



2024 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.

2024 Archuleta Representatives

Archuleta County

Todd Weaver Region 9 Executive Committee

Veronica Medina SWCCOG Vice Chair

Pagosa Springs

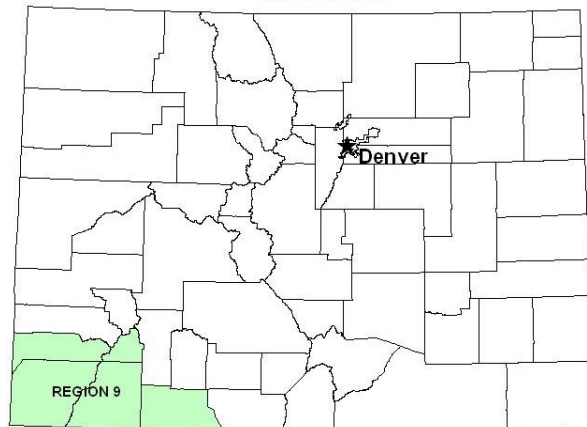
David Harris / Jennie Green SWCCOG Sec/Treasurer

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 – Finance Director

Irina Hauser – Staff Accountant

Stephani Burditt – Grant Compliance Specialist

Elizabeth Heine – Office Manager

Heather Otter – Economic Development Project Manager

Shak Powers – Regional Projects Manager

Tiffany Brodersen – Community Grant Navigator

Claire West – SWORD Project Coordinator

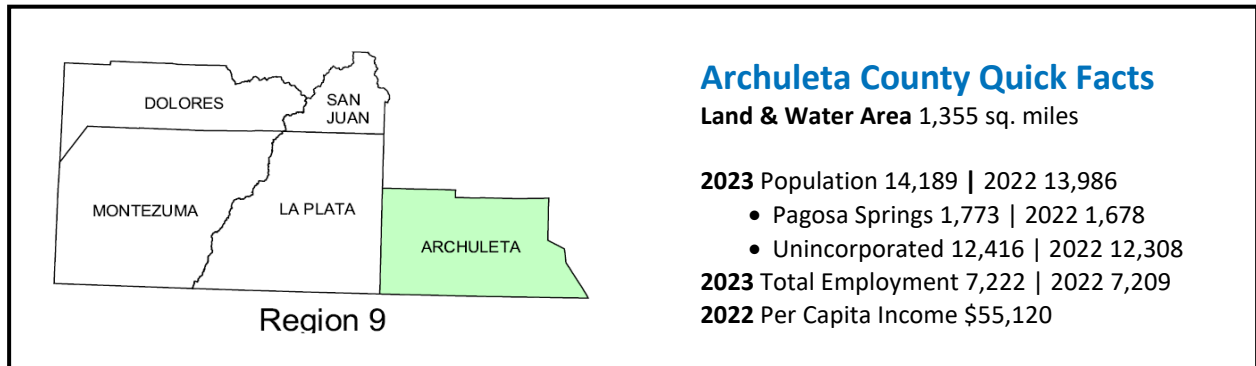
Donna Graves – Information Services

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 155 inquiries regarding business resources, Enterprise Zone Contribution Project inquiries, loans, grant, and data requests. This decreased from 181 in 2023 and 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	2	11	63	7	15	0	98
Pagosa Springs	3	3	28	10	13	0	57

- Commissioner Ronnie Maez served on the SWORD Council since March 2022
- Board of County Commissioners approved the Archuleta County Community Development Action Plan (CDAP) for 2024-2026
- Participated in PSCDC Board meetings
- Region 9 and Pagosa Spring Community Development Corporation (PSCDC) co-hosted a Quarterly Eco Devo Meet-up in Pagosa Springs, for economic development professionals and grant writers from across our region
- Worked closely with the PSCDC and government partners on broadband project priorities

- Provided economic data dashboards for the Chamber and PSCDC websites
- Partnered with PSCDC on a Business Interruption Loan program to support main street businesses during major road construction project to be implemented in 2025
- Updated Community Development Action Plans (CDAP) for 2024-2026
- Presented on business resources at Visit Pagosa’s Tourism Summit
- Presented at the PSCDC Annual meeting
- Presented at a joint meeting of Archuleta County’s BOCC and Pagosa Springs’ City Council regarding SB24-174
- Connected the Internet Service Providers who were awarded CPF funding to the collaborative 811 utility meetings in Archuleta, La Plata, and Montezuma counties

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. Highlights include:

