Economic Development for the Pikes Peak Region:

About Our Organizations

Chamber & EDC at a Glance

MISSION

> **Growing business, fueling innovation, driving prosperity.**

HOSTED PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

Pikes Peak Housing Network

Colorado SBDC
PIKES PEAK Small Business Development Center

INNOVATE PIKES PEAK

WHAT DRIVES US

- We are the **go-to voice** for business leadership and collaboration.
- We drive growth through **development**, **defense**, and **advocacy**.
- We deliver results that **move our region forward**.

Chamber & EDC at a Glance

FOUR COUNCILS, ONE MISSION



Government Affairs Council

Connects business leaders with policymakers to advocate for pro-growth policies and a competitive economy.



Colorado Aerospace & Defense Economic Council

Advances Colorado's aerospace and defense economy through collaboration, policy advocacy, and industry-driven economic strategies.



Titans of Economic Development Council

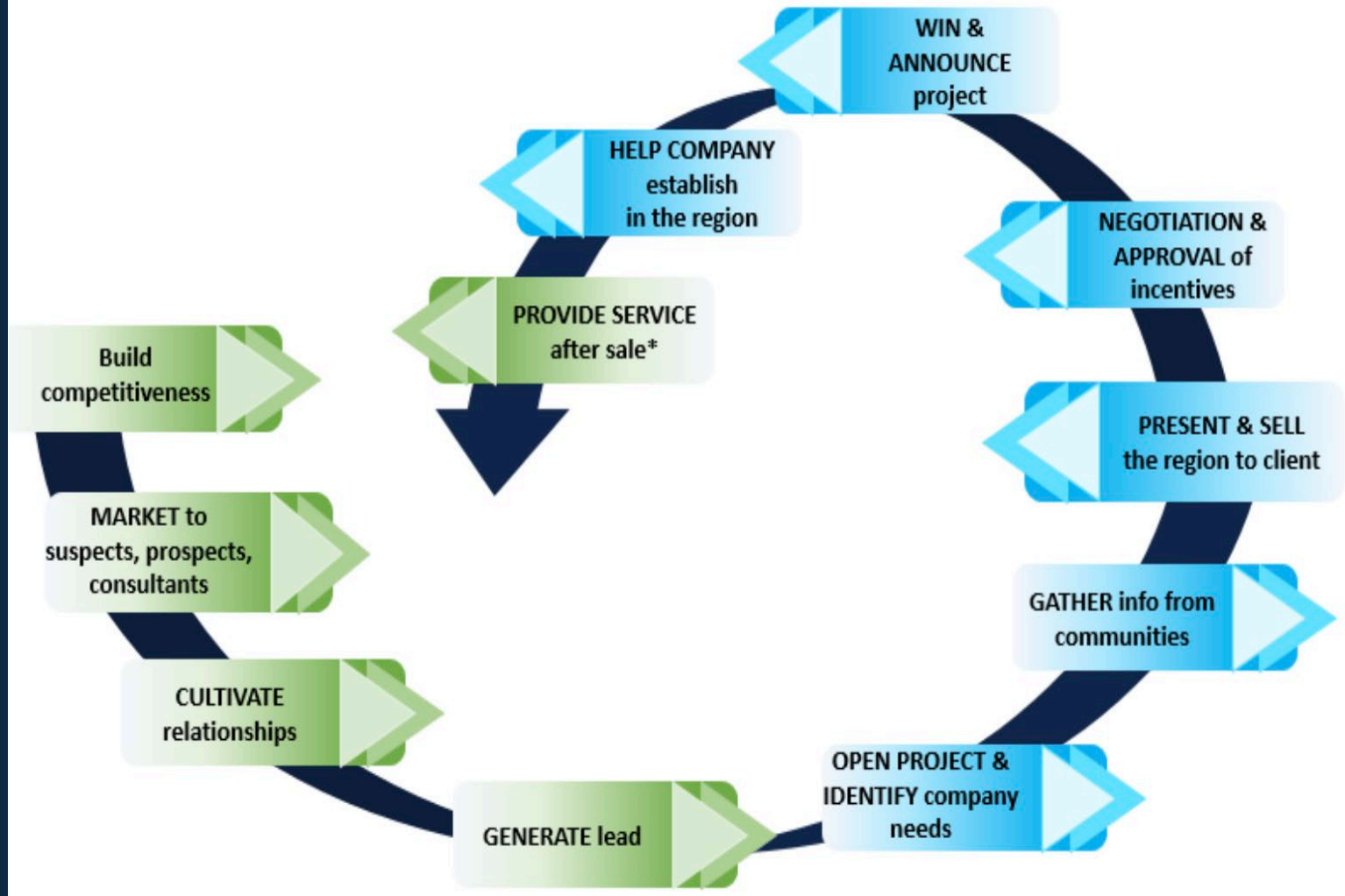
Champions economic growth by securing private-sector investments that fuel job creation, innovation, and regional competitiveness.



