



# Resources Bulletin

## January 2020

*archived bulletins can be found [here](#).*



## Funding & Technical Assistance

### **Future of Shopping Small Grant**

[More info here](#). American Express® is teaming up with Main Street America to give 10 small business owners \$10,000 each to help their businesses innovate in this evolving retail landscape. The program is intended to support small businesses that have demonstrated new approaches to traditional business strategies and those businesses looking to try out creative techniques, while also helping to revitalize and strengthen older and historic commercial districts. Deadline is March 31 or whenever 3,000 applications have been received.

### **Water Plan Grant Program**

In fiscal year 2019-2020, \$10 million will be available from the Water Plan Grant program. The funding categories include: development of additional storage, technical assistance, project, or program funding for agricultural projects; long-term strategies for conservation, land use, and drought planning; water education, outreach, and innovation efforts; environmental and recreational projects. Please visit [bit.ly/2MHnYzs](http://bit.ly/2MHnYzs) for more information about qualifying projects and examples of past approved applications in each category.

### **Advanced Industries Grants**

Offered by Office of Economic Development & International Trade. Deadline: March 2. The [Advanced Industries Accelerator Programs](#) were created in 2013 to promote growth and sustainability in Colorado's advanced industries by helping drive innovation, accelerating commercialization, encouraging public-private partnerships, increasing access to early stage capital and creating a strong ecosystem that increases the state's global competitiveness.

Colorado's advanced industries are: advanced manufacturing, aerospace, bioscience, electronics, energy and natural resources/cleantech, infrastructure engineering, and technology and information. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis and due by 5 PM on March 2, 2020. More info [here](#).

### **NextFifty Initiative Census 2020 Outreach Fund to Support Efforts to Ensure Older Hard to Count Adults are Counted in 2020 Census**

Given the impacts of the Census on funding for older populations over the next 10 years, it is essential that all are counted. The maximum grant award per qualifying organization is

\$25,000. The Census 2020 Outreach Fund application will open on January 27th with applications being reviewed on an ongoing basis. For more information and to apply, visit their [website here](#).

### **USDA Agriculture Innovation Grants**

USDA Rural Development offers a grant to establish and operate Agriculture Innovation Centers that will provide technical assistance to help rural businesses market value-added agricultural products. Apply by March 20. For more information click [here](#).

### **USDA Reconnect Pilot Program: Funding for Rural Broadband**

Second round of \$550 million in United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Reconnect Pilot Program. The application window for this round of funding is set to open Jan. 31, Deadline for applications March 16. A full description of 2020 ReConnect Pilot Program funding is available here: [bit.ly/2FAEEEE](http://bit.ly/2FAEEEE). To learn more about eligibility, technical assistance, and recent announcements, visit [usda.gov/reconnect](http://usda.gov/reconnect).

### **Stipends available to rural economic development organizations to attend SelectUSA 2020**

The Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) is offering stipends for two rural economic development organizations (EDOs) to join the State at the SelectUSA Investment Summit June 1-3 in Washington, D.C. In an effort to increase rural participation, showcase investment opportunities in rural Colorado, and to introduce rural EDOs to the opportunities provided by foreign direct investment (FDI), OEDIT is offering two stipends of \$2,000 to cover event registration and travel expenses. Submit the [questionnaire found here](#) by February 1, 2020. Applications will be reviewed and stipend recipients will be notified by February 7th.

### **Main Street Façade Grant Program**

[More info here](#). Main Street America (MSA) will open applications to coordinating programs for the National Park Service Main Street Façade Improvement Grant Program. Through a competitive selection process, MSA will select four coordinating programs to participate, and three communities within each state will receive funds to be used toward façade improvements in commercial districts. Learn more in a webinar on Jan. 21. To register for the webinar, visit [bit.ly/2T9ZfaU](http://bit.ly/2T9ZfaU).

### **Pop-Up Placemaking Toolkit**

This [Pop-Up Placemaking Toolkit](#) is a new free publication by AARP and the placemaking specialists of Team Better Block, and is a practical guide to demonstrating how temporary projects can inspire long-term change.

### **University of Colorado Denver Capstone Program**

University of Colorado Denver School of Public Affairs is creating the next generation of visionary leaders in the government and nonprofit sectors. Let our students put their skills to work for you by hosting a capstone project. About capstone projects: client-based research and consulting project that allows master's-level students to put into practice the competencies gained throughout their education at the CU Denver School of Public Affairs. Examples of types of projects include program and procedure evaluations, community or organizational needs assessments, performance measurement, strategic plan development, stakeholder surveys, best practices research, employee retention studies and many more. More information and apply to host a graduate student capstone project [here](#).

