
WORKFORCE NEWS

Business Services Newsletter
April 2024

Hot off the Press



Opportunity Next

OEDIT's Latest Funding Opportunity for High-Priority Training
The Office for Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) has launched the **Opportunity Next scholarship program**, made possible by **SB23-205**. This initiative is designed to bolster enrollment in Colorado-based postsecondary high-priority pathway training programs, including apprenticeships, paving the way for a brighter future for our learners.

Under this program, eligible participants may receive up to \$1500 in scholarship funds to cover tuition, books, equipment, and fees. Registered apprenticeship programs, eligible training providers, and technical colleges should apply by April 15th to ensure that scholarships are readily available to eligible students upon enrollment.

Questions about the **Opportunity Next Scholarship** should be directed to Marie Pecoraro, Strategic Advisor, OEDIT at marie.pecoraro@state.co.us.

The Labor Supply and Demand Report for First Quarter 2024 is Available [HERE](#)

New unemployment claims are up slightly in Colorado at 2,715 the week ending January 6, 2024. At the same time, note the rather steep upward trend with continued claims growing from just under 19,000 the week of July 8, 2023, to 32,405 the week ending January 6.

Job seeker foot traffic in Arapahoe/Douglas Works! workforce centers has grown by 77% this year, suggesting that it is taking more time for unemployed people to find work, though the labor market remains structurally scarce. Also, Coloradans now seem a bit more hesitant about quitting their jobs, with the number of 'quits' going down from 67,000 in October 2023 to 61,000 in November.

Small Business Equity Fund Grant Program

CDPHE's **Colorado Green Business Network** is now accepting applications for the **Small Business Equity Fund Grant Program** for businesses located in Aurora and Commerce City,

Colorado. The program aims to help businesses transition to energy-efficient equipment, which can save money through reduced energy use.

The Colorado Green Business Network will assess applications according to eligibility and application submission on a first-come, first-served basis while funds last. Businesses that meet the following eligibility requirements should fill out an online application. Applications are reviewed as they come in. This opportunity will conclude when funding is no longer available or by August 1, 2024, whichever comes first. Read about the grant program [HERE](#).

Investing in Success: The Business Case for Fair Chance Hiring

Join Jobs for the Future (JFF) for this special LinkedIn Live event as we set the record straight with the undeniable business case for fair chance hiring. Our panel of experts will share real-life examples, insights, and strategies to help your business thrive with this updated and inclusive hiring practice.

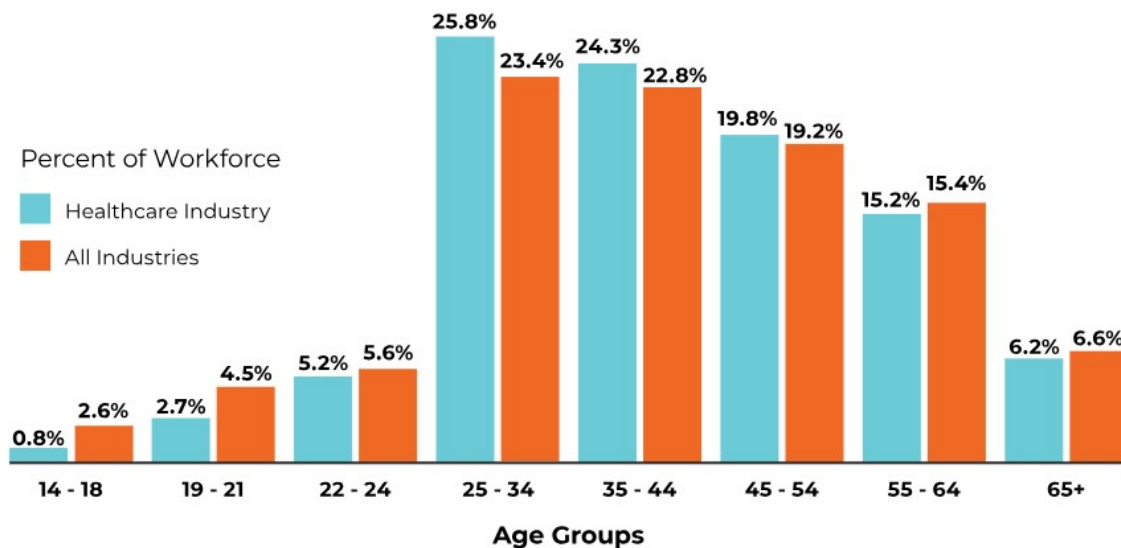
Tuesday, April 9

1 p.m. ET/10 a.m. PT

[RSVP today!](#)

Sector Spotlight

The **Healthcare Industry** employs 261,953 people in 13,799 establishments. In 2022 the sector had \$43.4B in sales and contributed \$26.8B to the region's GRP. The retirement risk in healthcare is lower than that across all industries in the region. 21.3% of the labor force is age 55 and older. There are significantly fewer entrants in the 14-24 age group.



