

# **Annual Report &** Strategic Outlook

FY 2021-2022

4CED continues to deliver! Below is our FY 2021-2022 annual report and 2022-2023 strategic outlook.

The report is divided into sections and concludes with my look into what we're planning for the year ahead.

Thank you, members and investors! We're working hard to be your champions for San Juan County's economic future.



### Table of Contents

- 1. Membership, Finances & Grants 4. Strategic Planning
- 2. Business Retention & Expansion
- 3. Community Presentations
- 4. Member Services

- 5. Collaboration & Partnerships
- 6. Marketing

FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 - YEAR IN REVIEW



# Membership, Finances & Grants

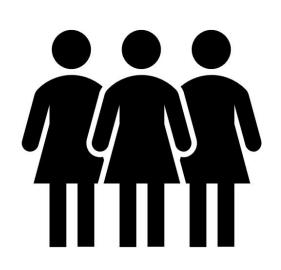
FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 - YEAR IN REVIEW

3

The organization's fiscal position is improving. The work ahead is membership development, securing grants and closing the budget deficit. Substantial strategic investments with consultants were made to help 4CED better target the right industries for attraction and to support our municipalities' efforts with new retail attraction.







### Membership, Finances & Grants

- Membership grew 21% from 72 to 87 businesses
- 96% percent of private business members renewed their membership
- New member recruitment occurs at all 4CED events and is where most new members are recruited. They are finding value for their membership investment.
- All San Juan County municipalities and San Juan County are members
- 4CED <u>is</u> firmly positioned as San Juan County's Economic Development Organization (EDO)!

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Membership, Finances & Grants

#### Welcome New Members!

Hilcorp Connect Space

NECA ConocoPhillips

SJ Gabaldon Carol Cloer

Steve Neville Stephanie Thompson

NMSU Enchant Energy

AE Properties (Alan Elmore) DWN Consulting

NM Business Coalition Cheney Walters Echols A+ Well Service Walker Agency Bill & Pat Fortner



FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 - YEAR IN REVIEW

FY 2021-2022 4CED Annual Report & Strategic Outlook July 13, 2022

# Membership, Finances & Grants



- Year-over-year deficit declined 45% or \$42k
- \$100k of investments made in strategic planning work associated with Competitive Asset Assessment and Retail Business Gap Analysis
- City of Aztec doubled its investment in 4CED. Thank you!

ISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 - YEAR IN REVIE

Membership, Finances & Grants

Public and Private Revenue Split

44%

44%

Private Public







As exciting as it is to work on recruiting new business and associated high-wage jobs, it's equally important and exciting to help retain and expand San Juan County's existing businesses. In economic development circles, this work is known as "Business Retention and Expansion" or "BRE" for short.

4CED has a very clear understanding of the needs and concerns of 100 San Juan County businesses. This came through interviews conducted in 2021 and these interviews are continuing to shape our efforts and service deliverables. We are now actively seeking funding to staff a position dedicated to the BRE role.

Using the interview findings and best-practiced tools taught us by the University of Minnesota extension service, we identified and completed several deliverables and report on them below.

One recommendation was to create a consolidated calendar of all business training offered by our local business resource partners. <u>Check it out.</u> The local business resource partners have a lot to offer!

### Business Retention and Expansion

- BRE is a core function of best-practiced EDOs
- Seeking funding to permanently staff 4CED's BRE activity
- Building on work done with the University of Minnesota Extension Service, seven specific BRE opportunities targeted for community improvement



ISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 - YEAR IN REVIEW

1

# Business Retention and Expansion





#### An Example BRE Project . . .

Consolidated One-Stop Calendar for all small business training now on 4CED's website – A need surfaced through BRE interviews

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# Business Retention and Expansion



- Collaborated with SJ College Workforce
  Development to offer work ethics training
  embedded with their other workforce trainings.
   SJ College contracted several entities to deliver
  training.
- Received a \$10,000 grant from Merrion Family Foundation to do strategic planning for enhancing the beauty of San Juan County. Benchmarking complete and one initial meeting occurred. Work accelerating in new fiscal year.

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Members, investors and the public look to 4CED as San Juan County's EDO. There is much at stake in these important times as we all work to diversify and strengthen the local economy.

A big responsibility is keeping the community informed and collecting community feedback for local governmental leadership, state and federal economic development partners and industry leaders.

FY 2021-2022 was a busy year for community presentations as we, in addition to routine briefing presentations, added focused quarterly economic development breakfast briefings to the mix. <u>Click here to access the recordings</u> of these large meetings in case you missed one.

