



Five County Association of Governments

Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

March 11, 2026

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at approximately 12:31 PM by Chairman Hollingshead

2. Roll Call and Introductions

Introductions were conducted for all attendees present in person and online. Notable attendees included representatives from counties, municipalities, school districts, state legislature, congressional offices, SUU, and AOG program leadership.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Jerry Taylor.

4. Legislative Updates

Senator Evan Vickers

Senator Vickers provided a detailed overview of the 2026 legislative session, noting that it was a challenging budget year due to reduced income tax revenue resulting from federal tax changes. Despite initial concerns, the legislature ultimately funded key priorities, including:

- Public education funding and employee compensation increases
- Continued tax reductions, including income tax and temporary gas tax relief
- Expansion of child tax credits

He highlighted the successful restoration of \$500,000 for the Local Administrator Assistance program and avoidance of proposed cuts, describing it as a significant win for local governments.

Senator Vickers also discussed major policy items that did not pass, particularly election-related legislation. He noted strong public opposition to changes that would make voting more difficult and emphasized the importance of pausing rather than rushing through policy changes.

Additional highlights included:

- Formalization of regional higher education collaboration between SUU, Utah Tech, and technical colleges
- Updates to wildland urban interface policy allowing greater county-level influence on risk designation
- Continued efforts to align state fees with actual service costs

Representative Rex Shipp

Representative Shipp reported on several major appropriations and policy efforts:

- Secured \$4 million for Cedar City water reuse infrastructure to reduce pressure on potable water supplies
- Advanced natural resource and water-related legislation, including funding for Colorado River litigation preparedness
- Passed AIS-related policy changes to improve invasive species prevention while reducing unnecessary regulatory burden

He emphasized concerns about rural representation in legislative prioritization, noting that some rural-focused bills struggle to advance due to competing priorities from urban areas.

Representative Shipp also highlighted the defeat of a proposed restaurant tax restructuring, noting its importance to rural counties where tourism significantly contributes to local revenue.

Representative Logan Monson

Representative Monson focused on rural health and public safety:

- Announced approximately \$196 million in federal rural health funding, expected to continue over a five-year period
- Noted upcoming grant opportunities and encouraged local entities to engage early

He also discussed key legislation:

- Judicial transparency bill improving public access to judicial performance data
- 911 abuse bill addressing misuse of emergency services, particularly in rural areas where resources are limited

Discussion followed regarding abuse of EMS systems by care facilities, with strong concern expressed about resource strain and the need for future policy action.

Representative Carl Albrecht

Representative Albrecht reported on a broad portfolio of natural resource and energy-related legislation:

- Advanced energy security initiatives across nuclear, coal, gas, and geothermal
- Passed legislation to reduce frivolous litigation against energy infrastructure projects
- Secured funding for forest health, watershed restoration, and RS2477 legal defense

Additional highlights:

- \$4.5 million for rural cybersecurity training
- Funding for the Rural Business Accelerator, with intent to expand in future sessions
- Delay of HB48 implementation to allow correction of mapping and policy concerns

He emphasized continued efforts to align state policy with rural economic and resource realities.

Approval of Previous Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Almquist for the approval of January 14, 2026, minutes
Second by Commissioner Taylor
Vote: Unanimous approval

Approval of Mid-Year Budget Review

Motion by Commissioner Taylor for the approval of mid-year budget recommendation
Second by Burke Staheli
Vote: Unanimous approval

Staffing Report

HR Director Jen Wong reported:

- Total staff: 71
- Personnel changes included one resignation, two separations, and one retirement
- Three employees on FMLA, with two returning and one still out.

We have had a strong applicant response to our open positions:

- 170 applicants for a front office position
- 80 applicants for transportation roles

Positions remain open in aging services, transportation, and CSS. Social media outreach has been expanded to increase visibility.

8. Executive Director Report

Director Bushman provided a candid operational update:

CSS Merger

- Significant workload and complexity beyond initial expectations
- Ongoing compliance and performance issues identified
- Potential risk to funding if program objectives are not corrected

Facilities

- Sublease of St. George building fell through
- Property now listed, with ongoing financial burden of approximately \$6,500 per month

Federal Systems and Funding

- Delays in HUD recognition of Executive Director authority impacted grant access
- Drawdown delays tied to staffing changes and administrative barriers

Operations and Culture

- Staff performing well under pressure despite significant change
- Continued investment in training and leadership development

Other Updates

- Website redesign nearing completion
- Staff event scheduled for May 14, 2026

CDBG Rating and Ranking

Mike Johnson presented on the CDBG applications and project rankings.

Projects ranked:

1. Beaver County Ambulance Project
 - \$300,000 CDBG request with \$100,000 local match
2. AOG Vehicle Acquisition
 - \$361,661 request

Discussion highlighted concern over low application participation, with only one external project submitted despite outreach efforts.

Motion by Mayor Halterman for Approval of rankings
Second by Tyler Fails
Vote: Unanimous approval

Remaining balance of approximately \$247,207 noted.

CIB Applications

Mike Johnson presented on the CIB Applications submitted.

Applications reviewed:

- Henryville Town water infrastructure project
- Hildale City water system improvements

Both requested 100% grant funding. Discussion emphasized:

- Limited CIB funding availability
- Importance of local contribution or “skin in the game”
- Challenges for small communities with limited repayment capacity

Motion by Commissioner Meyeres to support both applications
Second by Commissioner Almquist
Vote: Unanimous Approval

Resolution Approval

Resolution No. 20260311-26
Support for Congressional Review Act action regarding Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Discussion emphasized:

- Lack of coordination with local governments in the RMP process
- Strong regional support for congressional review and CRA action.

Motion by Commissioner Taylor to Approve the resolution
Second by Commissioner Almquist
Vote: Unanimous approval

SUU and Fervo Energy Update

Melynda Thorpe presented on SUU's attempt to meet educational requirements related to Geothermal and the Fervo project.

Presentation included:

- Public education initiative on geothermal energy
- Free course availability for first 100 participants
- Upcoming museum exhibit and community outreach
- Deployment of mobile STEM lab to rural communities

MPO and RPO Presentation

Myron Lee presented on the Dixie MPO:

- Long-term transportation planning across Washington County
- Rapid growth in vehicle counts and infrastructure demand
- Coordination among cities to prevent mismatched road capacity
- Expansion of planning boundaries to include emerging communities

Nathan Wiberg presented on the RPO in Iron County:

- Nathan highlighted the difference of the RPO vs. MPO
- Also noted were the obligations of the RPO and COG

Congressional Reports

- James Leavitt, representing Congresswoman Celeste Malloy, was introduced as having recently returned from Washington, D.C. to lead the southern Utah portion of the Congresswoman's district office. He confirmed that previously awarded airport funding should be moving forward and stated that the office remains available to assist local governments and constituents. Later in the meeting, in connection with the Grand Staircase-Escalante resolution, he explained that the office worked with Senator Lee's team to initiate the Congressional Review Act pathway after obtaining a determination that the resource management plan qualified as a rule that could be reported and challenged through that process.

- Jeff Raisor, representing Senator John Curtis, reviewed several federal issues and committee matters relevant to southern Utah, including energy, public lands, veterans access, innovation policy, and federal land management leadership. He noted the importance of the Colorado River Compact to Utah, discussed the possibility of using upcoming federal bills as vehicles for broader policy efforts, and indicated that North Rim and related post-fire recovery issues remain on the federal radar. He also reminded the committee that Senator Curtis's office can assist with casework involving military and veterans issues, health care navigation, immigration, postal concerns, Social Security, IRS matters, and taxpayer advocacy. He advised that Senator Curtis expected to be in the five county area around April 17 and 18 and invited suggestions for communities, sites, and issues to include in that visit.
- Gary Webster, representing Senator Mike Lee, welcomed James Leavitt back to southern Utah and emphasized the value of having an appropriator in Utah's congressional delegation because of the opportunities created through congressionally directed project funding. He discussed coordination between Senator Lee's office and Congresswoman Malloy's office on the Congressional Review Act effort related to the Grand Staircase-Escalante management plan, addressed current uncertainty around the SAVE Act and potential filibuster strategy in the Senate, and encouraged local leaders to follow Senator Lee's communications for updates. He also commented on Department of the Interior issues, Colorado River Compact concerns, WOTUS and desert color permitting questions, and the need to keep North Rim and southern Utah recovery and land management issues in front of federal decision makers.

Closed Session

- A motion was made by Tyler Fails to enter a closed session for the purposes of a potential real estate transaction as well as the character and competency of personnel. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Almquist. Executive Director Bushman asked that Jen Wong and Andrea Escobar be retained (relative to the competency and character discussion) for the closed session, as well as Kim Campbell and Kendrick Thomas (relative to the real-estate conversation)
- Motion Carried Unanimously

Return from Closed Session

- No action taken from the closed session.

14. Adjournment

- **Chairman Hollingshead adjourned the meeting at 4:09pm**

AOG Staffing Stats - March/April 2026

Administration - 4.5 staff, 0 turnover, 0 openings

- 4 FT staff in Washington County
 - Darin Bushman - Executive Director
 - Carrie Schonlaw - Deputy Director (50% time)
 - Allison McCoy - CFO
 - Jennifer Wong - HR Director
 - JayCee Finicum - Fiscal Accounting Specialist

Area Agency on Aging (AAA) - 16.5 staff, 0 turnover, 1 opening

- 3.5 FT Aging Services staff in Washington County
- 5 PT Aging Services staff in Washington County
- 6 FT Case Managers in Washington County
- 2 PT Ombudsman 1 in Washington County, 1 in Iron County

Child Care Resource Agency (CCRA) - 15 staff, 0 turnover, 0 openings

- 5 FT staff in Washington County
- 1 FT staff in Iron County
- 1-75% in Iron County (splits position with CAP)
- 2 FT staff in Sevier County
- 6 PT Remote trainers across counties

Community Economic Development (CED, LAA) - 5 staff, 0 turnover, 0 opening

- 3 FT staff in Washington County
- 1-20% in Washington County (splits with Transportation)
- 1 PT remote intern

Community Support Services (CSS) - 28 staff, 1 turnover, 1 opening (on hold)

- 9 FT staff in Washington County- 1 at Hurricane Pantry
- 12 FT staff in Iron County
- 1 FT staff in Beaver & Garfield Counties
- 5 PT staff in Washington County
- 1-25% in Iron County (splits position with CCRA)
- 1 PT staff in Iron County

Transportation - 4 staff, 0 turnover 0 openings

- 4 FT staff in Washington County
- 1-80% in Washington County (position split with CED)

Total current staff - 73

**AREA AGENCY ON AGING
FOUR-YEAR PLAN:
Fiscal Years 2024-2027**

**THIRD YEAR OF THE PLAN:
Fiscal Year 2027
July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027**

Five County Area Agency on Aging

Area Agency on Aging

**for
The Older Americans Act**

**Utah Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Aging and Adult Services**

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I. APPROVAL PROCESS

The Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended through 2006, requires that each Area Agency on Aging (AAA) develop an area plan. This is stated specifically in Section 306(a) of the Act as follows:

Each area agency on aging designated under Section 305(a)(2)(A) shall, in order to be approved by the State agency, prepare and develop an area plan for a planning and service area for a two-, three-, or four-year period determined by the State agency, with such annual adjustments as may be necessary. Each such plan shall be based upon a uniform format for area plans within the State prepared in accordance with Section 307(a)(1).

In accordance with the Act, each AAA is asked to furnish the information requested on the following pages. Responses will form the report of progress in achieving goals set for the planned activities for the third year of the four-year Area Plan FY 2024 - 2027 (July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2027). Once completed, this document will be submitted to the Division of Aging and Adult Services for review and comment. The State Board of Aging and Adult Services will subsequently examine all responses and consider the document for final approval by June of 2026.

II. SIGNATURES

Appropriate signatures are requested to verify approval of the Area Plan.

AREA PLAN UPDATE

July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027

1. The Area Plan update for Fiscal Year 2027 has been prepared in accordance with rules and regulations of the Older Americans Act and is hereby submitted to the Utah Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Aging and Adult Services, for approval. The Area Agency on Aging assures that it has the ability to carry out, directly or through contractual or other arrangements, a program in accordance with the plan within the planning and service area (Ref. Section 305[c]). The Area Agency on Aging will comply with state and federal laws, regulations, and rules, including the assurances contained within this Area Plan.

Director, Area Agency on Aging _____ Date _____

Agency Name: Five County Area Agency on Aging

Agency Address: 1070 West 1600 South Bldg. B St. George UT 84790

2. The Area Agency Advisory Council has had the opportunity to review and comment on the Area Plan Update for Fiscal Year 2027 (Ref. 45 CFR Part 1321.57[c]). Its comments are attached.

Chairman _____ Date _____
Area Agency Advisory Council

3. The local governing body of the Area Agency on Aging has reviewed and approved the Area Plan Update for Fiscal Year 2027.

Chairman, County Commission or _____ Date _____
Association of County Governments

4. Plan Approval

Director _____ Date _____
Division of Aging and Adult Services

Chairman _____ Date _____
State Board of Aging and Adult Services

III. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Please indicate specific goals and objectives planned for the four-year plan in the following areas:

1. **Strengthening Older Americans Act (OAA) Core Programs** – Describe plans and include objectives and measures that will demonstrate progress towards:
 - a. **Coordination of Title III and Title VI Native American programs (Sec. 307(a)(21); No significant changes or updates-** *We continue to coordinate outreach with the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah through collaboration with social workers and outreach staff, including education events and benefit enrollment support for Native American elders. Members of the local Paiute Indian Tribe also participate in activities at the Senior Centers including congregate and HDM. Representation on our Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) remains in place, and a member from Four Points Health (Paiute Tribal Community Health Center) has been added to our Aging Advisory Council. We continue to work toward expanding evidence-based programming and veteran-specific outreach in partnership with the Paiute Tribe and Four Points Health.*
 - b. **Ensuring incorporation of the new purpose of nutrition programming to include addressing malnutrition (Sec. 330); No significant changes** – *We continue to address senior nutrition by connecting clients to food resources such as senior food boxes and SNAP benefits and encouraging high-risk participants to seek medical support. Collaboration with local food banks and senior centers remains strong. Staff promote nutrition education and evidence-based programs, and a contracted dietitian ensures menus meet dietary guidelines and provides ongoing support. In fall 2025, we were awarded a \$25,000 IHC Foundation grant to support a malnutrition pilot project. A part-time project coordinator will conduct enhanced nutrition screenings for Meals on Wheels recipients and provide targeted education and resources, in collaboration with the State Dietitian. This project is intended to demonstrate the need for sustainable malnutrition interventions that can be implemented efficiently without adding burden to local staff or resources. The Senior Centers strive to make nutritionally dense meals while continuing to offer a variety of delicious dishes. They are committed to educating both seniors who attend the Senior Centers and those who are homebound. Outreach Coordinators support efforts through regular phone contact and in-person visits, providing resource packets with nutrition and local service information, including local food pantries. Nutrition education and class announcements through monthly Senior Newsletter, distributed to homebound seniors, center participants, and local businesses to broaden community awareness.*
 - c. **Age and dementia friendly efforts (Sec. 201(f)(2); No significant changes or updates—***we continue to collaborate closely with community partners. In March, Memory Matters closed due to insufficient funding, creating a significant gap in dementia services, including the only adult day care program in our service area. Five County will address this gap where possible within available funding and resources. We will continue to support the existing support group we previously co-sponsored and assume Memory Matters' former role with the Huntsman Senior Games by providing SAGE cognitive screenings and a resource booth, in collaboration with Utah Tech and SUU student volunteers. We will continue our partnership with the Alzheimer's Association for direct services, care coordination, outreach, education, training, community forums, and advisory participation. We remain engaged with the Utah Commission on Aging and the State ADRD Program and continue to offer evidence-based and evidence-informed dementia education. We have nationally certified dementia care practitioners and a certified Montessori Dementia Care professional on staff, with additional staff training planned. A dedicated staff member continues to expand community outreach and education, with increased community, social media, and local elected official engagement following recent leadership changes.*
 - d. **Screening for fall related TBI (Sec. 321(a)(8); No significant changes or updates.** *We will continue partnering with the Utah Violence and Injury Prevention Program to deliver fall prevention initiatives through Title III-D and RSVP, including evidence-based programs, outreach, and education via media and healthcare partnerships. In the coming year, we will assess capacity, resources, and funding opportunities to expand programming to include fall-related TBI screening, while monitoring potential impacts from federal restructuring, staffing changes, and funding shifts that may affect partnerships with the Utah Department of Health and Human Services and local health departments.*
 - e. **Strengthening and/or expanding Title III and VII services;** *We continue to work with each County Council on Aging to develop 3–5 year strategic plans for senior nutrition and services. Efforts remain focused on expanding outreach to diverse populations and strengthening culturally responsive service delivery,*

including collaboration with the Paiute Tribe and Four Points Health to better reach Native American elders. We also continue to support the Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT), expand the LTC Ombudsman Program through volunteer recruitment, and improve data collection and reporting to better track outcomes, strengthen partnerships, and support future funding.

