Regular Meeting
Economic Opportunity Advisory Board

Held at the Grand County Commission Chambers
125 E Center Street
Moab, Utah 84532

AGENDA
February 26, 2025

Zoom And Youtube Meeting Information

Join Zoom Meeting
Https://Us02web.Zoom.Us/J/83345398837?Pwd=Px7fygrfkyrpzjrb93jm8tymzwiso8.1

Meeting ID: 833 4539 8837
Passcode: 014326

Call To Order

Election Of Officers (Chair, Vice-Chair And Secretary)

Citizens To Be Heard

Opening Items

- **Welcome**
- **Introductions**
- **Conflicts Of Interest, Disclosures, Ex-Parte Communication**
- **Citizens To Be Heard**
- **Presentations, If Any**

Discussion And Action Items

Review Of Economic Development Definitions From March 2023

Rural County And Rural Community Opportunity Grant Process Recommendations

Rural County Grant (RCG) Application

Rural Communities Opportunity Grant (RCOG)

Future Considerations

Adjourn

NOTICE OF SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION DURING PUBLIC MEETINGS. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with special needs requests wishing to attend Grand County Commission meetings/hearings and other Grand County Boards, Commissions, or Committees are encouraged to contact the County two (2) business days in advance of these events. Specific accommodations necessary to allow participation of disabled persons will be provided to the maximum extent possible. T.D.D. (Telecommunication Device for the Deaf) calls can be answered at:(435) 259-1346. Individuals with speech and/or hearing impairments may also call the Relay Utah by dialing 711. Spanish Relay Utah: 1 (888) 346-3162

It is hereby the policy of Grand County that elected and appointed representatives, staff and members of the Grand County Commission meetings/hearings and other Grand County Boards, Commissions, or Committees may participate in meetings through electronic means. Any form of telecommunication may be used, as long as it allows for real time interaction in the way of discussions,questions and answers, and voting.

At the Grand County Commission meetings/hearings and other Grand County Boards, Commissions, or Committees any citizen, property owner, or public official may be heard on any agenda subject. The number of persons heard and the time allowed for each individual maybe limited at the sole discretion of the Chair. On matters set for public hearings there is a three-minute time limit per person to allow maximum public participation. Upon being recognized by the Chair, please advance to the microphone, state your full name and address, whom you represent, and the subject matter. No person shall interrupt legislative proceedings.

Requests for inclusion on an agenda and supporting documentation must be received by 5:00 PM on the Wednesday prior to a regular Commission Meeting and forty-eight (48) hours prior to any Special Commission Meeting. **Information relative to these meetings/hearings may be obtained at the GrandCounty Commission's Office,125 East Center Street, Moab, Utah; (435)259-1346.**

"What is Economic Development? What is Economic Diversification?"

Responses from board members

March 29, 2023 EDAB Meeting

Economic Development

- "Well-being, quality of life for the community."
- "Must include components that support local residents' attainment of jobs that allow them not only to live outside of poverty, but to obtain a quality of life for themselves and their families that other community members are afforded. Typically, this equates to wages, but that is not the only factor. Job satisfaction, work-life balance, and potential for career advancement are also elements."
- "Ideally, the process by which a community can either sustain a healthy balance of existing markets or achieve a healthy balance of varying markets that meet the needs of the local community, allowing residents to not just 'make a living' but thrive … these may be used as measures of a healthy economy."
- "Creating opportunity for everyone in the community to thrive in a way that is sustainable and manages our resources into the future, focusing on quality of life."
- "Not exploiting your kids; creating an economy that has 'meaningful' jobs, allowing a community to retain its talent."
- "Concious about the local history and sustainable future with use of as many local resources as possible."
- "Development and diversification: one does not exist and thrive without the other. A formulation of ecosystems that need to have a balance. Cannot put too much focus on one vs. the other. Requires a level of compromise."
- "Systemic and holistic approach to removing barriers and creating and cultivating opportunities to increase regional prosperity (as opposed to simply 'growth'), parity within a community (think quality of life, rural vs. urban, and how they should both rank high despite being different), and economic participation (not just employment numbers, but entrepreneurship)."

- "Improving economic dimensions for our community members' quality of life; holistic, broad-ranging."
- "Building an environment in which the economy is both stabilized and energized. Broken into two parts, it is the development and maintenance of infrastructure for a strong economy (housing, daycare, training, etc.). The second part is both supporting existing businesses and supporting entrepreneurism and creating an inviting environment that encourages new businesses to come to our area."
- "Community benefits, quality of life for residents."
- "Measurements: proper business staffing and expansion of services, workforce development and succession planning, turnover, wage increases, trainings, capital infusion and use of related opportunities."

Economic Diversification

- "Encouraging economic growth across a variety of economic activities."
- "Building resilient communities."
- "Taking the peaks and valleys out of the local economy, and moving upstream to maximize the resources a community already has. An important index is to ensure infrastructure 'stays ahead' of growth."
- "To be inclusive with local businesses and visitors to our area to ensure a healthy economy."
- "Two parts. First, risk mitigation: not having your eggs all in one basket. Two, increasing our opportunity verticals: do we have enough marketing jobs *and* finance jobs *and* tourism jobs, etc?"
- "Resilience in our economy, sustainability in our economy, less seasonality. These answers can come from both the tourism *and* the non-tourism sectors of our community. Instead of beginning with division of tourism vs. non-tourism, it is better to frame around questions like, 'What problems are we trying to solve in our economy?'"
- "Businesses that are not all-dependent on one source."

- “Recognizing that the most stable and prosperous businesses are home-grown, generally. They utilize local services, are embedded in the community, and serve the community. They pull from local talent and have loyalty to the community. They are inclined to stay, and their successes become part of the community’s identity.”
- “Collaboration across businesses. What new opportunities can we create, especially for a year-round market? What new industries are needed in the community? Resisting ‘this is the way we’ve always done it.’ Need to think ‘out of the box’ and encourage others to do so, too.”

RCG & RCOG APPLICATIONS

EXPEDITED PROCESS RECOMMENDATIONS

GRAND COUNTY EOAB

2025

01

OBJECTIVE

By creating a new and expedited process, the EOAB can shift our recommendations from isolated, single-project grant applications to a holistic, strategy-led process that maximizes the impact of RCG and RCOG funding. Without a dedicated budget for economic development, these grants are a vital resource to drive long-term, systemic change. By fostering collaboration between government, businesses, and nonprofits, we will fund high-impact, sustainable initiatives that strengthen infrastructure, support entrepreneurs, and create jobs.