Champions of COS

Supports business success through member engagement, facilitating connections, ensuring benefit usage, content creation and event support.

Stages to Win A Project



EL PASO COUNTY
COLORADO

EL PASO COUNTY

ECONOMIC & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

admin.elpasoco.com/economic-development

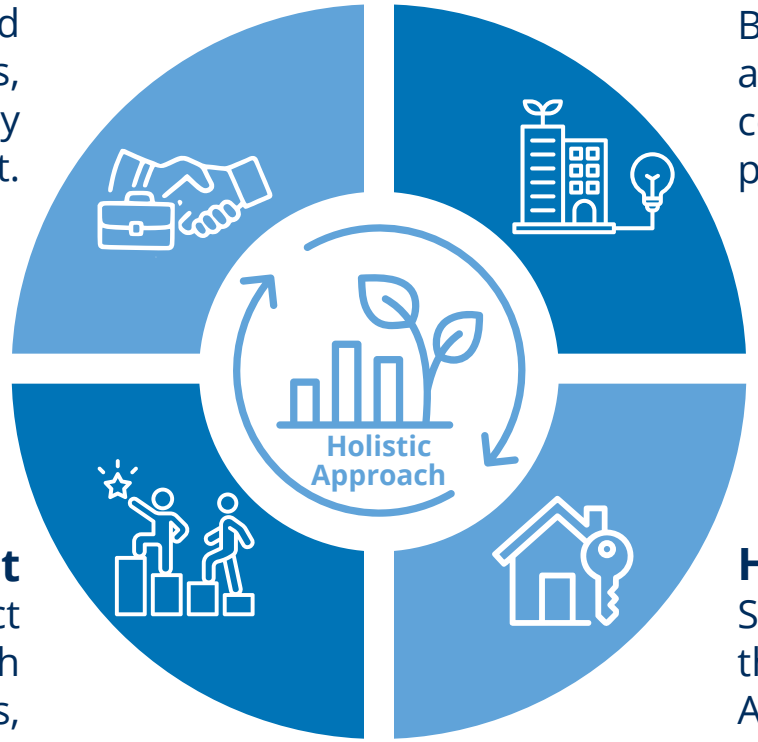
ppwfc.org



El Paso County's Role in Economic & Workforce Development

Business Programs
Helping local businesses and organizations thrive through programs, tools, and a business-friendly environment.

Community Initiatives
Benefitting local residents, nonprofits, and organizations through federal grants, contribution projects, and nonprofit private activity bonds.



Workforce Development
Helping job seekers build skills and connect with employment opportunities through training programs, coaching, partnerships, and job fairs. Providing employer-driven services to help businesses recruit, train, and retain a skilled workforce.

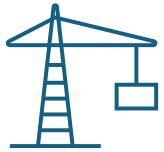
Housing Financing
Supporting local housing initiatives through El Paso County Housing Authority housing trust fund loans, private activity bonds, and down payment assistance for home buyers.

City of Colorado Springs



City of Colorado Springs

Economic Development Department priority areas:



Development and Redevelopment



Attracting New Businesses



Retaining Existing Businesses



Small Business and Entrepreneurship



Workforce

Fountain Economic Development

- Wade Broadhead – Planning Department Director

Fountain's Role in Economic Development



- New ED/Planning Role
- Commercial Process Audit-City Councill Strategic Plan
- Working with FURA Incentives
- Continue the Good Work
- Crafting the Vision-Comp Plan
- "Rehab Ready" Parcels

Economic Development for the Pikes Peak Region:

Success Stories

UCCS College of Business
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **COLORADO SPRINGS**

30th Annual UCCS Economic Forum – October 28, 2026

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SNAPSHOT

2022-2026

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

6,746
NEW JOBS

$2.42 billion in
CAPITAL INVESTMENT

$116,681
AVERAGE WAGE



acco engineered systems
Accu-Precision
AURIA
BIG TABLE
bliss mobil
BLUESTAQ
boodlebox
Caliola engineering
CUSI TECH
desert harvest
Potent. Powerful. Pure
WWW.DESERTHARVEST.COM
DIGANTARA
Entegris
FTI
HIGHVAC CORPORATION
IGNITE
infinity LABS
INFINITY SYSTEMS ENGINEERING
INTUITIVE Research and Technology
INVICTUS
ITS DELIVERING EXCELLENCE
Engineering · IT · Cybersecurity
KRATOS
lumien
MICROCHIP
mobius
NOOKS
Okika DEVICES
OMNI FEDERAL
Parker
Schmidt construction company
SPECTRUM
SELECTTECH
Spry Squared
SWIRE COCA-COLA
swisspod
terraferma
UFL
WAYFARER VANS
WMD SQUARED ENGINEERING
WTG Offshore
ZIVARO
BRILLIANT IT



