

JANUARY 2021

It's time to
**REBUILD
OUR
REGION**

**ECONOMIC
RECOVERY
UPDATE**



UPDATES, GRANTS AND INFORMATION YOU NEED TO KNOW

WELCOME

Welcome to the January 2021 edition of the Western Nevada Development District's (WNDD) Economic Recovery Update. This update is part of WNDD's effort to identify and develop strategies to support economic recovery as well as build a more resilient economy in the WNDD region.

The Economic Recovery Update will announce the activities and progress of the Economic Recovery and Resiliency Council which has been established as part of CARES ACT- U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant award. The update will also share information and data that can help WNDD

members, regional businesses and organizations plan and implement recovery and resiliency efforts.

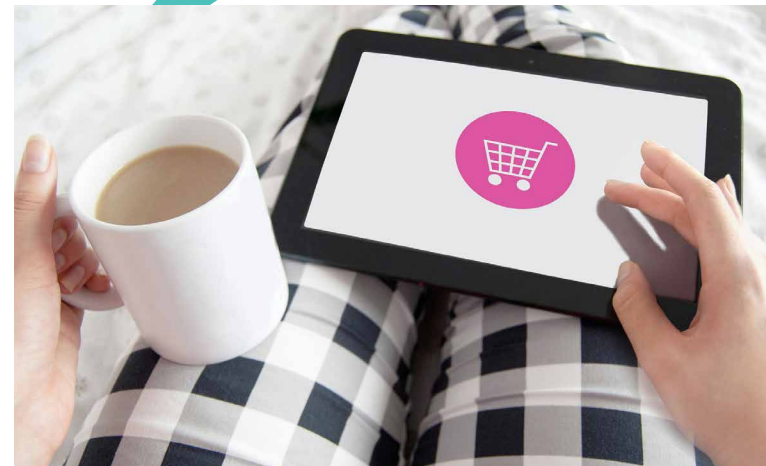
The Council will lead the development of an Economic Recovery and Resiliency Plan which will be tied to the WNDD Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) document and its section specifically related to resiliency. It will involve, short-term, mid-term and long-term economic development planning and coordination in response to the economic shock resulting from the pandemic.

5 Key Takeaways

1 The 14-member **Economic Recovery and Resiliency Council** and team members will meet in late January to begin its work to revive the region's economy from the damage done by the COVID-19 pandemic. Members of the Economic Recovery and Resiliency Council represent leadership in critical areas such as building and trades, business, economic development, education and workforce, financial, government, health and wellness, housing, information technology, manufacturing, mining, state and federal lands/natural resources, tourism, hospitality and the arts, and utilities/infrastructure/transportation.

2 Taxable sales at non-store retailers in the WNDD region, including online shopping, **increased by almost 137%** year over year.

3 **About 21% fewer visitors** came to the Reno/Sparks/Washoe County area when comparing October 2020 to October 2019.



4 **At least five grant programs** are available to WNDD members in the areas of rural small business relief, rural energy grants, rivers, trails and parks, public works, and more.

5 The third and final workshop of a series to **build a vision for a vibrant downtown Lovelock** is scheduled for Thursday, January 21, 2021.

Economic Recovery and Resiliency Council Holds First Meeting

14-Member Board to Identify Steps and Strategies for Immediate and Long-Term Economic Recovery

WNDD's Economic Recovery and Resiliency Council kicked off its essential work on December 9, 2020, with an orientation meeting. Some of the State's top economic analysts and advisors briefed the 14-member Council on what it will take to revive the region's economy from the damage done by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Council will champion the actions and strategies necessary for immediate economic recovery and build economic resilience to weather future crises.

Roy Edgington, president of the WNDD Board of Directors and Mayor of Fernley, welcomed the Council members and emphasized the unique value they bring to their positions and the region's recovery efforts. "WNDD is uniquely positioned to support these recovery and resilience projects as an experienced, regional planning leader and portal to grant assistance," Edgington said, joined by WNDD Vice President Naomi Duerr of the Reno City Council.

"Your skills, knowledge, and devotion to our community will be instrumental in helping to shape a coordinated and actionable plan to rebuild and strengthen economic activity in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic," Edgington said.

The Council heard from three economists, including Dr. Thomas Harris and Buddy Borden of the University of Nevada Center for Economic Development, and Eugenia Larmore, CEO of EKAY Economic Consultants. Their information detailed the economic impacts thus far and outlined factors that will contribute to recovery or the continuation of the pandemic-induced recession. They stressed that northern

Resiliency Planning: Why it's Important

...measures a community's *vulnerabilities and strengths*

...advances planning on preparedness that *foster partnerships* that meet multiple needs

...instigates short-term *actions* for long-term change

...sets *realistic goals* and how to move towards them

Nevada's diverse economic landscape had helped the community weather this storm better than other parts of the state and country.

