

# WBC: DELIVERING LOCAL IMPACT

## A Regional Activity Review | July 2024 – December 2025<sup>1</sup>

The Wyoming Business Council (WBC), in strategic partnership with the **Wyoming Small Business Development Center (SBDC)**, **Manufacturing Works (MW)**, and the **Wyoming Women's Business Center (WWBC)**, continually deploys state resources to foster a more diversified and resilient economy across all six regions of Wyoming.

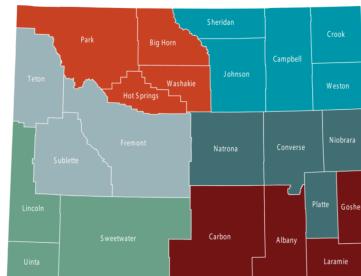
Sustainable community growth is fundamentally dependent upon **robust business services and support**. A community cannot truly thrive unless its local businesses – the job creators and tax base – are nurtured, supported, and prepared for expansion.

This summary is a sample of our targeted leadership and investments across three critical, interconnected pillars: **Business Support**, **Community Development**, and **Infrastructure Improvements**.

### BOOTS-ON-THE-GROUND LEADERSHIP

Our **Regional Directors** serve as the catalysts for community-led action, providing the essential coaching, connections, and strategic support necessary for economic growth. They are the **direct connection** between state strategy and local economies, engaging in:

- Economic development education and training
- Business Retention and Expansion (BRE) support
- Strategic planning and implementation
- Local business advocacy and partnership facilitation



### ACRONYMS IN THIS REPORT

<b>A2A</b>	Assessment to Action	<b>MEG</b>	Market Expansion Grant
<b>BRG</b>	Business Ready Community Grant & Loan Program	<b>SBDC</b>	Wyoming Small Business Development Center
<b>BRE</b>	Business Retention and Expansion	<b>SBIR</b>	Small Business Innovation Research Matching Grant
<b>CPF</b>	Capital Projects Fund (Broadband)	<b>STEP</b>	State Trade and Expansion Program
<b>MW</b>	Manufacturing Works	<b>WYVC</b>	Wyoming Venture Capital

<sup>1</sup> Accountability & Partnership

This regional data serves as an "ecosystem map" highlighting a sample of where and how state resources are being strategically injected to generate economic returns in Wyoming communities. By organizing our efforts locally, the WBC ensures that state programs are relevant, accountable, and provide a unique developmental focus tailored to the needs of communities, businesses, and individuals.

## EAST CENTRAL REGION (Converse, Natrona, Niobrara, Platte)

*Strategic Focus: Energy innovation, manufacturing support, and industrial expansion. WBC Regional Director: Drew Dietrich, [drew.dietrich@wyo.gov](mailto:drew.dietrich@wyo.gov)*

