



The Office of
Just Transition

Phase I and Phase II OJT/OEDIT Community Assistance Grants Awarded as of February 15, 2026

OJT Sponsored Awards: \$8,846,592

OEDIT Sponsored Awards: \$3,081,875

Total Awards: \$11,928,467

List of Awards

City of Pueblo: \$ 461,538

Project: This grant provides the first three years of funding for a full-time Transition Project Manager. During this period, this new position will develop and write a long-term transition strategy and investment plan for Pueblo to address the expected jobs and property tax losses due to the early closure of Comanche Station, a coal-fueled power plant. The plan will chart a path to more good-paying jobs, growth of existing businesses, creation and attraction of businesses, a more diversified local economy, and a broader property tax base.

Program: OJT Community Assistance Grant

Transition Community: Pueblo (Tier One)

Expenditure Category: Capacity for Coordination of Economic Development

City of Pueblo: \$ 471,423

Project: This grant supports the development of an Aviation Maintenance Technician (AMT) program. The program will be a collaboration between Pueblo Community College (PCC), Pueblo Corporate College, Pueblo Economic Development Corporation (PEDCO), and CAE Pueblo Training Center. The program aims to address a critical shortage of aircraft maintenance technicians and provide training for individuals, including transitioning coal workers, veterans, and high school graduates. The project is anticipated to create a minimum of 100 new, full-time, permanent jobs in Pueblo County within three years, with a median annual pay of approximately \$79,140.

Program: OJT Community Assistance Grant/ **Phase II OEDIT Funding Partnership**

Transition Community: Pueblo (Tier One)

Expenditure Category: Targeted Economic Development

City of Craig: \$ 1,051,000

Project: A \$1,051,000 grant has been approved for the City of Craig to purchase property for a new business and industrial park. The property is accessible to both the Union Pacific rail line and 1st Street in Craig. The City will partner with a private developer to begin the master planning process immediately after purchasing the property. The plan is to construct a large flex space facility on the east side of the property while leaving the remaining land that can be purchased/subdivided. This layout allows for the most flexibility with building and land availability while also constructing the infrastructure in the most efficient manner. The project has also been awarded \$2.5M in Congressionally Designated Spending for horizontal infrastructure costs.

Program: OJT Community Assistance Grant, **Phase II OEDIT Funding Partnership**

Transition Community: Yampa Valley (Tier One)

Expenditure Category: Targeted Economic Development

Moffat County/City of Craig: \$ 397,916

Project: This grant assists Moffat County and the City of Craig in developing infrastructure on the Yampa River to attract additional outdoor recreation-based tourism and to grow related businesses in the manufacturing, rental, and retail sectors through private investment, new business attraction, and job creation. The grant also serves as matching funds for a U.S. EDA grant. This project involves the development of a boat ramp with easy access and parking at Loudy Simpson Park, as well as the creation of a whitewater park through a diversion site that will also have easy access, parking, and other amenities.

Program: OJT Community Assistance Grant

Transition Community: Yampa Valley (Tier One)

Expenditure Category: Targeted Economic Development

Moffat County: \$ 150,000

Project: This grant funds a socio-economic study that will assess the impacts of a proposed Craig-Hayden Pumped Storage Hydropower Project. The grantee estimates that the Hydropower project will create 300 jobs during the 3-year construction period, 30 direct high-paying full-time jobs, and help meet the community's long-term goals for replacing coal property tax revenue.

Program: OJT Community Assistance Grant, **Phase II OEDIT Funding Partnership**

Transition Community: Yampa Valley (Tier One)

Expenditure Category: Targeted Economic Development

Moffat County: \$ 1,419,000 in OJT funds and another \$518,000 in OEDIT funds

Project: This grant will support the development of the Moffat County Fairgrounds Multi-Use Events Center, specifically funding design and engineering costs. The Events Center will serve to broaden the types of events that can be accommodated at the Moffat County Fairgrounds and allow existing events to grow, thereby enhancing the role of the Fairgrounds in driving economic development and tourism and leveraging its established reputation as a high-quality location for rodeos and other equestrian activities. A study commissioned by Moffat County estimates that the Facility, once operational, will support 30 jobs annually, predominantly in the Entertainment and Retail sectors.