Bob Potts, Deputy Director of the Governor's Office of Economic Development, presented the State's plan for economic recovery and how the Council will align with those strategies and be part of future actions and policies to bring the economy back stronger than when the pandemic took hold.

Marlene Rebori, State Specialist from the University of Nevada, Reno's Cooperative Extension, shared tools Council members can use to have thoughtful conversations with leaders in business, industry, government groups, or economic sectors.

The Council members will be building their teams and begin taking input from their groups on issues and challenges experienced or unveiled due to the pandemic. A full virtual gathering of the Council teams is scheduled for the end of January, 2021.

Meet the Economic Recovery Council

BUILDING AND TRADES



Aaron West
CEO
Nevada Builders Alliance

BUSINESS



Ann Silver
Chief Executive Officer
Reno+Sparks Chamber of Commerce

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Andrew Haskin
Deputy Director
Northern Nevada Development Authority

EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE



Dana Ryan
Special Assistant to the President
Truckee Meadows Community College

FINANCIAL



Jeremy Gilpin
President of Commercial Lending
Greater Commercial Lending

GOVERNMENT



Sheryl Gonzales
Executive Director
Western Nevada Development District

HEALTH AND WELLNESS



Kitty McKay
Director of Mission Integration
Carson Tahoe Health

HOUSING



Ron Bath
Founder
Salmon Point Development

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY



Vas Karmyshanov
Managing Partner and Co-Founder
BALANCED Agency

MANUFACTURING



Karsten Heise
Director of Special Projects
Governor's Office of Economic Development

MINING



Joseph Riney
Director of Workforce Engagement
Nevada Mining Association

STATE AND FEDERAL LANDS/NATURAL RESOURCES



Don Vetter
Economic Recovery Coordinator
Western Nevada Development District

TOURISM/HOSPITALITY/ARTS AND CULTURE



Carol Chaplin,
CEO
Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority and Tahoe Douglas Visitors Authority

UTILITIES/INFRASTRUCTURE/TRANSPORTATION



Lucia Maloney,
Transportation Manager
Carson City

Council Core Team Members

The Council Core Team was established to develop the Economic Recovery Council framework as well as being stewards for the process. The Core Team guides the design and implementation of the Council and their respective teams' activities, coordinating workshops, providing economic insights and assisting in the alignment of the Council's goals, strategies and outcomes with the "Nevada: Action Plan for Recovery and Resilience" plan being developed through the Governor's Office of Economic Development.

Teri Bath

Business Rep., WNDD Board – Secretary
Treasurer

Buddy Borden

UNR Center for Economic Development/UNR
Cooperative Extension

Sheryl Gonzales

Western Nevada Development District

Tom Harris

UNR Center for Economic Development

Andrew Haskin

Northern Nevada Development Authority

Patty Herzog

Governor's Office of Economic Development

Aric Jensen

City of Reno

Marlene Rebori

UNR Cooperative Extension

Dana Ryan

Truckee Meadows Community College



Economic Recovery By the Numbers



Nevada's unemployment

rate for the end of November was 12.1% on a seasonally adjusted basis, which is **higher than the national rate** at 6.9% seasonally adjusted.

This is **down 0.5%** from September and **up 8.3%** when compared to Oct. 2019.

Nevada Department of Employment Training and Rehabilitation Dec. 1, 2020 report

CLAIMS ↓ 20.7%

For the week ending on Nov. 28, initial unemployment claims were down 20.7%.

This is the least amount of new claims filed since the week ending March 14.

DETR Dec. 4, 2020 report

Unemployment numbers

for October affected WNDD counties as follows:

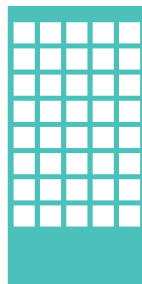
Washoe	6.3%
Douglas	6.5%
Carson City	6.6%
Pershing	3.9%
Churchill	4.5%
Mineral	5.3%
Storey	6.9%

DETR LAUS Nov. report



The number of people collecting unemployment benefits has **fallen for 15 consecutive weeks**, although DETR noted this is in part due to individuals exhausting their benefits.

DETR Dec. 4, 2020 report



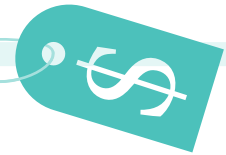
According to October data, the most impacted sectors hit by Nevada's job loss are **leisure and hospitality**, and **information**.

Bureau of Labor Statistics, Oct. 2020 report

The number of newly diagnosed COVID-19 cases in Nevada has

increased significantly

since the end of September. According to the White House Task Force, Nevada is in the **RED ZONE** for COVID-19 cases and deaths, indicating 101 or more new cases and two deaths per 100,000 population. For the most up-to-date numbers and news, visit nvhealthresponse.nv.gov.



