



Resources Bulletin

December 2014

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Regional Economic Update December 2014

The [December 2014 Economic Update](#), containing data from the most recently released Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), which is Q2 2014, can also be found on [NWCCOG EDD website HERE](#).



Some highlights:

- **Job Growth:** 4.6% increase overall in jobs; this compares to 3.4% statewide
- **Wages:** 3.3% increase in wages from Q2 2013 to Q2 2014
- **Unemployment:** 3.5% regional average for October 2014; this compares to 4.3% statewide and 5.8% for the U.S.
- **Sales Tax:** 5.3% increase for most recent month reported (May 2014); 8% increase from Winter '12-'13 to Winter '13-'14
- **Construction industry:** 13.6% job growth and 7.7% wage growth (Q2 2013 to Q2 2014); major construction projects including hotels underway in several of the region's towns including Basalt, Silverthorne, Vail, and Breckenridge after 6-year hibernation

Funding Opportunities & Technical Assistance

[The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development \(HUD\) - Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grants.](#)

Public housing authorities, local governments, nonprofits, tribal entities, and for-profit developers are eligible to apply.

Applications must present a plan to revitalize a severely distressed public and/or HUD-assisted multifamily housing project located in a distressed neighborhood into a viable, mixed-income



community. Applications are due Monday, February 9, 2015.

[Economic Development Administration - The Local Technical Assistance program](#) strengthens the capacity of local or State organizations and institutions to undertake and promote effective economic development programs through projects such as feasibility studies, impact analyses, disaster resiliency plans, and project planning. For example, EDA might provide funds to help a city prepare a feasibility study regarding the use of an abandoned manufacturing facility for an activity that advances local economic development.

[Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant Program](#) - EPA's Wetlands and Urban Waters Programs have partnered with other funders to support this public-private grant program that leverages federal funding 1:2. Approximately \$2 million will be available to support projects such as: wetlands creation and restoration; green infrastructure and stormwater management; citizen's science and volunteer water monitoring; projects that reduce or eliminate trash from entering waterways; riparian, urban forest restoration and other water quality protection and restoration projects in local communities especially underserved, overburdened communities across the country. This RFP closes February 2, 2015. For more information go to www.nfwf.org/fivestar.2015 Request for Proposals

[Eagle County community grants](#) -Deadline: 5 p.m. Dec. 12. To be considered, organizations must be a registered non-profit, a governmental or quasi-governmental agency or a licensed child care operator located in Eagle County. Requests should align with one or more of the Board of County Commissioners' strategic priorities: social investment, economic vitality, sustainable communities and environmental stewardship.

[Operation AmeriCorps](#) - this new grant program can be a resource for place-based work across the Administration. Operation AmeriCorps is open to local governments and is designed to help them address their most pressing local problems by using AmeriCorps to implement a holistic solution. This grant program can help local governments (including cities, counties, towns, and school districts) fulfill big goals related to specific place-based work that you all are undertaking at your agencies. Deadline: 10 page concept paper due before January 13, 2015. Applicants should reach out to their [State Service Commission](#) for details.

[Copper Mountain Environmental Grants](#) - funding for youth environmental programs in Summit and Lake Counties. Deadline: Dec. 31, 2014.

[Economic Gardening Program](#)

- SBDC ADVANCED is a new business development program administered by the Colorado SBDC Network. It is an economic gardening program, focused on helping our Colorado companies to grow by providing custom-fit market research and corporate-level tools that might otherwise be out of reach for small to mid-sized businesses. These businesses can then use this data to make informed strategic growth decisions. The SBDC ADVANCED program is open to Colorado businesses at three levels: Gold, Silver, and Copper. Deliverables provided may include specialized reports in market research, geographic information systems (GIS), financial analysis,

marketing and search engine optimization (SEO). The SBDC ADVANCED program taps into corporate-level tools, experienced consultants and their strategic plans.

The Northwest Loan Fund Closes 2 Loans

for information on the Northwest Loan Fund contact:

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The Vail Brewing Company

The Vail Brewing Company is an independent craft brewery based in Eagle-Vail, and the loan they recently received will help this start-up keep the momentum going. VBC is also working with the Small Business Administration for a loan, but they needed an infusion of capital quickly for critical working. This loan helped to create the micro brews and helped them stay on track for a January 2015 opening. The VBC plans to brew fresh and creative artisanal ales in the Upper Eagle River Valley area using crystal clear mountain water and ingredients sourced locally as much as possible. Their plan is to hire locally as well and create a real community atmosphere. Along with



an SBA loan, and the NLF loan, they also plan to use an Indigogo fundraising campaign which will encourage people to get involved with crowd-funding for such things as a "mug-of-the-month", unique t-shirts, and other special offers. They will keep people updated on their Facebook page. If you're interested in becoming involved with this hip group, be sure to check them out here: <https://www.facebook.com/vailbrewingco>.

The Lumberyard - Skate and Snow

One might think the Lumberyard is where you would go to buy wood and tools, but this hip new store in Breckenridge is all about cool clothes, skiing, snowboarding, and skateboarding. The store, opened about a year ago, sells high-end "boards", coupled with a unique brand and style of apparel. The NLF loan will help the Lumberyard grow into the company they want to be. The owners will be using the loan to expand the online retail presence, improve the shop, and bring in new product lines. You can find out more about the Lumberyard Snow and Skate on their Facebook page at:



<https://www.facebook.com/BreckenridgeLumberYard>