- f. **Improving coordination between the Senior Community Service Employment Programs (SCSEP) and other OAA programs.** *No significant changes or updates- goal will include a focus on connecting local senior centers with SCSEP (Easter Seals) along with other community partners to educate, connect and train older adults who are looking to get back into the workforce.*

2. Post-COVID-19 Efforts – Describe plans and include objectives and measures that will demonstrate progress towards:

- a. **Educating about the prevention of, detection of, and response to negative health effects associated with social isolation (Sec. 321(a)(8)).** *No significant changes or updates. We will continue outreach, education, and screening of older adults through I&A, intake, assessments, and options counseling across all programs, including nutrition, in-home services, and caregiver support, with continued monitoring for social isolation. Socialization opportunities will be offered through telephone reassurance, friendly visiting, adult day services, recreation, and activities at senior centers, in-home programs, and AmeriCorps Seniors (SCP and RSVP). Additional opportunities, such as Creative Age workshops, will continue to be explored. Education will be provided through community events, social and mass media, newsletters, and presentations.*
- b. **Dissemination of information about state assistive technology entity and access to assistive technology options for serving older individuals (Sec. 321(a)(11)).** *No significant changes or updates—We will continue collaborative partnerships with the Utah Assistive Technology Program (UATP), Utah State Extension, and the Independent Living Center (ILC), including participation on advisory boards. Staff assist individuals with applications to UATP, ILC, the Utah Council for the Blind, the Library for the Blind, and Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, as well as other public benefits, while educating the community about available resources. Senior Centers continue to provide access to technology including computers, public Wi-Fi, and technology training for older adults.*
- c. **Providing trauma-informed services (Sec. 102(41)).** *No significant changes or updates- we will continue to provide opportunities for staff to participate in Trauma-informed training with the goal of incorporating trauma informed training into new employee onboarding and continuing education providing a foundation to incorporate these practices into the daily work and interactions with the individuals they serve.*
- d. **Screening for suicide risk (Sec. 102(14)(G)).** *No significant changes or updates- We continue to offer opportunities for staff to participate in Suicide Prevention and education training including QPR (Question, Persuade, and Refer). We have training scheduled for May 2026, with a goal to have all staff receive Suicide Prevention Training and incorporate this training into our onboarding and ongoing staff training curriculum.*
- e. **Inclusion of screening of immunization status and infectious disease and vaccine-preventable disease as part of evidence-based health promotion programs (Sec. 102(14)(B) and (D)).** *No significant changes or update- outreach, screening, and referrals for immunizations are part of our general screening process along with outreach and education. Senior Centers also work with their local health departments in providing education, outreach and referral to immunization clinics and have sponsored immunization clinics at their centers. Many of the centers work with their local health departments including dissemination of information. The COA Coordinator for Kane County also serves on the Southwest Utah Board of Health. We will continue to identify additional ways to incorporate education, screening and referrals to immunizations across all programs.*
- f. **Incorporating innovative practices developed during the pandemic that increased access to services particularly for those with mobility and transportation issues as well as those in rural areas.** *No significant changes or updates. We continue to expand the use of technology and virtual programming developed during the public health emergency, which remain essential to efficient service delivery. Many senior centers continue to offer curbside or grab-and-go meals to increase access to nutritious food within the scope of the OAA and State guidelines. We will also continue collaborating with the State Unit on Aging and the State Association to explore and implement innovative service delivery models.*

3. Expanding Access to HCBS – Describe plans and include objectives and measures that will demonstrate progress towards:

- a. Securing the opportunity for older individuals to receive managed in-home and community-based long-term care services (Sec. 301(a)(2)(D)); *no significant changes or updates- Five County continues to manage the following in-home programs: Alternatives, Caregiver Support, Aging Waiver (AW) and VD-Directed Care (VDC). We serve veterans connected with the Las Vegas Veteran's Healthcare Administration, as well as our veterans connected to SLC VA. Through our Veteran Benefits access and assistance programs, we continue to help veterans in applying for and enrolling in veterans' benefits, including Aide and Attendance, VDC, Veteran Caregiver Support, etc. We have been able to add a significant number of individuals from our Applicant/waiting lists, reducing our lists significantly. As a result, we are working on additional outreach and marketing to address the needs of an ever-growing senior community in Southern Utah. With need comes continued efforts to increase funding through advocacy at State and Federal level, but also in identifying local funding to help support an ever-growing senior community in Southern Utah.*
- b. Promoting the development and implementation of a state system of long-term care that is a comprehensive, coordinated system that enables older individuals to receive long-term care in home and community-based settings, in a manner responsive to the needs and preferences of the older individuals and their family caregivers (Sec. 305(a)(3)); *no changes or updates- We work closely with local, state and national partners to support and advocate for a comprehensive, LTC system including management of existing programs, supporting options counseling, benefit enrollment support, and through collaboration/partnerships with healthcare and community based organizations, and through advocacy efforts with State Unit on Aging and State Association.*
- c. Ensuring that area agencies on aging will conduct efforts to facilitate the coordination of community-based, long-term care services for older individuals who: reside at home and are at risk of institutionalization because of limitations on their ability to function independently; are patients in hospitals and are at risk of prolonged institutionalization; or are patients in long-term care facilities, but who can return to their homes if community-based services are provided to them (sec. 307(a)(18)(A)-(C)); *no significant changes or updates- We will continue to focus efforts and advocacy on assuring choice and opportunities for individuals to have care needs met in the least restrictive setting based upon individual needs and wishes which includes focus on home and community based care as alternative to facility care while assuring health and safety of the individual.*
- d. Working towards the integration of health, health care and social services systems, including efforts through contractual arrangements; *no significant changes or updates- We continue to manage a variety of sub-contracts with home and community-based providers across a variety of services to meet clients' needs. We also have contractual, MOU's and/or partnerships with local health care providers, State Health Department/DHHS, Alzheimer's Association, and Memory Matters to support evidence-based health prevention programs, Caregiver Support, and Dementia Care.*
- e. Incorporating aging network services with HCBS funded by other entities such as Medicaid. *As previously noted, we have worked with the 1915c waiver programs through Medicaid for more than 27 years. Through our benefit enrollment center grant and our Veterans Benefit Access, Veteran Service officer, we can help individuals access other public benefits including HCBS through VA.*

4. Caregiving Efforts – Describe plans and include objectives and measures that will demonstrate progress towards:

- a. Documenting best practices related to caregiver support (Sec. 373(e)(1)); *No significant updates or changes- We support best practices through use of evidence-based and evidence-informed programs in supporting caregiver education and training. We also believe in providing opportunities for staff to expand their knowledge and skillsets across a wide spectrum of needs- including person centered care, trauma informed care, dementia care, dementia specialists, and suicide preventions, etc. We work closely with local, state and national organizations and partners as outlined in the initial plan. Goals remain the same in focusing on improved data collection and use of this data to support additional advocacy and funding including at local level and through foundation and grants in addition to State and federal funding.*
- b. Strengthening and supporting the direct care workforce (Sec. 411(a)(13)) *no significant changes or updates- Overall workforce challenges appear to be stabilizing but continue to impact service capacity and quality due to rising costs of living without comparable wage growth. Affordable housing remains out of reach for many workers. We remain strong advocates for workforce equity, including fair provider rates and wages, and support regular COLA increases tied to state and federal funding for AAAs*

and other community-based organizations, including Medicaid and Medicare provider rates. In the coming year, we plan to conduct a salary comparison for licensed SSW case managers to identify gaps between public- and private-sector wages.

- c. Implementing recommendations from the RAISE Family Caregiver Advisory Council (<https://acl.gov/programs/support-caregivers/raise-family-caregiving-advisory-council>); no significant changes or updates- The majority of what is outlined in the RAISE recommendations is being implemented as a part of our AAA and Caregiver program and outlined in the plan. Primary goals include working with the State Unit on Aging staff to review current caregiver assessments as well as other in-home program assessments to ensure they contain sensitive and inclusive language for disparate caregivers. Expansion and use of volunteers across all programs is already a priority, which includes caregiver services and support. We continue to support financial and workplace security to support family caregivers providing employee-centered and flexible workplace policies and practices including an agency wide strategic plan to include development of additional policies and practices that support caregivers. We will continue collaboration with Utah Commission on Aging and Master Plan on Aging, the DAAS Caregiver Support Program and Caregiving Roundtable, ADRD state plan, Alzheimer's Association, No Wrong Door Caregiver Project, among others including many local partners. We will continue to focus on expanding efforts to support caregivers through expansion of local services, and collaboration, supporting research, data and evidence-based practices to include training for staff on evidence based and evidence informed caregiver and dementia education programs.
- d. Coordinating with the National Technical Assistance Center on Grandfamilies and Kinship Families (<https://www.gksnetwork.org/>). No Significant changes or updates: We will continue support efforts to support grandfamilies and kinship care through coordinated efforts with the Children's Service Society for Families, Child Services, Family Support Centers, Independent Living Center, Learning Center for Families, and Childcare Resource Agency. To identify additional resources and ways to better connect with grandfamilies and kinship placements, including providing additional education and training, we will connect with resources and Assistance through the National Technical Assistance Center.

5. **Elder Justice** – Describe any current and/or planned activities to prevent, detect, assess, intervene, and /or investigate elder abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation of older adults. No significant changes or updates. We continue to maintain strong partnerships with APS at the state and local levels, as well as the Office of Public Guardianship, Medicaid Fraud Unit, local law enforcement, and other community partners to support Elder Justice efforts. This includes ongoing operation of our local Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) to review complex cases and identify solutions, with plans to explore expansion into additional rural communities. We will continue outreach, education, and training focused on the prevention, detection, and reporting of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation through social media, webinars, health fairs, conferences, and Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) activities. We also remain committed to supporting the local Ombudsman Program through volunteer recruitment to maximize limited funding.

IV. ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR THE PAST YEAR

This section should be the “state of the agency” report. Discuss the agency’s major accomplishments, what is working as planned, what effort did not work as planned, any disappointments experienced by the agency, barriers encountered, etc.

Senior Centers, Nutrition & Supportive Services:

Beaver County: This county continues to maintain two centers in Beaver and Milford. The Minersville

center is still closed due to most seniors not coming back to the center after the pandemic, as well as workforce challenges; their MOW meals continue to be prepared and delivered out of the Milford center. Beaver County has a new County Council on Aging Coordinator who is not only excited to learn about her role and the community resources but eager to look at new and innovative ways to expand services, resources and support to the older adult population. The senior centers will continue to promote good nutrition for older adults and encourage participation in congregate, home-delivered meals, and promote good nutrition while also encouraging social interactions. They have reached out to the local health department to discuss ideas for providing educational classes at the centers. And has spoken with the CEO of Beaver Valley Hospital who is working on opening a Wellness Center, and he is willing to collaborate with the Senior Centers to provide physical activities for the Seniors. The new coordinator has also been coordinating with the Five County Mobility Manager and Director for Red Rock Center for Independence (RRCI) regarding options to help improve access to transportation needs including securing funding for paid drivers. Currently, RRCI is providing an individual to assist with transportation needs for those needing to travel out of town for medical appointments and other necessities. They have also spoken with several volunteer drivers who have agreed to help provide rides for shopping and recreational outings. Ideally, they would like to secure dedicated drivers to provide transportation from Minersville to Beaver for congregate meals and activities for those who have difficulties attending in person due to mobility or transportation challenges. There has been some initial discussion with a local financial institution about presentations on fraud and scam protection. The centers continue providing meals and a place for seniors to gather and socialize. Basic activities such as cards and bingo have continued to provide opportunities for social interactions. The new coordinator is still new and learning her job responsibilities but does have plans to start a "coffee/tea hour" where people can gather to chat and enjoy each other's company and chat. And plans to start organizing trips to Cedar and Richfield. They also hope by introducing new activities, they can encourage even more people to participate in nutrition and center activities. Funding continues to be a major challenge with insufficient funds to meet the needs. Priorities for the coming year include increasing participation in senior center nutrition and activities including social engagement, services, education, improving outreach and communication and exploring volunteer opportunities. Looking at options to reopen the Minersville Center or provide a driver who can transport seniors to Beaver or Milford for congregate meals and activities. Currently, the Beaver Senior Center is located at a city-owned building which is also used for other City and county activities. Priorities would include building a facility that functions exclusively as a Senior Center with dedicated space for classes and activities.

Garfield County: This county has senior centers in Panguitch, Escalante, and Tropic. All provide meals Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. They are seeing more clients coming in for congregate meals and staying longer to socialize. This past year they were no longer able to support a meal site for HDM in Antimony through the school district. However, in October they started taking 10-15 meals to clients on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month. The staff from the Bryce Valley center call on Tuesday so clients in Antimony can get meals for Tuesday and Wednesday of that week. So far it is working out well. Clients in Garfield County receive regular wellness checks and phone calls, along with information on food resources. Assistance is provided for groceries, medication, and mail, especially during illness. Efforts to prevent elder abuse include law enforcement talks on scams and participation in Elder Abuse Prevention by APS. The program is expanding transportation for shopping and medical visits and encouraging social dining. Rising food costs, having double and even tripled along with increased illnesses, continue to impact meal services. The organization aims to maintain a one-month food supply in preparation of potential delays in food orders. They are working toward monitoring critical needs of the seniors in their communities, including those reliant on oxygen and backup power, identifying those with critical weatherization, heating or air-cooling needs. And, connecting travel vouchers for medical trips through the Five County AOG Mobility management program. There is also a focus on improving seniors' technology skills, especially with cell phones and life alerts, including education. Socialization is promoted through shared meals including dessert of soft-serve ice cream, a favorite of the seniors. They are requesting two new MOW vehicles with County providing match to help provide efficiencies and expansion of HDM.

Kane County: In addition to continued coordination with Five County AOG/AAA, UDOT, Southwest Public Health and many other community partners to improve the lives of Seniors in the county to live independent, healthy and productive lives; a new group of local community partners have joined as a sub-committee to the Kane COA to further this mission bringing more options to seniors in Kane County. Congregate and HDM are served 3 days a week as they make nutritiously dense meals going above and beyond to provide a variety of different dishes incorporating fresh fruits and vegetables whenever possible as well as dense in protein. They also continue to provide to-go packaged meals since the pandemic for those who are not homebound but are reluctant to participate in a congregate setting. In the event the center needed to be closed; they could offer to-go meals for congregate participants as well. Pre-pandemic they had 2 long MOW routes but broke them down into 3 manageable routes and moved the primary kitchen to Kanab ensuring preparation of fresher higher quality food to majority while still getting meals to the furthest delivery in a timely manner. With the local food bank, Kane County Care and Share, run by the same department head, eligible seniors can easily access food boxes. During the intake/assessment process, cross referrals can be made between programs. Kane County Active Living Centers continue to encourage seniors to participate in congregate meals and other social activities at the senior center to address social isolation. They partner with local newspapers, post through their social media page and distribution of local newsletter to keep seniors informed of resources and activities happening not only at the senior center but throughout the community, including things such as free tax preparation, wellness and fitness programs, education such as elder abuse prevention, watercolor classes and other recreational activities. USU Extension in Kane County is working on a grant to bring technology classes to adults that need assistance collaborating with local libraries. Both Centers continue to have the capacity to stream classes virtually. Kane County continues to provide many social, educational and recreational opportunities for their seniors. The Kane County Council on Aging board held a movie series with 5 movies shown over 5 months with great response from the community, sponsors and participants. They also held an “Old Fashioned Hoedown”, Summer Luau, Best Dressed in the West, Local School choir with Valentine’s event, Halloween “Trick or Treat” event with Kindergarten Classes at both Kanab and Long Valley. They partnered with the Kane County Center for the Arts who received a Creative Aging Grant from Utah Division of Arts and Museums- with 30 seniors wanting to participate but only 10 spots available. (Refer to attachment 1) They received a new meal delivery truck from FY25 funds and county match. They also have a new building on their Kanab campus that houses their Care and Share, which will be easier for staff who manage multiple programs in their small rural county. The new Care and Share was completed in October 2025 and fully moved into in February 2026 with official open house in May. As prices continue to rise, they are going to have to be more frugal with budgets while still offering healthy meals that meet the standards of the Older American Act. With inflation they foresee that the need for serving more seniors will happen while there are still concerns about funding going down. As a rural, isolated community, they will work on creative solutions for this and other economic problems that plague those that are 60 and older with our greatest resource, the local community. They are also anxious to get more direction from the state dietician on implementation of the new dietary guidelines from the Older American funding. They are planning on replacing their bus with funds that were awarded through UDOT FY24 funds and hoping that that comes through this year as current equipment is getting older and breaking down more often. They hope that they don’t have to stop those services as they are so appreciated in the community.

Iron County: They have two centers, one in Cedar City and one in Parowan, and both provide congregate, and home delivered meals. The local Paiute Indian tribe enjoys attending events at the Cedar Center, including lunch, Bingo, and recently started participating in the Sewing group. The center also supports tribal members through the Meals on Wheels program. They focus on educating seniors and homebound individuals, with outreach efforts through phone calls, visits, and educational packets on nutrition and local resources. The center offers “Get Moving” exercise classes, such as Fit and Fab, Yoga & Tai Chi, to boost mood and energy, encouraging socialization, volunteering, and provides transportation for those unable to drive. The Parowan Center added Strong Bodies program- a 12-week

course aimed at building strength and balance. They distribute a monthly newsletter with educational and resource information, including nutritional information, and flyers for online classes while assisting seniors in access and planning of in-person technology safety classes. This year they started offering technology assistance where students from the local University's Technology classes visit once a week to provide one-on-one assistance. The program, which has been very popular, is improving access for older adults to vital nutrition, health, financial, educational and social connection, including telehealth services. In addition, participants receive guidance on online safety, avoiding scams and protecting themselves, and securing their devices. The center prioritizes safety, cleanliness, and elder abuse awareness, with staff and volunteers trained in these areas. Elder Abuse prevention training is a requirement for all new staff and is strongly encouraged by all volunteers. Additionally, the center collaborates with the local Health Department and provides emergency resources to both in-house and homebound seniors. They continue hosting monthly dances including a "Senior Prom" bringing an entertainer from Las Vegas who serenaded the seniors with classics from the 40's – 70's. They reached capacity with 50 seniors attending, dressed to impress and enjoy a fun filled night of laughter, dancing and unforgettable memories. In addition to the Prom, they hosted two other dances, which get the seniors up and moving to the beats. The energy is infectious, and they have such a wonderful time every single time. They are fortunate to have two local bands from the community generously donate their time to entertain everyone, making the nights even more special. They had added some other activities, including a Bingo Night with participants generously donating to support the event with baskets brimming with prizes, upbeat music and fun. They organized a Valentine box decorating contest and valentine day exchange. They also successfully switched on their bingo days to trivia which has become a fun, team-oriented activity for seniors to exercise their brains, socialize, and work together. Each week they capture a photo of the winning team; displayed on their "Brag Board" and monthly newsletters. There has been an increase in the number of participants coming to the center; encouraging individuals to be picked up and brought to the center to enjoy a meal and activities rather than being home alone all day. The center was also able to work with the county and city officials to add a steel "bridge" to address a concern outside the center where a large puddle of water created a safety concern; especially during winters when it froze. They also replaced flooring inside the center to help reduce slipping and falls while also improving the aesthetics and cohesiveness.

