













COLORADO TRANSPORTATION GRANT MATCHMAKER:

YOUR GUIDE TO FUNDING
SAFE, CONNECTED, AND
SUSTAINABLE PROJECTS



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INTRODUCTION

Colorado's majestic landscapes, thriving communities, and commitment to sustainability demand a transportation system that is safe, accessible, and environmentally responsible. Whether you're a municipality looking to improve roadways, a nonprofit organization dedicated to expanding trails, or a community group seeking to enhance transit options, this roadmap will equip you with the knowledge and tools to navigate the complex world of grant funding.



HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE

This roadmap is your compass for navigating the diverse landscape of transportation grant funding in Colorado. It's designed to be a practical, user-friendly guide for municipalities, counties, and transportation-focused nonprofits seeking to improve safety, connectivity, accessibility, and sustainability in their communities. This resource recognizes that local governments often lack capacity to know which grants are out there, understand the selection criteria, or have time to write the grant. One of the purposes of this resource is to reduce that barrier and make the grant process more straightforward.

Identifying Opportunities & Building Capacity

Begin by clearly defining your project's scope, goals, and target population. Once you have a solid vision, use the interactive regional map to explore funding opportunities specific to your area. The map highlights local resources, successful project examples, and contact information for potential partners. Take advantage of the eligibility checklists to quickly assess if your project aligns with each grant's requirements, saving you valuable time and effort.



Regional Alignment & Community-Driven Language

It is important to recognize that transportation projects often have regional impacts. Therefore, collaboration with neighboring communities, regional planning organizations, and councils of government to leverage resources and share expertise is essential to build support for your project. This collaborative approach can strengthen your grant applications and increase your chances of success. As you develop your project, make sure to incorporate community-driven language into your planning documents. Engage residents, businesses, and other stakeholders to understand their needs and concerns. This will not only make your project more relevant and impactful but also provide valuable evidence of community support when applying for grants.

Proactive Planning for Sustainable Infrastructure

As Colorado's gateway communities experience increased visitation which leads to additional traffic and pedestrian activity, particularly around parks and natural areas, the need for robust and sustainable transportation infrastructure becomes even more critical. Proactive planning is essential to address challenges posed by both natural occurrences like weather and wildfires, as well as regular wear and tear from use. By investing in resilient infrastructure, you can ensure the safety and enjoyment of residents and visitors alike.

Leveraging this Roadmap (and Your Own Capacity!)

This roadmap was developed through funding from Colorado Parks and Wildlife. CPW recognizes that thriving communities are key to managing the increasing demands on our natural resources and transportation networks. By utilizing this resource, you're not just finding funding – you're joining a network of organizations committed to building a more sustainable and equitable future for Colorado.



BUILDING A STRONG PROJECT TEAM: THE FOUNDATION FOR SUCCESSFUL GRANT APPLICATIONS

Securing funding for vital transportation projects in Colorado requires more than just a compelling idea – it demands a dedicated, skilled, and collaborative team. This section will guide you through building a team that can effectively navigate the grant process and deliver lasting results for your community.

Capacity Building

Local governments, particularly in rural communities, often face unique challenges when it comes to assembling a grant-ready team. Limited staffing and resources can make it difficult to find individuals with the necessary expertise. However, there are several strategies to overcome these obstacles:

EMPOWER VOLUNTEERS: Tap into the passion and commitment of community members by recruiting volunteers for key roles. Offer training and mentorship opportunities to build their skills and knowledge.

PARTNER WITH REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: Leverage the expertise and resources of regional entities like Councils of Governments (COGs) and Transportation Planning Regions (TPRs). They can provide technical assistance, grant writing support, and access to broader networks.

COLLABORATE WITH NONPROFITS: Explore partnerships with local nonprofits that have experience in grant development and project management. They can offer valuable insights and support throughout the process.

Early Stakeholder Engagement

Reach out to potential funders early in the planning process. Establishing relationships with grant makers can provide valuable feedback on your project idea and help you tailor your proposal to their specific priorities. Remember, you're not just selling a project; you're selling your community. Engage with tourism boards, chambers of commerce, and other civic organizations to tell a comprehensive story about the importance of safe, sustainable infrastructure for your region's economic vitality and quality of life.

Community-Driven Language

Ensure that your project reflects the needs and aspirations of your community. Incorporate community-driven language into your planning documents, emphasizing the project's benefits for residents, businesses, and visitors. Conduct surveys, hold public meetings, and gather input from diverse stakeholders to demonstrate broad community support for your project.

Sustainability and Safety

Colorado's transportation infrastructure faces increasing pressure from both natural hazards and extreme weather events and growing visitation. By proactively addressing these challenges through sustainable design and maintenance, you can ensure the safety and longevity of your transportation projects. This will resonate with funders who prioritize resilient infrastructure and community well-being.

Building a strong project team is the first step towards securing grant funding and creating a lasting impact on your community. By embracing collaboration, leveraging resources, and incorporating community voices, you can build the capacity needed to turn your transportation vision into reality.





GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Grants and the key details associated.



NATIONAL GRANT OPPORTUNITIES FOR TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM (STBGP):

Provides flexible funding for various transportation projects, including roads, bridges, transit, and safety improvements.

- **Focus:** Broad range of projects, including highway construction, transit capital projects, and bicycle/pedestrian facilities.
- **Eligibility:** State departments of transportation, metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs), and local governments.
- **Grant Size:** Varies depending on state apportionment.
- **Website:** [STBG - Federal-aid Programs - Federal-aid Programs and Special Funding - Federal Highway Administration \(dot.gov\)](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/federal-aid/STBG/index.cfm)

CONGESTION MITIGATION AND AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT (CMAQ) PROGRAM:

Funds projects that reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality.

- **Focus:** Projects that reduce emissions from on-road and non-road sources, such as public transportation, bicycle/pedestrian infrastructure, and traffic signal synchronization.
- **Eligibility:** State departments of transportation, MPOs, and local governments in air quality nonattainment or maintenance areas.
- **Grant Size:** Varies depending on state apportionment.
- **Website:** https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/air_quality/cmaq/

NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND (HPF):

The National Park Service's Historic Preservation Fund offers a range of competitive grant programs to support the preservation of significant historic and cultural resources across the United States. These grants provide financial assistance to a variety of eligible entities, including state and tribal historic preservation offices, local governments, and non-profit organizations, for projects such as preserving historic structures, documenting cultural landscapes, conducting archaeological surveys, and developing educational and interpretive programs. The HPF grants aim to foster a greater understanding and appreciation of our nation's diverse heritage while ensuring that these irreplaceable resources are protected and accessible for future generations.

- **Competitive Grants:** [Historic Preservation Fund \(U.S. National Park Service\)\(nps.gov\)](https://www.nps.gov/learn/education/competitive-grants/)

TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES (TA) PROGRAM:

Supports projects for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other non-motorized transportation users.

- **Focus:** Construction of on- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, Safe Routes to School projects, community improvement activities, and environmental mitigation.
- **Eligibility:** State departments of transportation, MPOs, local governments, and tribal governments.
- **Grant Size:** Varies depending on state apportionment.
- **Website:** [Transportation Alternatives Program – Colorado Department of Transportation \(codot.gov\)](https://www.codot.gov/transportation/alternatives/)



Federal Transit Administration (FTA)

CAPITAL INVESTMENT GRANTS (CIG) PROGRAM:

Provides funding for new fixed guideway transit systems, core capacity improvements, and small start opportunity to expand access and address challenges related to capacity projects.

- **Focus:** New and expanded transit systems that serve major urban areas.
- **Eligibility:** Public transportation agencies and state departments of transportation.
- **Grant Size:** Varies depending on project scope and cost.
- **Website:** [Capital Investment Grants Program | FTA \(dot.gov\)](https://www.fta.dot.gov)

BUS AND BUS FACILITIES PROGRAM:

Funds the purchase or lease of buses and vans and the construction of bus-related facilities.

- **Focus:** Improving the quality and reliability of bus service.
- **Eligibility:** Public transportation agencies, state departments of transportation, and Native American tribes.
- **Grant Size:** Varies depending on project scope and cost.
- **Website:** [Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Program | US Department of Transportation](https://www.transportation.gov)

Other Federal Agencies

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD):

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program can be used for various community development activities, including transportation infrastructure projects.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA):

Offers grants for projects that improve air quality and water quality, which can be linked to transportation initiatives.

- **Website:** [Community Change Grants Selections | US EPA](https://www.epa.gov)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION (EDA):

Provides funding for economic development projects, including infrastructure improvements that support transportation access and job creation.

- **Website:** [Fiscal Year 2023 Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance \(PWEAA\) Application Submission and Program Requirements | U.S. Economic Development Administration \(eda.gov\)](https://www.eda.gov)

STATEWIDE RESOURCES

COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL AFFAIRS

Councils of Government (COGs) serve as vital regional planning and coordinating bodies, offering a wealth of resources and expertise to member municipalities and counties. When it comes to securing transportation grants, COGs play a critical role in supporting local communities, helping them navigate the complexities of grant applications, project planning, and advocacy efforts. By leveraging the services offered by COGs, local governments can increase their chances of success, maximize the impact of their transportation projects, and contribute to a safer, more connected, and more sustainable regional transportation network. In this section, we'll explore the key ways in which COGs empower local governments to achieve their transportation goals through grant acquisition and collaboration.

- [Local Community Funding Guide | Division of Local Government \(colorado.gov\)](https://www.colorado.gov)
- **Grant database:** [DOLA Local Community Funding Guide Funding Sources - Pop Open \(google.com\)](https://www.google.com)

Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Grants

MULTIMODAL OPTIONS FUND (MMOF):

This is a flexible funding source supporting various transportation projects, including:

- *Bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure (trails, sidewalks, crosswalks)*
- *Transit enhancements (bus shelters, park-and-ride facilities)*
- *Regional trails and greenways*
- *Safety improvements (traffic calming, lighting)*
- **Website:**

TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM (TAP):

While federally funded, CDOT administers this program in Colorado, focusing on non-motorized transportation projects.

- **Focus:** Similar to the federal TAP program (see above)
- **Website:**

HIGHWAY SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (HSIP):

Funds projects that aim to reduce crashes and fatalities on Colorado highways.

- **Focus:** Roadway safety audits, intersection improvements, shoulder widening, rumble strips, etc.
- **Website:**

COLORADO COUNTIES, INC. (CCI)

A non-profit organization dedicated to empowering Colorado's county commissioners, mayors, and councilmembers through information sharing, collaborative opportunities, and legislative advocacy.

Services:

- **Information & Education:** Up-to-date news, workshops, and webinars on county governance and best practices
- **Training & Conferences:** Statewide conferences and workshops for skill development and networking
- **Legislative Representation:** Unified voice for counties at the state legislature, advocating for policies that support local government
- **Collaboration & Networking:** Encouraging partnerships and resource sharing among counties

OTHER CDOT GRANTS:

CDOT offers additional grant programs for specific purposes, such as transit, aviation, and freight. Explore their website for a comprehensive list: <https://www.codot.gov/business/grants>

Additional Tips for Federal Grants:

- Sign up for email alerts from these agencies to stay informed about new funding opportunities.
- Contact your local or regional transportation planning organization for assistance in identifying and applying for grants.
- Partner with other organizations to leverage resources and increase your chances of success.





Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO)

CONNECT INITIATIVE:

Specifically focuses on trail projects that connect communities and create regional trail networks.

- **Focus:** Improving trail connectivity and access.
- **Website:** [GOCO awards \\$10M of trails grants for first ever Connect Initiative | Great Outdoors Colorado](#)

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW)

NON-MOTORIZED TRAIL GRANTS:

Funds the planning, design, and construction of non-motorized trails on state lands.

- **Focus:** Expanding recreational trail opportunities.
- **Website:** <https://cpw.state.co.us/aboutus/Pages/GrantPrograms.aspx>



Department of Local Affairs (DOLA)

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG):

- **Focus:** As mentioned earlier, CDBG funds can be used for various community development projects, including sidewalks, streetscapes, and public facilities that improve pedestrian safety and access.
- **Administering Agency:** U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- **Eligibility:** Local governments, states, and non-profits
- **More Information:** <https://www.hudexchange.info/>

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS (RTPOs):

- **Focus:** Regional transportation planning and coordination
- **Role:** Contact your regional RTPO for information on local funding opportunities specific to your region's needs.
- **Eligibility:** Varies by region.

