



AGENDA

Thursday, March 28, 2024

IN PERSON AT NWCCOG SILVERTHORNE/ OR ZOOM

NWCCOG (NLF) 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

EDD 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

VIDEO & PHONE CONFERENCE INFORMATION

Video: Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88166216134?pwd=MFB0Z2VRVEpHSXhYZHRubVRXc3poZz09>

Meeting ID: 881 6621 6134

Passcode: 119033

Dial In: 1 669 900 6833

NWCCOG COUNCIL MEETING

10:00a.m.		Roll Call –Chair – Alyssa Shenk, Roll Call and Determination of Quorum	
	*1	ACTION: Call NLF Board Meeting and approve January NLF Board Meeting Minutes	Website
	*2	ACTION: Approve two new Loan Committee Members	Pgs. 3-5
	*3	ACTION: Adjourned NLF Board Meeting	
	*1.	ACTION: Minutes of January 2024 Council Meeting	Pgs. 6-8
	*2.	ACTION: Approve NWCCOG List of Bills	Website
	3	Update: Energy Program - Energy Profit Sharing - Recognition for 25 Years of Service to NWCCOG Energy Program for Doug Jones and Nate Speerstra	Pg. 9
	4.	UPDATE: NLF Reports - Documents are for review, not approval - Northwest Loan Fund – Risk Ratings - Northwest Loan Fund – Portfolio Summary - Loan Policy Excerpt as reference for Risk Ratings	Pgs. 10-15
10:05 a.m.	*5.	ACTION: Move May Meeting to June 6 th - Jon Out, New Office Manager, Could have Audit prepared for review by June 6	
	6.	UPDATE: Community Metrics Project - PPT with raw data – Jon will Screen Share as Doc is not Final - Full presentation with Analysis at EDD Summit May 2 in Silverthorne - White Paper to be Published following Summit	
	7.	NOTICE: 2024 Member Handbook (Is Updated and On-Line) - Primary update are 2024 Officers and Member Representatives - Other information under Council Resources – review	Website
	8.	UPDATE: Approve Employee Handbook Update - Jon has compiled and worked through edits from Employers Council, Sam Light at CIRSA and NWCCOG Attorney, document is much overhauled and reorganized. Still requires internal review and comment by Directors group. - Question to Council: Do you all want to review this doc or delegate to a group?	
	9.	INFORMATION: Council Rules of Conduct - Barbara Green was present at the January Meeting to discuss edits - Document was Approved pending revisions per Alyssa and Barbara - Redline and Clean version available on website (Will post if no objections)	Website
	10.	UPDATE: Internal Policies updated since January Meeting (spreadsheet)	Pgs. 16-17
	11.	REMINDER: 2024 EDD Summit - Draft Agenda: https://www.nwccog.org/nwccog-regional-economic-summit-2023/ - Evening Before and after event -- reservations	Pgs. 18-19
10:20 a.m.	12.	Featured Program Presentation: Northwest Loan Fund	

10:30 a.m.	13.	UPDATE: Executive Director Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Housing Legislation SB24 -174 - Vintage Program Contracts - Vail Pass Partial Funding – Should we comment? - Truckers SB24 100 - LOS, Eagle RAISE, BB Blue River, CORE Climate Action Accelerator 	Pgs. 20-39
	*14	ACTION: Discuss proposed Administrative DOLA Grant for three regional mid-level managers trainings led by Clark Anderson from Community Builders. Requested by Vail Town Manager and encouraged by Glenwood Springs manager.	
	15.	DISCUSSION: Is your Organization using AI <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - https://localhousingsolutions.org/housing-needs-assessment/ 	Pgs. 40-62
	16.	Program Updates available in packet for review	Pgs. 63-66
11:00 a.m.	17.	PRESENTATION: Accessing Census Demographic & Economic Data Training, Kimberly Davis, Data Dissemination Specialist, US Census Bureau	
11:30 a.m.	18.	Congressional and Legislative Updates:	
11:45 p.m.	19.	Member Updates: 3 minutes per jurisdiction if time permits	
12:00 p.m.	*20.	Adjourn NWCCOG Meeting, Lunch provided for in person guest, EDD Meeting starts at 12:30	

NEXT NWCCOG MEETING:

Thursday, May 23, 2024 Conference Call from 10am – 12pm

NWCCOG Officers: NWCCOG Council Chair – Alyssa Shenk, NWCCOG Council Vice-Chair – Patti Clapper, NWCCOG Council Secretary-Treasurer – Carolyn Skowrya

NWCCOG Executive Committee: Region XII County members –Nina Watters, Patti Clapper, Tim Redmond, Jeanne McQueeney and Randal George. Municipal members – Alyssa Shenk, Geoff Grimmer, Glen Drummond, Kristen Brownson and Carolyn Skowrya.

NWCCOG ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT (EDD) BOARD

12:30 p.m.	1.	Call to Order – EDD Board Chair, DiAnn Butler	
	2.	Roll Call and Determination of Quorum	
	*3.	ACTION: Minutes of January 2023 EDD Board Meeting	Pgs. 67-68
	4.	UPDATE: Annual CEDS Review	
	5.	UPDATE: Workforce Update, CDLE Team	
	6.	Roundtable: Economic Development News in Your Community (if time allows)	
2:30 p.m.	*7.	Adjourn NWCCOG Meeting	

NEXT EDD BOARD MEETING:

Thursday, May 23, 2024 Conference Call from 12:30pm – 2:30pm

EDD Officers: EDD Chair – DiAnn Butler, EDD Vice-Chair – Patti Clapper, EDD Secretary-Treasurer – Ashley Macdonald

* requires a vote

Please notify office@nwccog.org 5 days in advance if you require any accommodations to attend this meeting.

Relevant Work History:

2018 – present
Aspen Public House, Founder and Owner

May 2017-2021
Capitol Creek Brewery, Founder & General Manager

August 2013 – Nov 2015
Highlands Alehouse, Owner & Managing Partner

October 2008 – April 2013
Highlands Pizza Company, Founder & Managing Partner

Education:

University of Arkansas, B.S.B.A. Finance, 2007
Minors: Accounting, Financial Economics

Background:

Bill Johnson moved to the Roaring Fork Valley in December of 2007 immediately after graduating from the University of Arkansas. He passed up job offers in the financial sector to pursue his dream of living in the mountains of Colorado. In the fall of 2008, Bill had an opportunity to buy a struggling pizza restaurant at the base of Aspen Highlands for a substantial discount. He opened the Highlands Pizza Company during the winter season of 2008/2009. Bill operated the Highlands Pizza Company profitably for 5 years, and was then presented an opportunity by the Landlord to open a new restaurant in the slope-side location of the Highlands base village. The new restaurant was named the Highlands Alehouse. It was the second successful restaurant to survive in the redeveloped Highlands base village (the Highlands Pizza Co. was the first). Bill sold his half of the business to his former business partner in order to pursue the Capitol Creek Brewery project in Willits. The Highlands Alehouse continues to be successful to this day and has added substantial vitality and value to the Highlands Base Village.

After 1.5 years of development, Capitol Creek Brewery opened its doors in May of 2017 with an overwhelmingly positive response from the local community here in Basalt. Bill wanted to open an establishment that had a relaxing ambience and offered great value to its guests, and so far, the Capitol Creek Brewery team is accomplishing exactly that.

Bill Johnson is the founder and sole proprietor of Aspen Public House and currently serves as the Director of Operations, with responsibilities including: writing menus, preparing comprehensive prep lists & order guides, placing orders with food and liquor vendors, inventory management, personnel management, back office management,

bookkeeping, financial forecasting, budgeting, cost management, special events coordination, hiring and retaining kitchen and serving staff, restaurant design, as well as all aspects of marketing and branding. Until recently, Bill has also assumed the role of “Front of House” manager taking on all of the day to day operational responsibilities in addition to personally leading the staff in the area of customer service and hospitality. Bill has no investors or business partners and is solely in control of decision making and business operations.

Prior to Aspen Public House, Bill developed and opened the Capitol Creek Brewery in 2017 located in the Willits shopping center in Basalt, CO. Bill decided to sell Capitol Creek Brewery in 2021 so he could refocus on Aspen Public House.

Previously, Bill was 50% owner of Highlands Pizza Co., LLC, renamed “Highlands Restaurant Group.” Under his ownership of HPC, LLC, three restaurants were operated profitably: Highlands Pizza Company, est. 2008, Highlands Alehouse, and The Taqueria. All of these businesses were operated profitably, with the Highlands Alehouse and Taqueria remaining successful to this day. Bill sold his entire stake in Highlands Pizza Co., LLC in November of 2015 to pursue the Capitol Creek Brewery project located in Willits.

Bill has combined a well-rounded business acumen with an insatiable passion for the restaurant industry, resulting in restaurants with lasting success and positive reputations.

Detailed Skill Set:

Over the last nine years, Bill has gained experience in all aspects of restaurant operations. At times functioning as a line cook, writing menus, preparing comprehensive prep lists & order guides, placing orders with food and liquor vendors, bartending, inventory management, personnel management, back office management, bookkeeping, financial forecasting, budgeting, cost management, special events coordination, both on and off site catering, hiring and retaining kitchen and serving staff, restaurant design, as well as all aspects of marketing and branding.

Bill has a very hands-on approach regarding how he runs his businesses, making an effort to never be spread too thin so that the quality of the food and service remains at a high level. A few important underlying commonalities that all of Bill’s restaurants have shared is a strong local following, good reputations, and affordability.

PETER AMMON
Senior Vice President
Alpine Bank
110 N. Main Street, Breckenridge CO 80424
peterammon@alpinebank.com

Summary of Work Experience & Skills

36-year banking professional with over 25-years of experience lending to small businesses, entrepreneurs, and consumers. In-depth understanding of business financial statements, historical and proforma cash flow statements, loan terms and conditions. 20-years of experience reviewing loan presentations as a voting member of loan committee. Currently sit on two Alpine Bank loan committees as a voting member for both consumer and commercial loans. 10-years of experience in managing problem loans, including troubled debt restructures, foreclosures, receiverships, and the disposition of hard assets.

Senior Vice President/Branch Manager- Alpine Bank 2020- present
2003-2010

- Manage a local community bank with eight team members.
- Responsible for the management and growth of a \$100MM loan portfolio.
- Mentor new loan officers in loan underwriting, loan presentation and relationship management.
- Originate new consumer and commercial loans in Summit County and surrounding areas.
- Voting member for Alpine Bank consumer and commercial loan committees.

Market President/Special Assets Manager- Centennial Bank/Citywide Banks 2010-2020

- Managed a loan portfolio of substandard credits, with the goal of maximizing bank recoveries.
- One of seven voting loan committee members tasked to review and decision new loan requests.
- Lead the operation of a \$40MM community bank in Grand County, including seven team members.

Education

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 1983-1987

Major: Economics & English

University of Washington, Seattle, WA

Pacific Coast Graduate School of Banking 2006-2009

Community Engagement

- Breckenridge Film Festival-Board Member & Finance Committee Member
- Summit County Chamber Member



Northwest Colorado Council of Governments

NWCCOG Council Meeting

January 25, 2024

Board Members:

Alyssa Shenk, Town of Snowmass Village
Jena Skinner, Town of Avon
Steve Boyd, City of Glenwood Springs
Dana McBride, Town of Frisco
Tim Redmond, Routt County
Kristen Brownson, Town of Breckenridge
Sara Nadolny, Town of Basalt
Patti Clapper, Pitkin County
Micheal Buccino, Steamboat Springs
Jeremy Rietmann, Town of Gypsum
Randy George, Grand County
Ashley Macdonald, Town of Kremmling

Others Present:

Christina Oxley, SBDC
Carolyn Tucker, SBDC
Ben Kleimer

NWCCOG Staff:

Jon Stavney
Anita Cameron
Doug Jones
Rachel Tuyn
Talai Shirey
Dana Wood

Congratulations for Ten Years:

Alyssa Shenk presented Erin Fisher and Anita Cameron with Colorado beetle kill wood trays as a thank you for ten years with NWCCOG.

Call to Order

Alyssa Shenk, NWCCOG Council Chair, called the Northwest Colorado Council of Governments (NWCCOG) meeting to order at 10:41 am. Roundtable introductions were completed, and a quorum was present for the group.

Approval of December 2023 Council Meeting Minutes

M/S: Alyssa Shenk/Tim Redmond approve the December 2023 Council Meeting Minutes as presented.

Passed: Yes

NWCCOG 2023 Preliminary Financials

Jon explained Broadband is behind due to equipment purchases. EIP is ahead of budget and all other Programs are on budget. Randy asked how we are forecasting the increase in equity which Becky confirmed much of the equity is Program related and must be used according to the specific funding stream regulations. Jon also mentioned that much of the funds are renewed yearly, it is restricted but is to be used to accomplish the NWCCOG Mission. Jon referred Council to the NWCCOG Goals and Objectives which guide the use of funding.

M/S: Alyssa Shenk/Kristen Brownson approve the 2023 Preliminary Financials as presented.

Passed: Yes

NWCCOG Council and Policy List

Barbara Green discussed the NWCCOG Policies and Procedures suggesting that many seem unnecessarily wordy which potentially opens NWCCOG up to liability. It was recommended to update the approval level for Policies and Procedures; the grid in the Council Packet shows which items are proposed to be approved internally while others should remain Council approval level. The proposed changes to approval levels on the marked up NWCCOG Policy list was approved verbally by council in concept for Barbara and Jon to refine and bring back for official omnibus approval of approval levels, and process (Attorney-Chair-ED or some combination). Concurrently it was discussed that those "policies" that more accurately can be described as "Procedures" should be re-named and; not voted on every three years by Council.

Approval of Policies with major changes

Red line versions of the Purchasing and Procurement, Credit Card Policy and Finance Department Roles and Duties Policies were presented for Council Approval as they are at their 3-year cycle. The redlined copy was available in the

Council Packet and the clean DRAFTS were available on the Council Meeting Webpage. Randy had a question regarding the need to include women's rights (in Procurement). Following discussion, Barbara was able to share the legal perspective as to why Federal guideline recommend a quota on protective people. In brief, some Program funding requires quota's on protective people, the policies ensure that they cover all Program funding requirements.

M/S: Randy George/Tim Redmond to approve all three Policies as presented.

