

14 WAYS WESTERN NEVADA CAN BECOME MORE RESILIENT

ECONOMIC RECOVERY &
RESILIENCY UPDATE
APRIL 2021

**American Rescue Plan provides
\$270 million to WNDD counties
and cities**

**Economic Council taps top
issues to tackle post COVID-19**

**Six grant opportunities
available right now**



UPDATES, GRANTS AND INFORMATION YOU NEED TO KNOW

WELCOME

Welcome to the April 2021 edition of the Western Nevada Development District's Economic Recovery Update. This monthly newsletter is part of WNDD's effort to identify and develop strategies to create and build a more resilient economy in our region.

The monthly Economic Recovery Update will report the activities and progress of the Economic Recovery and Resiliency Council. 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.

Part of a CARES Act Supplemental Award for the U.S., this newsletter aims to support the revitalization, expansion, and improvement of distressed communities' infrastructure to attract industry, encourage business retention, growth and recruitment, and generate long-term sustainable private-sector jobs and investments.



5 Key Takeaways

1 Building regionalism, cultivating economic diversity, and futureproofing from multiple angles are some of the ways the WNDD region can build resiliency, according to recovery and resiliency experts. Representing Santa Rosa, California, Houston, Texas, and global green infrastructure development firm TerraScale, they all spoke at a March 19 webinar, Profiles in Resiliency.

2 The Western Nevada Development District's Economic Recovery and Resources Council and their teams continue to chart the region's path to economic recovery and resiliency in a post-COVID 19 world. The Council has identified more than 60 desired outcomes addressing 13 top issues.

3 Local governments within the WNDD region will directly receive nearly \$270 million from the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Act. Nevada will receive \$4 billion of the package. The stimulus package also doubles the U.S. Economic Development Administration's funding under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act to \$3 billion.

4 At least six grant programs are available in technology, business, industry, community food projects, infrastructure and capacity, rural transit and agriculture.

5 Nevada added jobs back in February, and the unemployment rate continues to improve in the state. Small business revenue and vaccination rates also grew in March and April.

LEARNING FROM THE PAST TO BUILD FUTURE RESILIENCY

Spanish philosopher, poet, and novelist George Santayana once famously said that those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it. This aphorism is especially prescient when we think about building a resilient economy and region. While we can look to Nevada's past to find examples of individuals, organizations, and agencies recovering from impactful events and building resiliency as a result, we can also learn from more recent environmental catastrophes and the response that follows.

On March 19, the Western Nevada Development District presented a free webinar, "Profiles in Resiliency" to facilitate that conversation. During the two-hour event, recovery and resiliency experts from Santa Rosa, California, Houston, Texas, and global green infrastructure development firm TerraScale, shared their experiences, lessons learned, and future plans. Speakers included:

- Jillian Donatto, Houston-Galveston Area Council, Senior Planner for Economic Development
- Mark R. Schonberg, President of TerraScale and a retired U.S. Army Colonel
- Sean McGlynn, City of Santa Rosa, City Manager

Here are several key takeaways from each of their presentations.

[WATCH THE
ENTIRE EVENT](#)

14 recovery and resiliency lessons from hurricanes, wildfires, and cybersecurity

BUILD REGIONALISM

"Regionalism is a muscle and something that we have had experience doing multiple times for hurricanes," Donatto said. "So, when we do have a major event, we have gotten better at working together and coordinating."

CREATE A RESILIENCY MINDSET

"Becoming resilient is a way of thinking—it's not a set of decisions that are written on paper and done one time," Donatto said. "We have to keep evolving. We have to understand when it is appropriate to let go of silos and discrete protocols. We have to think beyond boundaries and our different missions and work together."

COLLABORATE BROADLY AND OFTEN

"We rely on our educational institutions to help us think through, and problem solve," McGlynn said. "We have a scenario generator that we've

shared with different educational institutions and their students. By doing so, we're preparing our next generation of leadership in our community and awareness in our community."

COMMUNICATE WITH TRANSPARENCY

"We dashboarded what recovery was like," McGlynn said. "It was critical for us to provide transparency for our community and to help them understand that this process is not an easy process."