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS (MPOs)

- **Focus:** Transportation planning in metropolitan areas
- **Role:** If your community is in a metropolitan area, check with your Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for additional grant programs.
- **Eligibility:** Local governments within the MPO's jurisdiction

COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT (CDPHE)

- **Focus:** Public health and environmental protection
- **Role:** Offers grants related to air quality and active transportation, which could indirectly support sidewalk and trail projects.
- **Eligibility:** Varies by program.
- **More Information:** <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/>



Regional Councils of Governments (COGs)

Councils of Government (COGs) serve as vital regional planning and coordinating bodies, offering a wealth of resources and expertise to member municipalities and counties. When it comes to securing transportation grants, COGs play a critical role in supporting local communities, helping them navigate the complexities of grant applications, project planning, and advocacy efforts. By leveraging the services offered by COGs, local governments can increase their chances of success, maximize the impact of their transportation projects, and contribute to a safer, more connected, and more sustainable regional transportation network. In this section, we'll explore the key ways in which COGs empower local governments to achieve their transportation goals through grant acquisition and collaboration.

1. Grant Identification and Assistance

- **Expertise:** COGs have staff dedicated to researching and identifying grant opportunities relevant to their region. They can help municipalities find funding sources they might not be aware of.
- **Application Support:** COGs can offer technical assistance with grant writing, budget preparation, and project planning, increasing the quality and competitiveness of applications.
- **Regional Collaboration:** COGs can facilitate partnerships between municipalities and counties, leveraging regional resources and expertise to pursue larger, more impactful projects.



4. Capacity Building and Training

- **Workshops and Webinars:** COGs offer training and workshops on grant writing, project management, and other relevant topics to help municipal staff develop the skills needed to successfully pursue and manage grants.
- **Peer Learning:** COGs facilitate peer-to-peer learning opportunities, allowing municipalities to share best practices and learn from each other's experiences.
- **Resource Sharing:** COGs can connect municipalities with other organizations and resources that can help them build capacity and implement successful projects.

5. Additional Benefits

- **Cost Sharing:** COGs can help municipalities pool resources and share costs for regional projects, reducing the financial burden on individual communities.
- **Economies of Scale:** By collaborating on regional projects, municipalities can achieve economies of scale and access resources that might not be available to them individually.
- **Network Building:** COGs provide a platform for municipalities to network with each other, share ideas, and build relationships that can lead to future collaborations.

2. Planning and Technical Assistance

- **Transportation Planning:** COGs develop regional transportation plans that identify priority projects and funding needs, helping municipalities align their projects with regional goals.
- **Technical Expertise:** COGs often have staff with expertise in transportation engineering, planning, and environmental review, which they can share with municipalities to strengthen project proposals.
- **Data and Mapping:** COGs can provide access to data and mapping tools that can help municipalities analyze transportation needs, identify potential project locations, and assess project impacts.

3. Advocacy and Representation

- **Legislative Advocacy:** COGs advocate for regional transportation priorities at the state and federal levels, ensuring that municipal needs are represented in the decision-making process.
- **Grant Lobbying:** COGs can help municipalities advocate for funding for specific projects by building relationships with state and federal agencies.
- **Regional Voice:** COGs can amplify the collective voice of their member municipalities, increasing their influence and impact on transportation policy and funding decisions.

Key Points to Remember:



ENGAGE EARLY: Reach out to your COG early in the planning process to take full advantage of their resources and expertise.



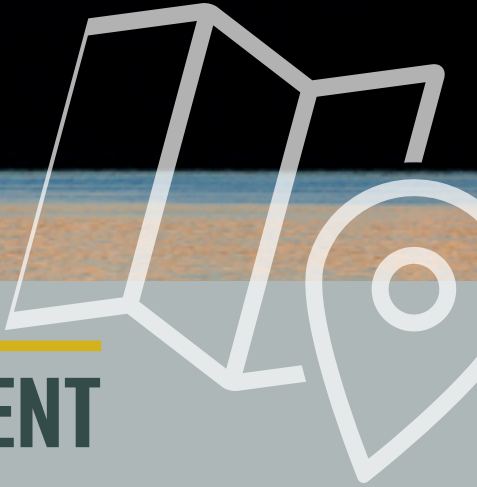
BUILD RELATIONSHIPS: Cultivate strong relationships with COG staff and other stakeholders to ensure effective collaboration and communication.



LEVERAGE RESOURCES: Take advantage of all the resources and services offered by your COG, including training, technical assistance, and data analysis.



THINK REGIONALLY: Consider the regional impact of your transportation projects and how they can contribute to broader goals for safety, connectivity, and sustainability.

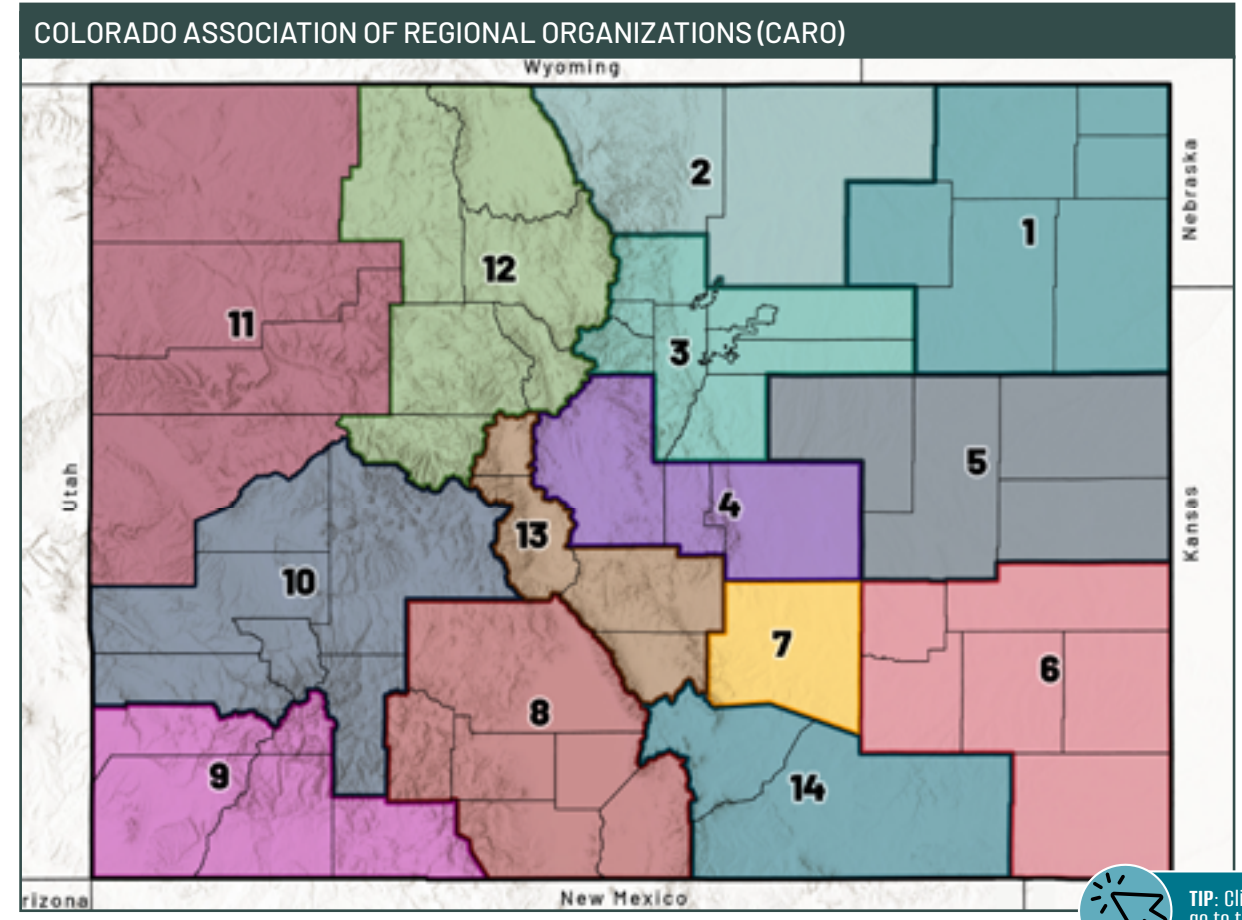


COUNCILS OF GOVERNMENT

The Councils of Government (COGs) and the Colorado Association of Regional Organizations (CARO) are essential pillars of regional collaboration and resource management across Colorado. There are 14 COGs, each representing different planning and management regions across the state. These voluntary associations of local governments work together to address regional issues, develop strategies, and oversee regional programs. By uniting local governments under a common framework, COGs enable better coordination of resources, more effective problem-solving, and the pursuit of shared economic and development goals.

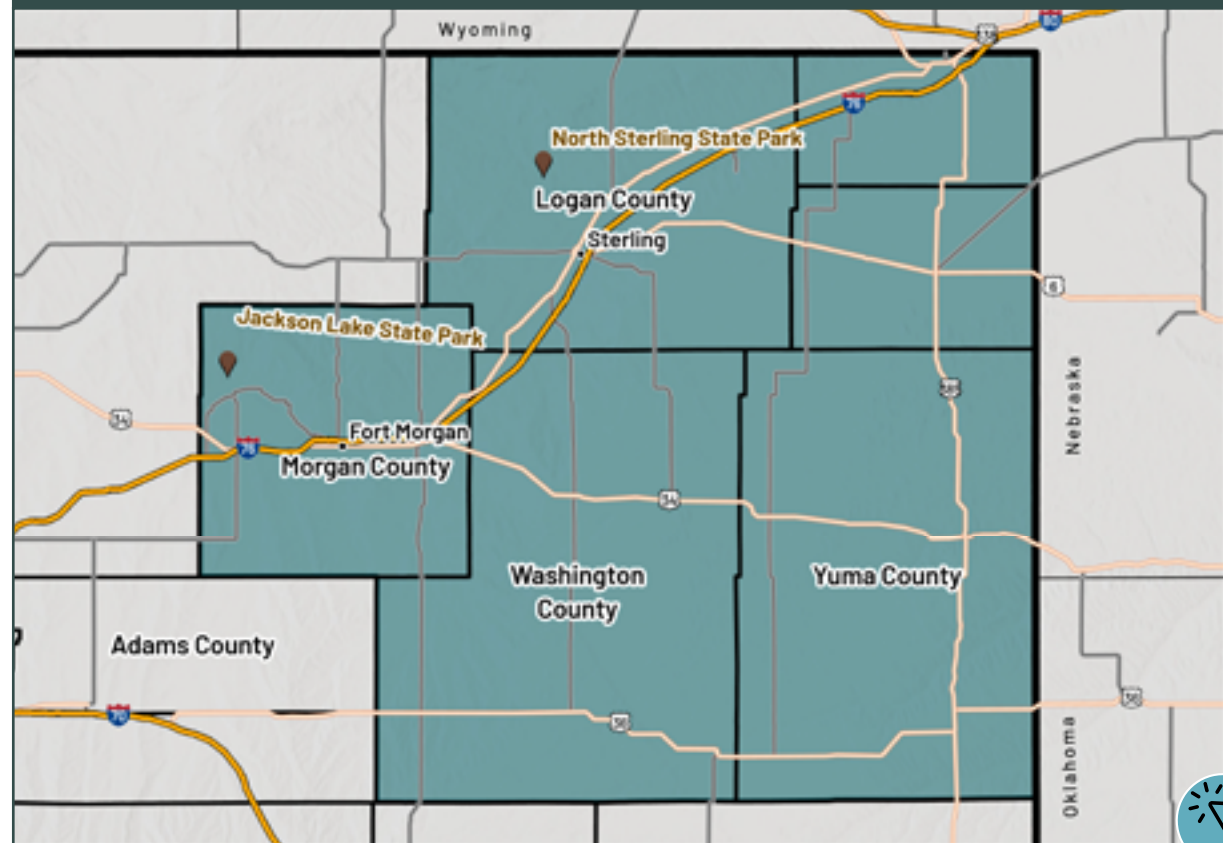
Formed in 2008, CARO represents these regional organizations [COGs] at the state level, providing a platform for cooperation, capacity building, and advocacy. CARO ensures that regional organizations are effectively represented and supported by state and federal agencies.