While the steady increase in participants has been a wonderful sign of growth, it has also brought a few challenges; including limited parking, overcrowding of classes and strain on a small staff of part-time employees who are stretched thin trying to keep up with the demand. Keeping up with a growing need for transportation for medical needs, along with transporting to center for activities and lunch, has also been a challenge. They are eagerly awaiting the arrival of new transit vans, making transportation more comfortable, accessible for seniors and more fuel-efficient. Reliable volunteer drivers for the MOW program remain a struggle; with 24 volunteers (some driving in pairs) between the two centers, many are retired and face challenges. They are also facing a growing need in more rural areas of Enoch for MOW resulting in need for additional routes and vehicles, so meals don't sit too long. They have requested two new MOW vehicles this year with county providing match. Regulations prohibiting the delivery of meals by contactless methods such as coolers have further complicated the situation, increasing the time required to complete a route resulting in some volunteers quitting or calling off work. Lastly, cuts in funding have resulted in cancellation of educational presentations and classes such as healthy eating, pre-diabetes, living with dementia, improving balance and blood pressure checks, which were invaluable to our seniors. While they can provide handouts and flyers with useful information; it's not the same as having a live, in-person expert to learn and engage with. Priorities for the coming year include increasing awareness and increasing opportunities for socializing, staying active and helping address risks for malnutrition. Focusing on increasing access to "move your body" classes to improve balance, strength and confidence and reduce falls, creating a stronger, healthier, and more connected community for seniors. They are enhancing MOW programs by ensuring all delivery drivers physically check in with recipients when delivering meals. (Refer to attachment 2)

Washington County: The Washington County Council on Aging (COA) works to improve seniors' well-being by reducing loneliness and encouraging social connections. They regularly call seniors to

provide companionship, check on their well-being, and share information about local programs and events. Through these calls, staff and volunteers offer support and help seniors stay informed about activities like exercise classes, art workshops, and health screenings at local senior centers. These programs promote both physical and mental health while giving seniors opportunities to socialize and learn new skills. The COA is committed to following non-discrimination guidelines to ensure all seniors can participate. To track success, the COA looks at event attendance, participant satisfaction, and feedback on social engagement. Overall, their goal is to reduce isolation and build a more connected, active senior community. The COA promotes nutrition by sharing a monthly newsletter with helpful tips and facts about healthy eating. This helps seniors understand the importance of good nutrition for their overall health. By offering both meals and education, the Washington County COA works to prevent malnutrition and support seniors' well-being. The Washington County Council on Aging (COA) helps protect seniors from abuse, neglect, and financial scams. We host educational sessions with guest speakers who teach topics like recognizing elder abuse, avoiding scams, and protecting finances. By working with local experts, the COA provides accurate, helpful information so seniors can stay safe and know how to respond to risks. They also connect seniors to resources, such as the Utah Division of Aging & Adult Services, for additional support. Through these efforts, the COA aims to create a safe and supportive community where seniors can feel secure and protected.

Over the past year, the Washington County Council on Aging (COA) has made strong progress in supporting and engaging local seniors. One key success has been the increase in field trips, helping reduce loneliness and encourage social connection. Participation in senior center clubs and classes has grown significantly, including activities like Garden Club, Ukulele, and painting classes. New options such as card making and craft projects like quilting donations have also been added, giving seniors more ways to stay active and creative. Attendance at holiday events and group meals continues to rise, showing how important shared experiences are for building community. New games like Mahjong, Shuffleboard, Five Crowns, and Mexican Train have also been introduced, offering fun ways to stay mentally and socially engaged. The COA has also expanded wellness efforts by adding new exercise equipment and improving art and ceramics programs. Partnerships with local organizations have provided free health screenings, helping seniors access important health services. Overall, the COA remains focused on growing and improving its programs to meet the changing needs and interests of seniors in Washington County.

The Washington County Council on Aging in St. George faces ongoing challenges with limited staffing and transportation resources as demand for services continues to grow. As more seniors rely on the COA for rides to medical appointments, meal programs, and senior center activities, the current number of drivers and support staff can make it difficult to meet all requests in a timely manner. Transportation services require not only drivers, but also coordinators to schedule rides, maintain communication, and manage changing needs, which can strain a small team. In addition, the number of available buses and vehicles may not be sufficient to cover the wide geographic area of Washington County, especially when serving both urban areas like St. George and more rural communities. This can lead to longer waiting, limited ride availability, and reduced flexibility for seniors who depend on these services for daily needs. Vehicle maintenance, fuel costs, and scheduling logistics further add to the challenge. Together, limited staffing and a small transportation fleet make it difficult for the COA to keep pace with increasing demand, highlighting the need for additional funding, expanded fleets, and more personnel to ensure seniors have reliable and consistent access to essential services.

The Washington County Council on Aging in St. George is focused on several key priorities in the coming year as it works to meet the needs of a rapidly growing senior population. With more seniors moving into the area and the geographic expansion of St. George and surrounding communities, one of the primary

goals is to keep pace with the increasing demand for services. Relying on a single central senior center is becoming less practical, making it essential to explore ways to expand access and better serve seniors across the county, including those in outlying and rural areas. Transportation will remain a top priority, particularly ensuring that seniors have reliable rides to medical appointments. As demand continues to rise, the COA will look for ways to strengthen and improve its transportation services so seniors can maintain their health and independence. Another important focus is staying relevant through new and engaging programming. The COA is committed to introducing fresh ideas, activities, and classes that reflect the evolving interests of today's seniors, helping to keep them active, socially connected, and mentally engaged. In addition, efforts will continue to enhance meal programs by introducing new menu options, reducing repetition, and ensuring that meals remain both nutritious and enjoyable. The Washington County Council on Aging does not plan to introduce new programming in the coming year. Instead, the focus will be on reviewing existing activities to ensure they remain engaging, relevant, and well attended. As space within the center becomes increasingly limited, adding new programs can be challenging, as it often requires reducing time or space for current activities. Because of this, the priority will be to maintain and strengthen existing offerings rather than expand, ensuring that available space is used effectively to meet the interests and needs of participating seniors.

Advisory Council: The Five County Aging Advisory Council meets quarterly hosted by the COA/senior centers. Meetings are generally held in person with a virtual option. Each County has equal representation in addition to At-large representation, which includes the Paiute Tribe and Alzheimer's Association. We have continued to struggle with our Caregiver Advisory Council and getting our membership to capacity. We are proposing to combine our Aging Advisory and Caregiver Advisory Council with options for sub-groups as needed to address specific caregiver activities and/or projects as needed. The Senior Corp advisory councils, one for RSVP and one for SCP/FGP continue to meet in-person and are well attended. We continue to meet in person on a quarterly basis with the County Council on Aging Coordinators. These meetings provide opportunities to discuss programming changes and updates to help improve overall coordination, understanding of program rules/regulations and provides opportunity for best practices and exchange of ideas among the different coordinators and their senior center operations. (Refer to Attachment 3)

Community Outreach: The AAA prioritizes community engagement, particularly vulnerable populations, but faces challenges in reaching a large and diverse area due to socio-economic factors, workforce issues, and inflation. Despite these obstacles, virtual services have helped expand reach, especially in rural areas, though staff shortages remain a concern. Successful programs, including RSVP Evidence-Based initiatives, are delivered both in-person and virtually, with volunteers playing a key role. Social media platforms and a monthly newsletter are used to connect with seniors, caregivers, and community partners, though limited staffing affects content production. With the Area Agency on Aging, being part of the Association of Governments, our AOG has gone through some significant staffing and reorganization changes. As a result, there is a renewed focus on improved marketing of our organization and programs including updating our website, adding additional social media platforms with larger audience and increased engagement. This focus is to engage with not only consumers but local elected officials, community partners and the community at large. Over the 90-day period from mid-January to mid-April- we had 530 Facebook followers, with 54 posts and a total reach of 3.1k. Our recent posts with the highest reach include Senior Conference Save the Date, Volunteerism, and Veterans Benefit posts. We had 1217 Site sessions, 2,824 page views on our website with 1155 unique visitors reached, which did increase slightly from last year. Our 24th annual Senior's Conference with vendor fair was held on May 1st. Our theme this year was "The Greatest Show on Earth is YOU". The website: www.southernutahseniorsconference.org. We continue to provide options counseling to assist with I&R calls, completes comprehensive screening and intakes for in-home services and refers individuals to programs and resources both within our AAA and to community partners. Our Options Counselor

averages between 50-55 calls a week, which does not include any calls being routed directly to specific program staff. We continue to utilize Mon Ami to house our I&R, screening and intakes. Links to our Website and social media pages: www.areaagencyonagingfivecounty.org, www.facebook.com/AgingFiveCountyUtah/ ,

Preventative Health Programs: Our agencies success with preventative health programs can be credited not only to having excellent staff committed to the success of these programs but the use of volunteer leaders supported through RSVP in conjunction with great collaboration with community partners and the leveraging resources with funding from: Utah Department of Health, Title III-D, RSVP Grant, IHC Foundation, and in-kind support. We currently have 14 CDSMP certified leaders who also lead DSMP and CPSMP, 20 AFEP and Tai Chi, 16 Stepping-on and WWE certified instructors, as well as master trainers: 4 CDSMP/DSMP/CPSMP and 4 Stepping On Master Leaders. We have had 620 individuals participate in these programs with 263 completers- those who attended the minimum number of sessions to prove positive outcomes according to the evidence-based criteria.

Home & Community Based Program & Case Management Team - Overall, we have been fully staffed with our social workers and case managers. However, we still face staffing challenges in recruiting qualified SSW or certified case managers. Given limited funding, it is a continual challenge to compete with salaries in the private market. In addition, salaries are not keeping up with the significant cost of living in Southern Utah. With the recent retirement of a long-term case manager, we have struggled finding a qualified applicant to replace this position. As result, we continue to suggest the State Medicaid Agency consider re-evaluating the higher licensing, certification requirements for the Medicaid Waivers to allow for case managers/staff with equivalent education/experience to provide case management for the waivers given these current workforce challenges impacting other AAA's as well. In comparing several other states who have Medicaid waiver programs, they do not require the same level of licensure/certification. We have an excellent team of social workers, nurses and support staff working with our Home & Community Based Programs. We have two nationally certified Dementia Care Practitioners including our HCBS Director who is also certified through the International Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners as a Certified Montessori Dementia Care Professional (CMDCP). This past year two staff were trained and certified to provide Stress Busters, and we have staff trained in Caregiver Academy and Dealing with Dementia. We have three newly certified staff to teach Dementia Live. We currently have 3 staff trained in RCI Dealing with Dementia, 4 in Caregiver Academy, 7 in Caregiver Talking Points, and 4 in Music and Memory. Recently, one of our case managers became certified through the Alzheimer's Association as a facilitator for their Empowered Caregiver Program. Our HCBS Director, in addition to being an SSW and Certified Dementia Care Practitioner, is a Therapeutic Recreation Technician (TRT) and has used these skills and training to develop educational materials and resources including dementia activity toolkits. She has also used her skills and expertise to develop caregiver training and conduct support groups. We continue to maintain a contractual relationship with the Veteran's Administration/UDVMA to maintain a Veteran Service Officer on staff. A Caregiver Support Program Specialist continues to help us get back on track with all our Caregiver Support Program activities, including adding more caregivers on respite services. The Medicaid PRISM/PEGA System for case management and provider billing continues to be a challenging system; but staff are more able to navigate it and our HCBS Director has become skilled in using the system to support staff.

In-Home Services – We have been very busy this past year bringing on new clients for all our programs; however, with challenges replacing a case management position, our progression with our Alternatives program has been impacted. Overall, our waiting lists are down as result of all the new clients being added so we are working on increased outreach and marketing, especially in our rural communities. We currently have 41 clients and have used 44 slots so far in FY26 with 21 pending. For the Alternatives program, we currently have 54 clients on services, and our applicant list is currently 0. Overall, we have moved to paperless files for our Alternatives and Caregiver support programs using a Mon Ami case

management system to manage care plans, case notes, assessments, and other required documents and forms. This includes a provider portal for receipt of and verification from providers of service authorizations and care plans. Annual audits for the Alternatives and Caregiver Programs were able to be completed entirely paperless this past year. We were able to take our entire caregiver waitlist and added 17 clients who needed respite services. In addition, we have dedicated staff conducting additional community outreach and marketing including community forums, work with community-based organizations, local healthcare and VA clinic about caregiver support and services along with additional staff time dedicated to providing increased education and caregiver training. We currently have two support groups- one in Kanab, and one in St. George. We also provide a Lunch and Learn at the local VA clinic monthly. With the recent closure of a valued community partner, Memory Matters, we are working on making sure the clients they served are being referred over to our agency for support. In addition, we will continue a co-sponsored support group, have already taken over their "Good Morning Sunshine" telephone reassurance program and will be taking over cognitive screenings and resource booth at the Huntsman World Senior Games.

Our VD-HCBS program is growing substantially, and we currently have 20 clients on the program adding an average of one client each month. We maintain a collaborative relationship with Las Vegas VA and are hopeful that we will get additional referrals from both the Las Vegas and Salt Lake VA. All Veterans still reside in the Five County areas, but Veterans have the choice of which VA healthcare system they want to use. In addition, with the ability to assist Veteran's in applying for VA benefits through our Veteran Service Officer (VSO) and Benefit Enrollment Program, additional Veterans can access VA benefits including Aide and Attendant, VA healthcare, VA Caregiver Support, and other VA programs, freeing up space for clients on AW, Alternatives, and the National Caregiver Support Program.

The following is a list of services/programs we are providing for caregivers:

a. Stress Busters Program: Evidence-based programs that provides support to family caregivers of persons with dementia or chronic illness, It is proven to: improve the quality of life of family caregivers who are providing care to an older loved one and help caregivers manage their stress and cope better with their lives. The program consists of nine weekly 90-minute sessions by two trained group facilitators.

b. Rosalyn Carter Institute Dealing with Dementia: includes a four-hour workshop in a classroom setting for family or professional caregivers for people living with dementia. Topics include insight into caregiving experience, easily understandable explanation of dementia, best practices in caregiving, problem solving around dementia behaviors, and tips for caregivers to find selfcare and stress management.

c. Making the Link: We continue to have requests from physician offices for these packets. And we also prepare and distribute packets to home care, emergency medical providers, and community partners.

d. Caregiver Academy: Caregiver Academy using the managing Care guide, is a series of six workshops, developed by SL County Aging, to help caregivers better manage a care environment and learn the skills to find time to re-energize and add quality back into their daily lives.

e. Music & Memories: licensed as a Music and Memory site providing technology and an individualized playlist to individuals with dementia and their caregivers. We are also part of the Utah Coalition for Music and Memory.

f. Caregiver Talking Points: program developed by Kathy Nelson at Salt Lake County Aging; it includes a set of 25 worksheets covering the full continuum of care created to be coaching tools for case managers as well as training materials for groups. Salt Lake County generously shared the program and the training materials with the other AAAs in addition to providing facilitator training. Five County recently trained 5 staff.

g. Dementia Live: An immersive, high-impact simulation that helps care teams experience the sensory and cognitive challenges faced by people living with dementia. We have had great success in offering this program at the different Assisted Livings who not only help advertise it to the community and family of residents but also had their staff attend which helps meet licensing requirement for Dementia related staff training.

h. Other Caregiver Services: We facilitate two in-person support groups, one in Kanab and St. George along with a "Lunch and Learn" at the VA Clinic. We have great success with our AAA Five County

Newsletter which includes information on caregiving, upcoming events, and classes. We have a closed Caregiver Facebook page with posts related to caregivers and opportunities for caregivers to connect with each other. In addition, our regular AOG and AAA Facebook page, Website, and other social media include information and resources to support caregiving.

h. Community Partnership: Include Alzheimer's Association, Utah Tech Nursing Program where we present on the Area Agency on Aging services for older adults and Caregivers each semester to their Nursing Students, VAMC, local Vet Center, Crisis Intervention Training with Southwest Center and local law enforcement, among others. We serve on the Utah Caregiving Roundtable and The Utah Assistive Technology Council. We are working to increase outreach in our rural communities, which includes local media outlets, working with community partners including the Kane County Assistance Program. We are also looking to increase our visibility with our local County Commissions' and City Council including recent successful presentation at the Ivins City Council. This coming year we are partnering with BYU and UVU to provide cognitive screenings at the Huntsman World Senior Games. We also serve on the State Caregiver RoundTable, are working on marketing video with the No Wrong Door for Caregiver Project at UofU, and on a pre-conference session at the Rurah Health Association of Utah's Annual conference in November along with Rob Ence with Utah Commission on Aging.