Program: OJT Community Assistance Grant, **Phase II OEDIT Funding Partnership**

Transition Community: Yampa Valley (Tier One)

Expenditure Category: Targeted Economic Development

Morgan County: \$140,000

Project: This grant provides funding to hire a consultant to develop a transition plan, identify infrastructure and capital investment projects, and create a long term transition strategy for the county focused on identifying projects that will help replace property taxes lost when Pawnee Station, a coal-fueled power plant, converts to natural gas in 2026. This project will also incorporate a grant writing consultant to begin acquiring funding to implement key infrastructure projects as well as the overall strategic plan.

Program: OJT Community Assistance Grant

Transition Community: Morgan County (Tier One)

Expenditure Category: Capacity for Coordination of Economic Development

North Fork Valley Creative Coalition: \$75,000

Project: The North Fork Valley Creative Coalition (NFVCC), based in Paonia, Colorado, was awarded \$75,000 to expand its Executive Director position from part-time to full-time. The grant will support expanded capacity to lead cultural tourism programming, regional economic development efforts, creative entrepreneurship support, and business development initiatives. This aligns with Just Transition goals of diversifying and growing rural, post-coal economies through locally rooted industries.

Program: OJT Community Assistance Grant

Transition Community: Paonia (Tier II)

Expenditure Category: Capacity for Coordination of Economic Development

Northwest Colorado Development Council (NWCDC): \$ 72,656

Project: This grant provides a partial match for a REDI grant through DOLA, the purpose of which is a capacity-building project for the Yampa Valley coal transition community through the Northwest Colorado Development Council. The funding will increase coordination of the Roadmap and Recovery process and integration of the Just Transition program in cities and counties in the region. This involves hiring a program director and assistant to manage regional coordination and the flow of information.

Program: OJT Community Assistance Grant

Transition Community: Yampa Valley (Tier One)

Expenditure Category: Capacity for Coordination of Economic Development

Northwest Colorado Development Council (NWCDC): \$ 430,145

Fiscal Agent: Routt County

Project: This grant provides funding to staff the Northwest Colorado Development Council (NWCDC) for two years. NWCDC will manage economic development projects that have a regional impact, coordinate workgroup meetings that build the regional workforce ecosystem, and implement regional strategies that foster a diverse economic landscape, support affordable housing, access to childcare and regional transportation.

Program: JT Community Assistance Grant, **Phase II OEDIT Funding Partnership**

Transition Community: Yampa Valley (Tier One)

Expenditure Category: Capacity for Coordination of Economic Development

Pioneers Medical Center: \$ 600,000

Project: This grant supports the implementation of Meditech as the Electronic Health Record (EHR) system for Pioneers Medical Center. Meditech medical records implementation sets the stage for the Center's three-year expansion plan to create new high-paying jobs. The project supports the Town of Meeker's vision of becoming a destination for medical tourism.

Program: OJT Community Assistance Grant, **Phase II OEDIT Funding Partnership**

Transition Community: Yampa Valley (Tier One)

Expenditure Category: Targeted Economic Development

Region 9 Economic Development District: \$ 107,722

Project: This grant supports broadband infrastructure in La Plata County, with a focus on planning, design and coordination for middle-mile broadband infrastructure connecting a critical broadband corridor from Durango to Hesperus to Mancos. Expanding broadband infrastructure in La Plata County will stimulate the local economy by attracting businesses reliant on high-speed internet, enabling remote work, and supporting digital services. This project will also help retain existing businesses and create new job opportunities. The applicant

estimates the project will help retain 4,056 existing jobs and create 323 new jobs over seven years in La Plata County.

Program: OJT Community Assistance Grant, **Phase II OEDIT Funding Partnership**

Transition Community: La Plata County (Tier II)

Expenditure Category: Targeted Economic Development, Capacity for Coordination of Economic Development

Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District: \$ 100,000

Project: The purpose of this grant to the Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District (RBWCD) is to develop quantifiable information related to the economic development advantages of the proposed Wolf Creek Reservoir project in the areas of agricultural production, flatwater recreation, and a county-wide augmentation plan.

