

# RECORD EDA INVESTMENTS AIM TO BUILD BACK BETTER

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UPDATES, GRANTS AND INFORMATION YOU NEED TO KNOW

# WELCOME

Welcome to the September 2021 Economic Recovery Update from the Western Nevada Development District

The Update explains how WNDD's Economic Recovery and Resiliency Plan is progressing toward implementation and how the WNDD Broadband mapping project is a tool to help close Northern Nevada's digital divide. The briefing also includes details on the Economic Development Administration's historic \$3 billion

economic development plan, authorized under the American Rescue Plan Act. The update, funded through a CARES Act Supplemental Award for the United States, aims to support the revitalization, expansion, and improvement of distressed communities' infrastructure to ultimately attract industry, encourage business retention, growth, and recruitment, and generate long-term private-sector jobs and investments.

## 5 Key Takeaways

**1** The deadline to apply for the \$1 billion [Build Back Better Regional Challenge](#), is coming up on Oct. 19. That initiative will award 20 to 30 regional coalitions grants of \$25 million to \$75 million, and possibly up to \$100 million, to develop industry clusters.

**2** Western Nevada Development District seeks proposals from qualified mapping and consulting firms to provide internet connectivity mapping services based on crowd-sourced and GIS data. The result will be an interactive map of the WNDD region showing street-level areas that need improved broadband service.

**3** Four action teams are gathering to begin implementing the target areas of the Economic Recovery and Resiliency Plan. Members of the Action Teams will be subject matter experts who are well networked in the areas they represent.

**4** Five grant opportunities are available to WNDD members in urban and community forestry, agriculture, transit, and energy.



**5** Last month's opening of the K-12 Robotics Center | University of Nevada, Reno, featuring students from the regional FYRE Robotics team which prepares for the national FIRST Robotics Competition in that facility. Development of the K-12 Robotics Center was supported by Tesla and Western Nevada Development District member, Economic Development Association of Western Nevada.

[Learn more here.](#)



# EDA's Rescue Plan Focuses on Regional Collaborations

**First Investment Deadline: Oct. 19**



The first deadline to apply for funding as part of the most significant economic development initiative in decades is coming up in October.

Under the American Rescue Plan, the U.S. Economic Development Administration received \$3 billion in supplemental funding to help communities nationwide accelerate their economic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic and build more resilient economies.

American Rescue Plan funding enables EDA to provide more extensive, more transformational investments across the nation while leveraging its greatest strengths, including flexible funding to support community-led economic development.

In July, EDA unveiled [a suite of six](#) new grant programs used to distribute the ARPA dollars.

An application deadline for one of the programs, the \$1 billion [Build Back Better Regional Challenge](#), is coming up on Oct. 19. That initiative will award 20 to 30 regional coalitions grants of \$25 million to \$75 million, and possibly up to \$100 million, to develop industry clusters.

“That’s a call to action, in terms of partnerships and regional collaboration,” Alejandra Castillo, the new administrator of the U.S. Economic Development Administration, told RouteFifty. “We’re hoping that we’re going to get some incredible ideas.”

WNDD member, the City of Fernley, is exploring the Build Back Better tranche as an avenue to support infrastructure needs at the Victory Logistics Center and inland port project.

The other new grant programs will focus on areas such as [job skills training](#), assisting communities [hit by declines in the coal industry](#), and helping places that rely on [travel, tourism, and outdoor recreation](#) rebound from the economic blow of the coronavirus.

Many state and local governments are already handling an unprecedented influx of federal cash that came their way from the \$350 billion ARPA programs, separate from the EDA’s, providing direct aid to states and localities.



## Here is a rundown of the EDA's new American Recovery Act programs:



### Build Back Better Regional Challenge (\$1 billion)

The \$1 billion Build Back Better Regional Challenge will provide a transformational investment to 20-30 regions across the country that want to revitalize their economies. These regions will have the opportunity to grow new regional industry clusters or scale existing ones through planning, infrastructure, innovation and entrepreneurship, workforce development, access to capital, and more.

**Phase 1:** 50-60 regional coalitions of partnering entities will be awarded \$500,000 in technical assistance funds to develop and support three to eight projects to grow a regional growth cluster.

*Deadline: October 19, 2021*

**Phase 2:** EDA will award 20-30 regional coalitions \$25 million to \$75 million, and up to \$100 million, to implement those projects.