Passed: Yes

Council Rules of Conduct

Barbara Green who is NWCCOG Council was present at the meeting in order to present and answer questions about the CRCs which were redlined for proposed approval. The updated Council Rules of Conduct could be found on the Council Webpage. A NWCCOG member, represents both their local government as well as the regional government. Should a conflict of interest arise, the Rules of Conduct ensures no concerns over the decision. There was a question regarding a NWCCOG employees who are appointed as NWCCOG Council Members whether this a conflict of interest. Barbara confirmed that it is possible to balance both roles, if that person is aware of the potential for conflict and adheres to the "sideboards" of behavior noted in the new language proposed for the Council Rules of Conduct. If a question of conflict of interest arises the person should state the conflict to the Council, actively "step down" by leaving the meeting for that topic. In the discussion it was agreed that the CRC document was too wordy. Council requested Barbara revise into a more concise document. Any additional suggestions for revisions or explanation may be directed to Barbara. The CRC will come back to Council for approval when edited. Existing CRC

Designate County Health Pool Representative

M/S: Alyssa Shenk/Patti Clapper to approve Talai Shirey and Jon Stavney remain the CHP representatives for 2024

Passed: Yes

Short Term Rental

Chris Romer, President and CEO of Vail Partnership, was requested by NWCCOG to shared his thoughts on SB24-033 Sustainable Affordable Housing Assistant proposed Bill which would classify any STR rental over 90 days in calendar year to be classified as lodging and be taxed at a commercial rate. The Bill would provide additional taxes to schools and protect residential neighborhoods. The issue is that ski towns were often designed to have STR lodging taxed at residential rates. Commercial properties are assessed at income whereas residential is assessed at market value. This legislation would create a brand-new category where STR would be taxed commercially but assessed as residential. Unintended consequences may include property owners renting under the 90days/calendar year to avoid the taxes. The argument is that this **should be regulated at a local level** where communities can make appropriate decisions per local zoning restrictions because state level regulations such as this tax could have deleterious impacts on some local economies where the bed base is primarily STRs. It was acknowledged that STRs ought to be regulated as they have deleterious impacts on many neighborhoods. The impacts vary significantly due to the tourism infrastructure, local demographics, politics and community needs. The bill provides a very large hammer for a project that is quite nuanced from place to place. Romer noted one study that shows that up to 70% of STR owners will cap rents at 79 days creating 35% loss of income potentially "crushing local tourism industry." The Bill will likely be before the Legislature in March, with first hearings currently scheduled for February 20th. Patti encouraged jurisdictions handle individually as property tax is a handled at a State level. A discussion whether NWCCOG should take a position ensued. A suggestion was to have the Chair and ED draft a letter which would circulate to members. If any member jurisdiction is opposed to the proposed position taken on the letter to legislation, NWCCOG will not send the letter. Note: SB22 would provide residential incentives to provide long term rentals instead of short term rentals. This gives local government more flexibility to make decisions that make sense for their communities.

The study from Colorado Lodging & Resort Alliance is available at:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/62e57832eae4a22fe831c70a/t/65b0588eddae13039c620fa2/1706055823383/Web+Final.pdf>

NLF Reports

Anita presented the NLF Loan status reports (from earlier in the packet) pointing out that the first section of loans are listed as Satisfactory, the next loans are listed as Watch. There were two loans that were listed in the Probable Loss and

Foreclose categories which Anita was able to upgrade to 10% risk ratings by working with a minority owner. The Balance Sheet shows a loss due to these upgraded loans as well as a loan that was paid in full early. No questions were asked.

Adjournment

M/S: Randi George/Patti Clapper adjourned the NWCCOG Council meeting at 12:17PM

Passed: Yes

Alyssa Shenk, NWCCOG Council Chair

Date

Energy Program Profit Sharing FY2023

2023 Program Revenues	\$		Comments
CARE revenue	\$	196,535.13	Net income less Reserve expenses and prior year Profit Sharing payment
CIP revenue	\$	57,061.73	CIP fiscal year is 9/1/2022-8/31/2023
ReEnergize revenue	\$	13,861.96	
NEEP Revenue	\$	27,985.93	New Program 2023 - 1 project in Leadville
Fee For Service Revenue	\$	10,228.14	New Program 2023 - 1 project in Leadville and 1 project in Salida
TOTAL	\$	305,672.89	
Portion for Profit Sharing	\$	152,836.45	50% of total revenue
Portion for Program Reserves	\$	152,836.45	50% of total revenue
Profit Sharing Allocations			
Total Shares	\$	26.37	Based on number of staff and tenure
Full Share	\$	5,795.85	Available per employee, including fringe
Reserve Fund Balances as of 12-31-2023:			
CARE	\$	400,891.00	CARE Reserve fund grew despite \$194k in CARE Reserve expenses
CIP	\$	81,194.49	Through 8/31/2023
ReEnergize	\$	32,886.40	
NEEP	\$	36,217.27	
FFS	\$	10,228.14	
Total:	\$	561,417.30	

Portfolio Summary Report -- ACTIVE ACCOUNTS
By Master Loan
(All transactions)

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LoanID	Borrower	Close Date	Loan Amount	Principal Balance	Cumulative Pmts		Latest Pmts		Periods Past Due						Days Past	
					Principal	Interest	Amount	Date	30d	30d +	60d +	90d +	120d +	150d +		180d +
2019-0910	[REDACTED]	10/09/2019	79,500.00	59,185.76	20,314.24	10,811.76	855.00	01/24/2024								< 30
2020-0331	[REDACTED]	04/04/2020	60,000.00	52,533.82	7,466.18	351.82	606.00	01/24/2024								< 30
2022-0113	[REDACTED]	01/20/2022	80,000.00	64,908.64	15,091.36	3,690.59	1,520.00	03/28/2023	1,520.00	1,520.00	1,520.00	1,520.00	1,520.00	1,520.00	4,560.00	180 +
2014-0313	[REDACTED]	05/05/2014	20,000.00	2,296.32	17,703.68	5,768.42	215.34	02/14/2024								< 30
2018-0510	[REDACTED]	03/20/2020	25,000.00	7,716.97	17,283.03	2,059.97	460.00	01/17/2024								< 30
2022-0113-2	[REDACTED]	02/16/2022	250,000.00	210,607.64	39,392.36	23,703.64	2,868.00	01/24/2024								< 30
2021-1116	[REDACTED]	11/18/2021	40,000.00	23,264.08	16,735.92	3,784.08	760.00	02/12/2024								< 30
2018-0305	[REDACTED]	06/18/2018	280,000.00	153,440.02	126,559.98	58,940.02	8,800.00	02/19/2024								< 30
2019-0516-1	[REDACTED]	05/20/2019	95,000.00	66,235.13	28,764.87	19,049.53	1,186.50	02/09/2024								< 30
2019-0516-1R	[REDACTED]	05/20/2019	295,000.00	221,137.91	73,862.09	60,003.91	3,798.90	02/09/2024								< 30
2017-0914	[REDACTED]	08/04/2018	250,000.00	139,238.10	110,761.68	52,541.42	2,818.00	02/05/2024								< 30
2019-1216	[REDACTED]	12/19/2019	50,000.00	32,949.86	17,050.14	7,431.36	570.00	02/05/2024								< 30
2020-0330	[REDACTED]	04/02/2020	100,000.00	33,378.38	16,621.62	4,933.28	502.00	02/05/2024								< 30
2021-1014-2	[REDACTED]	11/08/2021	56,000.00	48,011.05	7,988.95	6,241.85	603.00	02/22/2024	241.20							< 30
2023-0206	[REDACTED]	02/23/2023	18,700.00	12,061.20	6,638.80	1,461.20	1,500.00	01/29/2024								< 30
2023-0713	[REDACTED]	07/22/2023	61,800.00	56,315.62	5,484.38	3,015.62	2,000.00	01/29/2024								< 30
2021-1014-1	[REDACTED]	11/09/2021	243,000.00	198,522.54	44,477.46	26,898.54	2,800.00	02/22/2024								< 30
2023-1011	[REDACTED]	10/31/2023	100,000.00	98,602.52	1,397.48	2,432.52	1,280.00	02/08/2024								< 30
2023-0713-1	[REDACTED]	08/01/2023	400,000.00	400,000.00		11,835.62	3,057.54	01/05/2024								< 30
2022-0714	[REDACTED]	07/28/2022	232,650.00	183,630.01	49,019.99	22,080.01	3,950.00	02/16/2024								< 30
2023-511	[REDACTED]	05/16/2023	565,000.00	521,731.64	43,268.36	31,436.13	9,338.06	02/05/2024								< 30
2021-0708-2	[REDACTED]	08/10/2021	80,000.00	64,731.46	15,268.54	9,580.11	858.33	02/07/2024								< 30
2019-0516-2	[REDACTED]	05/29/2019	50,000.00	7,108.26	42,891.74	7,108.26	1,000.00	02/21/2024								< 30
2020-0326	[REDACTED]	03/30/2020	51,000.00	13,180.78	37,819.22	4,180.78	1,000.00	02/21/2024								< 30

Risk Ratings Report through 02/29/2024

By Master Loan

Grouped by Risk Rating > Loan ID

LoanID	Borrower	Loan Amount	Principal Balance	30d	30d +	60d +	90d +	120d +	150d +	180d +	Risk Rating	Rating Date	Reserve Percentage	Reserve Amount
Risk Rating: A. Satisfactory														
2020-0910P	[REDACTED]	90,000.00	30,323.88	1,717.00							A. Satisfactory	10/15/2020	1.00%	303.24
2021-0408-2	[REDACTED]	200,000.00	157,985.69								A. Satisfactory	07/19/2021	1.00%	1,579.86
2021-0610-1	[REDACTED]	93,000.00	71,292.27	975.08	975.08						A. Satisfactory	06/24/2021	1.00%	712.92
2021-1014-1	[REDACTED]	243,000.00	198,522.54								A. Satisfactory	11/09/2021	1.00%	1,985.23
2021-1116	[REDACTED]	40,000.00	23,264.08								A. Satisfactory	01/10/2022	1.00%	232.64
2023-0413	[REDACTED]	300,000.00	286,309.24								A. Satisfactory	05/05/2023	1.00%	2,863.09
2023-0608	[REDACTED]	80,000.00	55,139.18								A. Satisfactory	06/08/2023	1.00%	551.39
2023-0713-1	[REDACTED]	400,000.00	400,000.00								A. Satisfactory	08/01/2023	1.00%	4,000.00
2023-0914	[REDACTED]	300,000.00	141,863.03								A. Satisfactory	10/31/2023	1.00%	1,418.63
2023-1011	[REDACTED]	100,000.00	98,602.52								A. Satisfactory	10/31/2023	1.00%	986.03
A. Satisfactory : 10 loans		1,846,000.00	1,463,302.43											14,633.03
Risk Rating: B. Watch														
2014-0313	[REDACTED]	20,000.00	2,296.32								B. Watch	03/31/2020	10.00%	229.63
2017-0914	[REDACTED]	250,000.00	139,238.10								B. Watch	03/31/2020	10.00%	13,923.81
2018-0305	[REDACTED]	280,000.00	153,440.02								B. Watch	03/31/2020	10.00%	15,344.00
2018-0510	[REDACTED]	25,000.00	7,716.97								B. Watch	03/31/2020	10.00%	771.70

Risk Ratings Report through 02/29/2024
 By Master Loan
 Grouped by Risk Rating > Loan ID

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LoanID	Borrower	Loan Amount	Principal Balance	30d	30d +	60d +	90d +	120d +	150d +	180d +	Risk Rating	Rating Date	Reserve Percentage	Reserve Amount
2019-0516-1	[REDACTED]	95,000.00	66,235.13								B. Watch	03/31/2020	10.00%	6,623.51
2019-0516-1R	[REDACTED]	295,000.00	221,137.91								B. Watch	03/31/2020	10.00%	22,113.79
2019-0516-2	[REDACTED]	50,000.00	7,108.26								B. Watch	03/31/2020	10.00%	710.83
2019-0910	[REDACTED]	79,500.00	59,185.76								B. Watch	11/21/2023	10.00%	5,918.58
2019-1010	[REDACTED]	100,000.00	39,065.57								B. Watch	08/04/2022	10.00%	3,906.56
2019-1216	[REDACTED]	50,000.00	32,949.86								B. Watch	03/31/2020	10.00%	3,294.99
2020-0326	[REDACTED]	51,000.00	13,180.78								B. Watch	03/31/2020	10.00%	1,318.08
2020-0330	[REDACTED]	100,000.00	33,378.38								B. Watch	03/31/2020	10.00%	3,337.84
2020-0331	[REDACTED]	60,000.00	52,533.82								B. Watch	11/21/2023	10.00%	5,253.38
2020-0514	[REDACTED]	170,000.00	131,719.07								B. Watch	07/28/2021	10.00%	13,171.91
2021-0311-E	[REDACTED]	20,000.00									B. Watch	06/02/2021	10.00%	
2021-0610-2	[REDACTED]	54,000.00	15,806.22								B. Watch	01/10/2022	10.00%	1,580.62
2021-0610-3	[REDACTED]	75,000.00	11,365.12								B. Watch	07/28/2021	10.00%	1,136.51

Risk Ratings Report through 02/29/2024

By Master Loan

Grouped by Risk Rating > Loan ID

LoanID	Borrower	Loan Amount	Principal Balance	30d	30d +	60d +	90d +	120d +	150d +	180d +	Risk Rating	Rating Date	Reserve Percentage	Reserve Amount
2021-0708-2	[REDACTED]	80,000.00	64,731.46								B. Watch	08/10/2021	10.00%	6,473.15
2021-1014-2	[REDACTED]	56,000.00	48,011.05	241.20							B. Watch	11/08/2021	10.00%	4,801.11
2022-0113-2	[REDACTED]	250,000.00	210,607.64								B. Watch	02/16/2022	10.00%	21,060.76
2022-0714	[REDACTED]	232,650.00	183,630.01								B. Watch	08/04/2022	10.00%	18,363.00
2023-0206	[REDACTED]	18,700.00	12,061.20								B. Watch	02/23/2023	10.00%	1,206.12
2023-0209	[REDACTED]	100,000.00	92,926.42								B. Watch	02/16/2023	10.00%	9,292.64
2023-0413-2 R	[REDACTED]	46,428.00	45,322.99								B. Watch	04/28/2023	10.00%	4,532.30
2023-0713	[REDACTED]	61,800.00	56,315.62								B. Watch	07/22/2023	10.00%	5,631.56
2023-511	[REDACTED]	565,000.00	521,731.64								B. Watch	05/16/2023	10.00%	52,173.17
B. Watch: 26 loans		3,185,078.00	2,221,695.32											222,169.55
Risk Rating: F. Foreclosure														
2022-0113	[REDACTED]	80,000.00	64,908.64	1,520.00	1,520.00	1,520.00	1,520.00	1,520.00	1,520.00	4,560.00	F. Foreclosure	09/08/2023	80.00%	51,926.91
2022-0113-R9	[REDACTED]	50,000.00	40,636.23								F. Foreclosure	11/01/2023	80.00%	32,508.98
F. Foreclosure: 2 loans		130,000.00	105,544.87											84,435.89
Report total: 38 loans		5,161,078.00	3,790,542.62											321,238.47

Portfolio Summary Report -- ACTIVE ACCOUNTS
By Master Loan
(All transactions)

