



Rural Economic Development Initiative FY22

Local Government/Organization: [Fremont County](#)

[Accepted](#) [2021-09-29T06:47:17](#)

[RACHEL.MILLER1!](#)

Reviewed On:

[2021-10-05T08:55:20](#)

Reviewed By:

[ACUE](#)

Reviewer Notes:

Application Overview

The Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) program is designed to support communities in creating jobs locally and building resilient and diversified economies.

All applications MUST be submitted via the online grants portal: https://dola.colorado.gov/grants_portal/

Please contact your Regional Manager to discuss project development prior to submission

For portal questions, contact Angie Cue angie.cue@state.co.us or 720-450-0324

Submission Deadline: October 1st, 2021

Technical assistance availability

Applicants are encouraged to reach out to DOLA's Regional Managers for guidance as they develop their projects.

Funding

- \$2.5 million in funds available for this cycle.
- Applications should not exceed \$430,000.
- Funds must be spent by June 30, 2023.
- Awards will be made mid to late November 2021.

Eligibility

- Rural communities, which are defined as a county with a population of less than 50,000 or a municipality with a population of less than 25,000.
- County or municipal governments as well as council of governments may apply with the following eligible entities as a partner:
 - Intergovernmental agencies
 - Housing authorities
 - Economic development organizations
 - Nonprofits
 - Private employers
 - Tribes

Types of eligible projects

Projects that will be funded include plans, construction, programs, and capacity building. All applications must create and retain jobs, either direct or indirect.

- **Job creation and retention** - Both through direct and indirect means.
 - Direct examples
 - Business attraction and retention projects
 - Projects which support startups or business expansion
 - Projects which attract new industries
 - Indirect examples
 - Infrastructure and placemaking projects, which enable a local government to activate a space for entrepreneurs and businesses
 - Actionable economic development/diversification plans, marketing studies, consulting service for specific project implementation
 - Any plans or studies should have an associated implementation/action plan, which creates a roadmap for communities
- **Capacity Building** - Under special circumstances DOLA will consider funding local economic development capacity. Staff must be tied to a specific outcome, project, and timeline, which contributes to goals of job creation, business attraction/retention, and economic resilience. REDI funds cannot be used to support staff's existing, ongoing work. Communities will have to illustrate economic hardship and inability to fund staff within their budget. Capacity building grants can be funded for up to 2 years with the following match requirements.
 - Match for capacity building - 75/25 year 1; 50/50 year 2 (grant/match)
 - If applying for a capacity building grant, the applicant must create a plan for funding the position beyond the grant term.
- **Economic resilience** - Economic resilience is the ability of a community's economy and systems that support the economy to withstand disruption and thrive in the face of change. Projects that build economic resilience could include any or all of the following:
 - Economic diversification
 - Take the long-view and build towards outcomes that will support the future of work
 - Projects which address local disruptions and economic recovery such as industry transitions, loss of industry, natural disasters
 - Workforce development opportunities
 - Creative projects that build economic ecosystems, which support job growth, as well as the systems that enable/attract people to live and work in a place such as access to workforce support systems like childcare, transit, attainable housing, and activated downtowns. This could include studies, plans, design, and programs. Given its size, REDI cannot fund infrastructure or capacity as it relates to housing, childcare, and transit.
- **Supports entrepreneurial ecosystems** - Entrepreneurial ecosystems provide trainings, networking opportunities, and infrastructure to support local entrepreneurs.
- Accelerator and incubator programs or projects, which support entrepreneurs and startups
 - Match for accelerator and incubator programs- 75/25 year 1; 50/50 year 2 grant/match
 - If applying for an accelerator or incubator program grant, the applicant must create a plan for funding the program beyond the term of the grant.
- Infrastructure which supports entrepreneurs such as coworking spaces, maker-spaces, workshop space, innovation centers, communal kitchens, etc.

