



Southern Colorado Economic Development District SCEDD.com

To: Mayor Wood and Salida City Council
Date: January 4, 2021
**RE: SCEDD Introduction Presentation and Comprehensive Economic
Development Strategy Update**

About SCEDD

The Southern Colorado Economic Development District (SCEDD) was formally established on February 16, 1968. The District includes thirteen Colorado counties – Baca, Bent, Chaffee, Crowley, Custer, Fremont, Huerfano, Kiowa, Lake, Las Animas, Otero, Prowers, and Pueblo.

The Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 established the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA). The mission of EDA is "to lead the federal economic development agenda by promoting innovation and competitiveness, preparing American regions for growth and success in the worldwide economy."

EDA, in accordance with the Act, established Economic Development Districts (EDDs) across the nation, including the district represented by SCEDD. These Districts serve as the framework for maintaining a current Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for their service areas, and to provide staff support and technical assistance to the member counties. EDA provides support through Planning Grants, which are a major source of funding for SCEDD. SCEDD is also funded by yearly County membership dues and fee for service such technical planning or grant assistance.

For a city/county to receive funding from EDA it must meet certain criteria. First, it must either have an unemployment rate at least one percent above the national average, or a per capita income of less than 80 percent of the national average. Second, it must have a current Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) on file with the EDA. SCEDD partners with counties to develop County CEDS and synthesizes the 13 county CEDS into one regional CEDS.

More than 50 years since its founding, the most basic function of SCEDD remains unchanged. The agency's staff and Board of Directors are still responsible for maintaining an up to date CEDS, ensuring eligibility of member counties to apply for EDA funding assistance and by providing technical assistance.

SCEDD Services

As a local government, your organization is eligible for assistance from SCEDD in a variety of ways. SCEDD primary mission is to ensure your organization's economic priorities, policies, and projects are being targeted for both Federal and State funding through a variety of programs. As a non-profit, SCEDD is able to partner with local governments to assist with filling the gap in providing staffing technical assistance to keep your community's economic priorities moving forward. SCEDD offers the following services and is currently working on expanding our reach further in the coming year.

Existing services:

- Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Preparation
- Planning Technical Assistance
- Community Profile Preparation
- Grant Preparation Assistance (limited)

Planned:

- Broadband planning and implementation
- Attainable Housing capacity building
- COVID-19 Relief Efforts
- Filling unserved business financing niches
- Full grant writing and planning services

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Next Steps

Over the next 12 months, SCEDD will be completing an update to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for each of our 13-member county region. This process will examine the economic needs, policies, programs, and projects of each County and create a prioritized list for the next 5 years. There will be several ongoing phases that will allow for CEDS completion by the end of 2021.

- CEDS Elected Official Introduction and Economic Strategy Survey
 - SCEDD staff introduces the CEDS process to elected officials at both the County and municipal levels. Elected Officials, staff, and public at large take the 10-15-minute Economic Strategy Survey. Survey results serve as the “north arrow” for more focused discussions in the Spring of 2021.
- Discovery
 - SCEDD staff met with elected officials and staff to find out more about current needs, budgets, current planning projects, or other relevant information to help inform the final CEDS document. By using existing efforts, SCEDD adapts the CEDS process around current local efforts instead of reinventing the wheel.
- Community Profiles
 - SCEDD staff research and collect data sets for each County to build key metrics that can be used to measure results, growth, or even impacts from the COVID-19 Pandemic
- County Focused Projects and Sub-region SWOT Analysis
 - In the Spring of 2021, local focus groups create the project lists, policies, and economic strategies of the CEDS document. These County focus groups meet for one final region meeting to discuss collaboration for regional projects.
- Final Plan Presentation
 - Final CEDS document is made available in the late fall of 2021 for public comment and presentations made to elected officials on the final document prior to adoption by the SCEDD Board.

Next Steps

- Please take the Economic Strategy Survey at www.surveymonkey.com/r/SCEDD
- If you are interested in being part of the County Focus group this coming spring, please email michael@scedd.com