



**Support HB 1287 – Access to State Grant Opportunities
Representatives Bob Marshall and Matt Soper**

The Challenge:

For many years important programs and policies in Colorado have not been fully resourced. Due to shortages in state funding, many critical programs have been funded or supplemented through grants. Grants, whether competitive or not, require resources such as additional workforce to write grants and manage those grants. The sheer amount of grant dollars available in the state makes them difficult to take full advantage. This is especially true for rural parts of the state. Further, it is difficult to know about the grant opportunities available because they reside in various departments within state government.

What HB 1287 Will Do:

HB 1287 attempts to address this challenge by requiring the Department of Personnel to create and maintain a searchable database of all state grant opportunities. The database will contain grants that are state funded or state administered. The database is also required to contain relevant information on the grant such as the purpose of the grant, the eligibility criteria, the grant amounts available, application procedures, timelines, grant writing and application assistance, grant performance criteria, reporting requirements, and contact information.

In addition to the database, the bill also creates the Grant Assistance to Rural Communities Program within the Department of Local Affairs. This program is directed to provide assistance to rural communities and entities to access grant opportunities. That assistance includes identifying grant opportunities that the entity would be eligible, applying for and writing grant applications, building capacity to comply with the grant criteria and monitoring requirements, and technical assistance.

How HB 1287 Will Help:

Today there are many financial resources for communities that are available through grants. But they cannot help fund our critical needs and programs if entities cannot access those opportunities. This bill will create a “one stop shop” for exploring and taking advantage of all the resources available, creating transparency and removing roadblocks to accessing these resources. It also recognizes the unique challenges our rural communities face and provides extra supports to ensure equal access to urban counterparts.

PLEASE VOTE YES ON HB 1287

Supporting Organizations:

Colorado Cleantech Industry
Association
Colorado Rural Schools Alliance

Colorado Education Association
Energy Outreach Colorado
Special Districts Association of Colorado