



County Economic Opportunity Board

January 15, 2026

Council Chambers

3:30 p.m.

1. Welcome & Roll Call

2. Elect 2026 Chair & Vice Chair

3. Meeting Minutes

A. Minutes from the August 21, 2025 meeting

MOTION AND VOTE

Attachments

1. [CEO Board Meeting Minutes August 21, 2025_DRAFT.pdf](#)

4. Better City Economic Development Report

A. Better City Update, Ryan Englund

Attachments

1. [Tooele Business Resources - 2026.pdf](#)
2. [Tooele County 2025 Economic Report.pdf](#)

5. Grants

A. Small Business Development & Expansion Grant Update

The grant application is now live and posted on the website.

Attachments

1. [Small Business Grant Application 2026.pdf](#)
2. [Small Business Grant Checklist 2026.pdf](#)

6. Adjournment



County Economic Opportunity Board

August 21, 2025

3:30 p.m.

<47 South Main, Council Chambers (3rd floor)>

1. Welcome & Roll Call

Chairman Craig Smith called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm.

Roll call was taken showing: Craig Smith, Tyson Hamilton, John Perez, Angie Davies, and Brittany Lopez.

Also present was Jess Clifford, Tooele Tech Small Business Development Center; Ryan Englund, Better City; and Kathleen VonHatten, Lake Point City.

Dan Royal was online.

2. Meeting Minutes

A. Minutes from the May 15, 2025 Meeting

MOTION AND VOTE

Agenda Attachments

1. May 15, 2025 CEO Board Meeting Minutes_DRAFT.pdf

Motion to approve the May 15, 2025 meeting minutes by Brittany Lopez. 2nd by Tyson Hamilton. All in favor.

3. Grants

A. Rural County Part B Grant Application Discussion, Ryan Englund

Discussion on project ideas for the application/intent to apply for the Rural County Part B Grant. Funding from this grant can be used toward:

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

B. Outdoor Recreation Grants, Ryan Englund

Outdoor Recreation Grant Discussion.

Agenda Attachments

1. Outdoor Recreation Grants Info.pdf

Ryan stated that the report for last year's Rural County Grant has been submitted and accepted. The 2026 Rural County grant application for \$200,000 has been submitted and accepted. Soon we're going to work on the 2026 Rural Communities Opportunity Grant, up to \$600,000. The county has received a co-op grant for marketing for \$126,000; we asked for \$225,000. That's more than we've ever received. Ryan stated that Brittany and Jill worked up a budget for \$225,000 to spend next year. We were hoping that the state could match that. We kept the county funds the same. The majority will be used for content creation and digital marketing, but a small amount will be used for print marketing, local business PR and event sponsorship, market research, networking, and traditional advertising, etc. Brittany stated that the goal was to focus on the things we know we have and it was a crossover between the local restaurants and utilizing the

recreation we have. We are looking to get people to come recreate and eat here. This is the beginning stage. 6:25 The Explore Tooele page has been highlighting the local restaurants and shops.

Ryan stated that we've put together a good group of people and we've got a 3-5 year plan to roll out, with one or two things a year. Roger Brooks suggested promoting two or three things instead of everything at once. Brittany stated we have a Tourism Director at the Chamber of Commerce, and they've hired a marketing person. Ryan stated the state has been pushing hard for each county to get a Destination Marketing Organization, or a DMO. The chamber is going to do that for us. The grant has a huge impact if you're a DMO versus if you're not. Brittany stated that Jill started by reaching out to local eateries. We are waiting for the funding to come in before we start on the shops.

Ryan stated that the Part B grant is the Rural Communities Opportunity Grant. Right now, every county and municipality that has less than 10,000 people, and every COG has a chance to apply. In the past, we've focused on infrastructure and have got some good grants. Ryan asked the group what we should apply for. It is up to \$600,000 and that would require a \$400,000 match. Brittany stated that the Council will have to give approval to apply, and approval to provide the match.

Jess Clifford stated that one of the needs they've seen at Tooele Tech is creating an adult learning center in Wendover. Most of the adult learners are commuting to Tooele or just not going at all. Tooele Tech may be willing to back that in a skills perspective. The SBDC may be willing to be present out there for anybody that wants to start a business. There is not anything out there for those that want to develop a skill or start a business. Jess stated that they would be able to donate instructors' times and maybe some equipment/materials.

Ryan stated that another idea discussed was the Wendover Airport. Brittany stated we're still in the design phase and only looking at the water lines. In the future we will need electrical upgrades. I would like to allocate some funds for the water lines. We've had some interest in events out there.

Brittany asked if the Department of Workforce Services could use the funding. Angie Davies stated that the funding for the current education department has been cut, and she will look into some ways the funding could help.

John Perez stated we could use the whole amount for looping in the water and sewer lines to the business park. I think the cost is around \$1.2 million.

There was discussion regarding the Wendover Airport, the match requirement, and timelines for the possibility of the Tooele Tech project.

Ryan stated at the next meeting we should select a project or two, vote, and make a plan. Brittany stated there are buildings that the airport leases, so she will get with the director and see if any are classified to where they could be used for the Tooele Tech project. Brittany recommended that everyone come back next month with numbers for their project. Craig asked if it would be better to apply for multiple things, or just one thing. Ryan stated that it's best to pick one; going for multiple projects at once has been discouraged.

Outdoor recreation- Ryan stated we have a lot going on with the outdoor recreation. One of the problems with the industrial parks is that they don't have enough power to grow and are kind of stuck with what they have, but they'd like more power.

Ryan stated that a meeting with this group and the state considering nuclear power, solar, and wind in the future would be effective. The Department of Defense is looking to create places they can come in with nuclear, solar, and wind. BLM is opening up some of their land to do the same. Brittany stated we are looking for the best alternative power source, not necessarily just nuclear. The county just passed a resolution for alternate power uses. That was the first step the department of energy asked us to take. HB249 allows counties to create these energy zones. We are looking to create an energy overlay zone. This would allow alternative energy sources without having to change the zoning.

There was discussion about the need for public education and perception regarding nuclear power.

4. Discussion Items

A. Economic Development Website Presentation

Presentation and discussion of the new Economic Development website: growtooele.com

Brittany shared the new Tooele County Economic Development website with the group and stated it is up and running now. Craig stated that Erda and Lake Point's information needs to be on the website on the local contacts page and the Grantsville contact needs to be updated. Jess Clifford stated SBDC is missing the D on the State contacts, and the SBDC website/email address needs to be added.

5. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Brittany Lopez. All in favor.



Business Resources

Contents

2	This Guide
3	Local Business Support
4	Licensing & Legal Setup
5	New Business Checklist
6	Technical Assistance
8	Networking
9	Grants & Incentives
10	Funding & Loans

This Guide

Starting a business is an exciting journey—and in Tooele County, you don't have to go it alone. Whether you're launching your first venture or expanding an existing one, this guide connects you with the tools, resources, and people who can help you succeed.

Tooele County is home to a vibrant business community, supportive local government, and a wide network of organizations dedicated to helping entrepreneurs thrive.

Inside this guide, you'll discover:

- Step-by-step information on how to legally establish your business in Utah
- Local, state, and federal resources available to Tooele County entrepreneurs
- Programs that offer funding, technical support, and mentoring
- Contacts and links to experts who can help you solve real-world business challenges

We're excited to welcome your business to Tooele County—and we're here to support you as you grow.



Local Business Support

Your business doesn't grow in a vacuum—it thrives when it's part of a strong local economy. These partners help you tap into strategic planning, site selection, and expansion opportunities.

Economic development staff connect new businesses to local resources and help businesses navigate the process to obtain permits and incentives.

Tooele County Economic Development



Rachelle Custer, Community Development
rachelle.custer@tooeleco.gov | 435-843-3160

Tooele City Economic Development



John Perez, Economic Development
johnp@tooelecity.gov | 435-843-2169

Grantsville City Economic Development



Michael Resare, City Manager
mresare@grantsvilleut.gov | 435-884-4625

Utah Startup State - Entrepreneurship Journey

Follow the Utah startup journey to identify gaps and find resources to help your small business.

How to Start a Business in Utah

Online guidance on all the steps to start a business.

Utah Founders Resource Directory

Online directory helps Utah businesses find incubators, funding opportunities, educational opportunities, and more to get your startup company off the ground, help grow it, or make useful connections.



Licensing & Legal Setup

The first step to legitimacy is making sure your business is properly registered and licensed. These resources walk you through the legal side so you can operate with confidence.

County and city clerks help new businesses by guiding them through the licensing process and ensuring they meet all local requirements to operate legally.

Tooele County Business License



Tracy Shaw, County Clerk
tracy.shaw@tooeleco.gov | 435-843-3140

Tooele City Business License



Denece Hall, Business License Specialist
deneceh@tooelecity.gov | 435-843-2110

Grantsville City Business License

Gina Roberts, Deputy Recorder
groberts@grantsvilleut.gov | 435-884-4625



Utah Division of Corporations & Commercial Code

Online business registration, renewals, and compliance. Details on how to create a UtahID to access the system and navigate the system can be found at <https://corporations.utah.gov/ori/>.

Utah Business Search

Search for businesses registered with the State of Utah.

Utah State Tax Commission

Provides tax information for businesses, plus links to other resources, such as:

- Starting a business: the basic steps, copyrights, acquisitions, and franchises.
- Running a business: organization, financial resources, HR assistance, and other resources.
- Other business services

New Business Checklist

Follow the checklist below to start your business in Tooele County.

☐ Choose a Business Structure

The most popular business structures are: limited liability companies (LLC), corporations, and sole proprietorships.

☐ Pick a Name for Your Business

Verify that your preferred business name is available using the Secretary of State's Name Availability Search.

☐ Assign a Utah Registered Agent

Every business is required by state law to appoint and maintain a Utah registered agent on the Secretary of State's website.

☐ File Formation Documents with the Utah Secretary of State

For an LLC or corporation, file formation documents on the Secretary of State's website. LLCs file Articles of Organization, and corporations file Articles of Incorporation.

☐ Obtain Your Federal Employer Identification Number (EIN)

Apply for your Federal Tax ID, the Federal Employer Identification Number (EIN) for free on the IRS website.

☐ Open a Company Bank Account

Create a company bank account to separate personal income and assets from those of your business, accept money from customers, and to make payments.

☐ Obtain Licenses & Permits

Contact the City and County clerk's office for more information on necessary business licenses or permits (typically barber & salon shops, food & beverage, law, fitness, and medical businesses require licenses or permits). Businesses that fail to obtain proper licensing or permits can be subjected to fines or outright closure of the business.

