		NWCCOG Full Council, EDD Board, and NLF Board Meeting Agenda	
		Thursday, June 5, 2025 Gypsum Conference Room NWCCOG Energy Office and Zoom Conference Call 210 Spring Creek Rd., Gypsum, CO	
Video & Phone Conference Information Join Zoom Meeting: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/4343110995?pwd=rbIHmpYikShSFje2tpMbd1ODJlEZrep.1&omn=84471408 Meeting ID: 434 311 0995 Passcode: 119033		August NWCCOG Meeting Thursday, August 7, 2025 Steamboat Area 9am - 12pm	
NWCCOG Council and NLF Board Meeting			
9:00 AM	1.	Call to Order - NWCCOG Council Chair Region 12 SFY25 SUA Evaluation Energy Program AWESOME State Audit-Monitoring Letter	Pgs 4-11
	2.	Roll Call and Determination of Quorum, Celebrations	
	3.	ACTION: Minutes of March 2025 Council Meeting*	Pgs 12-14
	4.	ACTION: Tabled Action Item: Change of NWCCOG CRA 401a contribution to fixed 6% + Match * Council requested additional data - comps to other jurisdictions * Jon Stavney, Comps Spreadsheet, Klint Armistad, CRA - PPT "I move to Authorize the Executive Director to update the retirement plan to offer a fixed employee contribution of 6% matched by the organization..." Presentations and Updates	Pgs 15-17
9:15 AM	5.	ACTION: 2024 Audit Presentation, Clifton Larson Allen *Sam Hellwege, Principal Assurance "I move to approve the results of the NWCCOG 2024 Audit..."	Published June 1 Posted when Received
	6.	PRESENTATION: Brownfields are more than you think. Dan Brown, President Partners https://partnersenv.com/	USEPA Brownfield Presentation
9:45 AM	7.	PRESENTATION: Vintage MEDICARE Jonnah Glassman, NWCCOG SHIP Medicare and Volunteer Coordinator * 2025 Open Enrollment Data * Background on Medicare * Current Status of Medicare Program *Vintage - Budget Update Currently Funds OAA 6.3.25	PPT Available Post Meeting Pgs 18-22
10:00 AM	8.	UPDATE: NWCCOG Program Funding Status * Vintage, AAA Programs at Risk (PDF: Status of AAA Vintage..., Aspen Daily News: Federal Funding Cuts...) * Energy, LEAP proposed (PDF: Utility Dive...) * Energy Kudos: (PDF: Energy Program AWESOME...) * EDD	Program Funding Attachment
	9.	ACTION: Request NWCCOG Members send letters to Congress supporting at risk programs Regular NWCCOG Business	
	10.	UPDATE: Smart Cities Conference Overview: Nate Walowitz	Pgs 23-28
11:20 p.m.	11.	ACTION: Dues?	

12. **Executive Director Updates** (Jon Stavney)

Finance: Update on OnBoarding Process, search for HRM Platform

ACTION: Q1 2025 Balance Sheet
Q1 2025 Statement of Revenues & Expenditures

[Q1 NWCCOG Balance Sheet](#)

[NWCCOG Q1 Revenues Expenditures](#)

FYI In Packet: Tom Clark (Past Kremmling Mayor and NWCCOG Champion passed)
Travel Down -- EDD Summit in the News

Pgs 29-35

Docs Separate: On Attempt to sell public lands, National Forests, National Parks, Steamboat Ski Train

Travel bookings down, Colorado business confidence, muni bonds,
Fraser Housing, Silverthorne Mgr, Basalt Mgr.

[Executive Call Outs Attachment](#)

13. **Congressional Update: From any Reps Present (attachments Below)**

11:45 p.m. 14. **Member Updates**

15. **Program Updates**

12:00pm 16. **ACTION** Adjourn NWCCOG Meeting*

*Requires Vote

NWCCOG Officers

NWCCOG Council Chair Alyssa Shenk
NWCCOG Council Vice-Chair Patti Clapper

NWCCOG Council Secretary/Treasurer Nina Waters

NWCCOG Executive Committee

Region XII County Members Nina Waters, **Patti Clapper, Tim Redmond, Jeanne McQueeney, Randal George, Coby Corkle

Municipal Members Alyssa Shenk* Geoff Grimmer Kristen Brownson Nina Waters



NWCCOG EDD Board Meeting Agenda

Thursday, March 20, 2025

Gypsum Conference Room NWCCOG Energy Office and Zoom Conference Call
210 Spring Creek Rd., Gypsum, CO

Video & Phone Conference Information

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/4343110995?pwd=rbIHmpYikShSFje2tpMbd1ODIEZrep.1&omn=84471408>

Meeting ID: **Passcode:**

434 311 0995 **119033**

Next COG EDD Meeting

Thursday, August 7, 2025
Steamboat Area
12:30pm - 2:30pm

NWCCOG Economic Development District (EDD) Board Meeting

12:30pm 1. Call to Order - EDD Board Chair, DiAnn Butler

2. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

3. **ACTION** EDD: Minutes of March 2025 EDD Meeting*

Via Email

4. **Presentation:**

5 **UPDATE: Regional Talent Summit -**

6. **UPDATE:** 2025 Regional Economic Summit Recap

7. **Discussion:** Roundtable discussion of Economic Development News from Members

8. **Discussion:** New Business

2:30pm 9. **ACTION** Adjourn EDD Meeting*

*Requires Vote

NWCCOG EDD Officers

NWCCOG EDD Chair

DiAnn Butler

NWCCOG EDD Secretary

NWCCOG EDD Vice-Chair

Patti Clapper



Ms. Alyssa Shenk, Chairperson
Snowmass Village Town Council
Vintage
P.O. Box 2308
249 Warren Ave.
Silverthorne, CO 80498

May 27, 2025

Dear Ms. Shenk:

The Division of Aging and Adult Protective Services, State Unit on Aging (SUA), completed a desk evaluation on May 5, 2025, of the Older Americans Act (OAA) and State Funding for Senior Services (SFSS) programs operated by or under contract to Region 12, Northwest Colorado Council of Governments (Vintage).

The evaluation summary report provides an overview of the evaluation including Strengths, Areas of Concern, and Compliance Issues. No Areas of Concern or Compliance Issues were noted.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Laura Strother at laura.strother@state.co.us.

