



**Board of Directors Executive Committee Meeting  
October 24, 2024  
12:00 to 2:00 p.m.  
Region 10 145 S Cascade Conference Room**

- 1) **CALL TO ORDER and INTRODUCTIONS**
- 2) **APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS**
- 3) **APPROVAL Minutes September 2024**
- 4) **Action ITEMS:  
In Reports**
- 5) **REPORTS**
  - a. **Executive Director Report**– Michelle Haynes
    - **Financial Report**
    - **Community Development**
      - **Action Item: Enterprise Zone Approval-Ouray Land Trust**
    - **Regional Grants Navigator**
  - b. **Small Business Resource Center**- Nancy Murphy
    - **SBDC/Business Cultivator**
    - **Business Loan Fund**
  - c. **Area Agency on Aging**– Brian Bowler
  - d. **Regional Broadband**-Corey Bryndal
  - e. **Gunnison Valley Transportation Region Committee**- Vince Rogalski

**Action: Accept Director Reports**
- 6) **NEXT MEETINGS**
  - a. **Executive Committee: January 23, 2026 Noon-2:30 p.m.**
  - b. **Board of Directors Meeting: December 6 Noon-2:30**
  - c. **BLF Committee: December 6, 2024 10-11 a.m.**
  - d. **AAA Regional Advisory Committee: TBD**
  - e. **Gunnison Valley Transportation Planning Region10: November 14, 2024 1:30 -3:30 p.m.**
- 7) **ADJOURNMENT**



1. **CALL TO ORDER and INTRODUCTIONS**–Meeting was called to order at 12:34 pm.
  - a. **Staff:** Michelle Haynes (R10 Director), Nancy Murphy (SBRC Director), Corey Bryndal (Broadband Director), Brian Bowler (AAA Director), Courtney Tribble
  - b. **In-Person Board Members:** Mayor John Clark (Town of Ridgway, Chair EC), Mayor Pro Tem Dave Frank (City of Montrose, Vice Chair EC), Commissioner Michelle Nauer (Ouray County, EC), Council Member Jack Gilbride (Town of Mt. Village), Vince Rogalski (GVTPR Chair)
  - c. **Remote Board Members:** Commissioner Jonathan Houck (Gunnison County), Mayor Dave Roberts (Town of Lake City, EC), Commissioner Kris Holstrom (San Miguel County, Past Chair EC), Commissioner Greg Levine (Hinsdale County), Elyse Ackerman-Casselberry (City of Delta, EC), Commissioner Roger Rash (Montrose County, EC)
2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS**

**ACTION ITEM: Motion to approve Agenda M/S:** Michelle Nauer/Jonathan Houck, as accepted. None opposed. Motion passed unanimously.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES for 2024, Executive Committee Meeting**

**ACTION ITEM: Motion to approve minutes:** M/S: Michelle Nauer/Jonathan Houck, as accepted. None opposed. Motion passed unanimously.
4. **REPORTS:**
  - a. **ED/Financial Reports | Michelle Haynes**
    - i. Financial Report
      1. The accounting team is still working on the fiscal year end, so did not bring financial statements for this meeting.
      2. Received a PO for an OEDIT grant of \$40,000 for the Regional Grants Navigator (RGN) Program. It will need to be spent by April and will allow us to extend the program beyond January and expand what we can work on with the additional funds.
      3. We are considering submitting a request to reduce the match for the RSVP and Senior Companion Program grants to 0% rather than 10%. That would mean that we would have to reduce the budget for those programs.
    - ii. Executive Director Report
      1. Federal guidelines have changed regarding the de minimis indirect rate (for programs that do not have a negotiated indirect/admin rate for federal grants—the rate will move from 10% to 15%, which will help with recovery of administrative/overhead expenses.
      2. The amount to capitalize expenses (versus direct expense) has changed from \$5,000 to \$10,000. The accounting team is recommending a change in the procurement policy to move our capitalization amount to \$10,000 as well, and also increase the amount for dual check signatures.
      3. Also requesting to update the Executive’s Director authority to sign grant documents to keep the date current.

**ACTION ITEM: Motion to approve an update to the procurement policy to increase the capitalization of expenses from \$5,000 to \$10,000:** M/S: Michelle Nauer/Dave Roberts. None opposed. Motion passed unanimously.

**ACTION ITEM: Motion to approve check signing policy with a single signer to a limit of \$10,000:** M/S: Michelle Nauer/Kris Holstrom, as accepted. None opposed. Motion passed unanimously.

**ACTION ITEM: Motion to renew the policy that allows the Executive Director to sign on behalf of the board for grant contracts and amendments.** M/S: Michelle Nauer/Dave Roberts. None opposed. Motion passed unanimously.

iii. Community Development

1. Enterprise Zone: We are recommending two Enterprise Zone Contribution Projects for board approval. Both projects are with organizations that currently have active projects in our region.
  - a. HopeWest: Workforce Development and Operations: the project focuses on the upskilling of the workforce with tuition reimbursements to those who complete upskilling certifications.
  - b. Colorado Flights Alliance: Transportation Operations- the project focuses on the transportation of tourists to the region and of the workforce outside of the region.