Technical Assistance

Understanding the logistics of starting and operating a business can be overwhelming—technical assistance providers help new entrepreneurs through hands-on support, tools, and skills training.

Tooele Valley Small Business Development Center

Offers free guidance on business setup, marketing, financial planning, employee management, and more.

Tooele County Business Resource Center

Provides one-stop access to connect businesses with state and federal resources, grant opportunities, government contracting support, and expert guidance.

Small Business Administration - Utah District

Provides funding programs, counseling, federal contracting certifications, and disaster recovery.

Salt Lake City Office: 801-524-3209

Salt Lake Public Library Small Business Resources

A hub for entrepreneurs offering live help, classes, and curated business development resources.

Zions Bank Business Resource Center

Provides education, tools, resources, and hands-on guidance to entrepreneurs.

Economic Development Corporation Utah

Coordinates research requests, site visits, employer interviews, and introductions to Utah communities and service providers. Also provides industry reports and economic data, tax incentive support, and promotion.



Erin Farr, Senior Business Development
efarr@edcutah.org | 801-323-4243



Jared Stewart, Senior Business Development
jstewart@edcutah.org | 801-834-3858

Governors Office of Economic Opportunity

Offers Small Business and Entrepreneurship Technical Assistance Grant to assist Utah-based small businesses. It provides funding to augment services for customers.



Abby Hunsaker, Program Manager
ahunsaker@utah.gov | 385-867-4627



Tyler Jennings, Director of Entrepreneurship
tjennings@utah.gov | 801-538-8680

Utah: The Startup State

A statewide entrepreneurship business resource portal.

Rural Businesses

Center for Rural Development

Works with Utah's rural counties, communities and businesses, providing economic development resources.



Forest Turner, Rural Outreach Manager
ffturner@utah.gov | 435-650-9660

Women Owned Businesses

Women's Business Center of Utah

Delivers one-on-one and group training with a focus on supporting women-owned businesses.



Connie Yengich, Northern Program Manager
connie@wbcutah.org | 801-328-5066

Utah Women & Leadership Project

Provides leadership insights and resources, especially valuable to women entrepreneurs.



Dr. Susan Madsen, Founder & Director
susan.madsen@usu.edu | 435-797-0873



Kolene Anderson, Associate Director
kolene.anderson@usu.edu

Banking on Women

Free small business courses to start or grow businesses for female entrepreneurs.

Manufacturing & Tech Businesses

Utah Innovation Center

Provides a funding roadmap for Utah startups and emerging companies developing innovative technology.



Linda Cabrales, Utah Innovation Center
lcabrales@utah.gov | 385-228-6134

APEX Accelerator

Assist businesses in pursuing and securing government contracts, and facilitate the transfer of innovative technology to the defense industrial base.



Paula Kramer, APEX Regional Manager
pkramer@utah.gov | 801-538-8756

iMPact Utah

Provides coaching and training for manufacturing businesses to improve processes and scale effectively.

74G

Supports aerospace, defense, and cyber businesses with industry connections, innovation funding, and workforce development programs.

Manufacturer Extension Partnership

Statewide manufacturing assistance center for all aspects of manufacturing—from the production floor to the front office.

Networking

Networking is a valuable opportunity to gain insights and learn from other entrepreneurs, business owners, and executives.

Tooele County Chamber of Commerce and Tourism

Provides networking opportunities, community promotion, and advocacy.



Jared Hamner, Executive Director
jared@tooelechamber.com | 435-882-0690

Grow Utah

Hosts startup conferences and events, and organizes community work-groups to grow entrepreneur activity. Visit growutah.com/connectory for a list of entrepreneur groups, associations, incubators, meetups across Utah.



Justin Bott, Director of Marketing & Operations
info@growutah.com | 801-593-2269

Mountain West Capital Network

Utah business networking organization devoted to supporting entrepreneurial success.

Utah Independent Business Coalition

A collaborative association of Utah's locally owned businesses.

Minority Owned Businesses

Utah Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Provides support and advocacy to Hispanic and Latin people who do business in Utah.

Utah MBDA Business Center

Assists businesses owned by socially or economically disadvantaged individuals in achieving higher levels of growth and competitiveness.

Northwest Mountain Minority Supplier Development Council

Certifies, develops, and connects businesses owned by ethnic minorities with regional and national corporations who are seeking diverse suppliers.

Tech Businesses

Silicon Slopes

Nonprofit that empowers Utah's startup and tech community to learn and connect.

Women Tech Council

Offers mentoring, visibility, opportunities and networking to women and men working in technology to create business environments that enable success.

Grants & Incentives

Getting access to funding early on can mean the difference between a dream and a thriving business. These resources offer grants and incentives that reduce the cost of starting and growing your business.

Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity - Grants

Grants for entrepreneurship, community grants, business credit.

Utah Technology Innovation Funding

Program supports Utah small companies in their efforts to develop novel technology and products

Workforce Development

Tooele Tech - Custom Fit Training

Helps new businesses train employees with state-subsidized programs tailored to industry-specific needs.



Jess Clifford, SBDC Director
jclifford@tooeletech.edu | 435-248-1892



Donna Hesleph, Custom Fit Program Director
dhesleph@tooeletech.edu | 435-248-1895

Rural Businesses

Rural Employment Development Incentive

Grants for companies creating new high-paying jobs, remotely, online, in a satellite hub/office space, or physically located in qualified rural communities. Companies can receive:

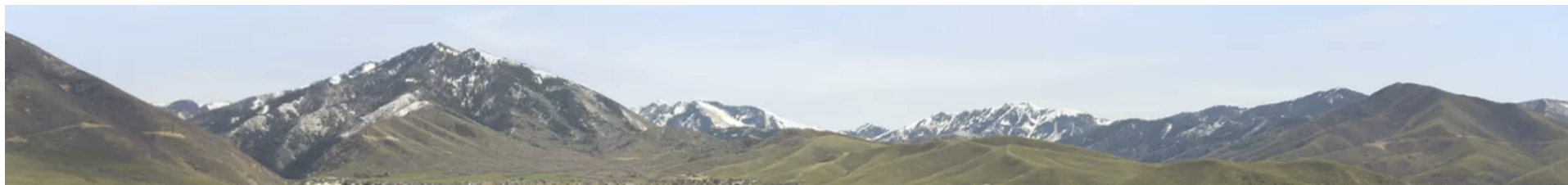
- \$4,000 to \$6,000 for each new position based on the employee's work location
- Up to \$250,000 total grant funding per year

Rural Economic Development Tax Increment Financing

Tax credit rebates ranging from 30% to 50% of new state tax revenue for qualifying companies, to help companies begin or expand operations in rural Utah.



Jen Wakeland, Economic Development Director
jenwakeland@utah.gov | 435-287-5886



Funding & Loans

When traditional bank loans are out of reach, these programs provide crucial access to startup and growth capital—often with flexible terms and a community-focused mission.

Utah Small Business Credit Initiative

A state-backed program that expands lending options for small businesses.



Paul Jolley, Small Business Credit Initiative
pjolley@utah.gov | 801-703-1110

Utah Microloan Fund

Offers up to \$50,000 in flexible loans for startups, especially those underserved by traditional lenders.



Doug Keefe, Executive Director
dkeefe@umlf.org | 801-746-1180

Grow Utah

Hosts startup contests. Large list of Angel, VC, and other investment sources in Utah at growutah.com/funding.

Utah - Startup State Resource List

Large resource list with funding sources in Utah.

Kiva Microloan Program

Microloans that are crowdfunded and accessible, especially for women and minority entrepreneurs.

Manufacturing & Tech Businesses

Utah Rural Jobs

Flexible and affordable capital to expand and create new jobs of eligible rural small businesses. Eligible small businesses may receive up to \$5,000,000 in capital, via a loan, from an approved rural investment company.



Market Expansion

For businesses with big ambitions, these programs help you expand into new markets, export goods, and build global partnerships right from the start.



World Trade Center® Utah

Guides new businesses through international trade, market research, and exporting strategies. Services, many of which are free to Utah businesses, include:

- Market Expansion: market research and selection, market entry guidance, regulatory support, and matchmaking: businesses and investors.
- Supply Chain Optimization: logistics and shipping advice, optimization support, and help searching for sourcing partners.



Matt Wunderli, Director, Investments, Services,
and Business Advisory
mwunderli@wtcutah.com

Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity

Offers insight and resources for expanding into rural markets, Opportunity Zones, and international sectors.



Franz Kolb, International Trade & Diplomacy
fkolb@utah.gov | 801-538-8717

U.S. Commercial Service

Website provides market intelligence, advice, and tools to help U.S. companies expand in global markets.



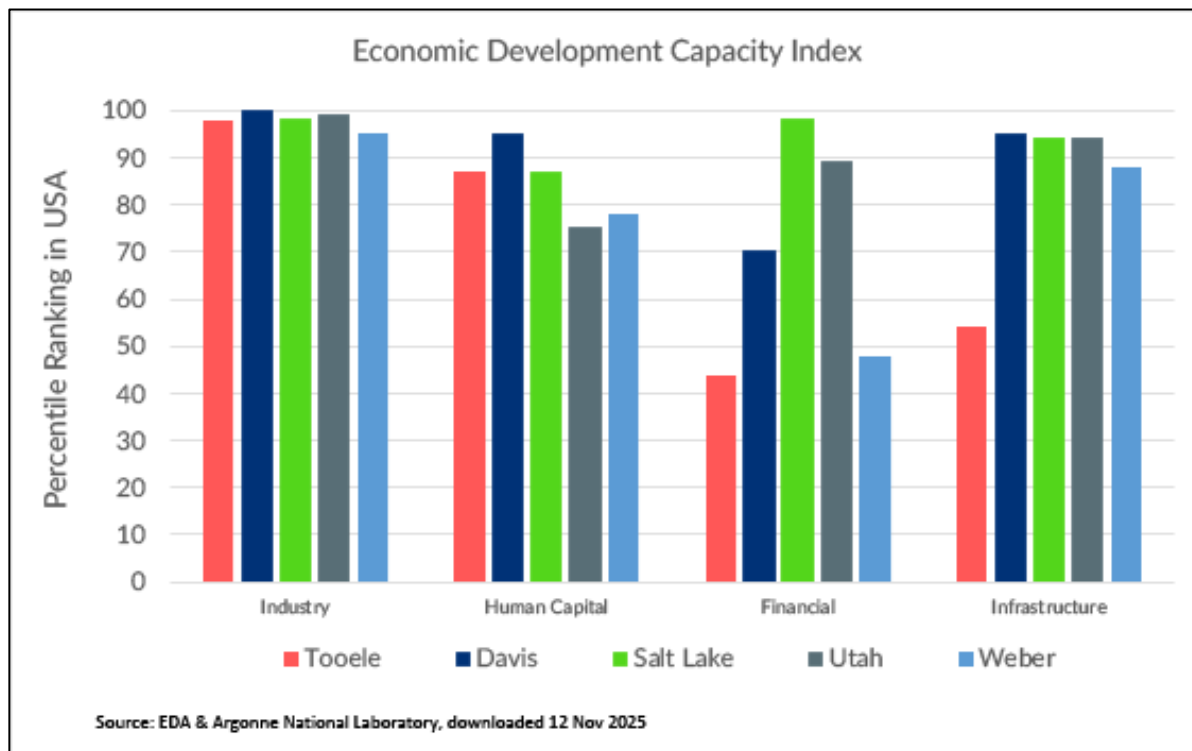
Tooele County 2025 Economic Report¹

[Here is the link to Tooele County's socioeconomic dashboard](#)

Introduction

The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA), in partnership with Argonne National Laboratory, has developed the Economic Development Capacity Index (EDCI). This comprehensive framework evaluates the economic strengths and challenges of counties nationwide. The Index assesses 53 indicators across industry diversity, human capital, innovation, financial resources, business formation, and infrastructure.