Thank you for your cooperation during our evaluation process.

Sincerely,

Candise Johnnie

Division of Aging and Adult Protective Services

CC: Erin Fisher





Evaluation Summary Report Region 12

On May 5, 2025, a desk evaluation to review program effectiveness and efficiency for SFY25 was completed for Region 12, Northwest Colorado Council of Governments (Vintage). All evaluation documentation was submitted and reviewed prior to the meeting. Karen Klein and Candise Johnnie, with the State Unit on Aging, conducted the evaluation. The evaluation consisted of interviews with the following AAA staff:

Vintage staff: Erin Fisher, Amanda Rens-Moon

STRENGTHS:

- Region 12 uses a tool to monitor monthly data entry during the reimbursement process. This helps reduce errors and is much appreciated by SUA staff!
- The providers in Region 12 demonstrate a high level of commitment, quality of service provision, and compassion. It was difficult to pick a few client satisfaction survey comment highlights from the most recent survey. Here a few that demonstrate the exceptional customer service being provided by the providers in Region 12:

“Impact?! You saved my life. Without you, all of you, I would have no life!!”
(re. Pitkin County case management services)

“It’s the BEST run program I have ever participated in!” (re. Eagle County congregate meal program)

“Everytime that I come in contact with someone from the Seniors Center, I am impressed by their sincere and effective desire to help me meet my needs. They are truly gifted people answering the best of callings.” (re. Mountain Family transportation services)

AREAS OF CONCERN:

There were no areas of concern identified at this time.

COMPLIANCE ISSUES:

There were no compliance issues identified at this time.



Fiscal Monitoring Report

Program Year 25 Performance Period July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

Northwest Colorado Council of Governments (NWCCOG)

- HEADQUARTERS -
249 Warren Avenue
Silverthorne, CO 80498

Report Number: FY25 FM CCOG-01

Date(s): March 21, 2025

Contract: GAE 21-217 A12

Subgrantee Staff: Doug Jones
Nate Speerstra
Elaina West
Kevin Vermillion

Monitors: Alicia Armentrout
Brandon Watkins

Report Sent: March 31, 2025

Signature Page Due: Close of business, Monday, April 28, 2025

A. Introduction

A review of Northwest Colorado Council of Governments fiscal administration of the Colorado Energy Office Weatherization Assistance Program (CEO WAP) for Program Year 2025 (PY25) was conducted throughout March 2025 and reviewed via an online meeting with CEO WAP Senior Program Manager, Alicia Armentrout, and CEO WAP Associate Director, Brandon Watkins. The purpose of this review was to assess the current level of fiscal performance, as well as the fiscal compliance and administration of WAP by Northwest Colorado Council of Governments Weatherization Assistance Program.

B. Organizational Information

NWCCOG's organizational structure is adequate to properly administer WAP. Their Board of Directors are sufficiently involved in contract activities, as well as, the reviewing of core programmatic metrics, and approving of new contracts and subsequent amendments. NWCCOG has, and will continue, to align their organizational chart as staffing levels change and their Board of Directors will continue to interact with CEO WAP as necessary and required. NWCCOG staff have the ability to navigate applicable federal regulations.

C. Methodology

The review was conducted by utilizing the CEO WAP administrative monitoring desk audit tool and fiscal questionnaire which all subgrantees received prior to its use. The tool addresses:

1. General Ledgers
2. Financial Management and Policy
3. Conflict of Interest
4. Insurance
5. Procurement
6. Inventory

D. Fiscal Monitoring Review

1. Review of General Ledgers

NWCCOG's general ledger sampling of accounts payable, payroll, and travel expense entries were deemed appropriate and fell within the WAP Policy 201 Allowable Expenditure requirements. Review of the selected general ledger entries were overall deemed appropriate and NWCCOG has an updated policy around journal vouchers. Timesheets were much improved and supported by time and effort records and certification. Timesheets continue to be signed and dated by employees and supervisors with distinction between funding sources and categories that get billed to CEO WAP based on [2 CFR 200.430](#). Related, administrative costs have a basis for their costs, and NWCCOG has updated their billing procedures to ensure compliance with 2 CFR 200. It was confirmed with NWCCOG that Doug Jones provides approval for travel to conferences, which is documented for conference travel. Review 2 CFR 200.475, as the justification should include why participation of the individual is necessary for the Federal award. Finally, NWCCOG is reminded to approve only line itemed receipts; all back up documentation was adequate and thorough for purchases, it was the only one smaller receipt that was not.

2. Financial Management & Policy

NWCCOG's financial management, employee payroll and reimbursement and travel policies and procedures were reviewed and are all adequate and compliant. NWCCOG's financial management policy and procedures are compliant with adequate checks and balances and segregation of duties in place. A review of their most recent single audit, chart of accounts, and cost allocation plan revealed that NWCCOG maintains accurate financial records. Per their external auditor, for 2024 they are a low risk audittee. Once the 2024 audit is completed, the audit should be shared with CEO before next year's fiscal monitoring.

3. Conflict of Interest

NWCCOG's conflict of interest policies were reviewed and deemed adequate and compliant.

4. Insurance

NWCCOG's active general liability, automobile, workers' compensation, and cyber/network security and privacy liability coverages were deemed compliant. NWCCOG has not been debarred from doing business with the Federal government, State of Colorado, or any other state, and NWCCOG self-attested they are checking to ensure their vendors have not been debarred from doing business with the aforementioned entities as well.

5. Procurement

NWCCOG's procurement and purchasing policy, processes, and segregation of duties are compliant. NWCCOG has clear procedures for evaluating responses, and informing vendors that its bid has been accepted. No formal solicitations have been required, but informal bids have been collected. Those informal bids were reviewed and deemed acceptable.

6. Inventory

NWCCOG's capital equipment documentation and vehicle record processes are adequate. It has a current capital equipment inventory tracking sheet that captures breakout of funding, percentage that is federally funded, original purchase price, date purchased, description, condition, disposal date, disposal method, and price sold. The warehouse manager does a cost comparison of inventory items that is documented.

E. Action Items

Review of last year's recommendations

Recommendation #1: Implement time and effort certification for employees, especially for administrative staff; review [2 CFR 200.430](#).

