



# Resources Bulletin

July 29, 2020

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



## Funding & Technical Assistance

### **Energize Colorado Gap Fund**

The [Energize Colorado Gap Fund](#) will provide more than \$25 million in small business loans and grants to boost small businesses impacted by COVID-19. Sole proprietors, businesses and nonprofits with less than 25 full-time employees can apply for up to a \$15,000 grant and a \$20,000 loan for a possible combined total of \$35,000 in financial assistance.

The application is scheduled for an August 1, 2020 launch. [Sign up to Energize Colorado's email list to be alerted when the application opens.](#) Eligibility: You must be either a small business or enterprise, nonprofit, have fewer than 25 employees, be impacted by COVID-19. Any eligible Colorado small enterprise is welcome to apply. Priority will be given to the following applicants:

majority-owned by black, indigenous, people of color, veterans, or women; in rural areas with population of less than 50,000 people; in the tourism sector; with limited or no access to capital financing or other federal, state or local grants/loans. Energize Colorado will provide a mentoring program to assist in filing this application including translation.

### **GOCO Resilient Communities Program**

Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) has launched a \$15 million [Resilient Communities Program](#) to help fund one-time, immediate needs or opportunities that have emerged in direct response to the pandemic, which include: capacity and operations support, stewardship, community vitality, and urgent and emergent land acquisitions. For more information, including eligibility criteria and application forms, please visit [GOCO website](#). Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

### **Colorado Office of Economic Development & International Trade Grant Opportunities Webinar Series**

Wednesday, July 29, 2020 - 11:00 am to 12:30 pm - [register here](#)

Thursday, August 6, 2020 - 10:00 am to 11:30 pm - [register here](#)

OEDIT will be hosting a series of webinars for Colorado companies to learn about different grant and funding opportunities available to you. We'll also be presenting about the office's international export and foreign direct investment strategies. Each webinar will contain the same information and be held two more times in July and August. The webinar will cover:

- Advanced Industries Accelerator Programs
- Export and FDI strategy
- The State Trade Expansion Program
- Services offered by the U.S. Export Assistance Center
- Services offered by the Small Business Administration office

### **Cigna Foundation's Healthier Kids for Our Future Initiative**

Seeks to improve the health and well-being of children. The initiative is currently offering the following grant opportunities: Food Insecurity Grants focus on programs, in and outside the school environment, that attempt to address gaps in delivering food and nutritional education to children. Mental Health Grants focus on programs that foster collaboration between stakeholders, including school administrators and teachers, clinicians, and local and national nonprofits, to address mental health and emotional well-being challenges for children. U.S. nonprofit organizations and school systems are eligible to apply. Deadline: September 30, 2020 - more info here: <https://www.cigna.com/about-us/corporate-responsibility/healthier-kids-for-our-future/>.

### **Corporation for National & Community Service - RSVP Program**

The RSVP Competition is a senior volunteer program that engages people age 55 and older in a diverse range of volunteer activities. RSVP volunteers tutor children, renovate homes, assist victims of natural disasters, provide independent living services, recruit and manage other volunteers, and serve in their communities in many other ways. Focus areas include disaster services, economic opportunity, education, environmental stewardship, healthy futures, and veterans and military families. The application deadline is September 1, 2020. [More info here.](#)

### **Statewide Internet Portal Authority (SIPA) Micro-grant Program**

Micro-Grant funding is for projects that support SIPA's mission of providing residents access to government through effective and efficient online and mobile technologies. This program is designed to connect residents to government by putting more information and services online. Eligible entities include local governments, special districts, K-12, colleges. For questions about the User Conference & Micro-Grant Program, please call Beth Justice: 720-409-5636 or [visit website](#).

## **Resources**

### **Covid adds new questions for businesses**

*By Patrick Brower, Enterprise Facilitator, Grand Enterprise Initiative  
[published in Ski Hi News, 7/17/2020](#)*

Many people who want to start new enterprises or expand and improve their existing businesses feel intimidated by the idea of having a business plan. And now, in the age of COVID-19, any business plan must be written with this key question in place: How will COVID-19 affect my business? Consider the likelihood of quarantines and stay-at-home orders that will surely affect business levels. For some, these mean lower levels of revenue. For other, they mean higher levels. But it's important to anticipate. We don't know when these stay-at-home orders will be issued but it's wise to assume they will come and go as the virus ebbs and flows in the country and our county. Plan for uncertainty. Plan around liability concerns and safety issues for both employees and customers. This is not an easy problem to work around.