Tooele County's EDCI profile reveals a region with vigorous entrepreneurial activity, high homeownership stability, and competitive industry clusters. At the same time, the county faces structural challenges in workforce development, public infrastructure, and nonprofit support. These insights inform strategic priorities for 2025 and beyond.



¹ Charts have been updated to the latest available data as of November 2025

Strengths: Tooele County ranks in the highest percentiles in the following categories compared to other counties in the United States:²

- **Establishment Entry Rate:** Reflecting a dynamic and growing business environment. (99th percentile)
- **GINI Index:** Demonstrating relatively equitable income distribution. (97th)
- **SBA Third Party Loans Per Establishment:** Indicating strong access to business financing. (97th)
- **Favorable Employment Concentration (LQ Cluster Employment Above 1.0):** Highlighting industries with competitive advantages. (94th)
- **Mean County Internet Access Index Value:** Suggesting robust digital infrastructure. (94th)
- **Percent Home Ownership:** A testament to residential stability and investment. (91st)
- **Percent Inventive Class:** Signifying a workforce with creative and innovative capacities. (90th)
- **SBA Loans Per Establishment:** Further emphasizing financial support for local businesses. (89th)
- **35% of Household Income to Mortgage:** Showing relative affordability for homeowners. (86th)
- **35% of Household Income to Rent:** Demonstrating comparatively manageable rental costs. (86th)

Weaknesses: The county ranks lower in the following categories:

- **Libraries Per Capita:** Indicating limited access to community knowledge resources. (37th Percentile)
- **Economic Development Organizations Ratio:** Suggesting fewer initiatives driving local economic growth. (36th)
- **Local Government Employees Per Capita:** This reflects constrained public service capacity. (35th)
- **Establishment Exit Rate:** Highlighting business sustainability challenges. (31st)
- **Workforce Training Establishment Ratio:** Indicating limited access to skills development programs. (24th)
- **SBIR Grants Per Capita:** Suggesting underutilization of federal research and innovation grants. (19th) [Small Business Innovation Research]
- **Non-Profits Per Capita:** Reflecting an incomplete support network. (12th)

² The numbers in parentheses refer to Tooele County's percentile ranking compared to all counties in the U.S.

Compared to other counties in the U.S., Tooele County ranks in the highest percentiles in these categories:

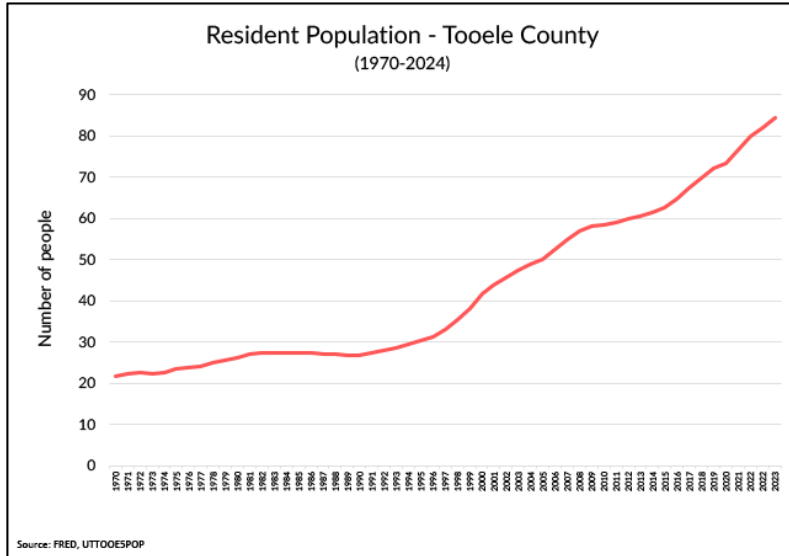
Measure	Percentile Ranking
Establishment Entry Rate	99%
GINI Index	97%
SBA Third-Party Loans Per Establishment	89%
Favorable Employment Concentration (LQ Cluster Employment Above 1.0)	94%
Mean County Internet Access Index Value	94%
Percent Home Ownership	91%
35% of Household Income to Mortgage	91%
Percent Inventive Class	90%
SBA Loans Per Establishment	89%
35% of Household Income to Rent	86%

Compared to other counties in the U.S., Tooele County ranks lower in these categories:

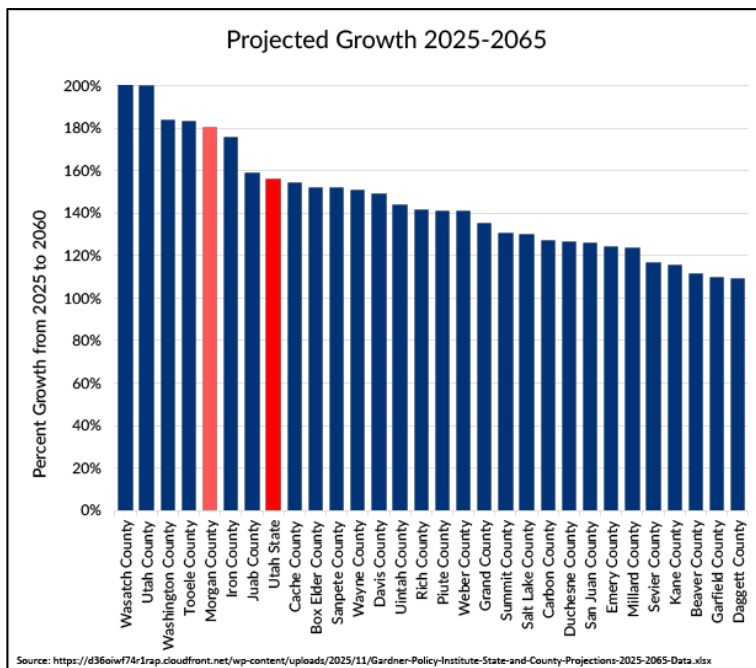
Measure	Percentile Ranking
Establishment Diversity	38%
Libraries Per Capita	37%
Economic Development Organizations Ratio	36%
Local Government Employees Per Capita	35%
Establishment Exit Rate	31%
Workforce Training Establishment Ratio	24%
SBIR Grants Per Capita	19%
Healthcare Professionals per capita	17%
Non-Profits Per Capita	12%

Population Trends

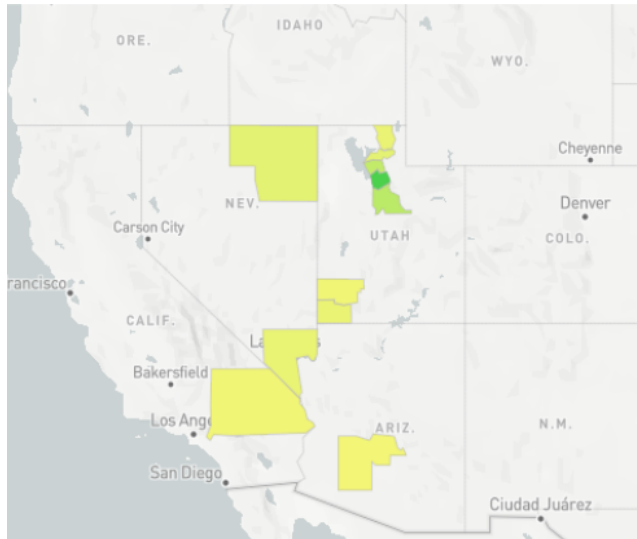
Growth and Demographics: Tooele County has experienced healthy and sustained population growth since 1970, mirroring trends across Utah. The county continues to attract residents from across the western region, with the majority relocating from other parts of Utah. This influx is driven by factors such as affordability, quality of life, and proximity to metropolitan areas. Over the past 30 years, the County's population increased, on average, 3.7% per year.



Utah is one of the fastest-growing States in the US, and Tooele County is one of the fastest-growing counties in Utah. Growth is projected at 1.5% per year through 2060.

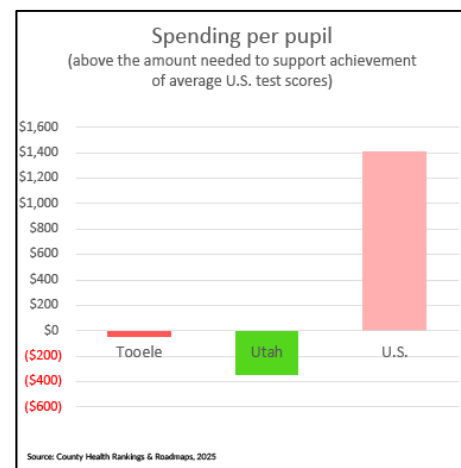


People are migrating to Tooele County from across the West, primarily from within Utah.