AREA OF IMPACT	KEY EFFORTS & PROGRAMS
<b>Business Services</b>	<p>Challenge Loan: Rocky Mountain Electric (<b>Casper</b>)      Industrial Certification Grant: Granite Peak Fabrication (<b>Casper</b>)      Kickstart Grants (<b>Casper</b>): slp.tools, Chilly Dip Ice Spas &amp; Bullfrog Recruiting Solutions      MEG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Casper</b> - Bullfrog Creatives, Frog Creek Partners, Infinite Outdoors &amp; Stellar Programming &amp; Consulting Inc.</li> <li>• <b>Chugwater</b> - Chugwater Chili Corporation</li> </ul> <p>STEP: Disa Technologies &amp; Frog Creek Partners (<b>Casper</b>)      WYVC: Breakthrough Venture Capital (<b>Casper</b>) &amp; Disa Technologies (<b>Mills</b>)</p>
<b>Community Growth &amp; Infrastructure</b>	<p>BRC infrastructure &amp; planning investments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Bar Nunn</b> - Bar Nunn Community Center</li> <li>• <b>Casper</b> - North Platte River Park infrastructure improvements</li> <li>• <b>Evansville</b> - Mesa Solutions expansion</li> <li>• <b>Guernsey</b> - Guernsey Senior Center and Library Expansion</li> <li>• <b>Mills</b> - Austin Engineering Expansion</li> </ul> <p>InSite industrial site analysis &amp; planning: <b>Casper &amp; Douglas</b></p>
<b>Broadband</b>	<p>CPF recipients:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Glendo, Casper Airport</b> (Visionary)</li> <li>• <b>NW Casper</b> (Mountain West Technologies)</li> </ul> <p>Connect Wyoming CARES projects in <b>Converse, Niobrara &amp; Platte</b> counties</p>
<b>Capacity Building</b>	<p>A2A: <b>Glenrock, Rolling Hills &amp; Evansville</b>.      Facilitating strategy discussions and educational outreach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Douglas &amp; Casper</b> - Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Strategic Planning/Education</li> <li>• <b>Casper</b> - Municipal Option Tax</li> <li>• <b>Converse/Natrona counties</b> - Outdoor Recreation</li> </ul> <p>Main Street Support: <b>Douglas &amp; Glenrock</b>      Rural Growth Initiative: <b>Lusk/Niobrara County</b>      The Wyoming Academy: <b>7 participants</b></p>
<b>Partner Reach</b>	<b>191 SBDC + 21 MW clients</b> regionwide

## NORTHEAST REGION (Campbell, Crook, Johnson, Sheridan, Weston)

*Strategic Focus: Advanced manufacturing, energy commercialization, entrepreneurial support, and Main Street revitalization. WBC Regional Director: Brandi Harlow, [brandi.harlow@wyo.gov](mailto:brandi.harlow@wyo.gov)*

AREA OF IMPACT	KEY EFFORTS & PROGRAMS
<b>Business Services</b>	Challenge Loans: <b>Gillette, Buffalo &amp; Sheridan</b> Kickstart: Agricultural Innovations ( <b>Oshoto</b> ) & Root to Shoot ( <b>Sheridan</b> ) MEG: Inflatrix ( <b>Gillette</b> ) & Craftco ( <b>Sheridan</b> ) SBIR Matching Grants: Kennon Products & Blacktooth Aerospace ( <b>Sheridan</b> )
<b>Community Growth &amp; Infrastructure</b>	BRC infrastructure and planning investments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Sheridan</b> - Sheridan High-Tech Park</li><li>• <b>Gillette</b> - Pronghorn Industrial Park</li><li>• <b>Wright &amp; Ranchester</b> - Economic Development Planning grants</li></ul> Community Facilities Rehabilitation (CFR): Old Stoney ( <b>Sundance</b> ) Recruiting: Project Mammoth & BWXT in <b>Gillette</b>
<b>Broadband</b>	CPF projects (Visionary, Charter Communications & Range): <b>Arvada, Big Horn, Buffalo, Clearmont, Dayton, Gillette, Leiter, Ranchester, Recluse, Rozet, Sheridan, Ucross, Upton &amp; Wright</b> Connect Wyoming CARES (Visionary & Range): <b>Aladdin, Arvada, Clearmont, Leiter, Ucross, Crook County, Dayton/Ranchester, Gillette-Douglas, Recluse, Rozet, Moorcroft &amp; Buffalo</b>
<b>Capacity Building</b>	A2A: <b>Sheridan &amp; Gillette</b> Building Local Capacity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Campbell Co. Economic Development Partners</b></li><li>• <b>Sheridan Economic Development Task Force</b></li></ul> Building Resilient Economies in Coal Communities (EDA/NACO): <b>Campbell County</b> Economic Developer Education Scholarships: <b>Gillette &amp; Sheridan</b> . InSite industrial site analysis & planning: <b>Gillette, Sheridan &amp; Upton</b> Main Street Support: <b>Gillette &amp; Sheridan</b> Rural Growth Initiative: <b>Clearmont &amp; Newcastle</b> The Wyoming Academy: <b>14 participants</b>
<b>Partner Reach</b>	<b>313 SBDC + 26 MW</b> clients regionwide