Veteran's Services, LTC Options Counseling & Benefit Enrollment Center - We continue to serve as an Aging & Disability Site providing I&R and LTC options counseling within the confines of current funding limitations and a full-time Veteran Services Officer working with Utah Department of Veterans Affairs (UDVMA), Utah State as part of the Rural Veteran's Healthcare Access Program (RVHAP) as a COVER to COVER site (Connecting Older Veterans, especially Rural, to Community or Veteran Eligible Resources, aka C2C). Our VSO is fully vetted and granted access to the National Veterans Benefit Management System (VBMS). From April 1, 2024 – March 31, 2024, Five County VSO has completed 548 Fully developed VA Benefit Claims, 377 Misc. VA Benefit Claims, 60 Fully Developed VA healthcare claims meeting in person with 245 Veterans, 28 in their own home and speaking with 1,288 Veterans or family members over the phone with 60 being first time callers about VA Services. Conducted 8 outreach events and 9 presentations. Funding sources include: UDVMA, RVHAP, Benefit Enrollment Center (BEC) through the National Council on Aging, and Caregiver Support Program to support caregivers of Veterans. The need to provide this assistance to Veteran's in accessing their VA and other benefits is greater than the current funding we have been able to leverage. Given the significant impact our Veteran Benefit program has on the lives of older veterans, their caregivers, and families; we are committed to doing all we can to sustain and identify additional funding sources. We successfully submitted a renewal grant for our Benefit Enrollment Center for another 19 months. A key component of our Benefit Enrollment Center (BEC) is to screen and assist Medicare Beneficiaries in applying for a variety of public benefits; including 4 core benefits: Medicaid, SNAP (Food stamps), Medicare LIS and Medicare MSP. Even though our Veteran's numbers have remained high, we have had some challenges with staff turnover impacting overall performance of our BEC grant over the past year. We hired a new Benefit Enrollment Specialist in February, and we are looking forward to getting the program back up to capacity. So far this year, from July 1st – November 30th we assisted 118 Medicare beneficiaries, completing 213 applications for public benefits. In addition to working with our local senior centers, Paiute Indian Tribe, and many of our traditional community partners; we are looking at additional ways to coordinate internally with our Community Support Services Department and with new community partners for referrals into BEC. We will continue to expand outreach and marketing options and still have plans to recruit volunteers to assist with outreach and enrollment. (Refer to Attachment 4: Success Stories)

Senior Corp Volunteer Programs - We continue to struggle with keeping our volunteer numbers up for our Senior Companion and Foster Grandparent Programs. The SCP/FGP coordinator does a great job with outreach and recruitment efforts, but there are several factors including inflation resulting in many low-income seniors going back into the workforce. We continue to see a significant number of

volunteers dealing with health issues and having to discontinue their service with the program. The income eligibility for volunteers when recruiting creates a barrier for many who want to serve. Program staff continue to do a great job in outreach and recruitment; however, we seem to lose volunteers as quickly as we can recruit new ones. Staff are working on some new methods to outreach and recruit new volunteers, including additional outreach efforts in our rural communities. Even with a lower overall number of volunteers, we are still meeting most of our performance measures/outcomes related to individuals served. Federal partners for AmeriCorps Seniors are aware of these struggles which are not limited to just our agency. We currently have 9 FGP volunteers serving an average of 600 hours of tutoring /mentoring in our local schools. And 17 SCP volunteers serve an average of 900 hours of companionship to seniors and individuals with disabilities. Included are some quotes from clients being served by our Senior Companions along with flyer and pictures from recognition event (Refer to attachment 5-6).

Senior Health Insurance Information Program & Senior Medicare Patrol - This past year, we had some staff turnover with our SHIP and SMP programs. A new primary SHIP Counselor has done a great job in assisting older adults with Medicare and Medicaid, including during open enrollment periods. The need for assistance is significantly greater than the funding we receive, resulting in seniors having to wait to receive the support they need, which is critical especially during open enrollment periods. Current funding levels only allow for two part-time staff one at 20 hours a week and one at 9. During open enrollment there were many days the SHIP Counselor worked extensive hours each week, many times from morning to night just to try to help all who needed it. Going above and beyond what was expected. The SHIP program had 186 beneficiary contacts and reached 2,220 people through group outreach. We also had 32 Part D or Medicare Advantage Plan enrollments this last year, providing a savings of \$67,019.22. The SHIP/SMP staff have been doing a lot more outreach and enrollment events in the community including at the local senior centers, working with local Paiute Tribe to coordinate outreach events, health fairs and other community events. They continue to send out Medicare Messages for both the Senior Center and the Five County AAA newsletters along with Facebook posts. We will continue to combine outreach efforts for all of our Benefit programming including SHIP/SMP, Benefit Enrollment Center, Veterans Benefits/VSO staff will be focusing on Medicare Benefits and Fraud prevention activities and BEC staff focusing on other public benefits.

Our Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) is doing better overall with volunteer recruitment and service delivery. In addition, the RSVP Director and assistant are doing a great job with outreach and recruitment, because RSVP does not target low-income senior volunteers. There is a larger pool to recruit from. Our Telephone Reassurance program continues to grow with both volunteers and recipients. We continue to have great success with virtual programming for our Evidence-based programs with many of our volunteers preferring to continue to teach virtually while others choose to teach in-person. Our biggest challenges have been filling our classes. We have had to cancel several classes due to participation. Participants register for the classes but then only about ¼ to 2/3 continue to complete the classes. We are working to increase outreach and advertising, including making additional connections with local healthcare and clinics, Public Health and Community Health Centers, among increased social media and mass media outlets.

Our Fall prevention classes are doing very well. The Tai Chi classes have been consistent, and we are currently teaching classes in 4 senior centers and 1 assisted living. We have 2 leaders who just completed training and will be in 2 additional senior centers. Stepping On has been very successful. We have an ongoing class in a 55+ community that holds 4 classes a year with full attendance. We are also holding Stepping On classes in Hurricane at the Intermountain Health Center where we hold 2 classes a year and have full attendance. Our Stepping On leaders did a presentation at Rocky Vista University, a medical school for the first-year geriatric students. The University requested an additional presentation for their

virtual reality fall prevention program. This gave our program exposure to potential participants. We are preparing to train 4 new leaders at the end of May so that we can expand the areas to deliver the classes. AFEP is going well in 5 senior centers, and participation is consistent. Walk with Ease has been a struggle. We lost all but one leader and need to recruit new leaders for this program. Our success with Walk with Ease has been self-instructed classes with instruction via emails. With the ability to deliver the class this way we can have participants join from the Five County area and participate at once.

The RSVP Director and Assistant continue to look for new and innovative ways to recruit participants for classes and potential volunteers. They post about upcoming classes and volunteer opportunities on social media, at health clinics, senior centers, community centers, senior housing communities, and faith-based organizations. They participate in health fairs, community gatherings, and anywhere they can present information about the programs and volunteer opportunities. The volunteers share their experiences and help with recruiting.

We currently have 92 unduplicated volunteers throughout the Five County areas exceeding our minimum requirement of 83. For the year of April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026 we served a total of 861 individuals: 241 telephone reassurance clients with 50 Volunteers, 15 individuals participated in CDSMP/DSMP, 7 in CPSMP, 500 in AFEP and Tai Chi combined, and 98 participated in Walk with Ease and Stepping On combined. We have 4 master leaders for these CDSMP, DSMP, CPSMP, three of whom are volunteers. This year we held a volunteer appreciation in September and one in April. September's event was for just RSVP volunteers while the one in April combined all three AmeriCorps Seniors programs. During the event volunteers are recognized and honored for their service in the community along with appreciation for their support for our programs.

Long Term Care Ombudsman Program - With limited State and Federal funding and no local funds to support the program; we have three part-time staff working in the program which only equates to around a one FTE while trying to support a significant number of long-term care facilities which continues to grow in our service area with additional challenged related to a large geographic service area. We have 45 LTC facilities with a total of 2,704 beds. Snow Canyon Retirement Home opened last year, which brought 58 new Assisted Living & Memory care beds which are included in the count above. With no additional funding and only one FTE to cover not only referrals and complaints, but all the other ombudsman responsibilities including walk-throughs, discharge notices, resident councils, training, and outreach, this is challenging, and we commend our staff for managing large workloads with integrity and resilience. Given these limitations in funding, we must prioritize staff time for referrals and complaints, addressing discharge notices, documentation/reporting, and walk-throughs quarterly with other activities managed as needed and time permits. Staff have done a great job given limited time and resources- in the quarter between Oct 2025 – Dec 2025 they had 31 open cases, provided information and consultation to 96 participants, and completed 56 routine visits and 9 non-routine visits, visiting every facility in our service area. We currently have one lead ombudsman who spends on average 5 hours a week. one part time (20 hours week) Ombudsman who primarily covers Washington County and a part time (10 hours week) Ombudsman who primarily covers the other 4 Counties. The lead ombudsman, in addition to managing incoming referrals, case staffing, monitoring compliance and follow through with reporting and data entry, assists with the discharge notices and backs up the other Ombudsman to manage high volume of complaints and investigations. We still maintain one part-time volunteer Ombudsman, who helps our program tremendously.

Other accomplishments/challenges in Five County Programming

a. We continue to contract with Utah Legal Services providing 165 hours of legal advice/services to 82 individuals through March 31st up by 42 hours from last year. Utah Legal Services reports receiving the

most request for legal advice in the following areas: number one Wills and Estates followed by Advanced Directives, contract/warranties and private landlord/tenant issues. Advanced directives/Power of Attorney were back up in the top two priorities.

b. We continue to work with APS including with the Elder Justice Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) with active participation from community members. Case staffing seems to ebb and flow with some months not having any staffing and other months having several. When we do have cases, we have great participation from the members in bringing forward their expertise and suggestions to help with the cases and in addressing anything impacting the individual's ability to obtain needed support and services in the community.

c. Our 24th Annual Senior's Conference and Resource Fair with the theme "The Greatest Show on Earth is YOU" is on May 1, 2026, at the Heritage Center in Cedar City; Several of the /Senior Centers in the rural areas will bring a bus of seniors so senior from across the Five County area can attend.

f. Staff recruitment, particularly for SSW Case managers, remains a major challenge for our agency and other community-based organizations, exacerbated by workforce shortages, inflation, and stagnant funding. Funding has not kept pace with inflation, rising service costs, or the increasing older adult population, particularly in Southern Utah, which has a large population of people aged 55+. Workforce shortages make it hard to recruit and retain staff, as wages have not kept up with inflation while we also try to compete with private sector wages. Senior Centers face similar struggles, with inflation impacting both workforce stability and service delivery. Additionally, rising housing costs, especially in St. George, are making it harder for employees to afford living expenses, while the average workforce and our seniors on fixed incomes are being priced out of the housing market, including affordable rentals. With the medium household income in St. George between \$76,508 - \$83,900 and the average medium home in Washington County between \$524,000 to \$625,000. A recent local new article reported the medium rent for a 1-bedroom apartment in St. George is \$1,805, up about 3% from last year with the average monthly social security benefit for January 2026 was only \$2,071 with 1 in 3 older adults relying on social security for 90% of their income; we are facing a housing crisis. Even in some of our more rural areas affordable rentals are becoming difficult to find with demand exceeding availability; and in many areas homeowner and landlords are finding it more lucrative to provide short term rentals for tourists coming to the area to visit the many national parks and other tourist attractions. This past year we renewed our provider contracts, which resulted in rate increases for many of the services. Overall, we were able to maintain an adequate provider pool except for in some of our rural areas. Without any increases in base funding along with increased costs of delivering services; we anticipate waiting lists will increase our in-home programs. We will continue to work with the other AAAs in Utah as part of our state association to advocate increased funding; we still have plans to work with our AOG Director's along with directors from other AOG's who in turn will also work with the Utah Association of Counties to educate our state and local elected officials in advocating for funding for the AAAs in support of the needs of older adults. We are collaborating with the Executive Director of our AOG and umbrella organization on a strategic plan to advocate for more local funding from cities and towns. While our county government provides significant match funding for senior centers, nutrition, and supportive services, additional funding from local cities is crucial, particularly in larger communities with substantial retirement populations that need age-friendly support.

IV. TITLE III – PROGRAM DESCRIPTION AND ASSURANCES

<p style="text-align: center;">TITLE III</p> <p>AREA PLAN: PROGRAM DESCRIPTION AND ASSURANCES</p>

Each area agency on aging (AAA) must maintain documentation to confirm the following assurance items. Such documentation will be subject to federal and state review to ensure accuracy and completeness. By signing this four-year plan document, the area agency on aging agrees to comply with each of the following assurances unless otherwise noted in the document.

Section 305(c): Administrative Capacity

An area agency on aging shall provide assurance, determined adequate by the State agency, that the Area Agency on Aging will have the ability to develop an area plan and to carry out, directly or through contractual or other arrangements, a program in accordance with the plan within the planning and service area.

Section 306(a)(1): Provision of Services

Provide, through a comprehensive and coordinated system for supportive services, nutrition services, and where appropriate, for the establishment, maintenance, or construction of multipurpose senior centers, within the planning and service area, covered by the plan, including determining the extent of need for supportive services, nutrition services, and multipurpose senior centers in such area (taking into consideration, among other things, the number of older individuals with low incomes residing in such area, the number of older individuals who have the greatest economic need (with particular attention to low income minority individuals and older individuals residing in rural areas) residing in such area, the number of older individuals who have the greatest social need (with particular attention to low income minority individuals) residing in such area and the number of older individuals who are Indians residing in such area, and the efforts of voluntary organizations in the community, evaluating the effectiveness of the use of resources in meeting such need, and entering into agreements with providers of supportive services, nutrition services, or multipurpose senior center in such area, for the provision of such services or centers to meet such need;

Section 306(a)(2): Adequate Proportions

- (a) Each area agency on aging...Each such plan shall--
(2) provide assurances that an adequate proportion, as required under section 307(a)(2), of the

amount allotted for part B to the planning and service area will be expended for the delivery of each of the following categories of services-

- (A) services associated with access to services (transportation, health services (including mental and behavioral health services), outreach, information and assistance (which may include information and assistance to consumers on availability of services under part B and how to receive benefits under and participate in publicly supported programs for which the consumer may be eligible) and case management services);
- (B) in-home services, including supportive services for families of older individuals who are victims of Alzheimer's disease and related disorders with neurological and organic brain dysfunction; and
- (C) legal assistance; and assurances that the area agency on aging will report annually to the State agency in detail the amount of funds expended for each such category during the fiscal year most recently concluded;

and assure that the area agency will report annually to the State agency in detail the amount of funds expended for each such category during the fiscal year most recently concluded.

Section 306(a)(4)(A): Low Economic, Minority and Rural Services

- (i) The area agency on aging will-
 - (aa) set specific objectives, consistent with State policy, for providing services to older individuals with greatest economic need, older individuals with greatest social need, and older individuals at risk for institutional placement;
 - (bb) include specific objectives for providing services to low-income minority older individuals, older individuals with limited English proficiency, and older individuals residing in rural areas; and
- (II) include proposed methods to achieve the objectives described in items (aa) and (bb) of sub-clause (I);
- (ii) provide assurances that the area agency on aging will include in each agreement made with a provider of any service under this title, a requirement that such provider will—
 - (I) specify how the provider intends to satisfy the service needs of low-income minority individuals, older individuals with limited English proficiency, and older individuals residing in rural areas in the area served by the provider;
 - (II) to the maximum extent feasible, provide services to low-income minority individuals, older individuals with limited English proficiency, and older individuals residing in rural areas in accordance with their need for such services; and
 - (III) meet specific objectives established by the area agency on aging, for providing

services to low-income minority individuals, older individuals with limited English proficiency, and older individuals residing in rural areas within the planning and service area; and

(iii) with respect to the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year for which such plan is prepared –

identify the number of low-income minority older individuals in the planning and service area;

- (I) describe the methods used to satisfy the service needs of such minority older individuals; and
- (II) provide information on the extent to which the area agency on aging met the objectives described in clause (i).

Section 306(a)(4)(B): Low Economic, Minority and Rural Services Outreach

Provide assurances that the area agency on aging will use outreach efforts that will:

(i) identify individuals eligible for assistance under this Act, with special emphasis on--

(I) older individuals residing in rural areas;

(II) older individuals with greatest economic need (with particular attention to low-income minority individuals and older individuals residing in rural areas);

(III) older individuals with greatest social need (with particular attention to low-income minority individuals and older individuals residing in rural areas);

(IV) older individuals with severe disabilities;

(V) older individuals with limited English proficiency;

(VI) older individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders with neurological and organic brain dysfunction (and the caretakers of such individuals); and

(VII) older individuals at risk for institutional placement; and

(i) inform the older individuals referred to in sub-clauses (I) through (VII) of clause (i), and the caretakers of such individuals, of the availability of such assistance

Section 306(a)(4)(C): Focus on Minority Older and Rural Older Individuals

Contain an assurance that the area agency on aging will ensure that each activity undertaken by the

agency, including planning, advocacy, and systems development, will include a focus on the needs of low-income minority older individuals and older individuals residing in rural areas.

Section 306(a)(5): Assurance for the Disabled

Provide assurances that the area agency on aging will coordinate planning, identification, assessment of needs, and provision of services for older individuals with disabilities, with particular attention to individuals with severe disabilities, with agencies that develop or provide services for individuals with disabilities.

Section 306(a)(6)(A): Accounting for the Recipients' Views

Take into account in connection with matters of general policy arising in the development and administration of the area plan, the views of recipients of services under such plan:

Section 306(a)(6)(B): Advocacy

Serve as the advocate and focal point for older individuals within the community by (in cooperation with agencies, organizations, and individuals participating in activities under the plan) monitoring, evaluating, and commenting upon all policies, programs, hearings, levies, and community actions which will effect older individuals;

Section 306(a)(6)(C): Volunteering and Community Action

- (i) where possible, enter into arrangements with organizations providing day care services for children, assistance to older individuals caring for relatives who are children, and respite for families, so as to provide opportunities for older individuals to aid or assist on a voluntary basis in the delivery of such services to children, adults, and families; and
- (ii) if possible regarding the provision of services under this title, enter into arrangements and coordinate with organizations that have a proven record of providing services to older individuals, that:
 - I) were officially designated as community action agencies or community action programs under section 210 of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2790) for fiscal year 1981, and did not lose the designation as a result of failure to comply with such Act; or
 - II) came into existence during fiscal year 1982 as direct successors in interest to such community action agencies or community action programs;and that meet the requirements under section 676B of the Community Services Block Grant Act.