# Community Presentations

- · San Juan County Commission
- Aztec, Bloomfield and Farmington City Councils
- Monthly KSJE radio program
- Leadership San Juan
- Rotary & Kiwanis
- Farmington Chamber of Commerce
- National economic development podcast
- Various Navajo Nation groups
- Quarterly economic development breakfasts



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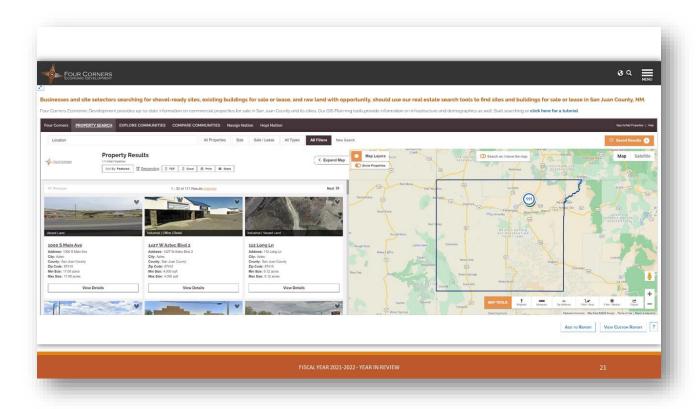




Member services are broad and vary by member classification and needs. Below are some of the highlights. A big addition this year was county-wide commercial and industrial land and building search capability to the 4CED website. Click here to check it out.

Also, BIG news is the return of the EDGE Awards Banquet. A great time to celebrate achievements of some of San Juan County's leading businesses.







- Newsletter with economic development stories, data and links. Every other Friday at 10:30 am.
- News reporting includes U.S. Census and State of NM Economic Development data and special announcements
- Twelve-month average open rate 33%, up 7%! Industry average open rate down 3%.
- 65,546 sends. 1,200 subscribers. 192 subscribers organically added during the year.

https://www.4cornersed.com/news/sign-up-for-our-newsletter

FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 - YEAR IN REVIEW





At 4CED we "plan the work and work the plan." Strategic work plans are conducted through the efforts of five Goal Teams comprised of 4CED staff, consultants and community volunteers.

Two large strategic planning activities occupied much of the year. The first is a competitive economic asset assessment exercise to help 4CED more sharply define target industries for recruitment purposes. The second is an effort to assist San Juan County municipalities in attracting select retailers to fill identified gaps.

As part of attracting new business and industry, it is important to clearly communicate our value propositions to targeted industries. A big part of the value proposition is our <u>unique</u> set of sustainable competitive advantages.

The asset assessment exercise involves cataloging those advantages and aligning them with selected industries the consultants identify as needing what San Juan County has to offer. Targeted industry specific marketing plans will follow-up as a next step.

More on the 2022-2023 strategic outlook follows at the end of this report.





### Strategic Planning – Key Initiatives & Investments

#### **Competitive Asset Assessment & Targeting Refinement**

**Three Intensive Multi-Day Work Sessions** 

April 2022
Fact Gathering

July 2022
Findings & Consensus Building

Later in 2022

Marketing Plan Development for Refined Industry Targets

Over 90 community participants!



ISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 - YEAR IN REVIEW

1

### Strategic Planning – Key Initiatives & Investments

#### Retail Business Survey & Gap Analysis -- \$30,000 Investment

Genesis? A member-driven request. The Town of Kirtland wants help securing a grocery store.



#### **Three Questions:**

- 1. What retail businesses do we have?
- 2. What retail businesses are missing?
- 3. How do we attract new retailers for "discovered" opportunities?

FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 - YEAR IN REVIEW

### Strategic Planning – Key Initiatives & Investments



- Customized presentations made to four municipalities and San Juan County
- Unique gaps found in each community
- Findings will be helpful to local entrepreneurs as municipalities make the data available to citizens
- Attraction strategy planning underway through partnerships of NextSite and communities

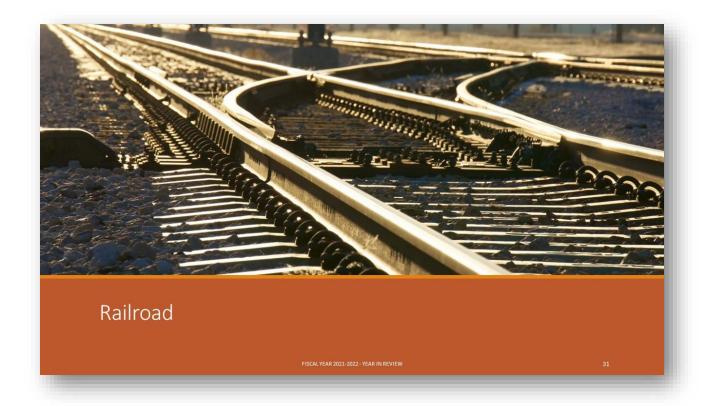
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Economic development is a team sport and winning requires collaboration and partnerships.