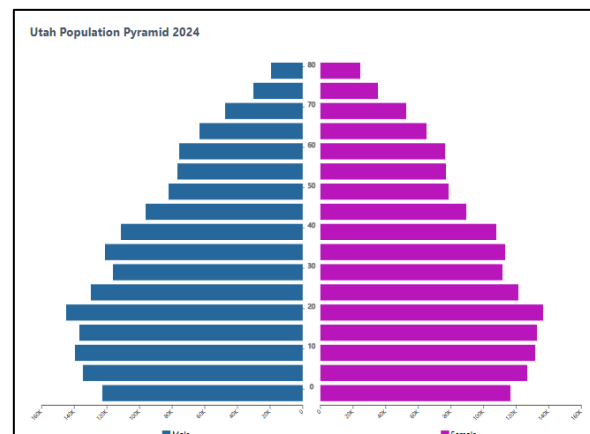
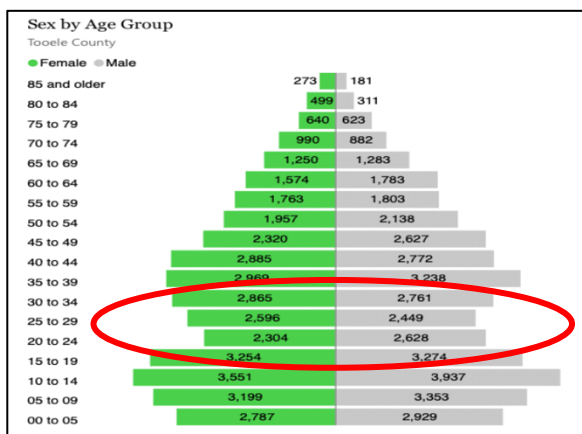


NAME	Number of Individuals
Salt Lake County, UT	13698
Utah County, UT	1667
Davis County, UT	1417
Weber County, UT	414
Elko County, NV	408
Clark County, NV	276
Cache County, UT	242
Washington County, UT	217
Iron County, UT	52
San Bernardino County, CA	45

Education and Retention: The county's spending on students is at the level needed to achieve average U.S. test scores. However, as shown below, Tooele County faces a "brain drain" challenge, as many students leave after high school and do not return. Addressing this trend will require strategies to retain young talent, such as creating local career opportunities and enhancing amenities for younger demographics.



"We are exporting our children; many leave after high school and don't return."³

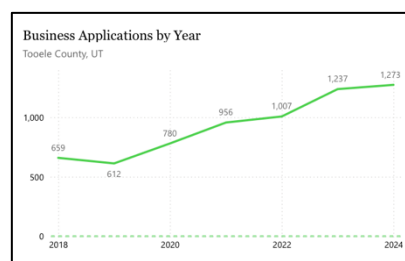
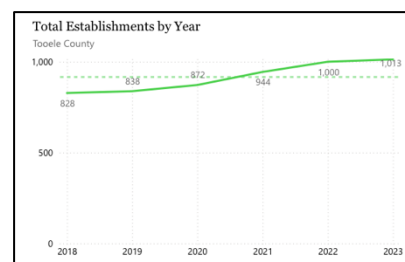
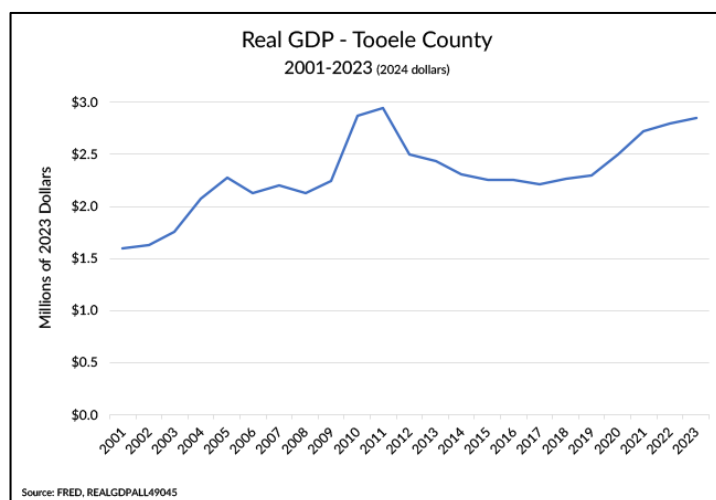


³ Response to an online survey by Better City, January 2025

Economic Performance

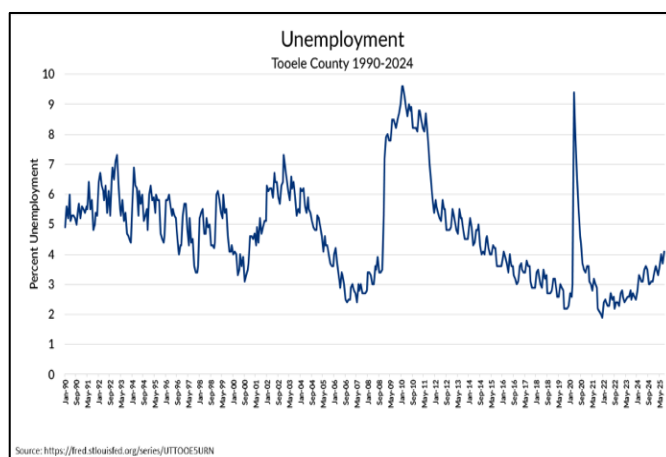
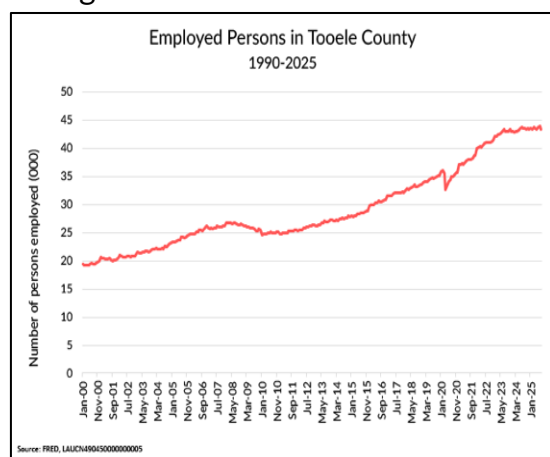
Growth Overview: The economy of Tooele County has grown at an average annual rate of 2.7% in real terms since 2001, demonstrating resilience and expansion.

Both new businesses and the expansion of existing enterprises have driven this growth. The number of establishments has increased consistently over recent years, reflecting a favorable entrepreneurial environment.

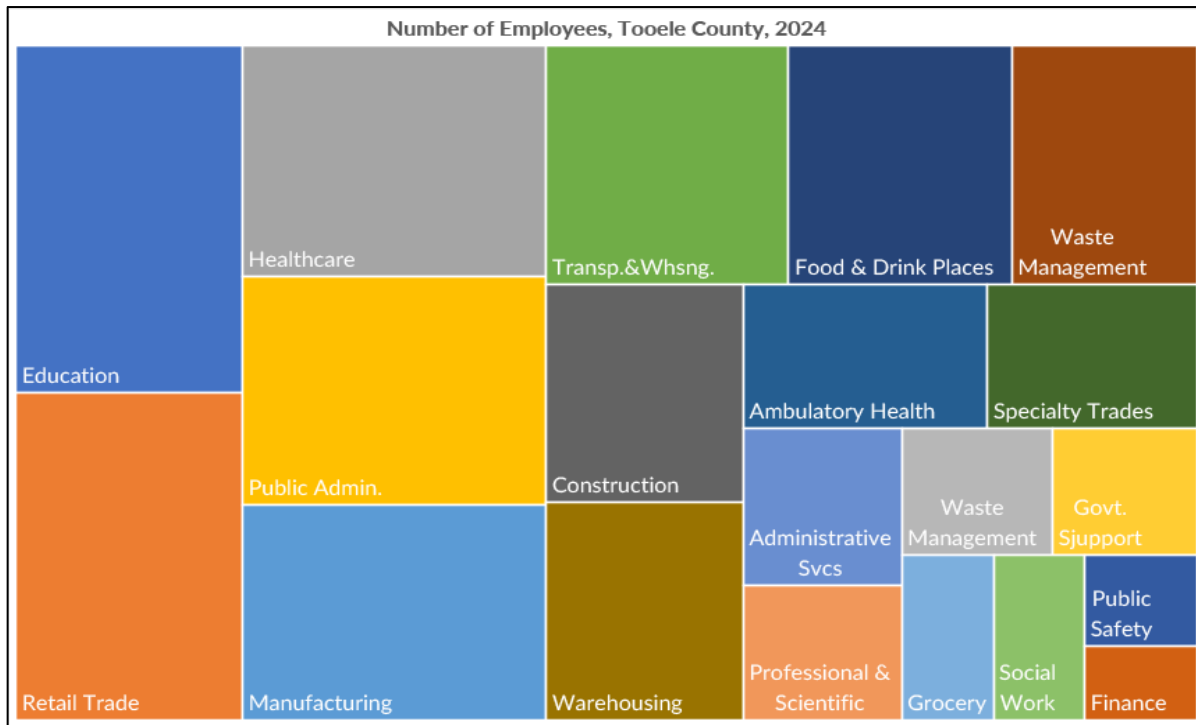


Business Landscape: Small businesses are a cornerstone of the local economy, accounting for a significant share of the county's establishments. Of the 1,500 individual employers in Tooele County, 1,100 have fewer than 10 employees. Encouraging and supporting these businesses will maintain economic vitality and foster job creation.

