

# ADVOCATING FOR THE NEEDS OF THE NORTHWEST REGION

AGNC Summit

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KEYSTONE  
POLICY CENTER

## BACKGROUND

- With the “tsunami” of state and federal funding coming into Colorado, how can we position rural communities in the Northwest Region to know about and take advantage of these opportunities?
- How can we build the capacity needed to empower and train local champions to access these resources for the benefit of their communities?

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

Tier One: Create a compilation of state level programs and funding available to rural communities and make this resource available to communities within the Northwest Region.

Tier Two: Develop a matrix of NW communities and leaders; identify communities to target; project “kick off” and awareness building; “meet and greet” with participants and state level elected officials and agencies; identification of local needs and available opportunities.

Tier Three: Expand the scope of the project through the development of a training module that could be used to replicate the project elsewhere.

## NORTHWEST EL POMAR REGION COUNTIES

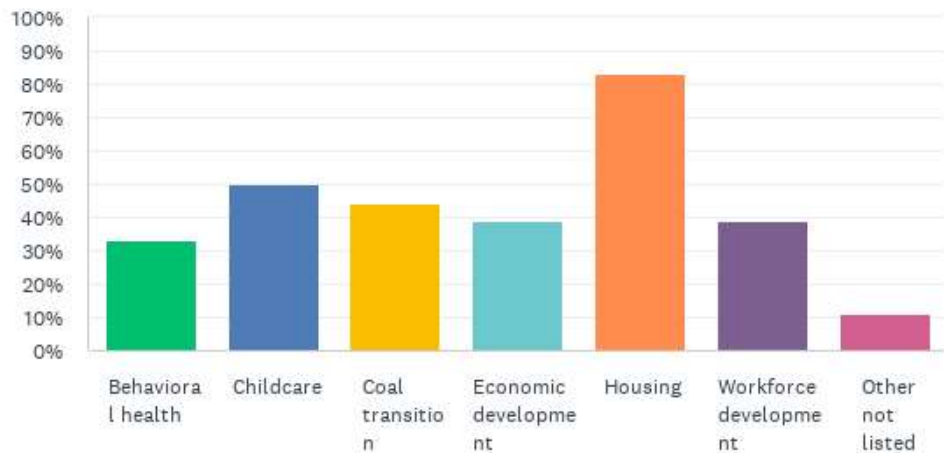
- Garfield
- Gilpin
- Grand
- Jackson
- Mesa
- Moffat
- Rio Blanco
- Routt

# PRIORITY AREAS IDENTIFIED BY THE NORTHWEST REGIONAL COUNCIL

- ❖ Economic Development, including coal transition communities
- ❖ Housing
- ❖ Workforce Development, including childcare
- ❖ Behavioral Health

# SURVEY RESULTS

Q3 Please select three priority areas you consider most important for the Northwest Region:



## ACTIVITIES COMPLETED

1. Heightened awareness and engagement in the project among local leaders and state departments
2. Virtual and in-person convenings
3. Development of participant list
4. Partnership with state departments in promoting DOLA database and in getting the word out to rural communities

# DOLA WEBSITE

cdola.colorado.gov/colorado-stimulus-funds

## Colorado Stimulus Funds

- Funding & Technical Assistance
- American Rescue Plan (ARP)
- Colorado Stimulus Funds**
- Coronavirus Relief Fund (CVRF)
- Small Business Relief Program
- Financial Advice and Assistance
- Continuity of Operations Resources
- Reduction of Administrative Burdens
- Community Development Block Grant - Covid (CDBG-CV)

### Community and Nonprofit Funding Opportunities

Listed below are funding resources available through the Division of Local Government.

#### Innovative Affordable Housing Strategies HB21-1271

The Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) with funding from HB21-1271 offers grant money and other forms of state assistance to local governments to promote innovative solutions to the development of affordable housing across the state.

[Innovative Affordable Housing Strategies](#)

#### Main Street: Open for Business (SB21-252)

The Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) with funding from SB21-252 supports efforts by local governments and regional collaborations to engage in small business relief through “Main Street: Open for Business.” This Initiative supports façade improvements and energy efficiency projects for businesses in the state’s traditional downtowns.

[Main Street: Open for Business](#)

[cdola.colorado.gov/colorado-stimulus-funds](https://cdola.colorado.gov/colorado-stimulus-funds)



## WORK IN PROGRESS AND NEXT STEPS

1. Development of educational resources: Podcast and Video
2. Recommendations to state leadership
3. Upcoming virtual workshops:
  1. September 22 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. “How to” for applying for government grants
  2. September 29 9:00 – 11:00 “Meet the Experts”

## VIDEO INTERVIEW PARTICIPANTS

1. **Mary Alice Cohen**, Colorado Department of Early Childhood
2. **Summer Gathercole**, Behavioral Health Administration
3. **Lee Wheeler-Berliner**, Colorado Workforce Development Council Office
4. **Rick Garcia**, Department of Local Affairs (DOLA)
5. **Wade Buchanan**, Director of the Office of Just Transition
6. **Meridith Marshall**, Infrastructure Coordinator
7. **Bob Rankin**, Colorado State Senator
8. **Kyle Hybl**, El Pomar Foundation
9. **Millie Hamner**, Keystone Policy Center

## ADVOCATING FOR THE NEEDS OF THE NORTHWEST REGION

Thank you for your interest in this project!

Want to get involved? Email [mhamner@keystone.org](mailto:mhamner@keystone.org)