EXPEDITED PROCESS FOR PROJECT DISCOVERY & SELECTION

Goal: *Identify, evaluate, refine, and recommend priority projects for Rural County Grant (RCG) and Rural Communities Opportunity Grant (RCOG) applications.*

Efficient Timeline

Ensures projects are selected and refined within 4 months.

Public Transparency

Includes multiple opportunities for public input and review.

Data-Driven Decision Making

Uses a clear, transparent scoring system to prioritize high-impact projects.

Strong Grant Applications

Allows time to refine budgets, partnerships, and feasibility before submission.

PHASE 1: DISCOVERY & INPUT - AGENDA

Unlocking Grant County Economic Prosperity

1

Grant Overview & EOAB Priorities

—Brief recap of RCG and RCOG objectives, funding limits, and eligible uses.
—Discuss EOAB's role in aligning project selection with Grand County's economic goals (TTT)

2

Project Brainstorming

—Discuss and create an action plan and next steps for an open call for project ideas from the public, local businesses, nonprofits, and municipal partners.
—Discuss the preliminary list of EOAB and EDD ideas presented by the public.

3

Set Evaluation Criteria (To be finalized by March)

—Does the project meet grant objectives?
—Does it have clear economic impact (business growth, workforce, infrastructure)?
—Does it have matching funds or leverage outside investment?
Is it feasible within the grant's timeframe (1-2 years)?

PHASE 1: DISCOVERY & INPUT

Unlocking Grant County Economic Prosperity

Public Engagement Strategy

—Issue a call for proposals via the County website, social media, and Chamber of Commerce.
—Schedule a special meeting to allow time-limited public presentations for proposed projects.
—Accept written project proposals for one more week.

Deliverable

Publish a draft "Project Ideas Summary" with key themes from proposals and discussions.

MARCH 26

PHASE 2: INITIAL PROJECT SCREENING & PRIORITIZATION - AGENDA

Goal: *Narrow down project list based on selection criteria and feasibility.*

Unlocking Grant County Economic Prosperity

1

Review & Discuss Project Submissions

—County staff and EOAB present a scoring matrix with initial evaluations of all proposed projects.
—EOAB members discuss alignment with economic priorities.

2

Public & Stakeholder Feedback Round

—Schedule an open forum for public comment on shortlisted projects.
—Identify key supporters or partners for each project.

3

Initial Prioritization

Select the top three high-impact projects to move forward.

PHASE 2: INITIAL PROJECT SCREENING & PRIORITIZATION - AGENDA

Public Engagement Strategy

—**Pre-meeting:** Publish the list of all proposed projects with initial scoring for public review.
—**During the meeting:** Conduct real-time voting or ranking exercise to identify top projects.

Deliverable

Publish a "Shortlist of Recommended Projects" for public feedback.

APRIL 30

PHASE 3: REFINEMENT & DEVELOPMENT

Goal: *Finalize project details, budgets, and partnerships for strong grant applications.*

Unlocking Grant County Economic Prosperity

1

Refine Scope, Budget & Partnerships for Each Selected Project

—Address feasibility concerns, cost estimates, and matching fund commitments.
—Engage key stakeholders (businesses, municipalities, nonprofits).

2

Draft Grant Applications for Selected Projects

Assign EOAB members and county staff to lead application development for each project.

3

Finalize Public Engagement Plan

For May's final meeting.

PHASE 3: REFINEMENT & DEVELOPMENT

Unlocking Grant County Economic Prosperity

Public Engagement Strategy

—**Pre-meeting:** Publish refined project details and request public input on missing elements.
—**During the meeting:** Allow key project stakeholders to provide input on refining project goals.

Deliverable

Draft Project Summaries for final review before submission to the County Commission.

MAY 28

PHASE 4: FINAL APPROVAL & SUBMISSION

Goal: *Recommend final projects to the County Commission for approval.*

Unlocking Grant County Economic Prosperity

1

Final Review of Selected Projects

Present refined projects with budgets, partners, and expected outcomes.

2

Vote on EOAB Recommendations

Approve the final list of projects for County Commission submission.

3

Prepare Submission Package for County Commission Meeting

Assign EOAB members to present to the County Commission in June.

PHASE 4: FINAL APPROVAL & SUBMISSION

Unlocking Grant County Economic Prosperity

Public Engagement Strategy

—Host a final public meeting in mid-May before County Commission submission.
—Encourage letters of support from businesses and community members for each project.

Deliverable

Final EOAB Recommendation Report submitted to the County Commission.

Questions & Answers

Introduction

Utah Code Section 63N-4-802 establishes the Rural Opportunity Program within the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity (GOEO). This program houses several funding opportunities for rural communities and businesses including the Rural County Grant (RCG). The Rural Opportunity Advisory Committee, created in Section 63N-4-804, oversees the administration of all grants under this program.

Rural County Grant

The Rural County Grant is designed to empower rural county governments to manage their own unique economic development opportunities, and to take responsibility for planning, projects, and activities that will lead to improved economies. The grant is intended to address economic development needs, which may include:

- Business recruitment, development, and expansion;
- Workforce training and development; and
- Infrastructure, industrial building development, and capital facilities improvements for business development.

Rural counties in the State of Utah of the third, fourth, fifth, or sixth class are eligible to apply for the Rural County Grant. For a full list of eligible counties, see Appendix A. A rural county may receive grant funding up to $200,000 annually. Funds are distributed each fiscal year to rural counties who meet the qualifying requirements listed below.

QUALIFYING REQUIREMENTS

- A rural county must form and maintain a functioning County Economic Opportunity Advisory Board (CEO Board) (s*ee Appendix B*).
- The county must have complied with annual reporting and accounted for RCG funds distributed to them for use during the previous fiscal year. Annual reporting is due no later than September 1 of each year.
- No later than October 1, the county must submit a formal application each fiscal year that includes a description of its anticipated economic development projects and activities, as approved by the county legislative body and based upon the CEO Board's advice and recommendations.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

As noted above, on or before September 1 of each year, a county that received an RCG in the previous fiscal year shall provide a written report. Each CEO board shall assist and advise the county legislative body in preparing reporting requirements for grant money received, and as required by the Rural

Opportunity Advisory Committee *(see Appendix C)*. Counties must submit their annual reports before they can be considered for a new RCG. For information regarding the Rural Opportunity Advisory Committee, see Appendix D.