02/29/2024 02 31 PM

Page 2 of 2

LoanID	Borrower	Close Date	Loan Amount	Principal Balance	Cumulative Pmts		Latest Pmts		Periods Past Due							Days Past	
					Principal	Interest	Amount	Date	30d	30d +	60d +	90d +	120d +	150d +	180d +		
2023-0608	Pearl [REDACTED]	06/08/2023	80,000.00	55,139.18	4,860.82	3,139.18	1,000.00	02/21/2024									< 30
2022-0113-R9	[REDACTED]	01/25/2022	50,000.00	40,636.23	9,363.77	3,143.38	3,837.92	08/04/2023									< 30
2020-0514	[REDACTED]	05/18/2020	170,000.00	131,719.07	38,280.93	30,083.20	1,500.00	02/21/2024									< 30
2021-0610-2	[REDACTED]	06/21/2021	54,000.00	15,806.22	24,907.58	3,799.14	1,025.24	02/21/2024									< 30
2021-0610-3	[REDACTED]	07/28/2021	75,000.00	11,365.12	63,634.88	6,308.87	2,256.25	02/21/2024									< 30
2021-0408-2	[REDACTED]	07/19/2021	200,000.00	157,985.69	42,014.31	19,448.19	2,048.75	02/08/2024									< 30
2023-0914	[REDACTED]	10/19/2023	300,000.00	141,863.03	8,136.97	3,081.20	3,739.39	02/22/2024									< 30
2023-0209	[REDACTED]	02/16/2023	100,000.00	92,926.42	7,073.58	7,650.42	1,636.00	01/24/2024									< 30
2019-1010	[REDACTED]	11/07/2019	100,000.00	39,065.57	60,934.43	15,711.57	1,115.00	02/22/2024									< 30
2020-0910P	[REDACTED]	10/15/2020	90,000.00	30,323.88	59,676.12	9,337.03	1,717.00	12/04/2023	1,717.00								< 30
2021-0610-1	[REDACTED]	06/24/2021	93,000.00	71,292.27	21,707.73	9,767.69	975.08	12/04/2023	975.08	975.08							30 +
2023-0413-2 R	[REDACTED]	04/28/2023	46,428.00	45,322.99	1,105.01	2,899.78	800.79	02/05/2024									< 30
2021-0311-E	[REDACTED]	06/02/2021	20,000.00		20,000.00	436.54	2,935.59	11/17/2023									< 30
2023-0413	[REDACTED]	05/05/2023	300,000.00	286,309.24	13,690.76	12,332.24	4,604.00	02/08/2024									< 30
Report total: 38 loans			5,161,078.00	3,790,542.62	1,137,248.96	506,478.87	81,537.68		4,453.28	2,495.08	1,520.00	1,520.00	1,520.00	1,520.00	4,560.00		



2022 Risk Ratings – Northwest Loan Fund

Loan Grades and percentage of loan balance in Allowance for Loan Loss

LOAN GRADE	GUIDING DESCRIPTION	% OF LOAN BALANCE IN ALLOWANCE FOR LOAN LOSS
Satisfactory	Performing As Agreed and well secured	1%
Watch	New Loans - Non Real Estate secured	10%
Substandard	Issue with performance	30%
Doubtful	Concern for full collection	60%
Foreclosure	Foreclosure	80%
Probable Loss	Probable Loss-keep on reports until Charge-Off	100%

NWCCOG Policies and Procedures List

Program	Policy Name	Created	Updated	Approval Level	Notes
NWCCOG	Employee Handbook	5/23/1905	1/1/2023	Council	
NWCCOG	NWCCOG & EDD Articles of Association	7/28/2011	To review in 2024	Council	
NWCCOG	NWCCOG Bylaws		1/1/2022	Council	
NWCCOG	CORA Policy & Procedures	5/23/2013	12/1/2022	Council	
NWCCOG	Title VI Civil Rights Complaint Policy	5/23/2013	To review in 2024	TBD, May archiv and integrate into 2024 EH	Revise for Referral
NWCCOG	Records Retention Procedures	10/27/2011	2/14/2024	ED following Directors and Legal Review	
NWCCOG	Travel Procedures	3/17/2015	11/30/2023	ED following Directors and Legal Review	
NWCCOG	Job Posting Guidelines	12/19/2013	2/14/2024	ED following Directors and Legal Review	
NWCCOG	Background Check Investigation Policy & Procedures	3/28/2019	12/1/2022	ED following Directors and Legal Review	
NWCCOG	Safety Guidelines	Annual Safety Goals	Annual Safety Goals	ED following Directors and Legal Review	
NWCCOG	Claims Management Procedures	3/31/2021	Provided by Pinnacol	ED following Directors and Legal Review	Provided by Pinnacol
NWCCOG	Family Friendly Workplace Standards	11/12/2019	reviewed by ED 11/30/2023	ED following Directors and Legal Review	
NWCCOG	MVR Guidelines	3/28/2019	2/14/2024	ED following Directors and Legal Review	
NWCCOG	Pet Friendly Workplace Standards	10/8/2019	reviewed by ED 11/30/2023	ED following Directors and Legal Review	
NWCCOG	ED Facilitations Guidelines	3/15/2022	First Version	Council	
NWCCOG	OT and Comp Guidelines		12/1/2022	ED following Directors and Legal Review	
NWCCOG	Bonus Policy	12/1/2022	12/1/2022	Council	
NWCCOG	Education Benefit Program	New 2024			
NWCCOG	IT PII and HIPAA Policy	1/28/2016	3/24/2022	Council	
COUNCIL	Letters of Support Policy	8/22/2019	December, 2022	Council	
COUNCIL	Council Rules of Conduct	12/3/2020	To review in 2024	Council	
FISCAL	Asset capitalization Policy	5/26/2011	12/7/2023	Council	
FISCAL	Bank and Investment Policy	5/26/2011	12/7/2023	Council	
FISCAL	Cash Disbursement Procedure	5/26/2011	12/7/2023	ED following Directors and Legal Review	
FISCAL	Cash Receipts Procedure	5/26/2011	12/7/2023	ED following Directors and Legal Review	
FISCAL	Credit Card Procedure	5/26/2011	1/25/2024	ED following Directors and Legal Review	
FISCAL	Finance Department Roles & Duties	3/22/2018	1/25/2024	ED following Directors and Legal Review	
FISCAL	Fixed Asset Disposal Policy	7/28/2011	12/7/2023	Council	
FISCAL	GAAP Circular	5/26/2011	12/7/2023	ED following Directors and Legal Review	
FISCAL	Purchasing & Procurement Policy	10/27/2011	1/25/2024	Council	

FISCAL	1099 Procedure	7/26/2018	12/7/2023	ED following Directors and Legal Review	
FISCAL	Accounts Receivable Procedure	7/27/2017	12/7/2023	ED following Directors and Legal Review	
FISCAL	Payroll Procedure	5/26/2011	2/14/2024	ED following Directors and Legal Review	
EDD	EDD Bylaws		3/1/2023	Council	
NLF	Northwest Loan Fund Bank & Investment Policy	5/24/2018	12/7/2023	Council	
ENERGY	Weatherization Purchasing Policy	10/27/2011	12/7/2023	ED following Directors and Legal Review	
VINTAGE	Vintage Conflict of Interest Policy	2/19/2019	12/7/2023	ED following Directors and Legal Review	
Archived Policies:					
NWAHEMR	NWAHEMR Board Rules of Conduct (disbanded)	11/18/2020	First Version		
NWCCOG	NWCCOG COVID-19 Guidelines	6/18/2020	8/10/2020		
NWCCOG	NWCCOG 2021 COVID Leave Memo	1/14/2021	First Version		
NWCCOG	FFCRA Update & Benefits	4/1/2020	No longer in effect		



NWCCOG Regional Economic Summit

Thursday, May 2, 2024

9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Silverthorne Pavilion – 400 Blue River Parkway, Silverthorne, CO



DRAFT AGENDA

- 8:45 a.m.** **Registration and Coffee**
Provided by Red Buffalo Coffee & Tea
- 9:15 a.m.** **Welcome**
Jon Stavney, Executive Director, NWCCOG
- Welcome from Economic Development Administration**
Angela Belden Martinez, Regional Director, Denver Regional Office
- 9:30 a.m.** **Demographic and Economic Trends: Region, State, U.S.**
Elizabeth Garner, State Demographer, Colorado Department of Local Affairs
- 10:30 a.m.** **Community Assessment Project: Community Survey Results and Analysis**
NWCCOG partnered with Insight Collective to survey over 5,000 people across 30+ communities in our region regarding how residents, visitors and second-homeowners perceive changes in their community. This session will be an unveiling of the results along with interactive discussion facilitated by the Insight Collective team.
- IC Team:**
Chris Cares, Founder & Managing Director, RRC Associates
Tom Foley, Senior VP, Business Intelligence, Inntopia
Barb Taylor Carpender, Founder, Taylored Alliances
Ralf Garrison, Principal, The Advisory Group of Denver, Inc
- 12:00 p.m.** **Welcome from Colorado Housing & Finance Authority (CHFA)**
Steve Boice, Manager of Business Finance, CHFA
- 12:05 p.m.** **Lunch**

1:00 p.m. The Balancing Act along the Resident-Focused vs. Visitor-Focused Continuum

We have assembled a geographically diverse panel of individuals from municipalities, counties, and tourism groups in our region who have some experience responding to/managing changing perspectives on the continuum of a resident-focused vs visitor-focused community, and how that may have manifested in policy, communications and actions.

Panelists:

Mia Vlaar -Economic Development Manager, Town of Vail

Keith Riesburg – Town Manager, Town of Winter Park

Eliza Voss – VP, Destination Marketing, Aspen Chamber Resort Association

Ryan Hyland – Town Manager, Town of Silverthorne

2:15 p.m. Networking Break

2:30 p.m. Entrepreneurship in the Region

Thayer Hirsh, Executive Director, Summit Economic Partnership
and

Aaron Landau, Managing Director, EVO3 Workspace

3:00 p.m. Anita Cameron, Northwest Loan Fund

- NLF Presentation
- Raffle: We will raffle off gift bags with products from NLF clients from around the region

3:30 p.m. Closing Remarks

Join us across the street at Kucu (in the Hotel Indigo) for happy hour immediately following the Summit

Thank you to our sponsors and supporters:



Senate Bill 24-174 Sustainable Affordable Housing Assistance uses state support to focus local government planning efforts on housing, with an emphasis on improving affordability and avoiding displacement, while providing flexibility to develop community based strategies for growth.

WHAT DOES SB24-174 DO?

Under the bill, local governments of a certain size will conduct housing needs assessments every six years, with the option to participate in a regional assessment.

The Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) will establish methodologies to create a baseline for the assessments and conduct a statewide assessment. Local governments will create housing action plans to meaningfully plan for housing needs, recommend legislative actions for adoption by locally elected leaders, promote regional coordination, and engage the public on efforts to address housing needs in the municipality's jurisdiction. The bill updates county and municipal master plan standards to consider certain growth-related information sources and include water and strategic growth elements. The bill limits the power of new restrictive covenants to prohibit accessory dwelling units and more dense housing types where permitted by local zoning.

CML SUPPORTS SB24-174

CML respectfully requests a “yes” vote on SB24-174. This legislation will build on local government efforts to plan for housing needs as part of their work to create Colorado's places where people want to live, work, and play. The bill will help communities plan through their local governments, focusing on affordability at the most critical levels and maintaining communities. The bill will promote regionalism, water and land conservation, infill development, and strategic growth and provide useful data for the state. Producing assessments and plans will qualify local governments for prioritized funding across a wide range of state agencies.

YOUR SUPPORT IS RESPECTFULLY REQUESTED

Enhancing the connection of Coloradans to planning for the future of their communities is more important now than ever. With this bill's meaningful state support for this priority area, local governments can plan to accommodate growth responsibly and equitably and ensure their communities' voices are heard.

State Fiscal Year 2024-2025 & 2025-2026 (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2026)

Provider Contract Recommendations

There are multiple considerations to deciding funding for providers:

- **Federal and state funding limitations:** Federal funding is divided into separate line items and those pots of funding are very restrictive. State funding has very few limitations other than it must be spent in full every state fiscal year (state funding cannot carry over into the next fiscal year).

Federal Funding Name	Part B	Part C1	Part C2	Part D	Part E
Services Provided under that specific line item of funding	I&A, Legal Assistance, Transportation, Material Aid -Food (Restaurant Vouchers & Bountiful Baskets), Case Management, Public Information	Congregate Meals RD Counseling, RD Education, RD Consultation	Home Delivered Meals RD Counseling RD Education, RD Consultation	Evidence-Based Health Promotion	Caregiver

- **Unit Rate Costs:** Is the proposed unit rate reasonable? Is it in line with other providers in the region providing the same service?
- **Stable or Decreased units plus increased funding:** Is the provider requesting to provide fewer units but requesting an increase in funding?
- **Is the contract less than \$10,000?** While this is not always the case, it is usually not worth it to a provider or to us to contract for less than \$10,000 due to the enormity of requirements, documentation, evaluations, insurance, etc.
- **Compliance:** Did the current provider comply with requirements in a timely manner?
- **Severity of need:** Without this service, how likely is the older adult to experience adverse outcomes, such as decline in physical function or neglect?
- **Extent to which the service does not duplicate** or a service reasonably available through another agency in that county.

- **Effectiveness in meeting needs of target populations.** Does the service target those who are in greatest social need, greatest economic need, frail, rural, have limited English proficiency and/or are low-income minorities?
- **Equity:** Does funding look differently when you run the proposals/budget through the Vintage Equity Lens?
- **Required vs Priority Service:** Is the service required under the Older American’s Act?
 - Required Services
 - Legal Assistance
 - Meals – Congregate & Home Delivered
 - Evidence Based Health Promotion Classes
 - Registered Dietitian Services (Nutrition Counseling, Education & Consultation)

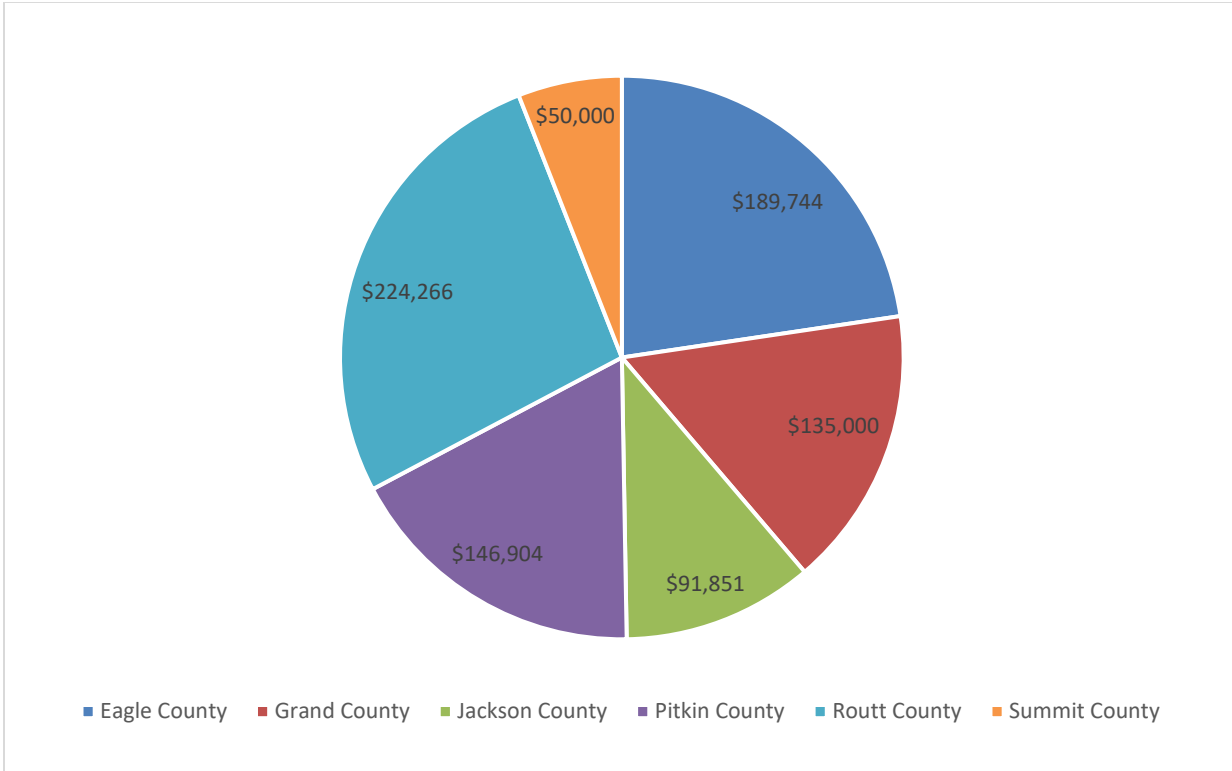
Current Funding Landscape

Due to the depletion of the ARPA COVID stimulus funding and homestead act funding, there is considerably less funding for contracts beginning next state fiscal year (July 1, 2024). The chart below details how much less funding per funding stream is available.