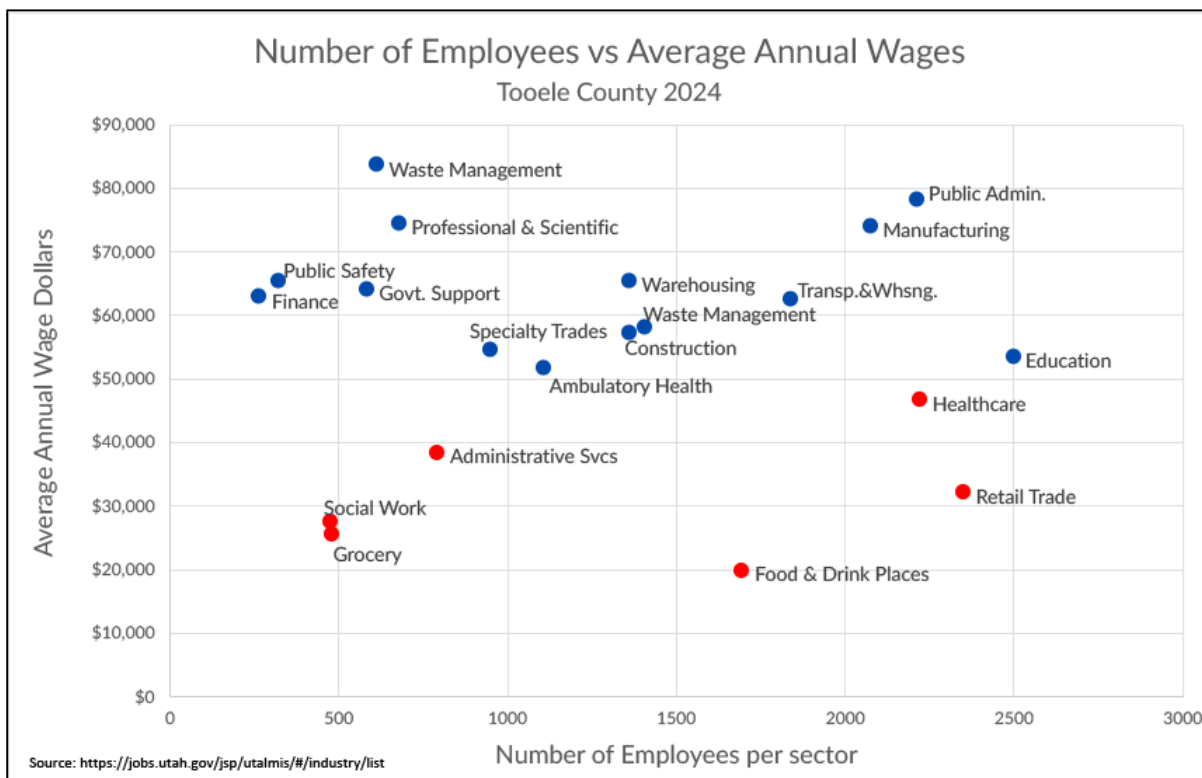
Employment Trends: Employment in Tooele County has grown by nearly 4% annually since 2000, a robust rate that underscores a thriving labor market. While unemployment rates have fluctuated over time, they remain relatively low compared to historical averages and national trends.



Sector Analysis: Tooele County boasts a diverse economic base, with leading sectors including educational services, food services, and national security.

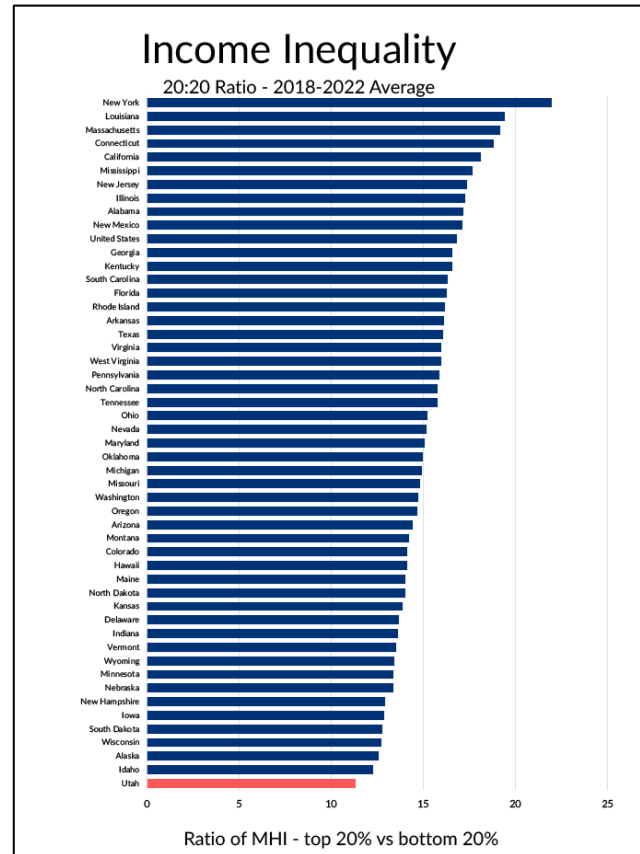
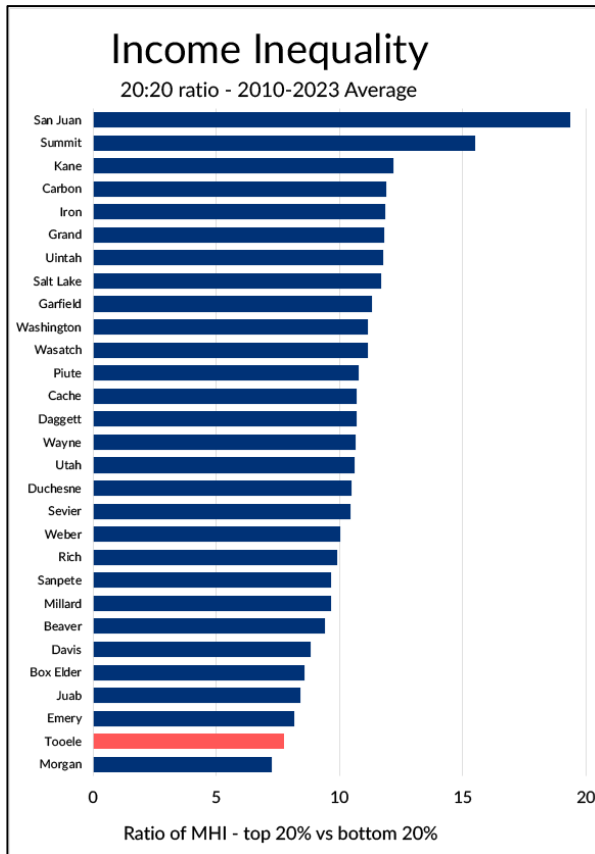


However, many of those occupations tend to be lower-paid than average.

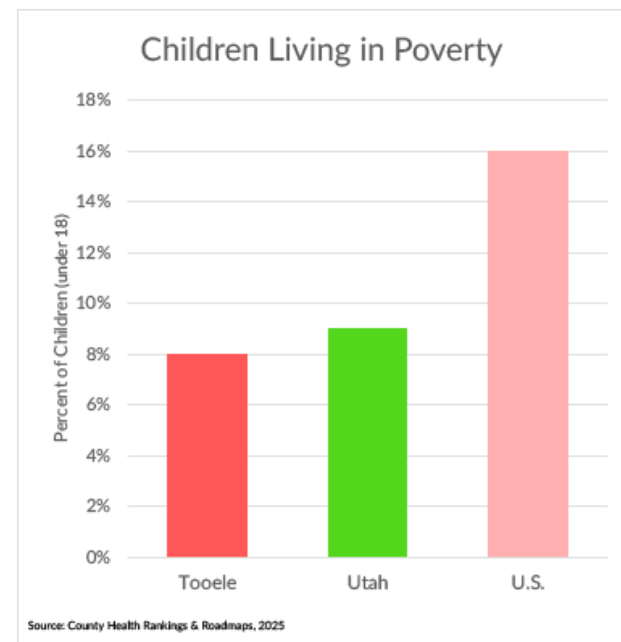


Inequality and Poverty

Income Equality: Utah is the least unequal state in the U.S., and Tooele County is among the most equitable counties. This is reflected in lower child poverty rates than the national average.

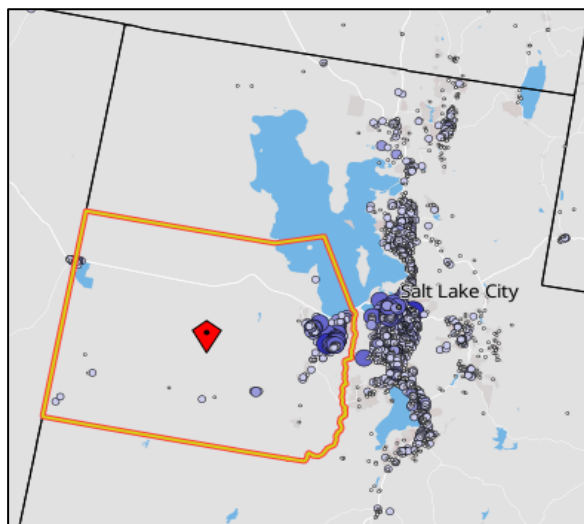
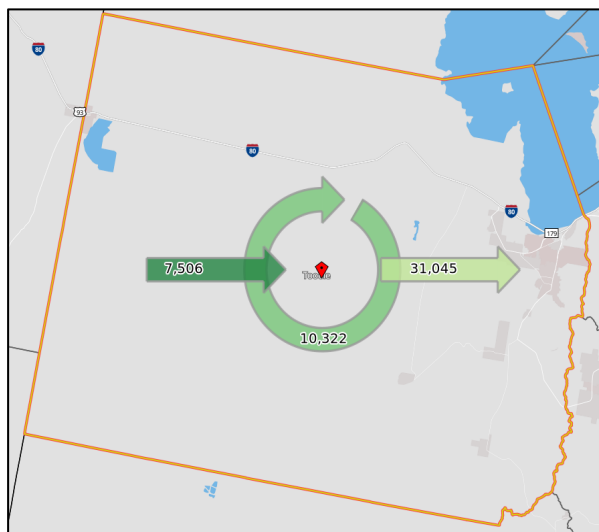


Child Poverty: Fewer children in Tooele County live in poverty than the rest of the nation. Continued investment in education, healthcare, and social services will be vital to sustaining and improving this outcome.

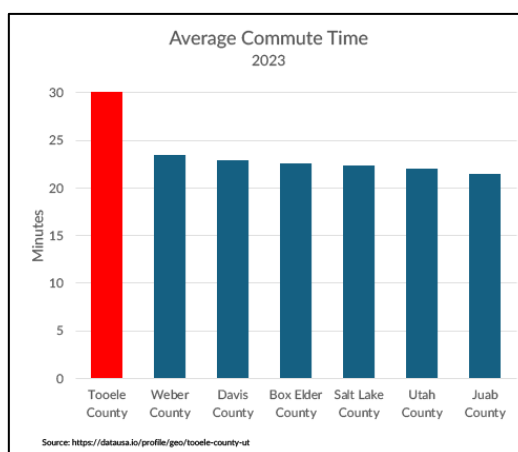
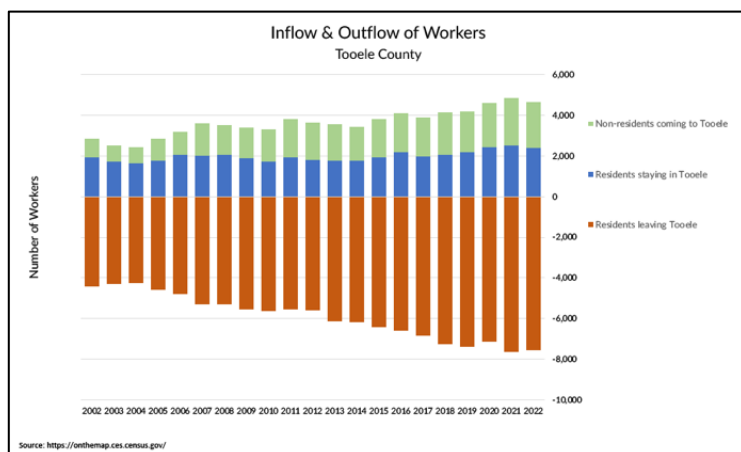


Commuting Patterns

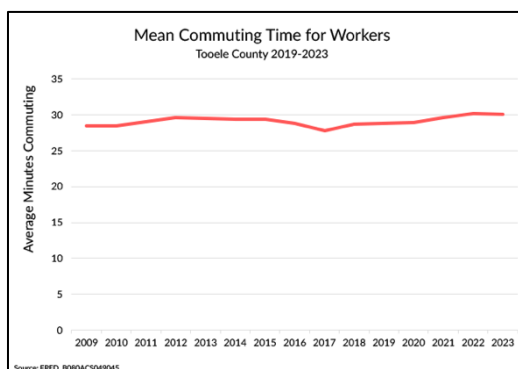
Worker Outflow: Approximately 75% of Tooele County's workforce commutes to other counties for employment.



