

San Juan County Recovery Coordinator Request for Qualifications

Background and information:

San Juan County has seen an economic disruption with the Gold King Mine Release of August 5th, 2015 in which about three million gallons of contaminated water was inadvertently released by EPA contractors into Cement Creek; and subsequently impacted the watersheds of downstream communities in three states. The community is expected to undergo tremendous changes as a result of the impending Super Fund designation. They are concerned that the designation and bad press resulting from the spill will impact the tourist and recreation economy, which is the County's primary economic driver. San Juan County has become almost entirely dependent upon tourism since the mines closed, primarily during the summer months when the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad is running. Almost half of all San Juan County jobs are in tourism.

With impending Superfund designation, San Juan County is ill equipped to handle the expected population increase to work on the Superfund (estimated from 50 to 250 people increasing the population more than 25%) the strains on transportation corridors, open space and public lands, not to mention meeting the current needs of businesses. Economic development efforts will support retaining current businesses and infrastructure throughout the recovery efforts.

Since the event, there have been numerous meetings in at least three states with citizens, local and State government officials, Tribal representatives, EPA and other agencies demanding answers and action. The Superfund Site designation has been a major topic of discussion since the spill occurred. San Juan County and the Town of Silverton have reached consensus to pursue Superfund designation, with a proposal that includes almost 50 other abandoned mine sites that they feel have the same potential to affect surface water downstream. In order to preserve existing business and handle the increased activity, attention and additional workforce that a Superfund project brings, more assistance and resources are needed. There are currently 322 jobs identified by the State Demographer that need to be retained in the community. The retraining of seasonal workers is critical in the Superfund activities and including current residents is desperately needed for the viability of the Town. San Juan County had the lowest average weekly wage for the first quarter of 2015 in Colorado (Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Program). The local economic development group, San Juan Development Association, also needs strengthening and this coordinator will work in an economic developer role, participating with the established Silverton Stakeholders to identify current needs and build future sustainability of the local economic development group over the long-term.

Scope of Work items for consideration:

The proposed Recovery Coordinator is a two year position budgeted at \$35,000 annually plus mileage and office space and will be responsible for working with county businesses and assisting them to successfully remain open and navigate the community's transition from the Gold King Mine Spill disaster to a long term Superfund cleanup. The Coordinator will develop a resiliency plan for the community and identify opportunities for economic diversification. The Coordinator will also be the central point of contact in the communication and dissemination of accurate information to the community as requested by both San Juan County and the Town of Silverton. Functioning as a liaison for the community meetings occurring both in and outside of San Juan County by numerous agencies and organizations is a critical component. Specifically, the contracted Recovery Coordinator must:

- Conduct inventory of businesses identifying specific business needs via a survey of businesses and one-on one interviews in collaboration with Silverton Chamber. A compiled survey result report that identifies the impact of the spill on local businesses, identified needs and potential short and long-term recommendations will be produced.
- Work closely with San Juan Development Association's Board of Directors, which includes the Town, County, School, Chamber & Region 9) on completing his or her specific tasks and duties. San Juan Development Association will be the vehicle to continue this position into the future and to move forward with long term recovery efforts in the community.
- Communicate/disseminate accurate information regarding Gold King Mine Spill and resulting Bonita Mining District Superfund to community in coordination with all appropriate entities.
- Attend meetings that concern the Gold King mine spill, and resulting mine mediation and Superfund activities that, due to very limited staff capacity, cannot be attended to by County and Town staff.
- Brief County and Town staff, elected officials and community on these meetings, including but not limited to, Animas River Stakeholders, Animas River Forum, La Plata County Commissioners, and EPA.
- Work with any designated (formal or informal) public information officers to develop/compile and distribute accurate information and sources to San Juan County general community through multiple sources (newspaper e-newsletter, email, government/organization websites etc.).
- Work with Region 9, SW Workforce Center, SW Colorado Community College and other appropriate entities/businesses to identify workforce and training needs to help current residents/businesses have an opportunity get jobs with Superfund mine mitigation or other related work.
- Have a physical office in Silverton Visitor Center with posted hours in which to meet with businesses and connect them to resources.
- Help coordinate at least two identified trainings and/or education opportunities to the community as identified by the business survey.
- Develop a business resiliency plan business for San Juan County to identify economic development tourism diversification strategies to mitigate job loss and create resiliency for future disasters.
- Identify goals, needs, resources and the funding opportunities required to create future resiliency.
- Identify future funding and technical assistance resources for San Juan Development's sustainability so it can continue to provide, mentoring, local expertise and needed services to new and existing businesses for the longer term.

Application Process and Selection Criteria:

The proposal format should generally follow the outline shown below and include a resume, references and letter of introduction to be no more than 5 pages not including attachments. All proposals should be submitted via e-mail or hard copy, sealed in an envelope, to Laura Lewis Marchino at laura@scan.org or to Region 9 EDD 295A Girard St. Durango, CO 81303 no later than 5pm, Thursday,

September 22, 2016. All proposals must have Recovery Coordinator in the email subject line or written on the envelope.

Proposals shall be evaluated on the following criteria as it pertains to the scope and needs of this project presented in a clear, organized manner:

- a) Resume Qualifications – proven communications skills including written expertise, current computer skills, oral presentations
- b) Experience in San Juan County or other similar mountain communities
- c) Partnerships/collaboration experience—documented personal history of productivity through teamwork and collaboration; or working through multiple organizations with a community mission.
- d) Research or project experience—proven accomplishment of project completion.
- e) Provide relevant (professional and personal) references

Criteria		Weight	Rating	Score
Resume qualifications		30		
Experience in like communities		10		
Partnership /Collaboration experience		10		
Research/project experience		30		
References		20		
TOTAL SCORE		100		
Rating Key	2- Marginal	5 – Acceptable	8 – Good	10 - Outstanding

All questions should be directed to:

Laura Lewis Marchino
 Region 9 EDD
laura@scan.org
 970-247-9621

Following the evaluation of all applicant proposals, Region 9 EDD will notify all responders no later than October 14, 2016.