The Grant Roadmap uses the 14 COG regional boundaries to leverage the collective resources and strengthen the chances of success of grants awarded by enabling joint grant applications and the sharing of expertise, staff, and technical assistance between counties within the same region. This collaborative approach maximizes available resources, making it easier for local governments to identify and secure grant opportunities. CARO's role in monitoring federal grant programs and advocating for increased funding in Colorado further bolsters these efforts, ensuring that regions can effectively tap into financial resources. The Grant Roadmap builds on the strengths of COGs and CARO, providing a clear pathway for communities to access necessary resources and fostering regional success through coordinated efforts.

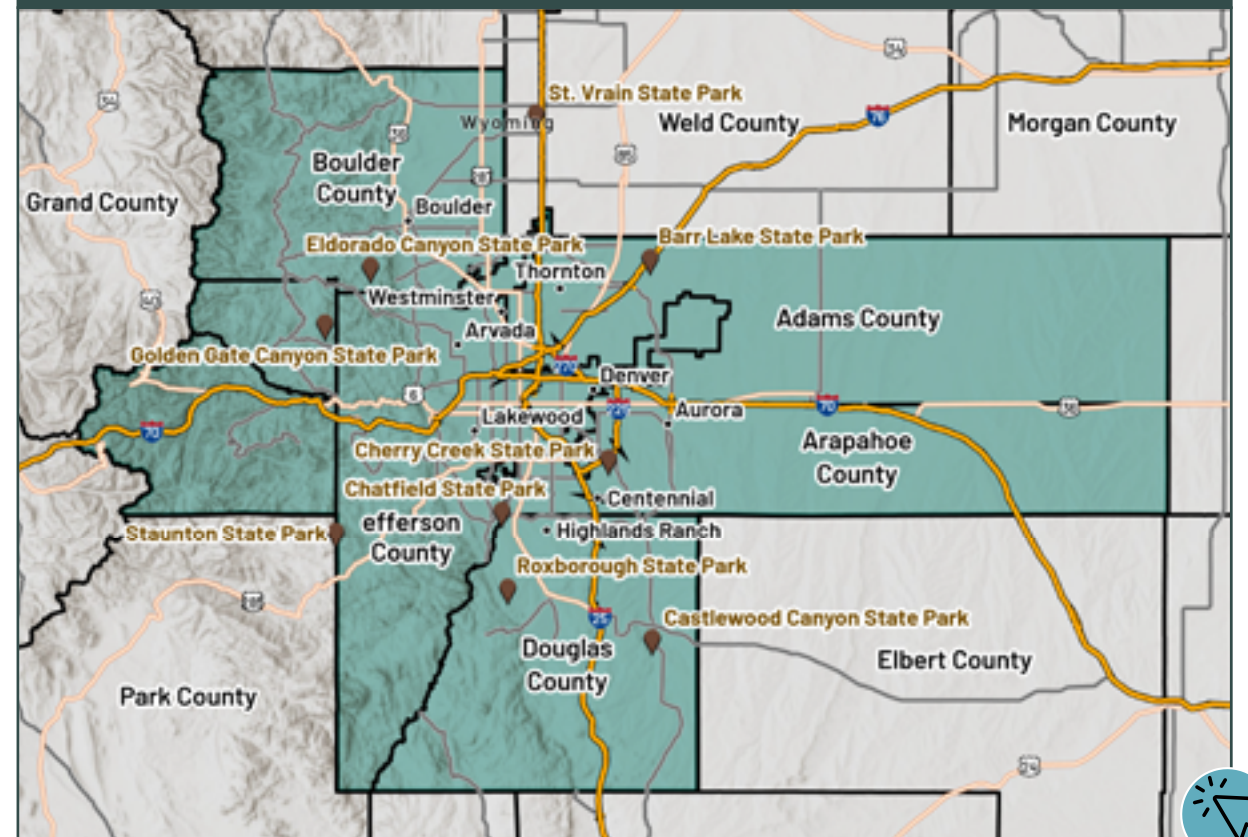




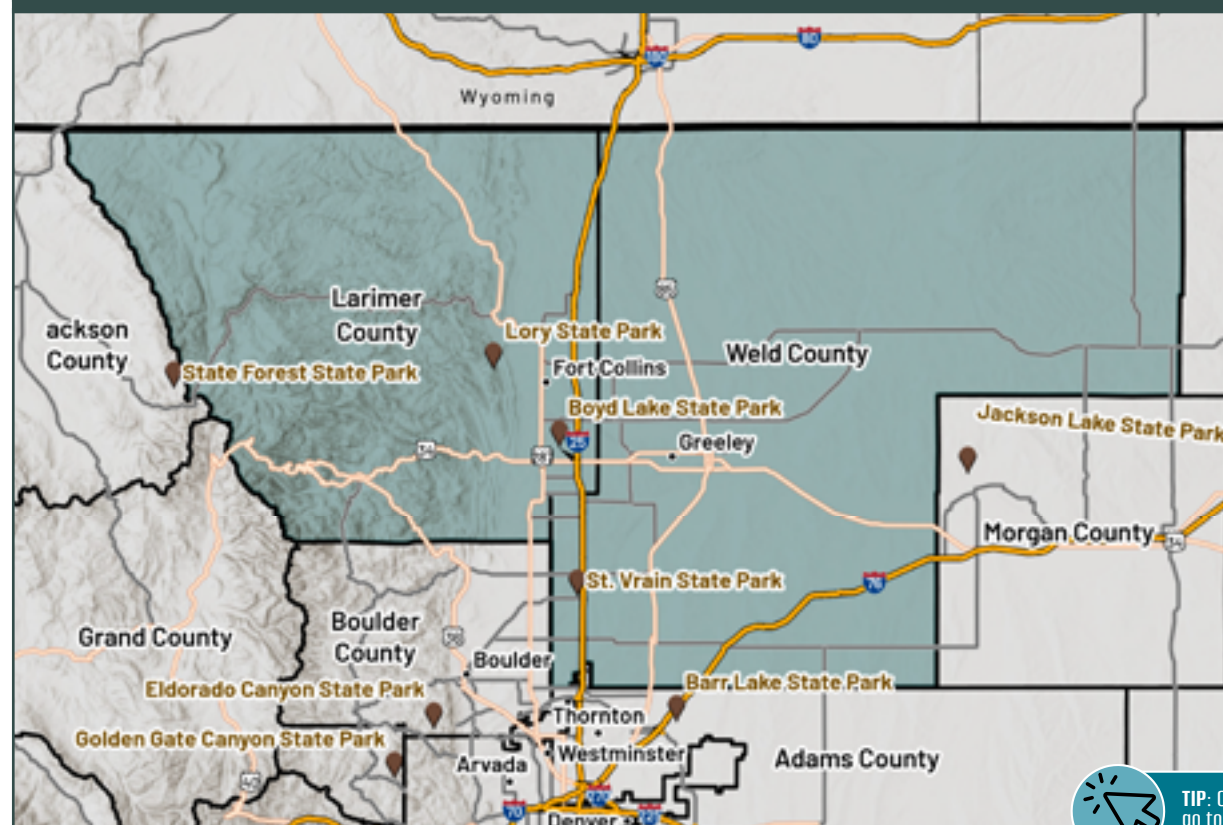
1 | NORTHEAST COLORADO ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS (NECALG)



3 | DENVER REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (DRCOG)

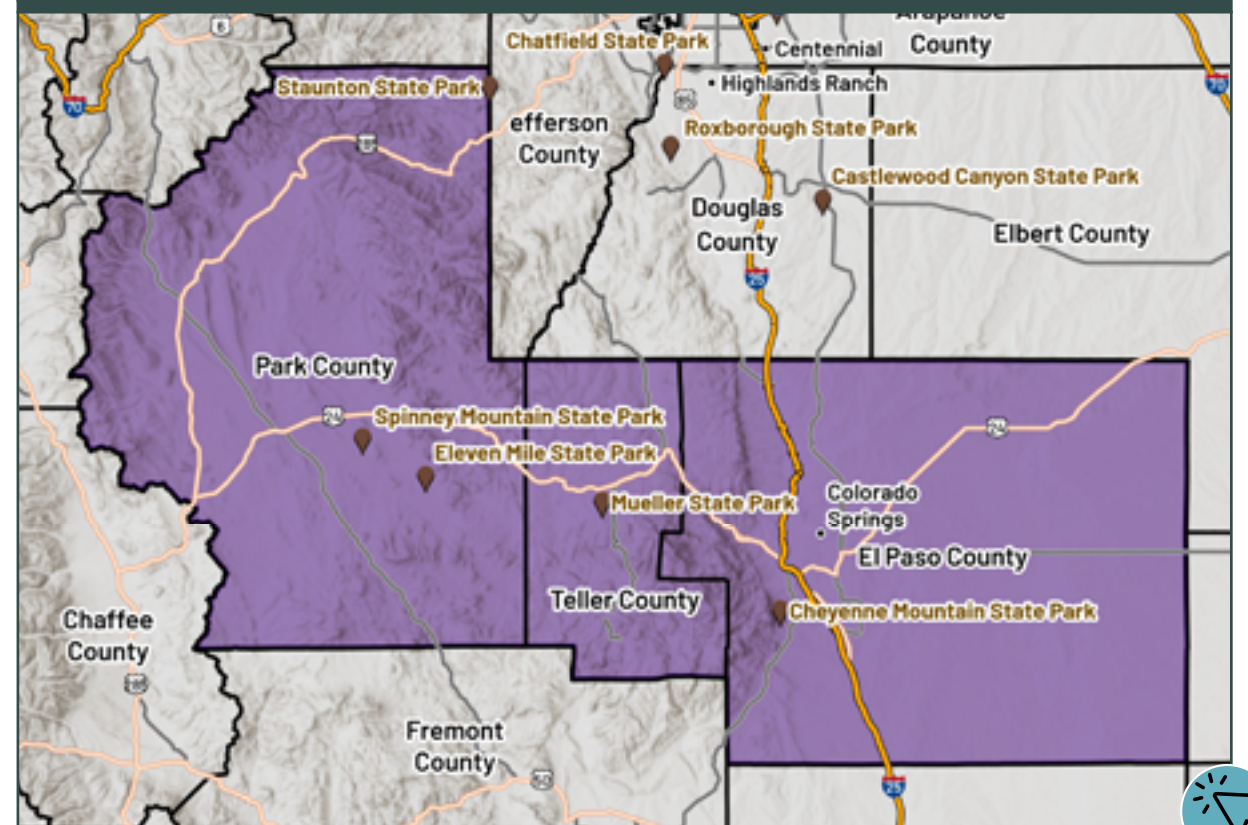


2 | UPSTATE COLORADO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (UCED)



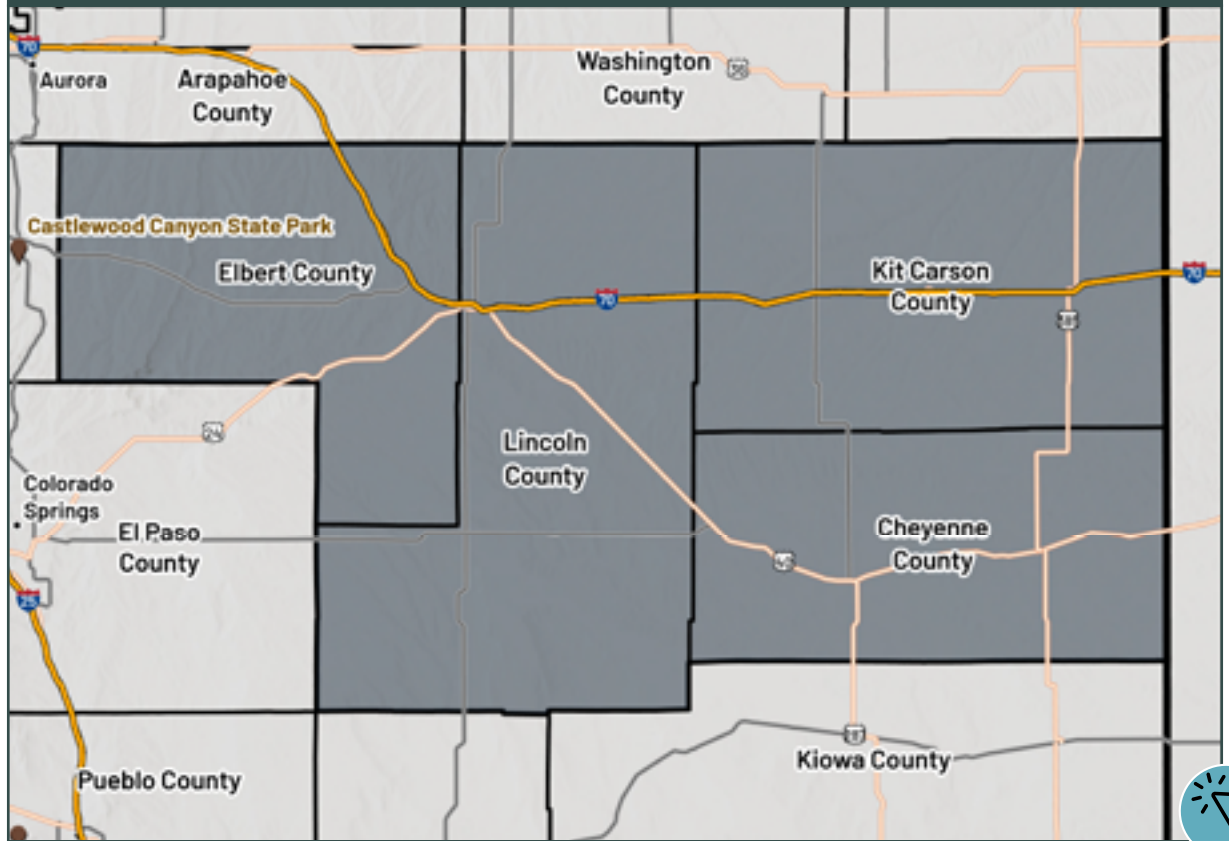
TIP: Click the map to go to the COG website.