- Facilitated SouthWEST Opioid Response District (SWORD) Council meetings. The SWORD Council has allocated opioid settlement dollars towards a regional recovery campus, and funded \$438,256 in community grants
- Responded to 1,744 inquiries covering business resources, grants, and data requests across the region. This number increased from 1,661 in 2023. Inquiries were 1,786 in 2022, 1,760 in 2021 and 1,228 in 2020
- Worked with area governments and internet service providers on continued Broadband middle mile infrastructure funding. Region 9 is coordinating weekly and monthly collaboration meetings for stakeholders
- Received \$1.33 Million in new grant funding to Region 9/SWCCOG including: \$999,999K DOLA for Broadband equipment; \$14,723 SBA Microloan and Technical Assistance funds; \$90K for USDA Rural Business Development Grant for a regional biomass study; \$34K for DOLA REDI; \$100K in Grant Navigator funds; and \$92,515.66 of RMAP Business Technical Assistance funds
- Pending grants as of Dec. 31, 2024, include: CDBG \$270K, CHIPS Market Study \$47K, EDA application for Broadband equipment \$434,863.24
- Successfully sponsored new Archuleta business, Lifting Up LLC, as a Rural Jumpstart Business
- Staff made 34 presentations at meetings and community events covering everything from housing, broadband, Enterprise Zone, Grant resources, businesses financing, and data
- Conducted quarterly Economic Development meetups for economic development professionals in the region
- Provided quarterly e-newsletter and monthly Grant Digest
- With 99% of all goods transported in and out of the region by truck, Region 9 participated in a Four Corners Railroad Initiative studying the feasibility of a railroad spur line in Northern New Mexico
- Region 9 and Region 10 EDDs coordinate a cross-region stakeholder group which supported a High Alpine Recreation study, now available on both websites
- Worked with housing organizations around SB174 compliance, funding opportunities, workforce housing builds, and start-up housing manufacturer business support
- Regional Grant Navigator wrote and edited 23 grants, including 5 for the region and the rest for individual town/counties. Total funds granted to the region totaled \$1,881,344
- Worked on 2050 Regional Transit and Transportation Plan Update for CDOT Region 5. Region 9 administers the Southwest Regional Transportation Planning 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 – Enterprise Zone Program – Region 9 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 2026. **Boundaries will be updated in 2026.**

In 2024, Region 9 received 753 inquiries about the Enterprise Zone Program, a number that has seen growth since 2018. Most inquiries included questions and problem solving regarding the new Salesforce database. Business participation in the SWEZ continues to be inconsistent year-to-year based on the uniqueness of the individual businesses claiming credits. **In 2024, the SWEZ saw increased jobs, more investment and more tax credits from the participating businesses.**

Region 9					
2024	# Businesses Filing	Tax Credits	\$ Invested	Jobs Created	
Archuleta	25	\$ 63,547	\$ 1,139,941	7	
Dolores	16	\$ 26,672	\$ 637,870	2	
La Plata	35	\$ 208,650	\$ 4,572,235	32	
Montezuma	145	\$ 708,385	\$ 19,553,774	37	
San Juan	3	\$ 12,638	\$ 111,278	3	
Total	224	\$ 1,019,892	\$ 26,015,098	81	

EZ Contribution Projects – allow 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. Regionwide in 2024, there were 27 designated Enterprise Zone Contribution Projects. Two new projects were added, one renewed, four projects termed out, and two projects were ended. Projects generated a total of \$1.357M in economic activity through direct and in-kind contributions. This an increase from last year's \$1.1M, \$1.343M in 2022, 2021's \$1.46M; and 2020's 30 projects at \$2.35M. A decline in contributions was expected because our region lost active projects to the new Homeless Contribution Tax Credit and many of the newly approved projects are smaller organizations.

Enterprise Zone Contribution Projects that impacted Archuleta County in 2024 are below.

