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CFA-SUPPORTED CONSORTIA IN COLORADO AND UTAH RECEIVE TECH HUBS RECOGNITION FROM THE U.S. DEPT. OF COMMERCE

Denver, CO and Kaysville, UT: Two consortia supported by the [Community Funding Accelerator](#) (CFA) have been awarded recognition under the Economic Development Administration's [Tech Hubs Program](#). The Colorado Elevate Quantum Consortium received one of 31 Tech Hub designations nationwide, which opens the door for them to apply for between \$40 million and \$70 million in implementation funding. In neighboring Utah, the "Advanced Manufacturing of Critical Materials Strategy Development Consortium," led by the Utah Advanced Materials Manufacturing Initiative (UAMMI), received a Strategy Development Grant (SDG) of \$450,000.

Following a decades-long journey to become a Tech Hub, Elevate Quantum, who were also supported by [TechHubNow!](#), aim to usher in a new era of quantum technology in the Centennial State—one that puts equity and sustainability at the forefront. Flagship programs will build awareness of quantum jobs as early as K-12, with a focus on underserved communities.

UAMMI seeks to propel Utah's advanced materials and manufacturing industry while promoting collaboration among the public and private sectors, creating business opportunities, and fostering the development of a skilled workforce. The Tech Hubs SDG showcases Utah's potential to become an epicenter of the critical materials industry, addressing a crucial national security and economic need. Their robust strategy will not only redefine Utah's critical materials landscape but also cultivate a generation of skilled professionals ready to lead the industry into the future. Consortium partners include local schools and leaders in STEM and 4-H programming. These partners will ensure that workforce development, earth stewardship, and skills alignment begin in K-12 education.

CFA supported both consortia in their Tech Hubs bids, with an emphasis on K-12 education and workforce pathways. CFA provided coalition-building support and deep technical assistance in developing and submitting winning applications.

"CFA's work specifically ensured that the applications were centered around diversity, equity and inclusion, that they explicitly developed plans for scaling new, region-wide workforce pathways in support of these emerging tech categories, and that the final grant submissions were of the highest quality," said JB Holston, Strategic Advisor to Colorado TechHubNow! "Without [CFA], Colorado would not have been competitive for Tech Hubs."

"We are so appreciative of CFA's coaching, which led to this winning proposal," said Dr. Tulinda Larsen, President of UAMMI. "The EDA Tech Hub Grant recognizes Utah's national role in developing critical minerals for our nation's national security."

CFA will provide further planning and implementation support to both organizations as they work towards ambitious goals in workforce pathways, tech innovation, equitable economic development, and more.

Community Funding Accelerator

The Community Funding Accelerator (CFA) helps underserved communities access competitive federal grants. With a focus on K-12 education and workforce pathways, CFA identifies relevant grant opportunities, builds coalitions, and provides deep technical assistance to submit winning applications. CFA also supports implementation to create innovative education and workforce solutions in communities across the U.S. The CFA pilot is led by [Delivery Associates](#), a public sector consulting firm.

TechHubNow!

TechHubNow! is a coalition formed to accelerate statewide collaboration to highlight Colorado's strengths as a tech hub and bring together partners who will develop equitable, inclusive, and highly competitive applications for Tech Hub designation.

Utah Advanced Materials Manufacturing Initiative

Founded in 2016, the Utah Advanced Materials and Manufacturing Initiative (UAMMI) serves as the connecting point for Utah's advanced materials and manufacturing industry, with a vision to ensure that Utah is a global leader in advanced materials and manufacturing. Their mission is to promote collaboration, identify business opportunities, share knowledge resulting from research, accelerate the success of small businesses, establish a skilled and trained workforce, and serve as a thought leader in advanced materials and manufacturing. Through regular events, trainings, partnerships, newsletters, and online business tools, UAMMI aims to foster growth and sustainability within this vibrant industry in Utah.