



FIVE COUNTY NEWS FROM 'R' VIEW

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Director's Dialogue

In my last message, I noted that federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds have begun to flow into southwestern Utah projects. At this week's Steering Committee meeting in Beaver, we reported on the flow of ARRA funds to the region.

During the past year, the Association of Governments has entered into contracts to administer \$1,456,345 of ARRA funds. These programs include:

Weatherization	\$ 663,634
Home Energy Assistance	\$ 102,400
Community Services Block Grants	\$ 253,201
Community Development Block Grant	\$ 229,185
Congregate Meals to Seniors	\$ 53,800
Meals on Wheels	\$ 26,500
AmeriCorps Senior Outreach	\$ 80,625
Kids In Care	\$ 47,000

Programs administered at the Association of Governments are just a small drop in the bucket of ARRA funds. As of late September 2009, more than \$83 million have been committed to projects in southwestern Utah as noted below:

Transportation	\$21,943,223
Drinking Water / Waste Water	\$17,452,833
Energy Conservation	\$ 1,217,800
Education	\$10,200,363
Public Health	\$ 316,599
Community Development	\$ 997,793
Dixie National Forest	\$ 4,565,000
Bureau of Land Management	\$ 7,946,000
National Park Service	\$ 1,674,000
Direct Business Loans	\$ 2,293,300
Guaranteed Housing Loans	\$13,333,590

These southwestern Utah projects comprise about 7 percent of ARRA funds awarded in Utah to date (\$1,162,377,838). Nationally, more than \$93 billion of the \$233 billion appropriated have been paid out.

Communities that have received ARRA funds directly from federal sources (NOT funds coming through state agencies) have a reporting date of October 10, 2009. Registration at www.federalreporting.gov must occur between October 1-10, 2009. If you have any questions regarding the reporting requirement, contact Evan Curtis,

the state's ARRA Project Manager, at (801) 538-1427 or ecurtis@utah.gov.

The Association's 2009 Annual Report is slated for presentation at the October 14th meeting at 1:00 p.m. in the Parowan Library. We look forward to celebrating our successes of the past year. Look for a digital copy of the report on our home page <http://fivecounty.utah.gov> after October 14th. (Kenneth Sizemore, Executive Director)

Lost your Job and Looking for a New One?



Child Care Resource and Referral, Western Region is announcing a new program that can help parents who have lost their jobs pay for child care, while they are involved in job search activities. The Program is called, "Kids In Care."

The "Kids In Care" program will reimburse regulated child care providers when they care for the children of eligible parents while the parent engages in formal job search activities such as: attending resume building classes, attending job fairs, internet job searches at a public library or DWS employment center. It would also pay for: visits to prospective employers to inquire about job opportunities, completing applications, attending interviews or doing job shadowing or unpaid internships.

Parents who are unemployed and who became unemployed within the past 90 days may be eligible to enroll in the Kids in Care program if their household income
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falls within 70 percent of the State Median Income (SMI) or even higher if the family has certain allowable deductions. Parents will be required to provide documentation. Once approved, the parent would be able to receive 100 hours of child care for job search related activities over a 12-month period or until the parent becomes employed; whichever comes first.

Elisabeth Barker, Director of Child Care Resource and Referral, says, "This program should be a great help to parents who are struggling to meet their financial obligations during this trying economic time. I heard from a mother yesterday, who has taken on two part time jobs trying to make ends meet since her husband lost his job. He has been unable to go on job interviews because he now has to take care of their children while his wife works. This program can help provide the child care this family needs to allow the father to continue his job search activities."