CULTIVATE ECONOMIC DIVERSITY

"Addressing the education and the digital skills gap is a really important factor to us becoming a stronger overall economy and attracting new types of businesses and industries. These social impacts and the idea of bottom-up development and bottom-up resiliency planning is key to our overall regional resilience," Donatto said.

LEARNING FROM THE PAST TO BUILD FUTURE RESILIENCY

DEVELOP A CYBERSECURITY AND RECOVERY PLAN

“Cyber resilience is either an offshoot of cybersecurity or a holistic approach to it,” Schonberg said. “You can’t neglect the technical side of cyber resilience. You still need to be deploying state-of-the-art defenses and maintaining a good security posture. Your new cyber resilience plan needs to identify what steps you would take in the event of a successful attack. What would you prioritize? What channels would you go through? Who does what? It is important to be as specific as possible in this step.”

ENCOURAGE ONGOING RESILIENCY

“We had to recognize that this wasn’t a singular event,” McGlynn said. “Fires will be an ongoing issue in our region. How do we become more resilient and protect our lives and our economy?”

ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY

“Community engagement has been essential to recovery and building resiliency,” McGlynn said. “A resilient community is an educated community. Infrastructure is great, but there’s a limitation to infrastructure. We have to rely on human capital. Our communities are going to be the first support network.”

FUTURE PROOF FROM MULTIPLE ANGLES

“Connectivity and mobility are a really vital part of being economically resilient,” Donatto said. “Continually training and creating an upwardly mobile workforce is an important part of making us resilient to shocks and not just better at responding.”

INVEST IN BROADBAND

“We’re learning the importance of broadband and remote work,” Donatto said. “In other

disasters, we relied heavily on radio networks, person-to-person, and organizational partnerships. But as people are at home for sustained periods of time, the broadband infrastructure is incredibly important, and it’s an element of a new type of resilient infrastructure.”

LEVERAGE PREVIOUS INVESTMENTS

“Using our open spaces as flood mitigation and recreation was a win when it came to COVID-19,” Donatto said. “It reinforced the need for those investments and the resiliency of those types of facilities and assets for our local governments. They realized all these people are now going out to our parks the large (water) detention facilities that we’ve dressed up with trails are being used more than ever.”

RELY ON DATA

“The more data, the more you know about your community, the more flexibility you’ll have when you’re addressing an emergency,” McGlynn said.

SECURE FUNDING

“Our economic resiliency plan identified key pieces of infrastructure, but it was not a plan that came with funding,” Donatto said. “So, it was important that the right groups agree on certain projects.”

START IMMEDIATELY

“You cannot wait,” McGlynn said. “You have to identify your essential question, what you’re trying to solve, and how you’re going to go about solving those challenges.”

Profiles in Resiliency is part of WNDD’s efforts to create a regional recovery and resiliency plan. For more information on the Economic Recovery and Resiliency Project, [visit wndd.org/economic-recovery-resiliency-project](https://wndd.org/economic-recovery-resiliency-project).

COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card

Please keep this record card, which includes medical information about the vaccines you have received.

Por favor, guarde esta tarjeta de registro, que incluye información médica sobre las vacunas que ha recibido.



Last Name		First Name	MI
Date of birth		Patient number (medical record or IIS record number)	
Vaccine	Product Name/Manufacturer Lot Number	Date	Healthcare Professional or Clinic Site
1 st Dose COVID-19		mm / dd / yy	
2 nd Dose COVID-19		mm / dd / yy	
Other		mm / dd / yy	
Other		mm / dd / yy	

Economic Recovery and Resiliency Council Identifies Top Issues To Tackle Post COVID-19

What will economic recovery from the impacts of COVID-19 look like? How will the region's economy muster the resilience to withstand another gut punch?

The Western Nevada Development District's (WNDD) Economic Recovery and Resiliency Council and their teams are moving closer to finding those answers. The 14-member council has considered issues arising from the pandemic and generated **more than 60 desired outcomes** once the issues are addressed.

Formed by WNDD, the Economic Recovery and Resiliency Council's membership encompasses a multi-disciplinary team of subject matter experts and regional leaders who will examine how the region can emerge from the pandemic with a healthier and more resilient economy. Together, the Council and WNDD will develop a regional Recovery and Resiliency Plan for the WNDD territory, encompassing seven counties and five cities.