*Deadline: March 15, 2022*



### Economic Adjustment Assistance (\$500 million)

The \$500 million Economic Adjustment Assistance program is EDA's most flexible program. Grants made under this program will help hundreds of communities across the nation plan, build, innovate, and put people back to work through construction or non-construction projects designed to meet local needs.

A wide range of technical, planning, workforce development, entrepreneurship, and public works and infrastructure projects are eligible for funding under this program.

*Deadline: March 31, 2022*



## Good Jobs Challenge (\$500 million)

Through the Good Jobs Challenge, EDA is allocating \$500 million to collaborative skills training systems and programs. These systems and partnerships will create and implement industry-led training programs to provide skills for and connect unemployed or underemployed workers to existing and emerging job opportunities.

EDA will fund proposals within the following three phases, as applicable to regional needs:

### **1. System Development**

Help establish and develop a regional workforce training system comprised of multiple sector partnerships

### **2. Program Design**

Develop the skills training curriculum and materials, and secure technical expertise needed to train workers

### **3. Program Implementation**

Implement non-construction projects needed to provide workforce training and connect workers with quality jobs, including wrap-around services

The Good Jobs Challenge is being explored as a possible funding source for the WNDD workforce development projects that are part of the [Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy \(CEDS\) Update](#)

*Deadline: January 26, 2022*



## Indigenous Communities (\$100 million)

EDA is allocating \$100 million in American Rescue Plan funding specifically for Indigenous Communities, which were disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.

This program is designed to support the needs of Tribal Governments and Indigenous communities. A wide range of technical, planning, workforce development, entrepreneurship, and public works and infrastructure projects are eligible for funding under this program.

Indigenous communities are also eligible and encouraged to apply under all of EDA's other programs.

*Deadline: Rolling/Apply Early*



## Travel, Tourism, and Outdoor Recreation Grants

**(\$750 million)**

EDA is focused on accelerating the recovery of communities that rely on the travel, tourism, and outdoor recreation sectors. To support this focus, \$750 million of EDA's American Rescue Plan funds are allocated for the following efforts:

- **State Tourism Grants**

\$510 million in non-competitive awards to help states quickly invest in marketing, infrastructure, workforce, and other projects to rejuvenate safe leisure, business, and international travel. Nevada has received \$13.5 million

- **Competitive Grants**

\$240 million to help communities that have been hardest hit by challenges facing the travel, tourism, and outdoor recreation sectors to invest in infrastructure, workforce, or other projects to support the recovery of the industry and economic resilience of the community in the future. Seattle Region: \$57.7 million

*Deadline: January 31, 2022*



## TREASURER CONINE PRESENTS OVERVIEW OF STATE'S ARPA FUND FRAMEWORK

Nevada State Treasurer Zach Conine, provided an overview of the ARPA funds received by the state at the August WNDD Board of Directors meeting and steps being taken to determine how to spend these funds, including a tour of the state to engage with local communities. He referred to the website <https://nevadarecovers.com> for more information.

He explained the state had received \$2.7 billion directly from ARPA, a further \$1 billion was made available to counties and cities, and a third amount of \$2.9 billion was received for many different programs (such as rental and housing stabilization, vaccination efforts, public health programming, food security, K-12 and higher education, assistance for vulnerable populations, small business support, economic recovery, and more.)

The Treasurer advised all attendees to take the survey and submit project ideas on the Nevada Recovers website.



## Statewide Planning, Research, and Networks Grants

**(\$90 million)**

Through the Statewide Planning, Research and Networks program, EDA supports states' planning efforts by allocating \$59 million for Statewide Planning Grants. In addition, the program will give \$31 million for Research and Networks Grants to assess the effectiveness of EDA's programs and provide support for stakeholder communities around key EDA initiatives.

- **State Planning Grants**

Eligible applicants for EDA's Statewide Planning Grants include Governors, the Mayor of DC, and other applicable Territory leaders or their designees. EDA will send these applicants a formal invitation to apply.