4 | PIKES PEAK AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (PPACG)

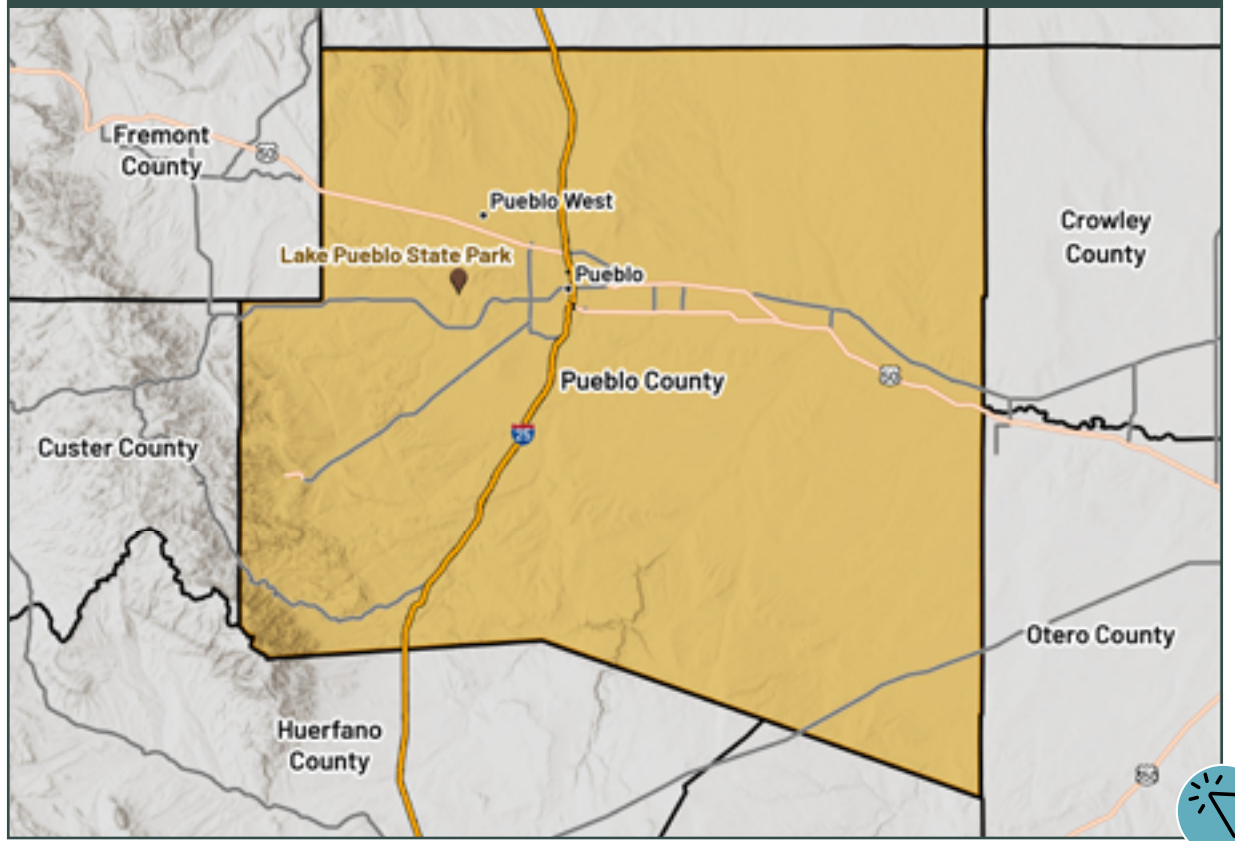




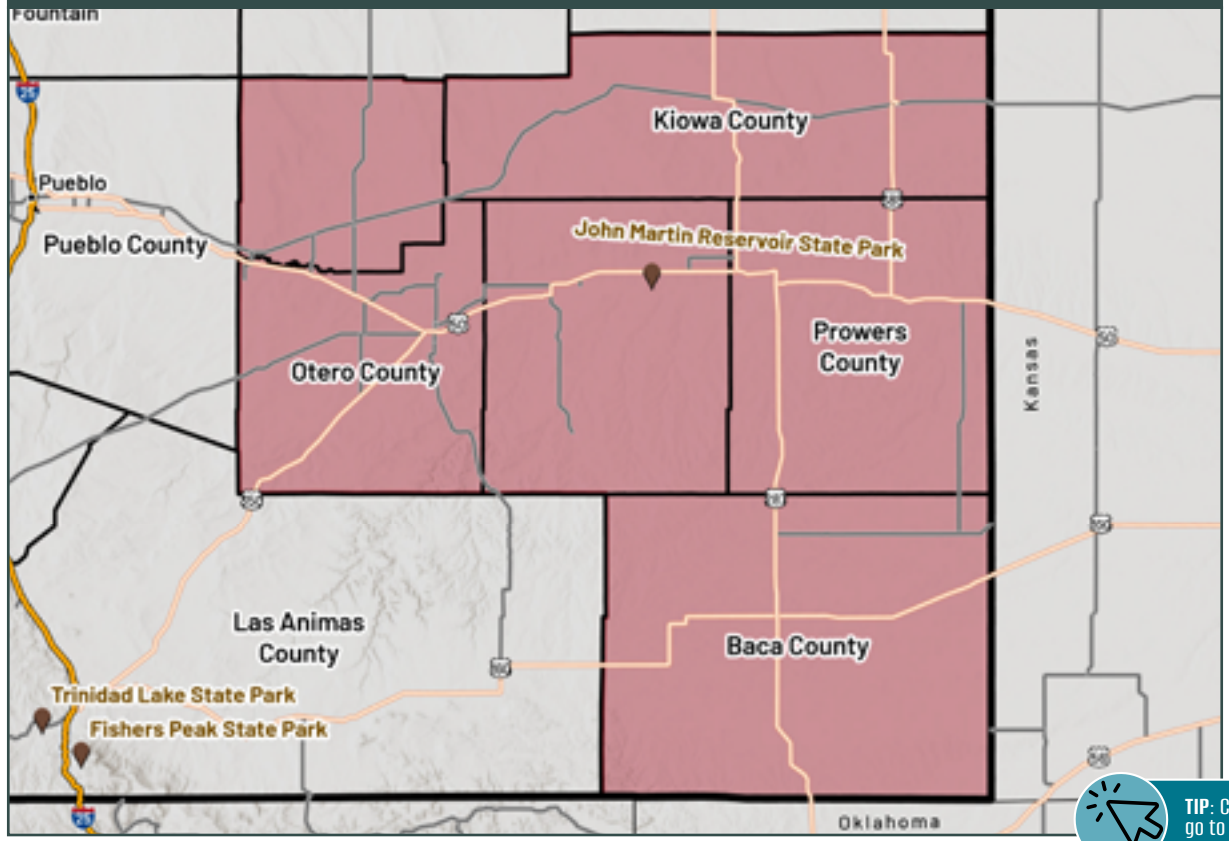
5 | EAST CENTRAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (ECCOG)



7 | PUEBLO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (PACOG)

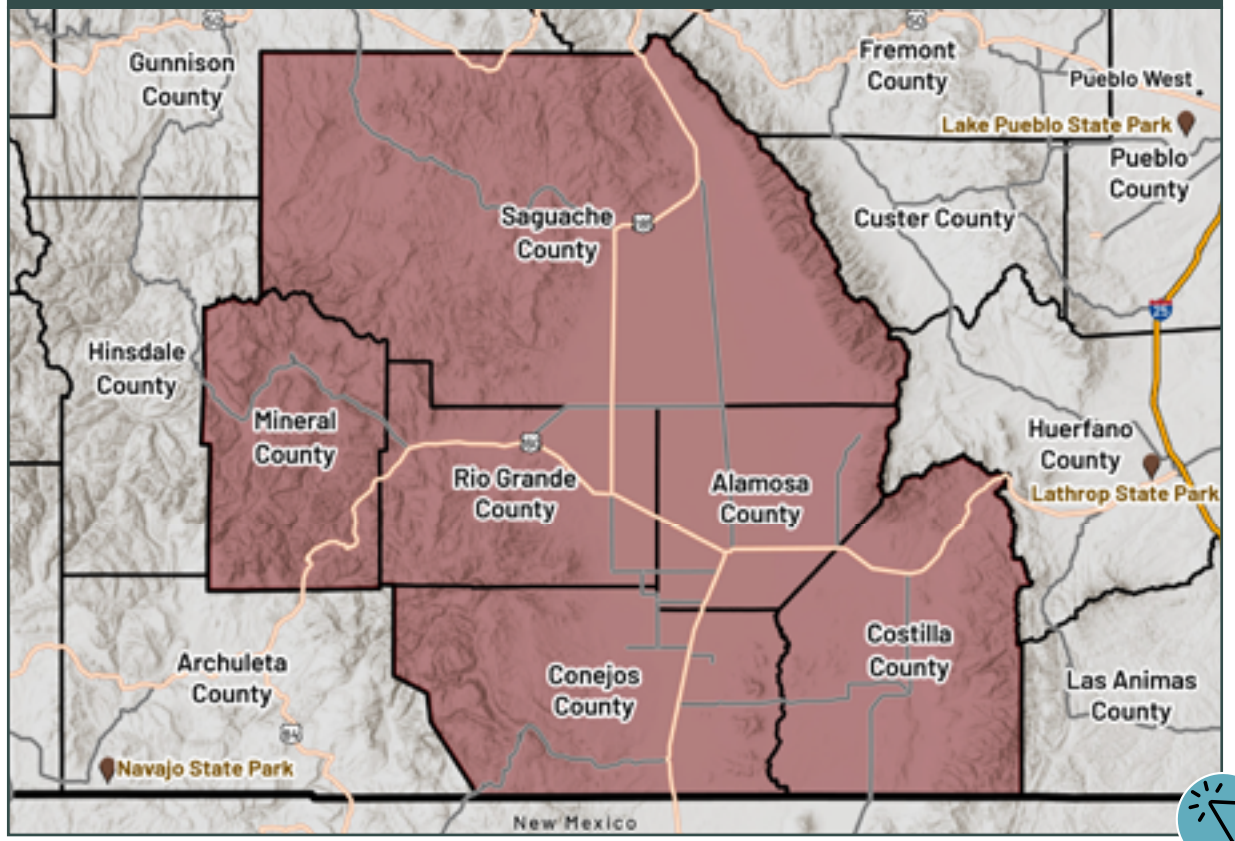


6 | SOUTHEAST COLORADO ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT (SECED)



