



San Juan County



Montezuma County



Dolores County



Archuleta County



La Plata County

REGION 9

Economic Development District of SW Colorado



2023 CORPORATE ANNUAL REPORT



Region 9 Staff

OUR MISSION

TO COLLABORATE WITH THE PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTORS TO IMPROVE ECONOMIC DIVERSITY AND PROSPERITY IN SOUTHWEST COLORADO

The Region 9 Economic Development District of Southwest Colorado Inc. (Region 9 EDD) is a nonprofit, 501 (c) 6 public private partnership that promotes and coordinates economic development efforts throughout Southwest Colorado. Region 9 EDD includes five counties, ten municipalities, the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, and the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. Incorporated 34 years ago, Region 9 EDD has a Board of Directors with 17 representatives from local governmental jurisdictions and nine from the private sector.

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

- Facilitated monthly **SouthWEST Opioid Response District (SWORD)** meetings. Region 9 EDD received a completed feasibility study to identify the best options to fill existing treatment gaps.
- **Responded to 1,661 inquiries** covering business resources, grants, and data requests. This number decreased slightly from 1,786 in 2022. Inquiries were 1,760 in 2021 and 1,228 in 2020.
- Conducted a long needed **audit of SCAN (Southwest Colorado Access Network) fiber**.
- Received **1.55M in new funding** including \$870K in CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) funding; \$500K Colorado Forest Service Loan Fund, \$36,458 SBA Microloan and Technical Assistance funds; \$41K for Rural Technical Assistance Program (RTAP) for High Alpine recreation geospatial study as pass through for the High Alpine Roadmap group; \$100K in Grant Navigator funds; and \$40K for CEDS implementation funds to assist with SWORD Coordinator position.
- **Completed Carrier Neutral Location for broadband** in the old Main Post Office building in downtown Durango.
- Received State approval for **new Enterprise Zone boundary** located in Durango's Mid-Town Urban Renewal District.
- Successfully **sponsored Higher Purpose Homes** as Rural Jumpstart Business.
- **Received National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Impact Award** for integration of Southwest Colorado Council of Governments (SWCCOG).
- Made **49 presentations to community organizations** covering everything from Enterprise Zone, Grant readiness, rural economic development, businesses financing, and data.
- Assisted Town of Dove Creek with **water reservoir project**.
- Reestablished quarterly **County/Town Administrator** luncheons.
- Conducted **quarterly Economic Development meetups** for economic development professionals in the region.
- Provided **significant technical assistance around Prop 123** baseline data and educating communities and counties on impacts.
- Provided quarterly e-newsletter and monthly **Grant Digest**.
- **Established Transit website** (southwestrtc.com).
- **Hosted weekly collaboration meetings for broadband stakeholders and housing stakeholders** across the region.

REGION 9 IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY LENDER & EMPLOYER

REGION 9 IN ACTION

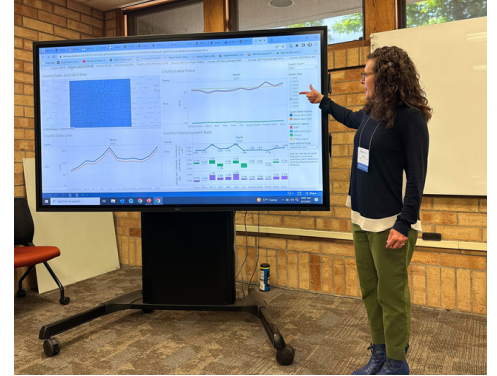
R9 hosts quarterly regional economic development meet-ups



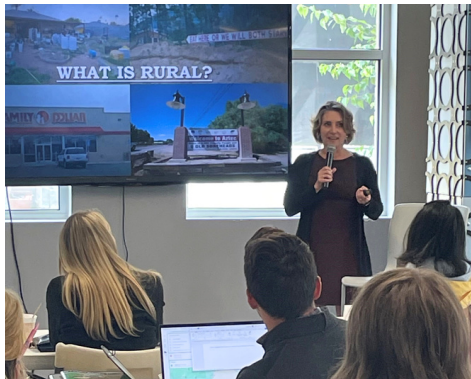
Colorado's 'Home Team' at the Policy Academy



Heather Otter presenting at Rural Philanthropy Days



Shak Powers in the new fiber carrier neutral location (CNL) funded by DOLA and matched by La Plata County



Laura Marchino presenting Rural Economic Development at the annual Basic Economic Development Course in Denver



