RURAL CO-WORKING AND INNOVATION CENTER GRANT PROGRAM

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The Rural Co-working and Innovation grant provides funding for facilities that serve individuals working in rural communities with infrastructure and equipment to participate in the online workforce.

The state allocated $500,000 per fiscal year (July 1 through June 31) for this program. The Rural Online Working Hubs Grant Advisory Committee, will review applications, advise and make recommendations to the Office of Rural Development on grant awards.

Qualifying Activities of this Grant are:

- Construction or renovation of a facility to create a Co-working and Innovation Center
- Extending and/or improving utilities and broadband service connections to a Co-working and Innovation Center
- Purchasing equipment, furniture, and security systems as part of a Co-working and Innovation Center

Qualifying Entities and Counties

Qualifying entities for this grant include a county, city, institution of higher education or a private company that is within a defined county designated as a "Rural Area."

Qualifying "Rural Area" Counties are:
Beaver, Box Elder, Carbon, Daggett, Duchesne, Emery, Garfield, Grand, Iron, Juab, Kane, Millard, Morgan, Piute, Rich, San Juan, Sanpete, Sevier, Uintah, Wasatch, Wayne

Non-qualifying Counties are:
Cache, Davis, Salt Lake, Summit, Tooele, Utah, Washington, Weber

Application Priority

Priority will be given to applicants:

- Who serve underprivileged or under-served communities, including communities with high unemployment and/or low median incomes (compared to State of Utah averages)
- That demonstrate comprehensive planning of a project but has limited access to financial resources, including financial resources from local or county government
- That maximize economic development opportunities in collaboration with the economic development needs or plans of an educational institution, a county, and a municipality

Questions? Please email *goedruralprograms@utah.gov*