Section 306(a)(6)(D): Advisory Council

Establish an advisory council consisting of older individuals (including minority individuals and older individuals residing in rural areas) who are participants or who are eligible to participate in programs assisted under this Act, representatives of older individuals, local elected officials, providers of veterans health care (if appropriate), and the general public, to advise continuously the area agency on aging on all matters relating to the development of the area plan, the administration of the plan and operations conducted under the plan;

Section 306(a)(6)(E): Program Coordination

Establish effective and efficient procedures for coordination of:

- (i) entities conducting programs that receive assistance under this Act within the planning and service area served by the agency; and,
- (ii) entities conducting other Federal programs for older individuals at the local level, with particular emphasis on entities conducting programs described in section 203(b), within the area;

Section 306(a)(6)(F): Mental Health Coordination

Coordinate any mental health services provided with funds expended by the area agency on aging for part B with the mental health services provided by community health centers and by other public agencies and nonprofit private organizations; and

Section 306(a)(6)(G): Native American Outreach

If there is a significant population of older individuals who are Native Americans, in the planning and service area of area agency on aging, the area agency on aging shall conduct outreach activities to identify such individuals in such area and shall inform such individuals of the availability of assistance under this Act;

Section 306(a)(7): Coordination of Long-Term Care

Provide that the area agency on aging will facilitate the coordination of community based long term care services designed to enable older individuals to remain in their homes, by means including:

- (i) development of case management services as a component of the long term care services; consistent with the requirements of paragraph (8);
- (ii) involvement of long term care providers in the coordination of such services; and,
- (iii) increasing community awareness of and involvement in addressing the needs of residents of long term care facilities;

Section 306(a)(8): Case Management Services

Provide that case management services provided under this title through the area agency on aging will:

- (i) not duplicate case management services provided through other Federal and State programs;
- (ii) be coordinated with services described in subparagraph (A); and,
- (iii) be provided by a public agency or a nonprofit private agency that:
 - (1) gives each older individual seeking services under this title a list of agencies that provide similar services within the jurisdiction of the area agency on aging;
 - (2) gives each individual described in clause (i) a statement specifying that the individual has a right to make an independent choice of service providers and documents receipt by such individual of such statement;
 - (3) has case managers acting as agents for the individuals receiving the services and not as promoters for the agency providing the services; or,
 - (4) is located in a rural area and obtains a waiver of the requirements described in clauses (i) through (iii)

Section 306(a)(9): Assurance for State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program

Provide assurance that area agency on aging, in carrying out the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman program under section 307(a)(9), will expend not less than the total amount of funds appropriated under this Act and expended by the agency in fiscal year 2000 in carrying out such a program under this title;

Section 306(a)(10): Grievance Procedure

Provide a grievance procedure for older individuals who are dissatisfied with or denied services under this title;

Section 306(a)(11): Services to Native Americans

Provide information and assurances concerning services to older individuals who are Native Americans (referred to in the paragraph as "older Native Americans"), including---

- (A) information concerning whether there is a significant population of older Native Americans in the planning and service area and if so, an assurance that the area agency on aging will pursue activities, including outreach, to increase access of those older Native Americans to programs and benefits provided under this title;
- (B) an assurance that the area agency on aging will, to the maximum extent practicable, coordinate the services the agency provides under this title with services provided under title VI; and
- (C) an assurance that the area agency on aging will make services under the area plan available, to the same extent as such services are available to older individuals within the planning and service area, to older Native Americans;

Section 306(a)(12): Federal Program Coordination

Provide that the area agency on aging will establish procedures for coordination of services with entities conducting other Federal or federally assisted programs for older individuals at the local level, with particular emphasis on entities conducting programs described in section 203(b) within the planning and service area.

Section 306(a)(13)(A-E): Maintenance of Integrity, Public Purpose, Quantity and Quality of Services, Auditability

Provide assurances that the area agency on aging will:

(A) maintain the integrity and public purpose of services provided, and service providers, under this title in all contractual and commercial relationships;

(B) disclose to the Assistant Secretary and the State agency--

- (i) the identity of each nongovernmental entity with which such agency has a contract or commercial relationship relating to providing any service to older individuals; and
- (ii) the nature of such contract or such relationship;

(C) demonstrate that a loss or diminution in the quantity or quality of the services provided, or to be provided, under this title by such agency has not resulted and will not result from such contract or such relationship;

(D) demonstrate that the quantity or quality of the services to be provided under this title by such agency will be enhanced as a result of such contract or such relationship;

(E) on the request of the Assistant Secretary or the State, for the purpose of monitoring compliance with this Act (including conducting an audit), disclose all sources and expenditures of funds such agency receives or expends to provide services to older individuals;

Section 306(a)(14): Appropriate use of Funds

Provide assurance that funds received under this title will not be used to pay any part of a cost (including administrative cost) incurred by the area agency on aging to carry out a contract or commercial relationship that is not carried out to implement this title

Section 306(a)(15): No Preference

Provide assurance that preference in receiving services under this title will be used-

- (A) to provide benefits and services to older individuals, giving priority to older individuals identified in paragraph (4)(A)(i); and\

(B) in compliance with the assurances specified in paragraph (13) and the limitations specified in section 212;

TITLE VII: ELDER RIGHTS PROTECTION

Chapter 1: General Provisions

Section 705(a)(6)(A): General Provisions

An assurance that, with respect to programs for the prevention of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation under chapter 3:

- (A) in carrying out such programs the State agency will conduct a program of services consistent with relevant State law and coordinated with existing State adult protective service activities for:
- (i) public education to identify and prevent elder abuse;
 - (ii) receipt of reports of elder abuse;
 - (iii) active participation of older individuals participating in programs under this Act through outreach, conferences, and referral of such individuals to other social service agencies or sources of assistance if appropriate and if the individuals to be referred consent, and
 - (iv) referral of complaints to law enforcement or public protective service agencies if appropriate;

Chapter 2: Ombudsman Program

Section 704(a): Organization and Area Plan Description of Ombudsman Program

Section 712(a)(5)(D)(iii): Confidentiality and Disclosure

The State agency shall develop the policies and procedures in accordance with all provisions of this subtitle regarding confidentiality and conflict of interest. [This is R510-200-8(B)(9) for confidentiality and R510-200-7(A)(e) for conflicts of interest using the definitions outlined in state and federal law]

Section 712(a)(5)(C): Eligibility for Designation

Entities eligible to be designated as local Ombudsman entities, and individuals eligible to be designated as representatives of such entities, shall:

- (i) have demonstrated capability to carry out the responsibilities of the Office;
- (ii) be free of conflicts of interest;
- (iii) in the case of the entities, be public or nonprofit private entities; and
- (iv) meet such additional requirements as the Ombudsman may specify.

Section 712(a)(5)(D): Monitoring Procedures

- (i) In General: The State agency shall establish, in accordance with the Office, policies and procedures for monitoring local Ombudsman entities designated to carry out the duties of the Office.

Section 712(a)(3)(D): Regular and Timely Access

The Ombudsman shall ensure that the residents have regular and timely access to the services provided through the Office and that the residents and complainants receive timely responses from representatives of the Office to complaints;

Section 712(c): Reporting System

The State agency shall establish a statewide uniform reporting system to:

- (1) collect and analyze data relating to complaints and conditions in long-term care facilities and to residents for the purpose of identifying and resolving significant problems, and
- (2) submit the data, on a regular basis.

Section 712(h): Administration

The State agency shall require the Office to:

- (1) prepare an annual report:
 - (A) describing the activities carried out by the Office in the year for which the report is prepared;
 - (B) containing and analyzing the data collected under subsection (c);
 - (C) evaluating the problems experienced by, and the complaints made by or on behalf of, residents;
 - (D) containing recommendations for:
 - (i) improving quality of the care and life of the residents; and
 - (ii) protecting the health, safety, welfare, and rights of the residents;
 - (E)(i) analyzing the success of the program including success in providing services to residents of board and care facilities and other similar adult care facilities; and
 - (ii) identifying barriers that prevent the optimal operation of the program; and
 - (F) providing policy, regulatory, and legislative recommendations to solve identified problems, to resolve the complaints, to improve the quality of care and life of residents, to protect the health, safety, welfare, and rights of residents, and to remove the barriers;
- (2) analyze, comment on, and monitor the development and implementation of Federal, State, and local laws, regulations, and other government policies and actions that pertain to long-term care facilities and services, and to the health, safety, welfare, and rights of residents, in the State, and recommend any changes in such laws, regulations, and policies as the Office determines to be appropriate;
- (3) (A) provide such information as the Office determines to be necessary to public and private agencies, legislators, and other persons, regarding:
 - (i) the problems and concerns of older individuals residing in long-term care facilities; and
 - (ii) recommendations related to the problems and concerns.

(These three assurances were added to the ombudsman section in May, 2003)

Section 712(f): Conflict of Interest

The State agency shall:

- (1) ensure that no individual, or member of the immediate family of an individual, involved in the designation of the Ombudsman (whether by appointment or otherwise) or the designation of an entity designated under subsection (a)(5), is subject to a conflict of interest;
- (2) ensure that no officer or employee of the Office, representative of a local Ombudsman entity, or member of the immediate family of the officer, employee, or representative, is subject to a conflict of interest;
- (3) ensure that the Ombudsman:
 - (A) does not have a direct involvement in the licensing or certification of a long-term care facility or of a provider of a long-term care service;
 - (B) does not have an ownership or investment interest (represented by equity, debt, or other financial relationship) in a long-term care facility or a long-term care service;
 - (C) is not employed by, or participating in the management of, a long-term care facility; and
 - (D) does not receive, or have the right to receive, directly or indirectly, remuneration (in cash or in kind) under a compensation arrangement with an owner or operator of a long-term care facility; and
- (4) establish, and specify in writing, mechanisms to identify and remove conflicts of interest referred to in paragraphs (1) and (2), and to identify and eliminate the relationships described in subparagraphs (A) through (D) of paragraph (3), including such mechanisms as:
 - (A) the methods by which the State agency will examine individuals, and immediate family members, to identify the conflicts; and
 - (B) the actions that the State agency will require the individuals and such family members to take to remove such conflicts.

Section 712(a)(3)(E): Representation Before Governmental Agencies

The Ombudsman shall represent the interests of the residents before governmental agencies and seek administrative, legal, and other remedies to protect the health, safety, welfare, and rights of the residents;

Section 712(j): Noninterference

The State must:

- (1) Ensure that willful interference with representatives of the Office in the performance of the official duties of the representatives (as defined by the Assistant Secretary) shall be unlawful.
- (2) Prohibit retaliation and reprisals by a long-term care facility or other entity with respect to any resident, employee, or other person for filing a complaint with, providing information to, or otherwise cooperating with any representative of, the Office.

Will you assure that your agency will not interfere with the official functions of ombudsman representatives as defined in The Older Americans Act section 712 (a) (5) (B) and that representatives will be able to report any interference to the State.

Chapter 3: Programs for the Prevention of Elder Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation

Section 721(a): Establishment

In order to be eligible to receive an allotment under section 703 from funds appropriated with this section, and in consultation with area agencies on aging, develop and enhance programs for the prevention of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

Section 721(b)(1-2)

- (1) providing for public education and outreach to identify and prevent elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation;
- (2) ensuring the coordination of services provided by area agencies on aging with services instituted under the State adult protection service program, State and local law enforcement systems, and courts of competent jurisdiction;

VI. AREA PLAN PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

Supportive Services

Title III B Program Objective	Persons Served - Unduplicated Count	Persons Waiting for Services*	Estimated Service Units	Estimated Number of Persons Not Served
Case Management (1 case): Assistance either in the form of access or care coordination in the circumstance where the older person and/or their caregivers are experiencing diminished functioning capacities, personal conditions or other characteristics which require the provision of services by formal service providers. Activities of case management includes assessing needs, developing care plans, authorizing services, arranging services, coordinating the provision of services among providers, follow-up and re-assessment, as required.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Personal Care (1 hour): Provide personal assistance, stand-by assistance, supervision or cues for persons having difficulties with one or more of the following activities of daily living: eating, dressing, bathing, toileting, and transferring in and out of bed.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Homemaker (1 hour): Provide assistance to persons having difficulty with one or more of the following instrumental activities of daily living: preparing meals, shopping for personal items, managing money, using the telephone or doing light housework.	205	0	4116	1800
Chore (1 hour): Provide assistance to persons having difficulty with one or more of the following instrumental activities of daily living: heavy housework, yard work or sidewalk maintenance.	235	0	5385	3800
Adult Day Care/Adult Day Health (1 hour): Provision of personal care for	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

TITLE III C-1

<p align="center">Title III C-1 Program Objective</p>	<p align="center">Persons Served - Unduplicated Count</p>	<p align="center">Persons Waiting for Services*</p>	<p align="center">Estimated Service Units</p>	<p align="center">Estimated Number of Persons Not Served</p>
<p>Congregate Meals (1 meal): Provision to an eligible client or other eligible participant at a nutrition site, senior center or some other congregate setting, a meal which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) complies with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans (published by the Secretaries of the Department of Health and Human Services and the United States Department of Agriculture; b) provides, if one meal is served, a minimum of 33 and 1/3 percent of the current daily Dietary Reference Intakes (DRI) as established by the Food and Nutrition Board of the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences; c) provides, if two meals are served, together, a minimum of 66 and 2/3 percent of the current daily DRI; although there is no requirement regarding the percentage of the current daily DRI which an individual meal must provide, a second meal shall be balanced and proportional in calories and nutrients; and, d) provides, if three meals are served, together, 100 percent of the current daily DRI; although there is no requirement regarding the percentage of the current daily DRI which an individual meal must provide, a second and third meal shall be balanced and proportional in calories and nutrients. 	<p>2081</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>50446</p>	<p>2300</p>
<p>Nutrition Counseling (1 hour): Provision of individualized advice and guidance to individuals, who are at nutritional risk because of their health or nutritional history, dietary intake, medications use or</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>

Title III C-1 Program Objective	Persons Served - Unduplicated Count	Persons Waiting for Services*	Estimated Service Units	Estimated Number of Persons Not Served
chronic illnesses, about options and methods for improving their nutritional status, performed by a health professional in accordance with state law and policy.				
Nutrition Education (1 session): A program to promote better health by providing accurate and culturally sensitive nutrition, physical fitness, or health (as it relates to nutrition) information and instruction to participants or participants and caregivers in a group or individual setting overseen by a dietitian or individual of comparable expertise.			2869	

* Persons assessed and determined eligible for services

**TITLE III C-2
Home-Delivered Meals**

<p align="center">Title III C-2 Program Objective</p> <p>Assessment/Screening (1 Hour): Administering standard examinations, procedures or tests for the purpose of gathering information about a client to determine need and/or eligibility for services. Routine health screening (blood pressure, hearing, vision, diabetes) activities are included.</p>	<p align="center">Persons Served - Unduplicated Count</p>	<p align="center">Persons Waiting for Services*</p>	<p align="center">Estimated Service Units</p>	<p align="center">Estimated Number of Persons Not Served</p>
<p>Home-Delivered Meals (1 meal): Provision, to an eligible client or other eligible participant at the client's place of residence, a meal which:</p> <p>a) complies with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans (published by the Secretaries of the Department of Health and Human Services and the United States Department of Agriculture);</p> <p>b) provides, if one meal is served, a minimum of 33 and 1/3 percent of the current daily Dietary Reference Intakes (DRI) as established by the Food and Nutrition Board of the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences;</p> <p>c) provides, if two meals are served, together, a minimum of 66 and 2/3 percent of the current daily DRI; although there is no requirement regarding the percentage of the current daily RDA which an individual meal must provide, a second meal shall be balanced and proportional in calories and nutrients; and</p>	<p align="center">1481</p>	<p align="center">0</p>	<p align="center">135578</p>	<p align="center">2700</p>

<p align="center">Title III C-2 Program Objective</p> <p>d) provides, if three meals are served, together, 100 percent of the current daily DRI; although there is no requirement regarding</p> <p>Home-Delivered Meals (cont'd): the percentage of the current daily RDA which an individual meal must provide, a second and third meal shall be balanced and proportional in calories and nutrients.</p>	<p align="center">Persons Served - Unduplicated Count</p>	<p align="center">Persons Waiting for Services*</p>	<p align="center">Estimated Service Units</p>	<p align="center">Estimated Number of Persons Not Served</p>
<p>Nutrition Counseling (1 hour): Provision of individualized advice and guidance to individuals, who are at nutritional risk because of their health or nutritional history, dietary intake, medications use or chronic illnesses, about options and methods for improving their nutritional status, performed by a health professional in accordance with state law and policy.</p>	<p align="center">N/A</p>	<p align="center">N/A</p>	<p align="center">N/A</p>	<p align="center">N/A</p>

* Persons assessed and determined eligible for services

**TITLE III D
Preventive Health**

Title III D Program Objective	Persons Served - Unduplicated Count	Persons Waiting for Services*	Estimated Service Units	Estimated Number of Persons Not Served
Evidence Based: AFEP, CDSMP, DSMP, CPSMP, Stepping On, Tai Chi, WWE Note: III-D funds only used on these Evidence based programs				
Non-Evidence based: Health screenings, non-evidence based exercise and fitness classes, health education, etc.			13099	

* Persons assessed and determined eligible for services

TITLE III E
National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP)

Title III E Program Objective	Persons Served	Persons Waiting for Services*	Estimated Service Units
Information: Estimate the number of individuals who will receive information, education and outreach activities in order to recruit caregivers into your program.	69417		206
Assistance: Estimate the number of clients who will receive assistance in accessing resources and information which will result in developed care plans and coordination of the appropriate caregiver services.	884		884
Counseling/Support Groups/ Training: Estimate the number of individuals who will receive counseling/support groups/training.	36		187.50
Respite: Estimate the number of clients who will receive respite services using NFCS funds.	27		641.76
Supplemental Services: Estimate the number of clients receiving supplemental caregiver services using NFCS funds.	6	0	61.25

* Persons assessed and determined eligible for services

OTHER OLDER AMERICANS ACT

Other Services Profile (*Optional*): List other services and the funding source.

