



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Office of Grand County Economic Development

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Grand County Hosts A Rural Housing Workshop

Hot Sulphur Springs, CO – Monday, February 6, 2017 –

Downtown Colorado, Inc. (DCI) facilitated a dialogue looking at housing resources and stakeholders in Grand County on February 6, 2017. The workshop, sponsored by Grand County Economic Development, and hosted by the Town of Fraser, with lunch provided by Grand Foundation, drew community leaders interested in discussing shortages of attainable and affordable housing options.

The DCI panel of experts facilitated by Katherine Correll, Downtown Colorado, Inc. (DCI) and DiAnn Butler, Grand County Economic Development, involved state agencies, private sector partners, and other communities working on housing, including Terry Barnard, Colorado Housing and Finance Authority; Kathryn Grosscup, Colorado Division of Housing; and Brandy Reitter, Buena Vista Town Administrator. Greg Winkler, Department of Local Affairs; Tim Gough, Colorado Division of Housing; Karen Harkin, Colorado Housing and Finance Authority; and Elena Scott, Norris Design, also provided expertise before/during the meeting.

The DCI Housing Workshop focused on helping identify up to three action steps Grand County can start on immediately and make progress in six months. It is important to note that “working on housing is a marathon, not a sprint” so this first workshop will open the door to a long-term strategy. Some of the primary action steps discussed for Grand County focused on the following areas:

Information and Communication: Identifying the resources and all stakeholders to engage in a county-wide dialogue on housing. Participants specified the need to involve private sector land owners and major employers and assess available resources, including access to water.

Planning and Studies: To show a housing need and attract financing and developers, Grand County will need a greater understanding of current housing stock, substandard housing, etc. Grand County can lead the effort in developing a request for proposal and

applying for grant funds to support housing studies.

Assessing the Regulatory Environment: Housing diversity is a major priority in Grand County. From “tiny homes” to mixed-use development, regulations should be updated to reflect current priorities and encourage the types of development that the Grand County workforce needs.

The participants in the rural housing institute came from a wide range of agencies, including governmental organizations, interested residents, nonprofits, and design firms from across Grand County and Clear Creek County. This included leaders from the Town of Fraser, Town of Winter Park, Town of Kremmling, Town of Granby, Town of Grand Lake, Hot Sulphur Springs, Grand County Government, Grand County Housing Authority, NWCOG, Grand Foundation, Clear Creek County Housing Authority, Norris Design, Colorado Housing and Finance Authority, Grand Beginnings and the Mountain Family Center. Elected officials in attendance were Commissioner Cimino, Commissioner Linke, Commissioner Manguso, Town of Winter Park Mayor Jimmy Lahrman, Town of Fraser Mayor Philip Vandernail and Trustee Herb Meyring, Town of Granby Mayor Paul Chavoustie, Town of Hot Sulphur Springs Mayor Robert McVay, Town of Grand Lake Trustee Steve Kudron and Town of Kremmling Mayor Tom Clark.

Next steps will be to determine achievable action items moving forward. For more information please contact dbutler@co.grand.co.us