2025 Review: Appropriate improvements made and time sheets provide backup for the hours charged to the WAP grants and funding sources.

Recommendation #2: Update NWCCOG's financial policy with the journal voucher process.

2025 Review: Policy updated and provided.

Recommendation #3: Backup documentation for journal vouchers are expected in the desk audit process for fiscal monitoring going forward.

2025 Review: Backup documentation was more thorough.

Recommendation #4: Put all travel policies in one place, or reference the standardized per diem rate from the employee handbook in the travel policy.

2025 Review: Travel form and policies were available and understandable.

Minor Deficiencies, Recommendations and Best Practices

Minor Deficiencies

None

Recommendations

Recommendation #1: Related to non-conventional lodging. Please note, your travel policy may allow for non-conventional lodging (i.e. AirBnb), but justification must be included for the use of nonconventional lodging and, ideally, such justification is approved in advance. Nonconventional lodging typically includes fees not included in conventional lodging (e.x. cleaning fees) and conventional lodging should be pursued first, per federal guidance. Non-conventional lodging should only be reimbursed at prevailing maximum lodging per diem rate for location.

Best Practices

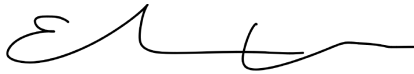
Best Practice #1: There were some major changes required of NWCCOG in their fiscal administration of the weatherization program and the willingness of the fiscal staff, specifically Elaina West, to work through those changes and listen and collaborate with CEO WAP is noted and appreciated.

Best Practice #2: Ongoing training on uniform guidance for administrative staff is applauded, please use training and technical assistance funds for ongoing education around fiscal management and federal funds.

E. Subgrantee Acknowledgement and Performance Statement

By signing and dating below, I acknowledge having received and reviewed this fiscal monitoring report and will retain a copy for my records Please sign and date below and return the signature page via email by close of business, Monday, April 28, 2024.

We would like to thank the NWCCOG for their participation, as well as assistance and cooperation and with thorough responses. NWCCOG is presently meeting performance expectations as aligned with its current contract, as amended, and continues to be a capable administrator of CEO WAP. Questions, comments, or concerns can be submitted in writing to Brandon Watkins (Brandon.Watkins@state.co.us).



Northwest Colorado Council of Governments
Authorized Representative Signature

04/03/2025

Date



Alicia Armentrout
Senior Program Manager

4/3/2025

Date



Brandon Watkins
Associate Director

4/3/2025

Date



Northwest Colorado Council of Governments

NWCCOG Council Meeting Minutes

March 20, 2025

Executive Board Members

Patti Clapper – Pitkin County
Nina Waters – Summit County

NWCCOG Staff:

Jon Stavney
Becky Walter
Anita Cameron – NLF
Moir Vander Meer
Jonathan Godes – Grants Navigator
Barbara Green – Counsel Green and Sullivan
Rachel Tuyn – EDD
Erin Fisher – Vintage
Doug Jones – Energy Program
Dana Wood – Mobility Program

Others Present

Janeth Stangle – Office of Senator Hickenlooper
Tom Boyd – Eagle County
Jeffrey Woodruff – Pitkin County
Jonnah Glassman – Town of Silverthorne
Erin McCuskey – Eagle County
Sam Rose – City of Aspen
Keith Hensley – Routt County
Randy George – Grand County
Diane McBride – Town of Frisco
Geoff Grimmer – Town of Eagle
Dan Sullivan – Town of Keystone
Carolyn Tucker – SBDC
DiAnn Butler – Grand County
Hilary Henry – Senator Bennet Representative
Kris Mattera – Basalt Chamber of Commerce
Corry Mihm – Project Works
Jacob Zook – City of Glenwood Springs
John Bristol – Routt County
Melissa Matthews – Town of Red Cliff
Michael Buccino – City of Steamboat Springs

ACTION Call to Order NWCCOG Council Meeting

Patti Clapper, NWCCOG Council Vice Chair, called the Northwest Colorado Council of Governments (NWCCOG) meeting to order at 10:00 am. Quorum was confirmed with introductions of attendees.

ACTION Approval of January 2025 Council Minutes

M/S: Jeffrey Woodruff made a motion to approve the January 2025 NWCCOG Minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Tom Boyd.

Passed: Yes

Presentation

Barbara Green, NWCCOG General Counsel presented on Navigating Legal Changes. Topics covered included making sense of Executive Orders and evolving court cases and case law, recommendations on discrimination as state versus federal definitions, changing procurement and recipients of federal fund grants, and the power local governments must regulate on federal land. NWCCOG looks to identify programs for which award selections have included the following elements: equity activities, diversity, equity, inclusion, DEI, climate change activities, environmental justice, gender-specific activities, primary focus on bicycle infrastructure, charging infrastructure. Any of these programs may not meet the new administration criteria for funding. A review of DEI orders and EPS-related orders are being pulled back on regulatory requirements, which is resulting in litigation from different organizations and states. The outlook is that there will be a lot of back and forth between what is acceptable and what is not for funding from the federal side, with litigation changing the outlook almost daily. Keeping focus on the localized issues and not entering the national political field will keep the programs in question out of the national debate and staying away from items that create public forum. It is possible that grants will require mandates that do not match the values of the entity, but to receive the grant, those concessions will need to be made. Extending funds without reimbursement may become more

commonplace, so holding out on spending until the funding is secured and received is one path, though this does not cover grants that are reimbursement grants.

Update – Jonathan Godes NWCCOG Regional Grants Navigator

Jonathan has a new role with the I-70 Coalition as Director. Jonathan will remain as the NWCCOG Grants Navigator alongside his new responsibilities. Discussion of the CAMP Grant, with its focus on bicycle programs for high-density housing developments and concerns of conflicts of interest and sustainability of funding, along with the funding being quarterly, may have an impact on housing developments and community infrastructure.

Discussion – NWCCOG 401a Contribution and review of January and February NWCCOG List of Bills

Currently, employees of NWCCOG can choose the percentage of contribution in the 401a program from 3.5% to 6% with employer match. As this is a replacement for the Social Security contribution, even at 6%, it is less than the Social Security contribution of 6.2%. NWCCOG would like to explore making the contribution a mandatory 6% as once the contribution is chosen, it cannot be changed. The Council asked that further information provided at the next Council meeting of how many staff are under the 6% threshold and what a rough cost of having future staff enroll at 6% may be. January and February NWCCOG List of Bills was reviewed.