Grant requirements

- Grant fund spending is time sensitive. Awards could require spending within 12 months or 18 months of award.
- Match is required. DOLA's Regional Managers will work with communities to determine the appropriate level of match based on financial data, typically resulting in 20% to 50% match.
- New building construction or significant renovation projects meeting certain thresholds may need to work with DOLA to ensure achievement of energy efficiency measures (e.g., LEED or Green Globes certification or commissioning, HPCP). The project may need to comply with energy efficiency rules if: the project receives 25% or more of its funds from state funding, contains 5,000 or more square feet, includes an HVAC system, or, in the case of renovation projects, the cost of renovation exceeds 25% of the current property value.

PROJECT SCORING

- **Community benefit and demonstration of need (20 points)**
 - Problem, opportunity, or challenge is clearly identified
 - The project has multiple community benefits
- **Project timeline and outcomes (10 points)**
 - Feasible timeline
 - Outcomes clearly identified
 - Deliverables match desired project outcomes
- **Job creation and retention (directly and indirectly-could focus on any of the categories below) (30 points)**
 - Expands a local business/industry
 - Anticipated jobs created and supported
 - Anticipated businesses attracted
 - Serves to retain existing businesses in changing economic climates
 - Provides services which attract/support entrepreneurs
 - Workforce development such as skill building opportunities, trainings, and curriculum development
- **Economic resilience (required to respond to #1 and a minimum of one other category below) (20 points)**
 1. **Required:** Takes the long-view and build towards outcomes that will support the future of work
 2. Increases economic diversification
 3. Promotes innovation and creativity
 4. Builds economic ecosystems, which support job growth, as well as the systems that enable/attract people to live and work in a place.
- **Collaboration and readiness (15 points)**
 - Harmonizes with and/or implements existing plans such as Just Transition plans, comprehensive plans, economic/community development plans, resilience plans, and natural hazard plans.
 - Promotes collaboration by either:
 - Promoting regional economic development
 - Leveraging resources and ideas of stakeholders across the community
 - Aligns with other sources of funding/program participation to meet community goals
 - Has strong support from local governments, workforce agencies or boards, and/or partner agencies
 - The project realizes mutual community benefits
- **Local effort and match (5 points)**

- o Cash match is appropriate given unrestricted fund balance
- o Community has made every effort to contribute as much as possible to the project

AWARD PROCESS

The DOLA Executive Director makes all final funding decisions. If a project is approved, DOLA staff will work with the grantee on the contracting process.

Local governments are required to submit regular (monthly or quarterly) reports based on the project's scope of work. Reports and payment requests will be done through the DOLA Grants Portal.

REDI Program Manager:

Kate Guibert

kate.guibert@state.co.us

720-822-7803

A. APPLICANT/CONTACT INFORMATION

1. Local Government/Organization: [Fremont County](#)

In the case of a multi-jurisdictional application, select the other participating eligible organizations:

2. Principal Representative:

(In the case of a multi-jurisdictional application, principal representative of the lead organization.)

Honorific: [Grants Administrator](#)

First Name: [Rachel](#)

Middle Name:

Last Name: [Miller](#)

Suffix:

Role:

Mailing Address: [615 Macon Ave](#)

Address 2:

City: [Canon City](#)

State: [CO](#)

Zip Code: [81212](#)

Phone #: [719-276-7356](#)

Email Address: rachel.miller@fremontco.com

3. Responsible Administrator (will receive all mailings) for the Application:

Honorific: [Grants Administrator](#)

First Name: [Rachel](#)

Middle Name:

Last Name: [Miller](#)

Suffix:

Role:

Mailing Address: [615 Macon Ave](#)

Address 2:

City: [Canon City](#)

State: [CO](#)
Zip Code: [81212](#)
Phone #: [719-276-7356](#)
Email Address: rachel.miller@fremontco.com

B. CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIAL INFORMATION

Please provide contact information for the chief elected official.