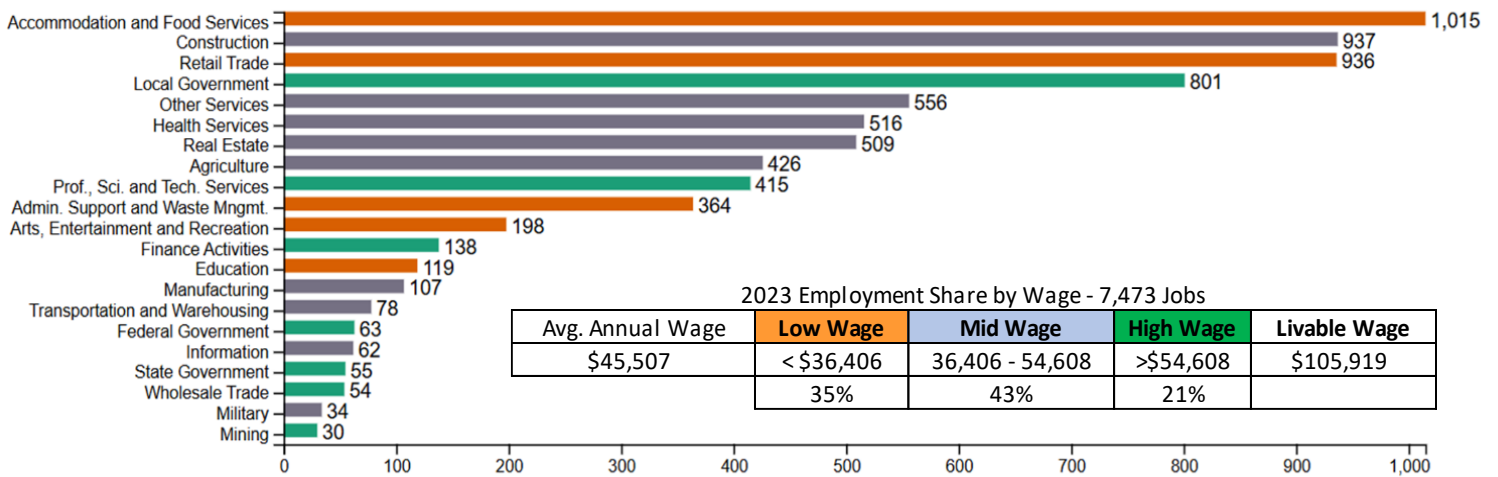
- Aspen House
- Axis Health System - regional
- Build Pagosa Career & Technical Education & Workforce Center
- Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County
- Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation
- Pagosa Springs Medical Foundation (2 projects)
- Pagosa Festivals
- Region 9 Economic Development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

Data – Region 9 offered data tools and prepared strategy and research reports. 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
- Livable Wage Update
- Regional Data Dashboard & Regional Commercial Property Search Tool

Livable Wage – We found that in this region Archuleta County is the most expensive county for a family to live. This is driven primarily by housing costs. Many (14%) of the service jobs in Archuleta County support tourism in accommodations (lodging) and food services with an average annual wage of \$29,856. Across all industries the average annual wage is \$45,507. This is only 43% of the estimated livable wage (\$105,919) for a family of four (two working adults, a preschooler and one school age child).

Jobs by Sector: Archuleta County, 2023



Pagosa Springs and Unincorporated	(1bdr)	(2bdr)	(2bdr)
2024 ARCHULETA COUNTY MONTHLY COSTS (1)	Adult	Adult + Preschooler	2 Adults + Preschooler + School-age*
Housing (2)	\$ 1,750	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
Childcare (3)	\$ -	\$ 1,280	\$ 1,694
Utilities (4)	\$ 270	\$ 270	\$ 270
Food	\$ 409	\$ 603	\$ 1,191
Transportation	\$ 396	\$ 406	\$ 779
Health Care Costs	\$ 281	\$ 883	\$ 1,041
Miscellaneous	\$ 318	\$ 547	\$ 757
Taxes	\$ 517	\$ 1,108	\$ 1,528
Earned Income Tax Credit (-)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Childcare Tax Credit (-)	\$ -	\$ (50)	\$ (100)
Child Tax Credit (-)	\$ -	\$ (167)	\$ (333)
SELF SUFFICIENCY WAGE			
Hourly Wage for each working adult (5)	\$ 22.39	\$ 39.09	\$ 25.08
# of jobs at minimum wage (\$14.42)	1.55	2.71	1.74
Monthly Costs	\$ 3,941	\$ 6,879	\$ 8,827
Annual	\$47,296	\$ 82,552	\$ 105,919
Emergency Savings (6)	\$ 70	\$ 183	\$ 108

* school-age childcare costs estimated by UW

Loans – In 2024, Archuleta County had 1 new loan and 0 loans were paid off. Archuleta’s loans were 4% of total loans disbursed by Region 9. This is up from 2023 when the County’s loans represented 1% 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

- Just Click Printing
- Pagosa Mountain Sports
- Pagosa Peak Open School
- Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation **NEW**
- PS Chocolates
- PS Valve Service
- Right Molecule IV Hydration and Concierge

Paid Off
No loans paid off in 2024

**Loans Disbursed
Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, 2024
Total = \$4,572,458**