### **AARP Community Challenge Grants**

The next round of AARP's Community Challenge grants will launch in early 2020. This program is a great way to spark quick action change in communities regarding public spaces, transportation, housing, and other issues. For more information, visit [bit.ly/365loJm](http://bit.ly/365loJm).

### **FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grants**

Offers funding to implement a sustained pre-disaster natural hazard mitigation program with the goal of reducing overall risk to the population and structures from future hazard events. Deadline: Jan. 31, 2020. [More info here.](#)

### **Build your Capacity: Host an AmeriCorps VISTA**

Community Resource Center is placing talented, diverse AmeriCorps members to serve in nonprofits and community based organizations across rural Colorado. Members will build the internal capacity of your organization through CRC's AmeriCorps VISTA program. Apply today to become a Rural AmeriCorps Partner Site. Partner sites will be chosen based on their ability to provide members with significant work experience, as well as their need for an innovative leader who can help them take on a project they otherwise could not afford, or infuse energy into an existing project. Deadline to apply: Jan. 21, 2020. [More info here.](#)

### **Agriculture Innovation Demonstration Grants**

USDA Rural Development offers a grant to establish and operate Agricultural Innovation Centers that will provide technical assistance to help rural businesses market value-added agricultural products. Deadline: March 20, 2020. [More info here.](#)

### **Colorado Department of Health & Environment Nonpoint Source Funding Opportunities**

Funding for watershed implementation projects that address water quality impairments caused by nonpoint sources of selenium, sediment, pathogens and/or nutrients or protect waterbodies currently meeting water quality standards from degradation due to nonpoint sources of pollution. Deadline: Feb. 3, 2020. [More info here.](#)

### **Colorado Creative Industries Career Advancement Grants**

This grant award supports Colorado creative entrepreneurs and artists to help support career growth and enhance their commercial creative business. The goal of funding is to assist awardees in achieving tangible business benefits such as increased revenue, new audiences/consumers or improved management practices. This is a great opportunity to expand your creative business! Deadline is rolling, [more info here.](#)

### **Kroger Foundation**

Deadline: Rolling. [More info here.](#) The purpose of this program is to make a difference in the communities where Kroger Co. operates by supporting the needs of communities and finding solutions to help end hunger. Funding will support nonprofit organizations focused on ending hunger, improving food security, and bringing balanced meals to families who need them most. The funding agency aims to help communities grow and prosper and make them better places to live and work. It focuses its efforts on the following key areas: Zero hunger/zero waste; Diversity and inclusion; Health and nutrition; Stronger communities.

### **USDA Technical Assistance & Training for Water and Wastewater Projects**

This USDA grant program assists communities with water or wastewater systems through free technical assistance and/or training. Examples of project types: Identify and evaluate solutions to water problems relating to source, storage, treatment, or distribution; identify and evaluate solutions to waste problems relating to collection, treatment, or disposal; assist applicants in the preparation of water and/or waste loan and/or grant applications; and/or provide technical assistance and/or training to water/wastewater system personnel that will improve the management, operation and maintenance of water and waste disposal facilities.

[Learn more and apply here.](#) Deadline: 12/31/19.

### **2020 Forest Service Wood Innovations Grant Program**

Deadline: 1/15/2020. The intent of the Wood Innovations Funding Opportunity is to stimulate, expand, and support wood products markets and wood energy markets.

Counties, municipalities, universities, for-profit businesses, and non-profit organizations may apply. More information [here](#). Program announcement [here](#).

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## Training, Workshops & Events

### NWCCOG Regional Economic Summit

Thursday, May 7, 2020 at the Silverthorne Pavilion

*NWCCOG is partnering with the Economic Development Council of Colorado (EDCC) in 2020 on our 3rd annual event.*

***Save the Date!***

*Registration opening soon!*

#### **Vail Innovation Hub Meetup**

January 20 in VailJoin the Vail Innovation Hub the third Tuesday of every month from 5:30 to 7:00 pm at Two Arrows Coffee & Bar in Vail Village for a night of collaborating and meeting other like-minded people. We invite a speaker every time who is growing their business in the mountains; then we open it up to questions and networking. Free to attend, everyone is welcome! The vibe is casual and fun. The idea is to make new connections, learn from each other and inspire others to start/grow a business here. [More info here.](#)

#### **Beating Burnout, Using Inspiration and Empowerment to Foster Successful Organizations**

January 23 from 8:30 am - 10 am at CMC Edwards Campus

Presented by the Vail Valley Business Forum.

