



SUMMARY: PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE BUSINESS READY COMMUNITY (BRC) PROGRAM RULES

The Wyoming Business Council (WBC) has proposed amendments to the Business Ready Community (BRC) Grant and Loan Program rules, now referred to as the **Building Resilient Communities (BRC) Grant and Loan Program**. These changes aim to enhance program clarity, streamline processes, and better align funding with economic development objectives, fostering more resilient communities and targeted economic growth through improved transparency and efficient fund utilization.

KEY PROPOSED CHANGES

1. **Purpose Redefined:** The program's core purpose is updated to explicitly focus on growing "resilient communities that can identify and solve barriers to economic growth." This shifts the emphasis towards proactive problem-solving and sustainable development.
2. **New Definitions:**
 - **"Barrier to growth"** is introduced as a data-verified factor limiting economic growth.
 - **"Block grant"** is defined for pre-approved, fixed funding, typically for smaller planning projects.
 - **"Committed business"** now clearly specifies the requirement for new primary jobs at or above median and state industry average wages.
 - **"Gross Wages"** is added, clarifying that it refers to employee wages before taxes, excluding employer match or benefits.
3. **Project Types Streamlined:**
 - The previous categories of "Business Committed Project," "Community Readiness Project," and "Community Project" for infrastructure are consolidated under a broader "infrastructure project" definition, emphasizing their contribution to solving a "barrier to growth."
 - The maximum grant/loan amount for infrastructure projects is no longer a fixed dollar amount but "the amount remaining in the BRC account at the time of application submittal."
 - Planning projects are now specifically handled through a **block grant process** and must address "barriers to growth."

4. Eligible Activities Refined:

- Planning project funds can now be used for new salary positions created for those purposes.
- Rehabilitation or expansion of existing infrastructure is allowed if previously BRC-funded in a prior phase or if deemed necessary to meet the program's purpose.

5. Revenue Generating Projects:

- Revenue recapture to the BRC fund is still required (no less than 25% of net revenue), but the cap on repayment to the BRC fund is increased to "double the original grant amount of the project."
- A significant change dictates that "Not less than twenty-five percent (25%) of local recapture shall be used for the next revenue-generating project," promoting reinvestment.
- A property recording (lien) is now required to be filed by the applicant (previously Council staff).
- Revenue-generating projects may incur a servicing fee.

6. Application and Review Process:

- Applications for infrastructure projects (except planning) now require the applicant to provide a summary document and presentation to the Council and Board at all public meetings.
- Planning applications approved via the block grant process will be determined by Council staff and updated to the Council/Board at their next meeting.
- A new ineligibility criterion is added for applicants "delinquent on any outstanding previous BRC debts."
- Applications involving a committed business now have a specific submission deadline of no later than seven weeks prior to the next Council Board of Directors meeting.

7. Grant Match Requirements:

- Fifty percent (50%) of a BRC loan may now be used to satisfy the grant match requirement (previously, 100% of a BRC loan could satisfy the match).
- Certain previously BRC-funded assets (personal property, real property, infrastructure) are now explicitly ineligible to be considered as part of the *minimum required match*, though they can be considered beyond that minimum.
- BRC grants will now pay no more than 25% of pre-construction costs.

8. Project Monitoring and Evaluation:

- New provisions state that grant funds will not be disbursed until 80% of any associated loan funds have been expended.
- Annual reports now specifically require an assessment of progress on "addressing barriers to growth," with quantitative and qualitative data.
- Reporting requirements for projects involving a loan and/or revenue recapture will continue until these requirements are met.

9. **Managed Data Center Cost Reduction (MDCCR) Funding:**

- This chapter is now explicitly referred to as "Managed Data Center Cost Reduction Funding" (previously also had Chapter 4 title as such, but with "BUSINESS READY COMMUNITY" prefix).
- The definition of "Gross Wages" is applied, and it's clarified that the employees and their gross wages must be "created positions."

These changes reflect a strategic shift towards more targeted, outcome-driven economic development, with a stronger emphasis on addressing identified barriers to growth, ensuring local reinvestment of recaptured funds, and streamlining administrative processes for planning projects.

For more detailed information, please refer to the full document: [BRC Proposed Rules Changes 2025](#). You can also review the proposed rules on the Secretary of State website at rules.wyo.gov under the "Business Council" dropdown menu.