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GROWING **STRONGER ECONOMIES** IN OUR NATION'S COAL COMMUNITIES

A Bi-weekly Update from the National Association of Counties and the National Association of Development Organizations



Welcome to the latest issue of “**Growing Stronger Economies in Our Nation’s Coal Communities.**” This curated bi-weekly newsletter is a joint resource from the [National Association of Counties \(NACo\)](#) and the [National Association of Development Organizations \(NADO\) Research Foundation](#). NACo and NADO are collaborating on a POWER technical assistance grant generously provided by the [U.S. Economic Development Administration’s Denver Regional Office](#). This newsletter provides a national perspective on diversification efforts in coal communities, resources and funding opportunities, and upcoming events and trainings to support your work in a variety of areas to improve economic development, infrastructure, and quality of life in your region. It is delivered every other Wednesday.

Content Wanted! Have a news story or event that you would like featured in our newsletter? Send an e-mail to Brett Schwartz at bschwartz@nado.org. We welcome your feedback on content and ideas and encourage you to share this newsletter with your colleagues and partners. Thanks for reading!

Economic Diversification News

- The American Jobs Project **has released a report that explores options for Wyoming to diversify its economy through carbon technology and research**, reports the *Casper Star-Tribune*. From the article: "From feedstocks to carbon capture, fossil fuels can be used in a growing sector of carbon technology, the report finds... [W]yoming is in a unique position in regard to carbon technology if it follows some guidelines, such as setting up funding for early-stage carbon technology in the private sector, encouraging private investors to join a pool of venture capital, and reworking the Hathaway Scholarship so that it provides Wyoming student debt forgiveness for working in the state after graduation." Click [here](#) to read the article.
- **Appalachia's Hispanic population saw a 121% increase between 2000 and 2010, helping to breathe new life into many communities that had been hollowing out**, reports *Mic*. From the article: "From strip malls to historic downtown landmarks, buildings across Appalachia today are telling stories of a changing region. Former nail salons, once-stately banks, and empty storefronts are beginning fresh chapters in their lifecycle as Hispanic groceries, Mexican restaurants, and Latinx-operated small businesses." Click [here](#) to read the article.
- A new report from the Northern Plains Resource Council and International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers **calls for cleaning up coal ash ponds in Colstrip, Montana which could serve as an economic driver in the region** following the closure of two power plants in 2022, reports the *Billings Gazette*. From the article: "The Northern Plains Resource Council report argues that if Talen were to drain the ponds, excavate them from the ground, and reclaim the land it would create a number of jobs after the power plants close down... Partnering with the Northern Plains Resource Council on the report was the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (Local 1638), which is based in Colstrip. Both groups hope Talen will use local workers and Talen employees in the cleanup efforts rather than contracting with an outside company." Click [here](#) to read the article.
- *PRI* profiles Jane Cavarozzi and her Dirty Girl Coffee company which she is **using as a vehicle to promote homegrown economic development in some of the most challenged parts of Appalachian Ohio**. From the article: "Cavarozzi's goals are ambitious. She aims to bring skill-building, job-creating businesses to an area with little industrial infrastructure, as well as revitalize a dilapidated town center in a region where low incomes limit demand for her brand of fair-trade coffee. She sees economic development as integral to creating opportunities for disadvantaged women here and is working to sell the region to businesses in addition to growing her own." Click [here](#) to read the article.
- The data-driven model ASAP (Area Sector Analysis Process) has **identified a mix of industry opportunities for the Emery-Carbon area in Utah that can support economic diversification**, reports the *Sun Advocate*. From the article: "Data utilized in the Carbon-Emery study come from 290 surveys of local business professionals and government officials as well as information from a variety of federal databases, including the Environmental Protection Agency, Census Bureau, Bureau of

Economic Analysis, Bureau of Labor Statistics, FBI and more... ASAP essentially is a matchmaking mathematical model that uses data to pair communities with industry based on compatibility and desirability—is the industry compatible with the needs of the community; is it also something residents desire?” Click [here](#) to read the article.

