



2023 Performance Report Archuleta County, Colorado

The Region 9 Economic Development District of Southwest Colorado Inc. (Region 9) is a nonprofit, 501 (c) 6 public-private partnership that promotes and coordinates economic and community development efforts throughout Southwest Colorado. Region 9 covers 5 counties, 10 municipalities and the 2 Native American Tribes in Colorado (Ute Mountain Ute and Southern Ute). Incorporated in 1989, Region 9 is led by a 26-member Board of Directors; 17 from local governmental jurisdictions and 9 from the private sector.

2023 Archuleta Representatives

Archuleta County

Todd Weaver

Veronica Medina SWCCOG Vice Chair

Pagosa Springs

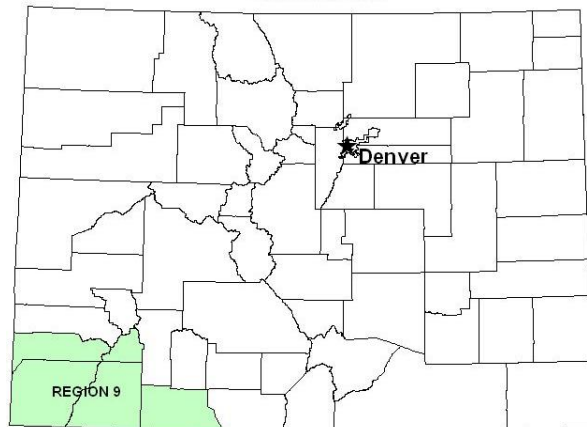
Jennie Green – SWCCOG Secretary / Treasurer

Mary Jo Coulehan – At large, Vice Chair

Derek Farrah – Loan Committee

Kathy Keyes – Loan Committee

Colorado



Region 9 Staff and Contractors

Laura Lewis Marchino – Executive Director

Brian Rose – Deputy Director

Jenny Stollar – Business Loan Officer

Terry Blair-Burton – Program Administrator

Shirley Jones – Comptroller

Stephani Burditt – Grant Compliance Specialist

Elizabeth Heine – Office Manager

Heather Otter – Economic Development Project Manager

Shak Powers – Regional Projects Manager

Tiffany Brodersen – Community Grant Writer

Claire West, SWORD Project Coordinator

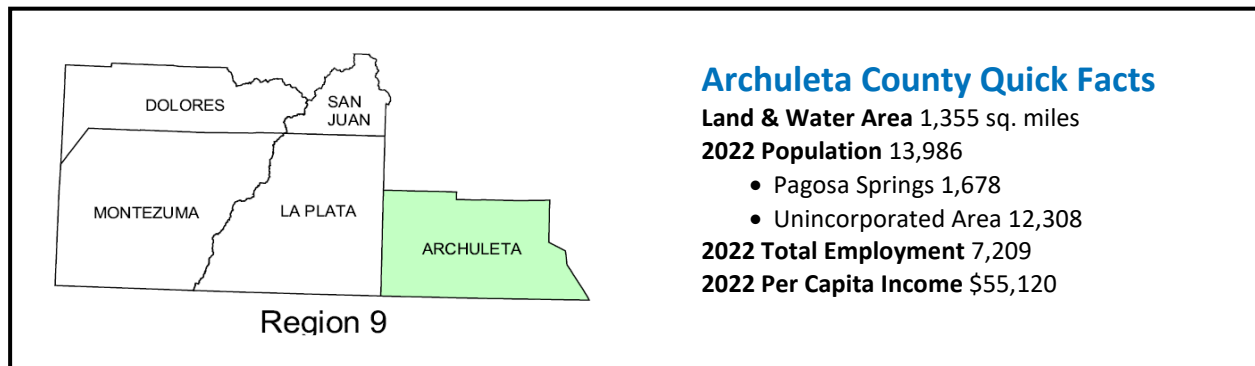
Donna Graves, Information Services

Elizabeth Marsh – SCAPE Executive Director

Brittany Cupp – SCAPE Program & Community Manager

Region 9 Programs and Services

- Business loans
- Regional broadband, housing, transportation
- Colorado State Data Center local affiliate
- Technical assistance and special projects
- Southwest Enterprise Zone administration
- Research for community and regional projects
- Southwest Colorado Accelerator Program for Entrepreneurs (SCAPE)
- Grant Navigator
- Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)
- Administrative support for San Juan Development Association financials and microloan program
- Administrative support for San Juan Resource Conservation District, All Hazards, SWIMT
- Facilitation for SouthWEST Opioid Response District (SWORD)



Technical Assistance – Region 9 provides technical assistance in Archuleta County and Pagosa Springs by participating in community meetings and initiatives, researching and administering grants, and advocating for communities at the Regional, State, and Federal levels. A summary of activities are listed below.

