



MEDIA CONTACT: Shawn Milne
Economic Development Director
801.514.4444
Shawn.Milne@CacheCounty.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
23 November 2021

PRESS RELEASE

County Secures \$200,000 Economic Development Grant

LOGAN, UTAH-- Cache County announced today that it has been awarded a \$200,000 grant from the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity under the Rural County Grant Program. The County will use the grant to fund its economic development operations, a workforce development campaign, and a program to support entrepreneurs.

"We are experiencing some of the most unique economic circumstances of our lifetime," said Cache County Executive David Zook after receiving news of the successful grant award. "The best way to face challenges is to see them as opportunities to collaborate with our partners to create innovative solutions. We appreciate the partnership of our state legislature and the governor's office in providing these funds. We will now leverage those funds with our own contributions and team up with local partners to amplify our efforts."

The Rural County Grant program was created during the 2020 Legislative Session through Senate Bill 95 sponsored by State Senator Scott Sandall and State Representative Carl Albrecht. The bill is part of a broader effort by state leaders to increase economic activity and opportunity within rural communities. The State of Utah has seen a lot of success in business development and attraction in the past decade. However, the rate of new business creation and expansion outside of the Wasatch Front has not matched that of the urban core. Senate Bill 95's sponsors sought to create more opportunity for rural communities and extend Utah's economic vibrancy to counties throughout the whole state.

Counties in the state of Utah are categorized as rural or urban by their overall population. Cache County's current population is slightly more than 132,000. With a population of fewer than 175,000 residents, Cache County is considered a rural county. Under terms of the Rural County Grant program, Cache County meets the program's qualifications and is eligible to receive up to \$200,000 through the program. The County received the maximum allotment allowed by the program.

Cache County will match the grant with an additional \$80,000 it received from another grant from the federal government. The combined funds will be used to implement a campaign to help businesses struggling with finding workers. That program will be developed in partnership with the Cache Valley Chamber of Commerce, Department of Workforce Service, local educational institutions, and the Cache Valley Economic Development Alliance. The goal would be to increase workforce participation to meet the demands of local employers. Cache County currently has the lowest unemployment rate of any county in the nation.

The grant funds would also be used to expand programs to support entrepreneurs served by the B-Tech Entrepreneurship Center.

###