**ACTION ITEM: Motion to approve Enterprise Zone Contribution Projects for HopeWest and Colorado**

**Flights Alliance:** M/S: Dave Frank/Michelle Nauer. None opposed. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Regional Grants Navigator
  - a. DOLA is still deciding if there will be funding for Year 3 of the program.
  - b. The \$40,000 grant from OEDIT will help extend the program through April 2025 if funding from the state is not received to continue the Regional Grants Navigator (RGN) program.

b. **Small Business Resource Center | Nancy Murphy**

i. SBDC/Business Cultivator

1. Cultivator currently has 7 kitchen clients. We have capacity for 8-10 clients depending on the usage of each client.
2. Callie is working on a refined Start-Up Programming for businesses as we see more start-ups coming in and more requests about how to start a new business.
3. Each month we typically include training numbers, but the reporting system is not working by county and so that report was not included this month. We did have 19 trainings last month.

ii. Business Loan Fund (BLF)

1. The team and the BLF Committee have reviewed new Loan Policies that have not been updated since 2014. The BLF met earlier today to review, and that process should be completed next month.
2. We will be closing a loan for the Egyptian Theater in Delta. It will add to the downtown vitality in Delta. They are purchasing a restaurant that is next door to the theater and their goal is to create an event center.
3. The loan fund has several past due accounts; we also have some active loans that we are considering a modification to provide additional time for review and the business to adjust to economic conditions. We did send a loan to an attorney last month for write-off and that was approximately \$20,000.
4. Mayor John Clark mentioned that the Business Revitalization Committee in Ridgway meets on Thursdays, and they would be interested in having someone come to speak about the BLF.

c. **Area Agency on Aging | Brian Bowler**

- i. The team is reviewing additional grant opportunities through foundations to help supplement the budget shortfalls.
- ii. Senior Meals, Transportation, and Life Alerts currently have wait lists based on need.
- iii. SHIP (State Health Insurance Assistance Program) Medicare, we have two counselors that fast tracked their certification to help with Medicare Open Enrollment starting October 15th. Dr. Doug Speedie and Betty Coyne are going to increase our capacity to take calls to help folks navigate their Medicare choices.
- iv. RSVP and Telluride Foundation grants have both been submitted.
  1. The Telluride Foundation supports our senior programs in the West End. With the additional funding for the area, we do not have a Wait List for services there.
  2. The RSVP Program grant is to support our programs in Ouray and San Miguel counties. We currently serve those counties with our existing funds, but we do not have direct funding for those counties; the new grants are to expand the funding.
- v. The team had a visit from the regional and national staff of AmeriCorps to review the Senior Companion Program. We currently have 28 senior companion matches; it does take some time to

gain traction with the program. We have people interested in hosting a Senior Companion, but we need more volunteers to be Senior Companions.

- vi. We are working on the Handy Helper program available in Delta and want to expand it to Montrose.
- d. **Broadband | Corey Bryndal**
- i. Expansion Project R10 to Denver & Salt Lake City
    - 1. Working on perfecting the cabling and preparing the splicing equipment and the routing gear is getting staged.
    - 2. Visited our sites along I-70 last week.
    - 3. University Corporation for Atmospheric grant will bring services to Western from Front Range GigaPop.
  - ii. We have strong demand from the ISPs (service providers) in the region.
  - iii. We have equipment from our existing network that is aging out and we are looking for funding to update that.
  - iv. We are adding remote access to the network.
  - v. We have an RFP (Request for Proposals) developed for a Network Operator to assist with network management.
  - vi. Mt Crested Butte made their decision to award the contract to construct the fiber link from Crested Butte to Mt Crested Butte.
  - vii. All the construction in Lake City is complete and now ready for Gunnison County Electric to use it at the sub-station anchor, as well as middle mile available for other providers and anchor institutions.
- e. **GVTPR - Gunnison Valley Transportation Planning Region | Vince Rogalski**
- i. STAC (Statewide Transportation Advisory Committee) will be electing officers next month. There will be both a new Chair and Vice Chair. Vince has served as Chair of STAC for the last 20 years.
  - ii. PD14 (Policy Directive 14) will set goals for aspects of the upcoming Transportation Planning process. STAC did not move forward with approving the policy due to disagreements on the goals; however, the Transportation Commission can still approve it.
  - iii. CDOT receives federal funding for the highways and FHWA (Federal Highway Administration) gives ratings to the drivability of the highways. Colorado's highways are rated 94% bad. If they receive a rating of 95% or worse, they will be forced to use the funding to increase that rating before they can receive any additional funding, so funds are being directed to maintenance of those roads.
  - iv. We hosted the GVTPR meeting at the end of August and awarded All Points Transit the \$70,000 allocated to them in the last round of MMOF (Multi Modal Options Fund) funding because they were able to wait on that funding until this round was available.
  - v. On October 17<sup>th</sup> we have another TPR meeting that is focused on MMOF. There is a significantly less amount of funding available for projects in this round of MMOF than in the previous round. CDOT recommends we have a committee that reviews each of the applications and scores them all based on several factors.
  - vi. There will be a meeting on November 14<sup>th</sup> for the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting for the GVTPR Planning to start deciding what projects are in the 10-Year Plan and the 2050 Plan.

**ACTION ITEM: Motion to approve Reports;** M/S: Dave Frank/Michelle Nauer. None opposed. Motion passed unanimously.

## 5. ADJOURNMENT

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 1:07pm

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## *Executive Director Update October 2024*

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**Action Items:** None

**Discussion/Approval Items:**

- **Employee Benefits: Discussion** of Employee Vacation and Holiday Leave hours.

**Informational Items:**

- Continuing transition of IT services to new contractor.
- Issued RFP for Broadband Network Operator.
- Beginning MMOF (Multi-Modal Funds) process for the Gunnison Valley Transportation Region (GVTPR), with tentatively draft applications due to CDOT 12/6.
- Reviewing requirements for Just Transitions (National Office) for Broadband assistance grant for match/support for Director and consultants to provide technical assistance for federal grants.
- Preparing Year End (6/30/2024) financials and related documents for the fiscal audit.
- Requested a Scope of Work amendment for DOLA initial broadband expansion grant (B003) to move a portion of the fiber from CDOT to a private provider. EDA grant for this project ended 10/15; working on billing and closing for the grant.
- Working with Colorado Workforce on potential subscription (sub-lease) of the Gunnison office; have returned agreement template with comments.
- Planning to attend DOLA Small Community Workshop October 22.