Name

[Dwayne McFall](#)

Title

[County Commissioner Chair](#)

Street Address

[615 Macon Ave](#)

City

[Canon City](#)

State

[CO](#)

Zip

[81212](#)

Phone

[719-276-7300](#)

Email Address

dwayne.mcfall@fremontco.com

C. COMMUNITY INFORMATION

a. Population of town/municipality

[48,939](#)

b. Population of County

[48,939](#)

c. Data Source Used

Current/most recent conservation trust fund/lottery distribution estimate, State Demographer estimate, or a projection based on the communities' percentage of overall county population is acceptable.

[Colorado Demographer's Office](#)

d. Community benefit of project

Please describe how the community will benefit from this project. (1,000 character limit)

[Once completed the event center will house the Fremont Extension Office. The Extension Office's role is to determine what issues, concerns, and needs are unique to each community and to offer effective solutions. The new building will provide them with the space and resources their programs need for necessary growth. The Extension Office, along with community](#)

partners, plan to offer workforce development and entrepreneurial and business development programming, utilizing the kitchen, meeting room, and auditorium for these trainings. The Extension Office's last Community Needs Assessment reported that while businesses are struggling to find workers, job seekers are lacking the necessary training to fulfill available positions. With the proper equipment and furnishings to support workforce and business development, there is potential to have a significant impact by providing job seekers with the resources they need not only to be hired for employment but to thrive once they are.

D. PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND READINESS

a. Have you contacted your DOLA Regional Manager regarding this application

You are **required** to contact your DOLA Regional Manager prior to submitting your application.

Yes

b. Project name

Begin the project name with your community name. Example: "Town of Oak Creek Project Name."

Fremont County Pathfinder Park Event Center Enhancement

c. Amount requested

* The amount requested should equal "Grant Request Total" line from the project budget below.

60,000.00

d. Matching funds

12,000.00

e. Project type

Other

f. Short project description

Please provide 2-3 sentences describing the project. (500 character limit)

Fremont County will utilize these funds to supply the Pathfinder Park Event Center with supplies and furnishings to support workforce development and business development efforts by the Fremont Extension Office. The Extension Office has been working to address the lack of community training opportunities for those needing job skills and business development support. The event center will provide them with all of the space and resources they need to accomplish this.

g. Project overview

- Give an overview of the project
- Describe the impact of the project on your community, needs it meets, and benefits it realizes
- If this project is a piece of a larger program or project, please describe the other phases of the project

(2,500 character limit)

The initial phase of this project will soon be fulfilled as construction of the building is almost complete. Once the building is finished, the Fremont Extension Office will be located there. They will have the opportunity to provide the community with workforce development and entrepreneurial and business development programming once the kitchen, meeting room, and auditorium have been furnished and necessary supplies purchased. The purpose of this project is to provide the Extension Office with all of the supplies needed to support the community programs that they will be able to implement now that they have the location to house them. Although the event center was designed as a place for community members to utilize for events, it has provided the Extension Office with the opportunity to implement programs that will support Fremont County's commitment to bettering our community. We have the opportunity to provide citizens with the chance to invest in their future and develop skills that will be the foundation for success in their chosen career field or business aspirations. The kitchen will be a place to hold trainings, such as the ServSafe training that is already offered through the Extension Office and Cottage Food training which will be offered once resources are obtained. The auditorium holds trainings and workshops. The meeting room will be utilized for smaller one-on-one training sessions, advisory meetings for program planning, and staff training. The potential impact of these programs on our community will be substantial. The Extension Office is responding to the community's need for education in order to obtain employment and to keep employment as well. There is huge potential for further programs to be developed once the Extension Office completes their first steps in

starting workforce development and other necessary trainings. The Extension Office will work with other entities in the community to create and sustain community programs. There will be a strong focus on Agricultural Entrepreneurship. This will be an exciting and necessary opportunity for Fremont County. Agricultural Entrepreneurship is an important to the economic prosperity of our community and it is crucial that we support our farmers. Our goal is to provide the Extension Office with everything they need so that their priority will be to provide programming and work with the community and they will not need to worry about obtaining resources.

h. Project outcomes / key deliverables

Please describe the project outcomes and key deliverables. (1,500 character limit)