Program: OJT Community Assistance Grant, **Phase II OEDIT Funding Partnership**

Transition Community: Yampa Valley (Tier One)

Expenditure Category: Capacity, Targeted Economic Development

Town of Hayden: \$ 900,000

Project: This grant supports the development of the Northwest Colorado Business District adjacent to the Yampa Valley Regional Airport. OJT's funds will be used for land acquisition and to match federal and state grants for infrastructure construction. When complete, the Business District is expected to support clusters around outdoor recreation, manufacturing and distribution, transportation, aviation, construction, excavation, renewable energy distribution and production, and research and development. The grantee estimates the project will help off-set the loss of property tax from the closure of the power plant, add 100-150 jobs, and bring in \$15 million in public investment and \$200 million in private investment.

Program: OJT Community Assistance Grant

Transition Community: Yampa Valley (Tier One)

Expenditure Category: Targeted Economic Development

Town of Hayden: \$ 400,000

Project: This grant will help fund the construction of an Entrepreneurship Center in Hayden, Colorado. The Center will expand the Town's capacity to coordinate local and regional economic development and workforce development programs by providing a physical space to support programming for Hayden's existing and emerging businesses.

Program: OJT Community Assistance Grant, **Phase II OEDIT Funding Partnership**

Transition Community: Yampa Valley (Tier One)

Expenditure Category: Targeted Economic Development, Capacity for Coordination of Economic Development

Town of Meeker: \$ 34,500

Project: This grant will provide partial funding for the construction of a community-use conference room and business center at the Meeker Town Hall, as part of the Chamber of Commerce relocation effort. The Chamber is the economic development organization for Meeker and has outgrown its current space. The new business center will provide local businesses with consulting, networking, marketing, and training services, as well as connections to the Small Business Development Center.

Program: OJT Community Assistance Grant

Transition Community: Yampa Valley (Tier One)

Expenditure Category: Targeted Economic Development

Town of Meeker: \$ 220,000

Project: This grant will help fund the Riverfront Project on the section of the White River that flows through Meeker. The project will advance Meeker's economic diversification goals by promoting its outdoor recreation tourism sector, a key pillar of its transition plan. In addition to the town, partners contributing to the project include the Eastern Rio Blanco Metro Recreation and Park District and the Colorado Water Conservation Board. Meeker also intends to use OJT's funding to help secure a grant from Great Outdoors Colorado for the construction of the project. The project will mitigate erosion, enhance Circle Park, and create three safe and accessible river access points within the town.

Program: OJT Community Assistance Grant

Transition Community: Yampa Valley (Tier One)

Expenditure Category: Targeted Economic Development

Town of Naturita: \$ 711,258

Project: This grant is intended to provide matching funds for USDA and other grants to fund upgrades to Naturita's wastewater treatment system – specifically the treatment plant lagoon and portions of the sewer collection system. The existing system is outdated and in violation of state public health standards, and the upgrades should remove a barrier to attracting new or expanding existing businesses in the community. The project is part of Naturita's 2018 Capital Improvement Plan. The entire project is expected to cost \$7.77 million and add 65 years of life to the system. Construction should begin in 2023.

Program: OJT Community Assistance Grant

Transition Community: Yampa Valley (Tier One)

Expenditure Category: Infrastructure Projects/Workforce Development Programs

Town of Naturita: \$ 20,000

Project: This grant supports Naturita's historic community building renovation project. The project involves inspection, engineering, and design work to prepare for the conversion of the structure into a combined Town Hall and public meeting space. The renovated building will improve community access to services, create new event and rental space, and free up a Main Street parcel for potential commercial use

Program: OJT Community Assistance Grant

Transition Community: West End (Tier One)

Expenditure Category: Infrastructure Projects

Town of Norwood: \$ 313,566

Project: This grant will fund a drainage study and engineering plan necessary for installing a drainage system in the Town of Norwood. Norwood expects the new drainage system will help update the town's infrastructure, creating a solid foundation for the community to attract new businesses and diversify its economy.

