

2021 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Special Initiatives in El Paso County, Colorado

The El Paso County, Colorado Economic Development Department takes a holistic approach to economic development. In addition to the robust, focused work in business incentives, community development, and housing, the department leads innovative, cross-sector *special initiatives* designed to further bolster the economic strength and vitality of the Pikes Peak region.

REGIONAL BUSINESS RELIEF FUND — ROUND 2

El Paso County administered another round of the Regional Business Relief fund program in 2021, which provided up to \$20,000 in grant assistance to small businesses and nonprofits. Grant funds were used to assist with business-related costs incurred due to the COVID-19 economic disruption.



Total grant funding: **\$10,381,441**



Leading Edge Strategic Planning Series



Awarded **627** small businesses or nonprofits



Protected **\$5.2M** in recipient revenue and supported **7,141** recipient jobs



65% of recipients self-identified as Veteran, Minority, or Women-owned small businesses or nonprofits



6 out of 8 regional surveys were distributed so far to track economic progress

AMERICAS COMPETITIVENESS EXCHANGE (ACE) TOUR:

In collaboration with the City and County of Denver and Jefferson County, El Paso County hosted the 2021 **Americas Competitiveness Exchange (ACE)** tour. Founded by the Organization of American States and Economic Development Administration, the program provided the opportunity for high-level delegation of global and regional leaders from public, private, and academic sectors to pursue strategic partnerships, initiatives, and investment opportunities with Colorado businesses and organizations doing successful and innovative work in key areas related to economic recovery from COVID-19, including: the defense industry, disaster and wildfire mitigation, cybersecurity and software, the creative industry, sports medicine and performance, Olympic City USA, manufacturing, and the experience economy.

30+

Sites
Featured

79

Projects
Showcased

11

Countries
Represented &
37 Delegates

30

Concrete Leads
To Spur
Collaboration

150

Follow-Up
Actions
To Pursue

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For more info about Special Initiatives:
www.elpasoco.com/economicdevelopment