



May 20, 2026

Economic Development Administration
1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Suite 71014
Washington, DC 20230

RE: Letter of Support for the Northwest Colorado Innovation Center Grant Application

Dear EDA Review Committee,

On behalf of the Associated Governments of Northwest Colorado (AGNC), I am writing to express our strongest support for the grant application submitted by the Northwest Colorado Innovation Center (NCIC) to the Economic Development Administration Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance program for funding to develop a building in Craig, Colorado, to serve as a rural hub for economic development.

As the federally designated Economic Development District for Northwest Colorado, representing the counties of Garfield, Mesa, Moffat, Rio Blanco, and Routt, and all municipalities therein, AGNC is committed to working with project partners such as NCIC to advance strategic economic improvements across the region. The proposed hub will serve as the permanent home of the Northwest Colorado Innovation Center and provide shared space for economic development partners, entrepreneurs, and industry training programs. Its location in Craig is strategic, placing this critical resource in the heart of the coal transition region.

The proposed Northwest Colorado Innovation Center also directly advances AGNC's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. The project supports CEDS Goal A: Robust & Resilient Economy by improving the economic ecosystem regionwide and growing economic activity through diversification of economic industries, creation of a business-focused climate, and maintenance and improvement of community assets. More specifically, it advances Strategy 1A: Business Retention and Expansion by improving access to tools and resources that help businesses start, grow, and retain jobs; Strategy 2A: Entrepreneurial and Small Business Support by strengthening entrepreneurial support systems and providing co-working and innovation space; and Strategy 6A: Economic Development Relationship to Community Development by leveraging community assets, educational programming, and partner coordination to attract and sustain private investment. By establishing a permanent hub in Craig that co-locates resource partners, industry training, and entrepreneurship support, the NCIC puts these adopted CEDS goals and strategies into tangible action in the coal transition region.

Our region is experiencing a historic transition. With the planned closures of local coal mines and power plants, Northwest Colorado is facing the loss of hundreds of high-paying jobs and a significant economic downturn. These closures not only affect individual workers and their families but also pose a long-term challenge to the economic resilience of our rural communities.

The proposed project will play a vital role in addressing this crisis. By providing a centralized location for entrepreneurship support, workforce development, business incubation, and cross-sector collaboration, the NCIC will serve as a launchpad for economic diversification in Moffat, Rio Blanco, and Routt counties.

AGNC maintains a strong working partnership with the NCIC and its regional collaborators, regularly coordinating on efforts to support coal-impacted communities and diversify the regional economy. This project exemplifies the type of community-driven, regionally coordinated investment that EDA programs are designed to support, tying together workforce development, entrepreneurship, and strategic use of existing community assets. By creating a shared hub in Craig for economic development partners, training providers, and businesses, the NCIC will play a central role in Northwest Colorado's recovery and long-term economic resilience.

We fully support this project and respectfully urge the EDA to fund this critically needed investment in Northwest Colorado's economic future.

Sincerely,

Respectfully,



Cody Davis
AGNC Chair
Mesa County Commissioner



Doug Overton
AGNC Vice-Chair
Rio Blanco County Commissioner