Funding Opportunities and Resources

- The [U.S. Department of Labor](#) (DOL) has released its notice for the Women in Apprenticeship and Nontraditional Occupations (WANTO) grant. The **program supports pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship opportunities for women through recruitment, training, and retraining activities**. Between two and six grants will be awarded totaling \$250,000 and \$500,000. Applications are due **August 16**. Click [here](#) for the funding notice.
- The [Gannett Foundation](#) is offering grants to communities within the Gannett Co. Inc. service area for **various priorities including education, economic development, and environmental conservation**. Applications are due **August 17**. Further details are available [here](#).
- The [Workers Lab Innovation Fund](#) is currently accepting applications for grants of \$150,000 to **support projects that focus on addressing automation, financial tools, and training for mobility**. The Innovation Fund supports new approaches for building worker power by breaking down the barrier of access to capital. This flexible funding provides entrepreneurs, nonprofits, worker-organizers, and public-sector leaders the resources to test and launch new ideas that are ultimately scalable and sustainable. Apply by **August 24**. Click [here](#) to learn more.
- The [TD Charitable Foundation](#) is providing funding to support programs aimed at **enhancing accessible housing options across various groups and populations**. The program, Housing for Everyone, funds education and assistance for people seeking both transitional and permanent housing based upon their conditions and needs. Twenty-five grants of \$125,000 are available. The deadline to apply is **August 31**. Eligible entities must be in specific states served by TD Bank. More information can be found [here](#).
- The [U.S. Department of Labor’s Employment and Training Administration \(ETA\)](#) has announced the **availability of up to \$100 million for Trade and Economic Transition National Dislocated Worker Grants to provide training and career services to dislocated workers affected by major economic dislocations**. These grants will provide funding to states, outlying areas, eligible tribal governments, and other entities to address one or more of the following events: the economic and workforce impacts associated with job loss or employer/industrial reorganization due to trade or automation; the loss, significant decline, or major structural change/reorganization of a primary or legacy industry; and/or other economic transition or stagnation that may disproportionately impact mature workers, putting them at risk for extended unemployment, lower wages, and underemployment. Click [here](#) for more information and to apply by **September 7**.

- The Foundation for Rural Service is accepting **grant applications from rural communities to support business and community development, education, and telecommunications**. Priority is given to projects in broadband development. The deadline to apply is **September 15**. Program guidelines and instructions to apply are available [here](#).
- The [U.S. Department of Labor](#) (DOL) **has announced the availability of \$85 million for YouthBuild programs**. YouthBuild is a pre-apprenticeship initiative supporting at-risk youth ages 16-24 through education and skill development opportunities for in-demand jobs. Funding is provided to expand public- and nonprofit-sponsored YouthBuild programs with 85 awards anticipated throughout the country. Awards will be granted from \$700,000 to \$1.1 million with a 25 percent match requirement. Grant recipients with FY2017 funding are not eligible to apply. Applications are due **September 18**. Click [here](#) for the funding notice.
- Does your town or city have an underused public space that would be ideal for outdoor concerts? The [Levitt Foundation](#) is now accepting applications for the Levitt AMP [Your City] grant program through **September 25**. Each year, the Levitt Foundation awards \$25K matching grants to up to 15 U.S.-based nonprofits serving small to mid-sized towns and cities to present the Levitt AMP Music Series, **10 free concerts that inject new life into public spaces and create vibrant community destinations**. Click [here](#) for more information and to apply.
- The [U.S. Department of Agriculture – Rural Development](#) (USDA-RD) is **seeking applicants for priority points consideration under the Strategic Economic and Community Development (SECD) program**. To receive priority points, applicants submit proposals which detail projects supporting regional economic development plans in rural areas. If selected, points will be awarded to listed projects and recognized by USDA for Rural Development funding. Applications are due **September 30**. Click [here](#) for more information.
- The [U.S. Department of Labor](#) (DOL) has issued a notice on a sector-based apprenticeship program. The **program, Scaling Apprenticeship through Sector-Based Strategies, aims to increase apprenticeship opportunities in new industry sectors**. DOL will award \$150 million towards 15 to 30 apprenticeship programs. The agency will prioritize applicants that seek to expand apprenticeships within industries with few available learning opportunities and apprenticeships for small to medium-sized businesses. Proposals are due **October 16**. Click [here](#) for the funding notice.
- The [American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy](#) has released two new reports this summer that explore **how energy efficiency programs can support economic and workforce development and can help rural residents save money on their energy bills**. To read “The High Cost of Energy in Rural America: Household Energy Burdens and Opportunities for Energy Efficiency,” click [here](#). To read “Through the Government Lens: Developing the Energy Efficiency Workforce,” click [here](#).