County-Wide - Responded to 181 inquiries regarding business resources, Enterprise Zone Contribution Project inquiries, loans, grant, and data requests. This decreased from 187 in 2022. This may be a result of increased capacity within the Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation (PSCDC) to manage inquiries locally.

Where	Loans	Data	EZ	Grants	General Inquiry	OZ	Totals
Archuleta	3	4	107	8	7	0	129
Pagosa Springs	1	2	42	0	4	3	52

- Commissioner Veronica Medina joined the Region 9 Board of Directors as the county representative.
- Commissioner Ronnie Maez continued to serve on the SWORD Council.
- Updated the Archuleta County Community Development Action Plan (CDAP) for 2024-2026.
- Participated in PSCDC Board meetings.
- Served on advisory committee with the Chamber and the PSCDC for the Regional Industry Sector Convener.

- Assisted with funding for Commercial Drivers' License (CDL) trainings for Town and County employees and local businesses.
- Region 9 and PSCDC co-hosted the Quarterly Eco Devo Meet-up in Pagosa Springs, for economic development professionals and grant writers from across our region.
- Provided letters of support for projects such as Archuleta County Transit.
- Assisted the PSCDC and the County with reporting of PSCDC REDI grant.
- Assisted the County with becoming certified by the CBO as being "Broadband Ready" for developing Capital Project Funds projects.
- Coordinated and led Colorado Division of Housing staff and Colorado Housing & Finance Authority (CHFA) on a tour of regional housing projects with visits around the region including Pagosa Springs.
- Presented to County Commissioners regarding the new CDBG contract.
- Conducted an Enterprise Zone Business Tax Credit training with the PSCDC for 20 people.
- Assisted with EZ Contribution Project applications for Pagosa Springs Medical Foundation, Aspen House II, and PSCDC. All organizations were re-approved.
- Region 9 was a sponsor for the Club 20 Reception in Pagosa Springs.
- Works closely with the PSCDC and government partners on broadband project priorities.
- Provided economic data dashboards for the Chamber and PSCDC websites.

Regional Highlights – Region 9 EDD serves Archuleta County through regional initiatives and programming including broadband, transportation, and transit initiatives, as well as coordination around regional housing including:

- Facilitated monthly SouthWEST Opioid Response District (SWORD) meetings. Region 9 EDD received a completed feasibility study to identify the best options to fill existing treatment gaps.
- Responded to 1,661 inquiries covering business resources, grants, and data requests across the region. This number decreased from 1,786 in 2022. Inquiries were 1,760 in 2021 and 1,228 in 2020. An increase in economic development staff across the region elevated the capacity within communities to manage inquiries.
- Conducted long needed audit of SCAN (Southwest Colorado Access Network) fiber.
- Received 1.55M in new program funding including \$870K in CDBG funding; \$500K Colorado Forest Service Loan Fund, \$36,458 SBA Microloan and Technical Assistance funds; \$41K for Rural Technical Assistance Program (RTAP) for High Alpine recreation geospatial study as pass through for the High Alpine Roadmap groups; \$100K in Grant Navigator funds; \$40K for CEDS implementation funds to assist with SWORD Coordinator position.
- Successfully sponsored Higher Purpose Homes as Rural Jumpstart Business.
- Received NADO Impact Award for the integration of Southwest Colorado Council of Governments (SWCCOG).
- Made 49 presentations to community organizations covering everything from Enterprise Zone, Grant readiness, Rural Economic development, businesses financing and data.

- Reestablished quarterly County/Town Administrator luncheons.
- Conducted quarterly Economic Development meetups for economic development professionals in the region.
- Provided significant technical assistance around Prop 123 baseline data and educating communities and counties on impacts.
- Provided quarterly e-newsletter and monthly Grant Digest.
- Established Transit website (southwestrtc.com).
- Hosting weekly collaboration meetings for broadband stakeholders and housing stakeholders across the region.

Southwest Colorado Accelerator Program for Entrepreneurs (SCAPE) offers in-depth mentoring, education, and access to equity funding for early stage and growing companies. The program has launched 52 companies based in rural Southwest Colorado. These businesses raised \$54M in capital contributing to the creation of 230 local jobs. SCAPE is the hub of the entrepreneurial ecosystem and hosts regional investment and startup initiatives. Visit www.goscape.org/. Region 9 is a proud investor in this program.

Enterprise Zone Program – Region 9 EDD is the Southwest Colorado Rural Enterprise Zone (EZ) Administrator and determines if a business is located within EZ boundaries, processes EZ tax certification forms, administers the designation of EZ Contribution Projects, and certifies donations. Businesses in the EZ boundaries are eligible for a variety of tax credits. Currently, all of Montezuma, San Juan and Dolores Counties, and sections of La Plata and Archuleta Counties, are designated EZ areas. Archuleta, Montezuma, Dolores, and San Juan Counties have also been designated as Enhanced Rural Enterprise Zones (EREZ) through 2024.