Program: OJT Community Assistance Grant

Transition Community: West End (Tier One)

Expenditure Category: Infrastructure Projects/Workforce Development Programs

Town of Nucla: \$ 721,331

Project: This grant will fund engineering and environmental assessments of Nucla's water distribution and wastewater systems, as well as the development of a design plan to address issues with these systems. Nucla intends to utilize the OJT construction support as a match for USDA and other grants. Nucla's water distribution lines are 50-60 years old, and among other things the system requires algae control, UV treatment, and installation of a mechanical bar screen at the wastewater treatment plant. Nucla considers these upgrades foundational for attracting new businesses and tourists and diversifying its economy.

Program: OJT Community Assistance Grant

Transition Community: West End (Tier One)

Expenditure Category: Infrastructure Projects/Workforce Development Programs

Town of Oak Creek: \$ 307,000

Project: This grant funds the architectural and engineering costs, Master Planning, Feasibility Study, and Conceptual Design for the expansion of South Routt Medical Center, which is part of the Northwest Colorado Development Council's (NWCDC) Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) Recovery Roadmap strategy. The expansion will allow for an estimated 3.5 new FTE, including medical/specialty providers and a medical assistant, which would add capacity to serve an additional 2,000-3,000 unique patients per year.

Program: OJT Community Assistance Grant, **Phase II OEDIT Funding Partnership**

Transition Community: Yampa Valley (Tier One)

Expenditure Category: Targeted Economic Development

Town of Rangely: \$ 396,225

Project: This grant supports the development of an access point, boat ramp, and other infrastructure on the White River to enhance options for rafters, kayakers, and paddle boarders, and promote full-day and multi-day float trips. Improved recreation on the White River is expected to be a catalyst for private investment in support industries, create new jobs, and help Rangely expand its tax base.

Program: OJT Community Assistance Grant

Transition Community: Yampa Valley (Tier One)

Expenditure Category: Targeted Economic Development

Town of Rangely: \$ 500,000

Project: This grant funds the Town's RARE (Retain, Attract, Rebuild, Expand) program for a three-year period. The program includes small business grants, technical assistance and training, and a pitch competition for new businesses. The town anticipates the project will create at least 15 FTE jobs at median area income and/or essential jobs that preserve essential services for the Town of Rangely over three years.

Program: OJT Community Assistance Grant, **Phase II OEDIT Funding Partnership**

Transition Community: Yampa Valley (Tier One)

Expenditure Category: Targeted Economic Development

Town of Yampa: \$ 100,000

Project: In partnership with support from DOLA, this grant will be used to hire a consultant to update Yampa's 1997 Master Plan and add additional components (such as an Economic Development Plan and Capital Improvement Plan), to ensure an all-inclusive, strategic approach to economic diversification. The project will also help advance several economic development initiatives, including expanding Town planning staff capacity. The goal is to build a foundation to attract private investment and develop a transition plan to identify best-fit industry sectors and economic opportunities and tools.

Program: OJT Community Assistance Grant

Transition Community: Yampa Valley (Tier One)

Expenditure Category: Capacity for Coordination of Economic Development

Town of Yampa: \$ 105,000

Project: Along with funding from DOLA's REDI program, this grant will support the Yampa Business Support Program's implementation of the Town of Yampa's Economic Action Plan through the implementation of community-driven projects that address the community's changing economy. Specifically, funds will be used to support the expansion of two local businesses, expand Town staff capacity to implement the Economic Action Plan, and purchase wayfinding signage as the first step in implementing the Town's Wayfinding Master Plan.