- **Research And Networks Grants**

Eligible applicants for EDA's Communities of Practice and Research Grants include a(n):

- District Organization of an EDA-designated Economic Development District
- Indian Tribe or a consortium of Indian Tribes
- State, county, city, or other political subdivision of a State, including a special purpose unit of a State or local government engaged in economic or infrastructure development activities, or a consortium of political subdivisions
- Institution of higher education or a consortium of institutions of higher education
- Public or private nonprofit organization or association acting in cooperation with officials of a political subdivision of a State

*Deadline: Rolling (Research and Network Grants). EDA encourages eligible applicants to submit their applications as soon as possible.*

# Broadband Mapping Project

## Be Counted to Be Connected

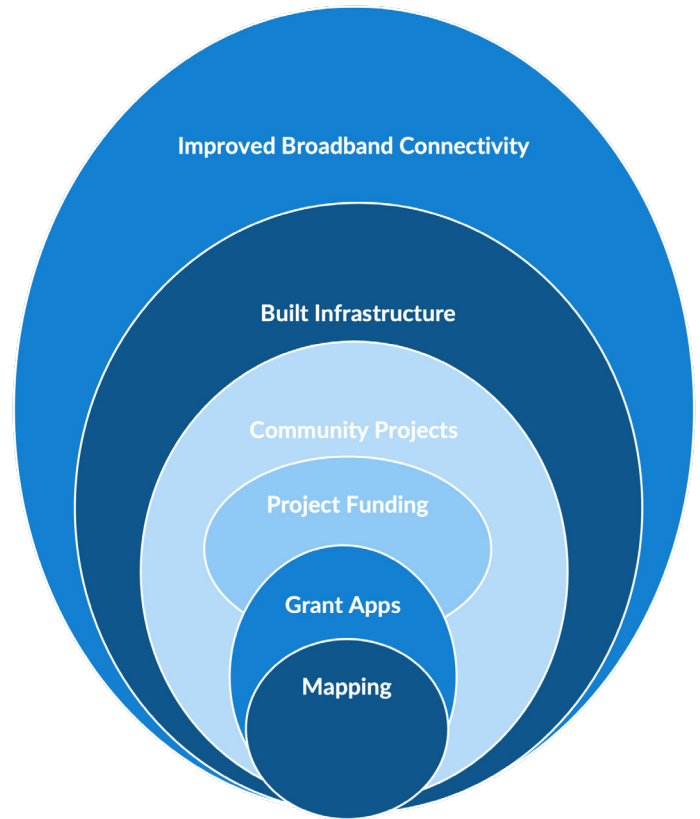
Western Nevada Development District (WNDD) has requested proposals from qualified mapping and consulting firms to provide internet connectivity mapping services based on crowd-sourced and GIS data. The result will be an interactive map of the WNDD region showing street-level areas that need improved broadband service.

The resultant map will contain in-built GIS layers of information, including the NTIA and FCC mapping data, that will allow it to be used as a tool for applying for grants for broadband infrastructure projects, resulting in more robust broadband connectivity across the region. It is anticipated that unprecedented amounts of money from federal and state sources will be available soon to address the broadband problem.

The work will be conducted under the oversight of WNDD, which has established a Regional Broadband Action Team that will be involved in the supervision and administration of the mapping project. The team consists of representatives from the University of Nevada, Reno, counties, and municipalities across the region and the private sector.

An interactive broadband map based on crowd-sourced data using internet speed test technology and loaded with GIS layers of pertinent information is one way of meeting and managing grant application data requirements. The proposed map will clearly show the gaps and deficiencies in broadband connectivity across the region. More importantly, it will supply accurate data for grant applications for state and federal funding that can be used to close those gaps.

It is expected that the project will start in early October 2021 and run for a year, concluding by September 30, 2022. Participation in the WNDD broadband mapping project will be driven by a multi-faceted, six- to eight-week marketing campaign that will prompt residents to visit the landing page and take part in the speed test.



Sponsors and partners will be highlighted on the speed test landing page and featured in social media, news releases and other outreach efforts. The project is a unique opportunity to put an organization’s imprint on a vital community need; digital access and equity. An example of a sponsored, speed test landing page can be found here: [Broadband Speed Test](#)

To be part of the **Be Counted. Be Connected.** project to **Help Northern Nevada Close the Digital Divide**, Contact Don Vetter at [dvetter@wndd.org](mailto:dvetter@wndd.org) or call (775) 848-0670.



## Economic Recovery By the Numbers

### \$4.5 MILLION

Since 2018, the Nevada Governor's Office of Energy, with utility partners throughout the state, has invested \$4.5 million in electric vehicle charging infrastructure along Nevada's five significant corridors, with an additional \$3.3 million in planned sites. Electrifying these major highways is necessary infrastructure for EV drivers to travel to and through Nevada, furthering tourism, economic development, and addressing Nevada's climate goals. In the WNDD region, I-80 and US highways 50, 395 and 95 have charging stations in Fallon, Fernley, Sparks, Reno, Hawthorne, Lovelock, Carson City Winnemucca, Luning, Storey County (Tahoe Reno Industrial Center), Minden, Gardnerville, Stateline and Middlegate. Looking ahead, Senate Bill 448 from the Nevada Legislature also includes a required investment of \$100 million in charging infrastructure.

