

## Dolores Community Development Action Plan (CDAP) 2024-2026

Region 9 Economic Development District of SW CO <a href="http://www.region9edd.org">www.region9edd.org</a> (970) 247-9621	<b>Offices:</b> <b>Durango</b> 135 Burnett Dr. Unit 1 <b>Pagosa Springs</b> 46 Eaton Dr. #4 <b>Cortez</b> 20 W Main St.
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Part of the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) is the evaluation framework. It answers the question "how are we doing"? There are several measures we use to address this question. One is the CDAP which is a list of priority projects from Dolores County and communities. The CDAP is not meant to capture every single project, rather, it represents projects from a range of organizations that have been prioritized for economic development and resiliency and align with existing community plans.

The CDAP is reviewed and updated every two years to gauge progress.

Progress from the 2021-2023 cycle is listed below followed by a review of the CDAP for 2024-2026.

### 2021-2023 had 33 Projects

#### 13 were completed

Category	Project	Outcomes / Impacts
Business Development	Explore feasibility & demand for renewable energy business opportunities in Dolores County.	Implemented Solar Forward Projects per grant award.
Education	Explore the possibility of an agreement with the Dolores County School District.	School District boundaries were amended to include Rico students in San Miguel's District.
Health & Human Services	Provide home health care & medical assistance services in Rico.	Explore feasibility of providing transportation services for seniors and Rico residents to and from medical appointments.  Pilot project over the summer in 2023 showed there was not enough need to warrant a program.
Land Use	Keep Gunnison Sage Grouse off endangered species list.	The Colorado Restore Grant was awarded in June 2021 by Montezuma Land Conservancy District to Enhance Sagebrush Shrubland for the Gunnison Sage-grouse and Big Game Habitat Restoration in Dolores and San Miguel Counties. Dolores County was awarded 100,900.00. A Dolores County Grant Coordinator was hired in July of 2022. The main goals of this role were: community outreach and education, developing project sites for installation of Zeedyk structures to restore wet meadows, reduce erosion, and remove invasive species such as Tamarisk and Russian Olives, and lastly develop community appropriate plans for continued progress. By October 31, 2023 the grant coordinator along with Dolores County Landowners built 123 Zeedyk structures, exceeding the goal of 100 for participating counties.

Parks & Recreation	Develop recreational opportunities for youth in Dove Creek.	Playground equipment acquired and installed.  Recreation programs for youth are ongoing and provided regularly at the Dove Creek Community Center and at the Dolores Public Service Center as needed.
Public Infrastructure & Services	Develop an Infrastructure Ballot Initiative for the November 2021 Election.	Generated a preferred option from several proposals discussed at community meetings.  People that are new to Rico and people who have not been voting were encouraged to register and vote.  A positive vote on increased funding for public works staff and projects was not passed.
Public Infrastructure & Services	Explore the possibility of increasing Rico's Water Resources.	Explored possibility of changing Town's Silver Creek point of diversion to another location. A temporary moratorium on the acceptance of applications for major or minor subdivisions, and residential or commercial planned unit developments was enacted to address the Town's water rights capacity to deliver service.
Public Lands	Finish River Corridor project and continue work on a trail easement along the Rio Grande Southern Railroad grade in Rico.	A survey was filed in the Office of the Clerk & Recorder of Dolores County.  A grant was submitted to Colorado Parks and Wildlife to plan the trail and the bridge.
Public Lands	Rocky Mountain Restoration Initiative	Outcomes and impacts available through 2020 at <a href="https://restoringtherockies.org/">https://restoringtherockies.org/</a> No updates available beyond 2020.
Public Safety	Construct a Fire Station in West Fork.	New station and equipment helps provide fire response services in Dunton, Lone Cone and Disappointment with highly engaged volunteers.
Telecommunications	Upgrade Rico's access to broadband.	Developed a list of potential funding sources and a determination if Rico is qualified and can provide match funding.  Developed a cooperative plan to upgrade internet and cell service in Rico.
Telecommunications	Expand broadband fiber optic services to businesses & residents throughout Dolores County.	Increased service, capacity & redundancy through portions of the County around Dove Creek.  Attracted telecommuters which will help grow the number of home-based businesses.  Increased capacity for radio, cell, & wireless & high-speed service.  Increased connections for health services, K-12 & adult education, residents and businesses in Dove Creek and Rico.
Transportation	SH 145 Dolores Rico US 160 Cortez Heater Repave	This project was located on SH 145, approximate MP 9- 13 and 46-48, through the towns of Dolores and Rico in Dolores County.  Heated pavement application and improvements to accesses within the project limits were completed.  ADA curb ramps were replaced or constructed through each town at 16 intersections.

