

**NOVEMBER 2020**

# **ECONOMIC RECOVERY REPORT**



**UPDATES, GRANTS AND INFORMATION YOU NEED TO KNOW**

# WELCOME

On behalf of the Western Nevada Development District (WNDD) Board of Directors, I am proud to announce the first edition of the WNDD's Economic Recovery Report. This monthly newsletter is part of WNDD's effort to identify and develop strategies to support economic recovery and build a more resilient economy in the WNDD region.

The monthly Economic Recovery Report will announce the activities and progress of the newly established WNDD Economic Recovery and Resiliency Council, a multi-disciplinary team of subject matter experts who will develop a coordinated effort and plan to resume economic

activity to the fullest and safest extent possible. The process includes discussions surrounding policy considerations in the overall plan-making and all activities will interface with the Nevada State Plan: Road to Recovery.

The report will also share information and data that can help WNDD members and other regional businesses and organizations plan and implement their recovery and resiliency efforts.

Roy Edgington  
WNDD President Mayor, City of Fernley

## 5 Key Takeaways



- 1 WNDD is currently seeking out **industry leaders** for the Economic Recovery and Resiliency Council to champion the plan development and its engagement.
- 2 **Nevada's unemployment rate was higher** than the national rate in September and is at 12.6% on a seasonally adjusted basis and 12.6% on an unadjusted basis.
- 3 Taxable sales at non-store retailers, including online shopping, **have increased by 562%** this year so far when compared with 2019.
- 4 Western Nevada Development District provides **grant assistance** that supports CEDS goals and projects through research, consultation, technical assistance and management. CEDS goals and member projects range from infrastructure, broadband, redevelopment, workforce, as well as business incubator/entrepreneurships.
- 5 A digital, interactive version of the **2020-2025 CEDS** is available on the WNDD website, [wndd.org](http://wndd.org).

## Brownfields Initiative Helps Lovelock with Downtown Fire Cleanup



In the early hours of November 18, 2019, downtown Lovelock became an inferno as three buildings were reduced to charred rubble. When the smoke cleared, only the historic Bank Building still stood.

Today, the fire site at Main Street and Cornell Avenue is the critical parcel in the Pershing County Economic Development Authority's downtown Lovelock Reuse and Revitalization Plan, spurred on by a U.S Environmental Protection Agency Brownfields Grant that was secured and is currently managed by the WNDD.

The EPA grants money to assess and clear properties, known as "Brownfields," that are planned for reuse or redevelopment. Brownfields sites can include properties that are vacant or are abandoned or underutilized sites that may suffer real or perceived contamination. These assessments give developers and landowners a leg up on turning those properties around.

Essentially, the Brownfields program allows a community to find healthier places to live, work, and play. For Lovelock, the program helped to secure state funds to help clean up the burn site.

The State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection manages the state's Brownfields program and has limited programs available to

issue monies for clean-up, according to Dave Friedman, State Program Coordinator.

"Nearly all 104(k) grants awarded in Nevada have been assessment grants with only a few exceptions," he said. "However, we believe providing the necessary resources to complete any remediation deemed necessary by the assessment work is fundamental to our agency mission of 'Protection of Human Health and the Environment.'"

He said the benefit of the NDEP awarding money for the cleanup is that it leverages federal dollars that give the downtown core a better chance for redevelopment.

Lovelock's citizens chimed in before the NDEP announced the funds for cleanup. In the Lovelock Virtual Visioning Walking Tour, part of the Brownfields Public Input element, respondents overwhelmingly said the first step to revitalizing downtown Lovelock was cleaning up this key parcel in the heart of their community.

WNDD is helping the community further its downtown vision with a series of stakeholder workshops scheduled for later this fall and winter. Find out more about this project at:

[LOVELOLOCK.COM](http://LOVELOLOCK.COM)

# Economic Recovery By the Numbers

## ALL TAXABLE SALES

in the six WNDD counties (Carson City, Churchill, Douglas, Mineral, Pershing, Storey, and Washoe) increased by 6.5% year to date as of the latest reporting period ending Aug. 31, 2020.

# 562%

Non-store retailers, including **online shopping**, led this increase with a 562% jump year over year.

State of Nevada Department of Taxation, August 2020 monthly report



# 12.6

## Nevada's unemployment rate

was higher than the national rate in September and is at 12.6% on a seasonally adjusted basis and 12.6% on an unadjusted basis. **The national rate was 7.9%** adjusted and 7.7% unadjusted.

Nevada Department of Employment Training and Rehabilitation Oct. 15, 2020 report

## About 32% fewer visitors

came to the Reno/Sparks/Washoe County area when comparing September 2020 to September 2019.



Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority

# 6,600 MORE JOBS

**Trade, transportation, and utilities** added the most jobs with 6,600 over the month.

DETR Oct. 15, 2020 report



## Nevada jobs

are up by .3%; U.S. jobs are up by 5% from August to September.

DETR Oct. 15, 2020 report



## Leisure and hospitality and wholesale trade jobs

are down the most since the same time last year at **-16.1% and -15.5%**, respectively.

DETR Oct. 15, 2020 report



# RED ZONE

The number of newly diagnosed COVID-19 cases in Nevada began to increase at the end of September significantly. According to the White House Task Force, Nevada is in the red zone for COVID-19 cases, indicating 101 or more new cases per 100,000 population last week (22nd highest in the U.S.).

**71% of counties in NV have moderate or high levels of community transmission - 24% of those are deemed "Red Zone."**

[nvhealthresponse.nv.gov](http://nvhealthresponse.nv.gov)

# Economic Recovery and Resiliency Council Seeks Cluster Leaders to Develop Plan for WNDD Region

Funded through a U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA) CARES Act grant, the Economic Recovery and Resiliency Council (ERRC) will develop an Economic Recovery and Resiliency Plan for WNDD's region.

The plan will include short-term, medium-term, and long-term strategies for economic recovery and build capacity for pre-disaster preparedness through resilience planning and projects. When possible, projects may be engaged and/or expanded to respond more rapidly to create more economic stability and growth.

The vision for the ERRC is to engage a multi-disciplinary team of subject matter experts who will develop a coordinated effort and plan to resume economic activity to the fullest and safest extent possible. The process includes discussions surrounding policy considerations in the overall plan-making and all activities will interface with the Nevada State Plan: Road to Recovery. The business and service sector clusters will convey their category's highest priority issues, strategies to address those issues, identification of resources available to engage those strategies, and determine the resource gaps.

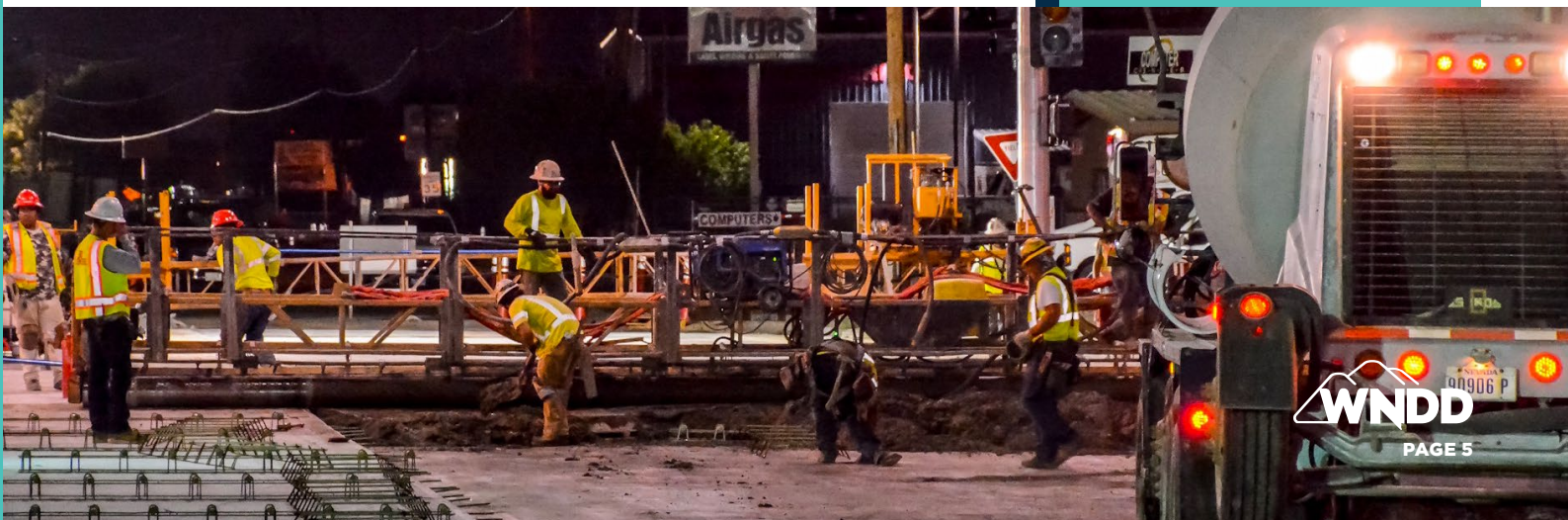
**WNDD is currently recruiting leaders who will serve on the Council, championing the plan and its engagement.**

The first full council meet is scheduled for later this fall, with a full-team kickoff set for January. Plan completion is set for June 2021.

