



# Resources Bulletin

## Late January 2020

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



## Funding & Technical Assistance

### **Charge Ahead Grants for Electric Vehicle Charging Stations**

The Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC) and Colorado Energy Office (CEO) have opened the Charge Ahead Colorado application for electric vehicle (EV) and charging station funding. CEO has funding for charging stations for applicants outside of the Denver Metro Area.

All charging stations are required to be networked. Workplaces, multifamily buildings, and tourist destinations are strongly encouraged to apply. Deadline: Feb. 19. CEO contact: Addison Phillips, P: 303.866.2128.

[More info here.](#)

### **Rural Energy for America Grants**

Deadline: March 31, 2020. USDA offers REAP funding to support agricultural producers and rural small businesses to reduce energy costs and consumption with by purchasing and installing renewable energy systems and making energy efficiency improvements in their operations. [More info here.](#)

### **NEA Challenge America Grants to support the Arts to Underserved Populations**

Offers support to small and mid-sized organizations for projects that extend the reach of the arts to underserved populations - those whose opportunities to experience the arts are limited by geography, ethnicity, economics, or disability. Eligible Applicants: Local governments, institutions of higher education and nonprofit organizations. Funding Information: Awards of \$10,000 offered. Deadline: April 9th, 2020. [More info here.](#)

### **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation: Resilient Communities**

The Resilient Communities program, an initiative of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation with support from Wells Fargo, aims to help communities prepare, strengthen, and bounce back more quickly after a disaster. Grants will range from \$100,000 to \$500,000, depending on the category. Nonprofit organizations, local and state government agencies, are eligible to apply. The pre-proposal deadline is February 18, 2020; invited full proposals must be submitted by April 28, 2020. [Visit the NFWF website](#) to review the request for proposals.

### **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.

### **USDA ReConnect Grant Program**

The USDA will begin taking applications this Friday, January 31 for the second round of \$550 million in ReConnect Program loan and grant funding. That window closes on Monday, March 16. Connected Nation wants to help you understand how YOUR area can leverage this program to connect more families, businesses, and communities. [Join the webinar](#) on Wednesday, February 5 to learn more about how the program works and answer your questions about applying.

### **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](#).

### **Emergency Department Alternatives to Opioids Demonstration Program**

Grant program seeks to develop and implement alternatives to opioids for pain management in hospitals and emergency department settings. Interests include developing targeted treatment approaches, training providers and other hospital personnel, developing or continuing strategies to provide alternatives to opioids. Deadline: March 17, 2020. [More info 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).

### **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).

### **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 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](#).

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## Access to Capital

### Lender Match: Find an SBA-approved Lender Near You

Did you know about 200,000 small business owners have been matched with an SBA-approved lender through Lender Match? Lender Match is a free online referral tool that connects small businesses with participating SBA-approved lenders. [Get matched with an SBA-approved lender](#).

### Northwest Loan Fund

The Northwest Loan Fund (NLF) offers business loans that will bring value to the local economy in the 9 Northwest counties we serve: Eagle, Garfield, Grand, Jackson, Moffat, Pitkin, Rio Blanco, Routt, and Summit. We can guide you to the right combination of funding if you want to expand, acquire, or start a business; are looking for favorable rates; just have questions. Contact: Anita Cameron, Director of Business Lending, 970.455.1059, [Anita@NorthwestLoanFund.org](mailto:Anita@NorthwestLoanFund.org), or visit [NLF website](#).

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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)  
and the Colorado Department of Local Affairs for this event*

**Save the Date!**

*Registration opening soon!*



### Colorado Workforce - Find & Keep Summit

Thursday, April 2 at the Silverthorne Pavilion

Join us for Find/Keep: A community conversation on workforce attraction and retention in Northwest Colorado. Businesses from across the region will talk about best practices and effective strategies for recruiting and retaining employees. How do businesses attract and retain the workforce they need in an era of record-low unemployment rates? Join businesses in Northwest Colorado's mountain and resort communities to learn best and promising practices in the field of talent attraction and retention, hear area economic projections, and network with businesses from communities with similar economic drivers.

[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](#).

### **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](#).

### **Workshop on Industrial Hemp Production**

**February 12**

The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: Is Farming Industrial Hemp Right for You?

The new farm bill includes a provision to allow industrial hemp production in the U.S and Colorado. While the crop may be an option for farmers looking to diversify their system, there's a lot of information to gather and consider before major decisions are made. Lunch will be provided but is only guaranteed to those that [RSVP](#). Event is free.

### **Rocky Mountain Land Use Institute 2020 Annual Western Places/Western Spaces Conference**

March 5-6

For RMLUI's 29th Western Places/Western Spaces conference, we will be looking at the ways in which we can use design, planning tools, and creative approaches to better plan for a future that will be different from the known past. In addition, we will consider how our built environments, using mixed use design, transportation infrastructure, and even building codes, can help reduce our impact on climate change and create a more comfortable and sustainable living environment. Registration [here](#).

### **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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## **Vision 2020**

[Vision 2020](#) is a network of organizations and individuals across Colorado who are working to update Colorado's tax code to better serve the needs of communities across the state. As part of this effort, they are asking for feedback on possible ballot measures. This [online survey](#) asks for your thoughts on the measures Vision 2020 is testing and gives you the opportunity to rank your preferences. Your input will inform the decision about which measure will appear on the November 2020 ballot. That decision will be made in mid February.

Completing the [survey](#) takes 10 minutes. The FAQs linked in the tool are a great resource as you move through the questions. If you are interested in learning more about the policy options or have questions about Vision 2020, you can check out this [one-pager](#) on the Vision 2020 organization or you can attend [Vision 2020 Info Hour](#), a weekly webinar with background information and updates. You can also get involved in the petitioning effort [here](#).

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## **Employment Law Changes**

### **Labor department adopts new overtime and minimum pay standards rule**

The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment's Division of Labor Standards and Statistics has adopted as final the Colorado Overtime and Minimum Pay Standards Order, effective March 16, 2020. Significant changes include that the overtime rule now applies to all industries. There is also an increase to the minimum salary required in order to classify an employee as exempt (\$35,568 with subsequent annual increases). See the [full release](#) for more information.