**Staffing:**

- No current employee open positions. Senior Services are contracting for volunteers and contractors for Medicare Counseling, Senior Companion and Retired Volunteer Service Programs.

**Upcoming Leave:** I will be out of office on Family Leave beginning December 7 (potentially earlier if needed) for most of the month of December. I will be covering email, but may be delayed in responding.



Memorandum

To: Region 10 Board of Directors  
From: Patty Gabriel, Regional Grant Navigator  
Date: October 17, 2024  
Re: October 2024 Board Report

Here is the update on the RGN program for October.

1. The RGN team continues to research federal grant opportunities and send out funding memos when they arise. Most often, we are contacted by municipalities or special districts looking for funding for a specific project. This has resulted in sharing a number of potential grant opportunities, follow-up calls with grant making agencies, and conversations about funding other projects. Our region is really starting to understand the role of the RGNs and reach out for assistance.
2. The RGN team is currently helping three communities with various aspects of grant compliance and monitoring. Many of the entities in our region have limited staff capacity and are not able to manage federal grants without help. We anticipate providing more grant compliance assistance as additional federal grants are awarded.
3. Grants & Grub was held on September 30<sup>th</sup>. Dallas Blaney, Energy & Climate Federal Funds Officer in the Colorado Governor's Office, gave a great presentation of the Elective Pay Program & Building Resilient Infrastructure & Communities (BRIC).

The next Grants & Grub will be on October 31<sup>st</sup> from 12:00 (noon) – 1:00 pm. The presentation will be on Grant Compliance & Management and will feature speakers from Witt O'Brien's.

4. The WaterNow Alliance provides free technical assistance in reviewing program eligibility, application procedures and strategies, content review, and other grant application support. They are currently helping us with several potential grant applications to the US Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Program. Be sure to reach out to us if anyone in your community would like more information about this service, or you can visit their website at <https://waternow.org/consulting-services/>
5. DOLA still has funding available in the LOMA Program. LOMA is to be used to help local governments with their match requirement when applying for IIJA Grants. DOLA also continues to provide IIJA and IRA Grant Writing Assistance Programs, especially for low-capacity communities. Please help spread the word to those communities who may benefit from these programs.

Please reach out to me at [pgabriel@region10.net](mailto:pgabriel@region10.net) or Shay at [shay@unbanruralcontinuum.com](mailto:shay@unbanruralcontinuum.com) for any questions related to the RGN program.

# SBRC Board Report

October 24, 2024

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## What's Happening

### Cultivator Notes from Adriana

- Five active kitchen clients.
- Adam Frisch toured the Business Cultivator on Sept 16 to learn about the resources offered to the rural community.
- Participating in the Hispanic Outreach Committee as a representative of Region 10, planning a Hispanic Farmers Luncheon on November 7 taking place at the Business Cultivator. Currently assisting the Hispanic Farmers Ambassador in translating scripts, messages, and reaching out to local farmers. The purpose of the luncheon is to:
  - ✓ provide an opportunity for local farmers to meet and learn about what each other is doing;
  - ✓ determine if there is interest in attending a full day Produce Safety Workshop on the Thursday preceding the Forum;
  - ✓ gather feedback about possible topics of interest; and
  - ✓ promote Forum attendance.
- Continue participating in the Cafecito Zoom meetings – a gathering of Hispanic SBDC representatives to share ideas, suggestions, and brainstorming to improve the services offered to Hispanic entrepreneurs.
- Presented SBDC services during Hispanic Affairs Project's "Feria de Emprendedoras," (Women in Entrepreneurship Fair). There were 11 booths in attendance offering samples of the services they provide. I had the opportunity to meet each of them and discuss the different ways our SBDC can help. Two of the businesses in attendance were launched with the assistance of the West Central SBDC.

### SBDC Notes from Callie

- Launched two new programs: Lunch with an Accountant webinar with Michael Johnson, a CPA out of Montrose; and Money Smart FDIC webinar with Criston Payne, a banker in Montrose.
- Managing reimbursements and creating technical assistance plans for Community Business Preservation Program (CBPP) grant. Two of the four businesses have already taken advantage of most of their funds for their intended purchases. Attending regular CBPP update meetings with the grant managers at OEDIT. The CBPP is a \$130,000 grant awarded to West Central SBDC to support Gunnison businesses with \$30k per business and \$10k for admin.
- Programming Committee meetings and planning for our update for the State meeting in November.

### BLF Notes from Dario and Sarah

At a Glance: BLF Activity (September)	
Loans Closed	2
Modification Requests	1
Loans Paid Off	4
Active Loans	111

- The loan pipeline continues to be strong with two loans approved and expected to close by the end of the month (October). The approved businesses are in Delta and Gunnison Counties and are the purchase of a property by the Delta Egyptian Theatre and to help with the start-up of a new Sew shop in Gunnison.
- Loan inquiries remain strong. We expect to be receiving applications from seven businesses in the coming weeks.
- The BLF Committee reviewed and approved the revised Loan Fund Policy—updated from 2013.
- Dario served on a funding panel hosted by the Delta Innovation Center on Sept 19.
- BLF team is currently reviewing software to help improve efficiency and accuracy of end-to-end loan process.

