



SAN JUAN COUNTY COMMISSION

Willie Grayeyes Chairman
Bruce Adams Vice-Chair
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Mack McDonald Administrator

January 24, 2022

EDA HEADQUARTERS
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW, Suite 71014
Washington, DC 20230

RE: EDA FY 2021 American Rescue Plan Act Economic Adjustment Assistance Grant Letter of Support

To Whom It May Concern,

Please accept this Letter of Support for the Utah State University EDA Expansion Project. San Juan County fully supports improving the economic conditions in the largest county by size (nearly 8,000 square miles).

An underserved geographies San Juan County (49037) is the only County in Utah that meets the 2021 fiscal year investment priority congressional requirements as a Persistent Poverty County.

Based on the Economic Distress Criteria in STATS America Measuring Distress Data, San Juan County qualifies as distressed on both unemployment 1.58% above the national average and per Capita Personal Income (PCI) is 55.7% lower than the national average. According to uscensus.gov in San Juan County, 26.9% of the families live below the poverty line. The median household income of San Juan County is \$42,982 per year.

Remote work is a form of job creation and an opportunity for San Juan County residents who are unemployed and underemployed. Leveraging the current climate with the flexibility of remote work positions is an opportunity for our community.

This expansion project allows a well-equipped, professional co-working space for the remote workforce in San Juan County. It provides an opportunity for advocacy of co-op development in the state of Utah as a way of saving business.

The SPARCs Mobile Initiative project's goals align with our economic development plan to increase the workforce, build businesses, and improve equity through a collaborative approach that will have a long-lasting impact through all the centers in San Juan County.

Our County collaborates and works together to play an active role in developing or supporting regional workforce training systems. San Juan County Economic Development & Tourism serves on the SPARC boards as an Advisory Board Member and advocating for the County outreach to reach business and workforce development goals.

San Juan County gives informative reports and assessments of our community's needs and marketing support through our websites. San Juan County fully supports this application and funding request, and we encourage you to fund it in its entirety.

Mack McDonald
Chief Administrative Officer