Once the event center is ready to use, the Extension office will be able to expand on the ServSafe certification they already provide. They have a certified trainer who will utilize the meeting room and kitchen for these trainings. They will also be able to get their plans for workforce development off the ground. The Extension Office has been working with entities in the community that provide support to people dealing with hardship and has been developing plans to provide both general and specific certification classes that will be held at the event center. The Extension Office will help develop, implement, or facilitate these events. The Extension Office Director has expressed the desire to implement entrepreneurial and business development programs that will target community needs assessment along with workforce development. Once the Extension office is able to offer these programs, we hope to see a rise in not only employment but also qualifications and education that will allow employees to succeed in their field. The goal is to have everything necessary for these trainings and programs on site. Since the building will be utilized as a rental space for the community it will be necessary to have some equipment and furnishings available, but we plan to go beyond that need so to enable the Extension Office all the resources they need ahead of time so they can focus on providing necessary programs to the community.

i. Project readiness to begin

The project is ready to begin as soon as we receive funding.

j. Project timeline

Please confirm this project will be completed by June 30, 2023 and all funds expended by that time.

Yes

k. Project scope of work

Describe project scope of work including timeline and deliverables. (1,500 character limit)

Once the Pathfinder park Event Center is finished the Fremont Extension Office will move their location to the new building. As soon funding is received to support furnishing the event center with supplies specific to the need of the Fremont Extension Office to support their community programing we will begin to provide them with these supplies. Once the supplies are received the Extension Office will start providing programs to the community. By April of 2022 the Extension Office plans to provide Cottage Food Training, ServSafe Training, Value-Added Agriculture Seminars, and Workforce Development workshops. The Extension Office will continue to work the community to develop other training that will be offered out of the event center. There are multiple trainings in development. It is crucial that the event center have the necessary supplies before the programs can begin.

l. Supporting documents (optional)

Upload any supporting documents (studies, preliminary, reports, letters of support, etc.) as a single PDF document.

Download

E. JOB CREATION



a. Job creation

Describe how this project creates or retains jobs locally. This could include both direct and indirect creation/retention. Consider one or more of the following in your answer:

- How many anticipated jobs will this project create?
- How will this project support expansion of an existing industry or business?
- How will this project support retention of current businesses?
- How will this project help attract businesses in the future?
- How will this project expand services available to businesses or entrepreneurs?
- How will this project support or create opportunities for the local workforce?

(1,200 character limit)

The purpose of this project is to support the Fremont County Extension Office's workforce development and business and entrepreneur programming. The Fremont County Extension Office is responding to the community's need to educate and train potential workers so that they are ready to obtain available employment. We have found that while there are employment opportunities available, job seekers are lacking the experience and skills to do the work. This project will also support local businesses and entrepreneurs by offering training that will help them to succeed. Fremont County has many entities working with struggling individuals. It is the Fremont Extension Office's goal to work with these entities to provide community members with the skills they need to thrive. The Pathfinder Park Event Center has provided the Extension Office with a location that will allow for them not only to provide these resources to the community but to continue to develop more programming. The goal is to prepare as many community members as possible for success, whether it's strengthening skills they already have or providing them with new ones.

F. ECONOMIC RESILIENCE

a. Economic resilience

Describe how this project builds economic resilience locally or regionally. Economic resilience is the ability of a community's economy and systems that support the economy to withstand disruption and thrive in the face of change. You are required to respond to #1 with #2-4 as optional.