## General Notes

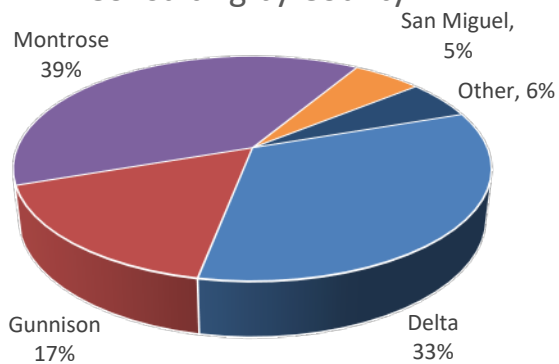
- Dario and Nancy attended Montrose BIG (business meetup) lunch on Sept 25.
- Sarah and Callie attended info sessions for the REDI grant being given out by the City of Gunnison. BLF loans will be available for matching funds and SBDC assistance will be available for business plans. Applications are due in December and awardees will be announced at the beginning of 2025.
- Sarah and Callie participated in an afterhours event for the Main Place building where the Gunnison office is located to invite community members to come have Halloween treats and check out the businesses in the building
- Nancy is serving as a mentor to the newest SBDC director (Grand Junction).
- Nancy is helping the SBDC develop their state strategic plan.
- Q3 SBDC reimbursement reports and impact completed.
- Nancy and Callie will be attending the State SBDC meeting in Aurora/Castle Rock in November.

## The Numbers

### September SBDC Consulting Clients

Clients	Sessions	Hours	Rating
18	23	23	9.6/10

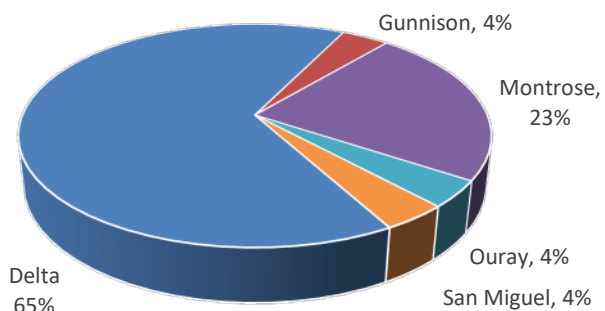
### Consulting by County



### September SBDC Training Clients

Clients	Workshops	Hours	Rating
28	28	34	9.61/10

### Training Clients by County





# SET YOURSELF UP FOR SUCCESS: NOVEMBER 2024

Region 10 | SBDC Workshops for Small Business + Entrepreneurs



**November 5: 12-1pm**  
**STRATEGIC FINANCE SESSION**  
Established Businesses  
Looking to Differentiate  
Their Offerings



**November 6: 9-10am**  
**EXIT PLANNING**  
Exit Planning Info Session



**November 7: 9-10am**  
**STARTUP ASSISTANCE**  
6 Questions to Answer  
Before Starting a Business



**November 23: 11:30am-1pm**  
**LUNCH WITH AN ACCOUNTANT**  
Bookkeeping &  
Estimated Tax Payments

**+ WORKSHOPS ON-DEMAND!**  
Self-paced programming available to you on your schedule!

#### **CASH FLOW ESSENTIALS**

Learn how to leverage cash flow as a financial planning tool.

#### **PROFITABILITY ESSENTIALS**

Increase the profitability of your business to put more money in your pocket.

#### **FINANCIAL STATEMENT ESSENTIALS**

Monitor the health of your business by understanding your financial statements.



**SIGN UP FOR THESE & OTHER WORKSHOPS HERE:**

970.765.3139 | [www.region10.net/businesses-resources](http://www.region10.net/businesses-resources)



**Business Loan Fund Portfolio**  
**As of September 30, 2024**



**Total Active Loans by County**

County	# Loans	Loan Amt	Current Loan Balance	# Jobs Created	# Jobs Retained
Delta	13	\$ 390,202.00	\$ 220,069.99	13	28
Gunnison	16	\$ 740,200.00	\$ 448,938.55	50	75.5
Hinsdale	1	\$ 20,363.00	\$ 2,808.22	0	1
Montrose	69	\$ 3,771,164.99	\$ 2,763,942.55	119	357.5
Ouray	7	\$ 271,086.00	\$ 190,239.54	11	18
San Miguel	5	\$ 132,000.00	\$ 47,363.14	5	27
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>\$ 5,325,015.99</b>	<b>\$ 3,673,361.99</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>507</b>

**Total Active Loans by Industry**

Industry	# Loans	Loan Amt	Current Loan Balance	# Jobs Created	# Jobs Retained
Food and Beverage	27	\$ 1,324,343.00	\$ 868,368.99	87	128
Hospitality	3	\$ 435,000.00	\$ 411,736.84	22	6
Manufacturing	9	\$ 549,478.00	\$ 411,024.63	21	93.5
Retail	22	\$ 705,338.00	\$ 299,863.65	9	71.5
Service	27	\$ 1,317,818.04	\$ 993,026.43	41	107
Trades	23	\$ 993,038.95	\$ 689,341.45	18	101
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>\$ 5,325,015.99</b>	<b>\$ 3,673,361.99</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>507</b>

