

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 1, 2013

Northwest Colorado Council of Governments to host public workshop on economic and fiscal health

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Eagle, CO — Northwest Colorado Council of Governments (NWCCOG) officials and local residents will meet with representatives from Smart Growth America on August 8 and 9, 2013 as part of a free, grant-funded technical assistance program. The two-day workshop will provide tools and training to assist NWCCOG leaders as they develop strategies for the organization's new role as a U.S. Economic Development Administration Economic Development District. These strategies will help NWCCOG communities to strengthen their economies while also maintaining the natural environment for which the region is known.

"NWCCOG is very excited about our upcoming Smart Growth America workshop," said Rachel Lunney, Economic Development and Communications Manager for NWCCOG. "We are a newly-designated Economic Development District, and as such we have asked for assistance with planning for the economic and fiscal health of our member communities. Smart Growth America's experts will help us advance toward our vision of a robust, diverse regional economy, made up of strong local businesses and jobs that pay well in communities with housing and transportation choices near jobs, shops and schools."

Northwest Colorado residents are invited to join the workshop's first day for an introductory presentation that will feature a broad overview of strategies for economic and fiscal health. The event will be held August 8, 2013 at 6:00 PM at the Eagle County Courthouse (500 Broadway, BOCC Meeting Room).

"Smart Growth America is committed to providing training to help local leaders keep their communities livable, sustainable and vital places," said Roger Millar, Vice President of Smart Growth America. "For years, Northwest Colorado community members have considered economic development a top priority for the region. With this workshop, we hope to assist NWCCOG leaders with advice and tools for applying smart growth strategies as they implement their new Economic Development District."

In November 2012, the Northwest Colorado Council of Government was one of 22 applicants selected by Smart Growth America to participate in the free technical assistance program. Stretching from Maine to Washington State, these communities represent major cities, suburban centers, and rural towns alike.

The program, made possible through a five-year Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Sustainable Communities, seeks to develop local planning solutions that help communities grow in ways that benefit families and businesses, while protecting the environment and preserving a sense of place. Three other nonprofit organizations—Forterra, Global Green USA and Project for Public Spaces—also received competitively awarded grants under this program to help communities get the kinds of

development they want.

As a national leader in the field, Smart Growth America has accumulated extensive experience working with communities to help them use land strategically, make the most of existing resources and invest strategically to catalyze private development.

Smart Growth America is the only national organization dedicated to researching, advocating for and leading coalitions to bring smart growth practices to more communities nationwide. From providing more sidewalks to ensuring more homes are built near public transportation or that productive farms remain a part of our communities, smart growth helps make sure people across the nation can live in great neighborhoods. For additional information visit www.smartgrowthamerica.org.

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