



COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: May 05, 2026

ITEM TITLE, PRESENTER: Consideration and Approval of Contract with the Business Education and Resource Center (BEAR Center) for Economic Development Program Delivery and Facility Use Presented by Talia Hansen, Economic Development Director

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommend approval of the contract

SUMMARY

San Juan County Economic Development is requesting approval of a contract with the Business Education and Resource Center (BEAR Center) to provide facility access and support services for program delivery.

The BEAR Center will serve as a designated program delivery site and community hub, supporting:

- Workforce development training
- Business and entrepreneurship programs
- Technical assistance services
- Community-based workshops and outreach
- Chamber of Commerce programming

This agreement allows the County to deliver services locally within rural and Tribal communities, increasing access and participation.

This contract is also necessary to initiate program delivery and begin processing payments under the USDA Rural Business Development Grant (RBDG) and other economic development initiatives.

HISTORY/PAST ACTION

San Juan County was awarded funding through the USDA Rural Business Development Grant (RBDG) to support business development, workforce training, and technical assistance across the region.

During the initial project period, program implementation was delayed pending execution of required partner agreements. As outlined in project reporting, **contracts with facility partners are required prior to releasing funds and launching programming.**

The BEAR Center has been identified as a key partner due to its existing facilities and role as a regional business hub.

FISCAL IMPACT

The total contract amount is not to exceed \$9,137, funded through the USDA Rural Business Development Grant (RBDG).

- \$6,750 – BEAR Center facility use and program delivery support
- \$2,387 – White Mesa training space and connectivity

No impact on the County General Fund is anticipated.