5 Top Trends Revolutionizing Healthcare in 2024

[Deloitte.com](#)

- Mergers and acquisitions
- Generative AI and digital transformation
- Workforce Talent Shortages
- Outsourcing and offshoring administrative tasks
- Affordability and empowered consumers

News From Our Workforce Development Board

Help Drive the Direction of Workforce Services

Join local business leaders and community partners as they make influential decisions that impact our workforce. If you are interested in receiving more information, participating with, or applying to serve on the Workforce Development Board, please complete the [FORM](#) at the bottom of the web page. Contact Sydney at sgolditch@arapahoegov.com if you have more questions.

The Arapahoe/Douglas Workforce Board meets on the first Thursday, bi-monthly from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm.

Next meeting: April 4, 2024 • 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Koebel Library - 5955 S Holly St, Centennial, CO 80121, Meeting Room A.

Does your business have space to accommodate 60 attendees to host a Workforce Development Board meeting? Please contact Sydney at (303) 636-1178 or by email at sgolditch@arapahoegov.com.

Save the Dates!

Business Events

Discovering A/D Works! Business Services

Hear about the many no-cost services that the Business Services Team has to offer you. Held virtually from 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month: April 17th, and May 15th. Interested businesses should contact Stephanie at sgarno@arapahoegov.com.

Talent Pipeline Makeover

April 23, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Lima Boardroom. We will debunk myths about stereotypes and explore innovative strategies to harness a new talent pool. Let us help your business navigate the challenges of today's shrinking workforce.

The Keynote Speaker will be Anthony Cherwinski, Office of New Americans, followed by an opportunity to ask questions during a panel discussion. [Register here](#).

Job Quality for Good Jobs

May 21, 2024, 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., Lima Boardroom. Contact Dee to register at d Wittmer@arapahoegov.com.

County News



ARAPAHOE COUNTY

Arapahoe County 2024 Ballot Measure Survey Regarding County Services.

Magellan Strategies is pleased to present the results of an online survey of 2,875 registered voters in Arapahoe County, Colorado. The interviews were conducted from February 12th to February 21st, 2024. View the results of the survey [HERE](#).



DOUGLAS COUNTY COLORADO

Commissioners invest in affordable housing for older adults in your community.

You told us one of your top priorities for older adults was affordable housing. Your county is continuing to invest in that priority. During a regular Business Meeting Tuesday, March 26, the Board of Douglas County Commissioners approved \$850,000 in grant funding for the RidgeGate Senior Apartments in Lone Tree, a project of the [Douglas County Housing Partnership](#). Read more about the initiative [HERE](#).

More Business News

CWDC Programs and Business Support

Attracting and growing good jobs is key to building a strong economy and creating opportunities for all Coloradans. CWDC offers resources that can help employers, workforce professionals, and other stakeholders increase the supply of good jobs in the state, resulting in greater satisfaction for workers and more competitive businesses.

CWDC.org

Rocky Mountain MicroFinance Institute Business Idea Lab and Business Launch Boot Camp

Do you want to start or grow your business? We can help! Rocky Mountain MicroFinance Institute (RMMFI) is accepting applications for our next cohorts of Business Idea Lab and Business Launch Boot Camp in both English and Spanish. RMMFI believes that all people deserve the investment to achieve their dreams, and we provide that investment through classroom, coaching, capital, and community. Click [HERE](#) to learn more and sign up!

Explore Our Best in Class Business Services

Save your business time and valuable resources with no-cost services from Arapahoe/Douglas Works! We can help you hire, train, and retain to meet your unique business needs.


Business Services provides a wide variety of no-cost services to help employers meet their recruitment goals and ensure a qualified workforce. Our Business Development Representatives are experienced in listening to employers' needs and providing solutions to save your organization time, money, and valuable resources.

Discuss your recruitment goals and customize a plan with one of our experienced [Business Development Representatives](#) today! Call 303-636-1359 or fill out a [request form](#), and one of our representatives will contact you.

Read past newsletters [here](#).

Arapahoe/Douglas Works! is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.



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