ACTION – I-70 Coalition Request of Funding for I-70 Economic Study Update from 2007

The contribution could be as much as \$5000.00 with an initial contribution of \$1000.00. This is to redo the study that was initially done in 2007 which showed that every hour Vail Pass is closed cost \$1million. CDOT estimates that the amount is now closer to \$1.6 million. NWCCOG would like to support the I-70 Coalition in redoing this study. Motion to approve brought by Geoff Grimmer, seconded by Tom Boyd.

Passed: Yes

Update – NWCCOG Energy Program Profit Sharing for 2024

Approximately seven years ago, different programs were added as fee-for-service programs like what was already being done with weatherization but generating a surplus. The idea was to reward employees due to the many challenges of being a competitive employer especially in the energy sector. Half of the surplus is taken every year and a profit share program for the Energy Program employees as well as the administrative staff under Indirect was implemented. All of this was a result of diversifying funding, adding programs, delivering more benefits to the region, and the families in the region. Each of the service homes generates a surplus, and half goes to the reserve fund for the Energy Program, and half is divided among the employees.

ACTION – Move May NWCCOG Council Meeting to June and Move July NWCCOG Council Meeting to August

NWCCOG made a request to move the May 22, 2025, NWCCOG Meeting to June 5, 2025 and move the July 24, 2025, NWCCOG Council Meeting to August 7, 2025. Tom Boyd made the motion to approve. Geoff Grimmer seconded the motion.

Passed: Yes

ACTION – Adjourn the NWCCOG Council Meeting and Reconvene as NLF Board

Motion for NWCCOG Council Meeting to adjourn and NLF Board to convene was made by Tom Boyd. The motion was seconded by Tom Boyd. The NWCCOG Council Meeting adjourned at 11:37am. NLF Board Meeting was convened at 11:37 am.

Passed: Yes

ACTION – NLF Board Approval of January 2025 NLF Board Meeting Minutes

Motion was made for the approval of the January 2025 NLF Board Meeting Minutes. Geoff Grimmer made the motion to approve the January 2025 NLF Board Meeting Minutes. Tom Boyd seconded the motion.

Passed: Yes

ACTION – NLF Board Approval of 2024 End-of-Year Financials

Motion was made by the NLF Board to approve the 2024 End-of-Year Financials for NLF. Tome Boyd made the motion to approve the financials. Geoff Grimmer seconded the motion.

Passed: Yes

Update – Letters of Support or Opposition

Discussion on letters of support or opposition to bills being presented which impact on our jurisdictions.

HB25-1056 – Should NWCCOG send a letter to sponsors Roberts and Lukens, re, Breckenridge.

HB25-1247 – Should NWCCOG send letter: re, raising the lodging tax cap from 2% to 6%

Public Lands Staff Terminations – Should NWCCOG send letter to delegation re, Grand County

Selling or Drilling on Public Lands – Should NWCCOG send letter concerning Public Land use for drilling or the sale of public lands.

Support was given to any municipality that would like to submit letters of their own, with the guidance to keep it short and to the point of how these changes impact our area.

Hilary Henry from Senator Bennet's office highlighted the need for local governments to report issues related to frozen grants and federal employee reductions. She mentioned that Senator Bennet is focused on the Fix Our Forest Act, which aims to address permitting reform while ensuring adequate funding and staffing for forestry work. Additionally, Janeth from Senator Hickenlooper's office provided updates on the funding freeze and shared resources for federal employees.

- Communication strategies between local governments and federal representatives
- Federal funding issues and their impact on local governments
- Communication Strategies: Strategies for local governments to address community concerns regarding federal mandates and funding.
- Resources for federal employees affected by funding freezes
- Upcoming deadlines for grant requests

ACTION – Adjournment of the NWCCOG Council Meeting

A motion was made to adjourn the NWCCOG Council Meeting by Geoff Grimmer. Randy George seconded the motion. The NWCCOG Council meeting was adjourned at 12:23pm.

Alyssa Shenk, NWCCOG Council Chair

Date



MEMORANDUM

To: NWCCOG Council
From: Jon Stavney, Executive Director and Becky Walter, Finance Director
Date: June 5th, 2025
Re: **Employee Retirement plan Change**

Request: Plan Change to NWCCOG 401a Retirement (Replacement Social Security) to remove option of a range of options for employee match below 6% to be fixed at 6% with full NWCCOG match instead.

Justification: NWCCOG Employees are “under invested” in their retirement plan with the Social Security Opt-Out situation. Including the organization match, they are contributing less than they would be in SS. There is no employee opposition to this change. It simplifies one of the OnBoarding decisions which can be overwhelming.

Background: This Retirement Plan change request to fix the employee contribution at 6% which is the maximum that NWCCOG matches for their retirement fund was raised at the March 2025 meeting and tabled to gather more information for Council. *Employees cannot change their contribution after their initial decision unless there is a Plan Change.* Six existing employees in the Energy Program had chosen contributions between the minimum of 3.75% (1) to 5% (4). This put their overall retirement contribution plus match below what they would be contributing to Social Security. The two EIP employees were fine with the change. NWCCOG opted out of SS long ago.

Peer Organizations:

See Attached Spreadsheet.