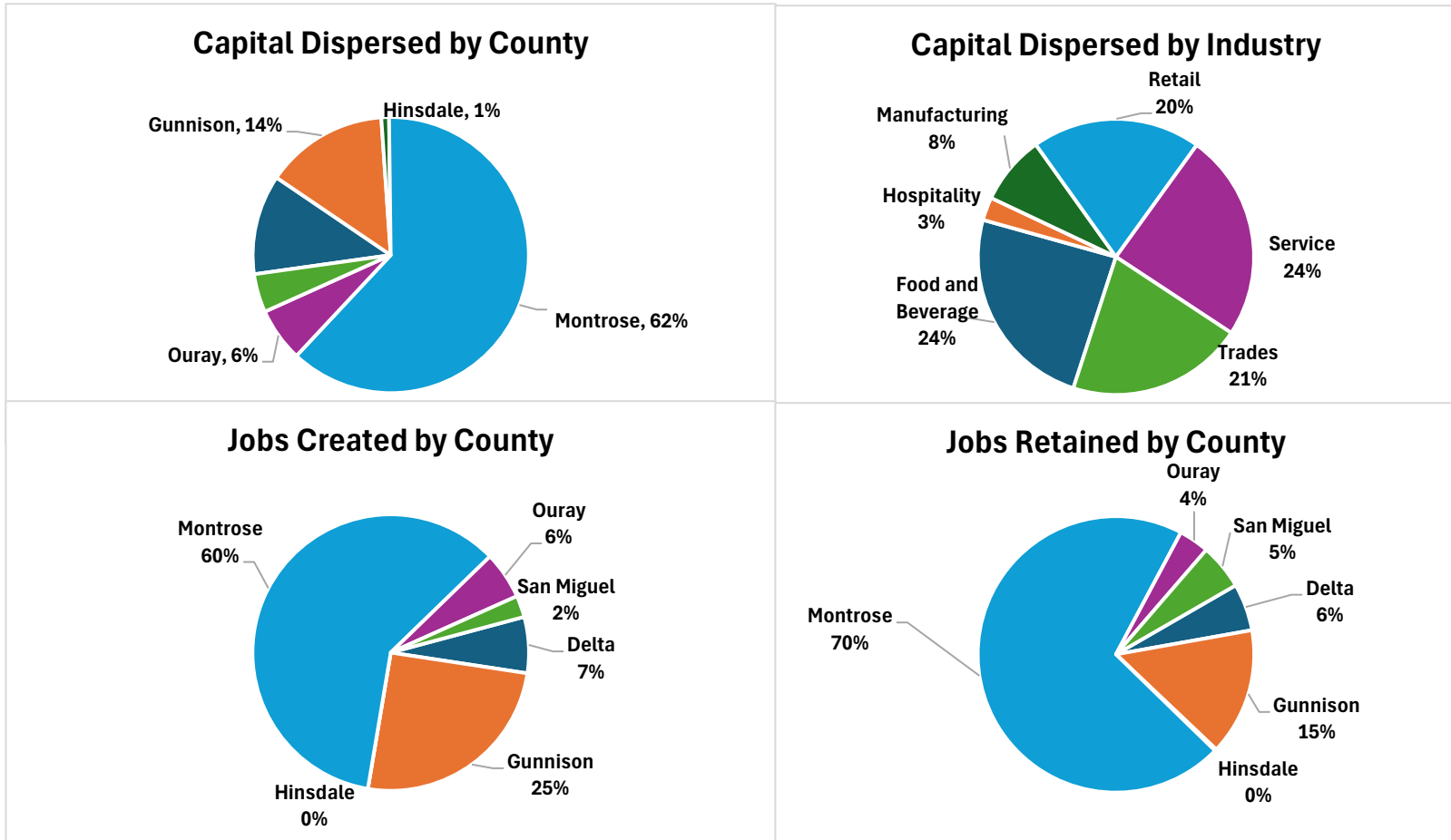
**New Loans by County Last 12 Months**

County	# Loans	Loan Amt	Current Loan Balance	# Jobs Created	# Jobs Retained
Montrose	11	\$ 1,029,097.95	\$ 1,004,104.95	42	47
Delta	4	\$ 99,265.00	\$ 94,409.24	6	5
Ouray	2	\$ 80,515.00	\$ 76,075.93	2	10
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>\$ 1,208,877.95</b>	<b>\$ 1,174,590.12</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>62</b>