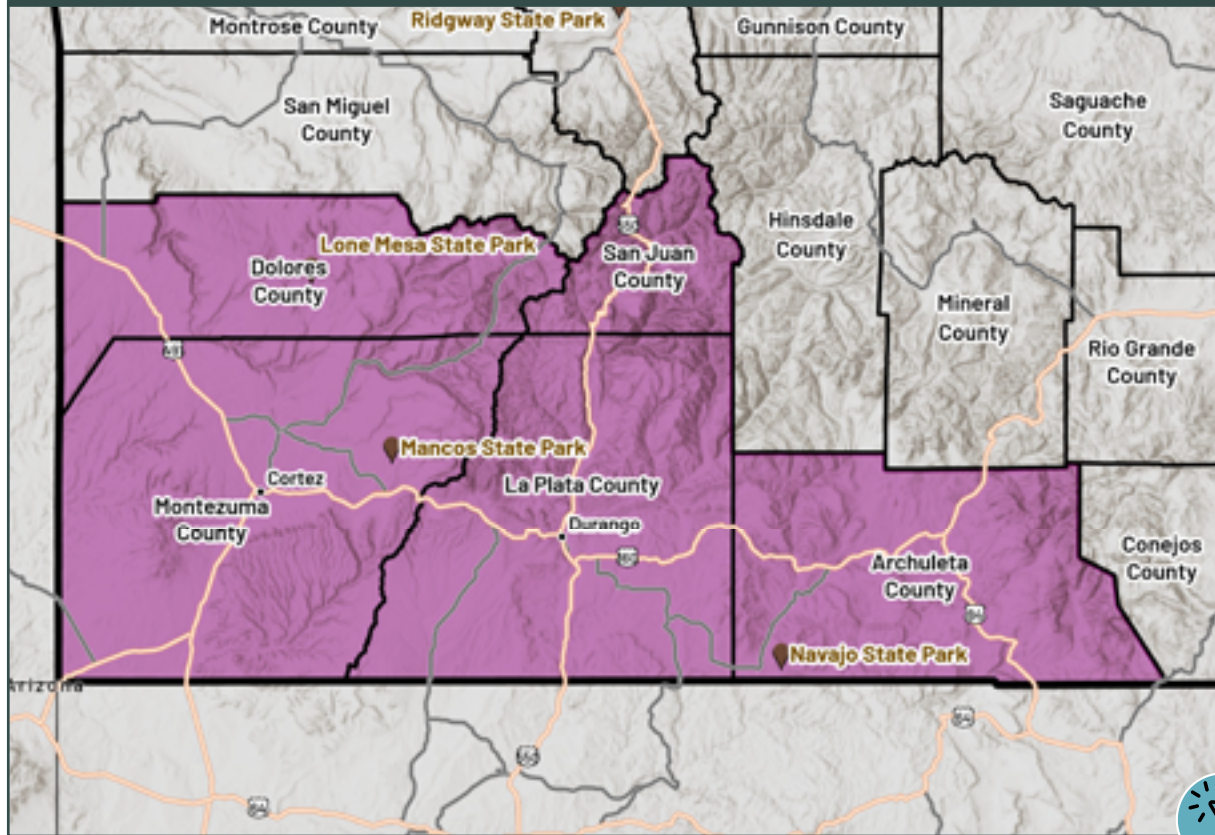
TIP: Click the map to go to the COG website.

8 | SAN LUIS VALLEY DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES & COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (SLVCOG)

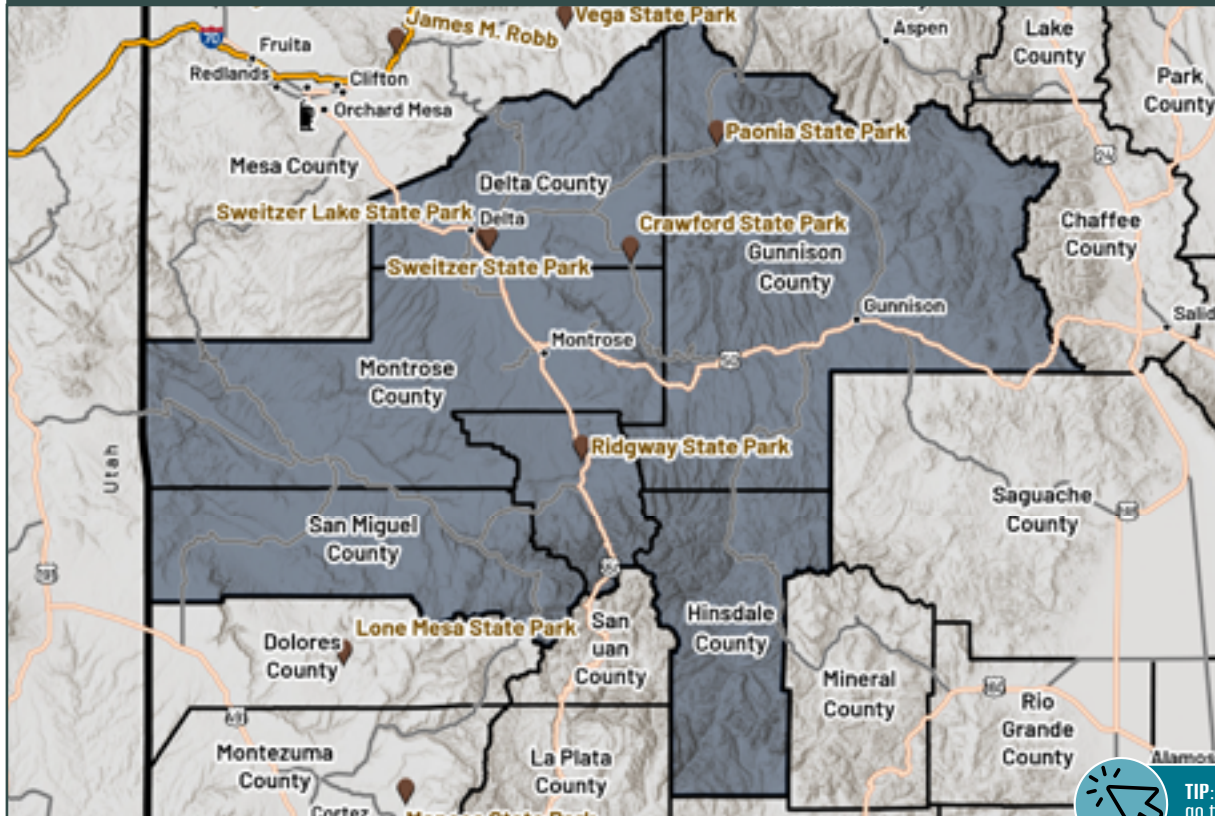




9 | SOUTHWEST COLORADO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (SWCCOG)

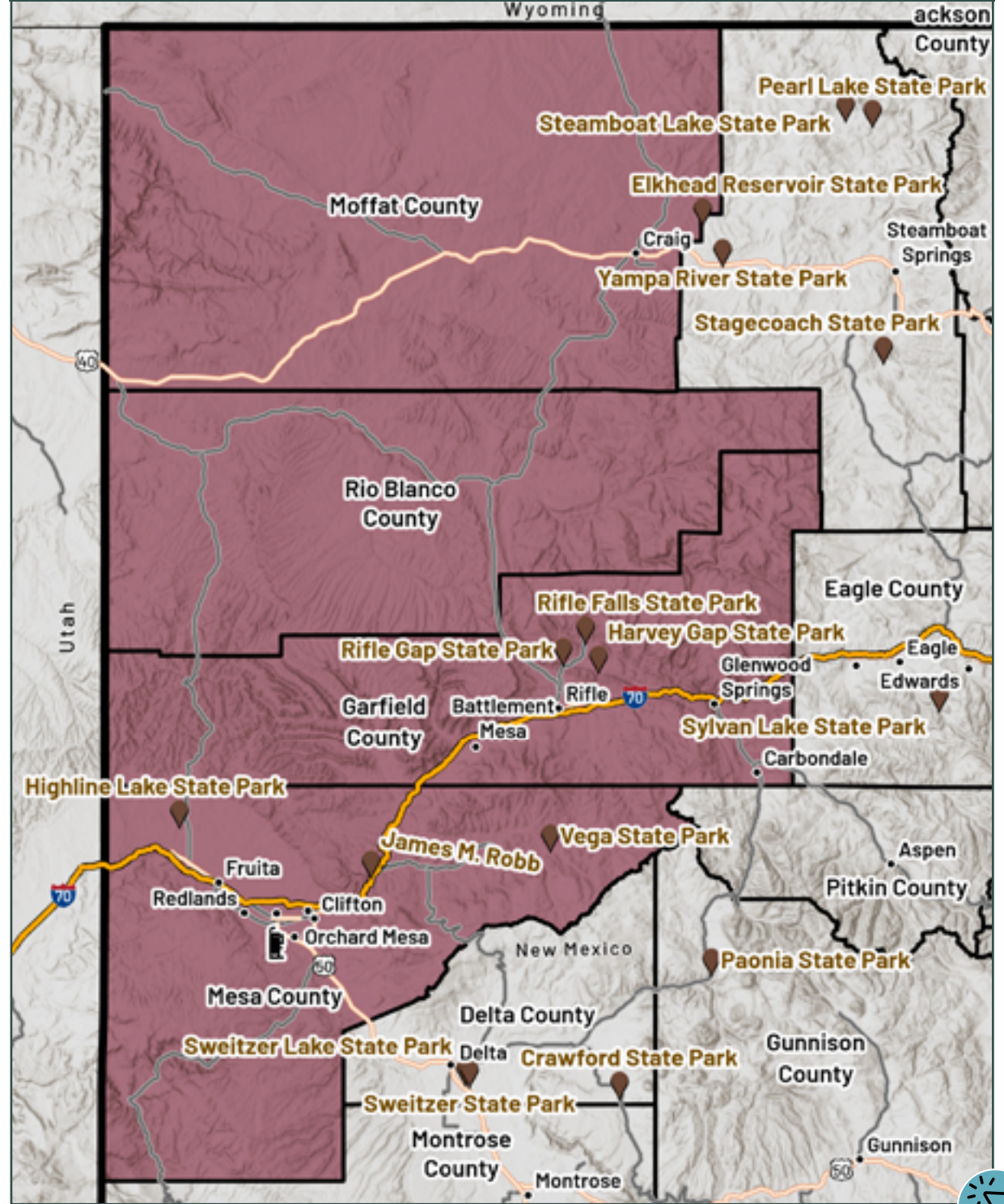


10 | REGION 10 (LEAGUE FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND PLANNING)



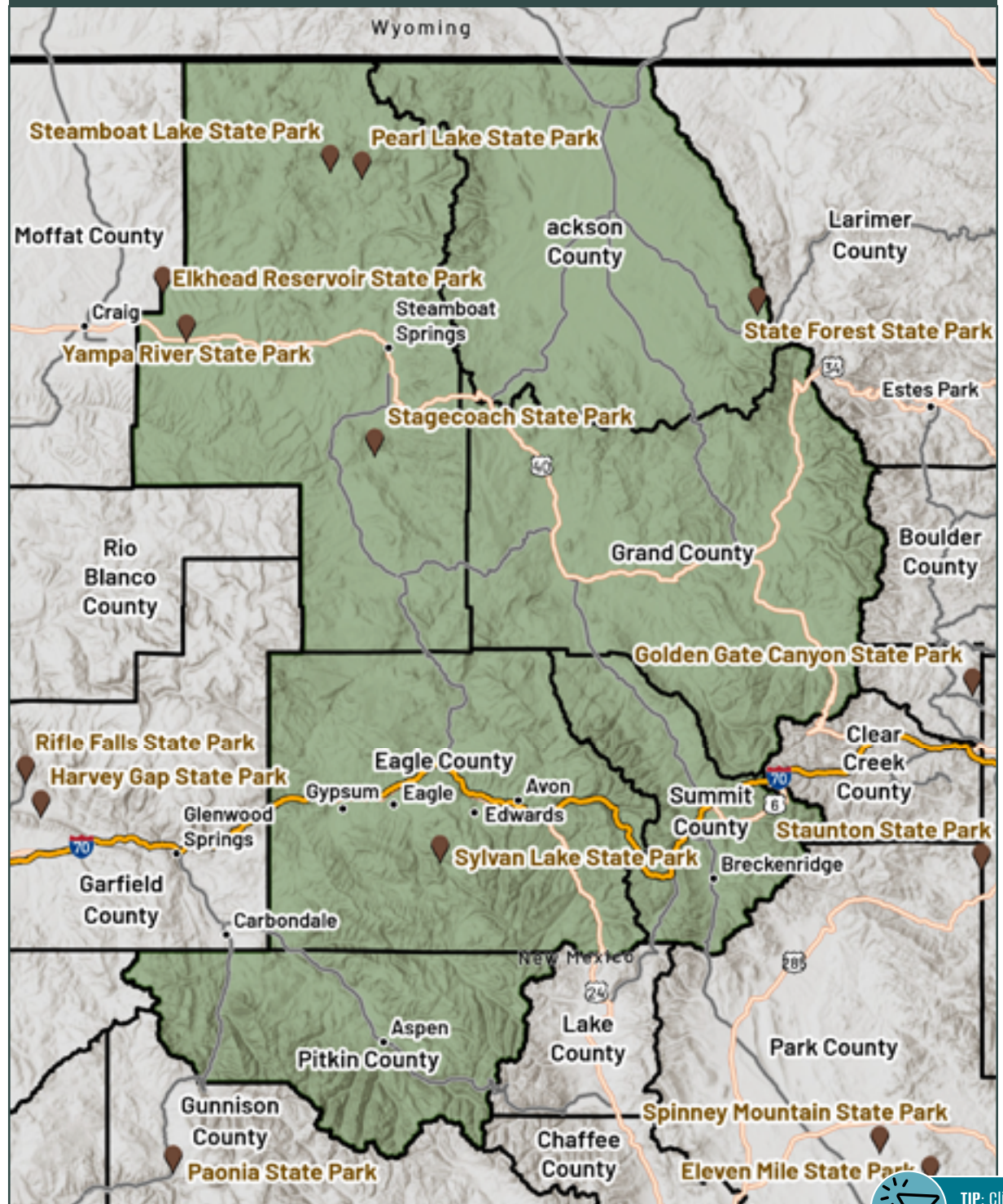
TIP: Click the map to go to the COG website.