APPLICATION

Upon approval of the previous year's report, qualified rural counties will have access to an online portal to apply for a new RCG. The basic elements of the application are found in Appendix E. Applicants are encouraged to design new economic development projects and activities, and budget grant funding based on the needs of the county, including the needs of cities and towns within its boundaries.

Each applicant must submit a scope of work describing projects and activities that may include: business recruitment, development, and expansion; workforce training and development; and, infrastructure, industrial building development, and capital facilities improvements for business development. The application also requires a line-item budget and budget narrative explaining how grant funds will be used, and a description of expected deliverables and outcomes. Based on the expected deliverables and outcomes, applicants will propose specific performance measures to which they will be held accountable for their use of the grant funds.

Substantial lack of use of funds over consecutive years may result in application denial or the withholding of new grant funds until all previously awarded funds are spent or encumbered.

GRANT AGREEMENT AND TERMS

Upon application approval, the State of Utah and the applying rural county will enter into a contract for the RCG. The terms of the contract will match the state's fiscal year, beginning July 1 of one year and ending June 30 of the following year.

GRANT FUND DISTRIBUTION

The full amount of awarded RCG funds, up to $200,000, will be distributed to each qualified rural county after application approval and upon contract execution. Awarded counties must also submit an invoice for the award amount for payment to be processed.

IMPORTANT DATES

- Annual Reporting Portal Opens: May 15
- Annual Reporting Portal Closes: September 1 at 5 pm MDT
- Applications Open upon Annual Report compliance: As early as July 1
- Fund Distribution: Upon Approval, Contracting, and Invoice Processing
- Grant Contract Term: July 1 of current year through June 30 of the following year

Appendix A

Rural County Grant Qualified Counties

Rural Counties in the State of Utah of the third, fourth, fifth, or sixth class that created and maintain an active County Economic Opportunity Advisory Board (CEO Board), are eligible to apply for grants under the Rural County Grant. Rural Counties by classification (State Code 17-50-501), are:

Counties of the Third Class (Populations from 40,000 to 174,999)

- Cache County
- Tooele County
- Box Elder County
- Iron County
- Summit County

Counties of the Fourth Class (Populations from 11,000 to 39,999)

- Uintah County
- Wasatch County
- Sanpete County
- Sevier County
- Carbon County
- Duchesne County
- San Juan County
- Millard County.
- Morgan County
- Juab County

Counties of the Fifth Class (Populations from 4,000 to 10,999)

- Emery County
- Grand County
- Kane County
- Beaver County
- Garfield County

Counties of the Sixth Class (Populations less than 4,000)

- Wayne County
- Rich County
- Piute County
- Daggett County

Appendix B

County Economic Opportunity Advisory Board (CEO Board)

"CEO board" means a County Economic Opportunity Advisory Board as described in Utah Code Subsection 63N-4-803. Each rural county that seeks to obtain a Rural County Grant shall create a CEO board composed of at least the following members appointed by the county legislative body:

- a county representative;
- a representative of a municipality in the county;
- a workforce development representative;
- a private-sector representative; and
- a member of the public who lives in the county.

The county legislative body may also appoint additional members with experience or expertise in economic development matters. In appointing members of the CEO board, the county legislative body may consider gender and socioeconomic diversity.

Each CEO board shall assist and advise the county legislative body on:

- applying for a Rural County Grant;
- what projects should be funded by grant money provided to a rural county; and
- preparing reporting requirements for grant money received by a rural county.

CEO Boards are subject to the Utah Open and Public Meetings Act (Utah Code § 52-4-101 through 52-4-305), and are expected to abide by ethics in governance and conflict of interest practices.

Appointment and Terms of CEO Board Members

1. Appointment and Terms:
    a. The county legislative body shall appoint each new member or reappointed members to a four-year term. It is encouraged that an appointed member of the CEO Board be limited to serving two (2) consecutive terms.
    b. The county legislative body shall, at the time of appointment or reappointment, adjust the length of terms to ensure that the terms of advisory board members appointed by the county legislative body are staggered so that approximately half of the appointed advisory board members are appointed every two years.
2. The CEO Board shall elect a chair of the advisory board annually. It is encouraged that a CEO Board Chair serves for no more than two (2) consecutive years.
3. The CEO Board shall elect a vice chair annually from among the advisory board members.
4. When a vacancy occurs in the membership for any reason, the county legislative body shall appoint the replacement for the unexpired term.
5. A majority of the CEO Board constitutes a quorum for the purpose of conducting advisory board business, and the action of a majority of a quorum constitutes the action of the board.

Appendix C

Rural County Grant Reporting Requirements

(Required by the Rural Opportunity Advisory Committee)

On or before September 1 of each year, a community that has received a grant under this program in the previous 12 months shall provide a written report to the Advisory Committee that describes:

- the amount of grant money the county has received;
- how grant money has been distributed by the community, including:
    - which companies or entities have utilized grant money;
    - how much grant money each company or entity has received; and
    - how each company or entity has used the money;
- an evaluation of the effectiveness of awarded grants in improving economic development in the community, including:
    - the number of jobs created;
    - infrastructure that has been created; and
    - capital improvements in the community;
- how much matching money has been utilized by the community and what entities or sources have provided the matching money; and
- any other reporting, auditing, or post-performance requirements established by the Center for Rural Development in collaboration with the Advisory Committee.

Appendix D

Responsibilities of the Rural Opportunity Advisory Committee

"Rural Opportunity Advisory Committee" refers to the committee created in Section 63N-4-804.

The Rural Opportunity Advisory Committee is made up of seven members appointed by the executive director of the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity (GOEO), at least five of whom shall reside in a rural county.

Grant Oversight

The Rural Opportunity Advisory Committee shall oversee the Rural County Grant as administered by the office. In overseeing the grant, the Rural Opportunity Advisory Committee shall advise and make recommendations to the office regarding the awarding of grants and loans under the Rural Opportunity Program. Grants and loans to rural communities will address the economic development needs of rural communities, including:

- business recruitment, development, and expansion;
- workforce training and development; and
- infrastructure, industrial building development, and capital facilities improvements for business development.

