

Regional Resource Coordinating Committee Technical Assistance and Loan and Grant Guide

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Southwest Colorado Regional Resource Coordinating Committee



Overview

The *Regional Resource Coordinating Committee* (RRCC) is a collaborative effort in Southwest Colorado that brings together regional providers of community and economic services. Participating organizations include: Colorado Department of Local Affairs; Office of Community Services-Fort Lewis College; Region 9 Economic Development District; San Juan Resource, Conservation and Development District; Housing Solutions for the Southwest; Small Business Development Center at Fort Lewis College; San Juan Public Lands Center; and the USDA Rural Development office. Each of these organizations provides services to the region in the form of funding, community planning, training, loans, technical assistance, topic-specific programs, research, data gathering, networking and resource finding.

The RRCC meets regularly to link their services to communities' various needs and goals in areas such as: land use and infrastructure, planning, economic development, community development, agriculture, health care, youth, education, housing, small business development, resource conservation, environment, transportation, telecommunications, etc. The result is a thoughtful consideration of a variety of resources; in several cases, this group interaction has accomplished for small communities what no single agency could. Each of the RRCC members is briefly described in this Directory. For more information about a particular agency, please contact them through phone, mail or email.

Colorado Department of Local Affairs

Ken Charles, Field Officer

Address: 1000 Rim Drive, Durango, CO 81301

Phone: 970-247-7311

Fax: 970-247-7032

Email: Charles_k@fortlewis.edu

Website: www.dola@state.co.us

Technical Assistance Available:

- Advocates for local government clients and department agencies
- Planning related to local government land use management
- Capital Project development for public infrastructure with feasibility analysis, planning financial guidance and project coordination
- Meeting facilitation for elected boards and community groups
- Grantsmanship
- Provides advice on governmental management issues, (elections, project development etc.)
- Helps develop local government programs (water and mosquito districts, fire departments etc.)

Loan and Grant Programs:

Ken Charles is the local contact and manager for various sources of state loan and grant programs, including:

- **Energy & Mineral Impact Assistance**—grants and loans for planning, construction and maintenance of public facilities and the provision of public services.
- **Community Development Block Grant**—grants and loans for housing, public facilities and business assistance projects that benefit at least 50% low and moderate income people.
- **Contiguous Counties Limited Gaming Impact**—grants for the provision of public services related to the impact of gaming.
- **Search and Rescue Fund**--reimbursements for Sheriff's costs for search & rescue.

Eligible Applicants:

- Local governments
- Non-profits

Stipulations, Requirements and Costs:

Depends on the loan or grant. A fee for Ken Charles's assistance is not required.

Housing Solutions for the Southwest

Kim Welty

Address: 295 Girard St., Durango, CO 81303

Phone: 970-259-1086

Fax: 970-259-2037

Email: kwelty@sw housingsolutions.com

Website: www.sw housingsolutions.com

Technical Assistance Available:

Housing Solutions for the Southwest provides a variety of housing assistance programs that can be divided into the following categories: Construction Management & Supervision, Housing Services Programs, and Grant/Loan Programs. Aside from these specific areas, HS can offer expertise in construction, energy conservation, and lending services for capital rehab projects.

Construction Management and Supervision:

HS assesses feasibility of capital construction projects for community benefit (e.g., housing developments, childcare centers, etc.)

- Energy and Weatherization
- Residential Rehab Loan Program

Housing Services Programs

- Housing Counseling
- Homebuyer Education Classes
- Transitional housing programs serving homeless families with children
- Senior living facilities
- Section 8 Voucher rental assistance

Grant / Loan Programs:

- Emergency Homeless Prevention
- Homeownership: down payment assistance for first time homebuyers.

Eligible Applicants:

- HS's primary customers are those people that qualify as low to moderate income households or those that do not qualify for regular bank loans.
- HS's expertise and some services may be requested by the general public for a negotiable fee and is dependent upon HS's workload.

Stipulations, Requirements and Costs:

- Most programs offered through HS have eligibility requirements that individuals/families must meet to receive programs or services.
- There are loan fees and interest charges...loan applications can be submitted at any time.

Office of Community Services, Ft. Lewis College

Ken Francis

Address: 1000 Rim Drive, Durango, CO 81301

Phone: 970-247-7310

Fax: 970-247-7032

Email: francis_k@fortlewis.edu

Website: <http://ocs.fortlewis.edu>

Technical Assistance Available:

- Planning related to local governments (town, county, etc.), natural resources, open space, historic preservation, sustainable tourism development, etc.
- Community and group facilitation and meeting recording
- Program evaluation
- Project research and development
- Resource sharing and networking
- Landscape Architect assistance with planning, site design and mapping for trails, parks, downtown design, signing, etc.

Loan and Grant Programs:

OCS does not directly administer any grant or loan programs. However, OCS is aware of some grant funding sources and can offer assistance depending on the community's need.

Eligible Applicants:

- Local communities and tribes
- Local governments
- Public land management agencies
- Non-profits (e.g., historical societies, chambers of commerce, etc.)