**08 were removed or integrated into the 2024-2026 CDAP projects**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Reasoning</b>
Agriculture	Community Garden	While there were some good outcomes from this project, partners have changed or moved and it is not a priority for the 2024-2026 cycle.
Business Development	Expand timber and wood fiber business opportunities	Not a priority for the 2024-2026 CDAP
Business Development	Encourage and support economic development in Rico	This is established and ongoing
Education	Provide quality education opportunities from early childhood through high school	Replaced with elementary school project
Historic Preservation	Preserve & utilize Rico’s historic assets	Three buildings are already national historic register sites. No plans for additional preservation currently. William Kauffman House Dey Building Town Hall
Public Lands	Develop designated trails around the Town of Rico	Replaced with Rio Grand Southern River Trail Project
Tourism	Scenic Byway Initiative	Not a priority for the 2024-2026 CDAP
Tourism	Grow the Dove Creek Chamber	The Chamber is currently closed with no current plans for reopening.

**11 projects are progressing and recommended to remain on the CDAP, and 11 new projects were added totaling 22 projects for the 2024-2026 cycle.**

We believe the well-being of the residents of Region 9 depends upon a healthy, growing economy. The goal of a CEDS is to assist people, organizations and programs that support equitable job and wealth creation across the region. This requires alignment of actions across government agencies, businesses, organizations, and community members. The CEDS and each county’s CDAP are two convenient, practical tools for this important work.

The CDAP document is aimed at county and town economic development practitioners, business leaders, elected officials, and community stakeholders. It provides strategic direction for decisions and projects that will evolve over the next two years. It provides data that can be used to obtain grants for local projects. It also helps to solicit funds collaboratively to meet changing economic and business conditions in the region. Projects being listed in an approved CDAP is required for many state and federal funding sources.

Recognizing that the COVID-19 pandemic will impact the economy for years to come, there is focus on aligning regional and state strategies for addressing equitable and resilient economic growth. Region 9 EDD matched the CDAP projects with the Colorado Resiliency Framework Strategies.

There are six resiliency strategies identified in the Colorado Resiliency Framework, which addresses potential and interrelated economic, social, and environmental risks and vulnerabilities. Please refer to the [Colorado Resiliency Framework document](#) for details.

<b>1. Future Ready Economy &amp; Workforce</b>	<b>4. Agriculture &amp; Food Security</b>
<b>2. Climate &amp; Natural Hazard Resiliency</b>	<b>5. Housing Attainability</b>
<b>3. Building &amp; Infrastructure Sustainability</b>	<b>6. Community Capacity</b>
<b>7. Internal to Community - added for projects aligned more closely with local resiliency strategies</b>	

### CDAP Project Ranking

- 1) Project aligns with community master plans or state resiliency priorities for economic or community development.
- 2) Project is within the community's and primary partners ability to influence.
- 3) Project metrics address progress and impact.
- 4) Metrics are comparable to other counties, regions, the state.
- 5) Project data is readily available and accessible to community members.

Rank		
High	Medium	Low
Meets at least <b>4</b> criteria	Meets at least <b>3</b> criteria	Meets at least <b>2</b> criteria

CDAP #	Project	Rank
	<b>TOWN of Dove Creek</b>	
1 NEW	Water Storage	High
2 NEW	Wastewater Treatment	High
	<b>TOWN of Rico</b>	
3 NEW	Microgrid Power System Rico	High
4 NEW	Rio Grand Southern River Trail Rico	Med
5	Increase Rico's Access to Revenue	High
6	Rico Land Use Code	Med
7	Protocol for Vacant Lots Impacted by Lead and Other Mining Activities	High
8	Central Sewer System in Rico	High
9	Water System Upgrade in Rico	High
	<b>COUNTY</b>	
10	Agribusiness opportunities in Dolores County	Med
11	Telehealth services in Dolores County communities	High
12 NEW	Transportation Safety Measures	High
13 NEW	County / Judicial District Court Facility	Med
14 NEW	Bradfield Campground	Low
15 NEW	Cabin Camp Day Use Area	Low
16	Designated trails around Dove Creek & western Dolores County.	High
17	National Conservation Area (NCA) for Lower Dolores River	High
18	RV Park/Campgrounds to Dolores County, Dove Creek & Rico	Med
	<b>LARGE EMPLOYERS &amp; COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS</b>	
19 NEW	Dolores School District - New Elementary School	High
20 NEW	Dolores County Development Corporation	Med
	<b>REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS</b>	
21	Broadband	High
22 NEW	Opioid Abatement	High

