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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City of Fort Collins Economic Health Office Awards \$184,100 to Support Business

The City of Fort Collins Economic Health Office this spring awarded \$184,100 in grants supporting a variety of programs that assist the City's industry cluster strategic objectives.

The City received more than \$424,285 in funding requests. Award winners will use the grants to obtain additional grants or to sponsor events and programs.

The Economic Health Office collects mid-year and end of year reports from each organization to monitor the progress of each of these grant recipients. City staffers work directly with clusters to support their initiatives and foster collaboration among cluster organizations.

As part of its Strategic Plan, the City's Economic Health Office works to support innovation and assist with the retention and expansion of businesses in the community.

Awardees for 2017:

Northern Colorado Food Cluster: Administrative support and to develop network building and startup support programs (\$25,000)

Northern Colorado Bioscience Cluster: Support for a portion of the executive director salary and community networking activities such as NoCo Bio Advisory Board meetings, the Colorado Life Science Innovation Forum, and the NoCo Bio Annual Life Sciences Summit. (\$22,500)

Northern Colorado Health Sector Partnership: Support workforce development, training and events, and administrative support for this partnership. (\$20,000)

Idea2Product (3-D Printing Lab): Support small business manufacturing, training, and educational opportunities (\$20,000)

Rockies Venture Institute and EnConnect Holdings: Support capital accessibility programs including: Angel Chapter Meetings, Angel 101/Angel Hyperaccelerator programs, and Pitch Events. (\$15,000)

Northern Colorado Manufacturing Partnership: Administrative support of the sector partnership and its committees, workforce development programs, curriculum development, regional advising for local educational institutions, and marketing/public relations. (\$15,000)

Northern Colorado Music and Video Initiative: Program lead of this initiative as well as sponsoring professional development events for creative professionals. (\$15,000)

Rockies Venture Institute and Rockies Venture Club: Entrepreneur education programs including the Pitch Academy sessions, Mastermind sessions, and FVC Mesh Event Space. (\$10,000)



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The Nexus: Open Water Foundation: Support for strategic plan development, organizational capacity building, and external outreach for The Nexus. (\$10,000)

Innovation After Hours: Support for Innovation After Hours events hosted by Innosphere. These events showcase the City's industry clusters by providing a venue for existing and start-up businesses to network. (\$10,000)

Launch NoCo: Eight meetups over the course of 12 months. These events serve to provide opportunities for entrepreneurs and startup professionals to have additional avenues to gather and launch new startups. (\$9,600)

Northern Colorado Book Festival: Attracting top musicians, authors, and industry talent to attend the 2017 Fort Collins Book Festival. (\$6,500)

Downtown Fort Collins Creative District: Provide industrial representation and to develop connectivity in between representatives of this partnership. (\$5,500)

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