



COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: December 16, 2025

ITEM TITLE, PRESENTER: San Juan County Rural Economic Blueprint – Final Draft Review
Presented by August Granath, GOEO Technical Outreach Manager; Debra McKee, GOEO Outreach Manager; Talia Hansen, Economic Development Manager

Center for Rural Development

RECOMMENDATION: Staff seek Commission feedback and any additions to advancing the plan for formal adoption at a future meeting.

SUMMARY

The Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity (GOEO), in partnership with San Juan County, has completed the Rural Economic Blueprint for San Juan County. This plan represents a six-month, data-driven effort that included stakeholder interviews, a steering committee process, public input, and a detailed review of the county's existing plans, economic assets, and constraints.

During this work session, August Granath, Technical Outreach Manager for the Center for Rural Development at GOEO, will provide an in-depth presentation of the Blueprint. August will walk the Commission through the plan's development process, key findings, identified economic opportunities, and the recommended goals, strategies, and priority projects intended to guide the county's future economic development efforts.

GOEO representatives August Granath and Debra McKee, Outreach Manager for the Center for Rural Development, will be available during the session to answer questions about the plan's methodology, data sources, stakeholder input, and recommendations.

Staff seek Commission feedback and any additions to advancing the plan for formal adoption at a future meeting.

HISTORY/PAST ACTION

In July 2025, San Juan County was selected to participate in the pilot year of the Rural Economic Blueprint Program. Working with the San Juan County Economic Development Department GOEO conducted one-on-one stakeholder interviews, developed a steering committee, facilitated community roundtables, and reviewed local economic and planning documents.

The draft Blueprint was completed and provided to the County in November 2025 with edits conducted collaboratively.

The purpose of this Commission Work Session is for GOEO representatives August Granath and Debra McKee to present the Blueprint in detail, explain the methodology, and review the goals, strategies, and priority projects with the Commission prior to requesting formal adoption at a future meeting.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no direct fiscal impact to adopt the Blueprint.

The plan positions San Juan County to:

- Competing more effectively for state and federal funding
- Develop shovel-ready infrastructure and housing projects
- Strengthen grant applications
- Improve coordination with tribal partners and regional agencies
- Expand business retention, expansion, and recruitment efforts

Future projects identified within the plan may require funding through:

- Grants
- State and federal programs
- Partnerships
- Budget allocations during future budget cycles