

The Greater Cochise County Digital Jobs Accelerator Partnership

Memorandum of Understanding

Intent: This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) sets forth the terms of agreement between the members of the Greater Cochise County Digital Jobs Accelerator Partnership to organize key community and regional stakeholders into a working group that focuses on the shared goals and needs of the digital technology industry cluster in Greater Cochise County.

Regional service area: The Greater Cochise County Digital Jobs Accelerator Partnership serves Cochise County, Arizona and each of its municipalities including Sierra Vista, Benson, Bisbee and Douglas. This area is large enough to contain critical elements of the digital technology cluster and small enough to enable close collaborations among members of the partnership. The region includes a majority of communities that are low-income communities having access to or a plan for accessing broadband service and a rural population.

Membership: The partnership includes members located in the regional service area and may also include members outside of this service area that also represent key stakeholders for developing the digital technology sector in Cochise County, Arizona.

Purpose: The Greater Cochise County Digital Jobs Accelerator Partnership exists to accelerate the formation of new businesses with high-growth potential, improve the ability of rural businesses and distressed rural communities to create high-wage jobs, and strengthen rural regional economy of Cochise County by engaging in one or more of the following activities:

- (a) To aid the construction or purchase of a building to serve as an innovation center located in or serving a rural low-income community in Cochise County, Arizona, which establishes and/or supports a jobs accelerator and any equipment needs of the innovation center to support the jobs accelerator.
- (b) Support programs to be carried out at or in direct partnership with the jobs accelerator or in support of jobs accelerator initiatives including one or more of the following:
 - (1) Linking rural communities and entrepreneurs to markets, networks, industry clusters, and other regional opportunities to support high-wage job creation, new business formation, business expansion, and economic growth of rural communities;
 - (2) Integrating rural small businesses into a supply chain;
 - (3) Creating or expanding commercialization activities for new business formation in rural areas;

- (4) Identifying and building assets in rural communities that are crucial to supporting regional economies;
- (5) Facilitating the repatriations of high-wage jobs to the United States;
- (6) Supporting the deployment of innovative processes, technologies, and products;
- (7) Enhancing the capacity of rural small businesses in regional industry clusters, including small and disadvantaged businesses;
- (8) Increasing United States exports and business interaction with international buyers and suppliers;
- (9) Developing the skills and expertise of local workforces, entrepreneurs, and institutional partners in the region to meet the needs of employers and prepare workers for high-wage jobs in the identified industry clusters, including the upskilling of incumbent workers;
- (10) Ensuring rural communities have the capacity and ability to carry out projects relating to housing, community facilities, infrastructure, or community and economic development to support regional industry cluster growth;
- (11) Any activity that the partnership may determine to be appropriate, as it meets the needs of the digital technology sector in Cochise County, Arizona.

Governance: The Greater Cochise County Jobs Accelerator Partnership] will be a self-governing working group with governance as follows:

- (a) The Greater Cochise County Jobs Accelerator Partnership] will be governed by a Steering Committee composed of members appointed by the chief executive officer or equivalent leadership from each member organization in accordance with the procedures established by each member of this partnership.
- (b) All Steering Committee members are entitled to one vote.
- (c) The partnership will have one Chair, Vice-Chair, and Treasurer selected from the voting membership by majority vote.
 - (1) The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the steering committee.
 - (2) In the Chair's absence, the Vice-Chair shall assume the responsibilities of the Chair.
 - (3) The Treasurer shall maintain records of accounts, income, and expenditures and provide periodic statements to the membership regarding the financial status of the partnership.

- (d) All partnership business shall be decided by majority vote of a quorum consisting of a majority of the Steering Committee membership.
- (e) Meetings may be conducted at any time and place called by the Chair.
- (f) Members may attend by means of conference call, video conference, etc. and those participating shall be counted as present in person for the purpose of establishing a quorum. Financial activities (e.g., establishing bank accounts, budgeting, approving purchases, etc.) will be governed by policies established by majority vote of the Steering Committee at such time as may be necessary to transact partnership business.
- (g) The partnership may appoint ad hoc committees for special purposes for partnership business.
- (h) New members may be added after the effective date of this memorandum by a majority vote of the steering committee.
- (i) As needed, the rules of governance may be changed by a majority vote of the full steering committee.

Understanding: It is mutually agreed upon and understood by and among the parties of this Memorandum of Understanding that:

- (a) Each party will work together in a coordinated fashion to carry out the work of the Greater Cochise County Rural Jobs Accelerator Partnership.
- (b) This MOU does not forbid either party from participating in similar agreements with other public or private agencies, organizations, and individuals.
- (c) To the extent possible, each party will participate in the development of the accelerator.
- (d) This Memorandum of Understanding will be effective upon the signature of two parties.
- (e) Any party may terminate its participation in this Memorandum of Understanding by providing written notice to the other parties.

Signatories:

Name: Dan Coxworth

Signature: 

Title: Director

Date: Feb. 4, 2022

Organization: Cochise County, Development Services

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