



Office of the County Administrator

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To: Boulder County Board of County Commissioners

From: Yvette Bowden, Assistant County Administrator

Cc: Jana Petersen, Erin Jones, Chris Krolick, Alison Ecklund

Date: April 23, 2024

RE: **Request approval of contract amounts for 2024 Economic Vitality Program Funding**

Staff is requesting the Board of County Commissioners consider and approve the following contract amounts for the 2024 Economic Vitality program. Historically, one entity from each county municipality is funded through the Economic Vitality Funding Program pool (total \$180,000), as well as organizations that function county-wide or across communities. Funding and funding process have supported a collaborative approach among the economic vitality organizations of Boulder County, many of which meet quarterly as the Boulder Regional Business Partners.

On February 27, 2024, the county provided organizations with 2024 grants application guidance and opened the window for applications through April 5, 2024. The Office County Administrator has solicited input on the evolving program and these grant award recommendations from the Office of Financial Management, OCA/Access Programs and Community Services/Workforce Development who are in favor of the 2024 recommended contract amounts are as follows:

Organization	Average Annual Funding 2018-2022	2023 Award	2024 Request	2024 Recommended Contract Amt*
Boulder Chamber of Commerce/BEC	\$47,000	\$45,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
E for All**	n/a (new)	\$0	\$50,000	\$5,000
Erie Chamber of Commerce	\$3,750	\$3,750	\$3,750	\$3,750
Lafayette Chamber of Commerce	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$0 (no application)	\$0
Latino Chamber of Commerce	\$12,000	\$18,000	\$50,000	\$20,000
Longmont Area Economic Council	\$34,900	\$38,000	\$50,000	\$38,000
Louisville Chamber of Commerce	\$15,000	\$19,000	\$21,000	\$15,000
Niwot Business Association*	\$2,325	\$0	\$0 (no application)	\$0
Peak to Peak	n/a (new)	\$0	\$10,000	\$2,500
Small Business Development Ctr (SBDC) Fdn	\$4,500	\$15,000	\$30,000	\$15,000
Superior Chamber of Commerce	\$3,750	\$0	\$15,000	\$5,000
Town of Lyons	\$8,000	\$11,000	\$38,000	\$10,000
Town of Nederland/Nederland Downtown Development Authority	\$6,000	\$7,000	\$50,000	\$7,000
TOTAL	\$152,225		\$367,750	\$171,250

*Retaining \$8,750 pending potential for late/alternative submissions

**New applicant/Recommendation contingent upon appreciation of County-specific initiatives of this statewide organization

Claire Levy County Commissioner Marta Loachamin County Commissioner Ashley Stolzmann County Commissioner

This year, the county has asked each economic vitality partner to describe their activities that align with the Strategic Priorities of the Board of Boulder County Commissioners:

- **Economic Security and Social Stability** – The county recognizes the many economic challenges facing county residents, workers and businesses. Economic vitality organizations are urged to develop a direct connection to and collaboration with [Workforce Boulder County](#) (WfBC), including support for WfBC through marketing of WfBC’s services, cosponsored events, and other means, and programming that helps move people out of poverty and into sustainable quality employment through internships, education, and on-the-job training. In addition, the county has stressed the importance of supporting local business awareness efforts and small business support.
- **Climate Action and Environmental Stewardship** Boulder County residents and businesses were among the first in the country to implement programs like EnergySmart, BuildSmart, Colorado Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (CoPACE) financing, solar and electric vehicle (EV) bulk purchasing programs, and a host of other energy efficiency and clean energy initiatives. Despite local success, the scale of the climate crisis warrants greater collective response. As part of this year’s funding process, applicants were asked to provide information on their own climate-related initiatives.
- **Good Governance** – Prominently including the Board’s commitment to Racial Equity and Inclusive Community engagement, the county remains focused on community resilience, transparency and responsible management/maintenance of public resources. We encourage organizations to address equity and inclusion and to explore how their efforts might leverage existing county efforts to serve the entire community.

Summaries of proposed program activities of each funded entity are included below.

Organization	Proposal
Boulder Chamber of Commerce/BEC	Workforce development initiatives, industry collaboration, support for existing businesses and startups, and economic research. New this year, the county and BEC will collaborate to update public facing information resources profiling the local economy and workforce characteristics (digital and print).
E for All	Statewide inclusive business support programs (funding for Boulder County support only)
Erie Chamber of Commerce	Events sponsorship (use of sustainable materials), local business promotion.
Latino Chamber of Commerce	Sector initiatives (landscaping electrification), MBE outreach and industry improvements.
Longmont Area Economic Council	Advance Longmont 2.0 initiative including 'no wrong door ecosystem' and industry relevant career pipelines for all Longmont residents
Louisville Chamber of Commerce	Events sponsorship, membership cultivation and promotion of small businesses.
Peak to Peak Chamber	Small business promotion/support in unincorporated areas of the county
Small Business Development Council (SBDC) Foundation	Partial funding for Paths to Entrepreneurship, outreach, and tech assistance for P2e
Superior Chamber of Commerce	New business AI education programs customized to the needs of diverse learners, including underrepresented and marginalized communities. This includes hands-on training sessions where businesses can learn and gain practical experience with AI tools relevant to their industry.
Town of Lyons	Partial funding for improved LED lighting infrastructure in downtown corridor
Town of Nederland/Nederland Downtown Development Authority	Business Grants and promotion

If and as approved by the Board, 2024 award notices and payments consistent with this recommendation would be processed in May. Staff thanks the Board for consideration of this recommendation and is available to answer questions.