NWCCOG Retirement Plan Comps 2025

State Law Min.03 for Employees											
	Provider	Social Security	Employee SS Match	401a or other Vesting	401a	Employee 401a	Employer 401a Match	401a Max Matched Total	Annual Increases	Max SS + 401a w/EM<	Employee 457b
NWCCOG Current	CRA	Opted Out		No	Yes	3.5% - 6.0%	Same	7% - 12%	No	12.0%	up to \$23,500
NWCCOG Proposed	CRA	Opted Out		No	Yes	6.0%	6.0%	12.0%	No	12.0%	up to \$23,501
Avon		Opted Out		No	No	11.0%	11.0%	22.0%	Town		
Breckenridge		6.2%	6.2%	Yes	Yes	1% >5 years	7.0%	10%	Up to 7% >5 yrs		
Dillon		6.2%	6.2%	No	Yes	5.0%	5.0%	10%	No	22.2%	up to 3%
Frisco	CRA	6.2%	6.2%	Yes	Yes	3.0%	3.0%	6.0%	Up to 10%	12.3% <	
Fraser	CRA	6.2%	6.2%	Yes	Yes >6mo	4.0%	4.0%	8.0%	No	14.3%	up to \$23,501
Glenwood Springs		6.2%	6.2%	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	No		
Summit County	CRA	CRISP		No	Yes	3.0%	3.0%	6.0%	No		6.0%
Eagle County	CRA	6.2%	6.2%	No	Yes	8.0%	8.0%	16.0%	No		
DRCOG	M2	6.2%	6.2%	No	Yes	3.0%	9.0%	12.0%	No	18.3%	3.0%
Region 9		6.2%	6.2%	No	No	N/A	N/A	0	No	6.3%	
Gypsum		6.2%	6.2%		Yes >6 mo,	6.00%	8.0%	14.0%	No		

[illegible]



FOR MEMBERS ONLY

June 3, 2025

**HHS FY 2026 Budget Released,
OAA Programs Moved, Together to ACFC**

On Friday, the Trump Administration released the HHS budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026, and it contained great news for the Older Americans Act (OAA) and the Aging Network! In a major turn of events, the Trump Administration has changed their plans for how the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) reorganization proposal would administer OAA programs moving forward.

The original proposal, revealed in a leaked FY 2026 budget draft last month, intended to split up the OAA's integral programs across two agencies, sending all but the OAA nutrition programs to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), and zeroing out OAA's Title III D and the Title VII Long-Term Care

Ombudsman Programs (LTCOP). However, new official documents shared on Friday by the Trump Administration indicated a new plan for OAA programs.

According to [supplemental budget materials](#) officially released by HHS on Friday afternoon, **all of its OAA programs and many other aging and disability programs previously administered by the Administration for Community Living (ACL) will move to a newly renamed Administration for Children, Families and Communities (ACFC).** OAA programs will not be moved to CMS, and the programs that made up ACL will continue to be housed in ACFC as well. This will allow for continued collaboration between the aging and disability networks and, most importantly, coordination in the delivery of critical services to millions of older adults and caregivers. **This is a huge advocacy win!**

However, despite this positive change in favor of OAA programs, the HHS FY 2026 President's budget also includes the elimination of several important aging and social services programs outlined below.

Overview of the Official FY 2026 President's Budget

In the planned reorganization, ACFC will house all OAA programs, except for Title V, which resides at the Department of Labor. **The budget provides \$1.9 billion to provide an interconnected foundation of services to support older adults.**

Almost all OAA programs were level funded at FY 2025 levels, with a significant increase for the Title III E Family Caregiver Support Program.

The Good News

1. Title III B Home and Community-Based Supportive Services (\$410 million)
2. Title III C1 and C2 (\$1.1 billion)
3. Title III D Evidence-Based Prevention Health Services (\$26 million)
4. Title III E Family Caregiver Support (\$246 million), a \$39 million **increase** from FY 2025
5. Title VI Part A Nutrition (\$38 million), Part C Caregivers (\$12 million)
6. Title VII: Prevention of Elder Abuse and Long-Term Care Ombudsman (\$27 million)

7. Adult Protective Services (\$30 million)
8. Senior Medicare Patrol Program (\$35 million)
9. Aging and Disability Resource Centers (\$9 million)
10. State Health Insurance Assistance Program (\$55 million)
11. Adults Protective Services and Elder Rights Support (\$34 million)
12. Elder Falls (\$3 million)
13. Aging Network Support Activities (\$30 million)

The budget also reflects the \$50 million in mandatory funding for SHIPs, AAAs, ADRCs and the National Center for Benefits Outreach and Enrollment through FY 2026.

The Bad News

The budget has cut funding for several Aging Network programs that are paid for by the Prevention and Public Health Fund, including eliminating the Chronic Disease Self-Management Program, a 66-percent cut to Falls Prevention and a 50-percent cut to Alzheimer's grants distributed by ACL.

The President's budget eliminates the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), and Title V Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP). It does not provide funding for a White House Conference on Aging or the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), and it eliminates the Section 202 Housing for the Elderly by combining it with other rental assistance programs and block granting them into one program, State Rental Assistance Block Grants, which will collectively be funded at 42 percent less than the current set of programs.

Next Steps



After weeks of advocacy, **this is a major win for the Aging Network!** OAA Title III D, OAA LTCOP and SHIPs have been restored, and all of HHS' OAA programs will be moved to ACFC ***as a direct result of your advocacy.***

While this is good news, it's important to remember that the President's budget is only a blueprint, not an actual appropriations bill. Congress has to agree to implement these levels through their appropriations process, which kicks off this week. See USAging's [appropriations chart](#) for more details on the proposed funding levels.

Our advocacy is not finished because OAA and other aging and social services programs still need to be protected in Congress's FY 2026 spending bills. The House Appropriations Labor-HHS Subcommittee is scheduled for a markup on Monday, July 21 (Day 2 of USAging's Annual Conference), ***so the next six weeks will be critical for advocacy.***

SIDE BAR: Deep cuts to Medicaid and SNAP in the House-passed reconciliation bill are now in front of the Senate and require the Aging Network to take action to protect older adults and people with disabilities and their access to these programs. A reminder that cuts in reconciliation can only be made to mandatory spending programs—not the discretionary programs we're referencing in this *Legislative Update*. These are two separate processes happening simultaneously in this Congress.

Stay tuned for more *Advocacy Alerts* with guidance on how you can engage your Members of Congress in defense of all the critical programs that support the communities you serve.



This *Legislative Update* is a USAging membership benefit. For more information about these and other federal aging policy issues, please contact USAging's policy team: Amy Gotwals, Olivia Umoren and Seth Ickes at policy@usaging.org, 202.872.0888.



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MEMORANDUM

To: NWCCOG Council, Project THOR Stakeholder Group
From: Nate Walowitz, Regional Broadband Director
Date: May 2025
Re: Report on Smart Cities conference, San Antonio, TX April 14 – April 15, 2025

Overview

The Smart Cities conference in San Antonio was attended by numerous local government officials and industry experts. The conference highlighted several innovative projects across various categories, emphasizing the integration of technology to enhance urban living. I met with multiple vendors and drilled down into their example projects to understand how our region can begin to examine Smart Cities projects in our NWCCOG communities.

