCOG is serving as a co-sponsor of this event.

The Community Builders Summit will cover market conditions in the wake of the Great Recession, their effect on western Colorado communities, as well as the tools and strategies communities can use to adapt by more effectively linking their efforts in community and economic development. NWCCOG is inviting all elected officials, town and county managers, planners, and economic development stakeholders in the region to attend. This summit is unique in that it will focus on a multi-disciplinary approach to building healthier, more economically viable communities across the western slope. Details on this summit as well as registration information can be found [HERE](#).

Regional Transportation Coordinating Council

The Rural Resort Region/Regional Transportation Coordinating Council (RTCC) meeting was held at the Eagle County Transit Office in Gypsum on August 1. Susan Juergensmeier was introduced as the new Mobility Manager. Susan will meet with the members of the RTCC, County Agencies on Aging and various providers in and outside of the region in the next few weeks to learn about the services their agencies provide and discuss ideas of how to collaborate. The first meeting of the RTCC Technology Committee was held on August 16. Technology Committee members who attended the Colorado Association of Transit Agencies (CASTA) conference in Grand Junction August 4 - 7 met with the various vendors who provide transportation coordination technology at the conference.

The RTCC will soon have the Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative Program grant finalized with CDOT for implementation of the One-Click/One-Call program. The contract for the FTA VTCLI- 2 grant for marketing is expected to be signed next March. At the CASTA conference the four Colorado groups who are to receive the FTA VTCLI-1 grants will meet to coordinate efforts. The other VTCLI awardee projects include: Pikes Peak Area - Accessible Coordinated Transportation, All Points Transit (Montrose/Delta counties) and Denver Region Mobility and Access Council. For more information on the RTCC and its programs please contact Susan Juergensmeier or at 970.468.0295 x110.

Applications for 2013 Alpine Area Agency on Aging Mini-grant Program Now Available: Deadline is May 3rd.

The Alpine Area Agency on Aging's (AAAA) mini-grant program is again being offered for state fiscal year 2012-13. The amount of funding available is approximately \$6,676. The identified priority projects include advocacy, coordination, emergency service delivery situation, equipment, program development, and training & professional development. The mini-grant program is administered through the Regional Advisory Council, and is to support applicants or implementation located within the Region 12 planning and service area that includes Eagle, Grand, Jackson, Pitkin and Summit counties. Awarded projects must be fully completed by June 30, 2013. Funding for the mini-grant program is provided through State Funds for Senior Services. The AAAA Mini-Grant Program information and application are available on the NWCCOG website.

Job Opportunity: Program Specialist

Reminder: the submission deadline for the Program Specialist position for the Alpine Area Agency on Aging is 5 p.m. September 4th. Interviews are expected to take place the week of September 10th. A complete job description can be found [HERE](#) on NWCCOG's website.

U.S. Assistant Secretary Greenlee's Keynote at n4a Conference in Colorado

On July 10, 2012, Kathy Greenlee, Administrator, Administration for Community Living and Assistant Secretary for Aging, HHS, delivers the keynote address at the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) Conference & Trade show in Denver, Colorado. In her message to the n4a Conference, she outlined three core competencies necessary for the future success of the Aging Network: prevention, options counseling, and elder rights. The video is now available online to view at this link: <http://www.n4a.org>.