CDAP #	Project	Rank	Category	Resiliency Linkage	Partners	Funding Resources	Cost Estimate	Jobs	Outcomes & Impacts
	<b>DOVE CREEK</b>								
1 New	Water Storage	High	Public Infrastructure	Building and Infrastructure Sustainability	Town Souder, Miller & Associates	Grants CO Water Board	\$5M total \$1.6M acquired	TBD	<b>Add a second reservoir.</b> 1) Obtain approvals from CDPHE. 2) Complete the design phase and begin building in 2024.
2 New	Wastewater Treatment	High	Public Infrastructure	Building and Infrastructure Sustainability	Town	Town	\$150k	TBD	1) Upgrade the plant with automation. 2) Engage in a pilot project for use of nano bubble technology. 3) Implement insulated covers for treatment ponds.
	<b>RICO</b>								
3 New	Microgrid Power System	High	Public Infrastructure	Building and Infrastructure Sustainability	Town of Rico San Miguel Power Association	San Miguel Power Association Town of Rico Potential: DOLA, IJA, USDA Rural Utility Service, DOE Grid Resilience & Innovation Partnership (GRIP)	~ \$1.04M planning, construction & implementation	TBD	<b>Build community resilience regarding electric grid disruptions through the development of microgrids.</b> 1) Explore the feasibility of Rico becoming a resilience hub within the San Miguel Power Association service area through community-level (behind the meter) applications.
4 NEW	Rio Grand Southern River Trail	Med	Public Lands	Building and Infrastructure Sustainability  Community Capacity  Internal to Community	Property Owners Rico Bureau of Land Mgmt. Forest Service Dolores County Rico Trails Alliance San Juan Trail Riders	Grants	TBD	TBD	<b>The proposed trail would provide non-motorized connection from the Town of Rico (from National Forest System Route #422) to the existing Scotch Creek and Salt Creek/Ryman trailheads.</b> 1) Provide connectivity and loop opportunities utilizing existing trail segments (where possible) and provide better route alignments that protect sensitive resources. 2) Provide volunteer commitment to trail maintenance and increased connection between local communities and adjacent public lands by way of designating trails with cooperating organizations, recreation opportunity, trail work and social outreach between volunteers.
5	Increase Rico's Access to Revenue	High	Business Development	Community Capacity	Town of Rico Consultants	N/A	N/A	N/A	1. A proposal that could increase the Town's source of revenue 2. An analysis of property owned by Rico and a determination by the Trustees what if anything can/should be done with the property
6	Rico Land Use Code	Med	Land Use	Community Capacity	Town	Town	N/A	N/A	1. A more concise and user-friendly Rico Land Use Code that imposes clear restrictions on development 2. Public input on the draft revisions
7	Protocol for Vacant Lots Impacted by Lead and Other Mining Activities	High	Land Use	Building & Infrastructure Sustainability Climate & Natural Hazard Resiliency	Town, CDPHE	Town	N/A	N/A	1) Lots will be determined to be safe from contamination as per CDPHE requirements.
8	Central Sewer System in Rico	High	Public Infrastructure	Building & Infrastructure Sustainability Community Capacity	Rico DOLA USDA Rural Development	Grants Local funds County USDA DOLA State Rural Water Fund	N/A	N/A	1. Complete next phase of this project
9	Water System Upgrade in Rico	High	Public Infrastructure	Building & Infrastructure Sustainability Community Capacity	Rico Colorado Water Conservation Board SW Water Conservancy District	Rico CWCB SWCB Rocky Mt Health Foundation State & federal grants	N/A	N/A	A water system analysis to help Rico define & generate a water system upgrade plan Get Silver Creek infiltration gallery