1. **Required:** How does this project take a long-term view of the community and build towards outcomes that will endure for future generations? Consider how this project will contribute to the vision for your community in the next decade and/or how programs/infrastructure will adapt to meet future needs.
2. How will this project increase economic diversification locally?
3. Does this project bring an innovative approach to the challenge?
4. How will this project strengthen the systems that enable/attract people to live and work in the community?
(1,200 character limit)

This project builds economic resilience locally by preparing Fremont County community members who are struggling to succeed or who are desiring programs that will help strengthen skills they already have. If we can provide our community with the resources needed to obtain employment and succeed in business, we will be able to create a stronger workforce. Employers will benefit from obtaining competent workers which will strengthen their businesses. We will be able to help those struggling with unemployment to become skilled workers. To strengthen our community workforce, we have to provide resources that will allow for growth. These programs, once created, have the potential to create lasting impact and will be available to future generation. A strong program will run for years and will grow with the community to meet the demands of time. Right now Fremont County needs employable workers. Unemployment has been a devastating struggle for the community. Our goal is to navigate this obstacle by creating programs that will prepare individuals for success. This will create a stronger workforce in our community.

G. COLLABORATION

a. Collaboration

Describe support for this project. Consider one or more of the following in your answer:

- How does this project align with community or regional plans, goals, or projects?
- How does this project support local or regional collaboration? What partners are at the table?

(1,200 character limit)

The Fremont Extension Office has been developing relationships with Upper Arkansas Workforce Development, the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) in Fremont County, Pueblo Community College, and Loaves and Fishes. All of these entities work with people who are struggling, including those dealing with unemployment. The Extension Office will work with these entities to develop, implement, or facilitate events targeted towards providing workforce development and certification training to individuals who are in need of help obtaining employment. These trainings would provide community members with the skills they need to thrive in the workforce. The Fremont Extension Office is a part of Colorado State University and works closely with the 4H council. This project will align with the goal of offering education and resources to the community to provide our citizens with every avenue to success. The Extension Office works to provide education whenever possible. This education will allow other entities in the community the opportunity to develop programming along with the Extension Office creating the ability to address needs that might not be met without collaboration.

H. CONSTRUCTION/RENOVATION PROJECTS ONLY

If this project involves new construction or renovating an existing building, please respond to the following:

a. Please select the type of construction project

b. List the project square footage (new construction & renovation)

c. What is the current property value?

Current property value is determined based on the assessed or appraised value.

d. Does/will the building contain an HVAC system?

No

e. Is the building in a floodplain?

No

f. State Historic registry designation

Is this a grant application to complete work on a State registered historic building, structure site or in a State historic district?

No

f.1 If yes, please provide the registry number

b. Attach supporting documents (if applicable)

If on a State Historic Registry, upload any documents related to its listing on the Registry (PDF Document).

Download

I. PROJECT BUDGET & FINANCIALS

Please download and complete the Budget/Financial Template with the lead agency information as well as any co-applicants on this application. The Budget/Financial Template is on the DOLA website at: <https://cdola.colorado.gov/funding-programs/rural-economic-development-initiative>. Please upload the completed Project Budget/Financial in an Excel format and name it <OrganizationBudget.xls. Example: "GunnisonCountyBudget.xls"

a. Budget/financial upload

Download

Copy of Copy of REDI Budget-Financials.xls

b. Private investment

If applicable, please indicate the amount of private investment in this project with a brief description of the investment. (1,000 character limit)

Fremont County plans to invest 20% of these funds from our revenue. The initial phase of the project was over budget and we had to use our reserves in order to cover the excess cost. The budget attached reflects the financial information for all Fremont County departments and is not a reflection of the total funds we have available to use for our department. At this time we have no source of public investment for this project.

c. How were cost estimates determined?

(500 character limit)

The estimated cost was determined by using quotes we requested for the various items we will need to purchase.

J. TABOR COMPLIANCE

a. Voter authorization

Does the applicant jurisdiction have voter authorization to receive and expend state grants without regard to TABOR spending limits?

Yes

a.1 If yes, please explain

The citizens of Fremont County voted to de-Bruce in 2014.

a.2 If no, please respond below

Would receipt of these grant funds, if awarded, result in the local government exceeding revenue limitations, prompting a refund?

No

b. Affirm local government attorney has confirmed this TABOR statement

Yes

K. OFFICIAL ACTION



a. Date of official Board, Council or Commission action

Enter the date that this application was approved for submission to DOLA by the Board, Council or Commission.

10/12/2021