Service Name and Funding Source	Persons Served - Unduplicated Count	Persons Waiting for Services*	Estimated Service Units	Estimated Number of Persons Not Served
Public Information, Friendly visiting, Telephone Reassurance volunteer services, recreation, outreach, and training			<u>137,027</u>	

* Persons assessed and determined eligible for services

Note: There are no restrictions on the number of Other services which may be reported.

Mission/Purpose Codes:

A= Services which address functional limitations

B= Services which maintain health

C= Services which protect elder rights

D= Services which promote socialization/participation

E= Services which assure access and

coordination

F= Services which support other goals/outcomes

STATE-FUNDED PROGRAMS

Service Code	Program Objective	Persons Served - Unduplicated Count	Persons Waiting for Services*	Estimated Number of Persons Not Served
ALM	Home and Community-based Alternatives Program:** Service designed to prevent premature or inappropriate admission to nursing homes, including program administration, client assessment, client case management, and home- and community-based services provided to clients.	54	0	600
RVP	Volunteer: Trained individuals who volunteer in the Retired Senior Volunteer Program, Foster Grandparent Program, and Senior Companion Program.			700

* Persons assessed and determined eligible for services

** Quarterly and annual reporting requirements by service area will still be required. (Example: case management, home health aide, personal care, respite, etc.)

MEDICAID AGING WAIVER PROGRAM

Program Objective	Persons Served - Unduplicated Count	Persons Waiting for Services*	Estimated Number of Persons Not Served
Purpose: A home and community-based services waiver offers the State Medicaid Agency broad discretion not generally afforded under the State plan to address the needs of individuals who would otherwise receive costly institutional care provided under the State Medicaid plan.	41	17	300

* Persons assessed and determined eligible for services

VII. REAFFIRMATION OR AMENDMENTS TO THE FOUR-YEAR PLAN

This section allows the AAA to annually reaffirm, with documentation, the information found in its four-year plan. It is important to include documentation with the request for any waivers, including descriptions and justifications for the request. This section provides an opportunity to discuss any modifications the agency is requesting to amend in the four-year plan. The following areas should be included, and any others that the AAA would like to add:

1. PRIORITY OF SERVICES

Five County contracts with each of the counties in our jurisdiction to provide specific In-home service through the local Senior Centers, which includes chore services, friendly visiting, and telephone reassurance. Since the pandemic we have also added shopping, errands, pick-up and delivery of groceries, Rx's, mail, and other essential services under the category of Homemaking. As such, the local senior center intake worker/staff completes the assessment with the client rather than a case manager at the AAA level. To reduce the significant time and cost associated with completing a second assessment tool; we are requesting a waiver to allow us to use the DAAS approved Nutrition Screening and Assessment tool rather than the HCB Alternatives Assessment. Since the Senior Centers already use the Nutrition Screening & Assessment Tool for individuals, they serve who receive Cluster 1 Registered Services it will not require additional work and costs on the side of the AAA or the County to complete another assessment. Please note according to OAA the following services are Cluster I services: Personal Care, Homemaker, Chore, Home Delivered Meals, Adult Day Care/Health, and Case Management. Friendly Visiting and Telephone Reassurance are not cluster 1 registered services but are considered in-home services under the OAA and reported as such.

2. SERVICE PROVIDERS

List all providers from whom the agency will purchase goods or services with Title III funds to fulfill area plan objectives. Specify the goods or services being purchased and the type of agreement made with the provider, i.e., subcontract, vendor, memorandum of agreement, etc.:

AGREEMENT	PROVIDER NAME	GOODS/SERVICE(S)	TYPE
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PLEASE REFER TO ATTCHMENT 8 FOR LIST OF PROVIDERS

3. DIRECT SERVICE WAIVERS

The State Plan shall provide that no supportive services, nutrition services, or in-home services (as defined in section 342[I]) will be directly provided by the State Agency or an area agency on aging, except where, in the judgment of the State Agency, provision of such services by the State or an area agency on aging is necessary to assure an adequate supply of such services, or where such services are directly related to such state or area agency on aging administrative functions, or where such services of comparable quality can be provided more economically by such state or area agency on aging.

Is your agency applying for any Direct Service Waivers?

Yes [X] No []

If yes, list the services for which waivers are being requested and describe the necessity for the direct service provision.

Five County AOG/AAA does not directly provide home delivered meals or meals at any congregate meal sites. We sub-contract the meal function to the County Councils on Aging in each of the Five Counties in our Jurisdiction. However, we are involved in the following program functions for the Nutrition programs:

- Collective Ordering of food, kitchen supplies from retailers, coordination of menu planning between meal sites and dietician, sanitation and other compliance monitoring, and collection of nutrition reporting data.
- Local meal sites and County Councils on Aging do not have resources available to hire staff and carry out the above-mentioned functions on a county-by-county basis. With the overall support we provide to all five counties, it is not necessary for each of the individual meal programs to hire additional staff to complete these tasks, leaving more dollars available to put towards the actual cost of providing the meals for the elderly and enabling them to serve more individuals.
- By utilizing AOG/AAA staff for these program functions, we can reduce overall costs by 1) making group food/supply purchases, 2) working with one district dietician to oversee menu planning, and 3) reduce multiple site personnel costs.

4. PRIORITY SERVICE WAIVER

Reference(s): OAA Section 306(a)(2), 306(b)(1)(2)(A)(B)(C)(D), 307(a)(22)
State Rule R110-106-1

Indicate which, if any, of the following categories of service the agency is not planning to fund with the minimum percentage of Title III B funds specified in the State Plan, with the justification for not providing services. **Attach appropriate documentation** to support the waiver request as follows:

- 1) notification of public hearing to waive Title III B funding of a service category,
- 2) A list of the parties notified of the hearing,
- 3) A record of the public hearing, and
- 4) A detailed justification to support that services are provided in sufficient volume to meet the need throughout the planning and service area. (See State Rule R805-106 for specific requirements.)

SERVICE CATEGORY**DESCRIPTION OF REASON FOR THE WAIVER**

Access: N/A

In-Home: N/A

Legal Assistance: N/A

VIII. POPULATION ESTIMATES

Population Group	Number*	Number Served in Planning and Service Area	Estimate of People Needing Services
Age 60+	68,444	34,000**	Over 7,000
Age 65+	54,133	26,500**	Over 5,000
Minority Age 65+	3,691		

*Population data from the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget are provided for each county on the attached sheet.

**This number includes the estimated number of individuals (including) caregivers reached through Public Information and Information Services- (this number is increasing as we expand our reach through virtual services, Website, social media (Facebook, Pinterest, Utube), Mass media, webinars, etc.

IX. SPECIFIC QUESTIONS ON PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR THE PAST YEAR

Summer 2025 Luau



Best Dressed in the West competition- we even had a senior bring in her great grandfathers billy-club that he used as a sheriff in northern Utah.





Our Kane County Council on Aging board held a movie series where 5 movies were shown over 5 months. It was a great idea and had a good response from the community with sponsors and participants. We hope to do it again and get more participation.

Our Kane County Council on Aging board partnered with Kanab City and held an "Old Fashioned Hoedown" on Old Folks Day. It was well attended and a great event.

Old Folks Day 2025 - Grand Finale

An Old Fashioned COUNTRY HOEDOWN

October 1, 2025
Kanab Center Ballroom - 20 N 100 E
5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

RSVP Required **Raffles and Prizes**

Live Music by: THE BAKER BUNCH
RSVP by September 28th to reserve your seat!

<p>FREE for Seniors (age 60+) \$10 Suggested Donation for <60 Senior Companions</p> <p>It is easy to RSVP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scan the QR Code• Visit kanecountyseniors.com/hoedown• Visit Kanab Active Living Center 172 E 100 N, OR CALL 435-644-4320	<p>PROGRAM</p> <p>Country Dinner - 5:30 pm Smoked Brisket and all the Fixins</p> <p>Live Entertainment - 6:00 pm Yodeling - Gerta Palmer Cowboy Poetry: Sam Jackson, Harold Hamblin Laurali Noteman, Joyce Rhodes</p> <p>Dancing - 6:30pm Kick Up Your Heels on the Dance Floor</p>
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Brought to you by:

KANE COUNTY ACTIVE LIVING CENTERS
KANAB UTAH
KANAB CENTER
Southern Utah NEWS
KANAB
KANAB CUSTOM MEATS

With Special Thanks To:
Wanda Heaton (Grand Marshal)
Spencer Young (MC)
The Baker Bunch
Photography by Stacy Cox

For Halloween we invited the Kindergarten Classes into our centers in Kanab and Long Valley to come and “trick or treat” as well as having the seniors dress up. Our menu was also fun! Some of the classes performed a song. It was a hit for all!















Prom





Valentines exchange



Trivia Winners



Trivia Winners

Aging & Nutrition Advisory Board

Beaver:

Maby Amezcua, Coordinator, beaverseniors@infowest.com

Calvin Sly, P.O. Box 55, Beaver, UT 84713

Carma Sly, P.O. Box 55, Beaver, UT 84713

Pam McMullin, P.O. Box 1788, Beaver, UT 84713

Dennis Cox, P.O. Box 366, Milford, UT 84751

Kane:

Jerica Bauer, Coordinator, jbauer@kane.utah.gov

Wallace Gibson, P.O. Box 171, Orderville, UT 84758

Beverly Dinsmore, bevdinsmore@gmail.com

Cindy Turnquist, cindyturnquist@gmail.com

Wanda Heaton, Kanab, UT

Garfield:

Donna Chynoweth, Coordinator, donna.chynoweth@garfield.utah.gov

Judy Henrie, P.O. Box 23 Panguitch, Utah 84759

Ramona Sorenson, ramonajs38@gmail.com - **Chair**

Fran Wilson, P.O. Box 341 Escalante, Utah 84726 – **Co-Chair**

Sasha Haycock, Henrie P.O. Box 233 Escalante, Utah 84726

Iron:

Stephanie Rainey, Coordinator, srainey@ironcounty.net

Linda Liebhardt, linda.liebhardt@gmail.com

Victoria Garcia, vgarcia@ironcountyut.gov

Kathy Jennings, P.O. Box 600175, Paragonah, UT 84760

Mark Jennings P.O. Box 600175, Paragonah, UT 84760

Lori Slinn, lori.slinn@gmail.com

Washington:

Jacob Browning, Coordinator, jacob.browning@washco.utah.gov

Gayle Rohde, Gayle.rohde@gmail.com

Deanna Bringhurst, deannabring@gmail.com

Sherri Racz, St. George, UT 84790

Five County AAA Success Story March 2026.

A female veteran called the veterans advocate at Five County AAA. She was referred to the agency by her father. He previously worked with the veterans advocate at the agency. In the screening process we discovered she was forgoing medical treatment and testing because she lacked health insurance. Additionally getting appropriate medications were an issue for her. She was ordering at least one from another county because the cost in the US was prohibitive.

Other information gathered was, she was deployed to Turkey during Deseret Storm. With the parameters of the VA PACT Act, the veterans advocate informed her she was eligible for VA healthcare regardless of age or income. She was completely unaware of her eligibility.

Together we completed the necessary application. Provided it along with the required paperwork to prove service in Turkey in support of the Desert Storm mission. VA has now approved her for healthcare. She is in the process of getting established with specialty health care providers.

November 2025 Success Story

Veterans advocate at Five County Area Agency on Aging completed a VA Health Care application with a Veteran, under the PACT Act provisions. VHA denied the application on the grounds he failed to disclose income.

Veteran notified advocate of the denial. Together we filed an appeal. Because he works full-time it was obvious income reporting would result in a second denial. Thus, we centered the appeal on PACT Act provisions concerning toxic exposure classifications. Pointing out military toxic exposure evidence grants a veteran special health care enrollment eligibility. We also provided VA confirmation of toxic exposure.

The denial was overturned quickly. VHA enrolled the Veteran in health care. He now uses VHA for medications, primary and specialty health care. He is enjoying a good experience on the VA Health Care program.

SCP Client Quotes

My Senior Companion has a wonderful disposition. I am always glad to see her. She is well informed- can answer questions- is the most effective advisor- encouraging me to follow doctors orders etc. I can only say my life would be very lonely etc. without this service. I hope to regain my health (and I have made some progress) it is slow, but it is going in the right direction.

Dear Five County Association,

I don't know what I'd do without your Senior Companion Program! I am totally satisfied with the program and pray that it will never be discontinued.

My Senior Companion is everything anyone could ask for in a friend. She is always happy and quick with a smile. She takes time to sit down and have a conversation with me which is a real add! I'm alone, but not lonely thanks to Barabara and her caring.

The trips to doctors, for groceries, and the Post Office are all highly appreciated, but the companionship is beyond measure the best part!

Thank you for all you do to help us-

Sincerely,

SCP Client

I am so thankful for my senior companion. She is so helpful with my appts. And makes sure I eat my meals. Very caring and we get along very well.

This is a blessing for the elderly. It helps knowing there is someone that cares about you.

More people need to know about this service. Thank you so very much Five County Association.



Gift from students for FGP



SCP and FGP (Husband and Wife)



Today we honor Norma, an AmeriCorps Seniors Senior Companion who served the Parowan community for 26 years. She gave countless hours—many beyond what was ever recorded—and became a true friend, even family, to those she cared for.

Norma's smile, laughter, and genuine kindness touched every life she entered. Her impact will continue to be felt in our community for years to come.

Thank you, Norma, for your dedication, your heart, and your service. You will be deeply missed.



Dear Norma,

I would like to express our gratitude as Parowan City for your many wonderful and appreciated years of service to the residents of Parowan. The time and commitment you have given so generously and freely to those who needed your services at the most critical times of their lives makes you a hero in our eyes as you selflessly serve day after day and year after year. The friendship and companionship you have extended is an example of kindness and goodness that is rare in the world we live in and especially for all the years you have provided this kind and tender care. You are truly an angel here on earth. A thousand thank yours from Parowan, we appreciate and love you and share the joy in honoring you on this very special day of recognition of your service for 25 years.

I truly am in awe of you

Sincerely,

Mayor Mollie Halterman (June 2024)



5 County AOG

AmeriCorps Seniors
Served **22,200** Hours
last year!

To Plant a Garden is to
Dream of Tomorrow!

-Audrey Hepburn

We couldn't have
PICKED any better
VOLUNTEERS!

Thanks for **ALL** you **DO!**
We Appreciate **YOU!**

Our best volunteers
are referrals from **YOU!**

STAFF

AMERICORPS SENIORS PROGRAM

DARIN BUSHMAN
Executive Director of
Five County AOG

CARRIE SCHONLAW
Deputy Director of
Five County AOG
Director of Aging

SCP and FGP

EMILY VANLEHN
Coordinator

TASHA WATSON
Assistant

RSVP

MARIA BAILEY
Director

TASHA WATSON
Assistant

AMERICORPS SENIORS

Garden Party

AmeriCorps Seniors
Volunteer
Recognition
2026

We Grow Together
in Service



AmeriCorps
Seniors



WELCOME &

RSVP Attachment 6

RETIRED AND SENIOR VOLUNTEERS YEARS OF SERVICE

PAM ADAMS - 1
ANDIE ANDERSON - 8
MARY AVELAR - 1
ERIN BITTEROLF - 1
SHERRIE BONSELL - 1
VIKI BOWMAN - NEW
PATTI BROWNMYER - 5
JULIE BYBEE - 2
PAM CHAMBERS - 4
DARLA COPE - 4
CAROLINE DAVIS - NEW
JOHN EHRIG - 1
NEAL EIBER - 1
NATE ENCE - 3
ALLA FAYDA - NEW
JILLYN FISHBACK - 1
LELAND FISHBACK - 1
GAYLE HAAS - 3
ROXANNE HANSEN - 1
MARGIE HAWS - NEW
CHRIS HAYCOCK - 8
CHERI HAYES - 5
JEROME HEAVYRUNNER - 4
TRACY HEAVYRUNNER - 4
LARAINA HUFF - 6
KWANA JACKSON - NEW
MARILYN JAMISON - 6
ROBYN JENSEN - 9
WARREN JONES - 1
BERNADETTE KANE-COLE - 7
TERI KOENIG - 8
JESSIE KRAMER - 7
ANITA LAWS - 4
JERI LAWRENCE - 7
BARB LEWIS - 2
BRIAN LONG - 7

JONI LYMAN - 3
SANDRA MCBRATNEY - 2
WENDY MCQUAY - 2
TANYA MEEKS - 3
SARIAH MEREDITH - 3
DIANE MERRILL - 1
DON MOBERLY - 2
BECKY MOBERLY - 6
SHARON MORSE - 7
STEPHANIE MOSQUEDA - 6
SUSAN NIEDERT - 2
VICKY OLSON - 7
ELIZABETH PETERSON - 8
LINDA PETERSON - 8
DANIEL POTTS - 3
PATRICIA POTTS - 3
LESHA REITANO - 1
ANN REYNOLDS - 7
KATHLEEN REYNOLDS - 8
ALAN ROBINSON - 4
D ANNE ROBINSON - 6
LESLIE SCHLESINGER - 5
PETER SCHLESINGER - 5
JEANEE SHAKESPEARE - 3
JERRY SLAUGHENHAUPT - 1
SUSAN SLAUGHENHAUPT - 1
CALVIN SLY - 7
CARMA SLY - 7
ALEX TREMBLE - 1
NETTIE TREMBLE - 1
MARCI VANVLEET - 1
CARLIE WARDELL - 4
CHRIS WHALEN - 4
MARGIE WHARTON
FRAN WILSON - 5
TERRY WITKOWSKI - 8

INTRODUCTIONS



LUNCH

ENTERTAINMENT

NISSON BROTHERS

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES



ADVISORY BOARDS

SCP and FGP

Corbin Booth, Wendy Brown,
Kathy Hall, Patte McGuire-Hansen,
Jaden Parra, Pamela Jensen,
John Gordon, Gary Nelson

RSVP

Jordan Merrill, Teri Koenig, Gayle Haas,
Joni Lyman, Tracy Heavyrunner,
Jerome Heavyrunner Bethany Hill,
Brad Cottam, Terry Cottam

SENIOR COMPANIONS YEARS OF SERVICE

JACKIE BAKER - 5
JANE BRESCIA - 3
JEAN BROWN - 1
TREVIE CLARK - 2
LAVON HINTON - 13
MARY HOADLEY - 3
SUE KATES - 1
MARGARET KISSER - 7
ANNE MACDONALD - 12
BOB MACDONALD - 11
DIANE MOORE - 1
GARY NELSON - 3
JOSEPH PERILLI - 6
DEANNA RAY - 2
VICTORIA TANNER - 1
BARBARA WHITTON - 12
TRUDY ZUFELT - 1

FOSTER GRANDPARENTS YEARS OF SERVICE

PAT BOSCHETTO - 1
BECKY DAVIS - 1
SANDY DEE - 17
JOHN GORDON - 17
LINDA JAYNES - 13
NANCY KENNEDY - 7
TERESA NELSON - 4
EMILY ORTEZ - 16
RONDA WILLIS - 9





SECOND CDBG PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

Five County Association of Governments SECOND CDBG PUBLIC HEARING

PUBLIC HEARING HELD at 1070 West 1600 South, Bldg. B, St. George, UT 84770 on May 5, 2026 at 5:00

PM

The Five County Association of Governments second CDBG public hearing was held on May 5, 2026 in the Five County Association of Governments, St. George Office Building, 1070 West 1600 South, Bldg. B, St. George, Ut 84770. The meeting commenced at 5:01 pm.