And most important, plan for the fact that the COVID-19 pandemic will end. After that we will all need to be ready to be back in business under the new normal. For some, the idea of writing anything, business plan or not, is daunting. Beyond that, the idea that a person would have to do financial projections, draw up a mission statement and figure out a marketing plan just seems, at first blush, like too much. But an effective business plan doesn't have to be rocket science. And as I tell my clients, they don't have to write all of it. The members of their

team can help write the aspects of the plan that apply to their expertise.

So what are the elements of a good, basic business plan? From my perspective, it involves asking and then answering these questions:

- **Who is my customer?**
- **Why is the customer going to buy my product or service?**
- **How will they hear about my company?**
- **How will the entrepreneur do the business?**
- **How much will the product or service of this enterprise cost?**
- **How much will the owner make?**
- **Where does the owner / operator want to be five years from now?**

For anyone pondering an entrepreneurial idea, answering these questions will do a lot to get started on the right foot. Read entire article [HERE](#).

*Patrick Brower is the Enterprise Facilitator for the Grand Enterprise Initiative, a Grand County based non-profit that provides free and confidential business management coaching to anyone who wants to start or expand a business in Grand County. To contact Patrick, email him at [patrickbrower@kapoks.org](mailto:patrickbrower@kapoks.org).*

### **CML Colorado Laws Enacted Affecting Municipal Governments**

Each year, CML analyzes the laws passed by the General Assembly that affect cities and towns. 2020 Colorado Laws Enacted Affecting Municipal Governments focuses on selected acts that have a particular significance for municipal operations, services, and powers. It is not a comprehensive listing of all new legislation enacted into law affecting municipal government. 2020 Colorado Laws Enacted Affecting Municipalities is available to all for free - along with several past editions - online at [bit.ly/3f7aRTn](http://bit.ly/3f7aRTn).

## **Virtual Educational Opportunities**

### **Federal Financing Webinar: U.S. Small Business Administration**

July 31 | 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. FREE | [Register here](#)

Offered by the Council of Development Financing Agencies. Join a critical discussion with the SBA with a comprehensive line-up of SBA leaders discussing all of their major programs, as well as special insight from their disaster recovery team.

### **Big Talks About the Future Topic: Destination**

August 25 | 4-5 pm | [Register here](#)

Offered by Downtown Colorado, Inc. Roger Brooks will inspire and empower with engaging stories, laugh-out-loud humor, and step-by-step instructions leading to incredible success. A leading urbanist, futurist, and downtown innovator, Roger is leading the charge in the creation of great places you'd want to invest in, live in, and visit.

### **Colorado Municipal League Virtual Annual Conference**

August 25 - 27

CML has gone VIRTUAL! CML is hosting its first ever Virtual Conference August 25-27. This conference is instrumental in offering training opportunities for local governments across Colorado. Visit [CML Website](#) for more information on the conference.

### **Economic Development Council of Colorado**

#### **Virtual Series III: Special Districts**

August 19 | 10 a.m. | [Register here](#)

Our Special Districts including DDA's, BID's and URA's have seen the greatest impact during the current economic crisis. We will explore ways to support our strategic partners who manage some of the greatest tools Economic Developers have in their tool chest.

**Downtown Colorado, Inc. Speaker Series**

More info and register here: <http://downtowncoloradoinc.org/event-3895302>

Aug 25 4pm Destination Development, Roger Brooks

Sept 29 4pm, Taxation and Business, Joe Minicozzi

Oct 27, 4pm, The Future of Streets, Jeff Speck

**Statewide Rural Forum | SAVE THE DATE - September 30, 2020**

Community Resource Center will bring together nonprofits, funders, and government agencies in a virtual town-hall style forum to address the most pressing needs communities are facing this fall and beyond. [More info here.](#)

**Summit Biz Weekly Coffee Meetups and Educational Sessions**

The Summit Chamber is hosting weekly coffee meetups, every Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. These meetups are informal and fun! Educational Sessions will be held every Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. and will include a featured speaker. For more information, please visit the [Summit Chamber Facebook page.](#)