### 9 WEEKS

Truckee Meadows Community College recently launched Tech Careers FastTrack, an online coding/programming boot camp program designed with local employers to strengthen the talent pipeline in this rapidly growing field. The self-paced program can be completed in as little as nine weeks, includes opportunities for paid internships and apprenticeships, and aligns directly with in-demand jobs. For more information, visit [tmcc.edu/applied-technologies/tech-careers-fasttrack](https://tmcc.edu/applied-technologies/tech-careers-fasttrack).

### \$800,000

Western Nevada College's Tech Express Mobile Training Lab is touring rural Nevada, serving as a mobile teaching space. The trailer will support instructional delivery of the WNC AIT Manufacturing Technician program and its internationally recognized Siemens Mechatronics. The \$800,000 project aims to bring advanced manufacturing training to companies and rural areas. The project was funded through the generosity of the William N. Pennington Foundation, Tesla, and Wells Fargo Foundation, along with a grant from the Governor's Office of Economic Development.



### \$773.0 MILLION

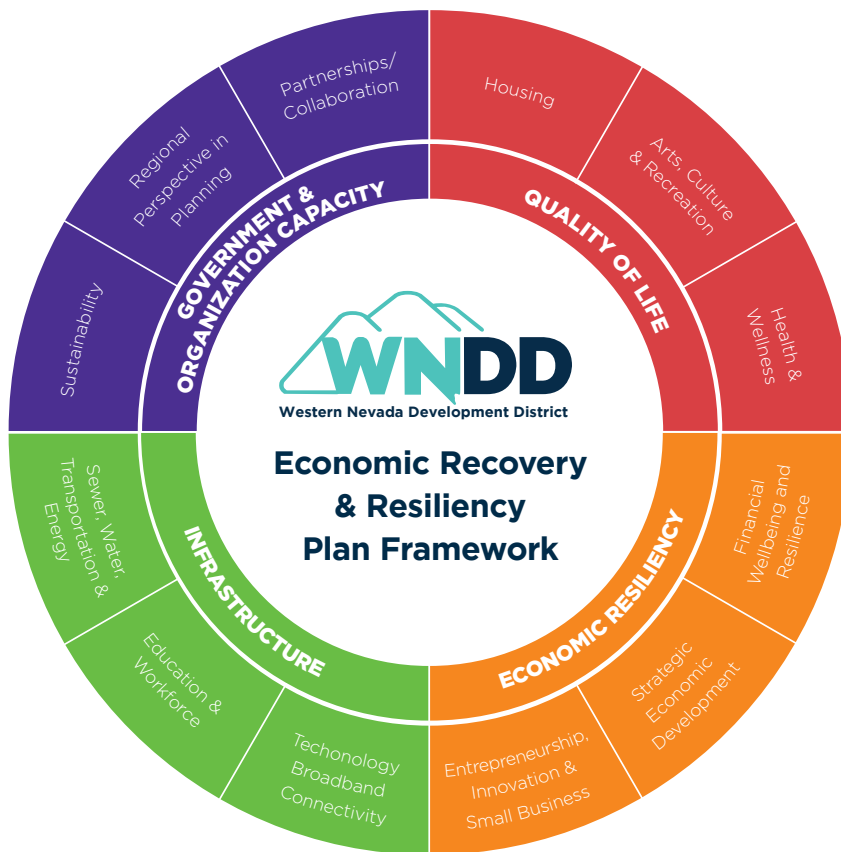
In 2019, the health sector in rural Nevada had a combined payroll of \$606.1 million, according to the Tenth Edition of the Nevada Rural and Frontier Health Data Book. When the income created in other non-health sector businesses resulting from health sector operating activity is included in the analysis, the rural Nevada health sector was responsible for an additional \$166.8 million in personal income for a total payroll impact of \$773.0 million.

### 46,000

An estimated 46,000 households — or 12 percent of renter households in Nevada — are behind on rent, according to a National Equity Atlas analysis of August 2021 U.S. Census Household Pulse Survey data. As of July 31, the state has received around \$208 million in federal rental assistance through the first round of the federal Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) Program and has distributed about \$60.6 million, or roughly 29 percent of the funds to Nevada households.

