



February 23, 2020

RE: DOLA REDI Grant

Dear Representative McLachlan and House Rural Affairs Committee Members,

SCAPE, the Southwest Colorado Accelerator Program is excited for the Department of Local Affairs REDI Grant program.

SCAPE works to launch more businesses in rural Colorado by connecting businesses to mentors and access to capital. To date we have launched 31 businesses which have created 122 rural jobs.

The REDI Grant is a lifeline for rural communities to support economic development in their area. REDI fills the most vital and fundamental step of helping gain assistance for the boots on the ground programs that are producing companies which are strong, attractive to investors, and creating jobs.

Small local governments have very limited funds to pay for the economic development that is needed. Expanding the eligibility of the town size that can apply will be very impactful. Slightly larger communities tend to be the hub of an area and have a support system of matching funds, complementary programs and collaboration, more mentors and resources, and access to investment capital to help businesses create good jobs.

The REDI grant provides direct support for economic development in rural areas.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Marsh

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