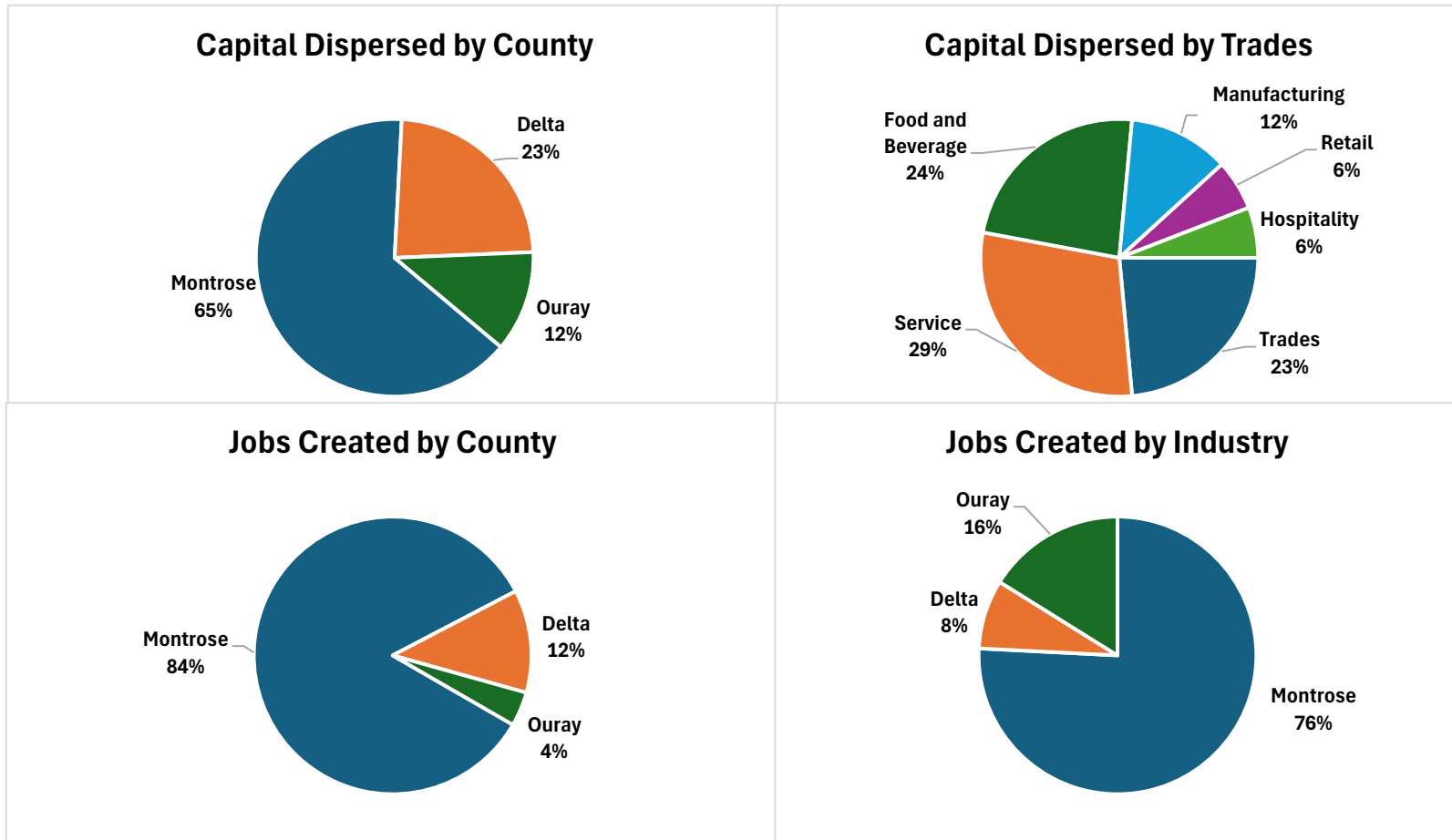
**New Loans by Industry Last 12 Months**

Industry	# Loans	Loan Amt	Current Loan Balance	# Jobs Created	# Jobs Retained
Trades	4	\$ 369,097.95	\$ 360,286.71	7	26
Service	5	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 183,116.50	8	19
Food and Beverage	4	\$ 108,980.00	\$ 105,731.01	9	12
Manufacturing	2	\$ 70,800.00	\$ 68,668.59	2	4
Retail	1	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 46,787.31	2	1
Hospitality	1	\$ 410,000.00	\$ 410,000.00	22	0
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>\$ 1,208,877.95</b>	<b>\$ 1,174,590.12</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>62</b>

**Total Loans Active Loans**



**New Loans last 12 Months**





## CLS Board Report September 2024

### Action Item:

### Noteworthy:

- In C4A meeting of Colorado AAA 's it was noted that budget crunches that are hitting AAA's and all organizations currently have affected the type of calls they are receiving, and the condition the callers are calling in. It was apparent that callers are more desperate, confused, and angry. The callers are having difficulty with others organizations retruning calls, and turn to AAA's to answer many questions that are going unanswered elsewhere. Its also caused a increased load on Region10, and we are currenlty working on changing our processes to more adequately meet the demands for information and services. This is a area of focus for us to adjust and improve in.
- Janey Sorenson, along with Kerry and Joe using our newly aquired grant management software have been looking at grants in Colorado who donate for elderly and aging services. Its noteworthy that not many non-profits focus on this segment of our population. We are focusing in on several foundations, and through coordination with other AAA's believe we can come up with a few applications for grants that may help our budget shortfall this year.
- As previsoulsy noted in prior board reports that **Senior Community Meals, MOMs Meals, Shephards Hand** Home delievred meals, life alerts, and **All Points Transit** has shown no movement to add any new clients since waitlist began several months ago. We are approving short term emergency situations as we deem appropriate.

**SHIP – Open Enrollment has began!** – Joe Walker has been able to ready our AAA volunteers and staff for this annual event. Joe is working with Courtney while we continue to go through a IT changes that has slown the work flow a bit. There is anxiety due with callers and enrolles due to some of the bad press with the Medicare advantage plans. We have 3 current SHIP workers, and Joe is able to address most overflow questions as he is getting close to finishing his SHIP training.

**Ombudsman-** At the recent C4a meeting the directors all spoke about importance of the ombusdmans program, yet the lack of funding from the State. This has been ongoing issues for many years. Sandy and her volunteer Jil attended Mental Health 101 training, which is very helpful in meeting basic needs of residents when there is a investigation or any concerns. The

training is similar to the idea of first aide in responding to mental health needs in clients facilities. In other news we lost one of the 2 volunteer trainees that were close to completing their hours.

**RSVP Update:** RSVP is implementing the Volunteer milestone recognition program. Volunteers receive awards at 100 hours, 250 hours, 500 hours, and 1000 hours. Susan Kelley has cleared her background checks and will be signing the MOU for the position of West Montrose and San Miguel Community Coordinator sometime this week. Filling this position gives RSVP a full team! Susan has already been spreading the word on the West End, we have had two new volunteer applications come through! RSVP Financial report is due October 30<sup>th</sup> and Project Supplemental report is due November 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Senior Companion-** We have had three new referrals this last month, and progress is being made on finding volunteers. Claudette finished the Senior Companion policy manual per grant guidelines. There are three presentations for the Month of October and November scheduled, and we anticipate additional volunteers from these activities.