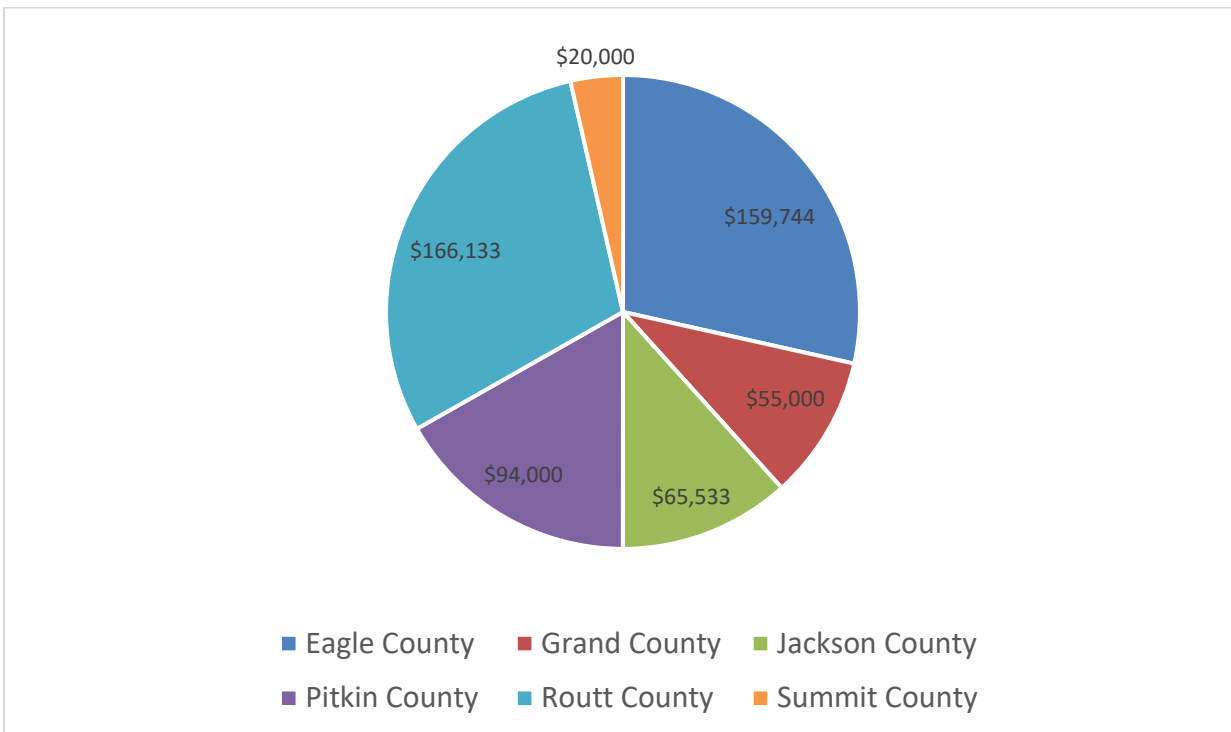
Funding Name	B	C1	C2	D	E	State Long Bill
Services Provided under that specific pot of funding	I&A, Legal, Transportation, Restaurant Vouchers, Bountiful Baskets, Case Management, Public Information	Congregate Meals RD Counseling, RD Education	HDM RD Counseling RD Education	Evidence-Based Health Promotion	Caregiver	Vintage Staff Ombudsman SHIP In-Home Services Voucher Transportation Voucher Emergency Vouchers, Dental Vouchers
SFY 2024-2025 Estimated Funding by Part	\$182,552	\$243,833	\$169,100	\$13,113	\$79,377	\$708,616
Total 2023-2024 Contracts by Funding Part	\$453,576	\$317,904	\$138,744	\$12,266	\$62,050	\$781,559
Difference	-\$271,024	-\$74,071	\$30,356	+\$847	+\$17,327	-\$72,943.58

This means we must make drastic cuts.

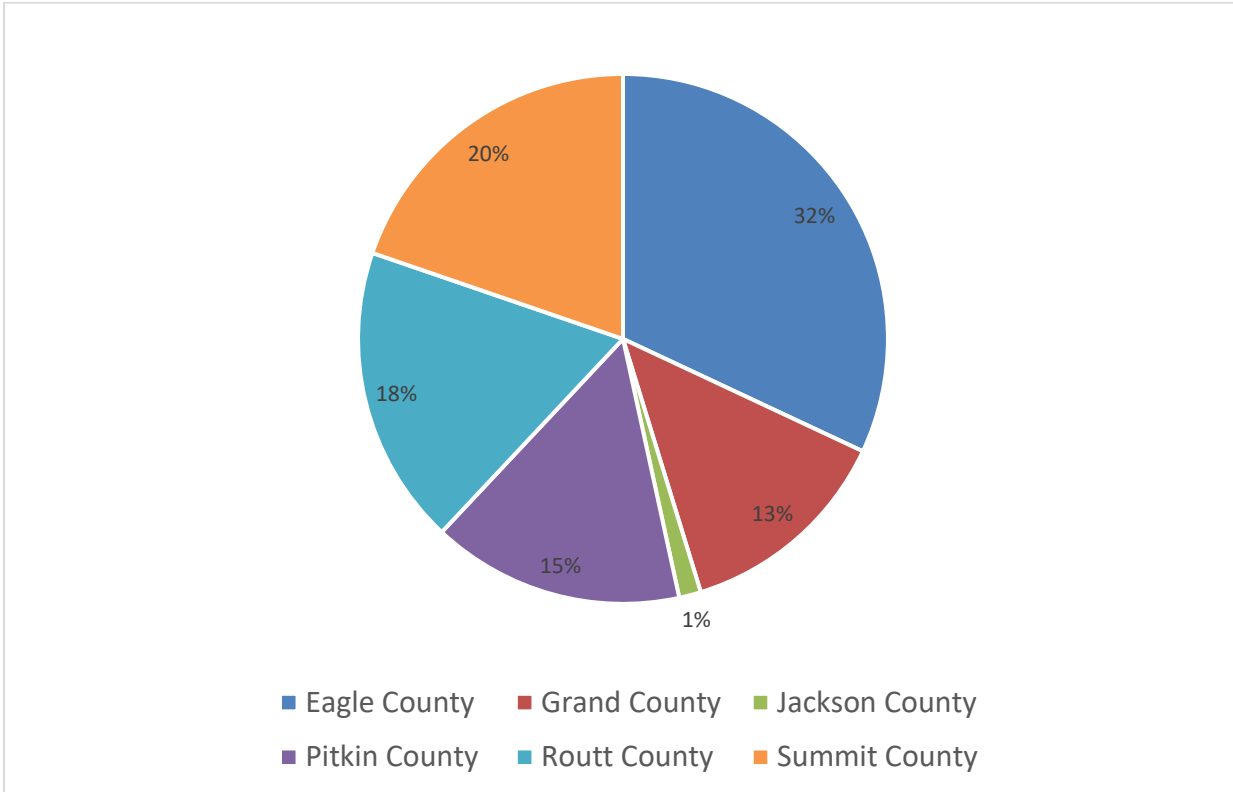
Current Funding By County (July 1, 2022-June 30-2024)



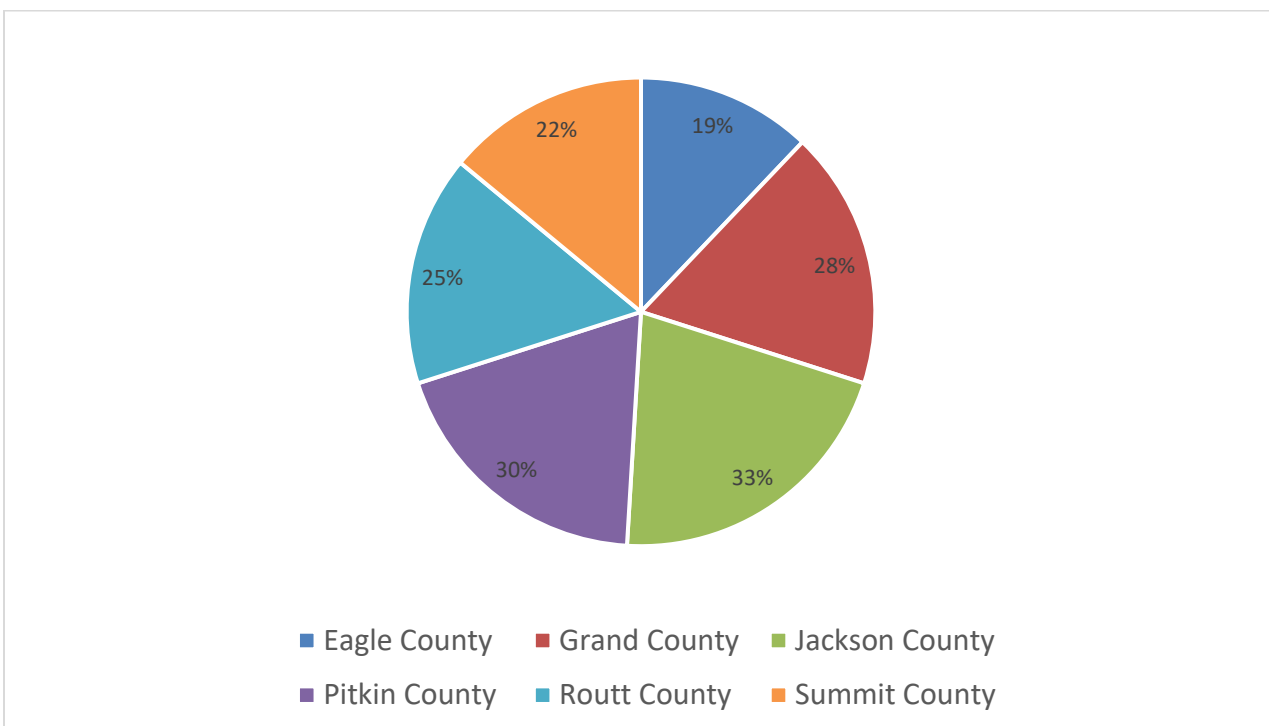
Proposed Funding By County (July 1, 2024-June 30-2026)



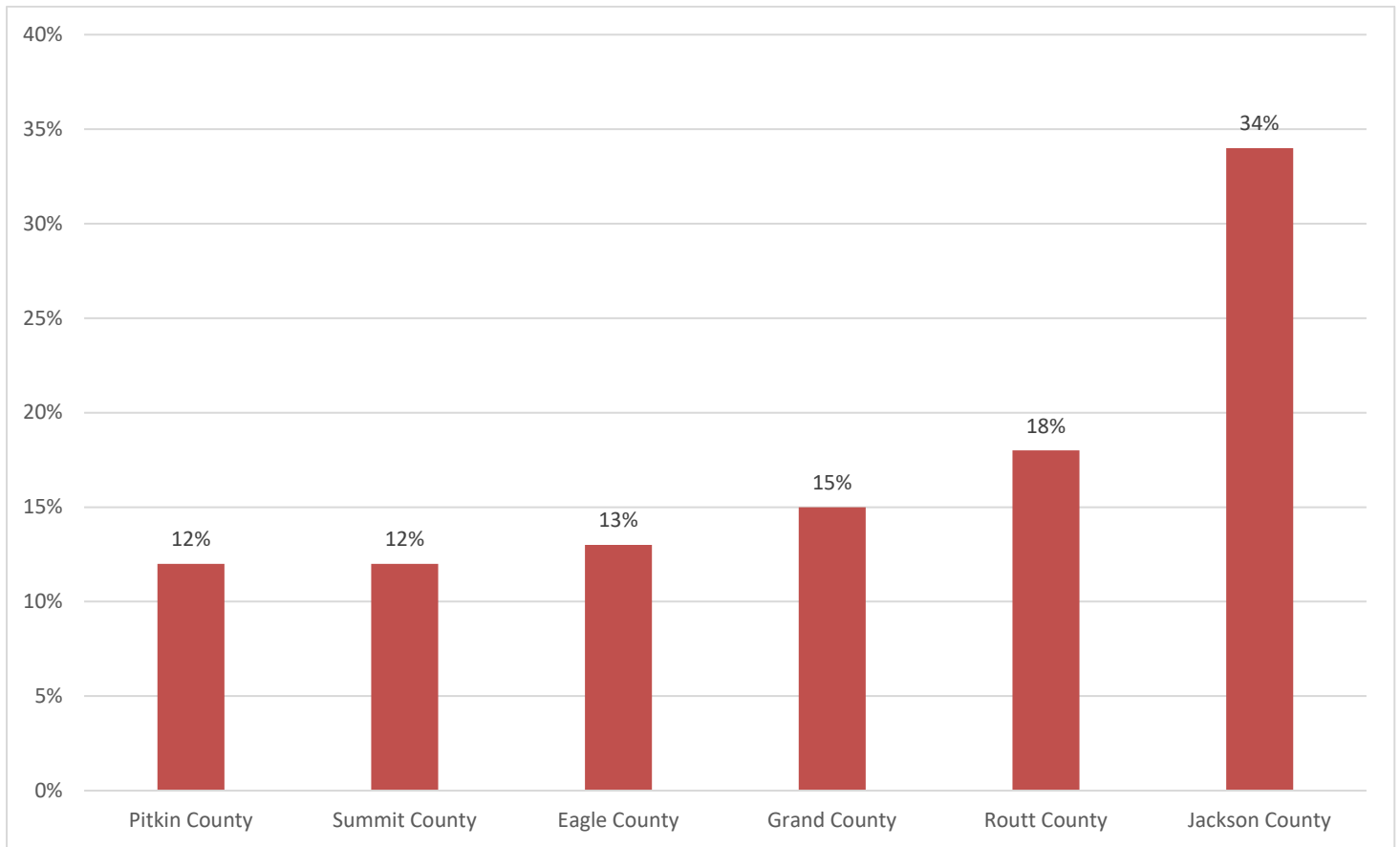
Proportion of older adults in each county compared to the total number of older adults in the Vintage, six-county region (example: Eagle county has the largest % of older adults in the total regional population of older adults and Jackson County has the smallest)



Proportion of older adults in each county compared to the total population in their county (example: 33% of Jackson County’s population is older adults)



Proportion of older adults in each county who are at or below 185% of the poverty line (this means an individual receives \$2,248 per month or less)



