

Northwest Colorado Council of Governments July 2013 ENews



Regional Broadband Strategic Plan Well Underway – Take the Broadband Survey and Provide your Input!

NWCCOG recognizes that access to broadband services to connect to the Internet and other online services is important to economic development and quality of life in the region. Therefore, NWCCOG is embarking on a strategic planning effort focused on improving access to broadband for an eight county area, which consists of Eagle, Garfield, Grand, Jackson, Moffat, Pitkin, Rio Blanco, Routt, and Summit counties, and the City of Glenwood Springs and Town of Carbondale. This project is funded by a grant from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs' Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance Fund. The end goal of this strategic planning effort is to develop a blueprint that will outline several action steps local governments can take to improve access to broadband in the region. Part of this planning effort involves asking all stakeholders in the community to provide input on what will make broadband better in this region.

NWCCOG is asking all community members to complete a short survey which will help build good information for the plan whose goal is to help ensure residents and businesses in the region have sufficient access to broadband. The survey can also be found on NWCCOG's website: www.nwccog.org- under "News and Current Issues" on the homepage.

The draft regional broadband strategic plan will be



Topics in this Issue:

**Regional Broadband
Survey**

**NWCCOG to Serve as
Regional Hub fo
Connect for Health
Colorado Regional
Assistance Network**

**Weatherization Team
Celebrates Another
Successful Year**

**Welcome Torie Jarvis,
New QQ Co-Director**

**Erin Fisher Receives
AIRS and I & A Specialist
Certification**

AAAA Network of Care

**Smart Growth America
Workshop August 8-9 in
Eagle**

www.nwccog.org

Development District Board of Directors at the September 26th strategic planning session in Glenwood Springs.

More information on the broadband project can be found on NWCCOG's website (www.nwccog.org).

NWCCOG Will Serve as Northwest Region Hub for Connect for Health Colorado Colorado's Regional Assistance Network

NWCCOG has been chosen as one of 6 hubs across the state to serve as a regional hub for the Connect for Health Colorado's new health insurance marketplace. The Connect for Health Assistance Network is a new program that will provide local, in-person assistance to individuals, families and small businesses looking to shop for health care coverage through Colorado's new health insurance marketplace. As a regional hub, NWCCOG will serve as a partner with Connect for Health Colorado in educating businesses and residents in our region about the new marketplace, customer support services and how to connect to quality health insurance options. The Assistance Network will be an important resource for Colorado consumers, especially for those who have never bought health insurance before and will have many questions about their options and new financial assistance programs. More information coming in the next few months!

Weatherization Team Celebrates Successes in 2013

Congratulations to the Weatherization Team for another successful year. In our current 2-year contract running from July 1, 2011 to June 30th, 2013, the team weatherized 500 homes throughout the region! Weatherization permanently makes homes more energy efficient, and benefits our clients by also making their homes safer and healthier. Weatherization lowers the energy bills of

families who have to decide if they should eat or heat. These successes were celebrated at the annual Weatherization training day and picnic on June 3rd. Special guest at the picnic lunch was Katherine Foote, Department of Energy Project Officer for Colorado. Katherine spoke to the Weatherization team and their lunch guests about the importance of the Weatherization Assistance Program. She applauded the accomplishments of the NWCCOG Weatherization Department and reminded them that while folks at the state in Denver and the federal government in Washington DC have a role to play in Weatherization, the real congratulations should go to the people who work in the field every day installing furnaces or insulation. Foote stated "It's a joy to spend time with people from NWCCOG who clearly - and rightfully - take pride in the good work you do every day."



Welcome Torie Jarvis new QQ Co-Director



Torie grew up in Alabama, primarily in Montgomery. She attended college at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, NC where she studied world religions and art history, but most of her career direction came from raft guiding in West Virginia on the weekends and in summers. That career guidance inspired her to move to Telluride, Colorado to become a raft guide full time after college, in 2005. She did want to more actively work to conserve and protect the areas she was enamored with in the West around Colorado and the desert rivers.

In 2007, she became an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer with the Appalachian Coal County Watershed Team. She recruited and placed volunteers to work in small rural communities with burgeoning watershed groups seeking to address environmental and social damages from historic mining practices. The founder of the Team was starting a similar program in Colorado, based in Hotchkiss, CO and she took the opportunity to help establish that Team.

She then became the first Coordinator of the Western Hardrock Watershed Team. The Team of VISTAs works with rural watershed groups through Colorado and New Mexico to assist in building organizational capacity to achieve environmental remediation, conservation, and education.

Torie then decided to attend law school, wanting to focus on improving environmental policies to promote conservation. She realized quickly that she was interested in more localized environmental

organizations on land use issues. She was able to work for a semester her last year of school in Denver with the US Department of Justice's Environment and Natural Resource Division on Indian water law issues, and then attended the University of Colorado for her final semester of school. She was able to take a Colorado-specific Water Law class which will form a solid background for her work with QQ. Her new position with QQ is a great fit to her in working with diverse stakeholders, representing a diverse set of perspectives, and working to represent those interests in the state legislature and through supporting projects and programs in line with QQ's vision and ideals. Welcome Torie!

Erin Fisher Awarded the Certification for Information and Referral Specialist Designation from AIRS

Erin Fisher, Alpine Area Agency on Aging Program Specialist, was recently awarded the CIRS designation from AIRS - The Alliance of Information and Referral Systems. AIRS improves access to services for individuals, families and communities by providing a professional umbrella for all information and referral (I&R) providers. The Certified Information and Referral Specialist (CIRS) designation is a measurement of documented knowledge in the field of I&R reflecting specific competencies and related performance criteria, which describe the knowledge, skills, attitudes and work-related behaviors needed by I&R practitioners to successfully execute their responsibilities. The AIRS Certification Program is operated in alignment with national standards for credentialing organizations.

Alpine Area Agency on Aging Network of Care Coming Soon!

The Network of Care website for the NWCCOG region is scheduled to go live in July. The site offers

disabilities including an easy-to-use service directly, comprehensive health library, a secure personal health record keeping tool for consumers and caregivers, and a political advocacy tool and links to pertinent national websites. If you are interested in learning how the Network of Care site can be beneficial to you or your organization, please email Erin Fisher at noc12@nwccog.org for more information or to set up a demonstration.

Smart Growth America to Offer Free Technical Assistance Workshop: Planning for Economic and Fiscal Health on August 8th and 9th in Eagle

NWCCOG is one of 22 communities across the U.S. to receive a free technical assistance workshop in 2013. Each year, Smart Growth America is committed to providing the tools and training to help community leaders keep their cities and towns livable, sustainable, and economically prosperous places. This program is funded through a grant from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Sustainable Communities under its Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities Program. The topic of focus for this workshop will be **Planning for Economic and Fiscal Health**, and will focus on how our communities can save money now, reduce our liabilities for the future, and use targeted investment to spur economic development. Visit the [NWCCOG EDD website](#) for more information.



Northwest Colorado Council of Governments
P.O. Box 2308
Silverthorne, Colorado 80498
970.468.0295
Northwest Colorado Council of Governments
www.nwccog.org

[Forward email](#)



Try it FREE today.

This email was sent to rachel@nwccog.org by rachel@nwccog.org |
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).
Northwest Colorado Council of Governments | P.O. Box 2308 | 249 Warren Ave. | Silverthorne | CO | 80498