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2016 Performance Report Dolores County, Colorado

The Region 9 Economic Development District of Southwest Colorado Inc. (Region 9), is a nonprofit, 501 (c) 6 public private partnership that promotes and coordinates economic and community development efforts throughout southwest Colorado. Region 9 covers five counties, ten municipalities and the two Native American Tribes in Colorado (Ute Mountain Ute and Southern Ute).

Incorporated in 1989, Region 9 is led by a 26-member board of directors; 17 from local governmental jurisdictions and 9 from the private sector. In October, upon the retirement of Ed Morlan, Laura Lewis Marchino was hired as Executive Director.

2016 Dolores County Representatives

Dan Fernandez – Chair

Ernie Williams/Dennis Goldbricht–

Dolores County

Gary Reid – Rico

Bryce Capron – Dove Creek/Loan Committee

Region 9 programs include business loans, producing the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), Southwest Enterprise Zone, the Four Corners Film Office administration and the Southwest Colorado Accelerator Program for Entrepreneurs (SCAPE).

In addition to these programs Region 9 also provides technical assistance, social and economic data, and research for local and regional projects.



Region 9 Staff

Ed Morlan – Executive Director/*Retired Sept.*

Laura Lewis Marchino – Deputy Director/*Director- October*

Terry Blair-Burton – Program Administrator

Stephani Burditt – Office Manager

Jenny Stollar – Business Loan Officer

Shirley Jones – Comptroller

Elizabeth Marsh – SCAPE Director

Sanjiv Doreswamy – Business Development Loan Officer

Jill Seyfarth – Economic Development Planner

Dolores County Quick Facts



Land Area: 1,052 sq. miles
2015 Population: 1,953
2015 Total Employment: 1,014
Top Employment Sector (# of jobs): Government
Top Employment Sector (income): Government
2015 Per Capita Income: \$42,715

Technical Assistance – Region 9 provides technical assistance to Dolores County by participating in community meetings, writing and administering grants, and advocating for the County at regional, state and federal levels. Below are some specific examples of our work in 2016:

- Completed fifth update to the **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)**- a local strategic planning process conducted every five years and designed to guide the economic growth of an area.
- Updated the County's **Community Development Action Plan**.
- Supported growth of **Dolores County Development Corporation (DCDC)**:
 - Joined DCDC Board of Directors and provided technical assistance and support.
 - Submitted grant and received funding of \$5,000 for the Dove Creek Chamber of Commerce from the Colorado Tourism Office.
 - Assisted with micro loan program.
- Provided support for regional **Four Corners Film Office** increasing film and television Production opportunities in the region.
- Coordinated **Colorado Blueprint 2.0** efforts and updates in region, including an application for Dove Creek tourism promotion.
- Included Rico in a \$600,000 regional grant application for **Brownfields** assessments and clean up at various sites in the five counties we serve.
- Partnered with the **Southwest Colorado Small Business Development Center** to provide more business services in the County.

Regional Initiatives – Region 9 regional efforts positively impact Dolores County. Members of Region 9's staff serve on a variety of boards and committees, including the Animas River Community Forum Steering Committee, the Southwest Colorado Community College Advisory Committee, The Small Business Development Center Advisory Committee, and the Southwest Colorado Workforce Investment Board. Staff members also serve on several state-wide boards including the Colorado Association of Regional Organizations (CARO), the Economic Development Council of Colorado (EDCC), and the Colorado Lending Source Loan Committee. In 2016, we also:

- Collaborated with education, and economic development organizations in the four-corners area to explore creation of a **multi-state** database for economic and labor force information, and to pursue multi-state funding opportunities for economic development.

- **Expanded the Region 9 loan program** funding by \$880,000 via additional CDBG monies.
- Responded to **139 inquiries about business loans**, provided one-on-one **assistance to 103 businesses**.
- Provided **data for 40 inquiries** and assisted with **29 grant inquiries**.

The **Southwest Colorado Accelerator Program for Entrepreneurs (SCAPE)** offers in-depth mentoring, office space and access to equity funding to help new ventures enter markets and raise capital. Since beginning in 2013, the program has graduated 15 companies headquartered in SW Colorado, created 50 jobs and raised over \$4.2 Million in capital to grow their businesses. This year, SCAPE created an Entrepreneurs Fund in memory of retired Region 9 Director, Ed Morlan, who passed away in November of 2016. To date, the Fund has received \$83,000. SCAPE's successes have captured national attention. The program received the **2016 National Association of Development Organizations Innovation Award** and a **2016 Small Business Administration Growth Accelerator Award**. The 2017 class will have a Dolores County business.

Enterprise Zones – The EZ program provides financial incentives to businesses located in distressed areas to encourage new job creation. A business (which includes a farm or ranch) located within these boundaries may be eligible for a variety of state tax credits, including capital investment tax credits, job tax credits, research and development tax credits, and other incentives. The credits are even higher for Enhanced Zones, which include Dolores and San Juan Counties. From 1992 through December 2016, Dolores County businesses claimed approximately **\$24,322,000** in eligible investments, resulting in **\$774,187** in certified tax credits, and creating **115** jobs. In 2016, 24 businesses in the County claimed \$126,734 in tax credits, and created 36 jobs.

The Dove Creek Community Health Clinic was approved as an Enterprise Zone Contribution Project in 2001. This designation renders all donor contributions of \$100 or more for this project eligible for a 25% state tax credit on cash donations, and a 12.5% state tax credit on in-kind donations. Dolores County also benefits from regional EZ projects such as Housing Solutions, Region 9/Four Corners Film Office, and Axis Health Systems. In 2016, EZ projects in the region brought in cash and in-kind contributions valued at **\$5.06 million**.

Other regional projects include:

- Southwest Small Business Development Center
- Southwest Colorado Accelerator Program for Entrepreneurs (SCAPE)

Loans – In the past 27 years, Region 9 has provided business loans totaling **\$1,119,865** (through June 2016) which created or retained 43 jobs in Dolores County. Region 9 responded to 7 inquiries related to business loans in Dolores County in 2016.

Current loan clients and amounts include:

- Carhart Customs **\$63,000**
- Rico Masonic Temple **\$45,278**
- La Watha Bakery **\$49,000**
- JT's Country Store **\$ 50,000**

Reports – A number of research and strategy reports have been prepared by Region 9 that include data specific to Dolores County:

- *2016 – Southwest Colorado Indicator Reports*
 - *Education & Early Childhood Care*
 - *Energy and Conservation*
 - *Healthcare*
 - *Transportation*
- *2016 Retail Sales Data*
- *2016 update to the regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) document, with updated data on Dolores County*

These reports, as well as other publications of interest, can be found at www.scan.org.