2025-2026 RFP Funding Spreadsheet

	Service	Current Amount	Current Units	Current Unit Cost	Recommended Funding	Recommended Units	Unit Cost	Difference b/w current contract & recommended contract
Alpine Legal Services								
Eagle & Pitkin (Roaring Fork)	Legal Services	\$10,000	200	\$50.00	\$8,000	200	\$40.00	-\$2,000
Colorado Legal Services								
Region-wide	Legal Services	\$8,000	125	\$64.00	\$8,000	125	\$64.00	\$0
Eagle County Public Health & Environment								
Eagle County	Congregate Meals	\$115,000	10,400	\$11.06	\$110,000	10,000	\$11.00	-\$5,000
	Home Delivered Meals	\$29,744	7,800	\$3.81	\$29,744	8,000	\$3.72	\$0
	Transportation	\$40,000	2,160	\$18.52	\$20,000	1,080	\$18.52	-\$20,000
Mountain Family Center								
Grand County	Public Information	\$7,500	12,000	\$0.63	\$0			-\$7,500
	Transportation	\$35,000	1,200	\$29.17	\$30,000	1,000	\$30.00	-\$5,000
	Material Aid - Food	\$20,000	3,120	\$6.41	\$10,000	1,560	\$6.41	-\$10,000
Grand County Rural Health Network								
Grand & Jackson	Case Management	\$55,000	1,300	\$42.31	\$15,000	390	\$38.46	-\$40,000
	Info and Referral	\$8,500	1,500	\$5.67	\$0			-\$8,500
Grand County Public Health								
Grand County	Material Aid - Food	\$9,000	360	\$25.00	\$0			-\$9,000
Jackson County Council on Aging								
Jackson County	Transportation	\$43,133	3,000	\$14.38	\$43,133	3000	\$14.38	
	Material Aid - Food*	\$5,000	1,440	\$3.47	\$2,400	720	\$3.33	-\$2,600
	Info and Referral	\$10,050	1,950	\$5.15	\$5,000	1000	\$5.00	-\$5,050
	Public Information	\$16,618	49,234	\$0.34	\$15,000	40000	\$0.38	-\$1,618
	Chore	\$5,000	24	\$208.33				-\$5,000
	Caregiver I&A	\$2,050	50	\$41.00				-\$2,050
Pitkin County Adult and Family Services								
Pitkin County	Case Management	\$10,800	200	\$54.00	\$0			-\$10,800
	Info and Referral	\$7,200	2,000	\$3.60	\$0			-\$7,200
Pitkin County Senior Services								
Pitkin County	Congregate	\$86,904	10,000	\$8.69	\$85,000	10,000	\$8.50	-\$1,904
	Home Delivered Meals	\$9,000	650	\$13.85	\$9,000	650	\$13.85	
	Info & Assistance	\$8,500	7,500	\$1.13	\$0			-\$8,500
	Public Information	\$12,300	50000	\$0.25	\$0			-\$12,300
	Material Aid - Food	currently unfunded			\$0			n/a
Routt County Council on Aging								
Routt County	Congregate Meals	\$100,000	13,813	\$7.24	\$85,000	8,000	\$10.63	-\$15,000
	Home Delivered Meals	\$60,000	4,269	\$14.05	\$60,000	4269	\$14	\$0
	Evidence Based Health	\$12,266	500	\$24.53	\$13,133	900	\$15	\$867
	Transportation	\$40,000	1,943	\$20.59	\$8,000	450	\$17.78	-\$32,000
Summit County Senior Services								
Summit County	Case Management	\$23,000	456	\$50.44	\$18,000	300	\$60	-\$5,000
	Info & Assistance	\$8,500	8,500	\$1.00	\$0			-\$8,500
	Public Information	\$8,500	17,000	\$0.50	\$0			-\$8,500
	Caregiver I&A	\$10,000	96	\$104.17	\$2,000	15	\$133.33	-\$8,000
The Health Partnership of NW Colorado								
Routt	Case Management	\$10,000	495	\$20.20	\$0			-\$10,000
	Info and Referral	\$2,000	512	\$3.91	\$0			-\$2,000



March 12, 2024

The Honorable Jared Polis, Governor
State of Colorado

Shoshana Lew, Executive Director
Colorado Department of Transportation

Dear Governor Polis and Director Lew,

We are writing to share our concern with the proposed scope reduction of the Vail Pass project. Due to a budget shortfall, CDOT has proposed reducing the Construction Package #4 scope by eliminating almost two miles of the eastbound climbing/auxiliary lane and eliminating westbound curve straightening at a location that has one of the highest crash rates on I-70.

From the I-70 Coalition's perspective, these two elements represent the bulk of the Vail Pass Project's safety and mobility improvements, and it was these specific elements that garnered support for this project from a broad group of stakeholders throughout the region.

We understand the budget challenges that this project has encountered, but this proposed scope reduction feels shortsighted when viewed from the perspective that this project has a 50 Year vision. Constructing those elements in the distant future loses significant economies of scale, impacts travelers with an additional round of construction, and the cost of the work will only increase with time. We also have concerns as the climbing lane and curve straightening are not currently included in the 10 Year Plan, which means they would not receive funding for a decade or more.

Advocating for mobility improvements is expressly stated in the I-70 Coalition's mission, and safety is of the utmost concern to us all. The climbing lane and curve straightening components of the agreed upon project design are paramount to the mobility and safety improvements of the Vail Pass Project. We understand that CDOT is still evaluating Construction Package #4. We respectfully request CDOT prioritize this project and identify and secure funding to complete the

Vail Pass Project as designed and as was endorsed by a long list of organizations, agencies, Transportation Planning Regions, local governments, and others. Thank you in advance, for your consideration of our request on this critically important project.

Sincerely,



Ryan Hyland, Chair

Cc: Rep. Julie McCluskie, Speaker
Sen. Dylan Roberts
Rep. Meghan Lukens
Transportation Commissioner Bowman
Transportation Commissioner Ridder
Senator Michael Bennet
Senator John Hickenlooper
Congressman Joe Neguse
John Cater, Division Administrator, FHWA

Pass construction

[Back to Newsroom](#)



By [Vail Valley Partnership](#)  3/11/2024

 VVP President's Post, Legislative Updates



We encourage community members and business owners to contact CDOT and the Governor's Office to express support for the Vail Pass Auxiliary Lanes Project construction project

The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) recognizes in its strategic plan that Colorado's interstates are the backbone of our transportation system. They are key to Colorado's economy — connecting goods and people across our state and region.

CDOT has consistently heard about the importance of adding passing lanes to provide safe passage in mountainous terrain, particularly along corridors with high numbers of freight trucks. The I-70 West Vail Pass Auxiliary Lanes Project is designed to improve safety and operations in both directions of the highway on West Vail Pass.

The project limits extend from the East Vail Exit at Mile Point 180 to the Vail Pass Rest Area at Mile Point 190 and include a wide range of improvements to address the unique nature of Vail Pass. This stretch of I-70 includes steep

grades and tight curves and the intermingling of faster-moving passenger vehicles with slower-moving trucks often results in inconsistent and slow travel times along the corridor.

The Town of Vail, the Town of Avon, Eagle County, and others have been major supporters of the project, along with many other stakeholders. This project was the Number 1 project from CDOT Region 3, so much so that the four Transportation Planning Regions all collectively pooled resources to ensure this project moved forward.

It is with disappointment that there has been a significant change in the scope of the West Vail Pass Project, particularly with CDOT's decision to remove the almost two-mile "Narrows" portion of the eastbound auxiliary lane from the project.

There were many important components to the project, but the crown jewel was the addition of climbing lanes starting before the "Narrows", Mile Marker (MM) 185 to the top of Vail Pass. Another significant safety improvement of the West Vail Pass Project was the completion of a curve straightening westbound at MM 186 which is the tightest curve (spiral curve which tightens as you begin to drive through). This combined with entering the steepest downhill section of the pass creates one of the top crash sites on the I-70 corridor.

Although the budget shortfall in the range of \$40-\$60M is significant and not easy to overcome, the cost to re-mobilize along with 6-8% annual increases in construction costs will make a future project unattainable. We encourage CDOT to work with local partners and to remain committed to providing all the support necessary to secure funding to complete the key component of the narrows improvements of the West Vail Pass Auxiliary Lane project. The Town of Vail has been clear – and we agree – that not completing it will be considered a failure on the part of CDOT and will further erode the trust and confidence in CDOT and the State regarding the agreements made as part of the I-70 PEIS.

The positive impact and significance of this portion of the West Vail Pass project is far-reaching. This is impactful to Vail, surrounding communities, interstate commerce, and travelers. Vail Pass experiences the most snowfall along the I-70 corridor, and the “narrows” section is the steepest portion of both Vail Pass and the entire I-70 corridor, and the location of many incidents both winter and summer. This section of roadway experiences the greatest differential speeds occurring between slow-moving vehicles and those traveling at highway speeds, causing unsafe conditions and accidents.

Both the auxiliary lanes and curve straightening, as major components of the West Vail Pass Auxiliary Lane initial project, must be funded. We encourage business owners and community members to express their support to fully fund this project by contacting CDOT at <https://www.codot.gov/topcontent/contact-cdot> and our state elected officials.

Chris Romer is president & CEO of Vail Valley Partnership, the regional chamber of commerce. Learn more at VailValleyPartnership.com



Additional Info

Organization Name : Vail Valley Partnership

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Vail Valley Partnership



970.476.1000 | 97 Main Street, Ste. E-201 | Edwards, CO 81632

NEWS: TRANSPORTATION

Semitrailers may be prohibited from using the left lane on I-70 through Colorado's mountains. Truckers aren't happy.

Senate Bill 100 would only offer an exception for a commercial vehicle passing another vehicle traveling below the posted speed limit



Jesse Paul

3:15 AM MST on Feb 1, 2024



A pair of trucks commute on Interstate 70 in Gypsum, Wednesday, Apr. 12, 2023. (Hugh Carey, The Colorado Sun)

The Unaffiliated

All politics, no agenda.

Commercial vehicles, including semitrailers, would be prohibited from traveling in the left lane on Interstate 70 between Morrison and Glenwood Springs under a bill being debated in the legislature aimed at stopping wrecks along the heavily traveled high country route.

Senate Bill 100 would only offer an exception for a semitrailer passing a vehicle traveling below the posted speed limit.

Commercial vehicles are defined in Colorado as ones used for commerce that weigh at least 16,001 pounds, including those designed to transport 16 or more passengers.

The measure, which has bipartisan sponsorship, would also require that commercial vehicles carry chains on Interstate 25 and any state or U.S. highway to the west of I-25 from Sept. 1 through May 25. Currently, that requirement applies only to trucks traveling on I-70 between Morrison and Dotsero.

READ MORE

Colorado oil and gas regulators reject two drilling plans deemed too close to people and pronghorns

4:15 AM MST on Feb 1, 2024

Colorado is keeping kids locked in juvenile jails months longer than needed because of lack of foster homes, treatment options

4:05 AM MST on Feb 1, 2024

As many as 1,000 Colorado criminal convictions may have relied on dubious DNA evidence. It will cost the state millions.

4:00 AM MST on Feb 1, 2024

“A lot of the wrecks that we’ve seen over the last few winters have been a direct result of semis speeding in the left lane trying to pass other cars,” said Sen. Dylan Roberts, a Frisco Democrat and one of the lead sponsors of the bill. “That’s a completely avoidable accident.”

Sen. Perry Will, a New Castle Republican and another lead sponsor of the bill, said any step that can keep the I-70 corridor open needs to be taken. (The state **has already barred**

Page 33 of 68

semitrailers from traveling in the left lane through Glenwood Canyon.)

But the trucking industry is balking at the idea.

Greg Fulton, who leads the Colorado Motor Carriers Association, said the bill, while well intended, would have unintended consequences.

Blocking semitrailers from the left lane on I-70 could cause truckers who typically travel from Denver to the Western Slope and back on the same day to hit their 11-hour duty limit, which would force them into a 10-hour rest period. That would have the effect of driving up delivery costs.

He's most concerned, however, about the expanded chain requirement.

“We’re talking about thousands and thousands of vehicles that don’t ever travel into the high country — and in most cases don’t travel when the weather gets bad,” Fulton said.



Ski traffic moves along Interstate 70, Sunday morning, Jan. 28, 2024, in Frisco. (Hugh Carey, The Colorado Sun)

Chains cost between \$100 and \$200 a vehicle. Fulton estimates that Senate Bill 100 would require chains to be bought for tens of thousands of vans, trucks and semitrailers.

“We need to have a greater level of study or analysis on this before taking that action,” he said.

Senate Bill 100 would also make Glenwood Canyon a heightened speed enforcement zone where commercial vehicle drivers who travel faster than the posted limit would be subject to increased penalties. Finally, the measure would require the Colorado Department of Transportation to study how and where to build new chain-up stations across the state.

Will and Roberts said they’ve been working with CDOT and the Colorado State Patrol on the legislation.

“We kind of just want to put Colorado on the map of: If you’re coming into Colorado, you need to have chains,” Roberts said.

Passenger vehicles traveling between Morrison and Dotsero on Interstate 70 are required from Sept. 1 to May 31 to be all-wheel drive, four-wheel drive or to have snow, mud or all-season tires or be carrying chains or another approved traction device, such as a tire sock.

The bill was assigned to the Senate Transportation and Energy Committee. Its first hearing hasn’t been scheduled yet.



BROADBAND

- MEMBER JURISDICTIONS**
City of Glenwood Springs
- ROUTT COUNTY**
City of Steamboat Springs
Town of Hayden
- EAGLE COUNTY**
Avon
Basalt
Eagle
Gypsum
Minturn
Red Cliff
Vail
- GRAND COUNTY**
Fraser
Granby
Grand Lake
Hot Sulphur Springs
Kremmling
Winter Park
- JACKSON COUNTY**
Walden
- PITKIN COUNTY**
Aspen
Snowmass Village
- SUMMIT COUNTY**
Breckenridge
Blue River
Dillon
Frisco
Montezuma
Silverthorne

Good morning Kate,

I have been involved in a number of conversations with Town of Blue River over the past 5 years. This included advising them to work with a consultant to create a formal plan and engineering estimate for this fiber project. I have also been involved in conversations and investigations with Town of Blue River and Town of Breckenridge to work together to build fiber to Blue River and interconnect it to the CDOT and Breckenridge fiber networks to provide broadband to Blue River. There were also conversation with Allo, the ISP is Breck to potentially extend and offer services in Blue River.

I fully support an application for EIAF funds for Blue River. Their very small population of 822 people and their mountain valley location within the Blue River watershed makes it extremely difficult to provide broadband access to this community. Providing an alternative to high priced and low service reliability Comcast service can also allow them to promote the community to cellular providers to deliver improved wireless services to both residents and travelers though the valley. Hwy 9 is also an essential connection for communities in both Summit and Park Counties. Providing CDOT/State of Colorado could improve highway safety by providing them with additional monitoring of roadway conditions along this critical roadway.

Blue River's challenges and the reason they have come to DOLA is that their CPF grant application was passed over by CBO, and the fiber run between Breckenridge and Blue River and connectivity in this small community is not an easy one.

1. Their power provider is Xcel and they will NOT work with local governments for pole attachment agreements (only ISPs and telecom providers).
2. Because of clearance restrictions that would increase the cost of this access path because of pole replacement costs. This would require heavy lift helicopters which increases replacement costs significantly (I have heard \$10K to \$15 per pole)
3. A significant portion of the land between the towns is wetland and construction is difficult and may require an environmental review because Federal funds are being used.
4. The CDOT Hwy 9 path is a very usable one that will require right of way access and microtrenching permission from CDOT. As you can see this is costly.

Please let me know your thoughts and what additional information I can provide to help support Blue River's application and if I also need to provide support for the town with CBO.

