



SAN JUAN COUNTY COMMISSION

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Utah Governor's Office of Economic Development
Office of Rural Development
60 East South Temple, Suite 300
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111-1004

August 18, 2020

RE: Rural Co-Working and Innovation Center Grant

To Whom It May Concern-

Please accept this letter of support from the San Juan County Commission for the GOED Rural Co-Working and Innovation Center Grant application submitted by San Juan County Economic Development and the San Juan County Library System.

Included in San Juan County's strategic economic development plan is an effort to improve broadband connectivity throughout the county. This connectivity includes hard wired fiber but also programs and resources to make working remotely more attainable. These efforts have been seen in our partnership with the Utah Education and Telehealth Network to bring in a Fiber backbone throughout San Juan County. Additionally, partnerships with a local telecom company to extend connectivity the final mile to the businesses and homes. Finally, it has also included continued support and promotion of the Rural Online Initiative.

This application further supports all these efforts by providing remote workers a place to meet, connect, and network. This space can also be utilized to extend offerings to the northern county community members such as business training, open houses, business forums, and other resources.

The Monticello Library is an ideal placement as it has the space to provide this resource, as well as the convenience in location. We believe this will support the growth of entrepreneurs, free lancers, and small businesses. We are aware of the co-working space funding awarded to the USU Business Resource Center (now SBDC). San Juan County is the largest county by square mileage in the State of Utah at 7,933 square miles. Due to this size, and distance between communities we do not feel that this is a duplicative effort. It is essential that we take a proactive approach in providing resources across our jurisdiction. A co-working space in both Monticello and Blanding would build a consortium, network, and opportunity for many of our county residents to access this resource.

This project will be very beneficial to our county and support various areas that are included in our economic development strategic plan. San Juan County fully supports this application and we encourage you to fund it in its entirety.

Sincerely,

Willie Grayeyes
San Juan County Commission Vice-Chair