Between 2003-2023, Archuleta County businesses made \$71.1M in eligible investments, claimed \$2.9M in certified tax credits and reported 941 new jobs. In 2023, Region 9 received 792 inquiries regarding the Enterprise Zone Program. The Town and County generated 149 of those inquiries. Fifty-four Archuleta businesses invested \$2.46M, claimed \$73,872 in tax credits and created seventeen jobs.

An **EZ Contribution Project** allows donor contributions of at least \$100 (depending on the organization) to Enterprise Zone projects which are eligible for a 25% State tax credit on cash donations, and a 12.5% State tax credit on in-kind donations. Regional wide in 2023, there were 26 designated Enterprise Zone Contribution Projects. There were 7 new projects added, six renewals, and five projects ended. Projects generated \$1.6M in economic activity through direct and in-kind contributions.

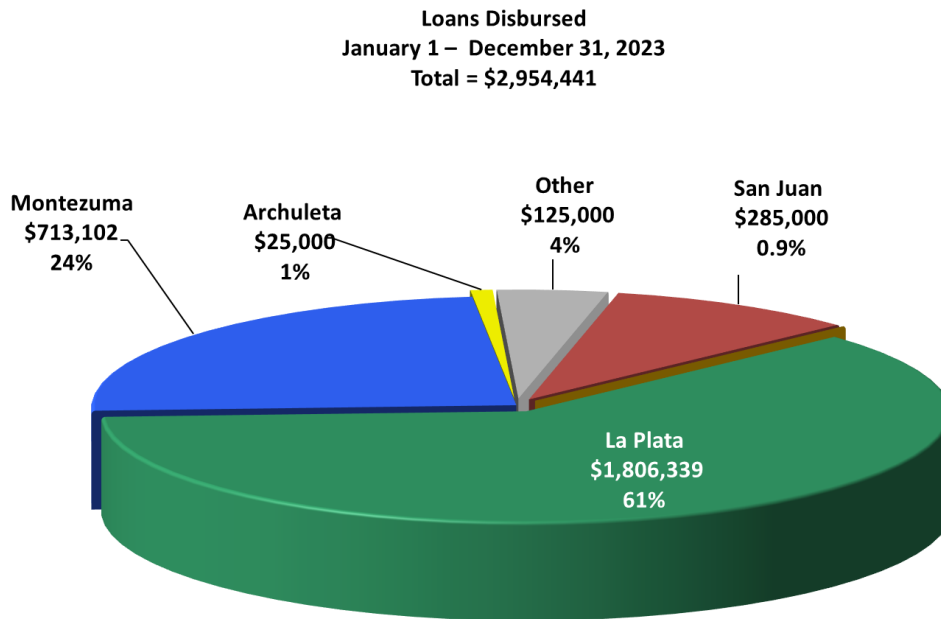
Enterprise Zone Contribution Projects that impacted Archuleta County in 2023 are below.

- Aspen House
- Build Pagosa Career & Technical Education & Workforce Center
- Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County
- Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation
- Pagosa Springs Medical Foundation (2 projects)
- Pagosa Festivals
- Region 9 Economic Development District of SW Colorado – Broadband Project

Data – Region 9 offered data tools and prepared strategy and research reports that included data specific to Archuleta County in 2023. Region 9 is a Colorado State Data Center local affiliate and provides reliable, unbiased, and timely regional socio-economic data to citizens and policymakers. All the District’s reports and data tools can be found at www.region9edd.org under the Data tab.

- Region 9 Economic Snapshot 2024
- Regional Data Dashboard
- Regional Commercial Property Search Tool

Loans – In 2023, Archuleta County had 1 new loan and 5 loans were paid off. Archuleta’s loans were 1% of total loans disbursed by Region 9. This is down from 2022 when the County’s loans represented 13% of all the loans dispersed by Region 9.



As a primary lender for start-up businesses, Region 9 provides commercial loans to businesses. Loan funding supports businesses in creating and retaining jobs, leveraging other funds, or exporting a good or service from the local economy. The Business Loan Fund (BLF) includes several Federal and State sources: Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) from the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) (contracted through La Plata County and the 5-county region through an inter-governmental agreement); the USDA Intermediary Re-lending (IRP) & Rural Micro Entrepreneur Assistance Program (RMAP); the Economic Development Administration (EDA); Start Up Loan Fund through OEDIT; Small Business Administration Microloan Program (SBA) and revolved funds from previously restricted funds that are re-distributed in the community.

Loan Clients

- Pagosa Mountain Sports
- Pagosa Peak Open School
- PS Chocolates
- PS Valve Service
- Right Molecule IV Hydration and Concierge **NEW**

Paid Off

- Cabe's Collision and Customs
- Crawford, LLC.
- Just Click Printing
- The Lustre Group
- Wild & Crazy Critters