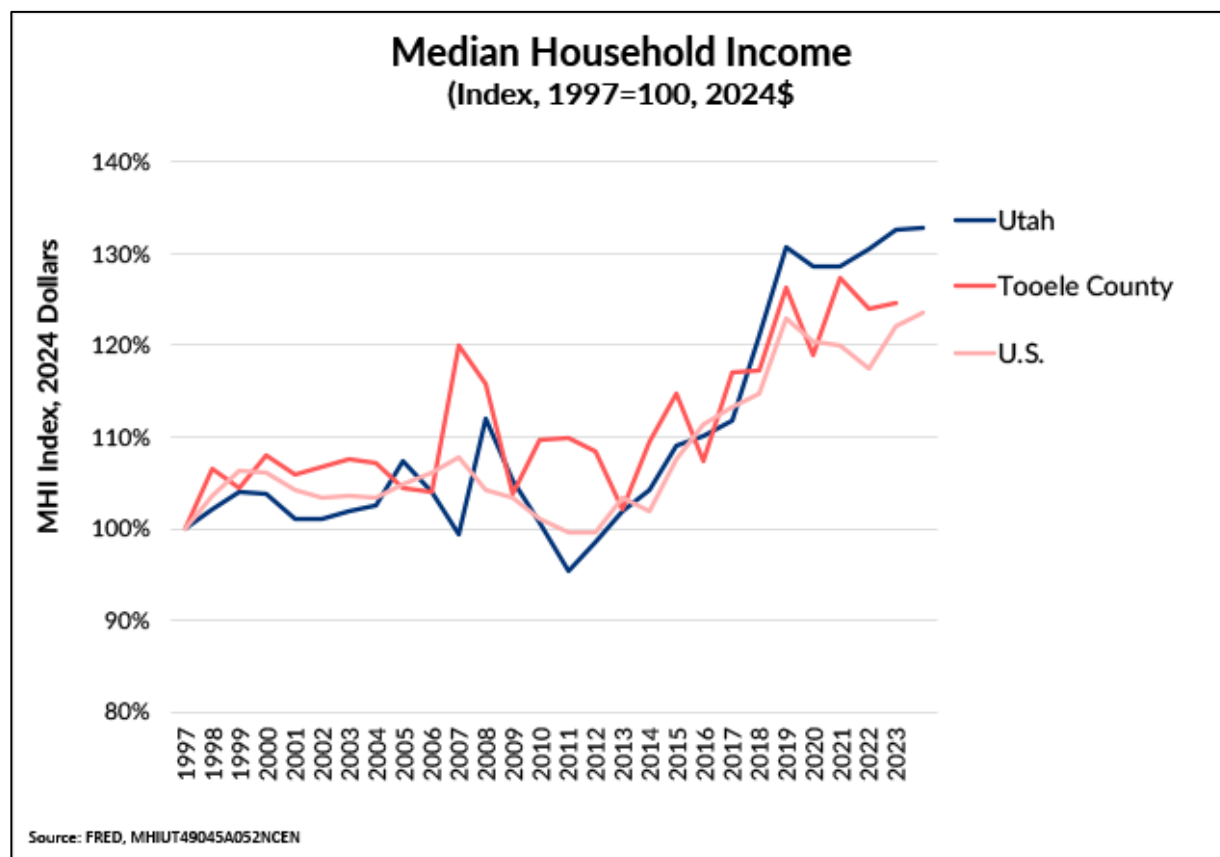
Outflow has steadily increased, reflecting a dependency on neighboring economic hubs. Consequently, workers face significantly longer commute times than residents of adjacent counties.



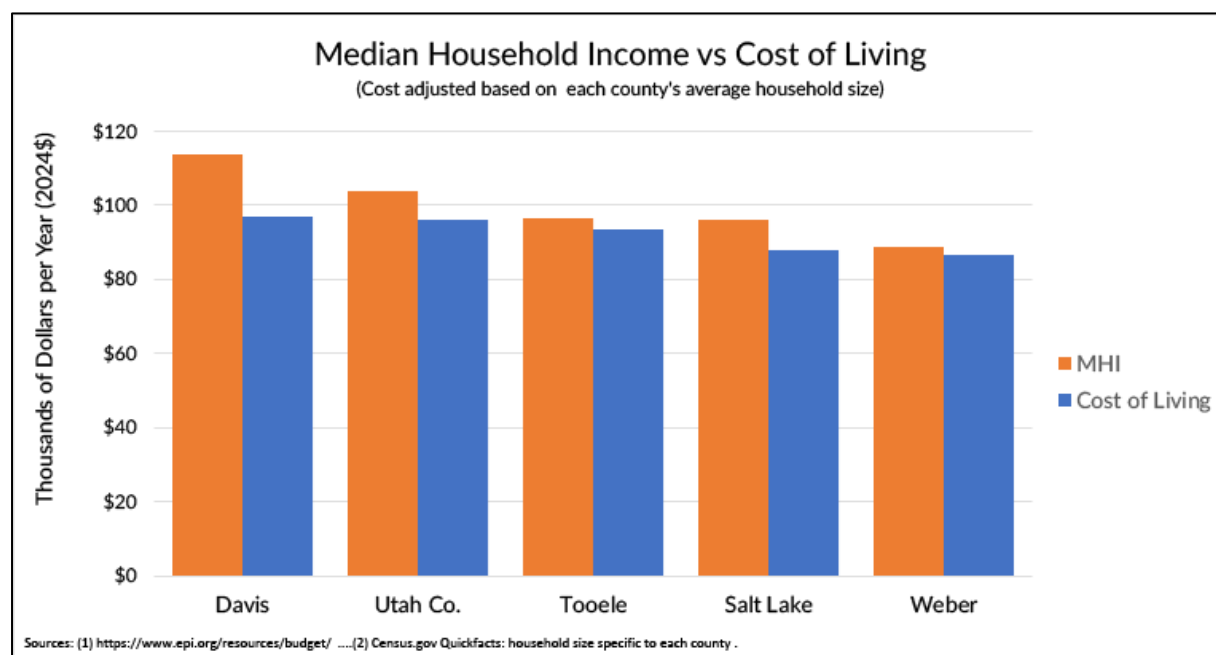
Challenges and Opportunities: Reducing this dependency will require targeted investments in infrastructure and local job creation. Attracting well-paying facilities to the county will help reduce commute times, improve quality of life, and enhance local economic resilience.



Household Income: Since 1979, real household incomes have increased substantially, up by a quarter in Tooele County and by one-third in Utah.

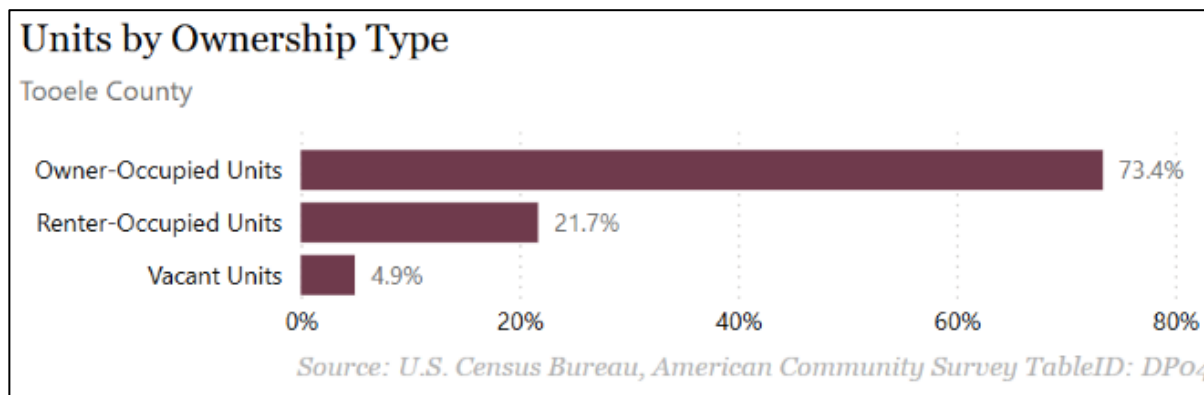


For median households along the Wasatch Front, incomes exceed the costs of living.

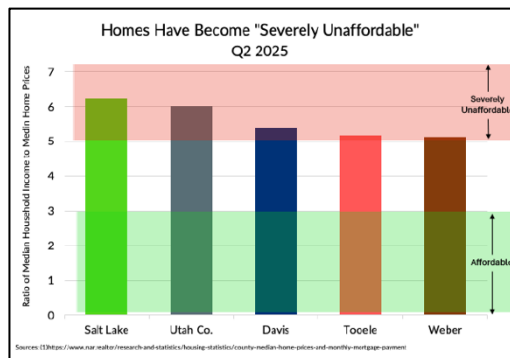
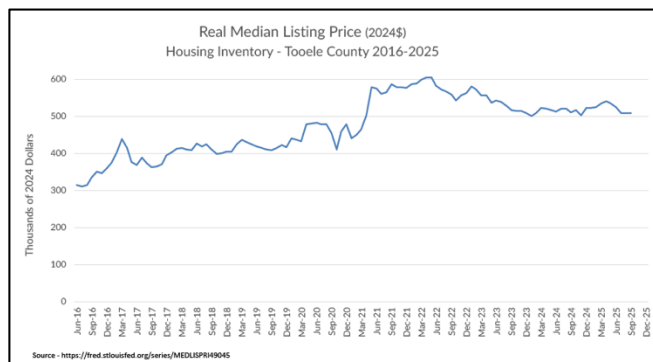


Housing Market

Ownership: Tooele County maintains a high homeownership rate, which is a positive indicator of community stability.