- The [Center for Community Progress](#) has released a new report, “Creative Placemaking on Vacant Properties: Lessons Learned from Four Cities.” This report **offers practical guidance for communities curious about how to leverage the power of creative placemaking to transform vacant properties.** It includes a creative placemaking primer and key takeaways based on work conducted over the course of two years. It also explores emerging practices in four communities: Kalamazoo, Michigan; Wilkinsburg, Pennsylvania; Newburgh, New York; and Macon, Georgia. Click [here](#) to read the report.
- The [U.S. Department of Agriculture](#) (USDA) has released a new two-page [guide](#) **detailing how the agency can support the local foods sector throughout the supply chain.** The document lists grants, loans, research, and other programs that could apply to land conservation, agricultural production, processing, aggregation/distribution, markets/consumers, and throughout the supply chain.

Events and Trainings

- Registration is now open for [“Strengthening Economies in Colorado: A Forum for Coal Reliant Communities”](#) scheduled for **September 19 and 20 in Delta, CO** and hosted by NACo and the NADO Research Foundation with the support of U.S. EDA. This free convening will bring together stakeholders from the public and private sectors for an **educational and interactive gathering to share best practices, lessons learned, and new opportunities to support economic diversification.** Prepare for a mix of interactive sessions and small group discussions designed to deepen and foster new partnerships aimed at promoting innovation and prosperity throughout Colorado and the Western regions. Click [here](#) to learn more and register.
- [SOAR Summit 18](#) is scheduled for **August 30-31** at the East Kentucky Expo Center in Pikeville. This year’s summit is a **convening of organizations, businesses, and individuals who represent the best of Appalachia Kentucky.** This year’s Summit will feature inspiring keynote speakers who promote innovation and collaboration, economic and community development, and the alignment of the region’s work with the [Blueprint for a 21st Century Appalachia](#), a visionary plan for Appalachia Kentucky that was created through the input of thousands of people from across the region. Click [here](#) to learn more and to register.
- The [Appalachian Regional Commission’s Annual Summit](#) is scheduled for **September 12 – 14** in Tupelo, Mississippi. The program will **highlight best practices, emerging ideas, and lasting strategies for economic development across Appalachia.** It will also cover hot topics in the Region such as capital access, the opioid crisis, and land reclamation. Plus, new to this year’s agenda are focused technical assistance offerings – including skill building workshops and strategy labs with ARC experts. Click [here](#) to learn more and to register.

- The [Center for Creative Land Recycling](#) is hosting the National Brownfields Leadership Summit in **Washington, DC on September 25 and 26**. This event will bring together top leaders from across the redevelopment industry with key decision makers to discuss **the latest in redevelopment policies, programs, and funding opportunities**. Click [here](#) to learn more and to register.
- **Wyoming towns, cities, tribal governments, and counties are invited to apply for the Community Builders Leadership Institute (CBLI) scheduled for September 26 – 28 in Lander, Wyoming**. The CBLI engages community teams in an intensive workshop that builds leadership and practical understanding of ways to align community planning and economic development in today's economy. Working with dynamic trainers and facilitators, participants will leave the CBLI equipped with a clear plan of action for how to address the top issues facing their community. Click [here](#) to learn more and apply by **August 20**.
- [AARP's](#) 2018 Livable Communities National Conference is scheduled for **November 12 – 14 in Charlotte, NC**. Join hundreds of elected officials, planning professionals, local leaders, and community advocates from throughout the nation to **learn from livability experts, connect with peers who are driving community change, and visit innovative projects and programs in and around Charlotte**. This conference is for anyone who is committed to making their state, county, city, town, or neighborhood a great place for people of all ages during all life's stages. Click [here](#) to learn more and to register.

A Dose of Inspiration

- Economic developer Maury Forman **has penned a letter to his newborn granddaughter Elora with advice and words of wisdom for when she grows up about education, careers, and more**. From the letter: "Automation and artificial intelligence will lead to a lot of changes in jobs, skills, and careers. It's the way it is and always has been. The market is always changing. Don't be frightened by change. Embrace it at the very least and if possible, anticipate it so you can take advantage of new opportunities that come your way." Click [here](#) to read the rest of Forman's letter.



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