## NORTHWEST REGION (Big Horn, Hot Springs, Park, Washakie)

*Strategic Focus: Tourism infrastructure, manufacturing diversification, and strategic community planning. WBC Regional Director: Kristin Fong, [kristin.fong@wyo.gov](mailto:kristin.fong@wyo.gov)*

AREA OF IMPACT	KEY EFFORTS & PROGRAMS
<b>Business Services</b>	<p>Challenge Loans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Basin</b> - Basin Processing</li> <li>• <b>Cody</b> - True North Academy</li> </ul> <p>Kickstart: Point Blank Tech (<b>Cody</b>)</p> <p>MEG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Cody</b> - Deer Creek Wildlife</li> <li>• <b>Powell</b> - ASHBRO LLC</li> <li>• <b>Powell</b> - Sew Much More LLC</li> <li>• <b>Cody</b> - Wyoming Authentic Products</li> </ul> <p>STEP: Gunwerks &amp; Wyoming Authentic Products (<b>Cody</b>)</p>
<b>Community Growth &amp; Infrastructure</b>	<p>BRC planning projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Burlington Economic Development Plan</b></li> <li>• <b>Washakie Co. Economic Development Master Plan</b></li> </ul> <p>InSite industrial site analysis &amp; planning: <b>Powell</b></p> <p>Recruiting: Project Copperhead (<b>Cody</b>)</p>
<b>Broadband</b>	<p>CPF (BHT Holdings/TCT): <b>Lovell, Cowley, Cody &amp; rural Powell</b></p> <p>Connect Wyoming CARES: <b>Basin, Cody, Greybull/Shell, Otto, Powell &amp; Cowley</b> (TCT &amp; Charter)</p>
<b>Capacity Building</b>	<p>A2A: <b>Burlington, Greybull, Lovell &amp; Thermopolis</b></p> <p>BRE Training/Support: <b>Thermopolis Chamber &amp; Forward Cody</b></p> <p>Fishbone &amp; Barriers to Growth coaching: <b>Burlington Economic Development Committee &amp; Meeteetse Strategic Doing</b></p> <p>Leadership Training Scholarships: <b>Forward Cody</b></p> <p>Main Street Support: <b>Thermopolis</b></p> <p>Rural Growth Initiative: <b>Lovell</b></p> <p>The Wyoming Academy: <b>3 participants</b></p>
<b>Partner Reach</b>	<b>131 SBDC + 16 MW</b> clients regionwide

## SOUTHEAST REGION (Albany, Carbon, Goshen, Laramie)

*Strategic Focus: High-tech recruitment, corporate headquarters attraction, and advanced manufacturing. WBC Regional Director: Kaley Holyfield, [kaley.holyfield@wyo.gov](mailto:kaley.holyfield@wyo.gov)*