Stipulations, Requirements and Costs:

- Projects or assistance provided must serve a public or non-profit need.
- Through a grant from the State department of Local Affairs, OCS is able to provide technical assistance to local communities. Projects that fit within the scope of that funding should contribute a "match" to receive services. The required match demonstrates the commitment of the community, town, entity, etc.
- Depending on the project, priorities, and scope of work, services may be considered for no charge, or OCS may be able to refer other resources available.

Region 9 Economic Development District

Ed Morlan

Address: 295 A. Girard St., Durango, CO 81303

Phone: 970-247-9621 **Fax:** 970-247-9513

Email: ed@scan.org **Website:** www.scan.org

Technical Assistance Available:

Region 9 EDD helps identify funding sources to fulfill specific economic development needs through:

- Business Loans and grant programs (see below)
- Assistance with community development projects, especially those listed on county Community Development Action Plans
- Coordinating and assisting with regional transportation and telecommunications planning
- Administering Enterprise Zone Marketing, Tax Credits, and Contributions for approved projects
- Partnering with the Small Business Development Center to offer business consulting, planning and training.
- Providing facilitation services (contact Region 9 for guidelines)
- Providing grant research, writing assistance and partnership on special projects.

Loan Programs:

- Loan and Grant administration for Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), Economic Development Administration funds and Revolving Loan funds
Eligible applicants: Businesses and local governments
- Micro-Enterprise loans for qualifying businesses with five or fewer employees with technical assistance dollars
- EZ Marketing Funds– provide matching funds for community project marketing efforts

Eligible Applicants:

- Businesses, non-profits and local governments depending on the loan or grant program.

Stipulations, Requirements and Costs:

Loan requirements must be met and often require creating employment or business investments. Fees are determined for grant, facilitation, and technical assistance services based on project scope and Region 9 policies.

San Juan Public Lands Center US Forest Service Rural Community Assistance (RCA) Program Thurman Wilson

Address: San Juan Public Lands Center, 15 Burnett Court, Durango, CO 81301

Phone: 970-385-1246

Fax: 970-375-2331

Email: twilson02@fs.fed.us

Website: www.fs.fed.us/r2/sanjuan

Grant Program:

Very limited RCA grant funding is usually available once per year (usually late spring).

Funding is available for:

- Projects that develop community leadership;
- The development or implementation of Community Action Plans;
- Economic development projects related to natural resources (business retention & expansion, value-added businesses, & feasibility studies); and
- Projects that emphasize stewardship or conservation of natural resources.

Eligible Applicants:

- Indian Nations
- Rural community government
- County government, and
- Non-profits (usually non-profits that are indirectly benefiting local government efforts or businesses related to natural resources or public lands.)

Stipulations, Requirements and Costs:

Match is required for the RCA grant. The RCA grant is awarded only once per year, usually late spring. Funds don't appear likely to be available for 2007. If they are available, we will post a notice on the website.

Technical Assistance

Staff from the US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (San Juan Public Lands Center) can cooperate with other organizations and individuals on projects and ideas related to the management of natural resources and public lands.

San Juan Resource Conservation & Development

Doug Ramsey

Address: 31 Suttle Drive, Durango, CO 81303

Phone: 970-259-3289 ext. 5

Fax: 970-247-3412

Email: Douglas.Ramsey@co.usda.gov

Website: <http://www.co.nrcs.usda.gov/partnerships/rcd/sanjuanrcd.htm>

Technical Assistance Available:

The San Juan RC&D can provide technical assistance in project research, design and administration.

Loan and Grant Programs:

Assist project participants with grant research, grant application and fiscal management of grants.

Eligible Applicants:

The San Juan Resource Conservation and Development Council works with units of government, tribes, local groups and organizations to protect and enhance natural resource concerns in the San Juan Basin of Colorado. Projects often encompass cross-jurisdictional boundaries.

Stipulations, Requirements and Costs:

The San Juan Resource Conservation and Development Council must adopt the project.

Small Business Development Center

Joe Keck

Address: 1000 Rim Drive, Durango, CO 81301 (140 Education – Business Hall)

Phone: 970-247-7009

Fax: 970-247-7205

Email: sbdc@fortlewis.edu

Website: <http://soba.fortlewis.edu/sbdc/>

Technical Assistance Available:

The SBDC offers training, advising, consulting, counseling for:

- Writing business and marketing plans;
- Assisting business owners with loan packaging; and
- General business and marketing consulting, etc.
- Business valuation, acquisition.
- Financial analysis and projections
- Business Advisor Network
- Sources of Capital
- SmallBizWorks Program to provide a *Rapid Response Team* to assist businesses faced with closure or potential layoffs.
- Access to Fort Lewis College School of Business Administration college student teams to work with businesses on selected projects such as business plan, marketing plans, market research, etc.

Over 40 Workshops and seminars are offered each year, including:

- Leading Edge Business Program: 12 session-course that addresses the formation of a business, insurance, goals, financial management and project management, negotiating deals, etc.
- Marketing for Smarties which includes three (3) ½ day sessions to build effective small business marketing plans.
- Starting Your Business workshops 2-3 times per year.

Loan and Grant Programs:

- Referral to loan and granting agencies
- Business loan package review
- Benchmark and ratio analysis prior to loan application submittal.