Desert Glass Works

Precision Quartz Fabrication

- Produces custom quartz components for semiconductor, aerospace, and research applications
- New ownership in January 2025
- Attended our Business Resources event in September 2025
- Pursued a state-approved apprenticeship
- Utilized EDF funds to upskill staff and create jobs
- Located in the Pikes Peak Enterprise Zone

Success Story Example

Supporting Local Business Growth through Economic & Workforce Partnerships & Tools

PIKES PEAK ENTERPRISE ZONE TAX CREDITS

- Future Enterprise Zone tax credits may include:
  - 3% equipment investment
  - 3% research and development
  - $1,100 net new employee
  - 12% job training tax

EMPLOYEE DEVELOPMENT FUNDS

- The EDF program provides work-based training to facilitate upward mobility within a business. As employees move into higher-skilled jobs, DGW is able to hire job seekers to back-fill the incumbent workers' positions.

STATE-APPROVED APPRENTICESHIP

- A state-approved apprenticeship preserves DGW's rare trade, secures their talent pipeline, and supports workforce retention.

City of Colorado Springs

Recent economic development success



SWIRE COCA-COLA

Fountain Success Stories





Economic Development for the Pikes Peak Region:

Opportunities

UCCS College of Business
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **COLORADO SPRINGS**

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Future Opportunities

Strategically leveraging our four focus areas of Business Programs, Community Initiatives, Housing Financing, and Workforce Development.

Utilizing interconnected tools, resources, and programs to meaningfully serve the El Paso County community.

Workforce Services

Here to help every step of the way

13,821

IN-PERSON VISITORS ASSISTED

Housing Trust Funds

Supporting a 50+ year legacy of affordable housing construction

509

NEW UNITS OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Community Development

Leveraging federal resources to foster local prosperity

$740K

FUNDED FOR HOUSING, ECONOMIC, NONPROFIT, AND COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Hometown Heroes

Providing a 1% DPA grant to qualifying home buyers

- EDUCATORS
- MILITARY
- FIRST RESPONDERS
- HEALTHCARE

Business Support

Helping local businesses thrive through programs and tools

$236K

LOANED TO LOCAL BUSINESS OWNERS

Job Fairs

Connecting job seekers and employers to create opportunities

9,201

JOB SEEKERS AND/OR VETERANS ATTENDED JOB FAIRS

Incumbent Worker Training

Investing in today's workforce to build a stronger tomorrow

$234K

INVESTED IN WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Sector Partnerships

Working together across key industries to strengthen our economy

- CREATIVE ARTS
- HOSPITALITY
- HEALTHCARE
- CONSTRUCTION

City of Colorado Springs

Significant opportunities for the future:

- Job creation and retention
- Communication of existing tools and resources
- Advocacy
- Convening

Future Opportunities in Fountain

- Lorraine-Brownfield Buddies

Specialty Housing

The reuse plan includes a new 85,000-sf, two-level specialty housing building on the northwest portions of the Lorraine Center property. The building is conceptualized with 106 living units (averaging 700-sf in size). The building also includes a reception area, staff offices, a centralized dining area, and indoor common areas for guests/residents. Parking is planned in a shared surface parking lot interior to the property. The facility will have several outdoor gathering spaces including courtyards, patios, and lawn area. Community garden plots are planned central to the parking areas. Sidewalks/pathways connect into a planned multi-use trail along the rail line (and the northeast property boundaries). The building could be designed to downplay its size/scale as seen from the adjacent neighborhood; the western façade is broken up with courtyards and building wings (rather than a large continuous plain). The building's exterior and roof lines will be more residential in character to complement the adjacent homes/neighborhood.





1. Example of community center with outdoor playground. | 2. Example of a specialty housing with outdoor gathering spaces (Source: bechtelframkerickson architects)



FIGURE ES.3 – CONCEPTUAL REUSE PLAN

- Downtown Re-Vival



Economic Development for the Pikes Peak Region:

Challenges

Colorado's Competitiveness

Competitiveness Index provided by Common Sense Institute

COMPETITIVENESS INDEX

HOUSING	50TH
PUBLIC SAFETY	45TH
MOST REGULATED	6TH

Challenges & Obstacles in Our Economic & Workforce Development Work

Regulatory burden can shape operations of small and large businesses in meaningful ways.

Small Business Impacts

- Higher relative compliance costs
- Administrative burden
- Barriers to new entry or delays in expansion
- Limited capacity to respond to regulatory changes

Large Business Impacts

- Logistics of implementing policies across multiple locations
- Complex requirements for standardization of operations
- Varying compliance capacity
- Cost benefit analysis

City of Colorado Springs

Biggest challenges we face

Reducing barriers and risk:

- Talent and workforce
- Speed to market
- Cost and ease of doing business in Colorado Springs vs. other communities

Challenges & Obstacles