Hearing Link: https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_YTY1ZDE2MWEtMTgyYS00ThjLWFkNTAtYTZINTc2NjBIZWQ1%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22307050b5-4fc5-4a13-8d7f-7210a6ac12ee%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%221a74e1f2-0fc1-43d8-a461-5892e6d5d9c5%22%7d

Present: Michael Johnson – Five County Association of Governments
Kevin Smedley – Five County Association of Governments

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PUBLIC HEARING:

Michael Johnson opened the second public hearing for the CDBG program. Michael Johnson stated that this hearing was called to allow all citizens to provide input concerning the project that was awarded under the 2026 Community Development Block Grant Program. The Five County Association of Governments has amended its capital investment plan and decided to apply for funds on behalf of the Admin and Planning Project, Regional Planning Project, and Vehicle Acquisition Project. Michael Johnson explained that the application was successful in the regional rating and ranking process and each of the projects were awarded the following: \$50,000 for Admin and Planning, \$50,000 for Regional Planning, and \$148,073 for FCAOG Vehicle Acquisition. Michael Johnson explained the projects to those in attendance. Michael Johnson then asked for any comments, questions and concerns from the audience. There were no comments made and the hearing was adjourned at 5:02 PM.



**FIVE COUNTY ANNUAL ACTION PLAN PUBLIC HEARING
Wednesday, April 15, 2026, 5:00 PM**

Five County Association of Governments Office, Large Conference Room,
1070 West 1600 South Bldg. B, St. George, UT 84770

Electronic participation in the meeting:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/272925118096642?p=btaHWuVRSyY72QHDFG>

Public Hearing Commenced: 5:06 PM

Public Hearing Adjourned: 5:08 PM

Present: Executive Director, Darin Bushman
Program Manager, Michael Johnson
Public in Attendance: None

Five County HUD Annual Action Plan Public Hearing

At 5:06 PM, Michael Johnson welcomed everyone who joined the hearing and introduced himself as the Program Manager. Darin Bushman introduced himself as the Executive Director.

Michael detailed that the purpose of the public hearing was to provide citizens with information regarding the Five County section of the Annual Action Plan and to allow the public to provide input and comments regarding the Plan. The Five County Section of the Annual Action Plan documented community-wide dialogue to identify housing and community development priorities that align and focus funding from the Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant Program in our region.

Michael described that the Five County AOG updates the Annual Action Plan annually and details the region's housing, community development, homeless, and other special needs by assessing the (CDBG) program, through collaboration with Continuum of Care, Housing Authorities, and other such organizations, administered by the Five County AOG, local non-profits, and communities in our region. She explained that the region's report will be incorporated in the Utah Annual Action Plan.

A 30-day public comment period for this plan began on February 26, 2026, and ended on March 28, 2026. The plan was available for review at the Five County AOG offices at 1070 W 1600 S, Building B. in St. George Utah. The plan was posted to the Five County Website at www.fivecountyecon.org, where interested persons may still view it.

Michael asked that members of the public wishing to comment on the plan to please begin with their name so comments could be included in the final draft of the Annual Action Plan document.

No comments were heard from the public.

Michael stated that no one from the public joined the meeting, nor were any written comments received within the 30-day window. Seeing that there was no public comment, Michael closed the public hearing at 5:08 PM.

Michael Johnson

Minutes prepared by: Michael Johnson
FCAOG – Program Manager



Witnessed by: Darin Bushman
FCAOG - Executive Director



State of Utah

SPENCER J. COX
Governor

DEIDRE HENDERSON
Lieutenant Governor

Department of
Environmental Quality

Tim Davis
Executive Director

DIVISION OF AIR QUALITY
Bryce C. Bird
Director

DAQE-NN109070002-26

March 18, 2026

Daily Spectrum
Legal Advertising Department
275 E Street
St. George, UT 84770

RE: Legal Notice of Intent to Approve

This letter will confirm the authorization to publish the attached NOTICE in the Daily Spectrum on March 22, 2026.

Please mail the invoice and affidavit of publication to the Utah State Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Air Quality, P.O. Box 144820, Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-4820. If you have any questions, contact Jeree Greenwood, who may be reached at (385) 306-6514.

Sincerely,

Jeree Greenwood
Office Technician

Enclosure

cc: Washington County
cc: Five County Association of Governments

NOTICE

A Notice of Intent for the following project submitted in accordance with R307-401-1, Utah Administrative Code (UAC), has been received for consideration by the Director:

- Company Name:** Staker & Parson Companies d.b.a. Western Rock Products
Location: Western Rock Products Corporation - Sorenson Facility – 411 South Landfill Road, Washington, UT
- Project Description:** Western Rock Products (Western Rock) operates an aggregate and concrete plant located in the Sorenson Pit approximately five (5) miles east of Washington City, Utah. Western Rock operates crushers, screens, and concrete batching equipment. The Sorenson Facility pit produces up to 2,000,000 tons per year of processed aggregate material and 200,000 cubic yards per year of concrete. Western Rock has requested a modification to its Approval Order to update equipment, increase aggregate plant production, and remove the asphalt plant from the site. Emissions have been adjusted to reflect the proposed changes.

The completed engineering evaluation and air quality impact analysis showed the proposed project meets the requirements of federal air quality regulations and the State air quality rules. The Director intends to issue an Approval Order pending a 30-day public comment period. The project proposal, estimate of the effect on local air quality, and draft Approval Order are available for public inspection and comment at the Utah Division of Air Quality, 195 North 1950 West, Salt Lake City, UT 84116. Written comments received by the Division at this same address on or before April 21, 2026, will be considered in making the final decision on the approval/disapproval of the proposed project. Email comments will also be accepted at ehc@utah.gov. If anyone so requests to the Director in writing within 15 days of publication of this notice, a hearing will be held in accordance with R307-401-7, UAC.

Under Section 19-1-301.5, a person who wishes to challenge a Permit Order may only raise an issue or argument during an adjudicatory proceeding that was raised during the public comment period and was supported with sufficient information or documentation to enable the Director to fully consider the substance and significance of the issue. **Date of Notice: March 22, 2026**



Michelle E. McConkie
Executive Director

2031 South Industrial Park Road
Richfield, Utah 84701
Phone: (435)896-2559
www.trustlands.utah.gov

March 19, 2026

Five County Association of Governments
Attn: Executive Director
1070 West 1600 South, Bldg. B
St. George, Utah 84770

RE: Range Improvement Project (RIP) No. 584-B

Dear Executive Director:

This letter is to inform you that the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) recently submitted the above referenced proposal for a Range Improvement Project (RIP) within your Association of Governments jurisdiction.

Enclosed for your review is a map containing general information about the RIP proposal. Information about this project can be found online in the RDCC Project Management System.

Please review the enclosed information at your convenience and submit any comments or concerns by April 6, 2026.

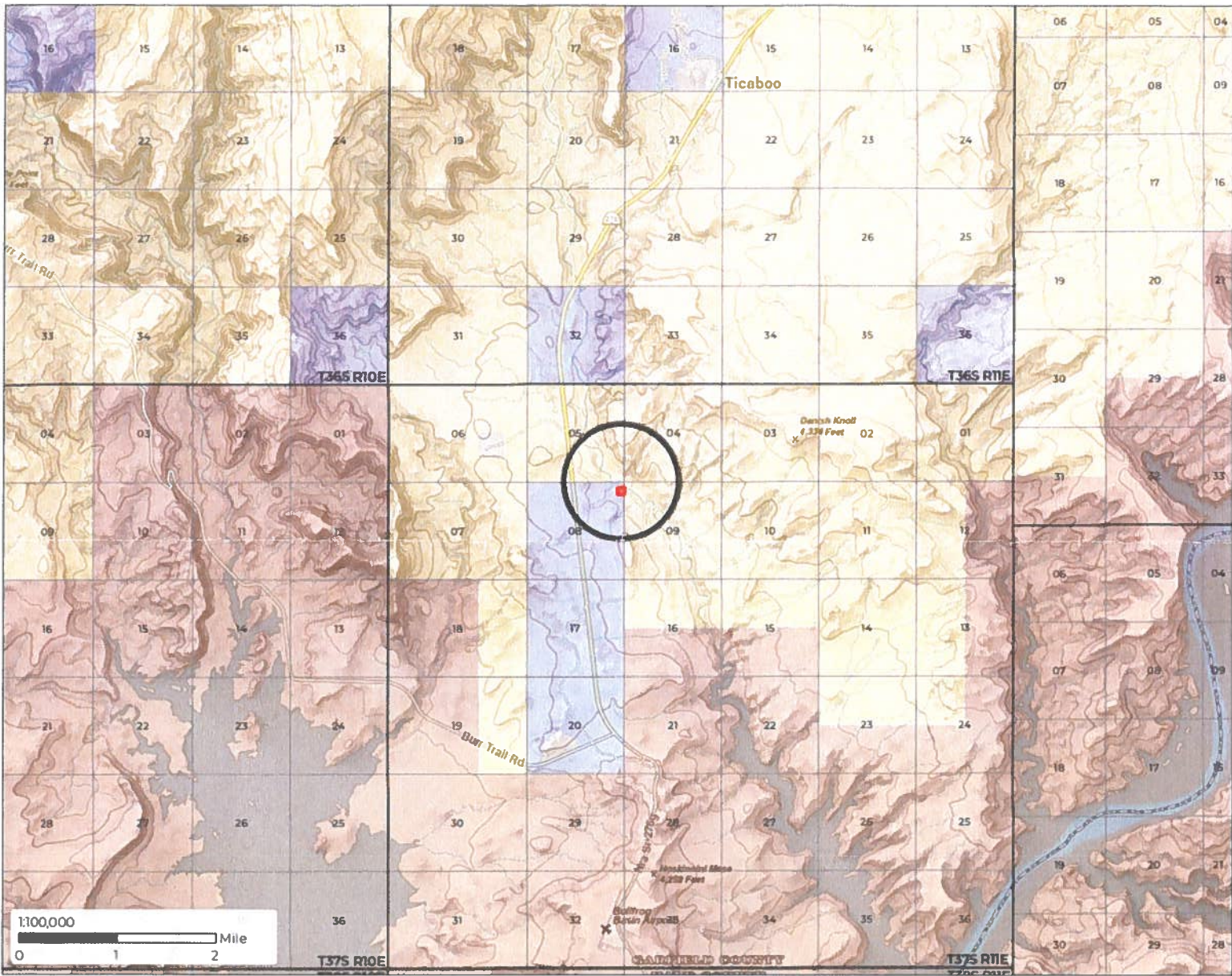
Feel free to contact me with any questions you may have at (435) 893-2981.

Sincerely,

Christa Nielson for
Slate Stewart
Rangeland Resources Manager

SS/cn

Enclosures: Map
RDCC Posting



Range Improvement No. 584-B

Within T 37S, R 11E, Sec. 8 SLB&M

Garfield County

 RIP 584-B (2.50 Acres)

Land Ownership & Administration

- Bureau of Land Management
- National Recreation Area
- Private
- State Trust Lands
- State Sovereign Land
- Other State



Data representing on this map is for REFERENCE USE ONLY and is not suitable for legal engineering or surveying purposes. Users of this information should review or consult the primary data and information sources to ascertain the validity of the information. The Trust Lands Administration provides this data in good faith and shall not be liable for any, incorrect results, claims, special, indirect or consequential damages to any party, arising out of or in connection with the use or the inability to use the data hereon. Land parcels, lease boundaries and associated Trust Lands Administration data layers may have been adjusted to allow for visual best fit. The Surface Ownership Land Status data (if present) are maintained by the Trust Lands Administration to reflect current Trust Lands status and surface ownership. Lakes, rivers, streams, highways, roads, county, and state boundaries are data taken by the Utah Geospatial Resource Center and other sources as specified. Contour lines (if present) were generated from USGS 10 meter DEM. Please Note: While the Trust Lands Administration seeks to verify data for accuracy, and content discrepancies may exist within the data. Acquiring the most updated Trust Lands Administration ownership GIS data may require contacting the GIS Support directly: 801-538-5100 or TLA_GIS@utah.gov. The Trust Lands Administration GIS Department welcomes your comments and concerns regarding this data and will attempt to resolve issues as they are brought to our attention. Produced September 16, 2025. 4/20/2025

Title: RIP 584-B, Rockies - Hansen Creek Water Well System

Sponsor: *Trust Lands Administration*

Federal ID:

Project Start Date: April 18, 2026

Location: Township 37 South, Range 11 East, SLB&M Section 8: SE4NE4NE4NE4 (Within) 2.5 Acres

Counties: Garfield

Project Deadline:

Has local government been contacted: Yes

Date local government contacted: March 13, 2026

Aquisition:

Date of Aquisition:

Have the state representative and state senator been contacted?

Project Abstract:

"Rockies - Hansen Creek Water Well System" located in eastern Garfield County near Ticaboo, includes:

Drilling of one stock water well and installation of a solar pump system, short pipeline, storage tank, two troughs and fencing around the wellhead infrastructure. The project will provide "off-site" water and improve grazing distribution within the area.

How is the local government(s) likely to be impacted?:

No negative impacts expected.

Possible significant impacts likely to occur:

Improved livestock conditions with better distribution as well as pulling pressure off existing water sources. The well will be drilled near an existing corral where the surface has already been disturbed.



TRUST LANDS ADMINISTRATION

SUPPORTING UTAH SCHOOLS AND INSTITUTIONS

Michelle E. McConkie
Executive Director

102 South 200 East, Suite #600
Salt Lake City UT 84111
801-538-5100 Fax 801-355-0922
trustlands.utah.gov

April 7, 2026

Five County Association of Governments
1070 West 1600 South
Saint George, Utah 84770

Dear Sir or Madam,

Subject: Public Notice – RNBL 59

Please find an enclosed copy of a public notice involving state trust lands in Beaver County. You are being notified of this action because you are an affected governmental agency.

If you wish to comment on this matter or have questions, you may respond in writing to the address on this letterhead, or I can be reached at 801-538-5157.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Rachel Boyack
Lease Manager
Energy & Minerals

Enclosures

USPS Certified Mail: 9589 0710 5270 2162 3520 17

PUBLIC NOTICE

The State of Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration has received an application to lease the following described acreage in Beaver County, Utah:

Township 27 South, Range 10 West, SLB&M

Section 5: Lots 1–2, S2NE4, SE4NW4, NE4SW4, S2SW4, SE4

Section 6: Lot 7, SE4SW4

Section 8: All

Section 17: N2NW4

Township 27 South, Range 11 West, SLB&M

Section 1: All

Containing 1,920.45 acres, more or less.

Any individual wishing to submit a competing application to purchase, lease, or exchange all or part of the above-described property must file an application along with the required application fee(s). Competing applications must be received by the Trust Lands Administration no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 11, 2026.

Trust Lands Administration
102 South 200 East, Suite 600
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111
Attn: Energy & Minerals

The Trust Lands Administration reserves the right to reject any application or subsequent bids. For additional information, please contact Rachel Boyack at 801-538-5157.



