

MESA COUNTY 2010 REQUEST FOR RESULTS

ECONOMIC VITALITY

THE RESULTS WE ARE SEEKING

“I want Mesa County to have a variety of industries that promote a healthy and sustainable economy.”

INDICATORS OF PROGRESS

Indicator
Mesa County Per Capita Income <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2007 - \$30,746• 2006 - \$30,654
Average Weekly Wage All Industries <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3rd Quarter 2008—\$757• 3rd Quarter 2007— \$696• 3rd Quarter 2006—\$644
Average Number of Business/Government Establishments <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2nd Qtr 2008—5,341• 2nd Qtr 2007—5,008• 2nd Qtr 2006—4,698
Unemployment Rate <ul style="list-style-type: none">• May 2009—8.1%• May 2008—3.5%• May 2007—2.8%

FACTORS

Three main factors were identified to help Mesa County have a vital, sustainable economy. These factors are vital to retaining existing businesses in the County as well as recruiting new and diverse businesses.

Factor 1: Commercial and Natural Infrastructure

It is important that Mesa County have commercial infrastructure such as roads, utilities, technology and health care facilities both to support the businesses that are here now, and those that might come once there is an economic rebound. The County should also have the infrastructure to ensure diversity of industries that are geographically balanced throughout the community. The attractiveness of the community is an essential part of recruiting new businesses and retaining existing business within the commu-

nity and ensuring the ease of the development process. It is important to maintain the natural infrastructure such as open space, agricultural areas and recreational areas.

Factor 2: Workforce Development

A vital business atmosphere requires a diverse and educated workforce. Through collaborative efforts within Mesa County, agencies and businesses should promote programs to maintain the existing workforce as well as recruiting well educated new employees. Viable wages and benefits, a variety of educational and technical skill opportunities, healthy and drug-free communities and family support functions—including the availability of child care—are several factors that contribute to a satisfied workforce. Cross-trained employees are crucial when one industry has a downturn, those employees can then pick up jobs in another industry and not be forced to leave the area to seek employment and businesses can continue to operate.

Factor 3: Positive Business Climate

A major factor for businesses considering a place to make their headquarters is the restrictions of local government on their operations. The County should strive to make opening and maintaining a business easier. This includes turn-key plans to get businesses on the ground and running quicker, as well as strategies designed to lessen the burden on employers, creating fewer barriers for these businesses to be successful. This will in turn create more jobs, allowing more citizens of Mesa County to have money to put into the local economy.

PURCHASING STRATEGIES

We are seeking offers for programs that will contribute to Mesa County achieving the outcome of economic vitality. The following are some of the strategies that Mesa County believes will result in achieving this outcome.

Purchasing Strategy 1: Commercial & Natural Infrastructure

We are seeking proposals that ensure availability of commercial and natural infrastructure that enhances business development and expansion.

Specifically proposals for/that:

- Promote commercial and recreational nodes with geographical balance
- Expand availability and readiness of technology
- Maintain natural resources, including those encouraging agribusiness and tourism
- Expansion of utilities necessary to business development

Purchasing Strategy 2: Workforce Development

We are seeking proposals that support and promote a diverse and skilled workforce through training and educational opportunities.

Specifically proposals for/that:

- Promote training and cross training to create employees who can work in more than one industry
- Enhance and support school to career programs
- Promote access to diverse educational choices that offers a better possibility of advancement through career ladders and entrepreneurship

- Encourage a healthy, drug-free and available workforce
- Promote reliable modes of travel to and from work
- Build a culture of personal responsibility and self-sufficiency

Purchasing Strategy 3: Positive Business Climate

We are seeking proposals that promote a business friendly environment that will draw businesses, jobs and competition to the area.

Specifically proposals for/that:

- Ease the development process and rules to decrease the burden on businesses such as turn-key opportunities
- Encourage job creation by reducing regulatory and taxation barriers
- Promote business recruitment, development and retention

Special consideration will be given to offers that provide or encourage the following values:

- Customer Service
- Efficient processes
- Public/private partnerships and collaboration
- Interdepartmental cooperation
- Evidence based programs or services
- Prevention and Maintenance
- Volunteerism

ECONOMIC VITALITY STRATEGY MAP