Two-thirds of Americans report being burned out on the job - a staggering percentage of the workforce. But burnout isn't an abstract phenomenon: It's been shown to have serious health consequences up to and including precipitous death. But what's causing it? And what can we do about it? [More info and register here.](#)

#### **Business Series: So You Want to Start a Business**

January 28 in Glenwood Springs

Colorado Mountain College in Glenwood Springs will host a series of business basic workshops beginning January 28. Join SBDC Consultant Larry Williams for the whole series or pick and choose the topics most relevant to you. Advanced registration is required in order to guarantee the class will be held. [More info and register here.](#)

#### **Attract & Retain Great Talent**

January 30 in Edwards

Do you struggle filling open positions? Are experiencing high turnover rates on your staff? Join the Vail Valley Partnership, Northwest Colorado Workforce Area, and Skillful for an interactive workshop to give you the tools and techniques to hire and retain successful employees. This session will be valuable for anyone involved in hiring, from small business owners and managers to HR professionals for large organizations. [More info and register here.](#)

#### **Business Marketing Series**

**January in Winter Park - first Class Jan. 16**

Grand County Economic Development and Grand County Higher Education are sponsoring a series of business marketing topics throughout the month of January, followed by other topics each month in 2020. Class topics include social media, video, SEO, and email promotions. Scholarships are available. [More info and register here.](#)

#### **Biz-Opoly Business Summit**

February 21 in Glenwood Springs

The agenda will include breakout sessions and keynotes with small business owners in mind. Topics include buying and selling a business, HR, EOS, marketing, finance & more. Event specifics coming soon, and find more events posted [here](#).

### **Northwest Colorado Workforce Centers: Find/Keep Summit**

**April 2, 2020** at the Silverthorne Pavilion

Join us for a community conversation on attracting and retaining a workforce in Colorado's mountain and resort communities. Save the date, more information coming soon.

### **Downtown Colorado Inc. Annual Meeting 2020 - Colorado Challenge Accelerator Program**

**April 14 - 17, 2020** in Colorado Springs

DCI is proud to announce the application process is open to participate in the 2020 Colorado Challenge Accelerator Program! DCI has worked with over 24 communities to transform a challenge into an opportunity. Does your community have challenges you'd like to turn into opportunities? We can help! We've assisted with a variety of issues from branding to housing to downtown design and financing. Applications due Nov. 15 - [apply here](#).

### **Demystifying Entrepreneurship - Yampa Valley**

May 15 - 16 in Hayden, CO

The CU Leeds School of Business faculty is launching their popular entrepreneurship program in the Yampa Valley. This program is designed for startup entrepreneurs, current business owners, and community leaders looking at ways to support Yampa Valley's entrepreneurial community. More information and registration will soon be available through the [Northwest SBDC](#).

### **West Slope Startup Week**

June 1-5, 2020

Participate in hometown days throughout the region June 1-2 and meet your west slope neighbors in Grand Junction June 3-5. Want to see something specific on the agenda? Submit your requests and presentation proposals now through February 28. JOIN US and find more information [HERE](#).

### **CML Annual Conference**

**June 23 - 26, 2020** in Westminster

Save the date for CML's Annual Conference at the Westin Westminster (June 23-26, 2020). CML is currently developing the schedule and will announce the finalized, detailed agenda in an upcoming CML Newsletter publication. Registration will open in early 2020.

**Scholarships Available!** You must be an elected official, or a member of key management, or a department head (e.g., manager, finance director, clerk) of a CML member municipality to apply. Application and paperwork are due to CML by Wednesday, Feb. 19. Questions? Contact CML Training and Marketing Specialist Courtney Forehand at 303-831-6411, toll-free at 866-578-0936, or at [cforehand@cml.org](mailto:cforehand@cml.org).

### **Demystifying Entrepreneurship - Vail Valley**

The fourth year of CU's program in Vail is on the books. We welcome previous attendees and those interested to attend for the first time. Save the date, you will not want to miss this popular program!

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