Rules and Reporting Criteria

The Rural Opportunity Advisory Committee will collaborate with the office to make rules establishing the eligibility and reporting criteria for the rural county to receive grant money, including:

- the form and process for a county to submit an application to the Rural Opportunity Advisory Committee for a grant;
- the method of scoring and prioritizing grant program applications from rural counties;
- the reporting, auditing, and post-performance requirements for a rural county that receives grant money; and
- any deadlines that shall be met by a rural county when applying for a grant.

Appendix E

Basic Elements of the Rural County Grant Application

Organizational Information

- Name of applying county
- Mailing address
- Primary and Secondary Contact names, emails, and phone numbers
- Amount of grant funding requested for the current fiscal year, up to $200,000

Supporting Documentation

To be uploaded as part of the online application:

- County's W9 form
- List of CEO Board members, including names, titles (chair, vice chair, etc.), terms, organizations each member represents, and contact information (A template will be provided.)
- Letter from the CEO Board attesting to their participation as an advisor to the county governing body
- Invoice from the county for the amount of grant funds requested

Scope of Work

In the narrative field:

Enter a Scope of Work describing proposed Rural County Grant projects and activities to be engaged in and completed in the fiscal year. Describe what type of work will be done, how the projects and activities will be completed, and what the economic development goals and benchmarks will be.

Describe metrics for success, such as, how projects and activities will be measured, tracked and recorded against goals and benchmarks, and how projects and activities will affect business recruitment, development, and expansion; workforce training and development; and/or infrastructure, industrial building development, and capital facilities improvements for business development.

Deliverables and Outcomes

In the narrative field:

Describe what the completed economic development projects and activities will look like, such as, what populations or industry sectors will be affected, if business opportunities will be enhanced and how, and if jobs will be created or retained. Expected outcomes are the desired results of the county's proposed project(s) and should align with the performance metrics identified in the Scope of Work

Budget

In the budget narrative field:

- Explain the funding requirements of the project

- Include calculated project bids
- Provide estimated cost to administer the grant
- Identify matching funds and their sources that will contribute to the overall project plan

Counties shall also submit a proposed budget in spreadsheet format itemizing the use of funds. An Excel spreadsheet template will be provided. Download the spreadsheet, fill it out with project and activity information, estimated costs, and how much of the grant funds will be used for each project or activity.

Grant Agreement

Finally, counties must acknowledge and agree to the paragraph below before submitting an application:

By submitting this application for the Rural County Grant, the County acknowledges that funding for this fiscal year, and future grant funding, will be contingent upon proof of active involvement of the County Economic Opportunity Advisory Board required under Utah Code § 64N-4-803, timely reporting of the use and expenditure of grant funds for the prior year as required under Administrative Rules established for the program, and any other reporting, auditing, or post-performance requirements established by the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity in collaboration with the Rural Opportunity Advisory Committee. If the County fails to comply with any law applicable to the issuance of this grant money or makes any misrepresentation in this application, the State may, at its sole discretion, deny this application or future applications submitted by the County. Substantial lack of use of funds over consecutive years may result in application denial and withholding new grant funds until all previously awarded funds have been spent or encumbered.

Application Review

Applications will be reviewed by GOEO staff and the Rural Opportunity Advisory Committee.

Utah Code Section 63N-4-802 establishes the Rural Opportunity Program and instructs the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity (GOEO) to administer the program. It further directs that the Rural Opportunity Advisory Committee (created by Section 63N-4-804) oversee the funding opportunities available through this program. The Rural Opportunity Program contains several funding opportunities including the Rural Communities Opportunity Grant (RCOG).

Rural Communities Opportunity Grant—FY 2025

For the purpose of this grant, a "Rural Community" means a rural county or rural municipality as defined by Section 63N-4-801. An "Association of Governments" (AOG) means an association of political subdivisions of the state, established pursuant to an interlocal agreement under Title 11, Chapter 13, Interlocal Cooperation Act and as defined by the same section as above.

Rural communities eligible for the Rural Communities Opportunity Grant (RCOG) include: counties of the third, fourth, fifth, and sixth class; cities, towns, and metro townships located in counties of the third, fourth, fifth, and sixth class; and municipalities with a population of 10,000 or less in counties of the second class. The seven AOGs established in the State of Utah are also eligible to apply for the RCOG (*see Appendix A*).

GRANT PURPOSE

The RCOG empowers eligible entities to take responsibility for economic development planning, projects, and activities, and to manage their own unique opportunities. The grant is designed to address the economic development needs of rural communities, including:

- Business recruitment, development, and expansion;
- Workforce training and development; and
- Infrastructure, industrial building development, and capital facilities improvements for business development.

Grant funding is competitive and requires matching funds from awardees. A municipality, city, town, metro township, county, or AOG may receive up to $600,000. Rural counties may receive grant funds from the RCOG exceeding the $200,000 distributed to counties under the Rural County Grant (RCG), but counties may not receive more than $800,000 of state funds per fiscal year.

AOGs may be awarded up to 20 percent of the overall RCOG funding in a given fiscal year; however, that 20 percent of the funding is not a set-aside amount for AOGs applying for this grant. AOGs will compete against all other qualified applicants for the same pool of available funds, and will be judged by the same application, evaluation, and award standards as all other qualified applicants.

In order to qualify for this grant, AOGs must also receive buy-in from all of the counties represented by the AOG and demonstrate that each county has approved the request for grant funds per Utah Code

Section 63N-4-802(4)(e). Evidence of county approval consists of letters of agreement from each county within an AOG's region. AOGs that include counties of the first or second class are also eligible to apply for the RCOG, but must propose a project or projects that address the needs of rural communities within their association.

QUALIFYING REQUIREMENTS

1. A rural county must form and have a functioning County Economic Opportunity Advisory Board (CEO Board). A rural municipality must have a functioning planning and zoning commission, or a duly organized municipal economic opportunity advisory board or commission, that will fulfill the same advisory requirements as a CEO Board. An AOG's General Board must also fulfill the same advisory requirements as a CEO Board as it pertains to eligibility for this grant *(see Appendix B)*.