Taxable sales

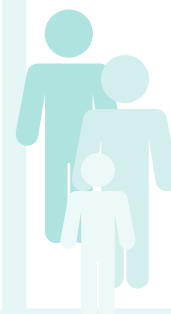
in the six WNDD counties saw large fluctuations between September of this year compared to Sept. 2019 as of the latest reporting period ending Sept. 30, 2020:

Washoe	↑ 4.7%
Douglas	↑ 11.8%
Carson	↑ 15.5%
Pershing	↑ 20.8%
Churchill	↓ 6.6%
Mineral	↓ 17.3%
Storey	↓ 65.9%

Non-store retailers, including **online shopping**, led these increases with a **136.8% jump** year over year.

State of Nevada Department of Taxation, September 2020 monthly report

About 21% fewer visitors



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

Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority

Pershing Lovelock Brownfields Initiative Workshops Plot Course for Re-Imagining Downtown Lovelock



The third and final workshop of a series to build a vision for a vibrant downtown Lovelock is scheduled for Thursday, January 21, 2021. To RSVP, visit lovelovelock.com.

The series will culminate with developing the action plans and strategies needed to achieve a community shared vision for the downtown core. Participants will be asked:

- Who are the partners we need?
- What are the resources at our disposal?
- What are the resource gaps?

The reuse planning and visioning is part of a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Brownfields Grant managed by Western Nevada Development District partnering with the Pershing County Economic Development Authority. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency grants money to assess and clear properties, known as “Brownfields,” planned for reuse or redevelopment. Brownfields sites can include

properties that are vacant or are abandoned or underutilized sites that may suffer from real or perceived contamination. The grant offers residents a unique opportunity to collaborate on solutions and realize a shared vision for reuse and redevelopment and the infrastructure needs in this crucial economic district, impacting the entire community.

On November 30, 2020, the first workshop presented findings from the Virtual Visioning Tour, which was conducted remotely over the summer. Participants discussed the history and future of downtown and how those findings should be prioritized regarding resource allocation in reusing and revitalizing the downtown core.

The second workshop, held on December 11, 2020, was facilitated by The Grove, which guided the participants through a visual storyboard process to identify the challenges, support available, and bold steps to achieve the vision.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

WNDD offers technical assistance, management, research, and consultation in the federal, state, and private grants/loans ecosystem. These funding programs can be crucial in economic recovery and resiliency throughout the state and region and address the goals from the WNDD Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).

Rural Relief Small Business Grants

The Local Initiatives Support Corporation will open two more rounds of the Rural Relief Small Business grant program for small businesses in a rural community facing immediate financial pressure due to COVID-19. Rural communities are defined as having a population of 50,000 or less. Applicants can be awarded between \$5,000 and \$20,000 for expenses including rent and utilities, payroll, debt payments, and other immediate operational costs. Upcoming application windows: December 29, 2020 - January 5, 2021, and January 26 - February 2, 2021.

RURAL RELIEF

Rural Energy Grants and Loans

Through the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements Grants and Guaranteed Loans program, the USDA Rural Development offers opportunities for agricultural producers and rural small businesses to purchase, install and construct renewable energy systems or complete energy efficiency improvements. Loan guarantees may be used to purchase new energy efficiency equipment. As of October 1, 2020, loan guarantees for this program are now streamlined under the [OneRD Guarantee Loan Initiative](#).

Application Deadlines:

- Grants: February 1, 2021
- Loan and Grant Combinations: March 31, 2021
- Loan Guarantees: Ongoing

RURAL ENERGY

NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program

The National Park Service is accepting applications for technical assistance to design

trails and parks, conserve and improve access to rivers, protect special places, and create recreation opportunities. Applications are due by March 1, 2021.

CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE

Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance

The Economic Development Administration and Department of Commerce have funding available for construction or non-construction projects that prepare for or respond to the coronavirus pandemic's economic impacts, create jobs, and/or generate private investment.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Resilient Infrastructure

FEMA has opened the application period for new Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities pre-disaster mitigation grant programs. The grant programs provide states, local communities, tribes, and territories with funding for eligible mitigation activities to strengthen our nation's ability to build a culture of preparedness by reducing disaster losses and protecting life and property from future disaster damages. Funding is also available for resiliency in community lifeline services, including:

- Communications
- Energy - Power Grid, Fuel
- Food, Water, Shelter
- Hazardous Material Containment
- Health and Medical
- Safety and Security
- Transportation

RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE

SHARE WITH US



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.

Share this update. Please download and save this pdf for future reference via your browser or visit WNDD.org. Feel free to share with someone that may be interested.

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