Key Project Categories

1. Smart Lighting

- **Objective:** Enhance lighting efficiency and cost savings.
- **Technologies:** AI-powered diagnostics, automated lighting configurations, LED devices compliant with Dark Skies standards.
- **Process:**
 - Public engagement and alignment of goals.
 - Photometric analysis for lumen package selection.
 - Installation and training for government personnel.
 - Integration of mobile application tools for testing and repair.

2. Traffic Flow and Pedestrian/Bicycle Management

- **Objective:** Improve safety and efficiency for pedestrians and cyclists.
- **Technologies:** Traffic counters, bicycle lane management, pedestrian safety features.

- **Process:**
 - Mapping and supporting traffic mode separation.
 - Managing bicycle lanes for safety and efficiency.

3. Smart Parking

- **Objective:** Optimize parking space occupancy and management.
- **Technologies:** Smart parking space occupancy sensors, traffic direction systems.
- **Process:**
 - Real-time management of street parking.
 - Traffic direction to available parking options.

4. Public Safety Applications

- **Objective:** Enhance initial response capabilities.
- **Technologies:** Autonomous drones, AI-powered cameras.
- **Process:**
 - Fast response to traffic incidents.
 - Person identification and location for lost/injured individuals.
 - Drone self-navigation and obstacle avoidance.

5. Private 5G Networks and Wi-Fi

- **Objective:** Improve municipal connectivity.
- **Technologies:** Private 5G networks, private Wi-Fi systems.
- **Process:**
 - Deployment of networks for municipal use.
 - Ensuring secure and efficient data transmission.

General Points for All Projects

- **Community Engagement:** Involve the community in project design to gain public support.
- **Data Management:** Clearly define data collection, usage, and security protocols.
- **Transparency:** Publish project information and findings on public-facing websites.

- **AI Integration:** Ensure clarity of scope and use of AI in solutions.

Engagement Advice

- **Partnership:** Foster a shared language with the community to facilitate productive conversations.
- **Trust Building:** Establish trust and relationships before engaging the public.

Some of the projects below were referred to at the conference and are summarized below. This information is copied from Cocoflo. <https://cocoflo.com/resources/smart-city-projects-united-states-america/>

Top Smart City Projects in the U.S.

1. Dallas, Texas: Public Safety Meets Public WiFi

Dallas is pushing to be a top smart city by 2030. But they've already started rolling out projects that change how the city works. A pilot in one neighborhood combined [AI cameras and LED streetlights to reduce crime](#), while adding public WiFi access at the same time. 52 devices were also installed to help monitor air quality. It's a smart system that does more than just solve one problem. They've seen crime drops in that neighborhood and are now scaling it up.

Why this matters: They used smart technology to fix two problems at once—crime and connectivity—without wasting money on tech that doesn't solve anything. It's a good example of using technology thoughtfully where it matters.

2. Chicago, Illinois: Reducing Digital Inequality

Chicago's smart city initiative, [Connect Chicago](#), focuses on reducing the digital divide. They're expanding internet access to underserved areas and providing digital skills training for residents to improve job prospects. The initiative also helps residents get online education to improve their skills. On the health side, they've launched the [City Health Atlas](#), a tool that gives residents access to health data in their neighborhoods, helping them make better health decisions.

Why this matters: It's about technology and ensuring people can use it. Chicago tackles inequality by giving people the tools they need to participate in a digital economy.

3. Denver, Colorado: Smarter Roads and Greener Energy

[Denver's CityNow](#) program tests renewable energy and traffic management solutions. They've got solar mini grids powering parts of the city and remote-controlled LED

streetlights to reduce energy waste. On the transportation side, they're testing a smart road system that gives real-time navigation advice to drivers to help avoid traffic jams.

Why this matters: It's not enough to just install a bunch of renewable energy sources or tell people to drive less. You need systems that manage the flow of traffic and power more efficiently. Denver is showing how renewable energy and smart mobility can work together.

4. Seattle, Washington: Tackling Multiple Challenges at Once

Seattle has always been known for its environmental commitment, but with limited growth space, it faces unique challenges. The city is squeezed between mountains and water, leaving little room for expansion. As a result, Seattle's smart city initiatives must tackle growth and sustainability simultaneously.

The [Innovation Advisory Council \(IAC\)](#), set up by the city, brings together tech leaders to solve various urban problems. It's not just about implementing new technology but also about strategically addressing congestion, environmental impact, and social issues like homelessness. One of their standout projects is their predictive analytics for parking, which aims to reduce traffic and emissions by helping drivers find parking faster. They've also invested in earthquake early warning systems and earthquake damage assessment tools, crucial for a city on a major fault line.

Why this matters: Seattle is integrating technology not just to improve transportation or energy usage but to solve deep human problems—like food waste and homelessness. It's proof that smart cities don't always have to focus on flashy tech, but on solving real, everyday problems.

5. Charlotte, North Carolina: Closing the Connectivity Gap

Charlotte is focusing on digital equity with its [Access Charlotte initiative](#), making sure every neighborhood has high-speed internet access. They've partnered with private companies like Microsoft to build out their digital infrastructure, and they're running programs like Learn2Earn to teach digital skills that improve job opportunities for residents.

Why this matters: Charlotte is fixing the connectivity gap problem that can leave entire neighborhoods behind in the digital age. They're thinking long-term by combining infrastructure with education.

6. San Francisco, California: Smarter Traffic and Smarter Trash

San Francisco is rolling out smart technologies to reduce traffic congestion and waste. Their [SFpark program](#) uses smart parking meters and sensors to show real-time parking

availability, reducing the time drivers spend looking for parking. That means less traffic, and fewer emissions. They've also put sensors in public trash cans that alert them when they're full, so trucks aren't making unnecessary trips to empty them.

Why this matters: Both projects make daily life easier without anyone noticing. People aren't stuck in traffic as long, and the city doesn't waste resources collecting trash that isn't there.