Eligible Applicants:

- Small business people in SW Colorado...those who want to start a business or want to improve a business.
- Assistance available for businesses wanting to move into the region that will benefit communities and enhance economic development.
- Appointments available across the region:
 - Durango, contact Joe @ 247-7009;
 - Cortez, contact the Cortez Chamber of Commerce @ 565-3414;
 - Pagosa Springs, contact the Pagosa Chamber of Commerce @ 264-2360;
 - Dove Creek, contact the Cooperative Extension Office @ 677-2283.
 - Mancos, contact the Mancos Chamber of Commerce at 533-7434

Stipulations, Requirements and Costs:

- One on one consulting is free. The SBDC offers consultation for start-up and existing businesses and makes referrals for businesses needing specific services, such as accounting, legal consulting, etc.
- There is a fee for workshops and seminars. Registration is necessary and available on-line.

USDA Rural Development

Jaki Polich

Address: 628 W. 5th Street, Cortez, CO 81321

Phone: 970-565-8416, ext.127

Fax: 970-565-8797

Email: jaki.polich@co.usda.gov

Website: www.rurdev.usda.gov/co

Technical Assistance Available:

The USDA Rural Development office provides application assistance and budget preparation for various financing programs (loans and grants). Actual grant writing services not provided.

Loan and Grant Programs:

Rural Business – Coop Development Services (RBS)

- Business & Industry Guaranteed Loans (B&I Guarantee) -- Loans to individuals
- Renewable Energy/Energy Efficiency Program -- Agriculture Producers/Rural Small Businesses
- Value-Added Agriculture Program -- Agricultural Producers/cooperatives/producer groups/producer based business
- Intermediary Relending Program (IRP) -- Loans to Public Bodies/Non-profits/Corporations/Cooperatives/Tribes
- Rural Business Enterprise Grants (RBEG) -- Public Bodies/Non-profits/Tribes
- Rural Business Opportunity Grants (RBOG) -- Public Bodies/Non-profits/Tribes
- Rural Economic Development Loans/Grants (RDLG) -- Electric & Telephone Cooperatives
- Cooperative Services -- Loans to Cooperatives

Rural Utilities Service (RUS)

- Water & Waste Disposal (W&W) Loans and Grants -- Public Entities/Non-Profits/Tribes
- Water & Waste Disposal Guarantee Loans -- Public Entities/Non-Profits/Tribes
- Solid Waste Mgmt. Grants -- Public Bodies/Non-profits/Tribes
- Electric & Telecommunication - Direct/Guarantee Loan to Non-Profits/Coops/Public Bodies/Etc.
- Distance Learning/Telemedicine -- Corps/schools/health care clinics, etc
- Rural Broadband Direct Loan and Guarantee -- Coops/municipalities/Non-profits/LLC/Tribes

Rural Housing Service (RHS)

- Community Facility Loans & Grants -- Public Entities/Non-Profits/Tribes
- Single Family Housing Loans & Grants -- Individuals
- Multi Family Loans & Grants -- Individuals, Limited Profit, Non-Profit

Eligible Applicants:

- Non-Profits
- Local governments
- Individuals

Stipulations, Requirements and Costs:

Depends on the loan or grant. For example, business loans require down payment or equity, repayment ability, and feasibility studies are required for new businesses. Loan applications are accepted at any time, provided that the funding is still available. The Fiscal Year for the USDA Rural Development office is Oct. 1st — Sept. 30th, with funding becoming less available after the mid-point of the FY.

Southwest Colorado Community Development Fund

In 2003, RRCC members discussed the limited amount of funding available to meet the growing number of worthy community projects and decided to open the Southwest Colorado Community Development Fund. The group is now in the midst of a three-year \$100,000 endowment fundraising project. At the end of this initial investment period, interest earned on investments in the Community Development Fund will be available to fund various community projects.

Here are some samples of RRCC projects and collaborations:

RRCC Projects:

- Produced San Juan County Case study that demonstrated the success of initial RCA funding leveraging numerous projects in Silverton/San Juan County
- Provided funding to Philanthropy Days of Southwest Colorado
- Provided funding for a “Civility in Meetings” training in the town of Dolores
- Hosted several meetings around community recovery in the wake of the Missionary Ridge Fire
- Provided seed funding for Leadership Montezuma
- Submitted an Innovations in Government grant
- Contributed over \$1000 to the Vallecito Community Center for their renovation project
- Contributed over \$1000 to the Fiber Festival in Pagosa Springs
- Provided seed funding for the first Dolores/Montezuma County Community Summit in 2003.

Collaborative Projects Resulting from RRCC Networking:

- Developed Community Fire Recovery Partnerships
- Established Southwest Colorado Fire web site
- Dolores County Health Clinic renovation/remodel/expansion
- Renovation of Rico Fire Station
- Expansion of Blue Corn Candles
- Dove Creek Designs business support
- Funding of Masters Internet Course
- Community kitchen feasibility study for La Plata County
- Funding for numerous Community Development Action Plan projects

For more information on the Southwest Colorado Community Development Fund, please contact Region 9 at ed@scan.org.