

# Southern Colorado Economic Development District - SCEDD



## THIS EDITION

CEDS UPDATE  
BROADBAND PROJECTS UPDATE  
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FIRST ANNUAL WATER & SEWER SUMMIT  
SCEDD'S NEW BLOG  
NADO COLLABORATIVE LEARNING GROUP

## CEDS UPDATE

As an Economic Development District, SCEDD is tasked with coordinating the region's **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)**. The CEDS is a document that successfully engages a range of partners, including community members, the private sector, educational institutions, and other stakeholders in planning for the 13-county region's future. The CEDS planning process creates the space for the region to identify its strengths and weaknesses and brings together a diverse set of partners to create good jobs, diversify the economy, and spur economic growth.

The CEDS At a Glance:

- The CEDS helps to build on the strengths of our region, as well as identify gaps in resources or expertise that need to be addressed
- The CEDS planning process can facilitate regional collaboration, expand supply chains, and grow and support new industry clusters
- With a CEDS in place, regions are more likely to attract federal funds and technical assistance by demonstrating resources are used efficiently and effectively
- The CEDS process can make our region more resilient and better positioned to plan for, respond to, and recover from natural disasters and economic shocks
- The CEDS can be much more than just a static document, but rather an engaging platform that generates region-wide discussions and serves as a call to action for economic development

The first step in planning is pulling together a strategy committee who will work with SCEDD staff in compiling the CEDS. The Strategy Committee is made up of the Executive Committee of the SCEDD Board of Directors and other board members or community members interested in being part of this core team.

The Strategy Committee is:

Kevin Keilbach  
Danelle Berg  
Jane Frasier  
Donald Oswald  
Diana Armstrong  
Stephanie Gonzales  
Deborah Cameron  
Marisa Stoller

[\*\*CLICK HERE\*\*](#)

**TO ACCESS THE CURRENT  
CEDS DOCUMENT**

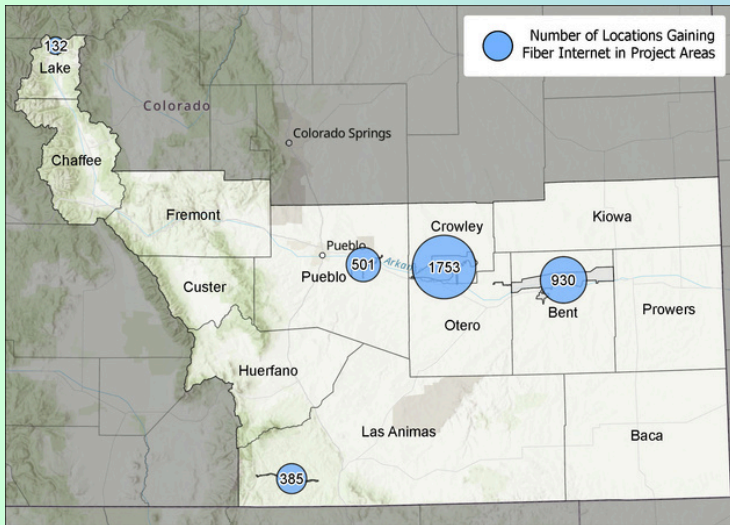
Regular meetings of the Strategy Committee will kick off later this spring. If you are interested in joining the committee, contact Leslie at [leslie@scedd.com](mailto:leslie@scedd.com).

# BROADBAND CPF UPDATE

We are excited to share an update on each of the projects that received funding through the Colorado Broadband Office's Capital Projects Fund (CPF).

These projects will serve 3,701 locations and total project costs equal \$36,002,902.61. The matching funds required for these projects totaling nearly \$8 million dollars have been provided by our project partners at SECOM and Vero.

- Bent/Otero Counties
  - 20 miles of fiber has been built to serve the towns of Hasty and McClave
  - Progress has been made on pop-sites in Cheraw, Las Animas and Ordway
    - Pop-sites are what lights the fiber and supports the network
- Crowley County
  - Materials have been ordered and construction should start the first weeks in May
- Lake County - north of Leadville
  - Waiting on approval of Forest Service permits in order to prepare the poles for construction
- Las Animas County - Highway 12
  - Pole attachment permits have been submitted to San Isabel Electric, and we are waiting for approval
- Pueblo County
  - Pole attachment permits have been submitted to Black Hills Energy, and we are waiting for approval



# FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Please contact the appropriate staff member for your county for more information:

**Baca, Bent, Crowley, Kiowa, Las Animas, Otero, Prowers**

Contact Lisa Schlotterhausen, lisa@scedd.com  
719-545-8680, Extension 3

**Chaffee, Custer, Huerfano, Lake, Pueblo**

Contact Tracy Gutierrez, tracy@scedd.com  
719-545-8680, Extension 2

Southern Colorado Economic Development District is now the **Regional Grant Navigator** for Pueblo, Huerfano and Las Animas counties.