If interested in participating or would like more information, please contact Sheryl Gonzales at: [sgonzales@wndd.org](mailto:sgonzales@wndd.org).

## Council Representatives include:

- Business
- Economic Development
- Education/Workforce
- Financial
- Government
- Health and Wellness
- Housing
- Information and Technology
- Manufacturing
- Mining
- State and Federal Natural Resources
- Tourism/Hospitality/ Arts and Culture
- Utilities/Infrastructure/ Transportation



## Using the WNDD CEDS with LiveReports

WNDD has partnered with LiveStories to deliver transparent and actionable data insights from the CEDS 2020-2025 with LiveReports in support of the WNDD members and their communities.

The LiveReports platform will engage community partners, stakeholders, and citizens with dynamic reports that reveal the Western Nevada region's stories.

These data insights reveal how WNDD's region is changing demographically, economically, and socially.

LiveReports is a constantly updated engagement tool for WNDD members that can articulate unique insights into our community through the CEDS document as well as LiveStories' 1,600 civic data indicators. This accessible data is also a valuable grant writing tool for content and visualization.

The WNDD LiveReport is housed on the WNDD website here:

[WNDD LIVE REPORT](#)

## Recovery & Resiliency Pipeline Report

Western Nevada Development District provides grant assistance that supports CEDS goals and projects through research, consultation, technical assistance and management. CEDS goals and member projects range from infrastructure, broadband, redevelopment, workforce, as well as business incubator/entrepreneurships.

The WNDD Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) is a source of narrative data on our region and the pathway to access funding that supports CEDS goals and projects.

### Current CEDS supported grant applications include:

#### Tahoe Prosperity Center

- \$200K EPA Workforce Development/Training Grant
- WNDD provided grant services, including development, consultation, and assistance in writing the grant for this CEDS-supported project. WNDD submitted the grant application in September. WNDD will be notified as to whether or not the grant was awarded in Spring 2021.

#### Washoe County Intertie Project

- \$3.5 million EDA Public Works Grant
- WNDD provided grant services, including development and consultation. Washoe County submitted the grant application in October and used WNDD CEDS data.

#### Western Nevada College Fernley Training Facility

- \$3.5 million EDA Public Works Grant
- WNDD provided technical assistance to Western Nevada College which submitted the grant application using WNDD CEDS data.

#### Mineral County Babbitt Industrial Park Infrastructure

- \$90,000 EDA Technical Assistance Grant
- WNDD provided grant services, including development, consultation, and writing of the grant. The grant is currently in process.

# GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

## Business and Industry CARES Act Program

This USDA program offers loan guarantees to lenders for their loans to rural businesses and agricultural producers to supplement their working capital to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus's economic impacts.

**CARES ACT PROGRAM**

## Community Connect

Part of the USDA's utilities program, Community Connect Grants provides financial assistance to eligible applicants that will provide service at or above the Broadband Grant Speed to all premises in rural, economically-challenged communities where broadband service does not exist.

**COMMUNITY CONNECT**

## Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant Program

This USDA program provides affordable funding to develop essential community facilities in rural areas.

**COMMUNITY FACILITIES**

## FEMA Hazardous Mitigation Assistance

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is providing awards up to \$600,000 per project in the new Building Resilient Infrastructures and Communities (BRIC) grant program to states, local communities, tribes, and territories. The BRIC priorities are to incentivize public infrastructure projects, projects that mitigate risk to one or more lifelines, projects that incorporate nature-based solutions, and adoption and enforcement of modern building codes.

**FEMA ASSISTANCE**

## SPRINT Challenge Grant

EDA has announced the FY 2020 Scaling Pandemic Resilience Through Innovation and Technology (SPRINT) Challenge. This \$25 million national competition is designed to support the development, creation, or expansion of programs that accelerate technology-based economic development in pursuit of vibrant, innovative economies and economic growth, and respond to the challenges caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

**SPRINT CHALLENGE**

**We want to highlight your success stories or opportunities with other WNDD members.**

Tell us what you're doing to rebuild a vibrant, resilient, sustainable economy; email Economic Recovery Coordinator, Don Vetter, at [dvetter@wndd.org](mailto:dvetter@wndd.org).

**Share this report.** Please download and save this pdf for future reference via your browser or visit [WNDD.org](http://WNDD.org). Feel free to share with someone that may be interested.

**SUBSCRIBE TO FUTURE REPORTS HERE**