AREA OF IMPACT	KEY EFFORTS & PROGRAMS
<b>Business Services</b>	<p>Challenge Loans: COR Health (<b>Laramie</b>) &amp; Bella Fuoco (<b>Cheyenne</b>)</p> <p>Industrial Certification Grants: Disruptive Med Tech (<b>Laramie</b>) Kickstart:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Cheyenne</b> - Pixel Pay &amp; Sweet Motivation</li> <li>• <b>Laramie</b> - Power Theory &amp; MayPall</li> </ul> <p>MEG: Meadowlark Solutions LLC (<b>Albin</b>) &amp; Bear Creek Rubs (<b>LaGrange</b>)</p> <p>SBIR Matching Grants: Acadian R&amp;D &amp; Unlocked Labs (<b>Laramie</b>)</p> <p>WYVC: Airloom Energy (<b>Laramie</b>) &amp; Language I/O (<b>Cheyenne</b>)</p> <p>STEP: HiViz LLC (<b>Laramie</b>) &amp; Precious Cat Inc. (<b>Cheyenne</b>)</p>
<b>Community Growth &amp; Infrastructure</b>	<p>BRC infrastructure: WyoTech Training Expansion (<b>Laramie</b>)</p> <p>Recruiting: Meta, Crusoe/Tallgrass, HLE &amp; Related Digital (<b>Cheyenne</b>)</p> <p>InSite industrial site analysis &amp; planning: <b>Torrington &amp; Carbon counties</b></p> <p>Electric Infrastructure Planning: <b>Laramie</b></p>
<b>Broadband</b>	<p>CPF: <b>Cheyenne Ranchettes</b> &amp; surrounding areas (Visionary)</p> <p>Connect Wyoming CARES: <b>Albany &amp; Goshen counties, LaGrange, Veteran &amp; Yoder</b></p>
<b>Capacity Building</b>	<p>A2A: <b>Cheyenne</b></p> <p>BRE Training: <b>GoGoshen &amp; Carbon County Economic Development</b></p> <p>Economic Developer Education Scholarships: <b>Carbon &amp; Goshen counties</b> (MidAmerica EDC conference)</p> <p>Facilitation Support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Albany County Housing Coalition (<b>Laramie</b>)</li> <li>• Downtown BRE (<b>Laramie</b>)</li> <li>• <b>Laramie Regional Airport</b></li> <li>• <b>City of Rawlins</b> (Aging in Place)</li> </ul> <p>InSite analysis &amp; evaluations: <b>Goshen &amp; Carbon counties</b></p> <p>Main Street Support: <b>Laramie &amp; Torrington</b></p> <p>Rural Growth Initiative: <b>Torrington</b></p> <p>The Wyoming Academy: <b>18 participants</b></p>
<b>Partner Reach</b>	<b>261 SBDC + 54 MW</b> clients regionwide

## SOUTHWEST REGION (Lincoln, Sweetwater, Uinta)

*Strategic Focus: Industrial site readiness, mineral resource refinement, and key transportation infrastructure. WBC Regional Director: Chloe Valentine, [chloe.valentine@wyo.gov](mailto:chloe.valentine@wyo.gov)*

AREA OF IMPACT	KEY EFFORTS & PROGRAMS
<b>Business Services</b>	Challenge Loan: Rock Springs Block Co. ( <b>Rock Springs</b> ) Industrial Certification Grants: Black Mesa Advanced Fission & Clean Energy Cryogenics ( <b>Evanston</b> ) MEG: Trilipid Research Institute LLC ( <b>Etna</b> ) SBIR Matching Grant: Native Tech ( <b>Evanston</b> ) STEP: Victor Arms ( <b>Evanston</b> )
<b>Community Growth &amp; Infrastructure</b>	BRC infrastructure & planning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Rock Springs</b> - Southwest WY Regional Airport Terminal Modernization Continuation</li><li>• <b>Evanston</b> - 2050 Economic Development Master Plan</li><li>• <b>Lincoln County</b> Sewer Project</li></ul> Economic Development Planning: <b>Mountain View</b> InSite industrial site analysis & planning: <b>Evanston &amp; Sweetwater counties</b> Recruiting: Keltec ( <b>Rock Springs</b> )
<b>Broadband</b>	CPF: <b>Opal</b> via All West Communications Connect Wyoming CARES (Visionary, All West & Silver Star): <b>Bondurant, Boulder, Cora, Daniel, Cokeville &amp; Lincoln County</b>
<b>Capacity Building</b>	A2A: <b>Southwest Manufacturing Partnership</b> Building State Capability: <b>Kemmerer &amp; Star Valley</b> Main Street Support: <b>Afton, Evanston &amp; Rock Springs</b> Rural Growth Initiative: <b>Thayne</b> The Wyoming Academy: <b>5 participants</b>
<b>Partner Reach</b>	<b>93 SBDC + 20 MW</b> clients regionwide