In addition to the opportunities available through the **Regional Grant Navigator Program**, additional funding opportunities available to the counties served by SCEDD include:

- **USDA Rural Development Value-Added Producer Grant is open through April 17, 2025.**
  - Eligible uses of funding include: assisting agricultural producers with value-added activities to generate new products, create and expand marketing opportunities.
- **US Rural Development** offers grants to help low-income, rural communities with the initial planning and development of applications for water and waste disposal loan/grant programs.

Please contact Lisa or Tracy with your inquiries to your respective county if you are interested in applying or would like to discuss further.



# BROADBAND BEAD UPDATE

SCEDD and our partners, Ditesco, have submitted 10 applications for BEAD funding through the Colorado Broadband Office.

We are actively monitoring the impact of federal funding freezes and CPF has not been impacted, but the impact to BEAD funding is still unknown; please refer to the FAQ's on the Colorado Broadband Office website by clicking [HERE](#) for additional information and resources.

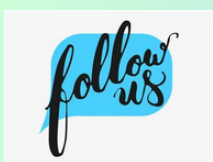
**Southern Colorado Economic Development District**  
**Water & Sewer Summit**  
Wednesday, June 25, 2025  
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

This unique opportunity will bring together industry professionals, regional leaders and funders to discuss water and sewer needs and solutions throughout the region.

**Olde Towne Carriage House**  
102 S. Victoria, downtown Pueblo  
on the Riverwalk

For more information, contact Leslie Mastroianni, leslie@scedd.com

**SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE**



*Congratulations to SCEDD team member, Lisa Schlotterhausen, who was recently selected to participate in the NADO Collaborative Learning Group.*

*Lisa is excited to share her thoughts on this exciting opportunity!*

**Exploring the NADO Collaborative Learning Group:  
A Journey of Professional Development**

As a dedicated professional in the field of economic development, I am thrilled to share my experience and aspirations as a participant in the NADO Collaborative Learning Group (CLG). This innovative program, offered through the Economic Development District Community of Practice (EDD CoP), is designed to enhance the skills and knowledge of new EDD staff who have been with their organizations for two years or less.

**What is the NADO Collaborative Learning Group?**

The CLG is a seven-month virtual training and networking opportunity that brings together emerging leaders in economic development. Participants engage in bi-monthly sessions that cover a wide range of topics, including Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS), funding, data tools, and other areas of interest identified by the group. The program also includes networking opportunities, allowing participants to share ideas, troubleshoot challenges, and build valuable connections with peers across the country.

**My Participation and Goals**

I am honored to be part of this year's CLG cohort. With over 20 years of experience in Higher Education administration, transitioning into economic development has been an exciting journey. This program represents a pivotal step in my professional development, and I am eager to leverage my background while gaining new insights.

**Here are a few key areas I hope to focus on during my time in the CLG:**

1. Enhanced Knowledge of CEDS: Understanding and effectively implementing Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies is crucial for driving regional growth. I aim to deepen my knowledge in this area and learn best practices from experienced professionals.
2. Networking and Collaboration: Building a strong network of peers and mentors is invaluable. I look forward to connecting with other participants, sharing insights, and collaborating on projects that can make a real impact in our communities.
3. Skill Development: The training sessions cover a variety of essential topics, from funding strategies to data analysis tools. I am eager to expand my skill set and apply these learnings to my work in economic development.
4. Capstone Project: The CLG includes a capstone project, providing an opportunity to apply what we've learned and showcase our work to the national network of EDDs. I am excited to work on a project that addresses a real-world challenge and contributes to the growth and resilience of our region.

**Looking Ahead**

Participating in the NADO Collaborative Learning Group is a unique opportunity to grow both professionally and personally. After two decades in Higher Education administration, I am confident that the skills, knowledge, and connections gained through this program will empower me to make a meaningful difference in the field of economic development.

Stay tuned for updates on my journey and insights from the CLG sessions.

Together, we can build stronger, more resilient communities!

**BETTER  
TOGETHER**



**HAVE YOU CHECKED  
OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE?**

[WWW.SCEDD.COM](http://WWW.SCEDD.COM)

**CHECK OUT OUR BRAND-NEW BLOG!**

Watch for new posts on our website every other Thursday!

Topics will focus on all things economic development and how SCEDD serves our region.

Staff will take turns posting about topics that are relevant to our region from our perspective.

How well do you know our staff – see if you can guess who wrote each post.

**APRIL IS NATIONAL  
COUNTY  
GOVERNMENT  
MONTH**

*We will be highlighting the amazing counties we work with each day!*

*Stay tuned to our social media sites for county highlights and celebrations of the work that you all do!*



*Serving southern Colorado since 1965, SCEDD is proud to serve a 13-county region.*

*The organization's staff and Board of Directors is responsible for maintaining and up-to-date CEDS, ensuring the eligibility of member counties to apply for EDA funding assistance.*

*SCEDD also provides a number of other services for its member counties, in response to the ever-changing needs and opportunities for the region.*

