City of Fort Collins

09-08-2026

Economic Development Investment Program

Expanding Fort Collins' Economic Development Toolbox

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Questions For Council

- Does the proposed Economic Development Investment Program (EDIP) reflect Council's desire to expand support to those small businesses and opportunities that do not qualify for the Business Assistance Policy (BAP)?

- Are there additional considerations or guardrails Council would like staff to evaluate before returning with a proposed EDIP policy for adoption?

Background

Business Assistance Policy updated in 2026

Council identified a need to expand support for small businesses and other investment and reinvestment opportunities

Staff evaluated local needs and approaches used by peer communities

EDIP proposed as a complementary tool within the City's economic development toolbox

The City's Role

The City's role is not to replace private investment, but to strategically participate where modest public investment can influence project outcomes to increase community and economic benefits in line with council priorities.

Private Investment	Public Investment
• Financial return • Creditworthiness • Project feasibility	• Barrier reduction • Community or economic benefit • Council priorities

Guiding Principles

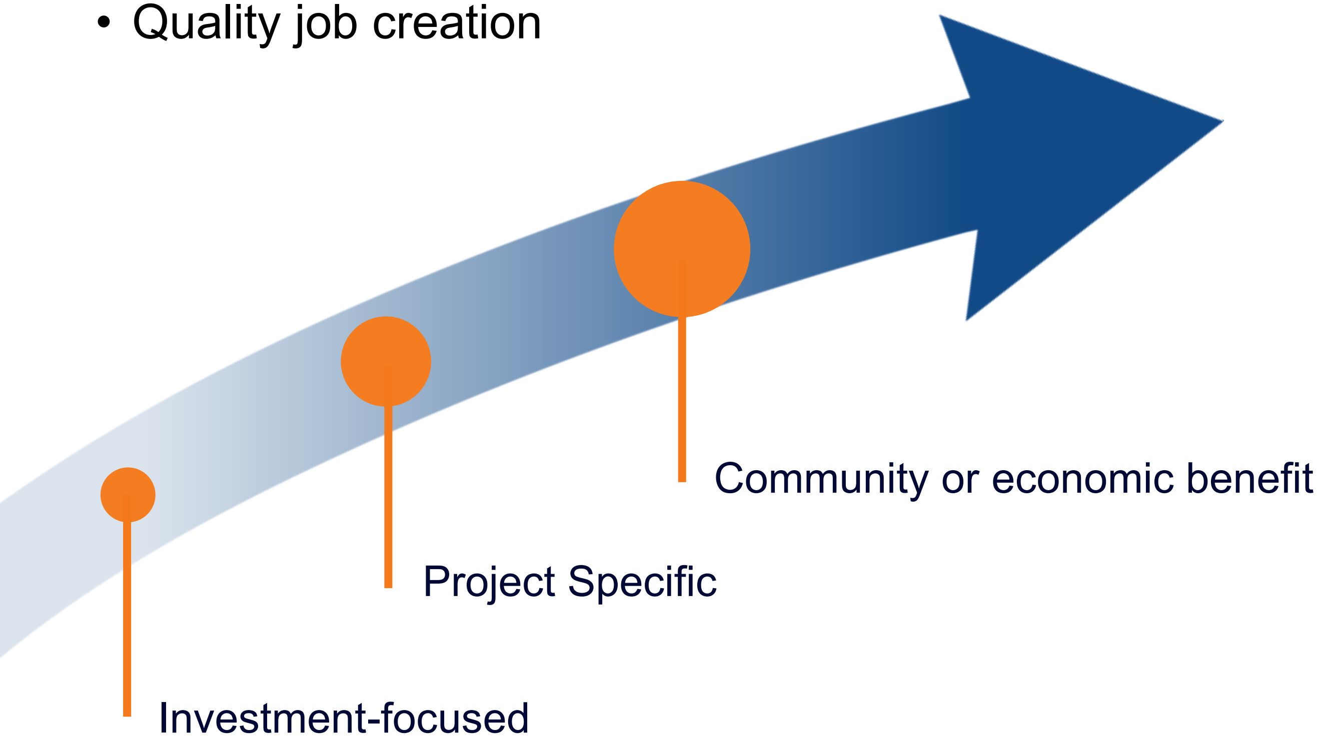
- **Reduce Barriers**
  Reduce barriers for small businesses and other investment opportunities.
- **Generate Community & Economic Benefit**
  Produce measurable outcomes that justify City participation.
- **Leverage Private Investment**
  Complement, rather than replace, private investment.
- **Prioritize Investment Over Operations**
  Support project-specific investments, not routine operations.
- **Scale Accountability**
  Match oversight to the level of City participation.
- **Complement Existing Tools**
  Leverage other resources when appropriate.

What could the EDIP support?