Program: OJT Community Assistance Grant, **Phase II OEDIT Funding Partnership**

Transition Community: Yampa Valley (Tier One)

Expenditure Category: Capacity for Coordination of Economic Development, Targeted Economic Development

Uncompahgre Development Company: \$ 330,000

Project: This grant will help expand the existing Delta Industrial Park through the purchase of 16.7 additional acres and by conducting planning and environmental narratives and engineering reports as a prelude to applying for federal grants for construction, with a focus on flexible manufacturing space. The grantee estimates that, when complete, new energy-efficient and flexible space accommodating diverse businesses in all stages of development will increase economic diversity and property taxes, and create 40-60 direct new jobs.

Program: OJT Community Assistance Grant

Transition Community: Delta/Gunnison (Tier Two)

Expenditure Category: Targeted Economic Development

Uncompahgre Development Company: \$ 131,538

Project: These funds will allow UDC to form a public/private partnership with the City of Delta to develop much-needed affordable workforce housing. UDC will utilize \$75,000 to purchase a .697 acre lot to combine with an adjacent 6.487 acre lot owned by the City of Delta. The combined lot will support the development of workforce housing. UDC will use the remaining \$56,538 to match larger grants to complete the infrastructure development for their Industrial Park Expansion, a project partially funded through a previous OJT grant.

Program: OJT Community Assistance Grant.

Transition Community: Delta/Gunnison (Tier Two)

Expenditure Category: Targeted Economic Development

West End Economic Development Corporation (WEEDC): \$ 141,075

Fiscal Agent: Region 10

Project: This grant provides a partial match for a Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) grant through the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA), providing staffing capacity for WEEDC for

regional economic development. Target areas are entrepreneurial and small business development, value-added agriculture, outdoor recreation/tourism, and affordable housing.

Program: OJT Matching Grant Assistance

Transition Community: West End of Montrose County (Tier One)

Expenditure Category: Capacity for Coordination of Economic Development

West End Economic Development Corporation (WEEDC): \$ 99,844

Project: This grant helps fund WEEDC's Main Street Facade Improvement Project, which also received funding from Montrose County, San Miguel County, Colorado Housing & Finance Authority, West End Pay It Forward Trust, Telluride Foundation, and DOLA/REDI. The project offers a 50:50 grant (up to \$5,000) to main street businesses in Nucla, Naturita and Norwood. The goal is to improve the facades to attract more business and generate more sales tax. This project is in conjunction with a major "business revamp" program by the local chambers of commerce that includes site visits by business consultants working to improve business/visitor interaction.

Program: OJT Community Assistance Grant

Transition Community: West End (Tier One)

Expenditure Category: Targeted Economic Development

West End Economic Development Corporation (WEEDC): \$ 210,680

Project: This project supports capacity building within the WEEDC by funding an Office and Grant Administrator position. The position will be split between WEEDC and Nucla, Naturita, and Norwood. The position will open up capacity for WEEDC's Executive Director and the region's Town Managers to focus on programs to attract new businesses to the West End. As a result of increased funding, programming, and general support for businesses in the West End, WEEDC anticipates at least 15 new jobs created and at least 50 jobs retained indirectly.

Program: OJT Community Assistance Grant, **Phase II OEDIT Funding Partnership**

Transition Community: West End (Tier One)

Expenditure Category: Capacity

Yampa Valley Regional Airport: \$ 229,000

Project: The Yampa Valley Regional Airport (YVRA), located in the Town of Hayden, is developing a new Aviation Business Park (ABP) that will consist of five taxiways/taxilanes accessing 43 new hangars on 37 acres in the northeast corner of the airport property. The grant is for the design/engineering expenses to extend utilities and develop a taxiway and taxilane that will connect the ABP with the runway. The development of the ABP will attract and nurture aviation-related businesses that create good-paying jobs above the prevailing wages of Routt County and Moffat Counties, attract private investment, and generate new sources of local

taxes. YVRA will partner with the Colorado Northwestern Community College (CNCC) Aviation Maintenance Technology program to create internships and apprenticeships with aviation-related businesses at the Business Park to create a workforce pipeline for CNCC graduates and dislocated coal miners and power plant workers.

Program: OJT Community Assistance Grant, **Phase II OEDIT Funding Partnership**

Transition Community: West End (Tier One)

Expenditure Category: Targeted Economic Development/Infrastructure