Brian Rose attends SCAPE's 10th anniversary celebration

REGION 9 REPRESENTATION ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES

- Small Business Development Center Advisory Committee
- Southwest Colorado Workforce Investment Board
- Southwest Colorado Accelerator for Entrepreneurs (SCAPE) Board & SCAPE Mentor Network
- Pueblo Community College Southwest Advisory Board
- Economic Development Council of Colorado (EDCC)
- Katz School of Business Advisory Council
- Regional Industry Convenor Advisory Committee
- Southwest Memorial Hospital District
- San Juan Development Association
- Ignacio Creative District
- Durango Independent Film Festival
- Dolores County Development Corporation
- Axis Health System's QALICB Board (Qualified Active Low Income Community Board)
- San Juan Basin Health Department's Community Health Assessment Plan Committee
- Project RUN (Rural Upskill Network) Advisory Committee
- Southern Ute Indian Tribe CEDS Committee
- Mancos Schools Entrepreneur Pathway Advisory Committee
- Ute Mt Ute Grocery Store Steering Committee
- National Advisory Committee Community of Practice, EDA
- Colorado Policy Academy (CREC)
- La Plata Healthcare Coalition Steering Committee
- Colorado Southwest Outlook Committee
- Rural Philanthropy Days
- Colorado Association of Regional Organizations (CARO)
- Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project (CFLRP) - Wood Byproducts Committee
- San Juan County, NM, Four Corners Rail Feasibility study workgroup
- National Association of Development Organizations

REGION 9 PROGRAMS

Region 9 EDD integrated with the Southwest Colorado Council of Governments (SWCCOG) in 2022 and administers the **Southwest Transportation Planning Region, regional broadband, and transit initiatives**, as well as coordination around **regional housing initiatives**. Other activities include **business loans** and financing, producing the region's **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)**, **Grant Navigator services** and **data reports, Enterprise Zone Administration**, facilitating the **SouthWEST Opioid Response District (SWORD)**, and other special projects. Region 9 EDD also serves as the fiscal agent for several additional programs.

GRANT NAVIGATOR

Region 9 EDD has received two years of funding to **connect organizations to federal funding** through our Southwest Colorado **Grant Navigator**. This position partners with governments and community organizations by providing a variety of grant services to build capacity and accomplish priority projects. In the past year, Region 9 EDD's community grant writer wrote and edited 22 grants, including nine for the Region, two for Archuleta County, one for Dolores County, six for La Plata County, two for Montezuma County, and two for San Juan County. Grant funds raised for the region total \$3.8M to date.

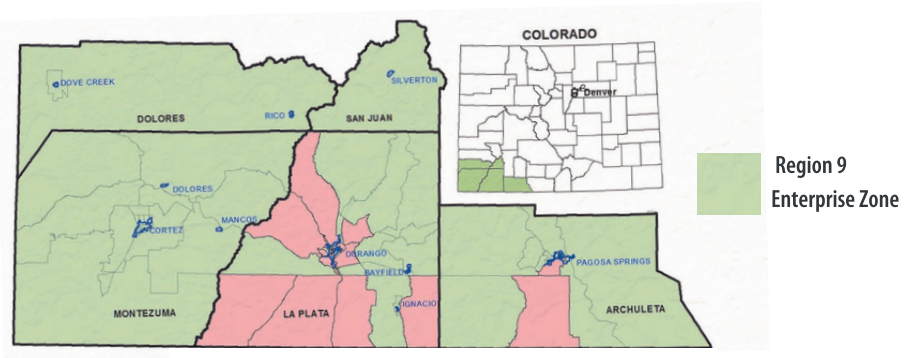
SWORD

Region 9 EDD facilitates the **SouthWEST Opioid Response District (SWORD)**, formed as a requirement of the Colorado Opioid Settlement Memorandum of Understanding, to **administer opioid funds in the region**. SWORD supported a feasibility study to explore viable options, and in November approved initial allocations of \$1.55M to four categories that will help to build a recovery ready region. SWORD has decided to invest the bulk of the funds towards building a recovery residence for individuals in recovery to live for 6 - 24 months.

