



COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: April 15, 2025

ITEM TITLE, PRESENTER: Resolution of Support for the FY 2025 USDA Rural Business Development Grant – Regional Agriculture Incubator & Technology Innovation Initiative, Presented by Talia Hansen, Economic Development Manager

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of the resolution supporting the FY 2025 USDA Rural Business Development Grant application in the amount of \$75,000 to launch the Regional Agriculture Incubator & Technology Innovation Initiative at the Nuuva Business Hub in White Mesa.

SUMMARY

San Juan County is submitting a grant application to the USDA Rural Business Development Grant Program to support the Regional Agriculture Incubator & Technology Innovation Initiative. The proposed initiative, to be based at the Nuuva Business Hub in White Mesa, aims to strengthen agricultural entrepreneurship, improve food security, and create workforce development opportunities across the Four Corners region. The program will assist at least 15 rural small and emerging businesses and is projected to create or save 60 jobs.

HISTORY/PAST ACTION

This is a new initiative developed in alignment with the County's strategic plans for agricultural resilience, Indigenous preservation, and rural economic mobility. This will be the first USDA Rural Business Development Grant focused specifically on regional agricultural entrepreneurship and technology in San Juan County.

FISCAL IMPACT

The County is applying for \$75,000 in federal funding. No matching funds are required. Program implementation will be managed by the Economic Development Department in collaboration with local, tribal, and state partners. This initiative is expected to yield long-term economic benefits, including job creation and business support across the region.