



COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: October 21, 2025

ITEM TITLE, PRESENTER: Consideration and Approval of the FY2 25-26 Rural County Grant Contract, Presented by Talia Hansen, Economic Development Manager

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of the FY2026 Rural County Grant Contract between the State of Utah Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity (GOEO) and San Juan County Government, in the amount of \$200,000, effective July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026.

SUMMARY

The FY2026 Rural County Grant (RCG) provides resources for San Juan County to continue building capacity for economic development, support local businesses, and strengthen community engagement.

Funds will be used to expand technical assistance, enhance the annual Business Basecamp and training programs, and provide direct grants to local businesses through the tiered Business Support Grant program.

Economic Development Staffing Capacity and Operations – \$30,000

Funds will support staffing capacity and core operations, including leadership retention, additional support staff if needed, and essential costs that ensure continuity and effectiveness in countywide economic development initiatives.

Business Basecamp Conference and Training – \$26,000

This funding will support the expansion of the annual Business Basecamp into a two-day and one-evening event, combined with year-round training workshops. The program will provide practical education and networking opportunities for at least 100 businesses.

Business Support Grant Program – \$140,000

The department will administer a tiered grant program to assist startups, expansions, and shovel-ready projects. The CED Board will review applications and determine awards based on established criteria. Applications will open in October–December, be evaluated in January–February, and awards will be announced at Basecamp. This program is designed to stimulate job creation, business investment, and infrastructure improvements.

Eastern Utah Economic Summit Contribution – \$1,000

Funds will support the 2025 Pitch Competition, providing local businesses with exposure, connections, and opportunities for investment.

Event Sponsorships – \$3,000

Targeted sponsorships will support local events, particularly in underserved areas, to strengthen community ties and stimulate economic activity.

Total FY2026 RCG Funding Request: \$200,000

HISTORY/PAST ACTION

San Juan County has successfully administered previous RCG awards that strengthened business outreach, expanded grant opportunities, and delivered workforce development initiatives. The FY2025 RCG funded the Business Basecamp event, multiple business expansion projects, and countywide grant administration improvements.

This FY2026 contract builds upon that progress, continuing strategic investment in business capacity, workforce training, and rural innovation.

FISCAL IMPACT

This contract provides \$200,000 in state grant funds to San Juan County Government for the FY2026 program year. The funds require no local match and will be distributed upon contract execution and completion of prior reporting requirements.

All expenditures are restricted to the approved project plan under the Utah Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity Rural County Grant guidelines.