ENTERPRISE ZONE

Region 9 EDD is the **Southwest Colorado Rural Enterprise Zone (EZ) Administrator** and determines if a business is located within EZ boundaries, processes EZ tax certification forms, administers the designation of EZ Contribution Projects, and certifies donations. Businesses in the EZ boundaries are eligible for a variety of tax credits. Currently, all of Montezuma, San Juan and Dolores Counties, and sections of La Plata and Archuleta Counties, are designated EZ areas. Archuleta, Montezuma, Dolores, and San Juan Counties have also been designated as Enhanced Rural Enterprise Zones (EREZ) through 2024.

Area businesses that participated in the Enterprise Zone Tax Credit Program in 2023 received \$556.2K in tax credits and documented \$18.5 million in qualified investments. This is a decrease from \$22.2 million in qualified investments and \$664,534 in tax credits in 2022. The number of businesses participating decreased from 279 in 2022 to 273.



ENTERPRISE ZONE CONTRIBUTION PROJECTS

In 2023 there were 26 designated Enterprise Zone Contribution Projects at the year-end. There were seven new projects added, six renewals, and five projects ended. **Projects generated \$1,157,097 in economic activity** through direct and in-kind contributions. This continues a declining trend when compared to 2022's 25 Projects at \$1.3M, 2021's \$1.46M; and 2020's 30 projects at \$2.35M. The decline was expected because the region lost active projects to the new Homeless Contribution Tax Credit and many of our approved projects are from smaller organizations.



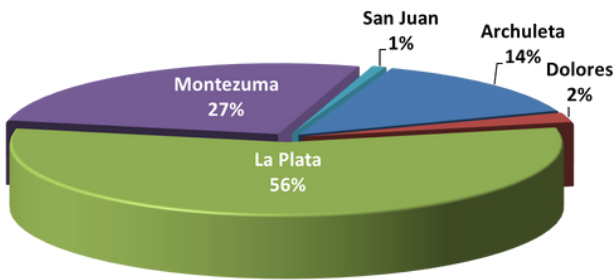
PROJECT NAME	COUNTY	CASH + IN KIND CONTRIBUTIONS
Aspen House	Archuleta	\$39,115.00
The Bridge Emergency Shelter	Montezuma	\$18,660.00
Build Pagosa	Archuleta	\$5,558.00
Cortez Cultural Center	Montezuma	\$8,800.00
Dancing Spirit Community Arts Center	La Plata	\$6,259.00
Fort Lewis College Foundation-Infrastructure	La Plata	\$100,000.00
Fort Lewis College Foundation-Nursing Collab	La Plata	\$4,750.00
Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County	Archuleta	\$131,922.86
Habitat for Humanity of La Plata County	La Plata	\$44,450.00
Habitat for Humanity of Montezuma County	Montezuma	\$3,287.17
Mancos Common Press	Montezuma	\$29,222.65
Manna Soup Kitchen	La Plata	\$166,288.59
Mercy Health Foundation	La Plata	\$76,549.32
Montezuma Food Systems	Montezuma	\$15,800.00
Montezuma Heritage Museum	Montezuma	\$3,012.50
Pagosa Festivals	Archuleta	\$5,320.30
Pagosa Springs CDC	Archuleta	\$130,832.50
Pagosa Springs Medical Center	Archuleta	\$168,186.91
Region 9 EDD	Regional	\$80,600.30
Rico Fire Department	Dolores	\$6,769.00
San Juan Development Association	San Juan	\$24,100.00
Silverton Ski Joring	San Juan	\$250.00
Southwest Memorial Hospital Foundation	Montezuma	\$33,700.00
Sunflower Theatre	Montezuma	\$30,863.74
Volunteers of America	La Plata	\$22,800.00
TOTAL		\$1,157,097.84



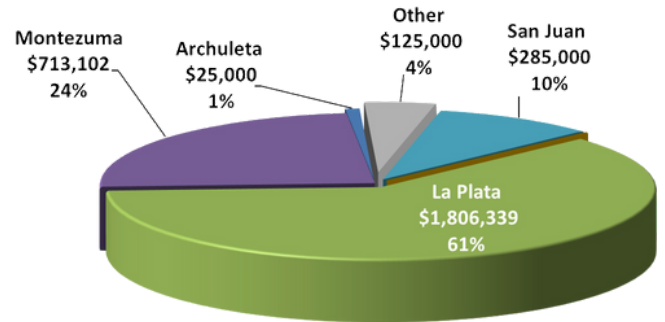
BUSINESS LOAN FUND

Region 9 EDD provides commercial loans to businesses for gap financing and start-up needs. Loan funding supports businesses in **creating and retaining jobs**, leveraging other funds, or **exporting goods or services**. The Business Loan Fund (BLF) includes several Federal and State sources: Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) from the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) (contracted through La Plata County); the USDA Intermediary Re-lending (IRP) & Rural Micro Entrepreneur Assistance Program (RMAP); the Economic Development Administration (EDA); Start Up Loan Fund through OEDIT; Small Business Administration Microloan Program (SBA) and revolved funds from previously restricted funds that are re-distributed in the community.