2. A formal application must be submitted by the community or AOG legislative body through GOEO's designated application portal.

3. The application must include a description of anticipated economic development projects and activities approved by the legislative body and recommended by the CEO Board, or the commission or general board acting in the same advisory role. This description must include the following:
    - Scope of Work;
    - Project and Activities Budget;
    - Timeline; and
    - Deliverables and Outcomes.

4. The applying community or AOG must demonstrate a funding match, which may be provided by any of the following sources:
    - A community reinvestment agency
    - A redevelopment agency
    - A community development and renewal agency
    - A private-sector entity
    - A nonprofit entity
    - A federal matching grant
    - A county or municipality general fund match

    For counties, a funding match must total:
    - 10% match for a county of the sixth class;
    - 20% match for a county of the fifth class;
    - 30% match for a county of the fourth class; or
    - 40% match for a county of the third class.

For municipalities in any rural county classification—including within the second class— a funding match must total:

- 10% match for a town;
- 20% match for a municipality of the fifth class;
- 30% match for a municipality of the fourth class; or
- 40% match for a municipality of the third class.

For AOGs, the match requirement is 40%.

5. The applying community or AOG must provide verification of compliance with the reporting requirements of the Rural Opportunity Advisory Committee, and verification of reporting requirements for all previous years the community or AOG has received an RCOG or an RCG.
6. If a community or AOG has not entered into a previous RCOG or RCG, it must agree to the Office's annual reporting requirements if a grant is awarded.

APPLICATION

GOEO will open an online portal application to eligible communities and AOGs to apply for the RCOG once each fiscal year. If the applicant is a county, it will be encouraged to design new economic development projects and activities, and budget grant funding based on the economic development needs of the county, including the needs of cities and towns within its boundaries. If the applicant is a rural municipality, it will be encouraged to design new economic development projects and activities, and budget grant funding based on its economic development needs. If the applicant is an AOG, it will be encouraged to design new economic development projects and activities, and budget grant funding based on regional economic development needs within its boundaries. The basic elements of the RCOG application can be found in *Appendix E*.

As the RCOG is a competitive funding opportunity, each application will be scored based on the quality of the application, the proposed budget, the economic development projects and activities described therein, and the purposes, goals, and measurable outcomes related to improving the overall economy. Each applicant must justify the economic development needs for the grant and the dollar amount requested.

A new application period will be determined by the Office each year. The designated application will take into account verification of compliance with annual reporting requirements of previous RCG and/or RCOG awards, which are due each year prior to the opening date of a new RCOG application. A rural county that has not complied with RCG reporting requirements will not be eligible to apply for the RCOG. No community or AOG will be eligible to apply for the RCOG if a previously awarded RCG or RCOG contract is still open and incomplete, or if they have not complied with annual reporting requirements.

Applications will be reviewed and scored by the GOEO staff and the Rural Opportunity Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee) (for information regarding the Advisory Committee, *see Appendix D*). Limited funds and the number of quality applications will factor into the overall number of grants

awarded and the amounts awarded to each recipient. Due to these limitations, an applicant may, 1) receive the full award of the grant funds requested, 2) may be asked to accept a lower funding amount than is requested, and adjust its proposed plan accordingly, or 3) may not be awarded a grant. Submitting an application does not guarantee funding.

Prioritization

The Advisory Committee may prioritize applications that demonstrate any combination of the following:

1. The community or AOG has, or is actively pursuing the creation of, an effective strategic economic development plan;
2. Consistency with local economic development priorities;
3. Economic need;
4. Utilization of local financial resources in combination with a grant;
5. Evidence that jobs will be created; and
6. Evidence that there will be a positive return on investment.

HOW TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION

The RCOG application can be accessed by visiting the GOEO website's Rural Communities Opportunity Grant webpage at business.utah.gov/rural/rural-communities-opportunity-grant/ and selecting the "Apply Now" button. All instructions to successfully apply for the grant are available on the Rural Communities Opportunity Grant webpage and will be included in the application.

CONTRACTS AND TERMS

Upon application approval, the State of Utah and the applying rural community or AOG will enter into a contract for the RCOG. Contract periods are set for two years from the time of approval. All projects and activities under the grant must be completed within the 24-month period of the contract. No community or AOG may have more than one RCOG contract open at a time. An awarded community or AOG must complete the projects and activities of an initial grant and meet all reporting requirements before applying for another grant.

Because the RCOG is subject to competitive review against other rural community applications, and because applications will require significant planning and budgeting, amending an awarded contract to altogether different projects or activities is highly discouraged. Any attempt to amend a contract and change projects or activities once a contract is finalized will require an appeal to and review by the administering staff of GOEO and the Rural Opportunity Advisory Committee. Final approval of a contract amendment will ultimately be given at the discretion of the GOEO Executive Director. In the event of hardship or other unforeseen economic circumstances, a grant recipient may appeal to the Rural Opportunity Advisory Committee for an extension beyond the 24-month period of this grant, and await final approval from the GOEO Executive Director.

GRANT FUND DISTRIBUTION

Grant funds under the RCOG will be distributed to each awarded rural community or AOG after application approval. Funds will be distributed on a 90/10 basis, meaning 90% of grant funds will be delivered upon application approval and contract finalization between the community or AOG and the State of Utah. The remaining 10% of funds will be delivered upon GOEOs receipt of satisfactory evidence of the completion of economic development projects and activities as proposed by the applicant and set forth in the grant contract.

Grant recipients will make requests for the disbursement of the remaining 10% of grant funds using the Office's online application portal. The GOEO Compliance Department will identify key benchmarks from each contract to determine whether the economic development projects and activities stated in the contract are complete and the applicant has provided sufficient evidence to support that claim. The key elements to determine benchmarks will come from the grant recipient's submitted Scope of Work, Budget, Timeline, and Deliverables and Outcomes recorded in their contract, as well as from their annual reports. Proof of expenditure of all grant funds and matching funds is also required.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Each CEO Board within a county, or the commission or general board acting in the same advisory role as a CEO Board, shall assist and advise the community or AOG legislative body with complying to reporting requirements for grant money received under the program, and as required by the Rural Opportunity Advisory Committee (*see Appendix C*). Annual reports are due each year an RCOG contract is in effect. The Office will inform grant recipients of annual reporting time periods and requirements each year.