To create the plan, 14 business and service sector clusters conveyed their category's highest priority issues and desired outcomes once the issues are addressed.

Next, the Council will formulate solutions and actionable strategies to address those issues, identify resources available to engage those strategies, and determine resource gaps.

Top 13 Issues Identified by the ERC

- 1 **Broadband access and connectivity**
- 2 **Workforce attraction, retention, and training**
- 3 **Health and wellness resources and access**
- 4 **Housing supply and development**
- 5 **Organizational infrastructure and government-related resources**
- 6 **Economic diversity**
- 7 **Public institution funding**
- 8 **Unemployment impacts**
- 9 **Travel restrictions**
- 10 **Small business support**
- 11 **Physical infrastructure**
- 12 **Supply chain**
- 13 **Technology**

Economic Recovery By the Numbers

Nevada added back 2,400 jobs

as the state continues to recover, according to the latest information from the Nevada Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation's Research and Analysis Bureau. **However**, jobs remain below typical levels, down 153,500 jobs since February 2020, for an **annual decline of 10.6%**. The state's unemployment rate in February was 8.3%, down from 8.5% in January and up 4.6 percentage points compared to February 2020.



FEBRUARY 2021 ECONOMIC REPORT



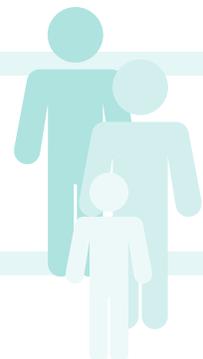
Reno employment increased by 3,300 jobs, and Carson City employment **increased by 600 jobs** from January 2021 to February 2021, according to the Nevada Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation's Research and Analysis Bureau's February 2021 economic report.

Small business revenue **increased by 10%** from early February 2021 to early March 2021, according to **tracktherecovery.org**, a project from Opportunity Insights, a non-partisan, not-for-profit organization at Harvard University. **However, small business revenue was still down by 10% in March 2021 compared to 2020.**



More than **1.4 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines** were administered in Nevada as of April 7, 2021. As a result, more than 17% of the state's total population is vaccinated, and more than 22% of its population older than 16 years is vaccinated.

As of March 15, almost all business types and activities were allowed to operate at **50% capacity** in Nevada. Gatherings of up to 250 people were also allowed.





American Rescue Plan provides \$270 million to WNDD counties and cities

Western Nevada Development District's local government members will directly receive nearly \$270 million from the American Rescue Plan Act.

The act, signed into law on March 11, 2021, provides \$1.9 trillion in financial aid to families, governments, businesses, schools, non-profits, and others impacted by the COVID-19 public health crisis. Nevada will receive \$4 billion of the package.

The stimulus package also doubles the U.S. Economic Development Administration's funding under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act to \$3 billion. The EDA distributes that funding as economic adjustment assistance grants, some of which go to its network of development districts, including WNDD.

Nevada Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto and Rep. Dina Titus pushed for specific assistance for the state's hard-hit tourism and hospitality industry. This is reflected in the EDA's portion of the ARPA, which calls for 25% of the grants to assist

communities that have suffered economic injury from the pandemic resulting in job and gross domestic product losses in the travel, tourism, or outdoor recreation sectors.

The EDA's Notice of Funding Opportunity is expected to be released later this spring.

Many other aspects of the rescue plan act could bring economic recovery and resiliency opportunities to WNDD members, including:

Agriculture

Provides \$4 billion to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, of which \$3.6 billion is dedicated to supporting the food supply chain, including purchasing food and agricultural commodities, making grants and loans for small to mid-size processors, seafood processing facilities, farmers markets, producers and other organizations responding to COVID.