2022 Regional Population Distribution
Total = 100,286

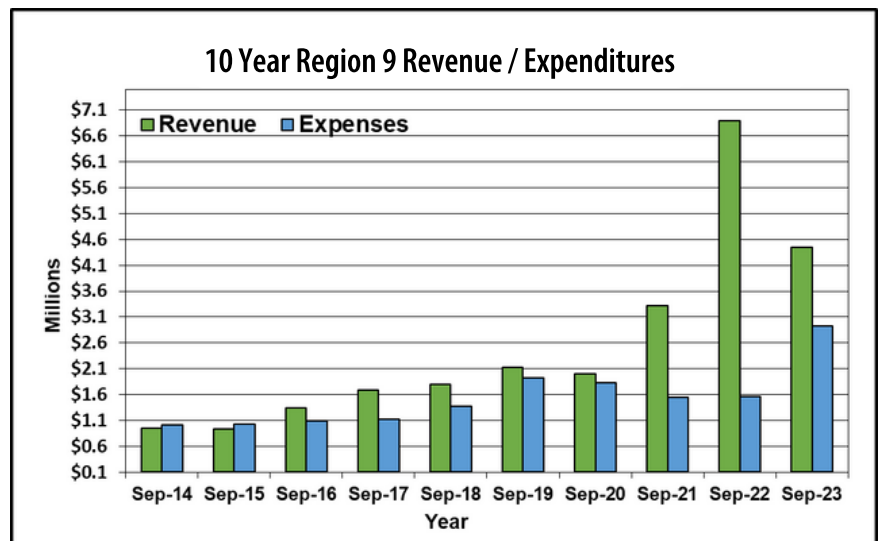


Loan Disbursement by County: January 1 - December 31, 2023
Total = \$2,954,441



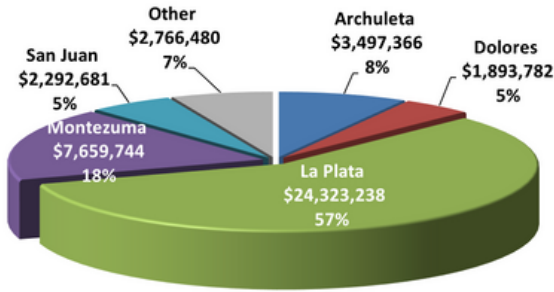
REGION 9 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Region 9 Economic Development District's assets continue to see an upward trend. Region 9 EDD is audited annually, and copies are available on request.

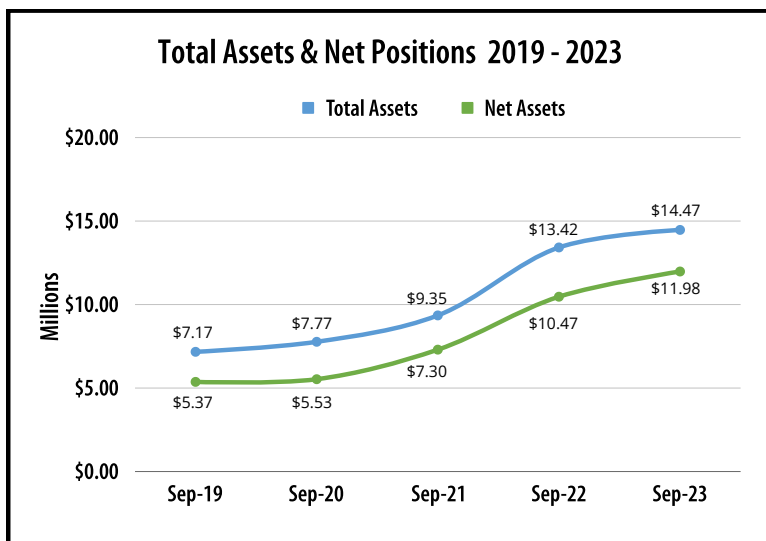
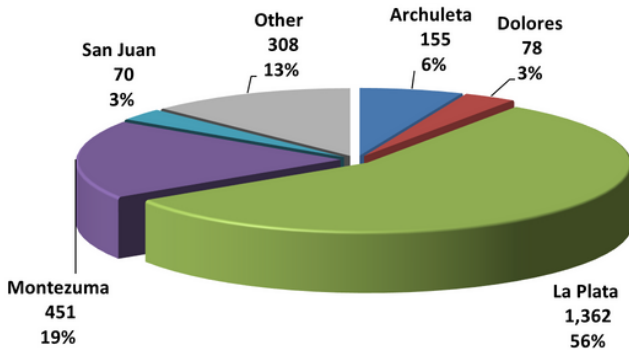