Appendix A

Qualified Rural Communities and Associations of Governments

Rural communities eligible for the Rural Communities Opportunity Grant (RCOG) include: counties of the third, fourth, fifth, and sixth class; cities, towns, and metro townships located in counties of the third, fourth, fifth, and sixth class; and municipalities with a population of 10,000 or less in counties of the second class. The seven AOGs established in the State of Utah are also eligible to apply for the RCOG.

Qualified Rural Counties, by classification (State Code 17-50-501), are:

- Counties of the Third Class (Population of 40,000 or more, but less than 175,000)
    - Cache County
    - Tooele County
    - Box Elder County
    - Iron County
    - Summit County

- Counties of the Fourth Class (Population of 11,000 or more, but less than 40,000)
    - Uintah County
    - Wasatch County
    - Sanpete County
    - Sevier County
    - Carbon County
    - Duchesne County
    - San Juan County
    - Millard County
    - Morgan County
    - Juab County

- Counties of the Fifth Class (Population of 4,000 or more, but less than 11,000)
    - Emery County
    - Grand County
    - Kane County
    - Beaver County
    - Garfield County

- Counties of the Sixth Class (Population less than 4,000)
    - Wayne County
    - Rich County
    - Piute County
    - Daggett County

Qualified rural municipalities (incorporated municipalities within a county of the third, fourth, fifth, or sixth class) by classification (State code 10-2-301), are as follows:

- A municipality with a population of 30,000 or more but less than 65,000 is a city of the third class.
- A municipality with a population of 10,000 or more but less than 30,000 is a city of the fourth class.
- A municipality with a population of 1,000 or more but less than 10,000 is a city of the fifth class.
- A municipality with a population under 1,000 is a town.

Qualified incorporated municipalities in a county of the second class with populations of less than 10,000 are the following:

- A municipality with a population of 1,000 or more but less than 10,000 is a city of the fifth class.
- A municipality with a population under 1,000 is a town.

Qualified Cities/Town with populations less than 10,000 in Counties of the Second Class (2022), are:

- Utah County:
    - Cedar Fort
    - Cedar Hills
    - Elk Ridge
    - Fairfield
    - Genola
    - Goshen
    - Woodland Hills

- Davis County:
    - Fruit Heights
    - South Weber
    - Sunset City
    - West Bountiful

- Weber County:
    - Farr West
    - Harrisville
    - Hooper
    - Huntsville
    - Marriott-Slaterville
    - Plain City
    - Riverdale
    - Uintah
    - Washington Terrace

- Washington County:
    - Apple Valley

- Enterprise
- Hilldale
- LaVerkin
- Leeds
- New Harmony
- Rockville
- Santa Clara
- Springdale
- Toquerville
- Virgin

Qualified Associations of Governments are:

- Bear River Association of Governments (BRAG)
- Five County Association of Governments
- Mountainlands Association of Governments (MAG)
- R6; formerly known as Six County Association of Governments
- Southeastern Regional Development Agency; formerly known as Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments
- Uintah Basin Association of Governments (UBAG)
- Wasatch Front Regional Council (WFRC)

Appendix B

County Economic Opportunity Advisory Board (CEO Board)

"CEO Board" means a County Economic Opportunity Advisory Board as described in Utah Code Section 63N-4-803.

**Note: For a municipality to qualify for a Rural Communities Opportunity Grant it must have a functioning planning and zoning commission, or a duly organized municipal economic opportunity advisory board or commission, that will act under the same advisory requirements as a CEO Board. An Association of Governments' General Board must act under the same advisory requirements as a CEO Board as it pertains to eligibility for this grant.*

Each rural county that seeks to obtain a Rural Communities Opportunity Grant shall create a CEO Board composed of at least the following members appointed by the county legislative body:

- a county representative;
- a representative of a municipality in the county;
- a workforce development representative;
- a private-sector representative; and
- a member of the public who lives in the county.

The county legislative body may appoint additional members with experience or expertise in economic development matters. In appointing members to the CEO Board, the county legislative body may consider gender and socioeconomic diversity.

Each CEO Board shall assist and advise the county legislative body on:

- applying for a Rural Communities Opportunity Grant;
- what projects should be funded by grant money provided to a rural county under the program; and
- preparing reporting requirements for grant money received by a rural county under the program.

CEO Boards are subject to the Utah Open and Public Meetings Act (52-4-101-104, 201-210, 301-304), and are expected to abide by ethics in governance, and conflict of interest practices.

Appointment and Terms of CEO Board Members

- Appointment and Terms:
    - The county legislative body shall appoint each new member or reappointed member to a four-year term. It is encouraged that an appointed member of the CEO Board be limited to serving two (2) consecutive terms.
    - The county legislative body shall, at the time of appointment or reappointment, adjust the length of terms to ensure that the terms of advisory committee members appointed

by the county legislative body are staggered so that approximately half of the appointed advisory committee members are appointed every two years.

- The CEO Board shall elect a chair of the advisory board. It is encouraged that a CEO Board Chair serves for no more than two (2) consecutive years.
- The CEO Board shall elect annually a vice chair from the advisory board's members.
- When a vacancy occurs in the membership for any reason, the county legislative body shall appoint the replacement for the unexpired term.
- A majority of the CEO Board constitutes a quorum for the purpose of conducting advisory board business and the action of a majority of a quorum constitutes the action of the advisory committee.

Appendix C

Rural Communities Opportunity Grant Reporting Requirements

Required by the Rural Opportunity Advisory Committee

On or before a date designated by the Office each year, a rural community or an Association of Governments (AOG) that has received a grant under this program in the previous 12 months shall provide a written report to the Advisory Committee that describes:

- The amount of grant money the community or AOG has received;
- How grant money has been distributed by the community or AOG, including:
    - which companies or entities have utilized grant money;
    - how much grant money each company or entity has received; and
    - how each company or entity has used the money;
- An evaluation of the effectiveness of awarded grants in improving economic development in the community or AOG, including:
    - the number of jobs created;
    - infrastructure created; and
    - capital improvements in the community or AOG;
- How much matching money has been utilized by the community or AOG, and what entities or sources have provided the matching money; and
- Any other reporting, auditing, or post-performance requirements established by the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity in collaboration with the Advisory Committee.