City of Fort Collins

Business & Commercial Reinvestment

- Vacant / underutilized space
- Expansion & modernization
- Neighborhood-serving amenities
- Quality job creation



EDIP Process

1. Appropriation
2. Application
3. Staff Evaluation
4. Recommendation to City Manager
5. Approval
6. Compliance / Annual Report

PROCESS CONSIDERATIONS:

What should the role of the Economic Advisory Board (EAB) be, if any, in the staff evaluation/recommendation process? Or should EAB only entertain requests requiring Council consideration?

Does Council agree with $50,000 City Manager administrative approval per project, up to a $250,000 annual spending limit with all requests above those thresholds requiring Council approval?

Funding the Program

Funding remains subject to Council approval and available appropriations.

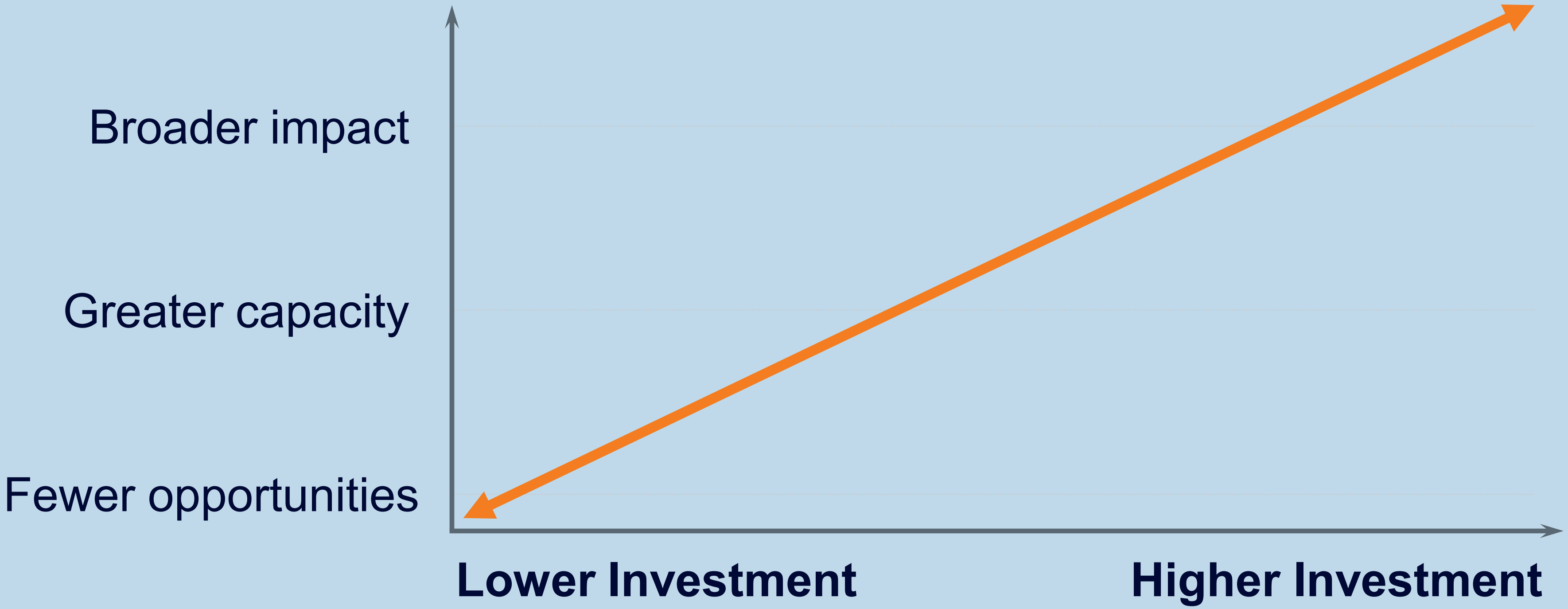
Annual Appropriation
Council determines the level of investment

Reappropriation
Available resources may carry forward through future budget actions

Recapitalization
Program capacity can be replenished over time

Investment Optionality

A smaller appropriation doesn't change the operating philosophy; it changes the number and potentially the scale of opportunities staff can support*.



**While impacts to staff capacity are still being evaluated, this would be a new responsibility for the Economic Development Department that will likely require additional staffing.*

Next Steps & Timing

WE ARE HERE

Council Work Session

Direction on EDIP Framework

Sept - Nov 2026

Refine Funding Approach

Staff incorporates Council direction

Nov 2026

2027-2028 Budget Adoption

Council adopts 2027/28 Budget

Nov - Dec 2026

EDIP Policy Adoption

Staff returns to Council with final policy

Future Budget Cycles

Reappropriation/ recapitalization as appropriate

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Thank you

For follow up items please reach out to Michael Bussmann - MBussmann@FortCollins.gov