**Informational/Ongoing:**

Claudette and Joe were able to meet with Sheila Makie regarding expanding Handy Helpers into Montrose. Sheila is very excited about this program, as she has local contacts that will donate materials and some items to assist in the effort. Sheila understands due to AAA current budget restrictions that there will not be any material aide available via purchase by Region 10, yet we do have donated storage space by Stryker constrution, voluneers from RSVP and partners, and Sheila has several local contacts that will donate materials when possible.



September 2024

Corey Bryndal

Regional Broadband Project Director

Broadband Report to the Board

- **DOLA EIAF Broadband** middle mile expansion plan is moving forward. This allows for direct fiber connection east into metro Denver, west to Salt Lake City and expansion southwest into Region 9. Fiber lateral construction in 9 communities is complete. An inventory is complete. The town of DeBeque is funded and starting construction. All equipment is on hand with our staging vendor LightRiver and at the R10 offices. LightRiver has final project detail required for configuration. The first sites deployed will be Denver, Grand Junction and Glenwood Springs. This allows for service to be extended to I-70 communities and Region 10's own network in Grand Junction. After those sites, Durango/Cortez, Montrose and the other communities will be added. The order of events is (1) Cabling and (2) Optical Equipment (3) Routing Equipment. The next step is fiber splicing and testing with both Zayo and CDOT.
- Region 10 has seen solid interest in our planned Salt Lake City route. This path provides redundancy should there be a problem with Denver connections. i.e. – mud-slide, fire, power or equipment failure. One ISP is interested in multiple sites along the route including transport and colocation services. An existing municipal network has asked for westbound services. Another ISP is currently collocated in two sites and will use transport service once activated. Several ISP's have been pushing for service activations.
- Region 10 participated in the development of a grant request made by UCAR to NSF. The grant was awarded to UCAR in April. Region 10 will provide transport services and IP routing to support community anchor institutions with science drivers in Gunnison, Crested Butte, Grand Junction and Durango. This is a large scale opportunity to support the Western Slope in concert with the Front Range Gigapop / UCAR organization. Region 10 will receive service revenue for the services rendered. Coordination meetings to use the Region 10 network will have begun. Fiber extensions for CMU, Fort Lewis College, Western Colorado University and Rocky Mountain Bio Lab are being coordinated.
- Region 10 released an RFP for network management services and hosted a call for questions. Multiple entities have downloaded the RFP and several participated in the call. Proposals are due November 8. Region 9 and 12 have signaled interest in collaborating on the RFP.
- Region 10 continues to work with DOLA on existing grants, changes in scope, and supplemental requests as needed. We are looking to the Colorado Broadband Office(part of OiT) for direction on their Middle Mile Grant program, and how we access funding for several Region 10 needs – including legacy equipment refresh, and operational support opportunities.
- Received DOLA grant award for funding for Technical Assistance for 2025. DOLA has indicated they will not be funding the two Technical Assistance positions on an ongoing basis as broadband responsibilities move to the Colorado Broadband Office (CBO). CBO indicates they are not in a

position to commit to supporting these requests going forward. CBO has been allocated funding for two internal CBO middle-mile resources. However, the goals of CBO's middle-mile program has been related to mapping and developing grant programs, where current in-Region DOLA funded Technical Assistance positions are focused on deploying middle-mile projects and managing implementation and operations. We will wait to see what their middle-mile grant program eligibility looks like in the future.

- Region 10 will occupy the Lake City CNL and install equipment for transport back to Gunnison. Fiber to reach the Lake City GCEA substation is complete. One anchor site was substituted with the agreement of the community and that site is now complete. We were glad to see DOLA visit Lake City and enjoy fiber optic services speeds!
- Region 10 has contracted with Echo Consulting out of Pagosa Springs for support in day to day operations and management of existing assets. This has been an active engagement and is producing results.
- **Gunnison County, Crested Butte and Mount Crested Butte** have asked Region 10 to focus on long-term, permanent fix, with possible interim solution between Gunnison and Crested Butte. Our focus is on middle-mile fiber between towns and developing a CNL in Mt. Crested Butte. Mt. Crested Butte has awarded a contract offer to a construction firm for this work. CNL construction will take place over the 2024/2025 winter season, and fiber construction will follow in the spring of 2025. While the CNL will be built with local and DOLA funds, fiber construction will be accomplished using local funds.
- Region 10 has used a private contractor to perform an audit of existing network assets. The output will include a topology map, remediation plan for equipment and configuration needs. Staff has received a proposal, has determined priority tasks and services. Region 10 is currently seeking a funding source for equipment refresh and update of some of its legacy gear. We are exploring several options.
- Region 10 managed CNL's over 5 years old are in need of Uninterruptible Power Supply refresh and capacity increases. Several UPS failures have occurred, and existing units have undersized batteries that are reaching end of service life. Gunnison and Montrose sites have received temporary UPS fixes but a more comprehensive lifecycle plan for power backup is needed. This project will be lead by contractor Echo Consulting.
- Region 10 has supported Region 9 in designing and estimating equipment needs for the new Durango to Pagosa Springs route along Highway 151. This route will provide an opportunity for improved reliability for the entire western slope of Colorado – especially Region 10's six counties. Five partners came together to develop \$2 million in matching funds for the project. DOLA awarded La Plata County \$2.1 million in middle-mile funds for purchase of a one-time assignable IRU. The \$4.1 million project includes La Plata County, Archuleta County, La Plata Electric Association, Southern Ute Indian Tribe and Region 10. As a result, Region 10 will receive use of four strands of fiber that will contribute to improved reliability of our overall infrastructure. While Region 10 staff crated the project, partners in the Durango have put together the final structure and agreements. Region 10 has signed the agreement, will receive 4 strands of fiber from Durango to Pagosa Springs to support private ISP's at area CNL's. SUIT is finalizing permitting and construction may begin late in 2024.
- Continuing to work with our neighbors to the south in **Region 9** and is working on projects in the region to develop redundant fiber routes with more capacity and connect to primary Internet sources for the Western Slope in general. Four CNL's in Region 9 have been completed and will connect to the Region 10 network. Region 10 provided design and estimating for optical and routing gear for these facilities

and the SUIT location. DOLA awarded Region 9 a \$999,999 grant for this project. Region 10 was able to negotiate an additional service credit with the optical vendor of \$100,000 to help with installation costs. Since Region 9 will be seeking EDA funds and will perform procurement in CY2025, they will need to re-request the vendor service credit for that calendar year.

