



County Economic Opportunity Board

July 16, 2026

3:30 p.m.

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

DRAFT

1. Welcome & Roll Call

Chairman John Perez called the meeting to order at 3:33 pm, and took a roll call showing himself, Bill Cobabe, Kathleen VonHatten, Tyson Hamilton.

Also in attendance were Jess Clifford, Ryan Englund, and Rachelle Custer.

2. Meeting Minutes

A. Minutes from the April 16, 2026 Meeting

MOTION AND VOTE

Attachments

1. April 16, 2026 CEO Board Meeting Minutes_DRAFT.pdf

Kathleen VonHatten made a motion to approve the April 16, 2026 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

3. Presentations

A. Preview of the Small Business Development Center's (SBDC) annual County Council presentation on its impact in Tooele County, Jess Clifford

Jess Clifford provided an impact report and presentation on the Small Business Development Center. Jess stated the impact on the county was nearly two and a half million dollars' worth of cash infusion — loans, grants, investments, etc. That is combined with about \$960,000 in reported sales increases. This is reported by survey via the business owners. The county has realized a 55 to 1 cost benefit ratio this year. So far this year, we've served about 67 clients, including about 200 hours of counseling and 20 jobs created through businesses started.

Jess stated we opened our doors in late 2018. At that time, the county signed an MOU to assist the SBDC with \$15,000 a year. They did that through 2023. Then we asked for an increase to \$20,000, which is where we're at now. That is about \$130,000 that the county has invested so far. This year the cost to benefit ratio is \$8.45 to the dollar. If you go back

and average from 2018, it's about \$144 to the dollar. Since 2018, there's been a little over \$21.5 million of impact to the area. That's an average of about \$3 million a year. There have been 737 jobs created since 2018. The number is self-reported; we do not audit that. The confidentiality at the SBDC is federally driven. It is very strict and because of that, most businesses are willing to share their financials etc. with us.

Jess stated the SBA released some findings showing that over 50% of small business starts will not make it through their first year, but 70% *will* make it if they engage counseling or assistance in their first year. It vastly increases their chances. After engaging counseling, their financial management, marketing management, etc. significantly improve.

Jess shared a video of the business that the SBDC chose to spotlight as the Business of the Year this year. He stated it's empowering to be able to help business owners that are good at what they do, but don't always know how to run the business side of things. We often vote on things and it's nice to see the result of what we vote for.

4. Action Items - Grants

A. FY2027 Rural County Part A discussion and recommendation

Discussion and vote on the recommendation to the County Council for the FY2027 Rural County Application (sample budget attached).

Attachments

1. FY2027 Rural County Part A Grant Sample Budget.pdf

John stated that the grant rollover for next year is just over \$17,000. Rachelle stated that is what is left from the businesses that were awarded funding but did not submit for reimbursement.

Tyson recommended moving \$2,000 from the Small Business Grants to the Placer.Ai software line in the budget, since there will be extra funding from this year's funds. Kathleen agreed.

John asked about the Economic Plan update. Kathleen asked how long it had been since it had been updated. Rachelle stated it's been about 6 years since the full study was done and it was updated about 3 years ago. There is a lot of new development and things changing in the cities, you could give it another year to see how things shake out. Tyson stated I think we should push the Economic Development Plan to next year.

Motion to recommend the Rural County Part A Grant sample budget with the change of \$10,000 allocated to Placer.Ai and \$81,600 to the Small Business Sub-grants to the County Council by Tyson Hamilton. 2nd Bill Cobabe. All in favor. The motion passed.

5. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Kathleen VonHatten. 2nd by John Perez. All in favor. Time of adjournment 3:59 pm.

FY2027 Rural County Part A Grant Sample Budget (as previously discussed by the board)

1. Small Business Development Center \$20,000

2. Subscription to [Placer.AI](#) Software \$8,000

3. Small Business sub-grants \$83,600

4. Administration \$20,000

5. Economic Development Contractor \$68,400

Total: \$200,000

FY2027 Rural County Part A Grant Recommended Budget

1. Small Business Development Center \$20,000
 2. Subscription to [Placer.AI](#) Software \$10,000
 3. Small Business sub-grants \$81,600
 4. Administration \$20,000
 5. Economic Development Contractor \$68,400
- Total: \$200,000