This is so fundamental to success that one of 4CED's five strategic goal teams is <u>exclusively</u> focused on partnerships and relationships.

Given the nature of this compact annual report, we're unable to update you on each of our partnerships and relationships, but those below are highlights. And, because "bullet points" are just that, please reach out to us should you have questions or want further information.



### Railroad



- Received U.S. DOT BUILD grant award of \$2 million
- Working with SJ County and Navajo Nation under terms of an MOU
- HDR retained as engineering consultant
- Engineering and right-of-way design work underway

FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 - YEAR IN REVIEW







- 4CED CEO is chairman of the Navajo Nation Telecommunications Regulatory Commission
- Work proceeding to address middlemile gaps across Navajo Nation, unincorporated San Juan County and Farmington Electric Utility System service territory
- Broad coalition brought to table to apply for American Rescue Plan Act grant to build broadband. Unsuccessful, but successful in coalition building!

FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 - YEAR IN REVIEW





### Three Navajo Initiatives



- Pump storage hydroelectric project supporting resolution from Teec Nos Pos Chapter
- Railroad in conjunction with SJ County
- Middle-Mile Broadband in discussions with Arcadian Infracom on Tuba City to Farmington backbone

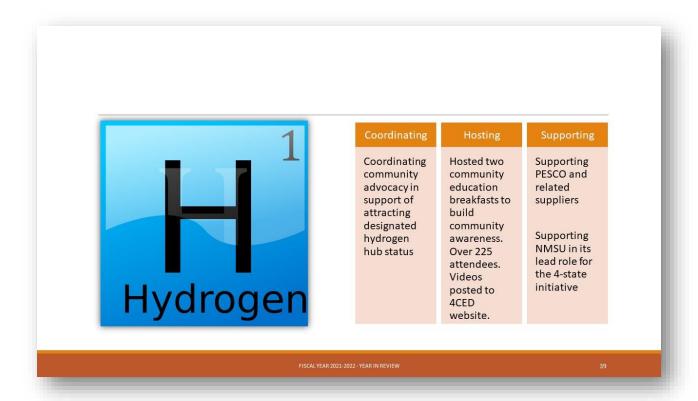
FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 - YEAR IN REVIEW

3

## Four Corners Film Group

- Participation with the Four Corners Film Group
- County wide coalition established addressing film industry opportunities
- Working to promote San Juan County locations for productions
- Open to ideas to provide more support for this industry

FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 - YEAR IN REVIEW





### Desks to Career Initiative



➤Goal: 200 high-wage IT jobs in 7 years

- Initial collaborative with Farmington Municipal School District and SJ College. Gates Foundation support possible.
- ➤ Will be working with Rio Grande Valley computer employers who came to SJ College CyberCon to help develop the educational framework
- ➤ Objective: Reduce export of educated workforce and supporting high-wage employment base

ISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 - YEAR IN REVIEW



#### At its core, marketing is a contest for people's attention. . .

4CED has primary responsibility for letting the <u>whole</u> <u>world</u> know about all the great things San Juan County has to offer!

To most of the world and the nation, we're "undiscovered" country. 4CED is working to change that by using best-practiced tools and messaging. Of course, the audience also includes San Juan County citizens and the surrounding region. We want to move the needle. Come discover San Juan County.

To do the work, 4CED relies heavily on digital marketing and we're building on a variety of platforms and leaning heavily on a recognized best-practiced website.

### Website Proving Itself!

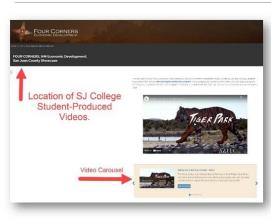
- Golden Shovel, GIS Planning and ReSimplifi – three best-practiced vendors
- Website named a top-ten new economic development website
- Report tracking still indicating thousands of users and many inquiries into the property for sale or lease database
- More video content coming in 2022



ISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 - YEAR IN REVIEW

43

## SJ College Film Partnership in Marketing



- Video content crucial for effective website engagement and storytelling
- Creating great video requires talent, is complex and expensive
- 4CED is in working partnership with the SJ College Film & Digital Media Arts program
- Student capstone projects tell visual stories of San Juan County places, people and culture through student eyes. Check out the content!

FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 - YEAR IN REVIEW







4CED had a great year in 2022. A year of capacity building, building stronger foundations, involving more community members, executing the strategic plan and doing it all while growing membership and strengthening finances.

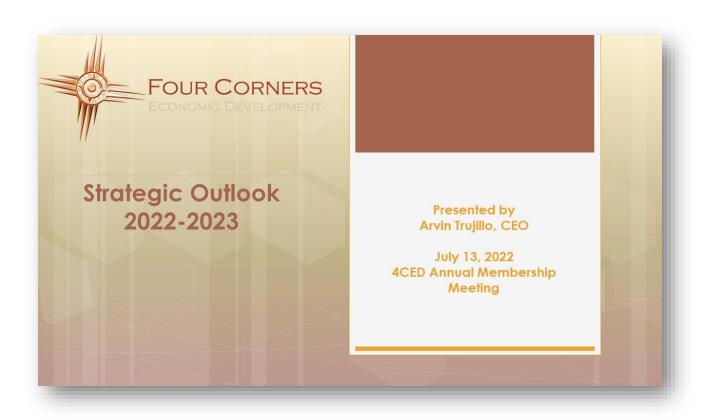
Thank you, members and investors! We're San Juan County's economic development organization.

FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 - YEAR IN REVIEW

- 4

Thank you for your interest in 4CED. How may we serve? Call us at (505) 566-3720.

Keep reading for the 2022-2023 Strategic Outlook . . .









5 7/13/202



# Strategic Goal #1 Relationship / Business Retention & Expansion

- Cultivate relationships with existing businesses, develop regional partnerships, and catalyze business retention and expansion (BRE) projects that deliver economic results
  - Relationship Building
    - Working with the Navajo Nation
    - Working with communities within and outside of San Juan County
    - Working with EDOs both regionally and nationally
    - Continue to develop relationship with State Departments and Agencies
  - Business Retention & Expansion (BRE)
    - Expand on identified tasks
    - 5 BRE Tasks, 2 Infrastructure, and 1 industry target
    - Continue to showcase local businesses through the EDGE awards

2022-2023 Strategic Outlook



7/13/2022

### Strategic Goal #2 Organizational Development / Effectiveness

- Strengthen knowledge, governance, and finances to assure unity, accountability, and operational excellence
  - Board Development
    - Board Orientation
    - Benchmark "Best Practice" through training and presentations
  - Financial Stability
    - Fundraising and Development Process
    - Grant Development
  - Staffing Strategy

2022-2023 Strategic Outlook

7/13/2022



### Strategic Goal #3 Target Industries

- Pursue focused target for recruiting, developing, and expanding industries and business development
  - Identify Target Industries / Build on these assets
    - Continue with the Asset Assessment with Lupke and Associates
    - Build on NextSite analyses looking at retail gaps and opportunities
  - Current Infrastructure / Economic Projects
    - Railroad / Broadband
    - Hydrogen Hub / Pump Storage Hydroelectric Project
    - Agriculture
    - Film
    - Retiree / Location Neutral Attraction

2022-2023 Strategic Outlook



7/13/2022

### Strategic Goal #4 Workforce Capacity

- Through identified partnerships, drive the preparation of a skilled workforce based on targeted needs
  - Desk to Careers
    - Develop a process where local school districts and colleges develop curriculum in consultation with local businesses to prepare students for potential employment
    - Funding to meet these expectations are realized through a Gates Foundation grant
  - Work with the Center for Workforce Development and other labor organizations to meet employers needs for employees

2022-2023 Strategic Outlook





### Strategic Goal #5 Marketing / Data Analysis

- Establish brand identity and sustain THE comprehensive economic database and asset map
  - Continue marketing efforts through the 4CED website
    - Working with consulting firms, Golden Shovel, GIS Planning, and Resimplifi, continue to improve the website
    - Continue social media outreach through LinkedIn and Facebook
  - Build public economic development knowledge base through the ED Breakfast Briefings
  - Continue Communication efforts through the 4CED Newsletter
- Develop a marketing plan incorporating Target Industries

2022-2023 Strategic Outlook





