



Memo

To: City Council

From: Shannon Scott, Economic Development Manager

Date: 8/2/2021

Re: Northwest Colorado Development Council Redi Grant Matching Funds

In May of 2021, the regional partners of the Northwest Colorado Development Council agreed to apply for a Rural Resiliency and Recovery Roadmaps grant through the Department of Local Affairs. The grant will assist with bringing on a contracted project manager and administrative assistant to work on economic development, project development and coordinated regional planning for the NW Colorado Region for approximately two years. The partners were informed on 6/9/21 that the application had been accepted. Routt County will be the fiscal agent, and the contracted staff will be selected by and will report to the NWCDC Board. There is also \$200,000 invested in the project to fund two separate regional planning processes – currently targeted for economic development and housing and/or transportation.

NWCDC was originally advised that this grant would not require matching funds, however the DOLA field rep came back to the partners after the pro/con to say that NWCDC would need to provide a match to the project. He developed a revised budget, which requires \$145,312 in matching funds to leverage \$435,938 in grant funds. The DOLA field rep has worked with and now secured Just Transitions to pay half of that match, reducing the amount to roughly \$75,000. The matching funds would need to be paid during the *two year* period of the grant, which actually spans three calendar years.

DOLA staff rated this project highly, and so with a revision to the budget to provide matching funds, it is highly likely that the grant will be funded.

At their monthly meeting conducted on 7/27/21, The NWCDC Board unanimously voted to move forward with the grant and agree to providing the matching funds. The NWCDC staff liaison suggestion for the matching funds was that each of the five larger partners – Routt County, Moffat County, Rio Blanco County, City of Steamboat Springs, and City of Craig – would split the match. This is roughly \$15,000 over the two-year period of the grant.

After further consideration, the City of Craig staff proposed two alternatives to include all 10 partners of the NWCDC to contribute to the \$75,000 match:

Option 1: The 5 larger partners would pay \$10,000 each and the 5 smaller partners would pay \$5,000 each.

Option 2: All of the 10 entities split the match evenly, so \$7,500 per entity.

The 10 partners include:

- Moffat County
- Rout County
- Rio Blanco County
- City of Craig
- City of Steamboat Springs
- Town of Hayden
- Town of Oak Creek
- Town of Yampa
- Town of Meeker
- Town of Rangely