



Amanda Goad | BoldBrew
970-403-4101 | amanda@boldbrewteam.com

First Southwest Community Fund Releases the Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program (RMAP), With A Technical Assistance Grant

To support the development and ongoing success of rural microentrepreneurs, First Southwest Community Fund has established business loans offering technical assistance grants for entrepreneurs in rural Colorado.

ALAMOSA, COLO., (July 17th, 2018) – First Southwest Community Fund (FSWCF), a 501c3 nonprofit investing in the people, culture, and ideas that fuel innovation in rural Colorado, has launched a fixed-rate, low-interest Microentrepreneur Loan for startups and growing businesses in rural Colorado.

Each loan customer is eligible for up to 10% of the loan request to be delivered in the form of a grant for the business' technical assistance needs.

"With the USDA's RMAP program, our goal is to get rural businesses and startups invigorated to invest and grow. The USDA creates these programs to support rural regions like ours here in Southern Colorado," says Kent Curtis, FSWCF president. "Our community fund, seeks out these opportunities, gets our neighbors access to them and helps business through the process – every step of the way. It's what we do. We're based on people, values and rural Colorado. And we're here to invest in this region."

The types of Technical Assistance could include paying for clients to meet with accountants or CPAs to prepare or correct financials and learn basic accounting software, business coaches to develop their business plan and projections, lawyers to address any legal questions and marketers to develop their marketing plan.

Microentrepreneur Loan Details:

- Qualified business activities and expenses include: Working capital; Debt refinancing; Purchasing equipment and supplies; Improving real estate; Growing team members
- Maximum loan size is \$50,000
- 2 Years of Business FS or Tax Returns | Startups: 2 Years of Financial Projections
- FSWCF ultimately determines which types of technical assistance a customer needs
- Applicant is responsible for deciding which provider to use and the hourly rate.
- Applications open immediately

First Southwest Community Fund will be hosting a series of luncheons in your region to share more information about the RMAP Loan and Technical Assistance Grant.

For information and interest in the RMAP Loan, please contact Sherry Waner, Senior Vice President Specialized Commercial Lending, at AllSpecialLending@fswb.com, 970.946.6160.

About First Southwest Community Fund

As a 501c3, First Southwest Community Fund supports the dedicated entrepreneurial spirit of rural Colorado, by investing in the people, culture, and ideas that fuel innovation and financial knowledge in our community, with an emphasis on areas of greatest need. First Southwest Community Fund achieves this by providing low-cost business and agricultural lending, supporting educational programs that prepare people to participate in the mainstream economy, enhancing early learning and development opportunities, and augmenting technology and other public amenities. Please find more information about First Southwest Community Fund at fswcf.org.

About First Southwest Bank

Serving the San Luis Valley and rural Colorado for more than 100 years, First Southwest Bank offers personal and business banking at their seven branches, with an emphasis on businesses supporting rural communities. First Southwest Bank and their employees actively live-in and give back to our communities, volunteering with more than

40 local organizations, and donating to 115. As a CDFI bank, First Southwest Bank is focused on cultivating valuable relationships, investing in economic and social doers, and fostering a well-lived rural culture. More information about First Southwest Bank is available at [fswb.com](https://www.fswb.com). Member FDIC, Equal Housing Lender.

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