Appendix D

Responsibilities of the Rural Opportunity Advisory Committee

"Advisory Committee" means the Rural Opportunity Advisory Committee created in Section 63N-4-804.

Rural Communities Opportunity Grant (RCOG) Grant

Oversight

This grant program shall be overseen by the Rural Opportunity Advisory Committee and administered by the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity. In overseeing the grant program, the Advisory Committee shall advise and make recommendations to the office regarding the awarding of grants. The Advisory Committee shall recommend the awarding of grants to rural communities to address the economic development needs, including:

- Business recruitment, development, and expansion;
- Workforce training and development; and
- Infrastructure, industrial building development, and capital facilities improvements for business development.

Rules and Reporting Criteria

The Advisory Committee shall collaborate with the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity to make rules establishing the eligibility and reporting criteria for the rural communities and Associations of Governments to receive grant money, including:

- The form and process for a community to submit an application;
- The method of scoring and prioritizing grant program applications from rural communities and AOGs;
- The reporting, auditing, and post-performance requirements for a rural community or an AOG that receives grant money; and
- Any deadlines that shall be met by a rural community or AOG when applying for a grant.

Application Review, Scoring, and Fund Distribution

In determining the award of grant money under RCOG: the Advisory Committee may only recommend awarding up to $600,000 annually to a rural community or AOG. The Advisory Committee may prioritize applications that demonstrate any combination of the following:

- The community has or is actively pursuing the creation of an effective strategic economic development plan;
- Consistency with local economic development priorities;
- Economic need;
- Utilization of local financial resources in combination with a grant;
- Evidence that jobs will be created; and

- Evidence that there will be a positive return on investment.

Additionally, the Advisory Committee will verify that an applying community or AOG has complied with:

- The reporting requirements required by the Advisory Committee; and
- The reporting requirements for all previous years that the community has received an RCG or RCOG.

After reviewing the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, the executive director of the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity shall award grants to rural communities and/or AOGs in accordance with the provisions of the state statute and governing rules.

Appendix E

Basic Elements of the Rural Communities Opportunity Grant Application

Organizational Information

- Name of applying community
- Full mailing address and telephone number of applying community
- Tax ID
- Name of Fiscal Agent
- Key organizational contacts
- Email addresses and telephone numbers of responsible contacts
- List of CEO Board members, including names, titles (e.g., chair, vice chair, etc.), organizations each member represents, and contact information
- Amount of grant funding requested (up to $600,000)

Supporting Documentation

- Letter of support from the County Economic Opportunity Advisory Board (CEO), planning and zoning commission or a duly organized municipal economic opportunity advisory board or commission if the applicant is a municipality, or AOG General Board
- The entity's W9 form
- Verification of compliance with the reporting requirements of the Rural Opportunity Advisory Committee
- Verification of reporting requirement for all previous years the community or AOG has received an RCG or an RCOG

Scope of Work

To be written into the appropriate field in the application:

- A detailed description of what the proposed Rural Communities Opportunity Grant projects and activities are, including:
    - The type of work that will be completed;
    - A description of how projects and activities will be completed; and
    - A description of the economic development goals and benchmarks of the projects and activities.

Budget

To be written in the appropriate field in the application, and submitted in a spreadsheet by the applicant:

- An explanation of the funding requirements of the project
- Calculated project bids
- The estimated cost to administer the grant
- A proposed budget in spreadsheet format

Timeline

To be written in the appropriate field in the application, and submitted in a spreadsheet by the applicant:

- An explanation of the timeline for completing projects and activities including important dates, goals, benchmarks, etc.
- A proposed timeline in spreadsheet format

Deliverables and Outcomes

Responses to the following questions written in the appropriate fields in the application:

- What will the completed economic development projects and activities look like? For example:
    - What populations or industry sectors will the project affect?
    - Will business opportunities be enhanced by this project?
    - How many projected new jobs will be realized as a result of this project?
- Show metrics of project success, such as how it will be measured, tracked and recorded against goals and benchmarks, and how the project will affect:
    - Business recruitment, development, and expansion;
    - Workforce training and development; and/or,
    - Infrastructure and capital facilities improvements for business development.

Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity

Rural Communities Opportunity Grant

The Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity administers the Rural Communities Opportunity Grant (RCOG). These grants are available to counties, cities, towns, and associations of governments to support economic development projects and activities. The Rural Opportunity Advisory Committee oversees this grant's funding opportunities.

Grant Purpose

The RCOG empowers rural communities to take responsibility for economic development planning, projects and activities, and to manage their unique opportunities. The grant addresses the economic development needs of rural communities, which include:

- Business recruitment, development, and expansion
- Workforce training and development
- Infrastructure, industrial building development, and capital facilities improvements for business development.

Eligible Communities

Eligible rural communities include:

- Counties of the third, fourth, fifth, and sixth class
- Cities, towns, and metro townships located within those counties
- Municipalities with a population of 10,000 or less in counties of the second class
- Associations of Governments

Rural communities may qualify to receive grant funding of up to $600,000.

Competitive Application

The RCOG is competitive and requires a funding match based on the community's population. Applications are scored based on their quality, proposed budget, economic development projects and activities descriptions, and the purposes, goals, and measurable outcomes related to improving the community's overall economy. Applicants are required to justify the economic development need for the grant and the amount of funding requested.

Prioritization

The advisory committee may prioritize applications that demonstrate any combination of the following:

1. The community has or is actively pursuing the creation of an effective strategic economic development plan
2. Consistency with local economic development priorities
3. Economic need
4. Utilization of local financial resources in combination with a grant
5. Evidence the grant will help create jobs
6. Evidence of potential positive return on investment

Qualifying Communities

The Utah rural counties are listed below by classification. All counties, cities, and towns within their boundaries qualify for the Rural Communities Opportunity Grant.