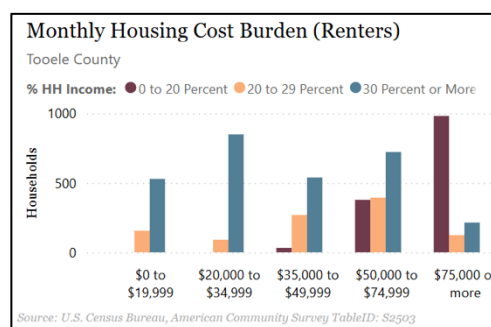


Although real personal income in Utah has doubled since the 1970s, real home prices have tripled. Therefore, housing is an increasingly significant concern, creating affordability challenges for new buyers. The median home price in Tooele is severely unaffordable, at 5.2 times the county's median household income.⁴



Rental Market: Renters earning less than \$75,000 annually face a high housing cost burden, with monthly expenses exceeding 30% of their incomes.

Addressing housing affordability will require strategic interventions, including increasing affordable housing supply and implementing targeted financial assistance programs.



"The single largest threat to our future prosperity is the price of housing."
Governor Cox

⁴ Tooele County: \$494,356 Median Home Price in 2025 Q2, \$96,269 Median Household Income, 2023 (2024\$).

Conclusion

Tooele County's economic landscape presents both strengths and challenges. The county fosters business growth, maintains high homeownership rates, and ensures income equity. However, the county faces persistent challenges in workforce retention, housing affordability, and infrastructure development.

Key Recommendations:

1. **Enhance Local Job Opportunities:** Focus on attracting industries that offer higher wages and align with the county's strengths, such as technology and advanced manufacturing.
2. **Address Housing Affordability:** Develop policies to increase affordable housing supply and assist cost-burdened renters.
3. **Improve Infrastructure:** Prioritize investments in roads, water, and electricity.
4. **Retain Talent:** Create jobs, incentives, and amenities to encourage young people to remain in the county after completing their secondary education.
5. **Invest in Workforce Development:** Expand training programs and partnerships with local educational institutions to address skilled labor gaps and improve academic attainment.

By leveraging its strengths and addressing its challenges, Tooele County will be well-positioned to achieve sustained economic growth and an improved quality of life for its residents.⁵



⁵ The image is from a survey of elected officials in Tooele County.

Projects supported by Better City

Attracting Industries

- *Economic Snapshot* for the County: a 4-pager and a 2-pager that provide a concise overview of the county's current economic state for developers and site locators.
- 2025 EDCUtah & GOEO Projects: *Frosting, Stonemont, Square, Ascend, Road Candy, America, No Brakes, Development, Bravo, Hydra, Fast Track*
- Maintain an extensive database of economic, health, demographic, census, and other data and charts to support responses to site locators' queries.
- Maintain a database and maps of relevant commercial properties.
- Submit GOEO RFIs for developers.

Local Business Support

- Small Business Sub-Grants Program (in 2025, 29 applications were submitted).
- *Business Resources Guide* – update each year.
- *Economic Report* – update each year.

Tourism Marketing

- Year 1 - \$243,062
 - \$125,938 from FY 2025-2026 Co-op grant, Utah Office of Tourism (50%).
 - Select vendors. create & approve collateral, monitor & evaluate progress.
- Year 2 - \$275,000
 - Apply for \$125,000 from FY 2026-2027 Co-op grant, UOT (50%).
 - Update the marketing plan, vendors, & collateral.

Rural Communities Opportunity Grant (\$600,000 Part B – competitive)

- Identify projects (\$1 million).
- Confirm the county's match (\$400,000).
- Apply.

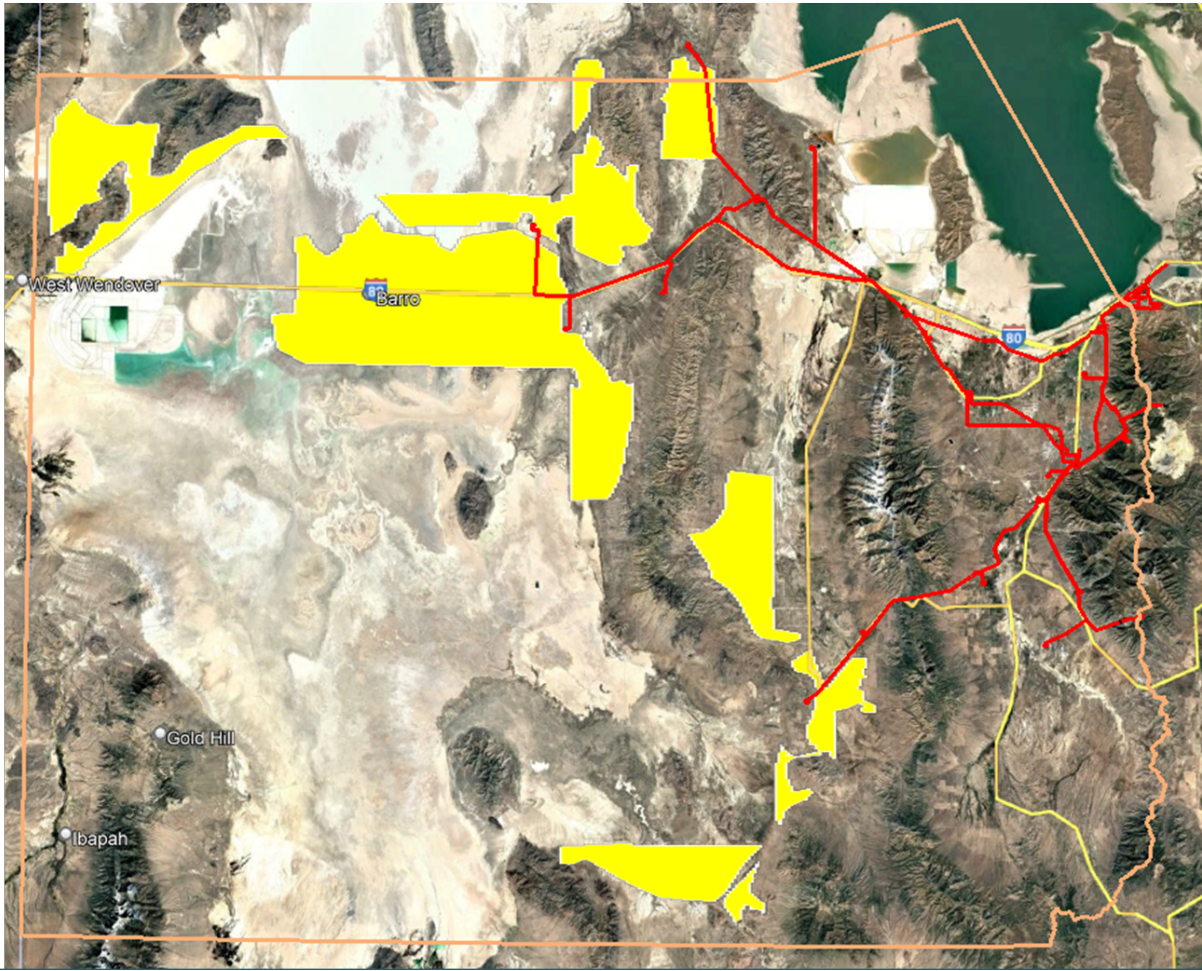
Rural County Grant (\$200,000 Part A – not competitive)

- Confirm allocation.
- Apply.

Promote nuclear & renewable energy development in Tooele County

Nuclear & Renewable Energy Development on Tooele County, BLM Lands

BLM Solar Lands Available for Applications - Within UREZ Solar Zones

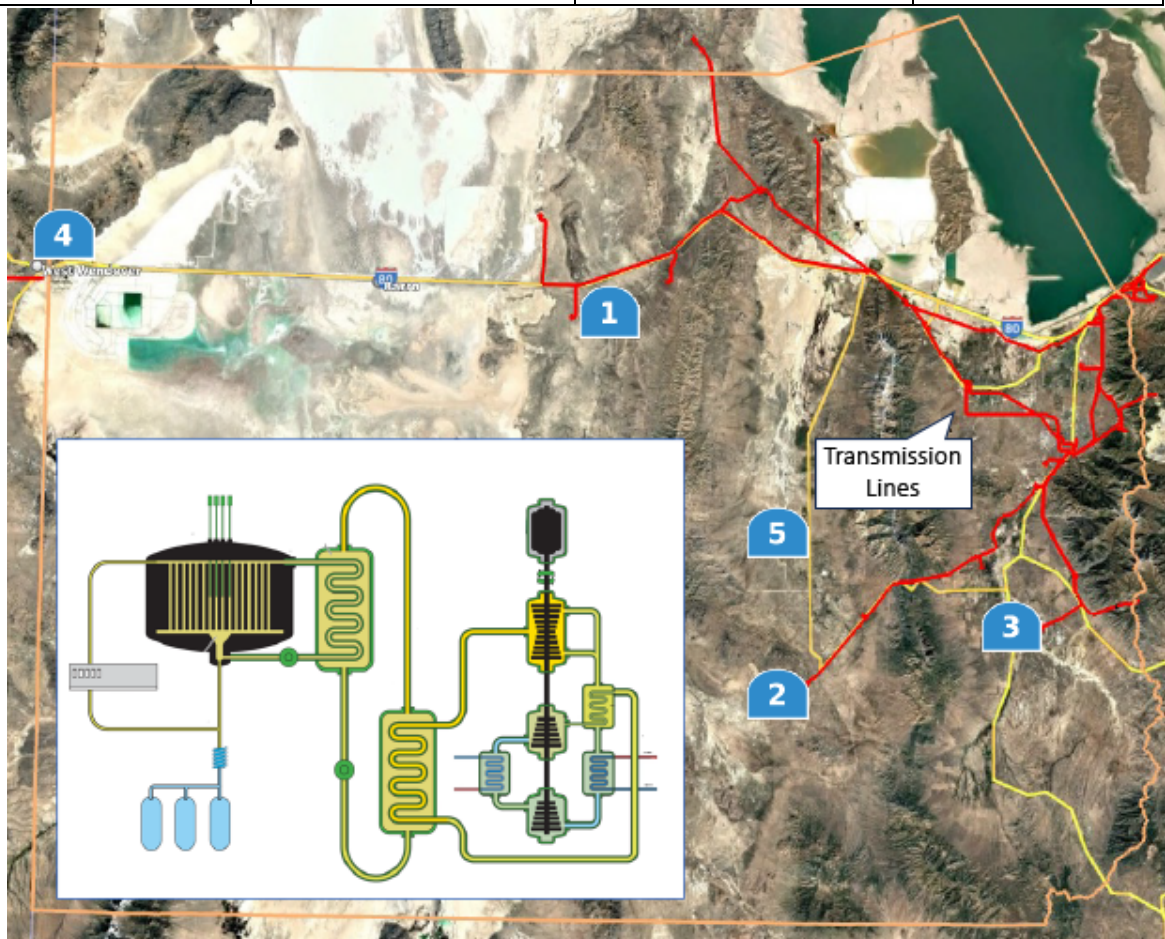


BLM Lands Developable for Wind (moderate level of siting considerations)