# Action Teams Working to Implement Economic Recovery and Resiliency Plan

The Economic Recovery and Resiliency (ERR) Action Teams will participate and support the facilitation and engagement of the ERR Plan. Four action teams are planned to reflect the target areas of the Economic Recovery and Resiliency Plan. Within each target area, three goals will be supported with strategies and actions listed in the ERR Plan. Members of the Action Teams will be subject matter experts who are well networked and leaders in the area they represent. The Four Action teams, represented by the inner circle, and the respective goal areas are shown below:



**Action Teams facilitated by WNDD staff will:**

- Align action partners and invite participation for implementation
- Review the ERR Plan and its actions with a specific focus on the areas to which the respective team member is experienced and knowledgeable
- Identify actions to be implemented either short term (1 to 3 years), medium term (3 to 5 years), and long term (5+ years)
- Determine Specific Timelines to implement the short, medium and long-term actions.
- Identify needed resources for action implementation
- Implement actions

Stay tuned as WNDD will announce the entire action team rosters later this fall.

# 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 WNDD Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy goals.

## Urban and Community Forestry Program

This program provides funding to local governments, educational institutions, Native-American tribal governments, and nonprofit groups for urban forestry projects. Proposed programs should foster partnerships reflecting the ongoing effort to provide healthy, safe, and livable neighborhoods. This grant program is part of Nevada's ongoing initiative to provide funding for urban tree inventory and analysis, management planning, urban forestry awareness, education and outreach projects, and new urban tree plantings. Grant applications are open and are awarded continuously based on the availability of funding. They range from a minimum of \$2,000 to a maximum grant request for urban forestry management planning, inventory, or tree assessments of \$30,000.

*Application Deadline: Ongoing*

**More Information on Urban and Community Forestry Program**

## USDA: Pandemic Response and Safety Grants

The Pandemic Response and Safety (PRS) Grant Program provides grants to food processors, distributors, farmers markets, and producers to respond to coronavirus, including for measures to protect workers against novel coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19). Grants will cover the activities associated with:

- Implementing workplace safety measures to protect workers against COVID-19
- Implementing market pivots to protect workers against COVID-19
- Retrofitting Facilities for Worker and Consumer Safety to protect against COVID-19
- Providing additional transportation options to maintain social distancing and worker and consumer safety to protect against COVID-19
- Providing worker housing that protects workers against COVID-19
- Providing health services to protect workers against COVID-19

*Application window is Sept. 23 – Nov. 8, 2021*

**More Information on USDA: Pandemic Response and Safety Grants**



# GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

## T-Mobile Hometown Grants Program

The T-Mobile Hometown Grants Program is intended to help build stronger, more prosperous small towns and rural communities throughout the United States. Up to 100 towns each year will receive community improvement grants of up to \$50,000 each for the next five years. Examples of eligible projects include revitalizing a town hall, a senior center, a local little league field, a library, or any space where friends and neighbors gather. Elected leaders, town managers and employees, and nonprofit leaders are eligible to submit applications. Requests will be reviewed quarterly.

*Application Deadline: Ongoing*

[More Information on T-Mobile Hometown Grants Program](#)

## USDA Rural Energy Grants

Applications for the USDA Rural Energy Grants are now open for renewable energy systems and the purchase, installation, and construction of energy efficiency improvements. The program provides guaranteed loan financing and grant funding to agricultural producers and small rural businesses for renewable energy systems or to improve energy efficiency. Agricultural producers may also apply for new energy-efficient equipment and new system loans for farm production and processing.

*Application Deadline: Nov. 1, and loan and grant combined applications are March 31, 2022.*

[More Information on USDA Rural Energy Grants](#)

## Federal Transit Administration National Center for Mobility Management

The Federal Transit Administration National Center for Mobility Management is offering grants and technical assistance to support communities that are ready to take concrete steps toward implementing transportation solutions to help underserved residents become more fully engaged in economic opportunities, improve their health and well-being, and/or become more integrated into their community.

*Application Deadline: Oct. 15*

[More Information on Federal Transit Administration National Center for Mobility Management](#)

## The Community Heart and Soul Seed Grant Program

The Community Heart and Soul Seed Grant Program provides \$10,000 in funding for resident-driven groups in small cities and towns to start the Community Heart and Soul model. The grants are aimed to inspire community engagement for economic and social change by aligning projects and encouraging collaboration on community priorities. Grant funding requires a \$10,000 cash match from the participating municipality or a partnering organization.

*Application Deadline: Ongoing*

[More Information on The Community Heart and Soul Seed Grant Program](#)

## 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](mailto:dvetter@wndd.org).

### Share this newsletter

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