7. Washington, DC: AI-Powered Traffic Management

[Washington, DC, is using AI-enabled cameras](#) to monitor traffic and adjust traffic lights in real-time. The cameras aren't just for cars, they track bikes, pedestrians, and public transit to make the entire system more efficient. They're also offering free public Wi-Fi through digital kiosks that help residents stay connected while they're out in the city.

Why this matters: Traffic is a problem that worsens before you even notice. Using AI to manage traffic dynamically in real-time is one of the best ways to avoid gridlock and improve overall mobility.

8. Boston, Massachusetts: Citizen-Driven Problem Solving

Boston is trying something different with its [Go Boston 2030](#) initiative. It's not just city officials deciding what gets built or fixed citizens can weigh in too. They've set up apps where residents can report problems like potholes, and those reports go directly to city officials. Boston has also implemented smart traffic lights that change in real-time based on city road data.

Why this matters: Boston is putting power in the hands of residents, which helps the city prioritize what gets fixed based on real-time feedback. It's a form of crowd-sourcing problem-solving, which is smart because it brings residents into the process.

9. San Jose, California: Bridging the Digital Divide

San Jose's big focus is on closing the digital divide. They've been expanding high-speed internet access to low-income neighborhoods and have deployed WiFi extenders to underserved areas. They were also one of the first cities to adopt [FirstNet](#), a communication system for first responders that works in emergencies when regular cell service fails.

Why this matters: San Jose is taking the long view. You can't have a truly smart city if half the population can't get online. They're also thinking about the next disaster, ensuring emergency communications are always available

10. New York City, New York: Smarter Traffic Lights and Water Management

[New York City is using AI-powered traffic lights to improve traffic flow across the city.](#) These lights adjust in real-time based on data collected from cameras and sensors, which is key in a city as busy as New York. On top of that, they've installed an automated water metering system that tracks water usage and spots leaks before they become a problem. The system has already saved millions of gallons of water.

Why this matters: Traffic and water management are two of the biggest infrastructure problems in a city as large as New York. By using AI and sensors, they're addressing these issues before they become unmanageable.

Cocoflow summary

The U.S. cities leading the charge in 2024 don't have the flashiest new tech. They're the ones solving real problems with the right kind of technology. Whether it's reducing traffic, improving public safety, or closing the digital divide, these cities use technology to improve life for those living there.

That's the core of what a smart city should be. It's not about adding gadgets but fixing what's broken. The cities that get that are the ones making the biggest difference.

Conclusion

The conference showcased how U.S. cities are leveraging technology to solve real-world problems, from reducing traffic and improving public safety to closing the digital divide. These initiatives demonstrate the potential of smart city projects to enhance urban living through thoughtful and strategic use of technology

Gold miner to mayor: Tom Clark's life of service in Kremmling

News | Mar 13, 2025



Meg Soyars Van Hauen
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Friends and community members remember Tom Clark as a mayor who truly cared about the community. "Tom was a man of service, integrity and deep love for this town and the people in it," friend John Temple wrote on GoFundMe after Clark's death in February 2025.

GoFundMe/Courtesy photo

Editor's note: This story has been updated to correct the decade Clark moved to Colorado to attend Colorado School of Mines.

Tom Clark wore many hats in Kremmling, helping shape the town into what it is today.

From gold mining on the banks of Willow Creek to serving as mayor of the town for 16 years, Clark's roots in the community run deep.

Clark died of cancer in February, leaving behind no living family. Friend John Temple plans to spread Clark's ashes on Kenosha Pass in spring or early summer. Temple said the area was special to Clark because another friend's ashes were also spread there.

Temple and other longtime residents often spend time together at Big Shooters Coffee in Kremmling — a group they jokingly call "The Liar's Club."

"The Liar's Club isn't the same without him," Temple reflected. " ... He was a funny guy and had a big laugh."

Friends who shared stories of Clark with Sky-Hi News recalled his early days in the area and his time dedicated to community service.

A passion for mining

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Clark started the Lord Bryon Gold Mining Co. in Idaho Springs. The Rev. John Kaufman, of St. Peter's Catholic Church in Kremmling, was a partner in the mine, which is how Clark learned about the town.

In 1994, Clark moved to Kremmling, where he continued his passion for mining and geology. Harvey, known as "the Rock Man," accompanied Clark on many of his prospecting ventures around the Grand County area.

According to his friends, Clark was legally blind and used a thick magnifying glass to study the pans of sediment he dredged from the riverbanks.

"He couldn't see anything, but he could see gold," Harvey recalled.



Tom Clark would use a variety of household items to do his prospecting in the waters of Grand County.
Anna Winkel/Courtesy photo


Although they never struck it rich, the men considered it an enjoyable hobby.

Clark also liked teaching others how to prospect, from students to adults. He had a placer mining claim along Willow Creek, where he and other prospectors could search for garnets, ore, iron — and possibly gold and silver. Clark used homemade tools for his sluice box, which separates minerals from the dirt.

Clark was fascinated by rocks, and his home was surrounded by buckets of rocks, dirt and other materials, friends recalled.

Another of Clark's passions was technology. In the 1970s, he was among the first students at Colorado School of Mines to create computer programs. And in his final days, one of his favorite hobbies was playing computer games.

He also had a [strong interest](#) in water and the environment. He served as chairman of the Grand County Water Information Network, was a member of the Colorado Basin Roundtable and volunteered with the Colorado State Forest Service and other organizations. He was also an avid angler.

Friends added that Clark supported community members in a variety of ways, from serving food with Father Kaufman to helping veterans and seniors with transportation costs. Since Clark couldn't drive due to his visual impairment, he understood the importance of providing rides for those who needed them. 



Clark often volunteered at community events in Town Square Park, such as this event in May 2015.
GoFundMe/Courtesy photo

Time as town mayor

Clark served as mayor from 2002 to 2018. His friends thank him today for making Kremmling a better place.

"He was a real mayor," Temple said. "He took his job very seriously. He was always walking around town, talking to people."


Clark was responsible for improving the town's water and sewer infrastructure, including the treatment plant, pumping plant and distribution system. He also secured the town's rights to the Colorado River. His renovation of the [plant](#), which is about 70 years old, enabled it to continue operating through present day.