Disaster Relief Fund

Provides \$50 billion for FEMA’s Disaster Relief Fund to meet the immediate needs of state, local, tribal and territorial governments. It will also provide additional funding for FEMA programs through the fiscal year 2025, including:

- **\$400 million:** Emergency Food and Shelter Program
- **\$100 million:** Assistance to Firefighters Grants
- **\$100 million:** Emergency Management Performance Grants
- **\$200 million:** Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grants

Housing

Appropriates \$27.4 billion in emergency rental assistance through the U.S. Treasury Department, including:

- **\$21.55 billion:** Emergency rental assistance via Coronavirus Relief Fund, which remains available through Sept. 30, 2027, if obligated by Oct. 1, 2022.
- **\$5 billion:** Emergency housing vouchers through Housing and Urban Development, available through Sept. 30, 2030.
- **\$750 million:** Tribal housing needs through HUD

Connectivity

Creates a \$7.2 billion Emergency Connectivity Fund through the Federal Communications Commission to reimburse schools and libraries for internet access and connected devices. This includes wi-fi hotspots, modems, routers, devices that combine a modem and router, connected devices.



Public Land Counties

Provides an additional \$1.5 billion, split evenly over the fiscal years 2022 and 2023, for eligible revenue share counties, for example, public land counties, and \$500 million over both fiscal years for tribal governments. Formula to be determined by U.S. Treasury.

Public Transit

Provides \$30.46 billion through the Federal Transit Administration, available through the fiscal year 2024 at a 100 percent federal share, for eligible recipients of urban, rural, senior citizens and individuals with disabilities, and intercity bus transit formula grants for operating expenses incurred beginning on January 20, 2020, including payroll, operating and maintenance costs due to lost revenue, and the payment of leave for personnel laid off due to service reductions.

READ THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FACT SHEET

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

The Western Nevada Development District 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.

Community Food Projects Competitive Grants Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture offers funding to implement [food projects](#) designed to meet low-income individuals' needs and increase community self-reliance concerning food and nutrition.

Application Deadline: May 4, 2021

COMMUNITY FOOD PROJECTS

Build to Scale Program

The U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration Office of Innovation and Entrepreneurship offers funding for organizations that aid companies in developing the next generation of technologies that fuel tech-based economic development in regional economies with two separate competitions:

The 2021 Venture Challenge and **The 2021 Capital Challenge**.

Application Deadline: April 29, 2021

BUILD TO SCALE PROGRAM

Business and Industry CARES Act Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development offers loan guarantees to help rural businesses meet their working capital needs during the coronavirus pandemic. Recorded webinars for [lenders](#), [businesses](#), and [producers](#). *Application Deadline: Sept. 15, 2021, or until funds are expended.*

CARES ACT PROGRAM



Infrastructure and Capacity Building Challenge Grants

The National Endowment for the Humanities' Infrastructure and Capacity Building Challenge Grants program aims to strengthen the humanities' institutional base by enabling infrastructure development and capacity building. The program funds two distinct types of projects, each with its own Notice of Funding Opportunity:

- **Capital Projects:** The design, purchase, construction, restoration, or renovation of facilities for humanities activities.
- **Digital Infrastructure:** The maintenance, modernization, and sustainability of existing digital scholarly projects and platforms.

Fundraising is a critical part of NEH Challenge grant awards. Up to 10% of total funds, Challenge matching funds plus certified gifts, may be used for fundraising costs during the period of performance.

Application Deadline: May 18, 2021, and September 28, 2021

BUILDING CHALLENGE GRANTS

National Rural Transit Assistance Program

The Community Rides Grant Program offers funding up to \$100,000 for projects that develop or strengthen transportation partnerships that improve social determinants of health in rural and tribal communities. Eligible applicants are current Federal Transit Administration Section 5311 recipients and sub-recipients. An informational webinar will be held at 2 p.m. ET on April 15. *Application Deadline: May 10, 2021*

RURAL TRANSIT ASSISTANCE

Value-Added Producer Grant Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture will make an additional \$35 million available this year in the Value-Added Producer Grant Program to support agricultural producers affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Extended Online Application Deadline: April 29, 2021

Extended Paper Application Deadline: May 4, 2021

VALUE-ADDED PRODUCER



SHARE WITH US

Send us your updates and stories

We want to highlight your success stories or opportunities with other WNDD members. To get in touch with us about what you're doing to rebuild a vibrant, resilient, sustainable economy, email Economic Recovery Coordinator Don Vetter at dvetter@wndd.org.

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