If you think you might qualify for this program, call Child Care Resource and Referral, at: 1-800-543-7527 and ask for information on the Kids in Care Program and they will send you an application package. This program is funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), administered by the Department of Workforce Services (DWS), the Office of Child Care and Child Care Resource and Referral, Western Region, a program of Five County Association of Governments. (Lis Barker, Director Child Care Resource & Referral)

Human Services Public Forums

The Human Services division of the Five County Association of Governments marked the 16th consecutive year that people have been brought together to discuss important issues affecting our local communities. These public forums provide a dynamic planning function throughout each of the five counties. Each county hosted one forum, with an additional meeting requested by residents of Escalante. The six sessions were held March 31, 2009 through April 9, 2009.

The majority of attendees indicated they had lived in their community for more than 10 years and over half had participated in at least one public forum before. There was a good cross section of participation by age. Many were human service providers and the best young to middle aged consumer participation was from the Iron County group. Kane County had the most senior consumer group. About 40 percent indicated their family's financial situation was worse off compared to one year ago. However, nearly half of the participants indicated their family financial situations had remained about the same, with about 20 percent being better off.

Answers to an array of questions were solicited and discussed. The Southern Utah University Regional Service office provided use of their automated audience response system to engage participants and generate

on-the-spot tabulation of questions asked. Audience response to the use of the "clickers" was very favorable. Use of the electronic tabulation system allowed staff to obtain validation of re-occurring forum topics from previous years structuring data into graphs. These forums provide valuable opportunities to share information, identify common needs, recommend solutions, assist in prioritization of resources, and network with community members.

There was strong support expressed for jobs that pay a living wage, and the need for additional economic development. In Washington County, suggestions included "tax incentives to attract big businesses". In Beaver County a suggestion was made to "strengthen education and training to improve skills". In Kane County they suggested "creating more summer youth employment". In Iron County one suggestion was to "encourage companies to pay higher wages". Forums in Garfield County recommended "support for home grown businesses" and "jobs that have health care and dental insurance".

Information was sought in regard to housing, family financial situation, basic needs, health insurance, transportation, saving habits (Utah Saves), etc. Individual county needs from past forums were reviewed and attendees were asked to provide current opinions in this regard as well as to provide suggestions to improve the education and training opportunities in each county. Other programs, such as services to the elderly, were also reviewed for additional programming needs.

Those in attendance were asked to prioritize specific questions directed to health care, mental health resources, community resources, volunteerism in communities/counties, access to affordable housing, youth programs and recreation, emergency response procedures, disaster preparedness, public transportation needs for shopping, rides to work and access to public transit, etc.

Participants were asked, "Approximately how many hours a month do you spend in Volunteering?" Most respondents indicated some level of volunteer participation ranging from 1 to 30 hours a month. Surprisingly, over 20 percent in attendance indicated that they volunteer more than 30 hours a month. Volunteer efforts add significant strength to each of our counties.

Collectively, about 200 persons participated this year. When the information was shared with the Human Services Council, a suggestion was made to show total attendance of each forum in the summer reports. Additionally, the Human Services Council wants to encourage discussion regarding the increased efforts being made with Community Service Block Grant programming to improve self sufficiency.

Appreciation is expressed for the support of the Annual Human Services Public Forums. If anyone has recommendations for topics they would like included in the 2010 sessions, please contact Beth Cottam or Sherri Dial at the Five County Association of Governments office (435) 673-3548 or via e-mail at: bcottam@fivecounty.utah.gov or sdial@fivecounty.utah.gov (Beth Cottam, Deputy Director)

Staff Spotlights

The Weatherization program at Five County has undergone massive changes over the past several months with receipt of additional funds. Introduction of new crew members who have joined the Five County staff are provided below.



Waylon Bergstrom

Waylon was born and raised in Cedar City, Utah. He grew up working in the heating and air conditioning business with his father where he has been apprenticing for the last five years.

He and his wife, Kadie, have three children Mckye, Madsen and Jaynie. He loves being outdoors mountain biking, hunting,

fishing, and most anything outdoors. Most of all he loves being with his family.

He is excited to join the Five County AOG staff and work with the guys in the Weatherization program. He says that he is working on growing his hair and goatee so that he can fit in with the Weatherization crew.