"The most rewarding part of my job is seeing the progress that we have made. My goal has been to better the community without losing our character. I find it extremely rewarding to be able to work with all the special districts, governments and people to achieve this goal."

— Tom Clark in a 2008 interview

Friends said Clark handled town government meetings professionally and was friends with all the townsfolk. Part of his mayoral duties included helping organize community events. Clark was an integral part of Kremmling Days, Cliff Golf and other celebrations, friends said.

"The most rewarding part of my job is seeing the progress that we have made," Clark told Sky-Hi News in a 2008 interview. "My goal has been to better the community without losing our character. I find it extremely rewarding to be able to work with all the special districts, governments and people to achieve this goal."

Beginning in 2017, Clark also became a greeter at the Kremmling visitor center. According to friends, he enjoyed being the face of Kremmling for visitors. When he became ill in October 2023, he remained determined to get better so he could go back to working for the chamber. 

"He had a passion for the outdoors and a deep love for this town and its people," the chamber wrote on Facebook after his passing. "Tom was truly one of a kind — his kindness, dedication and presence will be greatly missed."



Tom Clark spent much of his time out in the community, meeting business owners and residents.
GoFundMe/Courtesy photo

A 'heroic' struggle to get better

As Clark's cancer spread, he moved into Cliffview Assisted Living Center. Despite the cancer diagnosis, he remained positive, Temple said, adding that most people would have given up in Clark's position.

"His struggle was heroic," Temple said. "He always had faith he'd get better."

As Clark grew sicker during his radiation treatments, he was moved from Cliffview to a hospital in Glenwood Springs. Temple and other members of The Liar's Club called him on his birthday in January. That was the last time they spoke to him.

According to his friends, Clark — a tough, independent individual — fought to his last breath.


A [GoFundMe page](#) Temple organized to assist with cremation and other end-of-life expenses exceeded its \$1,700 goal in early March, thanks to community support.

"Tom was a man of service, integrity and deep love for this town and the people in it," Temple shared on GoFundMe.



Breckenridge Tourism Office says summer bookings are currently down 16%, and consumer confidence continues to drop

News | May 2, 2025



Kit Geary
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Colorado Tourism Office Deputy Director Jill Corbin gave insight into her office's effort to support tourism throughout the state and in mountain towns at a Northwest Colorado Council of Governments Regional Economic Summit May 1, 2025.

Kit Geary/Summit Daily News

Breckenridge Tourism Office president Lucy Kacy’s recent travel [outlook presentations have all opened with the same graphic](#) — a cartoon of a little girl dragging a red, deflating balloon labeled “confidence,” a reference to consumer confidence.

Amid President [Trump’s erratic imposition](#), or threats of imposition, of tariffs, she said a decline in consumer confidence has been one of the only stable indicators the industry can use to determine what upcoming travel seasons look like.

Data from [The Conference Board](#), the organization that determines the Consumer Confidence Index, that Kay verified the morning of May 1 demonstrated consumer confidence is down to pandemic-era levels. Additionally, the outlook for the next six months estimates consumer confidence will be down to 2011 levels.

“We think there’s going to be a recession coming soon,” Kay said, noting the index recently hit a level economists consider to be indicative of a recession. “So that’s pretty concerning.”

She shared data with those at the Northwest Colorado Council of Governments Regional Economic Summit May 1 demonstrating nights booked in Breckenridge for this summer are down 16% and Summit County is down 11%. She highlighted a silver lining from global travel

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https://www.summitdaily.com/news/breckenridge-tourism-office-says-summer-bookings-are-currently-down-16-and-consumer-confidence-continues-to-drop/

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Kay said her industry also keeps a close eye on airlines, and things don't have a rosy outlook on that front. She said airlines are already cutting both domestic and international summer flights. Some even stopped putting out their typical business forecast given current economic uncertainty and attitudes toward traveling to the U.S., she said. She said the tangible impacts of this on places like Breckenridge can include shortened length of stay from visitors. Additionally people are waiting longer than they typically would to book their Breckenridge trips. This could mean bookings won't be down 16% by the time summer is actually here; Kay said she anticipates a decrease closer to 5-10%.



Lucy Kay talks tourism trends at the Northwest Colorado Council of Governments Regional Economic Summit May 1, 2025.
Kit Geary/Summit Daily News

She said Breckenridge's summer tourism has been "sliding a little bit for each of the last three years," and while the tendency of many may be to scale back, her office is "keeping our foot on the gas pedal."

She said her office asked for an incremental \$100,000 from the town a while ago, and that's being deployed now. She said they are also pushing forward planned expenditures for the fall into summer.

"We know we have to hit July ... you can triple October, but if you lose July, you haven't done the community a service," she said.

Kay was joined by Colorado Tourism Office Deputy Director Jill Corbin and Northwest Colorado Council of Governments executive director Jon Stavney for a conversation after her presentation about the current state of tourism.

Stavney wanted know about what role Vail Resorts plays in supporting Breckenridge's tourism economy and what the current relationship between the town and the corporation is.

Kay, a former Vail Resorts employee herself, said the relationship between the two has "varied" over the years. She referenced friction over [the 2016 introduction of the lift-ticket tax](#) as a point in time where there was tension, but she said "today, they are our partners."

"I think a little bit of what happens is the people that are (local employees with) boots on the ground, they get it, for people that are further away, some of the regional directors and certainly the corporate directors, are not as close to what's happening in the community," she said.

Corbin shed light on where the state government and governor's heads are currently at with tourism, noting concerns about a loss of international travelers to the state. She said the governor's office is particularly looking to keep relationships strong with the nation's neighboring countries, Mexico and Canada. She said the Gov. Jared Polis recently hosted a "Colorado loves Canada Day" and a "Colorado-Mexico Friendship Day."

"We are trying to distinguish ourselves as a very welcoming, safe place for international travelers," she said.

Both Corbin and Kay expressed more worry over the U.S. tourism economy than Colorado's tourism economy.

Corbin said the tourism industry in the U.S. as a whole, in 2015, had a surplus of \$50 billion from the international traveler coming to the U.S. Today, that’s been flipped on its head, and \$50 billion of American money is going overseas.

Kay has said that Breckenridge has never relied on international tourism in the summer — it relies more on domestic travelers, so that currently isn’t a major concern for summer 2025.

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