Since Region 9 EDD's loan program began over 30 years ago, \$42.43M has been distributed to businesses throughout the region. Region 9 EDD has 214 loans receivable as of Dec. 31, 2023, totaling \$11M, an increase from \$10.3M in 2022. Region 9 closed 34 loans creating 151 jobs compared to 49 loans creating 443 jobs in 2022 and 99 loans creating 82 jobs in 2021. There were 21 loans paid off this year, and 27 in 2022, with only three loans written off. Since December 2020, Region 9 EDD has made loans to businesses outside of our five counties through several statewide initiatives.

Cumulative Loan Disbursement by County: 1990 - December 2023
Total = \$42,443,291



Jobs Created / Retained by County: 1990 - December 2023
Total = 2,424



2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

William Tookey, Chair, San Juan
Mary Jo Coulehan, Vice Chair, At-large, Archuleta
Dan Fernandez, Secretary, At-large, Dolores
Colleen O'Brien, Treasurer, At-large, La Plata
Ashleigh Tarkington/Katie Sickles, Town of Bayfield
Bernadette Cuthair, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
Cassie Alexander, At-large, Montezuma
Charles Alex Lanis, At-large, San Juan
Chauncey McCarthy, Town of Rico
Clyde Church/Matt Salka, La Plata
Colton Black/Meade Harbison, Southern Ute Indian Tribe
Gloria Kaasch-Buerger/Dayna Kranker, Town of Silverton
Janice Bryan/Jason Armstrong, Town of Mancos

Jennie Green, SWCCOG Chair, Town of Pagosa Springs
Jim Candelaria/Kent Lindsay, Montezuma
Justin Osborn, At-large, La Plata
Kelly Koskie/Drew Sanders, City of Cortez
Ken Charles/Leigh Reeves, Town of Dolores
Mark Garcia, SWCCOG Secretary Treasurer/**Michala Riley**, Town of Ignacio
Nathaniel Peach, PhD. At-large, Fort Lewis College
Olivier Bosmans/Tommy Crosby, City of Durango
Robert Whitson, At-large, La Plata
Shawn Gregory, At-large, Montezuma
Steve Garcher/Linda Yellowman, Dolores
Todd Weaver/Veronica Medina, SWCCOG Vice Chair, Archuleta



LOAN COMMITTEE

Bill MacDougall, San Juan
Brad Fox, Dolores
Chris Aiken, Montezuma
Derek Farrah, Archuleta
Eric Jones, La Plata
Fritz Klinke, San Juan
Gina Piccoli, At-large region
Gus Westerman, Dolores
Jon Callender, Montezuma
Kathy Keyes, Archuleta
Kris Oyler, La Plata
Shawn Gregory, Montezuma
Terryl Petersen, Chair, At-large region

STAFF & CONTRACTORS

Laura Lewis Marchino, Executive Director
Brian Rose, Deputy Director
Brittany Cupp, SCAPE Program Director
Claire West, SWORD Coordinator
Donna Graves, Information Services
Elizabeth Heine, Office Manager
Elizabeth Marsh, SCAPE Executive Director
Heather Otter, Economic Development Project Manager
Jenny Stollar, Business Loan Officer
Shak Powers, Regional Projects Manager
Shirley Jones, Comptroller
Stephani Burditt, Grant Compliance Specialist
Terry Blair-Burton, Program Administrator
Tiffany Brodersen, Community Grant writer

REGION 9 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT OF SOUTHWEST COLORADO

Cortez
20 West Main Street
Inside Cortez Chamber
Business Resource Center
By appointment

Durango
135 Burnett Drive, Unit 1
In the Durango Tech Center

Pagosa Springs
46 Eaton Drive
In the Cascade Plaza
By appointment

(970) 247-9621

www.region9edd.org