## WEST CENTRAL REGION (Fremont, Sublette, Teton)

*Strategic Focus: Outdoor recreation economy, entrepreneurial growth, and infrastructure on tribal lands. WBC Regional Director: Patrick Edwards, [patrick.edwards@wyo.gov](mailto:patrick.edwards@wyo.gov)*

AREA OF IMPACT	KEY EFFORTS & PROGRAMS
<b>Business Services</b>	Kickstart: ing Outdoors & RealTimeEdTech ( <b>Jackson</b> ) MEG: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Dubois</b> - High Elevation LLC</li><li>• <b>Jackson</b> - Mentor Agility &amp; Estate Scribe LLC</li><li>• <b>Lander</b> - Wyoming Outdoor Corp</li><li>• <b>Pinedale</b> - Pine Coffee Supply</li><li>• <b>Riverton</b> - Brunton &amp; Lucid Optics Corporation</li></ul> WYVC: Alpyn Beauty, Derapi, Frontline Wildfire Defense & UserEvidence ( <b>Jackson</b> )
<b>Community Growth &amp; Infrastructure</b>	BRC: <b>Northern Arapaho Tribe</b> Data Center Feasibility Community Economic Growth Grant: Sublette County Chamber ( <b>Pinedale</b> ) InSite industrial site analysis & planning: <b>Riverton</b> Recruiting: Project Big Foot ( <b>Riverton</b> )
<b>Broadband</b>	CPF: <b>Lander</b> (Visionary) & <b>Dubois</b> (Range) Connect Wyoming CARES projects (Wind River Internet, Charter, RT & All West): <b>Ethete/Ft. Washakie/Arapahoe, Riverton, Shoshoni &amp; Smith's Fork</b>
<b>Capacity Building</b>	A2A: <b>Shoshoni &amp; Hudson</b> Collaborative housing discussions: <b>Lander &amp; Jackson</b> EDA Grant Team Support: \$36 million for infrastructure on tribal lands ( <b>Wind River Indian Reservation</b> ) Joint Funding Task Force ( <b>Fremont County AG</b> ) Hosted & supported <b>Leadership Fremont County</b> The Wyoming Academy: <b>8 participants</b>
<b>Partner Reach</b>	<b>137 SBDC + 14 MW</b> clients regionwide

## PROTECTING WYOMING'S ECONOMIC FUTURE

The Wyoming Business Council is proud of the ongoing regional successes shown in this report. Still, it is essential to acknowledge the risks our communities would face without this strategic support and **boots-on-the-ground leadership**.

Without the WBC's programs and services, the path to a diversified economy would face four critical barriers:

1. **Stalled Infrastructure:** Without the **BCP program**, major projects like the Southwest Wyoming Airport modernization, Lincoln County Sewer Project, or the Sheridan High-Tech Park would likely fail. Local tax bases cannot independently fund the infrastructure needed to **compete for industry and jobs** against neighboring states.
2. **Innovation Brain Drain:** Without **Kickstart, SBIR, and WYVC** funding, Wyoming's high-tech firms would be forced to seek capital outside the state. These programs are vital to ensuring our innovators keep their **jobs, intellectual property, and tax revenue** right here in Wyoming.
3. **Fragmented Local Leadership:** Without our **Regional Directors**, the essential link between state strategy and local action would be severed. Small-town administrations would lack the **coaching, strategic support, and know-how** needed to overcome local barriers to growth and secure complex funding opportunities.
4. **Vulnerable Small Businesses:** Without the collaborative reach of the **SBDC, WWBC, and Manufacturing Works**, thousands of local businesses would lose the technical expertise required to modernize, scale, and compete in a rapidly changing global market.

## THE MOMENTUM FOR RESILIENCE

The Wyoming Business Council is more than a source of grants; **we are the momentum** required to keep Wyoming competitive.

Without this proactive, regionally focused engagement, our communities risk losing the infrastructure, local capacity, and business diversity needed to move beyond the traditional boom-and-bust cycle. We look forward to continuing our partnership with the Legislature to secure a resilient economic future for every corner of the state.

