

Certified Small Business Community Program **Blueprint 2.0**



2018 Dates*

March 15 – Applications Open

June 1 – Applications Close

June 22 – Finalists Present to Committee

July 6 – Awards Announced

Program Manager:

Christine Hoffman

(720)391-8865

christine.hoffman@state.co.us

*subject to change

Why Certified Small Business Community?

Entrepreneurs can be the driving force in a local economy, especially ones that have been hit by large company closures and relocations. Entrepreneurs can create jobs, invest in the community, improve the quality of life, and assist communities in competing in a regional, national and global economy.

How Being a Certified Small Business Community can help you?

The Certified Small Business Community Program offers assistance to rural communities who want to take their entrepreneurship promotion and retention to the next level and be a standard bearer for the State of Colorado.

Winners Receive:

- Up to \$30,000 in cash – no match required
- Up to \$10,000 in technical assistance from SBDC
- Featured on dedicated SBDC/OEDIT website
- Designed highway signage with CSBC Logo

Must be a rural community – ineligible counties are – Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, El Paso, Jefferson, Larimer, Pueblo and Weld. However, small communities in those counties may be eligible, please check with Program Manager.

The Rural Response Recovery and Resilience (4R) Counties will be given priority – Routt, Moffatt, Delta, Gunnison, Montrose, Clear Creek and Grand. Rio Blanco County already has the program.

Priority Projects – SBDC/Satellite Office, Co-working space, and others on a case-by-case basis.

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What we are looking for in a Community:

- Needs to have a defined sense of place/niche that sets them apart and have a concentration of entrepreneurship, have a local competitive advantage and be trying to diversify the local economy
- Needs to be actively engaged in the promotion and retention of small business
- Needs to have a designated project leader/champion, participation of local organizations and letters of support
- Needs to have an action plan based on their vision of success
- Needs to have a demonstrated need for additional support to complete action plan items
- Should have a community economic development plan, community needs assessment, catalog of local resources
- Should have a defined growth strategy and community/youth engagement plan
- Should have a broadband coverage and long-term plan
- Should have a streamlined permitting process
- No match is required, but needs to demonstrate what the community is bringing to the table (resources, in-kind contributions, buildings or space, etc.)
- If multiple towns/cities are applying together they need to demonstrate a history of collaboration/cooperation
- Should have a local/regional entrepreneur resource directory
- Needs to demonstrate what the community is doing to help itself
- **Must have long-term goals and a sustainability plan**