TRUST LANDS ADMINISTRATION

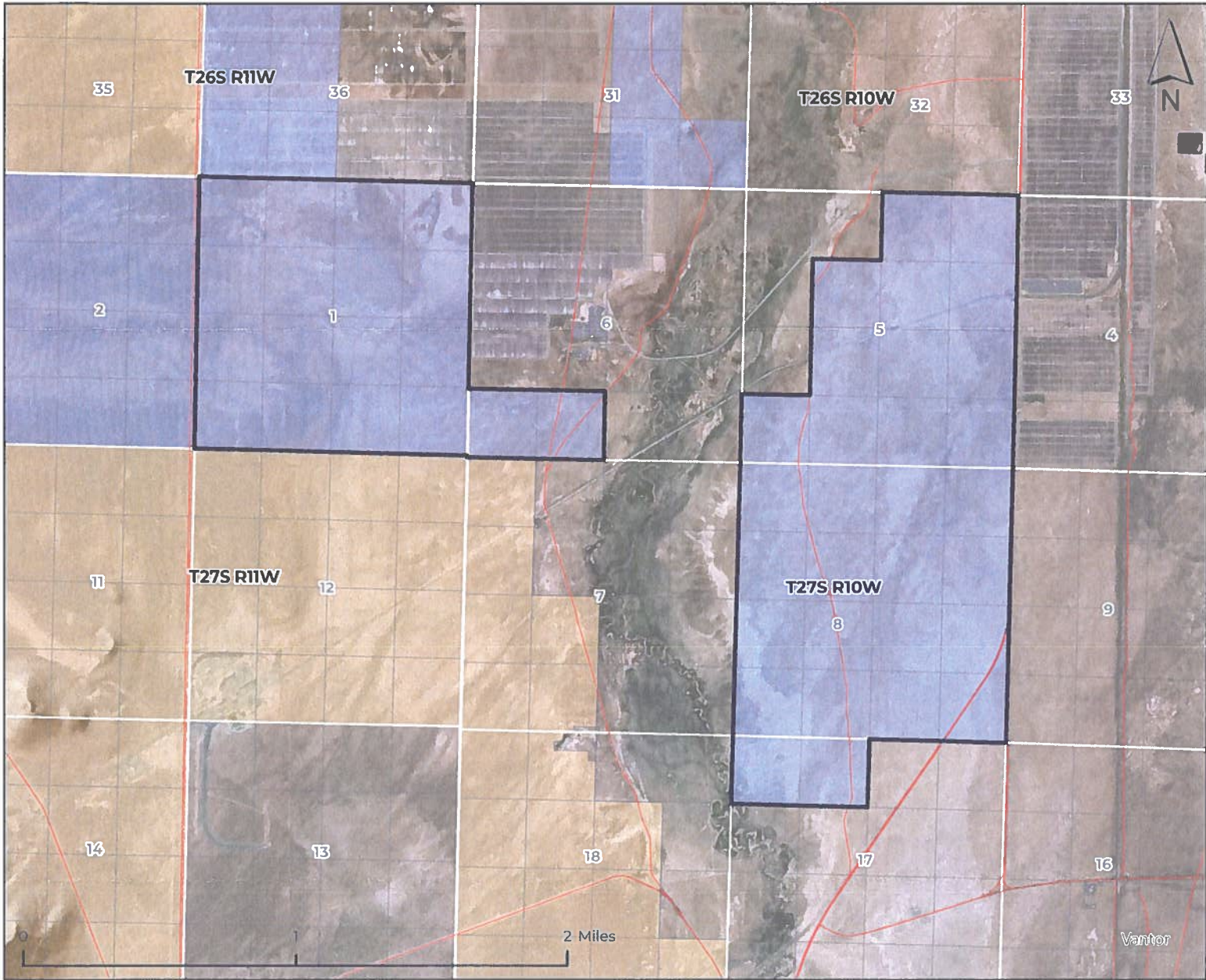
SUPPORTING UTAH SCHOOLS AND INSTITUTIONS

Renewable Lease No. 59

Township 27 South, Range 10 & 11 West, SLB&M

Within Section 1, 2, 5, 6, 8 & 17 - 2,581.2 Acres

Beaver County



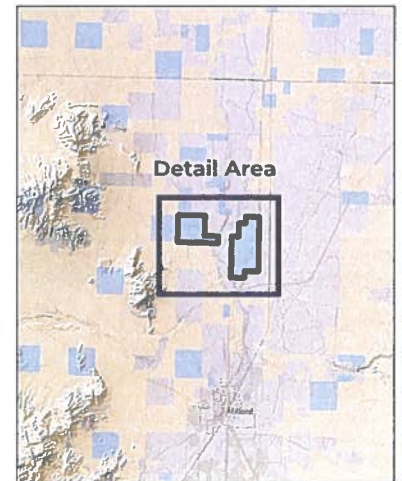
Renewable Lease No. 59

Land Ownership and Administration

Bureau of Land Management

Private

State Trust Lands



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SUPPORTING UTAH SCHOOLS AND INSTITUTIONS

2031 South Industrial Park Road
Richfield, Utah 84701
Phone: (435)896-2559
www.trustlands.utah.gov

Michelle E. McConkie
Executive Director

May 1, 2026

Five County Association of Governments
Attn: Executive Director
1070 West 1600 South, Bldg. B
St. George, Utah 84770

RE: Range Improvement Project (RIP) No. 1058 – Liza Wash Fence and Water Improvement

Dear Executive Director:

This letter is to inform you that the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) recently submitted the above referenced proposal for a Range Improvement Project (RIP) within your Association of Governments jurisdiction.

Enclosed for your review is a map containing general information about the RIP proposal. Information about this project can be found online in the RDCC Project Management System, Project ID #87230

Please review the enclosed information at your convenience and submit any comments or concerns by May 22, 2026

Feel free to contact me with any questions you may have at (801)538-5134.

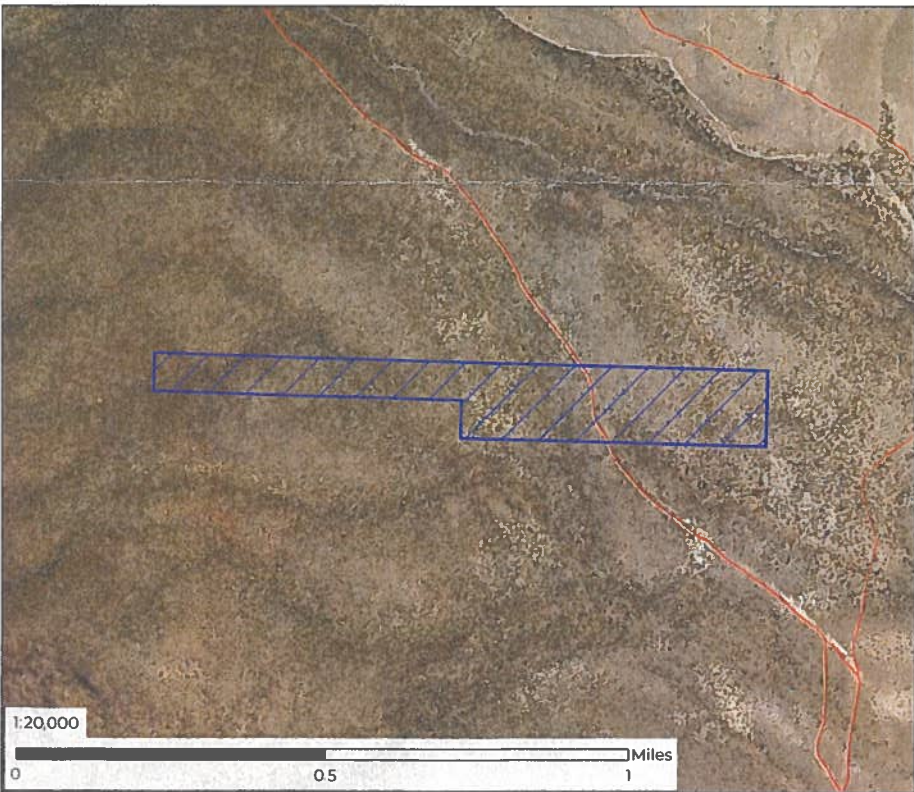
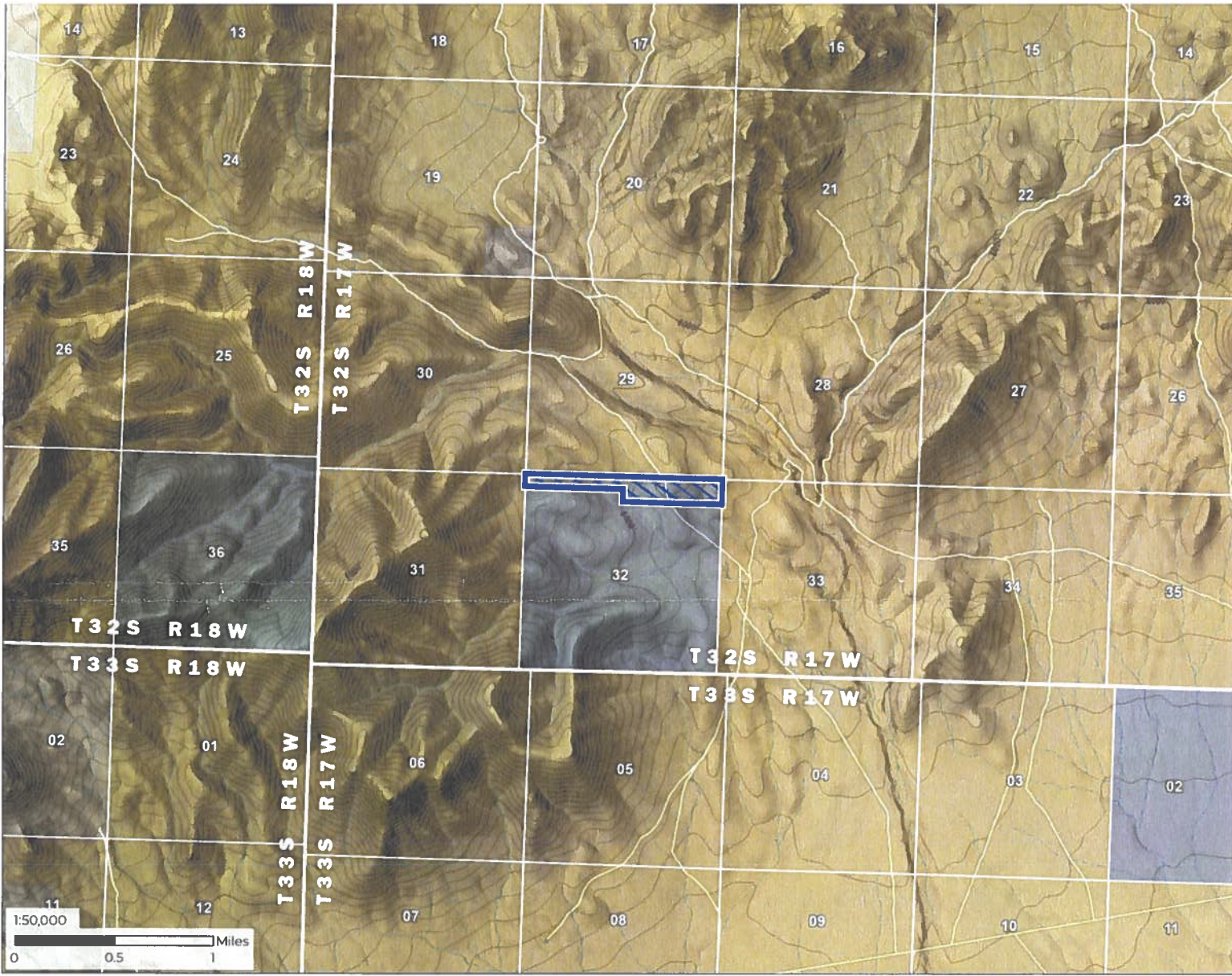
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christa Nielson".

Christa Nielson for
Ethan Hallows
Rangeland Resources Manager

EH/cn

Enclosures: Map







Range Improvement Project No. 1058

Liza Wash Fence and Water Improvement

60 Acres

Iron County

-  Range Improvement Project
- Land Ownership & Administration**
-  Bureau of Land Management
-  Private
-  State Trust Lands



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Document Path: V:\GIS\GIS_Group\Colo\Map_Templates\Templates_Ball.aprx

RDCC Project: 87230

Zoom to

Title: Liza Wash Fence and Water Development (RIP 1058)

Sponsor: *Trust Lands Administration*

Federal ID:

Project Start Date: June 1, 2026

Location: 37.981138, -113.775307

Counties: Iron

Project Deadline:

Has local government been contacted: Yes

Date local government contacted: April 30, 2026

Aquisition:

Date of Aquisition:

Have the state representative and state senator been contacted?

Project Abstract:

Trust Lands Administration has received an application from the grazing permittee to install 500 ft of 2 inch HDPE pipe, and a new water trough, and build 1 mile of 4 strand barb wire fence on their grazing permit. There is an existing spring that will be redeveloped and piped into a trough. The TLA/BLM boundary will be fenced.

The purpose of the proposal is to improve grazing management through the development of more, reliable, clean water sources for livestock and wildlife. This project will help distribute livestock and wildlife resulting in more even utilization throughout the allotment.

How is the local government(s) likely to be impacted?:

No significant impacts anticipated.

Possible significant impacts likely to occur:

N/A



SUPPORTING UTAH SCHOOLS AND INSTITUTIONS

2031 South Industrial Park Road
Richfield, Utah 84701
Phone: (435)896-2559
www.trustlands.utah.gov

Michelle E. McConkie
Executive Director

May 4, 2026

Five County Association of Governments
Attn: Executive Director
1070 West 1600 South, Bldg. B
St. George, Utah 84770

RE: Range Improvement Project (RIP) No. 1077 – Whittaker Pipeline Project

Dear Executive Director:

This letter is to inform you that the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) recently submitted the above referenced proposal for a Range Improvement Project (RIP) within your Association of Governments jurisdiction.

Enclosed for your review is a map containing general information about the RIP proposal. Information about this project can be found online in the RDCC Project Management System, Project ID #87229

Please review the enclosed information at your convenience and submit any comments or concerns by May 25, 2026.

Feel free to contact me with any questions you may have at (801)538-5134.

Sincerely,

Christa Nielson for
Ethan Hallows
Rangeland Resources Manager

EH/cn

Enclosures: Map

RDCC Project: 87229

Zoom to

Title: Whitaker Pipeline Extension Project (RIP 1077)

Sponsor: *Trust Lands Administration*

Federal ID:

Project Start Date: June 1, 2026

Location: 38.378120, -112.871812

Counties: Beaver

Project Deadline:

Has local government been contacted: Yes

Date local government contacted: April 30, 2026

Aquisition:

Date of Aquisition:

Have the state representative and state senator been contacted?

Project Abstract:

Trust Lands Administration has received an application from the grazing permittee to install a mile of 2 inch HDPE pipe and a new trough on their grazing permit. The water source will come from an existing BLM pipeline. This project is part of a larger water distribution project on BLM lands. The project is in the Whitaker and Mineral Range BLM Allotments.

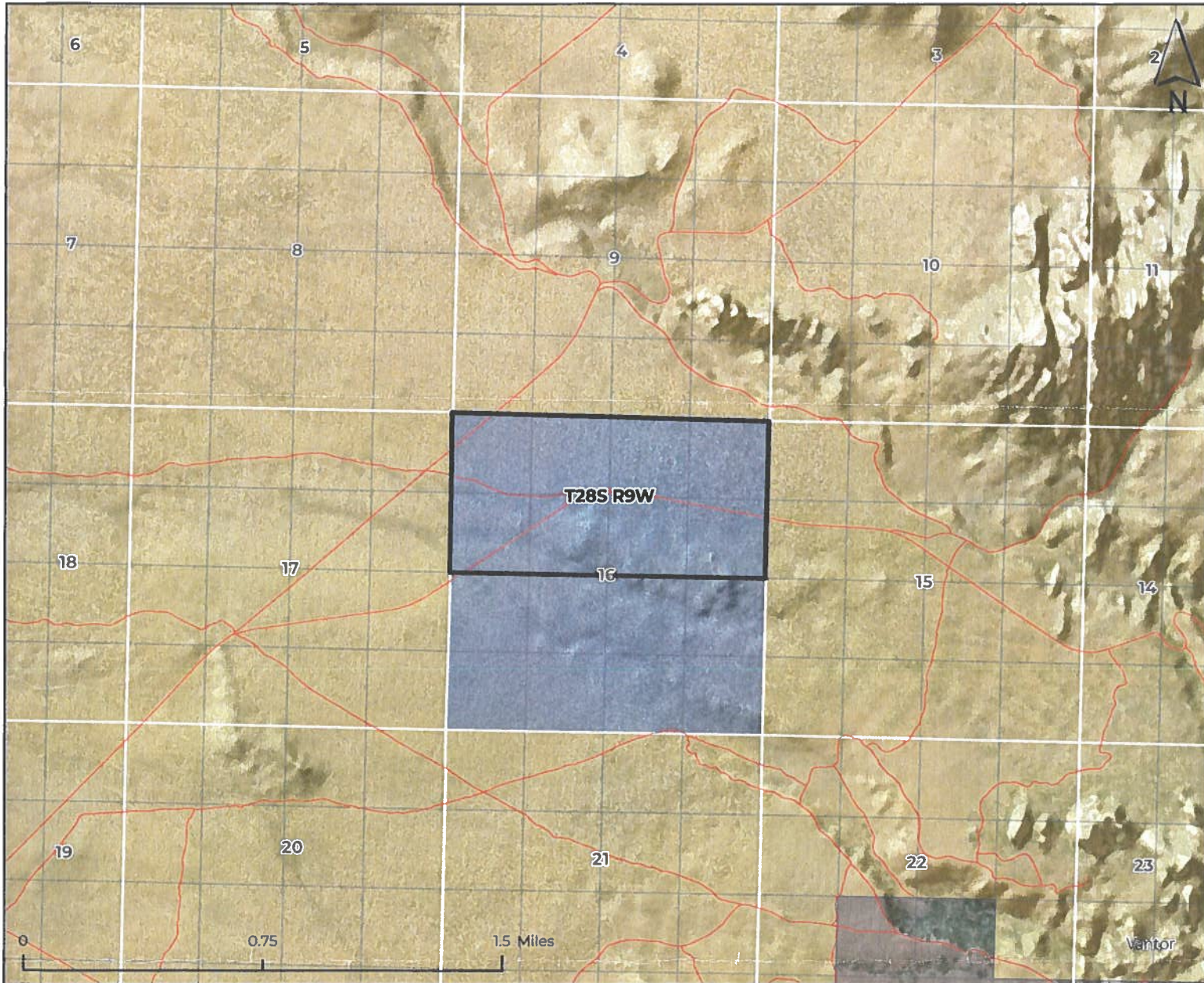
The purpose of the proposal is to improve grazing management through the development of more, reliable, clean water sources for livestock and wildlife. This project will help distribute livestock and wildlife resulting in more even utilization throughout the allotment.

How is the local government(s) likely to be impacted?:

No significant impacts anticipated.

Possible significant impacts likely to occur:

N/A



 Range Improvement Project No. 1077

Land Ownership and Administration

 Bureau of Land Management

 Private

 State Trust Lands



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