Best,
Nate Walowitz
Broadband Program Director
Northwest Colorado Council of Governments

March 12, 2024

Will Toor, Executive Director
Colorado Energy Office
1600 Broadway, Suite 1960
Denver, CO 80202

RE: Letter of Commitment for Colorado's application for a CPRG Implementation Grant EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07

I am writing today in enthusiastic support of the Colorado Energy Office's application on behalf of the State of Colorado for CPRG Implementation Grant funds for a Local Climate Action Accelerator program under EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07.

Colorado is a climate leader, with an achievable pathway to meet the state's science-based greenhouse gas reduction targets of 26% by 2025, 50% by 2030 and 75% by 2040 below 2005 levels, as well as achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. To reach those ambitious goals, action at every level of government in the state will be needed. The EPA's CPRG Implementation Grant grant will help Colorado support widespread local government progress on equitable climate action through the Colorado Local Climate Action Accelerator program. The program will offer robust support and technical assistance for adoption of policies and strategies in sectors where local governments like ours can make the most impact on GHG emissions reductions (buildings, transportation (including land use planning), and waste), combined with equity-focused incentive funding to support implementation.

The Colorado Local Climate Action Accelerator program will enable NWCOG to pursue GHG reduction measures that align with our communities' priorities, including various ways to support our Member Communities diverse Climate Goals. Our community places a strong emphasis on prioritizing benefits to Low-Income and Disadvantaged Communities and will do so through this program by continuing to provide income qualified work through LEAP, WAP, CARE and other programs that we implement on behalf of the CEO.

I am in full support of the Colorado Energy Office's application for this funding. Know that supporting local government climate action will position Colorado to continue to lead in climate pollution reduction. Please let me know if you have any questions, and I appreciate the opportunity to support this important effort.

Sincerely,
Jon Stavney

Jon Stavney
Executive Director
NWCCOG
jstavney@nwccog.org

MEMBER JURISDICTIONS

City of Glenwood Springs

EAGLE COUNTY

Avon
Basalt
Eagle
Gypsum
Minturn
Red Cliff
Vail

GRAND COUNTY

Fraser
Granby
Grand Lake
Hot Sulphur Springs
Kremmling
Winter Park

JACKSON COUNTY

Walden

PITKIN COUNTY

Aspen
Snowmass Village

ROUTT COUNTY

City of Steamboat Springs
Town of Hayden

SUMMIT COUNTY

Blue River
Breckenridge
Dillon
Frisco
Montezuma
Silverthorne

February 20, 2024

Colorado State Legislature
Members of the Business Affairs and Labor committee

RE: Support for HB 24-1160: Economic Development Organization Action Grant Program

To Members of the Business Affairs and Labor Committee:

As the Director of the Northwest Colorado Council of Governments (NWCCOG) Economic Development District, I submit this letter in support of HB 24-1160: Economic Development Organization Action Grant Program.

NWCCOG EDD is in strong support of this bill which will earmark funding to support EDOs in developing capacity to support their local economies. This funding will increase the capacity of EDOs to implement and promote programs and initiatives that support the development of a robust economy, that will in turn attract, expand, and retain businesses in the region.

Funding to EDOs is extremely impactful in that EDOs need stable funding to focus on improving the economic conditions in their communities rather than fundraising for their existence. Local EDO's do the "boots on the ground" work in local communities including business retention and expansion, entrepreneurial support, and workforce development. Local EDOs have their pulse on the business community in their area. Thus, financial support to local EDOs strengthen local communities, which in turn will strengthen the statewide economy as a whole.

NWCCOG EDD is in strong support of HB 24-1160. If you have any questions, please contact me at 970.485.0513 or rtuyn@nwccog.org. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Rachel Tuyn

Rachel Tuyn
Director, NWCCOG Economic Development District
NWCCOG includes the counties of Eagle, Grand, Jackson, Pitkin and Summit

MEMBER JURISDICTIONS

City of Glenwood Springs

City of Steamboat Springs

Town of Hayden

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Vail

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Kremmling
Winter Park

JACKSON COUNTY

Walden

PITKIN COUNTY

Aspen
Snowmass Village

SUMMIT COUNTY

Breckenridge
Blue River
Dillon
Frisco
Montezuma
Silverthorne

February 26, 2024

Economic Development Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Suite 71014
Washington, DC 20230

RE: Support for EDA Grant Application submitted by Energize Colorado, University of Colorado at Denver, and the University of Kansas for Small Business Resiliency Index (SBRI)

To whom it may concern,

As the Director of Northwest Colorado Council of Governments Economic Development District (NWCCOG EDD) I am writing in support of the grant application submitted to the EDA by Energize Colorado, University of Colorado at Denver, and the University of Kansas for the Small Business Resiliency Index (SBRI). The SBRI is a comprehensive measure of how resilient a small business is, mainly focusing on the resiliency of the entrepreneur behind the business. The SBRI involves a business completing an assessment which will allow potential funders to tailor post-funding support based on the business' needs. At the same time, this tool provides a macro-level assessment of the borrower pool, which provides funders with valuable information regarding the correlation between scores and a businesses' likelihood of default.

The SBRI tool proposed in this grant application has the potential to change the way we look at the state of small businesses in our region and in Colorado as a whole, and that is why NWCCOG EDD is in support of it.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact me directly with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Rachel Tuyn

Rachel Tuyn
Director, NWCCOG Economic Development District
rtuyn@nwccog.org

NWCCOG includes the Colorado counties of Eagle, Grand, Jackson, Pitkin and Summit

MEMBER

JURISDICTIONS

City of Glenwood
Springs

City of Steamboat
Springs

Town of Hayden

EAGLE COUNTY

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SUMMIT COUNTY

Breckenridge
Blue River
Dillon
Frisco
Montezuma
Silverthorne

ANNALS OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

THE TERRIFYING A.I. SCAM THAT USES YOUR LOVED ONE'S VOICE

A Brooklyn couple got a call from relatives who were being held ransom. Their voices—like many others these days—had been cloned.

By **Charles Bethea**

March 7, 2024

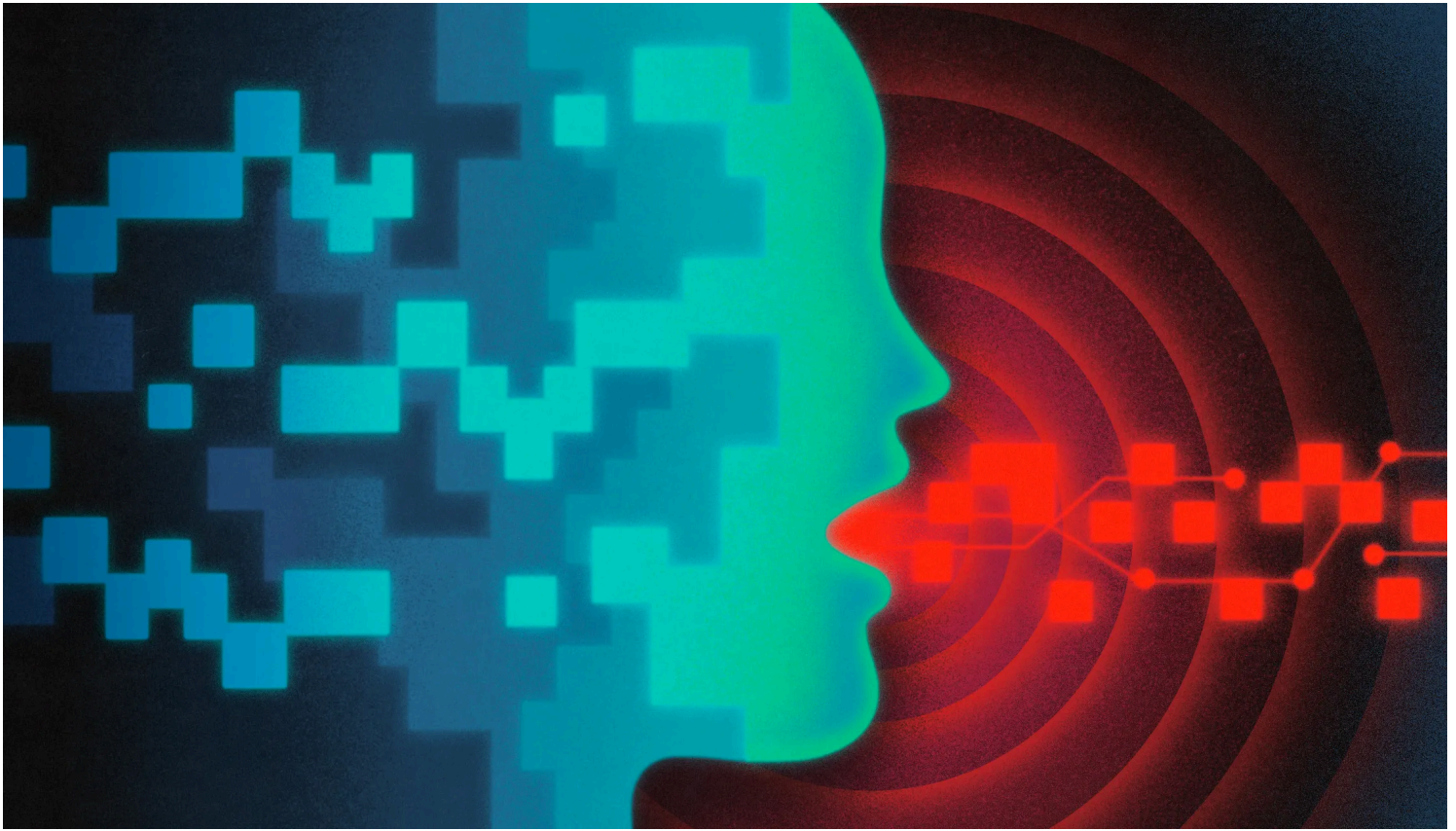


Illustration by Ariel Davis

[Save this story](#)

On a recent night, a woman named Robin was asleep next to her husband, Steve, in their Brooklyn home, when her phone buzzed on the bedside table. Robin is in her mid-thirties with long, dirty-blond hair. She works as an interior designer, specializing in luxury homes. The couple had gone out to a natural-wine bar in Cobble Hill that evening, and had come home a few hours earlier and gone to bed. Their two young children were asleep in bedrooms down the hall. “I’m always, like, kind of one ear awake,” Robin told me, recently. When her phone

rang, she opened her eyes and looked at the caller I.D. It was her mother-in-law, Mona, who never called after midnight. “I’m, like, maybe it’s a butt-dial,” Robin said. “So I ignore it, and I try to roll over and go back to bed. But then I see it pop up again.”

She picked up the phone, and, on the other end, she heard Mona’s voice wailing and repeating the words “I can’t do it, I can’t do it.” “I thought she was trying to tell me that some horrible tragic thing had happened,” Robin told me. Mona and her husband, Bob, are in their seventies. She’s a retired party planner, and he’s a dentist. They spend the warm months in Bethesda, Maryland, and winters in Boca Raton, where they play pickleball and canasta. Robin’s first thought was that there had been an accident. Robin’s parents also winter in Florida, and she pictured the four of them in a car wreck. “Your brain does weird things in the middle of the night,” she said. Robin then heard what sounded like Bob’s voice on the phone. (The family members requested that their names be changed to protect their privacy.) “Mona, pass me the phone,” Bob’s voice said, then, “Get Steve. Get Steve.” Robin took this—that they didn’t want to tell her while she was alone—as another sign of their seriousness. She shook Steve awake. “I think it’s your mom,” she told him. “I think she’s telling me something terrible happened.”

Steve, who has close-cropped hair and an athletic build, works in law enforcement. When he opened his eyes, he found Robin in a state of panic. “She was screaming,” he recalled. “I thought her whole family was dead.” When he took the phone, he heard a relaxed male voice—possibly Southern—on the other end of the line. “You’re not gonna call the police,” the man said. “You’re not gonna tell anybody. I’ve got a gun to your mom’s head, and I’m gonna blow her brains out if you don’t do exactly what I say.”

Steve used his own phone to call a colleague with experience in hostage negotiations. The colleague was muted, so that he could hear the call but wouldn’t be heard. “You hear this???” Steve texted him. “What should I do?” The colleague wrote back, “Taking notes. Keep talking.” The idea, Steve said, was to continue the conversation, delaying violence and trying to learn any useful information.

“I want to hear her voice,” Steve said to the man on the phone.

The man refused. “If you ask me that again, I’m gonna kill her,” he said. “Are you fucking crazy?”

“O.K.,” Steve said. “What do you want?”

The man demanded money for travel; he wanted five hundred dollars, sent through Venmo. “It was such an insanely small

amount of money for a human being,” Steve recalled. “But also: I’m obviously gonna pay this.” Robin, listening in, reasoned that someone had broken into Steve’s parents’ home to hold them up for a little cash. On the phone, the man gave Steve a Venmo account to send the money to. It didn’t work, so he tried a few more, and eventually found one that did. The app asked what the transaction was for.

“Put in a pizza emoji,” the man said.

After Steve sent the five hundred dollars, the man patched in a female voice—a girlfriend, it seemed—who said that the money had come through, but that it wasn’t enough. Steve asked if his mother would be released, and the man got upset that he was bringing this up with the woman listening. “Whoa, whoa, whoa,” he said. “Baby, I’ll call you later.” The implication, to Steve, was that the woman didn’t know about the hostage situation. “That made it even more real,” Steve told me. The man then asked for an additional two hundred and fifty dollars to get a ticket for his girlfriend. “I’ve gotta get my baby mama down here to me,” he said. Steve sent the additional sum, and, when it processed, the man hung up.

By this time, about twenty-five minutes had elapsed. Robin cried and Steve spoke to his colleague. “You guys did great,” the colleague said. He told them to call Bob since Mona’s phone was

clearly compromised, to make sure that he and Mona were now safe. After a few tries, Bob picked up the phone and handed it to Mona. “Are you at home?” Steve and Robin asked her. “Are you O.K.?”

Mona sounded fine, but she was unsure of what they were talking about. “Yeah, I’m in bed,” she replied. “Why?”

A rtificial intelligence is revolutionizing seemingly every aspect of our lives: medical diagnosis, weather forecasting, space exploration, and even mundane tasks like writing e-mails and searching the Internet. But with increased efficiencies and computational accuracy has come a Pandora’s box of trouble. Deepfake video content is proliferating across the Internet. The month after Russia invaded Ukraine, a video surfaced on social media in which Ukraine’s President, Volodymyr Zelensky, appeared to tell his troops to surrender. (He had not done so.) In early February of this year, Hong Kong police announced that a finance worker had been tricked into paying out twenty-five million dollars after taking part in a video conference with who he thought were members of his firm’s senior staff. (They were not.) Thanks to large language models like ChatGPT, phishing e-mails have grown increasingly sophisticated, too. Steve and Robin, meanwhile, fell victim to another new scam, which uses A.I. to replicate a loved one’s voice. “We’ve now passed through

the uncanny valley,” Hany Farid, who studies generative A.I. and manipulated media at the University of California, Berkeley, told me. “I can now clone the voice of just about anybody and get them to say just about anything. And what you think would happen is exactly what’s happening.”

