

# COLORADO CHALLENGE PROGRAM

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## CITY OF DURANGO AWARDED GRANT TO ASSIST WITH REDEVELOPMENT AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING EFFORTS

August 12, 2020 – DURANGO, CO – On Friday, July 24<sup>th</sup> the City of Durango was awarded a \$20,000 matching grant from the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) to assist with planning and implementing affordable and attainable housing projects through the recently formed Urban Renewal Authority (URA), which is operating as the Durango Renewal Partnership. URAs are redevelopment tools used across Colorado to facilitate housing, mixed-use, light industrial, infrastructure and other types of development in underutilized areas. The grant is funded through DOLA's Energy & Mineral Impact Assistance Program.

The Durango Renewal Partnership is working closely with Downtown Colorado, Inc. (DCI) through their Colorado Challenge Community Program. As one of the select communities in this program, the Durango Renewal Partnership is connected with DCI's network of statewide leaders in urban renewal and affordable housing development. Katherine Correll, Executive Director of DCI, states, "Durango has taken great strides recently to support place-sensitive, creative redevelopment to address pressing community needs such as attainable and affordable housing. DCI is excited to continue working with the City of Durango and the Durango Renewal Partnership."

After receiving several letters of support from the La Plata County Board of County Commissioners, 9-R School District Board of Education, and other local economic development organizations, the Durango City Council unanimously passed a resolution to form the Durango Renewal Partnership on May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The Partnership Board, consisting of members of City Council and other local taxing entities, meets on the third Tuesday every month from 4:30 - 6:00pm. This grant will help the Partnership learn how urban renewal tools can be used to spur housing development.

For more details about the Durango Renewal Partnership, please contact Scott Shine, City of Durango Planning Manager at (970) 375-4858 or [scott.shine@durangogov.org](mailto:scott.shine@durangogov.org).

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### About Downtown Colorado, Inc.

Established in 1982 as the Colorado Community Revitalization Association, Downtown Colorado, Inc. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit membership organization that aims to build better communities by providing assistance to downtowns, commercial districts and town centers in Colorado. Organization members represent downtown

organizations, local governments, development and improvement districts, consultants, individuals and others involved in downtown and community development. Visit [downtowncoloradoinc.org](http://downtowncoloradoinc.org) for more information.

Downtown Colorado, Inc. is an equal opportunity employer. DCI employs personnel without regard to race, creed, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, physical or mental handicap, veteran status and marital status.

### **About The Durango Renewal Partnership**

Durango is changing and facing new challenges. The City and other community partners are working to ensure that we retain the things that make Durango a quality place to live, work, and play. Pursuing new economic opportunities for the community while preserving Durango's unique character and high quality of life requires a pro-active approach to development and redevelopment. Urban renewal authorities (URAs) are local redevelopment organizations that promote public-private partnerships to shape economic growth. On May 5, 2020, City Council unanimously passed resolution 2020-10 to establish an urban renewal authority in Durango. The Durango URA, known as the Durango Renewal Partnership, works hand-in-hand with local government and community partners to help facilitate redevelopment and reinvestment that reflects our community values and achieves our economic goals. Visit [Durangogov.org/ura](http://Durangogov.org/ura) for more information.

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