11 | ASSOCIATED GOVERNMENTS OF NORTHWEST COLORADO (AGNC)



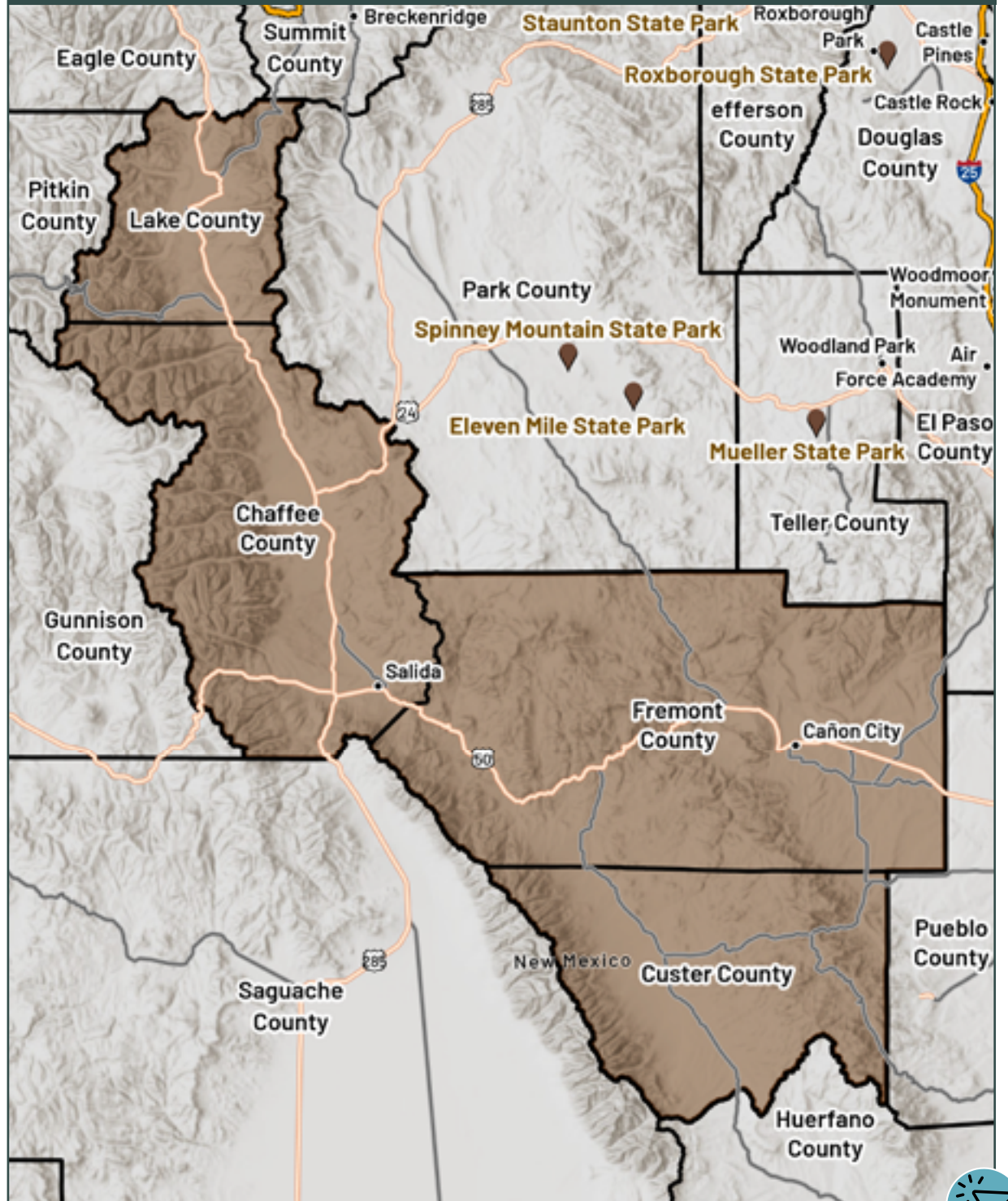


12 | NORTHWEST COLORADO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (NWCCOG)



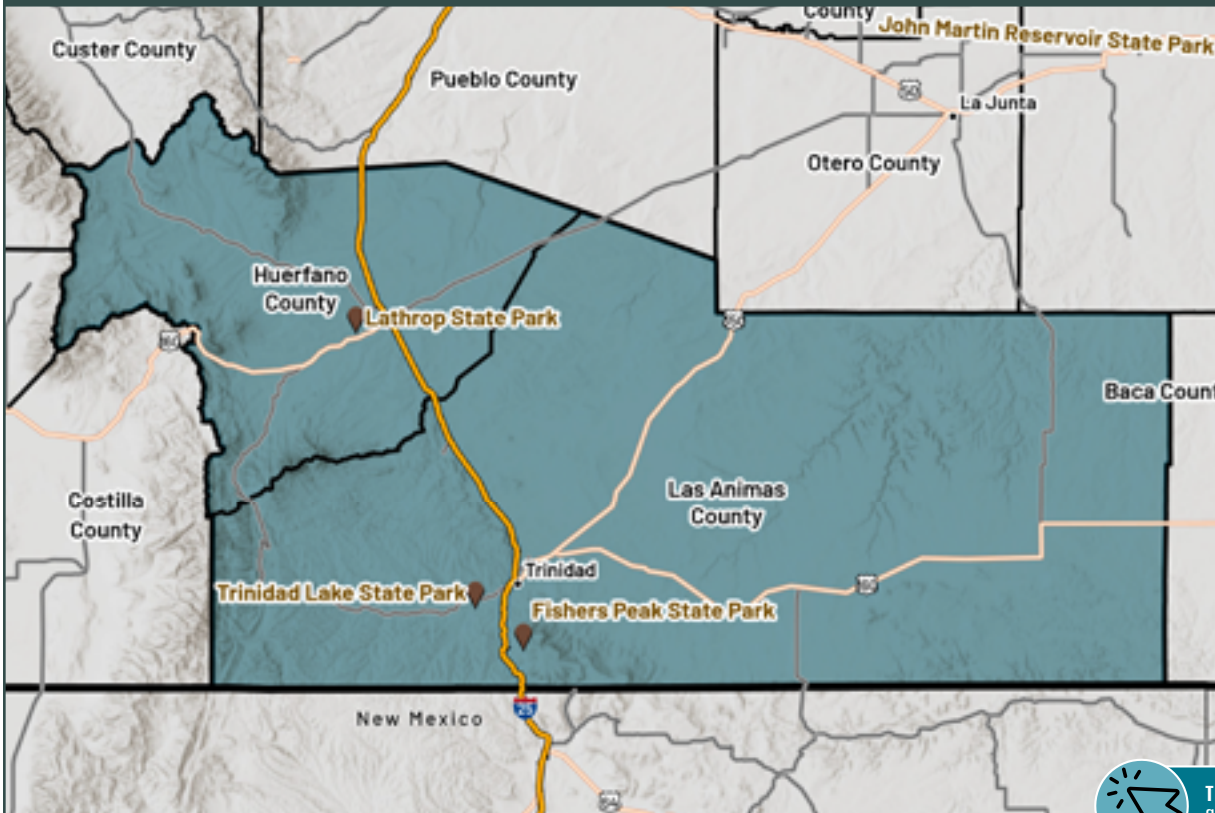
TIP: Click the map to go to the COG website.

13 | UPPER ARKANSAS AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (UAACOG)





14 | SOUTH CENTRAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (SCCOG)



TIP: Click the map to go to the COG website.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

SAN LUIS VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (SLVCOG)

- **Website:** www.slvdrg.org/slv-council-of-governments/

GRAND VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (GVCOG)

- **Website:** www.mesacounty.us/departments-and-services/rtpo



PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS

Pairing private philanthropy dollars with public funds can be a powerful strategy for maximizing the impact of your transportation project. Private foundations can offer flexible funding that complements government grants, often with less restrictive eligibility requirements and shorter turnaround times. This allows you to fill gaps in public funding, support innovative projects, and leverage private dollars to attract additional public investment. However, it's crucial to recognize that private philanthropy often comes with specific expectations and priorities. To successfully secure and manage these partnerships, thoroughly research potential funders to ensure alignment with their focus areas and values. Additionally, you will be successful if you cultivate strong relationships with foundation representatives, and present well-researched projects with clearly defined goals, measurable outcomes, and a strong community impact. By understanding the nuances of both public and private funding, you can create a diversified funding portfolio that positions your project for success.

Boettcher Foundation

[Rural Catalyst Grants - Boettcher Foundation](#)

The Boettcher Foundation's Rural Catalyst Grant Program is a game-changer for Colorado's rural communities seeking to tackle transportation challenges. These capacity-building grants, ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000, provide a vital infusion of funds for strategic projects that enhance an organization's ability to achieve its goals.

Whether your community needs support with strategic planning to map out a long-term transportation vision, resources for convening stakeholders to build consensus and collaboration, or funds for short-term staffing to bolster your project team, the Rural Catalyst Grants can help.

By participating in the Foundation's Rural Leadership Collaborative meetings, you'll gain insights from other rural leaders, network with potential partners, and identify innovative solutions to common challenges. These grants are not just about funding; they're about empowering rural communities to build a stronger, more sustainable future through strategic investment in their own capacity.

The Walton Family Foundation

The Walton Family Foundation is a private philanthropic organization focused on creating positive change in three core areas: K-12 education, environmental conservation, and community development in their home region.

In Colorado, their work primarily centers around environmental conservation, with a specific focus on the Colorado River Basin. Their efforts involve:

- **Protecting and conserving water resources:** They support initiatives to improve water management, promote sustainable use, and build resilience to drought and climate change.
- **Elevating community voices:** They engage and empower local communities to participate in decision-making regarding water policy and resource management.
- **Promoting collaboration:** They bring together diverse stakeholders, including conservationists, policymakers, and community leaders, to find innovative solutions for water challenges.

The scale of their work in Colorado is significant, as they invest millions of dollars annually in various projects and partnerships throughout the state. Their focus on the Colorado River Basin recognizes the critical importance of this water source for the entire region, and their commitment to community engagement ensures that their efforts are aligned with the needs and priorities of the people most affected by water-related issues.

Additional Philanthropic Grants for Capacity Building:

GATES FAMILY FOUNDATION:

Offers grants for nonprofit capacity building, leadership development, and strategic planning.

- **Focus:** Strengthening organizations in Colorado to achieve their missions.
- **Website:** <https://gatesfamilyfoundation.org/>

EL POMAR FOUNDATION:

Provides grants and technical assistance for capacity building, leadership development, and organizational effectiveness.

- **Focus:** Supporting nonprofits in Colorado Springs and across the state.
- **Website:** <https://elpomar.org/>

THE COLORADO HEALTH FOUNDATION:

Invests in capacity building for community-based organizations working to improve health equity in Colorado.

- **Focus:** Strengthening the ability of organizations to address health disparities.
- **Website:** <https://coloradohealth.org/>

ROSE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION:

Supports capacity building for nonprofits in the Denver metro area, focusing on leadership development, organizational effectiveness, and collaboration.

