

**13TH ANNUAL Southwest Colorado Small Business Conference**  
MAY 7, 2025 | IGNACIO, CO

**Innovating Locally: Elevating Business Leadership, Strategy, and Technology** | This event attracts hundreds of professional business owners who represent all sectors of the business community, including corporate, government, public agency, and non-profit.

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## Empowering Businesses to Thrive in Southwest Colorado

The Southwest Colorado SBDC, located at the Fort Lewis College Center for Innovation in Durango, Colorado, offers business advising and training that maximizes the economic potential of entrepreneurs in Archuleta County, Dolores County, La Plata County, Montezuma County, San Juan County, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and the Ute Mountain Ute Indian Tribe.

Our goal at the SBDC is to help emerging and existing entrepreneurs start, grow and prosper through free guidance in all aspects of financing, developing and managing a small business. Let us help maximize your business potential.

970-903-5424  
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[See All Addresses and Hours](#)



## No-Cost, Confidential, One-on-One Business Advising and No-or-Low-Cost Training

- Each of our SBDC centers have business advisors ready to serve you with local, regional knowledge and whose experience and areas of expertise can best assist you
- Advising is not only no cost and confidential; it is tailored to your business needs
- Our advisors can discuss a wide range of business opportunities and challenges, and provide specific, in-depth assistance
- All advising sessions are by appointment only
- Trainings, events, and workshops are either no-cost or low-cost

**Initial Advising Session**  
New to the SBDC? Click the button to request your first advising appointment.

[Request Advising Session](#)

**Follow-Up**  
If you've already met with an SBDC advisor, click the button to request a follow-up appointment.

[Request Follow-Up](#)

**Training**  
Check out all training, programs, networking, events, workshops, and on-demand classes.

[Events/Workshops](#)

## Colorado SBDC


### 2024 Annual Report

The results are in. We're honored to have partnered with so many Colorado small businesses last year, contributing to their success and strengthening local communities. We look forward to providing even more support this year, empowering entrepreneurs to overcome challenges and achieve their dreams. Together, we can foster a thriving and resilient business landscape for Colorado.

[Read 2024 SBDC Annual Report](#)



## Success Stories



### No Limits Ranch

#### A Sanctuary for Healing, Inclusion, & Empowerment

No Limits Ranch in Pagosa Springs, Colorado, is more than just a retreat; it is a sanctuary for children and young adults with disabilities and their families. Founded by Carolyn Arnold and her son, Andy Arnold, the ranch builds on their earlier initiative, No Limits Art. Andy, who was born with Down syndrome, has been the heart of this mission, using his artistic talents to support disabled veterans. His inspiration comes from his older brother, a disabled veteran, whose experiences shaped Andy's passion for service. Over time, this dedication evolved into No Limits Ranch—a place where families can heal, bond, and grow through art, horses, and shared experiences.

Operating from Elk Trace Ranch Bed & Breakfast, No Limits Ranch offers a unique mix of outdoor activities and creative outlets designed to foster connections and personal growth. Families take part in therapeutic horseback riding and engage in artistic projects that promote healing and camaraderie. By partnering with various organizations, the ranch also extends its support to disabled veterans and their families, with plans for a major event in North Texas in 2026. By providing a welcoming and inclusive environment, No Limits Ranch ensures that guests can enjoy nature, express themselves creatively, and build lasting friendships. One of No Limits Ranch's defining aspects is its dedication to fostering independence and confidence among participants. Through hands-on activities, guests develop new skills, conquer personal challenges, and experience the pride of accomplishment. The supportive atmosphere nurtures self-expression while strengthening relationships among family members and peers.

Like many mission-driven organizations, No Limits Ranch has faced challenges, especially in creating a sustainable business model. Carolyn credits the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) for helping her navigate these obstacles. In 2024, she enrolled in the SBDC Leading Edge business plan course, where she gained valuable insights into structuring a business plan, refining her goals, and effectively communicating the ranch's mission. Carolyn describes the experience as transformative, turning a daunting task into a manageable roadmap for the future. The knowledge she gained has enabled her to better strategize for long-term growth and impact.

Carolyn strongly praises the SBDC's role in her journey. "Mary Shepherd is a 10 out of 10," she states. "She truly loves what she does and the people she supports. She's always available with a listening ear and valuable insight, knowing exactly who to connect you with." The SBDC's guidance has not only provided No Limits Ranch with a solid foundation but has also connected Carolyn to a network of professionals and resources that continue to drive the mission forward.

With a growing base of community support, No Limits Ranch is ready to make a lasting impact. The ranch remains dedicated to expanding its reach and developing new programs that further its mission of inclusion, healing, and empowerment. By creating a safe and enriching environment, No Limits Ranch ensures that individuals of all abilities can experience the joy of living a life without limits.

For more information, visit [No Limits Ranch](#).

## Our Team



**Mary Shepherd**  
Executive Director  
[Email Mary](mailto:Email.Mary)



**Allison Danforth**  
Business Manager  
[Email Allison](mailto:Email.Allison)

[See All Our Advisors](#)

## Proud to Support Southwest Colorado



## Our Locations

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <b>Southwest Main   Durango</b>  | <b>Southwest Satellite   Cortez</b>  | <b>Southwest Satellite   Pagosa Springs</b>   |
| Fort Lewis College Center for Innovation<br>835 Main Avenue, Suite 225<br>Durango, CO 81301<br>970-903-9311<br><br>Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.<br><br>Appointment recommended. Walk-ins welcome. | Cortez Area Chamber of Commerce<br>31 West Main Street<br>Cortez, CO 81321<br>970-903-9311<br><br>By appointment only. | Pagosa Springs Chamber of Commerce<br>105 Hot Springs Boulevard<br>Pagosa Springs, CO 81147<br>970-903-9311<br><br>By appointment only. |

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## Thank You to Our Supporters



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