Robots aping human voices are not new, of course. In 1984, an Apple computer became one of the first that could read a text file in a tinny robotic voice of its own. “Hello, I’m Macintosh,” a squat machine announced to a live audience, at an unveiling with Steve Jobs. “It sure is great to get out of that bag.” The computer took potshots at Apple’s main competitor at the time, saying, “I’d like to share with you a maxim I thought of the first time I met an I.B.M. mainframe: never trust a computer you can’t lift.” In 2011, Apple released Siri; inspired by “Star Trek”’s talking computers, the program could interpret precise commands —“Play Steely Dan,” say, or, “Call Mom”—and respond with a limited vocabulary. Three years later, Amazon released Alexa. Synthesized voices were cohabiting with us.

Still, until a few years ago, advances in synthetic voices had plateaued. They weren’t entirely convincing. “If I’m trying to create a better version of Siri or G.P.S., what I care about is naturalness,” Farid explained. “Does this sound like a human being and not like this creepy half-human, half-robot thing?”

Replicating a specific voice is even harder. “Not only do I have to sound *human*,” Farid went on. “I have to sound like *you*.” In recent years, though, the problem began to benefit from more money, more data—importantly, troves of voice recordings online—and breakthroughs in the underlying software used for generating speech. In 2019, this bore fruit: a Toronto-based A.I. company called Dessa cloned the podcaster Joe Rogan’s voice. (Rogan responded with “awe” and acceptance on Instagram, at the time, adding, “The future is gonna be really fucking weird, kids.”) But Dessa needed a lot of money and hundreds of hours of Rogan’s very available voice to make their product. Their success was a one-off.

In 2022, though, a New York-based company called ElevenLabs unveiled a service that produced impressive clones of virtually any voice quickly; breathing sounds had been incorporated, and more than two dozen languages could be cloned. ElevenLabs’s technology is now widely available. “You can just navigate to an app, pay five dollars a month, feed it forty-five seconds of someone’s voice, and then clone that voice,” Farid told me. The company is now valued at more than a billion dollars, and the rest of Big Tech is chasing closely behind. The designers of Microsoft’s Vall-E cloning program, which debuted last year, used sixty thousand hours of English-language audiobook narration from more than seven thousand speakers. Vall-E,

which is not available to the public, can reportedly replicate the voice and “acoustic environment” of a speaker with just a three-second sample.

Voice-cloning technology has undoubtedly improved some lives. The Voice Keeper is among a handful of companies that are now “banking” the voices of those suffering from voice-depriving diseases like A.L.S., Parkinson’s, and throat cancer, so that, later, they can continue speaking with their own voice through text-to-speech software. A South Korean company recently launched what it describes as the first “AI memorial service,” which allows people to “live in the cloud” after their deaths and “speak” to future generations. The company suggests that this can “alleviate the pain of the death of your loved ones.” The technology has other legal, if less altruistic, applications. Celebrities can use voice-cloning programs to “loan” their voices to record advertisements and other content: the College Football Hall of Famer Keith Byars, for example, recently let a chicken chain in Ohio use a clone of his voice to take orders. The film industry has also benefitted. Actors in films can now “speak” other languages—English, say, when a foreign movie is released in the U.S. “That means no more subtitles, and no more dubbing,” Farid said. “Everybody can speak whatever language you want.” Multiple publications, including *The New Yorker*, use ElevenLabs to offer audio narrations of stories. Last year, New York’s mayor,

Eric Adams, sent out A.I.-enabled robocalls in Mandarin and Yiddish—languages he does not speak. (Privacy advocates called this a “creepy vanity project.”)

But, more often, the technology seems to be used for nefarious purposes, like fraud. This has become easier now that TikTok, YouTube, and Instagram store endless videos of regular people talking. “It’s simple,” Farid explained. “You take thirty or sixty seconds of a kid’s voice and log in to ElevenLabs, and pretty soon Grandma’s getting a call in Grandson’s voice saying, ‘Grandma, I’m in trouble, I’ve been in an accident.’” A financial request is almost always the end game. Farid went on, “And here’s the thing: the bad guy can fail ninety-nine per cent of the time, and they will still become very, very rich. It’s a numbers game.” The prevalence of these illegal efforts is difficult to measure, but, anecdotally, they’ve been on the rise for a few years. In 2020, a corporate attorney in Philadelphia took a call from what he thought was his son, who said he had been injured in a car wreck involving a pregnant woman and needed nine thousand dollars to post bail. (He found out it was a scam when his daughter-in-law called his son’s office, where he was safely at work.) In January, voters in New Hampshire received a robocall call from Joe Biden’s voice telling them not to vote in the primary. (The man who admitted to generating the call said that he had used ElevenLabs software.) “I didn’t think about it at the time that it

wasn't his real voice," an elderly Democrat in New Hampshire told the Associated Press. "That's how convincing it was." Predictably, technology has outstripped regulation. Current copyright laws don't protect a person's voice. "A key question is whether authentication tools can keep up with advances in deepfake synthesis," Senator Jon Ossoff, of Georgia, who chaired a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on the matter last year, told me. "Can we get good enough fast enough at discerning real from fake, or will we lose the ability to verify the authenticity of voices, images, video, and other media?" He described the matter as an "urgent" one for lawmakers. In January, a bipartisan group introduced the QUIET Act, which would increase penalties for those who use A.I. to impersonate people. In Arizona, a state senator introduced a bill that would designate A.I. as a weapon when used in conjunction with a crime, also allowing lengthier sentences.

The Federal Trade Commission, which investigates consumer fraud, reported that Americans lost more than two million dollars to impostor scams of various kinds in 2022. Last year, the F.T.C. put out a voice-cloning advisory, noting, "If the caller says to wire money, send cryptocurrency, or buy gift cards and give them the card numbers and PINs, those could be signs of a scam." But it, too, has not yet created any guidelines for the use of voice-cloning technology. Even if laws are enacted, policing

them will be exceedingly difficult. Scammers can use encrypted apps to execute their schemes, and calls are completed in minutes. “By the time you get there, the scam is over, and everybody’s moved on,” Farid said.

A decade ago, the F.T.C. sponsored a competition to counter the rise of robocalls, and one of its winners went on to create Nomorobo, a call-blocking service that has helped to reduce—but not eliminate—the phenomenon. Late last year, the commission offered a twenty-five-thousand-dollar prize for the development of new ways to protect consumers from voice cloning. It received around seventy-five submissions, which focus on prevention, authentication, and real-time detection. Some of the submissions use artificial intelligence, while others rely on metadata or watermarking. (Judging will be completed by April.) Will Maxson, who is managing the F.T.C.’s challenge, told me, “We’re hoping we’ll spur some innovators to come up with products and services that will help reduce this new threat.” But it’s not at all clear how effective they will be. “There are no silver bullets,” he acknowledged.

A few months ago, Farid, the Berkeley professor, participated in a Zoom call with Barack Obama. The former President was interested, he said, in learning about generative A.I. During the Zoom call, Farid found himself in an increasingly familiar online

state of mind: doubt. “People have spent so much time trying to make deepfakes with Obama that I spent, like, the first ten minutes being, like, I don’t know, man, I don’t think this is him,” he said, laughing. In the end, he determined that it was the real Obama. Still, the experience was unnerving. “Shit’s getting *weird*,” he said.

One Friday last January, Jennifer DeStefano, who lives in Scottsdale, Arizona, got a call while walking into a dance studio where the younger of her two teen-age daughters, Aubrey, had just wrapped up a rehearsal. The caller I.D. read “unknown,” so DeStefano ignored it at first. Then she reconsidered: Brianna, her older daughter, was on a ski trip up north, and, DeStefano thought, maybe something had happened. She took the call on speaker phone. “Mom, I messed up!” Briana’s voice said, sobbing in her uniquely controlled way. A man with a Spanish accent could be heard telling her, “Lay down and put your head back.” Then Briana said, “Mom, these bad men have me. Help me, help me, help me.” One of the men took the phone, as Briana sobbed and pleaded in the background. “I have your daughter,” he said. “If you seek any help from anyone, I’ll pump her stomach so full of drugs.” He’d have his way with her, he continued, and then he’d leave her for dead.

DeStefano ran into the dance studio and screamed for help. Three other mothers responded: one called 911, one called DeStefano's husband, and one sat with DeStefano while she talked on the phone. First, the man demanded a million dollars, but DeStefano said that wasn't possible, so he lowered the sum to fifty thousand. As they discussed how to get the money to him, the mother who'd called 911 came back inside and said that she'd learned that the call might be a scam. DeStefano, who considers herself "pretty savvy," was unconvinced. "I talked to *her*," DeStefano replied. She continued speaking to the man, who decided that he wanted to arrange a physical pickup of the money: a white van would meet DeStefano somewhere, and someone would put a bag over her head, and bring her to him. She recalled, "He said I had better have all the cash, or else we were both dead."

Soon, though, the second mother hurried over. She had located DeStefano's husband, who confirmed that he was with Briana. DeStefano eventually got ahold of her older daughter. "I have no idea what's going on, or what you're talking about," Briana told her. "I'm with Dad." Eventually, DeStefano returned to her phone call. "I called the guys out for being the lowest of the low," DeStefano said. "I used vulgar words. Then I just hung up."

DeStefano went public with her experience, eventually testifying about it before the Senate Judiciary Committee. Other victims reached out. Another mother at the dance studio had a cousin who'd been scammed just two weeks earlier. "The call came in from her daughter's phone, and she actually sent fifteen hundred dollars," DeStefano said. She told me that a friend had received a call from what sounded like her nine-year-old son: "He'd been kidnapped, he said. But she'd just tucked him in bed after reading a story, so she knew it wasn't true."

RaeLee Jorgensen, a thirty-four-year-old teacher's aide, contacted DeStefano. Last April, while waiting for her two youngest children to get out of school, she received a phone call from her oldest son's number. "Hey, Mom," her fourteen-year-old son's voice said. "This is Tate." He was using his family nickname. "And it was his voice," Jorgensen told me. "But I could tell something was wrong. I asked what it was." Then another voice said, "I have your son and I'm going to shoot him in the head." Jorgensen panicked and she hung up. Ten minutes later, she received confirmation from Tate's school that her son was safe, and now sitting in the principal's office. Even DeStefano's mother received a scam call. Months before DeStefano's ordeal, someone had called her mother claiming to be DeStefano's brother, and asking for money to pay a hospital bill related to a car accident. But DeStefano's mother could sense that something

was off. “She’s hard of hearing, but she’s still sharp,” DeStefano said. “She hung up.”

Robin and Steve, in Brooklyn, eventually got their money back from Venmo. Today, they’re able to joke about some aspects of the ordeal: the pizza-emoji instruction, for example. “But we told everyone we knew to be aware of this very sophisticated thing,” Robin said. The family has created a plan for the next time. “It doesn’t seem like this scam is going to stop anytime soon,” Robin told me. “So we came up with an extended-family password. If one of us is in trouble, others can verify that it’s really them.” When I recently called up Mona, her mother-in-law, though, she confessed that she’d already forgotten the family password: “I’m going to have to go over it.” She added that it took her a while to accept one aspect of the call. “Seven hundred and fifty dollars,” she said. “I still can’t believe that’s all I was worth.” ♦

New Yorker Favorites

- The Web site where millennial women judge one another’s spending habits.
- Linda Ronstadt has found another voice.
- A wedding ring that lost itself.

NEWS SERVICE: TECHNOLOGY

AI pervades everyday life with almost no oversight. Colorado and other states are scrambling to catch up.

Lawmakers in at least seven states are taking big legislative swings to regulate bias in artificial intelligence, filling a void left by Congress' inaction



Jesse Bedayn, Associated Press

Published : 2:55 AM MST on Mar 6, 2024



FILE - Text from the ChatGPT page of the OpenAI website is shown in this photo, in New York, Feb. 2, 2023. Lawmakers in at least seven states are taking big legislative swings to regulate bias in artificial intelligence. As AI has quietly spread through everyday life, filtering job resumes, rental apartment and home loan applications, studies and lawsuits have found they can discriminate based on race, gender or more. (AP Photo/Richard Drew, File)

The Unaffiliated

All politics, no agenda.

While artificial intelligence made headlines with ChatGPT, behind the scenes, the technology has quietly pervaded everyday life — screening

job resumes, rental apartment applications, and even determining medical care in some cases.

While a number of AI systems have been found to discriminate, tipping the scales in favor of certain races, genders or incomes, there's scant government oversight.

Lawmakers in at least seven states are taking big legislative swings to regulate bias in artificial intelligence, filling a void left by Congress' inaction. These proposals are some of the first steps in a decades-long discussion over balancing the benefits of this nebulous new technology with the widely documented risks.

“AI does in fact affect every part of your life whether you know it or not,” said Suresh Venkatasubramanian, a Brown University professor who co-authored the White House's Blueprint for an AI Bill of Rights.

“Now, you wouldn't care if they all worked fine. But they don't.”



READ MORE

How Lauren Boebert is handling her rough year — and how she views the future

Published : 3:55 AM MST on Mar 7, 2024

FAFSA delays cast uncertainty over university budgets as Colorado lawmakers look at how to fund higher education

Published : 3:37 AM MST on Mar 7, 2024

Two state parks commissioners head to confirmation without key committee recommendations

Published : 3:30 AM MST on Mar 7, 2024

Success or failure will depend on lawmakers working through complex problems while negotiating with an industry worth hundreds of billions of dollars and growing at a speed best measured in lightyears.

Last year, only about a dozen of the nearly 200 AI-related bills introduced in statehouses were passed into law, according to BSA The Software Alliance, which advocates on behalf of software companies.

Those bills, along with the over 400 AI-related bills being debated this year, were largely aimed at regulating smaller slices of AI. That includes nearly 200 targeting deepfakes, including proposals to **bar pornographic deepfakes**, like those of Taylor Swift that **flooded social media**. Others are trying to rein in chatbots, such as ChatGPT, to ensure they don't cough up instructions to make a bomb, for example.

Those are separate from the seven state bills that would apply across industries to regulate AI discrimination — one of the technology's most perverse and complex problems — being debated from California to Connecticut.

Those who study AI's penchant to discriminate say states are already behind in establishing guardrails. The use of AI to make consequential decisions — what the bills call “automated decision tools” — is pervasive but largely hidden.

It's estimated as many as 83% of employers use algorithms to help in hiring; that's 99% for Fortune 500 companies, according to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

Yet the majority of Americans are unaware that these tools are being used, polling from Pew Research shows, let alone whether the systems are biased.

An AI can learn bias through the data it's trained on, typically historical data that can hold a Trojan Horse of past discrimination.

Amazon scuttled its hiring algorithm project after it was found to favor male applicants nearly a decade ago. The AI was trained to assess new resumes by learning from past resumes — largely male applicants. While the algorithm didn't know the applicants' genders, it still downgraded resumes with the word “women's” or that listed women's colleges, in part because they were not represented in the historical data it learned from.

“If you are letting the AI learn from decisions that existing managers have historically made, and if those decisions have historically favored some people and disfavored others, then that's what the technology will learn,” said Christine Webber, the attorney in a class-action lawsuit alleging that an AI system scoring rental applicants discriminated against those who were Black or Hispanic.

Court documents describe one of the lawsuit's plaintiffs, Mary Louis, a Black woman, applied to rent an apartment in Massachusetts and received a cryptic response: “The third-party service we utilize to screen all prospective tenants has denied your tenancy.”

When Louis submitted two landlord references to show she'd paid rent early or on time for 16 years, court records say, she received another reply: “Unfortunately, we do not accept appeals and cannot override the outcome of the Tenant Screening.”