- **Focus:** Empowering nonprofits to achieve greater impact in their communities.
- **Website:** <https://www.rcfdenver.org/>



UNIVERSITY-BASED CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMS

Partnering with universities offers communities a valuable avenue to expand capacity by tapping into student talent and expertise. Establish relationships with university leadership and faculty to identify opportunities for collaboration, like engaging students in research projects, internships, or service-learning programs aligned with community needs. Ensure clear communication and establish semester-by-semester deliverables to ensure mutual benefit and successful outcomes for both the community and the students involved.

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER - COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, DESIGN, AND RESEARCH CENTER (CEDAR):

Offers training, technical assistance, and research support for community-based organizations and government agencies working on a variety of issues, including transportation.

- **Focus:** Building partnerships and capacity for community-driven solutions.
- **Website:** <https://www.colorado.edu/cedar/>

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY - CENTER FOR PUBLIC DELIBERATION:

Provides facilitation and training services for community engagement and collaborative decision-making processes.

- **Focus:** Helping communities have productive conversations about complex issues.
- **Website:** <https://cpd.colostate.edu/>

COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER (CRC):

A statewide nonprofit organization offering training, consulting, and coaching services to build the capacity of nonprofits and community groups.

- **Focus:** Strengthening the nonprofit sector and promoting effective leadership.
- **Website:** <https://crcamerica.org/>

UNIVERSITY OF DENVER - CROSSLEY CENTER FOR PUBLIC OPINION RESEARCH:

Conducts surveys and provides data analysis to help organizations understand public opinion and inform decision-making.

- **Focus:** Providing data-driven insights for community engagement and policy development.
- **Website:** <https://www.du.edu/research/centers-institutes>



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

COLORADO NONPROFIT ASSOCIATION:

Offers training, resources, and advocacy for nonprofits.

- **Website:** <https://coloradononprofits.org/>

COLORADO MUNICIPAL LEAGUE:

Provides support and resources for municipalities across the state.

- **Website:** <https://cml.org/>



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



WHAT'S THE SINGLE BIGGEST FACTOR THAT MAKES A GRANT PROPOSAL STAND OUT?

Answer: A compelling narrative that clearly demonstrates the project's impact and aligns with the funder's priorities. Successful proposals tell a story that resonates with the reader, illustrating the project's potential to create meaningful change.

HOW IMPORTANT IS IT TO FOLLOW THE GRANT GUIDELINES TO THE LETTER?

Answer: It's absolutely critical. Failing to adhere to guidelines is a common reason for rejection. Funders often have strict requirements for formatting, page limits, and supporting documents. Deviation from these guidelines signals a lack of attention to detail and respect for the funder's process.

IS IT BETTER TO SUBMIT A GENERIC PROPOSAL TO MULTIPLE FUNDERS OR TAILOR EACH ONE?

Answer: Tailoring is always better. Each funder has unique priorities and interests. A generic proposal may not resonate with a specific funder's mission. Take the time to research each funder and customize your proposal to demonstrate how your project aligns with their goals.

HOW CAN I MAKE MY PROJECT BUDGET REALISTIC AND PERSUASIVE?

Answer: A well-crafted budget is detailed, accurate, and justifiable. Include quotes from vendors and contractors, clearly explain each expense, and demonstrate how the funds will be used to achieve the project's objectives. Avoid inflated costs or vague line items.

SHOULD I CONTACT THE FUNDER BEFORE SUBMITTING MY PROPOSAL?

Answer: Yes, if the funder allows it. A brief conversation can help you clarify any questions you have about the application process and gain valuable insights into the funder's priorities. It also shows your initiative and interest in the grant.

HOW IMPORTANT ARE LETTERS OF SUPPORT FOR A GRANT APPLICATION?

Answer: Letters of support can be highly influential. They demonstrate community buy-in and validate the need for your project. Seek letters from reputable organizations and individuals who can speak to your project's potential impact.

WHAT'S THE BEST WAY TO DEMONSTRATE THE POTENTIAL IMPACT OF MY PROJECT?

Answer: Use data, statistics, and concrete examples to illustrate the problem your project addresses and the positive outcomes it will achieve. Focus on measurable results, such as increased access, improved safety, or economic benefits.

WHAT IF MY ORGANIZATION DOESN'T HAVE A LOT OF EXPERIENCE WITH GRANT WRITING?

Answer: Seek out resources and training. Many organizations offer grant writing workshops and technical assistance. Partner with experienced grant writers or consultants if needed. Don't be afraid to ask for help!

HOW CAN I ENSURE THAT MY PROJECT IS SUSTAINABLE BEYOND THE GRANT PERIOD?

Answer: Develop a clear sustainability plan that outlines how you will maintain and expand your project after the grant funding ends. Identify potential revenue streams, build community partnerships, and create a plan for ongoing evaluation and improvement.

WHAT ARE THE MOST COMMON MISTAKES TO AVOID IN A GRANT APPLICATION?

Answer: Common pitfalls include not following guidelines, submitting a generic proposal, inflating the budget, neglecting to demonstrate impact, and failing to build a strong project team. By avoiding these mistakes, you can significantly increase your chances of securing funding.



CASE STUDIES

Unlocking Potential: Case Studies in Community-Driven Transportation and Recreation

The following case studies illuminate the inspiring ways Colorado communities and regions are building capacity, securing diverse funding, and fostering innovative solutions to connect people to the outdoors and support alternative transportation. From small towns to bustling cities, these projects showcase a range of sizes, capacities, and goals, all united by a common thread: the desire to create vibrant, accessible, and sustainable spaces for everyone to enjoy.

Through strategic partnerships, creative financing, and unwavering dedication, these communities are demonstrating that it's possible to overcome challenges and achieve remarkable results. Whether it's revitalizing downtown areas by addressing parking capacity through ride-sharing, connecting communities through bridge development, or reaching across county lines and ecosystems to create a nationally renowned greenway, these case studies offer valuable insights and inspiration for others seeking to enhance their communities.

Join us as we explore the stories behind these transformative projects, highlighting the strategies, partnerships, and funding models that made them possible. Let these examples serve as a catalyst for action, empowering communities everywhere to embrace the power of collaboration and innovation to build a brighter future for all.

10 Tips for Successful Grant Development from Case Studies:

1. **Know Your Deadlines:** Plan ahead and start the grant application process early.
2. **Research Thoroughly:** Understand the eligibility requirements and priorities of each grant program.
3. **Tailor Your Proposal:** Customize your proposal to each specific grant opportunity.
4. **Be Clear and Concise:** Use clear, concise language, and avoid jargon.
5. **Highlight Impact:** Clearly demonstrate the positive outcomes your project will achieve.
6. **Develop a Realistic Budget:** Ensure your budget is accurate, detailed, and justifiable.
7. **Obtain Letters of Support:** Gather letters of support from reputable organizations and individuals.
8. **Address Sustainability:** Outline how your project will be maintained and sustained beyond the grant period.
9. **Plan for Cultural Resource Review:** If applicable, budget for and conduct cultural resource assessments early in the planning process.
10. **Be Proactive and Communicate:** Don't hesitate to ask your grantmaker for help or clarification.



Case Study: Peaks to Plains Trail - A Showcase of Grant Resources and Collaboration

[P2P-Trails-Collaborative-2021apr.pdf\(planjeffco.org\)](#)

Project Overview

The Peaks to Plains Trail is an ambitious project aimed at creating a continuous, multi-use trail connecting the Colorado Front Range mountains to the Eastern Plains. This project exemplifies the successful utilization of grant resources, collaborative partnerships, and strategic planning to achieve its objectives.

Objectives

- **Connectivity:** Establish a safe, accessible, and scenic trail network for recreation and active transportation, fostering connections between communities and natural areas.
- **Economic Development:** Stimulate economic growth and tourism in the region by attracting visitors and promoting outdoor recreation.
- **Community Health:** Encourage healthy lifestyles and physical activity by providing a safe and inviting space for walking, running, and cycling.
- **Environmental Stewardship:** Protect and enhance the natural environment through sustainable trail design and construction practices.
- **Regional Collaboration:** Foster cooperation among diverse stakeholders, including local governments, state agencies, and non-profit organizations, to ensure the trail's success.

Partners

The Peaks to Plains Trail is a testament to the power of collaboration, involving a diverse range of partners, including:

- **Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT):** Provides leadership, funding, and technical expertise.
- **Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO):** Supports the project through significant grant funding.
- **Local Governments and Communities:** Contribute funding, land acquisition, and in-kind support.
- **Non-profit Organizations:** Advocate for the trail, engage volunteers, and promote awareness. Examples include:
 - *Peaks to Plains Trail, Inc.*
 - *Trails 2000*
 - *Bicycle Colorado*
 - *Commuting Solutions*
 - *Jefferson County Open Space*

Strategy

The success of the Peaks to Plains Trail can be attributed to several key strategies:

- **Grant Funding:** Securing substantial grants from CDOT, GOCO, and other sources to fund construction, planning, and land acquisition.
- **Phased Approach:** Implementing the project in phases, allowing for flexibility and adaptive management.
- **Community Engagement:** Involving local communities in the planning and design process to ensure the trail meets their needs and aspirations.
- **Partnerships:** Building strong partnerships with diverse stakeholders to leverage resources and expertise.
- **Sustainable Design:** Prioritizing environmentally sensitive trail design and construction practices.
- **Master Planning:** Developing a comprehensive master plan to guide the trail's development and ensure consistency across segments.

Grant Resources

The Peaks to Plains Trail has been made possible through the effective utilization of grant resources, including:

- **CDOT Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP):** Provides funding for projects that enhance transportation alternatives, such as trails and pedestrian facilities.
- **GOCO Connect Initiative:** Supports projects that connect people to the outdoors and promote healthy communities.
- **Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP):** Funds projects that improve access to federal lands and recreation areas.
- **Other Sources:** The project also leverages local funding, private donations, and in-kind contributions.

Budget and Timeline

The Peaks to Plains Trail is a multi-year, multi-million dollar project. As of 2021, over \$20 million has been invested, with additional funding needed to complete the remaining segments. The overall budget and timeline are subject to change based on funding availability and construction progress. However, the phased approach ensures that progress continues even as funding is secured incrementally.

Next Steps

The Peaks to Plains Trail continues to evolve, with ongoing efforts to:

- **Secure Additional Funding:** Pursue additional grants and funding opportunities to complete the remaining phases of the trail.
- **Expand the Trail Network:** Connect existing segments and extend the trail further east, ultimately reaching the Kansas border.
- **Promote Trail Use:** Encourage residents and visitors to utilize the trail for recreation and active transportation.
- **Monitor and Maintain:** Ensure the trail remains safe, accessible, and enjoyable for all users.
- **Enhance Connectivity:** Develop connections to other trails and transportation networks to increase accessibility and promote multi-modal transportation options.

Conclusion

The Peaks to Plains Trail stands as an inspiring example of how grant resources, collaboration, and strategic planning can transform a vision into reality. By leveraging these tools effectively, communities can create sustainable infrastructure that enhances connectivity, promotes economic development, and improves the quality of life for residents and visitors alike. The Peaks to Plains Trail demonstrates the power of partnerships and the importance of long-term vision in creating a lasting legacy for future generations.





Case Study: The Rio Grande River Pedestrian Bridge, Alamosa, Colorado

[Rio Grande pedestrian bridge in Alamosa gets federal funding - Alamosa Citizen](#)

Project Description

The Rio Grande River Pedestrian Bridge is a 190-foot long, cable-stayed bridge in Alamosa, Colorado. The bridge connects the Alamosa Riverwalk Trail to downtown Alamosa, providing safe and convenient pedestrian access to businesses, restaurants, and cultural attractions. The project aimed to revitalize the downtown area, enhance recreational opportunities, and improve connectivity for residents and visitors.

Funding Sources:

- **Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO):** \$1,000,000 grant for construction costs
- **Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP):** \$500,000 grant for design and engineering costs
- **City of Alamosa:** \$250,000 from local funds for project management and administration

Timeline:

- **Planning and Design:** 2018-2019
- **Construction:** 2020-2021
- **Opening:** June 2021

Key Personnel:

- **City of Alamosa:** Project lead, responsible for overall project management and coordination.
- **Alamosa Trails Advisory Committee:** Provided community input and advocacy for the project.

