



Colorado Workforce Development Council

Vision:

Every Colorado business has access to a skilled workforce and every Coloradan has access to meaningful employment, resulting in statewide economic vitality.

Mission:

The mission of the Colorado Workforce Development Council is to create a business-focused workforce system that effectively helps to prepare Coloradans for the jobs of today and tomorrow.

The Council accomplishes this by aligning the efforts of economic development, education/training, workforce development, government and business stakeholders at the local, regional and state levels. We convene partners, leverage resources and work to remove communication and regulatory barriers in order to help businesses create jobs, retain jobs and access a highly competitive workforce.

Goal #1: Align the efforts of economic development, education/training, workforce development, government and business stakeholders at the local, regional and state levels.

Goal #2: Transform systems that impact Colorado's businesses by viewing workforce needs with a business focus.

Goal #3: Ensure the work of the Council's sub-committees continues to support the vision and mission of the Council, and remain current and valuable in improving Colorado's economic vitality.

The Role of the Colorado Workforce Development Council

- Responsible for the continuous improvement of the workforce system, oversight of Workforce Investment Act funds, and ensuring a statewide strategic vision created from the bottom up through Council members and local partners.
- Act as a neutral forum for determining the cost of potential regulation and policy to businesses and its impact on the ability of businesses to create jobs.
- Focus on business needs to create a talent-based, skilled workforce through the alignment of initiatives in education, workforce and economic development.
- Leverage partnerships to identify needs and gaps and create sustainable solutions and their funding.

Council Members

- The Governor, two state Senators, two state Representatives, two local elected officials and two labor union representatives.
- The Executive Directors of the following Colorado state agencies):
 - **By executive order:** Department of Labor & Employment, Office of Economic Development & International Trade, Department of Higher Education, Department of Education, Department of Local Affairs, Department of Agriculture, Department of Corrections, Department of Human Services, Colorado Energy Office
 - **By invitation:** Department of Transportation
- President of the Colorado Community College System
- A representative of Workforce Directors
- Majority are business representatives:
 - Small to large businesses.
 - Owner/operators, human resource professionals, CEO's, etc.
 - Geographically diverse, representing all regions.
 - Representative of all primary industries of Colorado.
 - Nominated by local communities and their industries.
 - Wide range of experience with the workforce system, local economic development and education.

Business Council Member Qualities/Responsibilities



Council members possess leadership skills and capabilities for utilization in CWDC work based upon their demonstrated ability to establish thought leadership, influence others, collaborate with others, build partnerships, and courageously confront tough issues that need to be resolved to move Colorado forward.

The CWDC Director, Stephanie Steffens, and her staff will work in an efficient and professional manner to support the Council and ensure the Council operates strategically and effectively. The Director and staff will provide timely information, effective communication, and factual support for all roles of the Council members.

Council Members Roles/"Job Description"

- Inform and educate policy writers and elected government officials about negative impacts on business, as well as supporting policy and legislation that will sustain a Colorado business-friendly environment.
- Influence more flexibility in use of government monies to allow stakeholders more use of innovative solutions.
- Act as the voice of local communities and business to state and federal officials to ensure long-term commitment to business-focused goals and initiatives.
- Review, adapt, and utilize a transparent decision-making process for distribution of funding that will result in the best "Return on Investment" (ROI) and leveraging of resources.
- Target statewide sector-based strategies that have the greatest opportunity for economic impact and job creation.
- Leverage opportunity for business support at all stages, including stage one entrepreneurship, second stage expansion, and third stage maturity.
- Work with CWDC Director and staff as well as local and regional leaders to increase communication and encourage collaboration for the benefit of Colorado and all of its communities.
- Represent their local region, but also see beyond regional issues to make decisions that are best for all partners in a "bigger picture."
- Act as an Ambassador for CWDC and its partners at local, state, and federal levels.

Time Commitment of CWDC Members

- Council Meetings/Communications:
 - Participate in six (6) Council meetings a year. NOTE: Three meetings per year will be in person, while the other three will utilize a virtual format. Virtual meetings will be limited to 1.5 hours and all information required for discussion and/or decisions will be sent in advance. There will be pre-work before each meeting that typically takes approximately 1.5 hours to complete. Please see the [CWDC Meeting Calendar](#).
 - The Council Director and Chair will contact Council members regarding time sensitive issues as needed between meetings. Members' time will be respected and members are asked to respond in a timely manner as well.
 - Members are asked to participate in at least one standing sub-committee or task group (formed as needed); Council staff supports the committees and task groups to minimize the time required of members.
- Council Member Terms:
 - Council members serve 3-year terms.