Counties of the Third Class (population of 40,000 or more but less than 175,000):

- Box Elder County
- Cache County
- Iron County
- Summit County
- Tooele County

Counties of the Fourth Class (population of 11,000 or more but less than 40,000):

- Carbon County
- Duchesne County
- Juab County
- Millard County
- Morgan County
- San Juan County
- Sanpete County
- Sevier County
- Uintah County
- Wasatch County

Counties of the Fifth Class (population of 4,000 or more but less than 11,000):

- Beaver County
- Emery County
- Garfield County
- Grand County
- Kane County

Counties of the Sixth Class (population less than 4,000):

- Daggett County
- Piute County
- Rich County
- Wayne County

Qualifying Cities and Towns in Counties of the Second Class (populations less than 10,000):

Utah County:

- Cedar Fort
- Elk Ridge
- Fairfield
- Genola
- Goshen
- Salem
- Woodland Hills

Davis County:

- Fruit Heights
- South Weber
- Sunset City
- West Bountiful

Weber County:

- Farr West
- Harrisville
- Hooper
- Huntsville
- Marriott-Slaterville
- Plain City
- Riverdale
- Uintah
- Washington Terrace

Washington County:

- Apple Valley
- Hildale
- Ivins
- LaVerkin
- Leeds
- New Harmony
- Rockville
- Santa Clara
- Springdale
- Toquerville
- Virgin

Qualifying Associations of Governments:

- Bear River Association of Governments
- Five County Association of Governments
- Mountainlands Association of Governments
- Six County Association of Governments
- Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments
- Uintah Basin Association of Governments
- Wasatch Front Regional Council

RCG & RCOG APPLICATIONS

EXPEDITED PROCESS RECOMMENDATIONS

GRAND COUNTY EOAB

2025

01

OBJECTIVE

By creating a new and expedited process, the EOAB can shift our recommendations from isolated, single-project grant applications to a holistic, strategy-led process that maximizes the impact of RCG and RCOG funding. Without a dedicated budget for economic development, these grants are a vital resource to drive long-term, systemic change. By fostering collaboration between government, businesses, and nonprofits, we will fund high-impact, sustainable initiatives that strengthen infrastructure, support entrepreneurs, and create jobs.

EXPEDITED PROCESS FOR PROJECT DISCOVERY & SELECTION

Goal: *Identify, evaluate, refine, and recommend priority projects for Rural County Grant (RCG) and Rural Communities Opportunity Grant (RCOG) applications.*

Efficient Timeline

Ensures projects are selected and refined within 4 months.

Public Transparency

Includes multiple opportunities for public input and review.

Data-Driven Decision Making

Uses a clear, transparent scoring system to prioritize high-impact projects.

Strong Grant Applications

Allows time to refine budgets, partnerships, and feasibility before submission.

PHASE 1: DISCOVERY & INPUT - AGENDA

Unlocking Grant County Economic Prosperity

1

Grant Overview & EOAB Priorities

—Brief recap of RCG and RCOG objectives, funding limits, and eligible uses.
—Discuss EOAB's role in aligning project selection with Grand County's economic goals (TTT)

2

Project Brainstorming

—Discuss and create an action plan and next steps for an open call for project ideas from the public, local businesses, nonprofits, and municipal partners.
—Discuss the preliminary list of EOAB and EDD ideas presented by the public.

3

Set Evaluation Criteria (To be finalized by March)

—Does the project meet grant objectives?
—Does it have clear economic impact (business growth, workforce, infrastructure)?
—Does it have matching funds or leverage outside investment?
Is it feasible within the grant's timeframe (1-2 years)?

PHASE 1: DISCOVERY & INPUT

Unlocking Grant County Economic Prosperity

Public Engagement Strategy

—Issue a call for proposals via the County website, social media, and Chamber of Commerce.
—Schedule a special meeting to allow time-limited public presentations for proposed projects.
—Accept written project proposals for one more week.

Deliverable

Publish a draft "Project Ideas Summary" with key themes from proposals and discussions.

MARCH 26

PHASE 2: INITIAL PROJECT SCREENING & PRIORITIZATION - AGENDA

Goal: *Narrow down project list based on selection criteria and feasibility.*

Unlocking Grant County Economic Prosperity

1

Review & Discuss Project Submissions

—County staff and EOAB present a scoring matrix with initial evaluations of all proposed projects.
—EOAB members discuss alignment with economic priorities.

2

Public & Stakeholder Feedback Round

—Schedule an open forum for public comment on shortlisted projects.
—Identify key supporters or partners for each project.

3

Initial Prioritization

Select the top three high-impact projects to move forward.

PHASE 2: INITIAL PROJECT SCREENING & PRIORITIZATION - AGENDA

Unlocking Grant County Economic Prosperity

Public Engagement Strategy

—**Pre-meeting:** Publish the list of all proposed projects with initial scoring for public review.
—**During the meeting:** Conduct real-time voting or ranking exercise to identify top projects.

Deliverable

Publish a "Shortlist of Recommended Projects" for public feedback.

APRIL 30

PHASE 3: REFINEMENT & DEVELOPMENT

Goal: *Finalize project details, budgets, and partnerships for strong grant applications.*

Unlocking Grant County Economic Prosperity

1

Refine Scope, Budget & Partnerships for Each Selected Project

—Address feasibility concerns, cost estimates, and matching fund commitments.
—Engage key stakeholders (businesses, municipalities, nonprofits).

2

Draft Grant Applications for Selected Projects

Assign EOAB members and county staff to lead application development for each project.

3

Finalize Public Engagement Plan

For May's final meeting.

PHASE 3: REFINEMENT & DEVELOPMENT

Unlocking Grant County Economic Prosperity

Public Engagement Strategy

—**Pre-meeting:** Publish refined project details and request public input on missing elements.
—**During the meeting:** Allow key project stakeholders to provide input on refining project goals.

Deliverable

Draft Project Summaries for final review before submission to the County Commission.

PHASE 4: FINAL APPROVAL & SUBMISSION

Goal: *Recommend final projects to the County Commission for approval.*

Unlocking Grant County Economic Prosperity

1

Final Review of Selected Projects

Present refined projects with budgets, partners, and expected outcomes.

2

Vote on EOAB Recommendations

Approve the final list of projects for County Commission submission.

3

Prepare Submission Package for County Commission Meeting

Assign EOAB members to present to the County Commission in June.

PHASE 4: FINAL APPROVAL & SUBMISSION

Unlocking Grant County Economic Prosperity

Public Engagement Strategy

—Host a final public meeting in mid-May before County Commission submission.
—Encourage letters of support from businesses and community members for each project.

Deliverable

Final EOAB Recommendation Report submitted to the County Commission.

Questions & Answers