That lack of transparency and accountability is, in part, what the bills are targeting, following the lead of California's failed proposal last year — the first comprehensive attempt at regulating AI bias in the private sector.

Under the bills, companies using these automated decision tools would have to do “impact assessments,” including descriptions of how AI figures into a decision, the data collected and an analysis of the risks of discrimination, along with an explanation of the company's safeguards. Depending on the bill, those assessments would be submitted to the state or regulators could request them.

Some of the bills would also require companies to tell customers that an AI will be used in making a decision, and allow them to opt out, with certain caveats.

Craig Albright, senior vice president of U.S. government relations at BSA, the industry lobbying group, said its members are generally in favor of some steps being proposed, such as impact assessments.

“The technology moves faster than the law, but there are actually benefits for the law catching up. Because then (companies) understand what their responsibilities are, consumers can have greater trust in the technology,” Albright said.

But it’s been a lackluster start for legislation. A bill in Washington state has already floundered in committee, and a California proposal introduced in 2023, which many of the current proposals are modeled off of, also died.

California Assembly member Rebecca Bauer-Kahan has revamped her legislation that failed last year with the support of some tech companies, such as Workday and Microsoft, after dropping a requirement that companies routinely submit their impact assessments. Other states where bills are, or are expected to be, introduced are Colorado, Rhode Island, Illinois, Connecticut, Virginia and Vermont.

While these bills are a step in the right direction, said Venkatasubramanian of Brown University, the impact assessments and their ability to catch bias remain vague. Without greater access to the reports — which many of the bills limit — it’s also hard to know whether a person has been discriminated against by an AI.

A more intensive but accurate way to identify discrimination would be to require bias audits — tests to determine whether an AI is discriminating or not — and to make the results public. That’s where the industry pushes back, arguing that would expose trade secrets.

Requirements to routinely test an AI system aren't in most of the legislative proposals, nearly all of which still have a long road ahead. Still, it's the start of lawmakers and voters wrestling with what's becoming, and will remain, an ever-present technology.

“It covers everything in your life. Just by virtue of that you should care,” said Venkatasubramanian.

Associated Press reporter Trân Nguyễn in Sacramento, California, contributed.

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PROGRAM UPDATES

To: NWCCOG Council
From: NWCCOG Staff
Date: March 2024
Re: Program Updates

The following are events of note occurring since the August 2023 NWCCOG Council meeting.

Administration/Regional Business – Jon Stavney, Executive Director

Since the January Council Meeting:

- Rewriting the Employee Handbook with edits from Employers Council, NWCCOG attorney, CIRSA which has turned into a very complex task which had hoped to bring to Council in March. Though Jon has arrived at a Draft synthesizing input from all three sources and reorganizing per suggestions it is close to a complete re-write, which has not had time to be reviewed internally as of yet.
- Working with CIRSA and AIG on three Insurance claims related to the cyber incident and bank fraud incident. Jon can provide updates upon request. The insurance claims are close to being finalized.
- Continue to work with Fiscal on closeout and handoff of the NWAHEMR Grant program to Jackson County and the state.
- Continued to advise Keystone on various matters including Managers. Congratulations to Grand Lake Manager John Crone for winning the new job in Keystone. Jon has been asked to assist again with the Grand Lake Search which he did 5 years ago. They hope to have a rapid process resulting in someone starting in May.
- Jon has been asked again by Avon to Interview all the Direct Reports for the Avon Town Manager Evaluation.
- The transition planning that we have done at NWCCOG with the drafting of Position Manuals, Cross Training Matrix has again proven valuable with the Office Manager transition. Talai announced at the end of February that her family was moving to Idaho. She used the manual to draft a training schedule and spent 6 days training our first hire who decided they were not ready to go back to work, choosing to spend time with young kids. We have gone through a second round of OM Interviews in March now and have offered the job to Moira VanderMeer who has accepted the job. She will begin training the week of the council meeting.
- Conversations about the future of regional middle mile management are ongoing with other regions, DOLA, CBO though they have stalled out during the legislative session for some wait and see situations, and stalled out during two high level DOLA positions turning over recently –Director and Division of Local Government Director.
- **The Office Door replacement and lock upgrade project has come back around. We had priced it for 2023, then budgeted for an HVAC project that we are not able to do this year. Since the Door and security project is more than what we budgeted for the HVAC project we will be increasing the revised budget next fall to reflect that project's actual costs.**

Broadband Program – *Nate Walowitz, Regional Broadband Director*

Project THOR is now providing limited broadband service to Vero in Avon. Vero is serving the Trayer Creek area. The Town of Avon is evaluating connecting to Project THOR as well.

Conversations continue with a competitive broadband provider and CDOT to evaluate the viability of providing broadband services in Dotsero.

Finalizing connection with Holy Cross Energy to enable transport services to support their operations.

Work continues with our Project THOR stakeholders to evaluate additional needs they have in 2024.

Working with Middle Park Health to plan for the creation of new Meet Me Center in Winter Park/Fraser in early 2025. This is in conjunction with the construction and launch of a new Middle Park Health location.

Nate Walowitz provided technical assistance to Town of Frisco as they created, evaluated and awarded a contract for a broadband consultant and implementation engineering for a fiber to the premise network. Once this work is completed and evaluated, the town can determine the best path to forward.

Nate Walowitz has already spoken with Frisco’s chosen consultant about Project THOR and potential access options to the network.

Jon Stavney and Nate Walowitz have been working with State of Colorado Broadband Office, DOLA, and CDOT to help shape broadband policies that continue to support our communities and middle mile broadband networks across our region and the state.

We continue to migrate the new Project THOR network equipment and broadband services slowly and gracefully. One of the challenges in this project is ensuring that those communities and providers who are currently using the network and not left with no broadband and public safety network services during transition. We are working to ensure that everyone is fully migrated over to the new network completely by the end of May.

Mobility Manger – *Dana Wood, Mobility Manager*

IMTPR:

- CDOT will be holding meetings with counties starting this month to start the project prioritization process
- Planning a retreat in April to finalized bylaws, IGAs, and meeting structure. Hired a meeting facilitator.
- Potential IMTPR split update: CDOT held two virtual public rulemaking hearings on March 6th and March 11th on 2 CCR 601-22

RTCC:

- Vice Chair elected
- Researching a panel discussion on rural micro transit projects for the May meeting
- Planning a September facilitated Transportation Summit

Economic Development District (EDD) – *Rachel Lunney, Director Program*

2024 NWCCOG Regional Economic Summit

Registration is open for this annual event to be held on Thursday, May 2 at the Silverthorne Pavilion.

Draft agenda and registration can be found here: <https://www.nwccog.org/nwccog-regional-economic-summit-2024/>

Planning

EDD Director is working on the annual CEDS progress report due to EDA on 3.31.24. We will be 2.5 years into our 5-year CEDS. This report will report on progress made on CEDS goals and objectives during this 2.5-year period. EDD Director will give a presentation on progress on CEDS goals and objectives at the March 28 EDD board meeting.

Data

The March Quarterly Economic Update is being compiled based on the most up to date, recently released jobs and wages data (Q3 2023). This report will be available by 3/31/24.

Elevator Inspection Program (EIP) – *David Harris – Director*

No out of the ordinary circumstances to report at this time.

Energy Program – *Nate Speerstra, Manager*

We are currently starting up the ReEnergize Program in Eagle County. The ReEnergize Program has been a successful partnership with Garfield County and CLEER for the past two years providing funding for energy audits and energy saving upgrades for residents up to 150% AMI. CLEER gets the word out and qualifies the residents and then the NWCCOG Energy Program team performs the energy audits and installs the energy saving measures. We are now partnering with Eagle County and Walking Mountains Science Center to start a similar program with a target of helping 25 Eagle County households in 2024.

Energy Program took possession of two more Ford F150 Lightning EV's and one F550 box truck in February. For training, we recently had a two day leadership training for all Energy Program employees with Employers Council. Two Energy Program energy auditors traveled to Denver in March for Building Performance Institute Energy Auditor training and certification that was administered by the Colorado Energy Office.

Northwest Loan Fund (NLF) – *Anita Cameron, Director*

Two new loan recommendations will go to Loan Committee on March 14.

One and maybe two recommendations for Loan Committee Members will go to the Board for approval in March.

The NLF Contract for CDBG Funds has been approved for extension of expiration to 11-30-2024.

Anita presented to the SBDC with special focus on answering specific questions for consultants

Northwest Region Healthcare Coalition (NWRHCC) – *Readiness and Response Coordinator*

Please look forward to information on the next Program Update.

Regional Grant Navigator (RGN) – *Jonathan Godes, Regional Grants Navigator*

IIJA and IRA Grant Writing Assistance Program

The Colorado legislature passed and Governor Polis signed Senate Bill 22-215 and Senate Bill 23-283 to create the IIJA Cash Fund. The law allows some of the funds to be used for grant writing support and project planning technical assistance in order to assist state agencies, local governments, and the two federally recognized Tribes located in Colorado in obtaining IIJA and IRA funds. Eligible applicants are local governments, special districts and Tribes located in Colorado with limited budgets and limited in-house grant writing capacity. The applicant for grant writing or project planning assistance must be an eligible applicant for the federal funding they are seeking. At this time, non-profit organizations and for-profit entities are not eligible.

Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) - USDOT

Deadlines:

-April 4: Deadline #1 for Planning and Demonstration Grants.

-May 16: Sole deadline for Implementation Grants. Deadline #2 for Planning and Demonstration Grants.

-August 29: Deadline #3 for Planning and Demonstration Grants.

The SS4A program funds regional, local, and Tribal initiatives through grants to prevent roadway deaths and serious injuries. Over \$3 billion is still available for future funding rounds. The SS4A program supports the development of a [comprehensive safety action plan](#) (referred to as an "Action Plan") that identifies the most significant roadway safety concerns in a community and the implementation of projects and strategies to address roadway safety issues. Action Plans are the foundation of the SS4A grant program. SS4A requires an eligible Action Plan be in place before applying to implement projects and strategies.

The SS4A program provides funding for **two types of grants**: Planning and Demonstration Grants and Implementation Grants

[First Responders - Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act](#)

Deadline: April 15, 2024

To provide resources to support first responders and members of other key community sectors on training, administering, and distributing naloxone and other Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved overdose reversal medications or devices. Recipients will be expected to establish processes, protocols, and mechanisms for warm hand-off referrals to appropriate treatment, recovery, harm reduction, and other psychosocial resource support services. Recipients will also provide safety education around fentanyl, synthetic opioids, and other drug trends associated with overdoses.

[Local Match Program \(Federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act\)](#). DOLA. State. Federal match based funding. The General Assembly passed Senate Bill 22-215 (creating Colorado Revised Statute 24-75-232), the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Cash Fund, which allocates approximately \$80 million in state General Funds for local match support for state agencies and local governments for the non-federal match requirements included in the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

[Service Line Inventory and Lead Service Line Replacement Planning Grants](#). CDPHE. State. Planning funding. The LCRR has a number of new requirements for regulated public water systems. One of these requirements is that public water systems must develop a system-wide service line inventory by October 16, 2024. Systems that have lead, galvanized requiring replacement, or unknown service lines in their inventory must also complete a lead service line replacement plan by October 16, 2024. **Deadline April 1.**

[Water Quality & Quantity Committee \(QQ\) - Torie Jarvis, Director and Watershed Services & Summit Water Quality Committee \(SWQC\) -](#)

Torie provides summaries after each QQ meeting. A QQ meeting is being held one week in advance of the NWCCOG meeting though after publication of this packet. If you don't receive these but would like to, let Talai or Torie know so they can add you to the list.

[Vintage - Erin Fisher, Director](#)

As updated at previous COG meeting, Erin has been active with her colleagues across the state in advocating for additional funding from the legislature for AAAs which would prevent major cuts, though not prevent all cuts if passed. Team has been working on options for budget cuts to contracts. Results reviewed by RAC committee are in packet under Manager updates. This is also the time of year when the Team is reviewing contracts for the start of the next fiscal year which begins July 1. If you have questions feel free to contact Erin Fisher directly.



Northwest Colorado Council of Governments

Economic Development District (EDD) Board Meeting

January 25, 2024

Council & EDD Board Members Present:

DiAnn Butler, Grand County
Patti Clapper, Pitkin County
Erin McCuskey, SBDC
Tim Redmond, Routt County
Randy George, Grand County
Dawn Thilmany, XX
Kris Mattera, Basalt Chamber
Chris Romer, Vail Valley Partnership
Trent Thompson, EDA
Jeremy Rietmann, Town of Gypsum
Cory Mihm, Summit County
Ashley Macdonald, Town of Kremmling

Other Present:

Carolyn Tucker, CDLE
Chris Oxley, NWCO Workforce CDLE
Willie Witkins, CSU
Jeff Engell, CSU
Dawn Thilmany, CSU

NWCCOG Staff:

Talai Shirey
Rachel Tuyn
Anita Cameron
Jon Stavney

Call to Order:

DiAnn Butler called the Economic Development District (EDD) Board meeting to order at 1:00 pm. Roundtable introductions were completed, and quorum was confirmed.

Approval of December 2023 EDD Board Meeting Minutes

M/S: Patti Clapper/Ashley Macdonald approve the December 2023 EDD Board Meeting Minutes

Passed: Yes

EDA Program and New Things on the Horizon

Trent Thompson presented EDA 101; EDA will provide assistance for all aspects of community development. Projects need to have a correlation to job creation, the stronger the correlation the better chance for application approval. Trent is willing to “get in the weeds” with you to strengthen applications for funding. For example, In 2023 Congress passed the Disaster Supplemental funding opportunities allowing funding for Grand County; Trent is meeting with Grand County to see how the funds may be available for projects. There are national and local programs available for the public sector, reach out to Trent with any questions you may have.

Presentation: CSU Extension Office Team

Tim, Dawn, Willie and Jeff provided a presentation for partnerships available with CSU Extension program. A copy of the presentation is available at : <https://www.nwccog.org/about/people/our-council/council-resources/>

UPDATE: Workforce Update CDLE

Carolyn Tucker provided an update – Unemployment is still low with little movement; Colorado rural workforce is going through a consortium change; New CDLE focus areas include Sector & Industry Engagement, Work Based Learning and Business Services (Hiring, Labor Law, Retention, Etc.); Vital Careers Training Grants deadline is January 31st, Workforce Resilience Program Grant deadline is in March.

Roundtable: Economic Development Updates from Around the Region:

Ashley Macdonald - Kremmling is submitting a grant application for workforce housing, working on a streamlined application process for land use, working on water infrastructure for future use and new housing projects.
Cory Mihm- Summit County is working on grants for economic programs for entrepreneurs and agriculture business. Reminder of two upcoming events: 1/31 EDCC , 2/8 Tourism Association at Sheraton Denver.
Randy George – Grand County is considering the push for passenger rail and what impact it may have on communities. The existing rail line has capacity, the Governor is supportive of seeing this move forward.

Tim Redmond – Routt County is also focusing on passenger rails as a form of needed transportation, talks of extending the rail to Hayden and on to the industrial areas in Routt. This could be a major game changer to the region.

Adjournment:

M/S: DiAnne Butler/Tim Redmond adjourned the EDD meeting at 2:14 p.m.

Passed: Yes

DiAnn Butler, EDD Chair _____

Date _____