- La Plata County and Colorado Counties Inc is supporting a bill in the Colorado legislature to remove recurring fees from CDOT owned public right of way. This bill failed at the direction of the Governor. CDOT recurring ROW fees are in force. Communities are utilizing alternate routes that do not have recurring annual ROW fees. CDOT fees appear to be having an affect on BEAD applications and reaching un/under-served
- DOLA responsibilities -in the “Technical Assistant” role, Region 10 staff continues to present broadband educational materials, review potential project applications, attend regional meetings and provide technical assistance for broadband development throughout our DOLA identified territory. Engagement areas include SCEDD, PPACG, San Luis Valley, Region 9/SWCCOG, AGNC and others. Periodic updates are provided to AGNC. Region 10 attends two regular weekly meetings with Region 9.





# TRANSPORTATION NEWSLETTER

**DATE: September 2024**

Vince Rogalski, Chairman

Gunnison Valley TPR

[vrogal@montrose.net](mailto:vrogal@montrose.net)

## GOOD NEWS WEEKLY REPORT

### US 50 Emergency Bridge Project Update Oct. 14-18

#### US 50 Middle and Lake Fork Bridges open to all vehicles on Wednesday, Oct. 16. Pilot car operations continues

- The Colorado Department of Transportation is pleased to announce significant progress on major structural repairs on the US 50 Middle Bridge. This will allow the bridge to open in a single lane configuration to all legal loads Wednesday, Oct. 16, 24 hours a day, seven days a week with pilot operations.
- Final construction activities will continue during overnight hours, from 11:30 p.m. to 6 a.m., and late-night travelers can expect longer wait times, similar to what they have been encountering at the Lake Fork Bridge. The remaining construction activity will prepare the bridge for normal, two-way traffic, with both lanes open, ahead of winter.
- Traffic over the Middle Bridge will continue to be piloted in one direction at a time, and heavier vehicles - including semi trucks, charter buses and class A motorhomes - will be released one at a time over the bridge while the temporary work deck is removed from below the structure. Anyone traveling over the Middle Bridge should continue to plan for delays.
- Opening the bridge to all vehicles will bring an end to pilot car operations on County Road 26. This road will remain open for travel and can continue to be used as a local alternate route as long as weather conditions allow.

Vehicles approved for crossing over the US 50 Middle Bridge:

- Passenger vehicles
  - Pickup trucks (including pickups with in-bed camper tops)
  - Vans
  - All Class A motorhomes
  - Larger Class C motorhomes
  - Semi-Trucks
  - Commercial Buses
  - Pickup trucks with a gooseneck trailer or a 5th-wheel camper or trailer
  - Motorcycles
  - Emergency vehicles, ambulances and fire trucks
  - School buses
  - ¾ ton or smaller pickups with bumper pull trailers (boats, campers, side-by-sides)
  - Compact Class C motorhomes
  - Small single rear axle box trucks
  - Tow trucks
- 

## **US 50 Lake Fork Bridge Update**

Traffic on the US 50 Lake Fork Bridge continues to be led by pilot vehicles to keep speeds low while construction crews work on temporary scaffolding decks under the bridge.

Crews will be conducting repair work on the bridge overnight. Motorists should expect longer wait times to cross the bridge during this time frame.

- The US 50 Lake Fork Bridge is open to all legal loads.

## **STAC ELECTION RESULTS**

Date/Time: Thursday, October 3, 2024; 8:30 a.m.- 11:30 p.m.

STAC Election of Officers (Action Item)- Darius Pakbaz, CDOT Division of Transportation Development

- Gary Beedy (Eastern TPR) was elected as STAC Chair.

- Holly Williams (PPACG) was elected as STAC vice chair.
- Heather Sloop resigned from STAC and will resign from the Northwest TPR Regional Planning Commission as Chair.
- STAC celebrated Vince Rogalski's 20 years serving as STAC chair. Vince will continue to serve on the STAC representing Gunnison Valley TPR

## **Planning update from STAC**

### **2050 Statewide Plan Update (Informational Update)**

#### **Jeff Sudmeier, Chief Financial Officer**

- STAC members were concerned about the target of 10% of strategic funds going towards multimodal and transit improvements vs. highway capacity improvements. Some members felt this was especially unrealistic for rural communities and growing areas of the state.
- STAC members were concerned about the increase in funds going to Enterprises and the diminishing funds for the 10-year Plan projects and how this might affect their ability to effectively plan and prioritize their project lists.
- STAC members wanted more transparency with the decision making processes within CDOT enterprises, and wanted more opportunities for participation and input on their decision making in terms of how funds are invested.
- STAC members generally wanted to see as much fund expenditure flexibility as possible, and were concerned with the restricted funding uses of the Colorado Enterprises established.

**Transportation TPR Meeting**

**Planning meeting #2**

**November 14, 2024**

**1:30 to 4:00pm**