Jason was hired to perform work as a Weatherization auditor. His previous employment ranges from excavation and maintenance to machinist for aerospace.



Jason Morrill

He has been married to his wife Lisa for 14 years. They have a beautiful daughter Jaylee and two sons, Jayden and Chance. He was born in Richfield, Utah but has lived in Marysvale, Monroe, Cedar City, Enoch and now resides in New Harmony.

Jason likes to hunt, fish, ride motorcycles and pretty much anything outdoors. He also enjoys working for the Five County Association of Governments.



Paul Ashdown

Paul is a native of Cedar City and has been married to his wife Suzanne for 27 years. They have three children and two grandchildren.

He has worked for the past 23 years in the heating and air conditioning trade, and is enjoying working with people and seeing their appreciation for new furnaces and other weatherization measures.

His hobbies range from racquetball to riding ATV's in the mountains.



Brian Archibald

Brian has worked in the construction trade for the last 10 years. He assumed the position with the Weatherization crew in June 2009. He enjoys the job and likes the feeling of helping clients.

He was born in California but moved to Utah in 1993. He has been married for almost seven years and has a four year old son and a seven month old daughter. He enjoys spending time with his

family and riding four wheelers.

James has lived in Utah for 26 years. He has been married for the past 10 years and has five children.



James Endter

He started employment with the Five County Association of Governments approximately four months ago and enjoys his job. James has worked in the construction trade for 20+ years and is a certified welder by trade.

Community Impact Board Training Workshop



On Thursday, September 17th at the Association's Fiddlers Canyon office in Cedar City, Candace Powers,

Associate Fund Manager for the Utah Permanent Community Impact Fund Board, conducted a well-attended workshop entitled "CIB-101". This special, non-mandatory, presentation & educational opportunity was attended by 31 representatives from various county, city, town and special service districts jurisdictions in our region, as well as representatives from several area architectural and engineering firms. Similar workshops are being conducted throughout the state at locations and dates coordinated by each CIB Regional Planning Project (RPP) planner.

Ms. Powers covered all aspects of the CIB funding process from application preparation, what is involved in the presentation to the Community Impact Board, to what will happen after you are funded. Feedback has been positive regarding this training.

Gary Zabriskie, Community & Economic Development Planning Manager at the Five County Association of Governments is the CIB Regional Planner for the Five County region. He is currently assisting jurisdictions with the collection of Capital Improvement Lists for community development projects planned in the upcoming year. Gary is also available to provide technical assistance in all aspects of the CIB application process and can further assist jurisdictions as they prepare for a presentation to the Board. He can be reached at (435) 673-3548 or via e-mail: gzabriskie@fivecounty.utah.gov

Boulder Town gets New Wildland Truck



In 2008 the Town of Boulder was recipient of a grant from the Permanent Community Impact Fund Board and Garfield County for procurement

of a new urban/wildland fire truck. The truck is also available for search and rescue efforts and will be of great benefit to the town.

The Boulder Volunteer Fire Department is, as the name implies, a strictly volunteer organization, funded primarily by the Town of Boulder. Volunteers respond around the clock to address life-hazard emergencies in the community. Activities include fire prevention and suppression, both structurally and within the wildland/urban interface, vehicle accident scene management including victim extrication, and assisting the local EMTs on medical aid calls.

Please submit articles to Diane Lamoreaux via e-mail (dlamoreaux@fivecounty.utah.gov) or in writing to: P.O. Box 1550; St. George, Utah 84771-1550. For other information or services, please call (435) 673-3548 or visit our web site at: <http://fivecounty.utah.gov>

Steering Committee Meeting Schedule:

Wednesday, October 14, 2009 1PM

Parowan Public Library
Meeting Room - 16 South Main
Parowan, UT

Wednesday, November 18, 2009 1PM

Five County Association of Governments
Conference Room - 1070 W. 1600 S.,
Building B, St. George, UT

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