- **Engineering Firm:** Conducted design and engineering work, ensuring the bridge met safety and accessibility standards.
- **Construction Company:** Built the bridge, managing the construction process and timeline.
- **Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW):** Provided technical assistance and support throughout the project.

Outcomes and Impact:

- **Increased Pedestrian Traffic:** The bridge has significantly increased pedestrian traffic to downtown Alamosa, boosting local businesses and revitalizing the area.
- **Enhanced Recreation:** The bridge has improved access to the Riverwalk Trail, making it easier for residents and visitors to enjoy outdoor activities.
- **Improved Safety:** The bridge has provided a safe and convenient way for pedestrians to cross the Rio Grande River, eliminating the need to use busy roadways.
- **Economic Development:** The bridge has become a landmark and tourist attraction, drawing visitors to Alamosa and contributing to the local economy.

Lessons Learned:

- **Community Engagement:** Early and ongoing community engagement was crucial for building support and ensuring the project met the needs of local residents.
- **Collaboration:** The project's success was due in part to the strong collaboration between the City of Alamosa, CPW, the Alamosa Trails Advisory Committee, and other partners.
- **Funding Diversity:** Securing funding from multiple sources was essential for making the project a reality.

The Rio Grande River Pedestrian Bridge is a shining example of how strategic grant funding, coupled with community collaboration and proactive planning, can transform transportation infrastructure and create lasting benefits for a Colorado community.



Case Study: Fort Collins Micromobility Pilot Program

Goals & Solutions

The City of Fort Collins, recognizing the potential of micromobility to address transportation challenges, sought to implement a pilot program that would promote sustainable commuting options and improve accessibility for low-income residents and city employees. The program aimed to:

- **Increase Access to Micromobility:** Provide free access to electric scooters and bikes through a partnership with Spin, a leading micromobility provider.
- **Promote Sustainable Commuting:** Encourage residents and employees to shift from single-occupancy vehicles to more environmentally friendly modes of transport.
- **Improve Equity:** Address transportation barriers for low-income residents by offering free access to micromobility options.
- **Enhance Education & Outreach:** Develop a comprehensive program to educate users on safe and responsible riding practices, as well as the benefits of micromobility.

Grants & Funding

The project secured an \$81,000 grant from CDOT, which was instrumental in covering the following aspects of the pilot program:

- **Micromobility Access:** Subsidizing the cost of free rides for eligible participants through Spin.
- **Education & Outreach:** Developing and implementing educational materials and outreach campaigns.
- **Equipment Support:** Providing helmets and other safety gear to program participants.
- **Program Evaluation:** Collecting data and conducting analysis to assess the impact and effectiveness of the pilot.

Outcomes & Impact

The Fort Collins Micromobility Pilot Program, while still in progress, has already demonstrated promising outcomes:

- **Increased Micromobility Adoption:** Significant uptake of free rides by city employees and low-income residents, indicating a growing interest in alternative transportation options.
- **Positive Shift in Commuting Behavior:** Data suggests a decrease in single-occupancy vehicle trips and an increase in micromobility usage for short-distance commutes.
- **Improved Accessibility:** The program has successfully addressed transportation barriers for low-income residents, providing them with a convenient and affordable way to get around.
- **Enhanced Safety & Education:** The comprehensive education and outreach component has contributed to a safe riding environment and increased awareness of micromobility benefits.



Case Study: Advancing Community-Powered Stewardship in Western Colorado

Project

Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers' (RFOV) initiative to expand volunteer engagement and enhance stewardship of public lands in Western Colorado.

Importance of Support

GOCO's \$300,000 grant through the Stewardship Impact program is vital in empowering RFOV to address the growing need for land maintenance and conservation in a region facing increased recreational use. By supporting RFOV's efforts, GOCO ensures the long-term health and accessibility of these natural spaces for all.

Key Points

- **Volunteer Engagement:** The grant enables RFOV to expand its volunteer base, creating opportunities for more individuals to actively contribute to preserving public lands.
- **Skill Development:** Funding supports training for RFOV staff, volunteers, and partners, increasing their effectiveness in carrying out stewardship activities.
- **Diverse Program Offerings:** The grant fuels a range of programs, including community projects, youth initiatives, and an Adopt-a-Trail program, catering to various interests and skill levels.
- **DEI Focus:** Funding also helps develop a comprehensive DEI plan, ensuring broader community engagement and representation in stewardship efforts.

Outcome

Through this support, RFOV will empower a larger and more diverse network of individuals to actively participate in preserving the natural beauty and recreational value of Western Colorado's public lands. This collaborative approach to stewardship ensures a sustainable future for these precious resources.



Case Study: Chautauqua Hiking - Free Summer Weekend Shuttle

[Chautauqua Hiking | Free Summer Weekend Shuttle \(bouldercoloradousa.com\)](https://bouldercoloradousa.com)

Danny O'Connor, Transit Program Manager

Project Description

The Chautauqua Hiking | Free Summer Weekend Shuttle is a seasonal shuttle service operating in Boulder, Colorado. It aims to alleviate parking congestion and traffic issues around the popular Chautauqua Park, especially during peak visitation periods. The service offers a convenient and sustainable transportation option for visitors, reducing the need for personal vehicles and their associated environmental impacts.

Challenge it Solves

The project addresses several challenges associated with high visitation at Chautauqua Park:

- **Traffic Congestion:** The shuttle helps mitigate traffic congestion and parking shortages in the surrounding neighborhoods, improving the overall visitor experience and reducing the impact on residents.
- **Environmental Impact:** By encouraging the use of public transportation, the shuttle reduces carbon emissions and helps protect the natural environment around Chautauqua Park.
- **Accessibility:** The wheelchair-accessible shuttle and bike racks make the park more accessible to a wider range of visitors.

[2023-Shuttle_Eldorado-Map\(bouldercounty.gov\)](https://bouldercounty.gov)

Funding Sources

- **City of Boulder:** The primary funding source for the shuttle service is the City of Boulder's budget, specifically allocated through the Chautauqua Access Management Program.

Timeline of Development

- **Ongoing Service:** The shuttle has been in operation for several years, with continuous improvements and adjustments based on feedback and evolving needs.
- **Seasonal Operation:** The shuttle runs on weekends and holidays from Memorial Day to Labor Day, coinciding with peak visitation periods.

Key Personnel/Capacity

- **City of Boulder Transportation Department:** Oversees the planning, operation, and management of the shuttle service.
- **Via Mobility Services:** The City contracts with Via Mobility Services, a nonprofit organization specializing in accessible transportation, to operate the shuttle service.
- **Chautauqua Park Staff:** Collaborate with the transportation department to ensure seamless integration of the shuttle service with park operations and visitor management strategies.

Additional Considerations

- **Community Engagement:** The project likely involved extensive community engagement during its planning and implementation phases to address concerns and ensure the shuttle service meets the needs of both residents and visitors.
- **Data Collection and Evaluation:** Regular data collection on ridership, user satisfaction, and traffic patterns helps assess the effectiveness of the shuttle service and inform future improvements.
- **Sustainability:** The shuttle's focus on reducing carbon emissions aligns with Boulder's commitment to environmental sustainability.



5 Key Lessons from Case Studies:



1. **GRANTS ARE NOT LOANS OR DONATIONS:** Grants are resources (usually money) given for a specific purpose, with the expectation of a positive public outcome. Unlike loans, they don't need to be repaid, but unlike donations, they come with specific requirements and expectations.



2. **RECORD-KEEPING IS CRUCIAL:** Meticulous record-keeping is essential for grant management. Track every expense, every hour of labor, and every decision related to the project. This ensures compliance and provides evidence of the project's impact.



3. **DONE IS BETTER THAN PERFECT:** Prioritize completing the grant application over perfecting it. Incomplete applications are often rejected outright. Aim to submit a complete application early, even if it's not flawless.



4. **COMMUNICATE EARLY AND OFTEN:** Engage with your grant maker early in the process. Ask questions, clarify expectations, and address any concerns upfront to avoid surprises later on.



5. **VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT IS KEY:** Embrace volunteers as an integral part of your project team. Their labor can significantly contribute to your project's success and can often be counted towards matching funds.





GRANT DEVELOPMENT FLOWCHART

1. Project Ideation & Team Building:

- Define project scope and goals.
- Assemble a diverse team with necessary expertise.
- Secure initial buy-in from stakeholders (e.g., community, leadership).

2. Research & Funding Identification:

- Identify potential grant programs (federal, state, local, private).
- Thoroughly review eligibility requirements and priorities of each grant.
- Prioritize grants based on project fit and funding potential.
- Consider collaborating with other partners for support.

3. Grant Application Preparation:

- Gather required documents and information (organizational details, project budgets, letters of support).
- Use checklists and templates to ensure completeness and accuracy.
- Tell a compelling story that highlights project impact and aligns with funder goals.
- Develop a realistic and detailed budget.
- Submit application by the deadline, ideally a day early.

4. Grant Review & Award:

- Grantmaker evaluates proposals based on criteria (e.g., impact, feasibility, sustainability).
- Applicant may be asked to provide additional information or clarification.
- Grantmaker notifies applicant of decision (award or rejection).
- If awarded, review the grant agreement carefully and seek clarification if needed.

5. Project Implementation & Grant Management:

- Execute project according to the approved scope and timeline.
- Track all project activities and expenses meticulously.
- Submit required progress reports and financial reports on time.
- Communicate regularly with the grant maker and address any issues promptly.

6. Project Completion & Closeout:

- Complete all project deliverables as outlined in the grant agreement.
- Submit final report summarizing project outcomes and impact.
- Ensure all financial requirements are met and documented.
- Celebrate project success and share lessons learned.





PROJECT WORKFLOW WORKSHEET

A RESOURCEFUL APPROACH FOR COLORADO COMMUNITIES



• Project Name: _____

• Project Goal: (Example: Create a safe, accessible trail connecting downtown [Town Name] to [Park Name])

• Project Timeline: [Start Date] to [End Date]

PHASE 1: INITIATION (PRE-APPLICATION)

Team Building

CORE TEAM MEMBERS:

- Project Manager: _____
- Grant Writer: _____
- Technical Expert(s): _____
- Community Liaison: _____
- Financial Manager: _____

VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT:

- Skills Needed: _____
- Recruitment Strategies: _____

PARTNER COMMITMENTS:

- Potential Partners: _____
- Type of Support (expertise, financial, in-kind): _____



Grant Research

POTENTIAL GRANT PROGRAMS:

- Federal:

- State:

- Local:

- Private:

ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT:

- Which programs are the best fit for your project?

- What are the deadlines for each program?

PRIORITIZED GRANT OPPORTUNITIES:

- Top Choice:

- Second Choice:

- Third Choice:

Community Engagement

KEY STAKEHOLDERS:

- Community Groups:

- Businesses:

- Government Agencies:

- Other:

OUTREACH STRATEGIES:

- Public Meetings:

- Surveys/Questionnaires:

- Social Media:

- Other:

KEY MESSAGES:

- What are the most important benefits of your project to the community?

- How can you frame your project to resonate with potential funders?



Grant Writing

GRANT WRITER(S):

- Who will be responsible for writing the grant proposals?

PROPOSAL NARRATIVE:

- Need:

- Goals:

- Impact:

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

- Letters of Support:

- Photos/Maps:

- Other:

Permitting and Approvals

REQUIRED PERMITS:

- Environmental:

- Cultural Resource:

- Zoning:

- Other:

TIMELINE FOR OBTAINING PERMITS:

- Start Date:

- Estimated Completion:



PHASE 3: IMPLEMENTATION

PROJECT KICKOFF:

- Communication Plan:

- Contracts and Agreements:

CONSTRUCTION/DEVELOPMENT:

- Contractor/Vendor Management:

- Volunteer Coordination:

- Progress Tracking:

ONGOING COMMUNICATION:

- Stakeholder Updates:

- Feedback Mechanism:

PHASE 4: EVALUATION & CLOSEOUT

PROJECT EVALUATION:

- Success Metrics:

- Data Collection Methods:

- Evaluation Timeline:

GRANT REPORTING:

- Report Deadlines:

- Lessons Learned:

CELEBRATION AND PROMOTION:

- Community Celebration:

- Success Story Sharing:



TEMPLATES TO SUPPORT SUCCESSFUL GRANT DEVELOPMENT



1. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project Name:

Brief Description (elevator pitch):

Location:

Project Type: (Road, Trail, Transit, Other)

Proposed Timeline:

2. NEED

What specific problem or challenge does your project address?

How does this problem impact your community or region?

What data or evidence supports the need for this project?