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	COUNTY								
10	Agribusiness opportunities in Dolores County	Med	Agriculture	Agriculture & Food Security Future Ready Economy & Workforce	Dolores County Development Corporation (DCDC) Dove Creek Dolores County CSU Extension Landowners	DOLA CSU Extension USDA DCDC Economic Development Administration (EDA) Office of Economic Development (OEDIT) Rural Jumpstart Enterprise Zones	TBD	TBD	1) Recruit at least one agricultural product processing facility. 2) Support local farmers' markets. 3) Increase agriculture job numbers. 4) Complete feasibility study for solar project to support agriculture.
11	Telehealth services in Dolores County communities	High	Health & Human Services	Community Capacity	Axis Health SW Memorial Hospital Dolores County Dove Creek Rico Dolores County Senior Services Dolores County Social Services PASCO & Home Health providers VA Clinic—Grand Junction	State & Federal County	TBD	TBD	1) Establish tele-health services to address behavioral health issues. 2) Build partnerships with behavioral health providers and Axis to serve those in crisis and needing follow-up. 3) Provide training to law enforcement staff to address mental health crises.
12 New	Transportation Safety Measures	High	Public Infrastructure	Building and Infrastructure Sustainability	Dolores County San Juan County, UT CDOT				1) Analyze feasibility study findings and implement accordingly to install a chain up station at the state line between Dolores County and San Juan County, UT. 2) Install Variable Message Signs (VMS) for traffic management and driver safety.
13 New	County / Judicial District Court Facility	Med	Public Infrastructure	Building and Infrastructure Sustainability	Dolores County Judicial District Judges and Staff	Underfunded Court Systems Grants	\$6M total \$165k received	TBD	<b>Ensure access to safe courthouses that allow for the efficient and effective administration of justice.</b> 1) Move, remodel, and expand the court facility located in Dove Creek.
14 New	Bradfield Campground	Low	Public Lands	Building and Infrastructure Sustainability  Community Capacity	Dolores County BLM	Counties	TBD	TBD	1) Explore funding options with the BLM and other sources to explore opportunities for promoting increased visitation to Bradfield Campground.
15 New	Cabin Camp Day Use Area	Low	Public Lands	Building and Infrastructure Sustainability  Community Capacity	Dolores County Forest Service	County	TBD	TBD	1) Explore funding options to improve spaces and promote visitation to the Cabin Camp Day Use Area.
16	Designated trails around Dove Creek & western Dolores County.	High	Public Lands	Community Capacity Climate & Natural Hazard Resiliency	Property Owners Dolores County Bureau of Land Mgmt. Forest Service Dolores County Dove Creek Dolores County Dev. Corp.	Lodging Tax Grants	TBD	TBD	1) Maintain and enhance existing trails throughout Dolores County. 2) Explore funding for amenities such as toilets, road improvements to trailheads, and trash collection.
17	National Conservation Area (NCA) for Lower Dolores River	High	Public Lands	Community Capacity Climate & Natural Hazard Resiliency	Dolores County Montezuma County San Miguel County Senator Bennet's Office Senator Hickenlooper's Office BLM	Pending legislation	TBD	TBD	1) Maintain current uses and recreational opportunities provided by the lower Dolores River. 2) Protect water rights for all users. 3) Prevent the Wild and Scenic designation on the lower Dolores River.
18	RV Park/Campgrounds to Dolores County, Dove Creek & Rico	Med	Tourism	Internal to Community	Dolores County Dev. Corp. US Forest Service Bureau of Land Mgt.	Region 9 EDD DCDC SBDC	TBD	TBD	1) Increase visitor stays using 2018 as a baseline. 2) Expand options for camping/RV using 2018 as a baseline. 3) Explore ways to track additional sales tax resulting from #s 1-2.