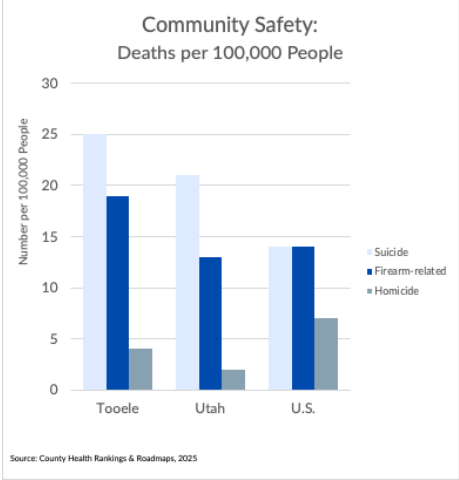
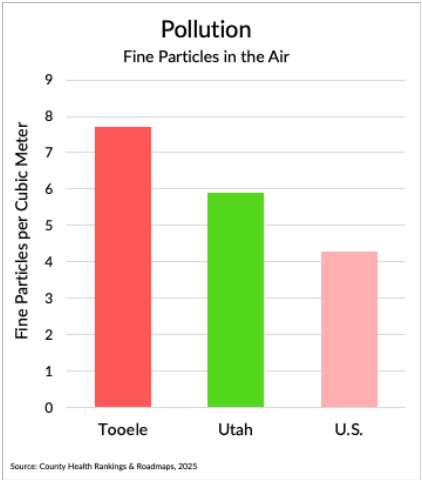
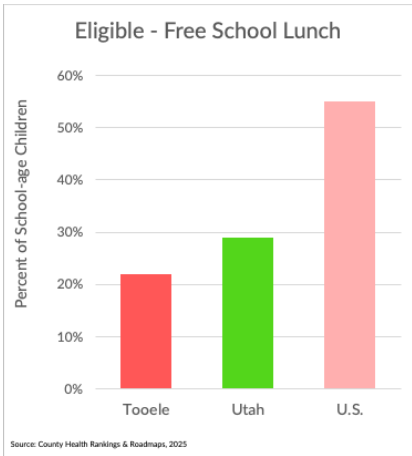
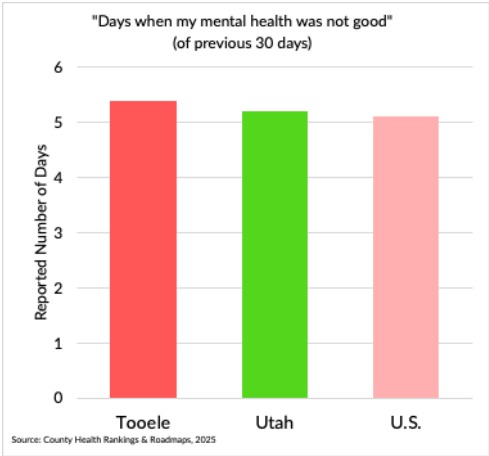
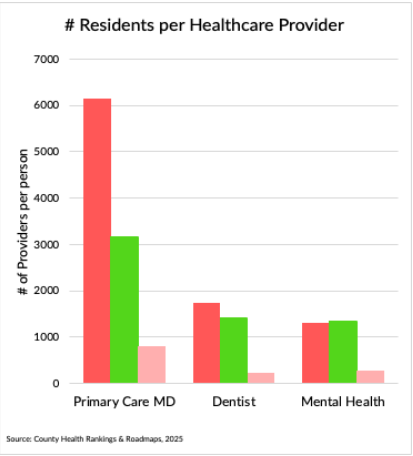
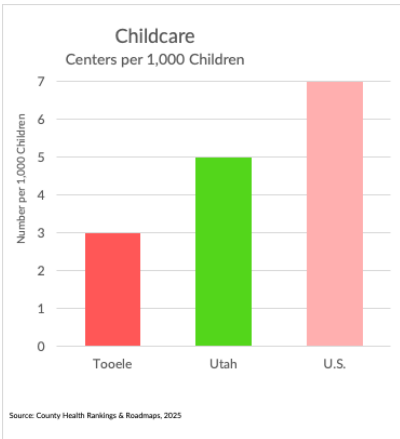
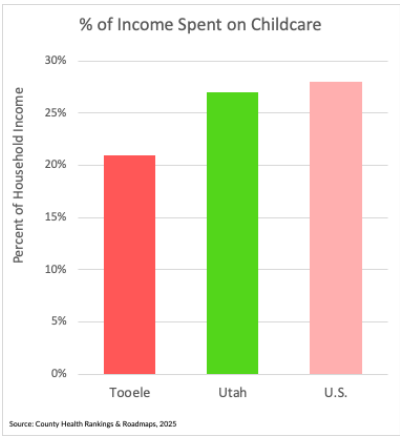
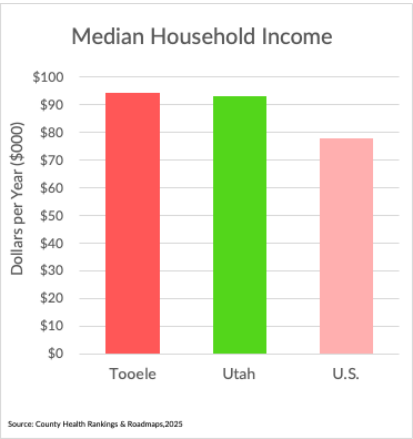


Optimal Sites for a Next-Generation Nuclear Facility

#	Location	Advantages	Challenges	Best for:
1	Clive (EnergySolutions)	Existing nuclear infrastructure, remote, transport access	Water scarcity, public perception	SMRs, advanced reactors
2	Dugway Proving Ground	High-security military site, low population	Military-controlled, regulatory complexity	Microreactors for military resilience
3	Tooele Army Depot	Secure, military-ready infrastructure	DoD oversight, environmental review	SMRs for military energy security
4	West Desert (North of Wendover)	Extremely remote, vast land, industrial potential	No infrastructure, water scarcity	Large-scale nuclear power development
5	Skull Valley Indian Reservation	Tribal sovereignty, remote location	Political opposition, tribal negotiations needed, 9 miles from transmission line	Specialized nuclear projects



Appendix – other health-related charts





Small Business Development and Expansion Grant Application

Application Information

Business Name: _____

Business Address: _____

Business Phone Number: _____

Business Website (if applicable): _____

Primary Contact Name: _____

Primary Contact Phone: _____

Primary Contact Email: _____

Business Information

Describe your business and its primary activities:

How will this grant help start or expand your business?

Describe how your business positively impacts the local community:

Financial & Growth Metrics:

Current Sales (monthly): \$ _____

Projected Sales (12 months from now): \$ _____

Current Number of Employees: _____

Projected Number of Employees (12 months from now): _____

Current Number of Customers: _____

Projected Number of Customers (12 months from now): _____

Amount of your own funds to be contributed: \$ _____

Project Budget & Spending Plan

- Total Project Cost: \$_____
- Grant Amount Requested: \$_____
- Own Funds Contribution: \$_____
- Detailed breakdown of how funds will be used:

Business Oversight & Accountability

1. Who will manage the use of funds and oversee the project?

2. What controls will be in place to ensure funds are used appropriately?

Certification

By signing below, I certify that the information provided is accurate.

Signature: _____ Date: _____



Small Business Development and Expansion Grant Application and Checklist

Purpose:

The **Tooele County Small Business Grant** is designed to support local businesses in starting or expanding their operations. Businesses may apply for funding, up to \$10,000, to be used strictly for business development, including but not limited to:

- Business Startup Costs
- Equipment, Inventory, or Supplies
- Marketing and Advertising
- Expansion of Physical Space
- Employee Training

Please note that employee wages are not an eligible expense.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Business must be located in Tooele County.
- Business must have between **1-15 employees**.
- Funds must be used to **start or expand** a business that contributes to the local economy.
- Applicants must provide measurable goals for business growth and community impact.
- Businesses must submit six-month follow-up reports, for eighteen months, after funding is received, detailing how funds were used and their impact.

Supporting Documents

Please attach the following:

- A current business license
- Any relevant supporting documents (business plan, financial statements, marketing plan, etc.)

Application Submission

Deadline to submit application: **February 27, 2026 at 5 pm.**

Submit completed applications and required documents to:

Stephanie Eastburn – Email: stephanie.eastburn@tooeleco.gov

For questions, contact: **435-843-3160**

Evaluation & Award Process

1. Applications are reviewed by the **Community Economic Development Board**.
2. Recommendations made to the **County Council**.
3. The council approves grants in a **Business Meeting**.
4. Recipients notified of status and funding amount. Award notifications are anticipated to be made the week of May 13-17, 2026.
5. **Funds are reimbursed based on submitted receipts of eligible expenses.**
6. **Three six-month follow-up reports are required** to ensure grant usage aligns with proposed goals.

Proposal Evaluation Criteria

Criterion	Points
Projected number of new jobs created	40
Increase in sales and revenue	15
Community impact and economic contribution	25
Business owner's own funds contribution	20
Total Possible Points	100

Required Reporting

1. The grant recipient will be required to submit three progress reports, due on the following dates: January 31, 2027; July 31, 2027; and January 31, 2028. Each report must include progress updates on:
 1. Number of new jobs created
 2. Any increase in sales and revenue
 - 3. Number of current vs new customers/clients**
 - 4.**

Certification

By signing below, I certify that I have read and understand the above information, agree to complete the required reporting, and that the funds, if awarded, will be used solely for the business expansion or startup purposes outlined in this application.

Signature: _____

Date: _____