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	<b>LARGE EMPLOYERS &amp; COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS</b>								
19 NEW	New Elementary School	High	Public Infrastructure	Future Ready Economy & Workforce Community Capacity	Dolores County School District RE-2J Dolores County Dove Creek Residents	BEST Grant Dolores County School District RE-2J Bond Campaign	\$22.9M	TBD	1) Complete construction phase I in the fall of 2024. 2) Begin construction phase II between winter of 2024-spring 2025.
20 NEW	Dolores County Development Corporation	Med	Business Development	Future Ready Economy & Workforce Community Capacity	Dolores County Dev. Corp. Region 9 EDD OEDIT CSU Extension SBDC Dolores County	Dolores County Dev. Corp. Region 9 EDD Federal, State Grants	TBD	TBD	1) Recruit businesses to fill existing business park buildings. 2) Provide financial tools as appropriate for business recruitment and expansion. 2) Increase the number of manufacturing jobs throughout Dolores County. 3) Work with Region 9 EDD on efforts to expand timber and wood fiber business opportunities.
	<b>REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS</b>								
21 New	Opioid Abatement	High	Public Infrastructure & Services	Community Capacity Future Ready Workforce Internal to Community	County Municipalities Region 9 EDD	Colorado Opioid Abatement Funds Region 9 EDD	\$1.5M Year 1 and 2 (region)	\$80K 1 PT Contract Project Coordinator	1) Provide representation on the Southwest Opioid Response District (SWORD) Council per the MOU with the State of Colorado. 2) Support implementation of the regional funding allocations and projects.
22	Broadband	High	Public Infrastructure	Building and Infrastructure Sustainability Future Ready Economy & Workforce	Region 9 EDD County Municipalities	DOLA County Municipalities Rural Electric Cooperatives Rural Utility Service Funds USDA Federal Broadband Funding	TBD	TBD	<b>Continue Expansion of Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure to Connect all Region 9 municipalities.</b> 1) Continue building out fiber to residents and businesses throughout Dolores County. This phase will extend the fiber installed within a three mile radius around the Town of Dove Creek. 2) Secure Rico's access to the regional route by connecting the Rico and Town of Dolores. 3) Work with Region 9 EDD to request BEAD funds to backfill whatever Capital Project Funds doesn't cover. 4) Collaborate with Region 9 EDD as needed on the work with neighboring regions to complete the Alpine Loop. Construct Indefeasible Right of Use (IRU) to loop Denver, Grand Junction, Durango, and Walsenburg. <b>**Realistic in this CDAP Cycle: Get CNLs online and develop governance model to incorporate EDDs, COGs (and their counties and municipalities), Tribes, and CO Broadband Office.**</b>



**RESOLUTION NO. 02-24-02** 02-22-2024 07:11 AM Recording Fee \$0.00

**Region 9 Economic Development District of Southwest Colorado, Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy including Community Development Action Plans**

**WHEREAS**, in 1995, the Region 9 Economic Development District of Southwest Colorado launched southwest Colorado's initial Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy ("CEDS") process by offering county-level data, a strategic planning component with visions, goals, and specific strategies for reaching those goals, and identified community projects; and,

**WHEREAS**, the full CEDS is updated every five years; and;

**WHEREAS**, the CEDS includes Community Development Action Plans ("CDAPs"), which are the lists of identified projects and which are updated on a two-year cycle; and,

**WHEREAS**, CDAPs are useful tools for organizations working within Dolores County and can be one central source for understanding the full range of projects that are in process or are desired; and,

**WHEREAS**, the CDAP is required for many state and federal funding sources; and,

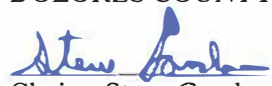
**WHEREAS**, the CDAP serves as a tool for Dolores County by outlining and ranking projects according to specified categories including but not limited to: Public Infrastructure, Public Lands, Land Use, Transportation, Telecommunications, Education, Arts & Culture, Economic Development, Parks & Recreation, Tourism, and Housing; and,

**WHEREAS**, projects are reviewed by community groups, governments, citizens and stakeholders and then confirmed or revised by the Board of County Commissioners.


**NOW THEREFORE**, be it resolved that the Board of County Commissioners of Dolores County, Colorado hereby adopts the Dolores County 2024 Community Development Action Plan (CDAP) attached hereto as Exhibit A.

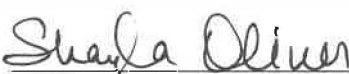
Adopted this 20, day of February, 2024.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS,  
DOLORES COUNTY, COLORADO

  
Chair – Steve Garchar

  
Vice Chair – Linda Yellowman

  
Commissioner – Floyd Cook

  
Deputy Clerk to the BOCC  
Dolores County, Colorado

