



## McKinley County Vision 2020 Comprehensive Plan Update

### “Framing the Plan” Workshop Series (Phase I)

#### Executive Summary

McKinley County is updating its 2012 Comprehensive Plan with the assistance of the Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments. The updated county comp plan seeks to expand on some key issues to further develop strategies around future investments and initiatives.

This is a report from a series of meetings that were held with local experts in the fields of *Education, Health, Transportation, Infrastructure, Economic Development and Policy, Public Safety, Land Use and Water*. Contents represented here are aggregated data that has been processed from all the collected input and feedback from all *Phase I – Local Experts* workshops that were held between June and August 2018. In summary, the contents below are main themes and points made during these meetings.

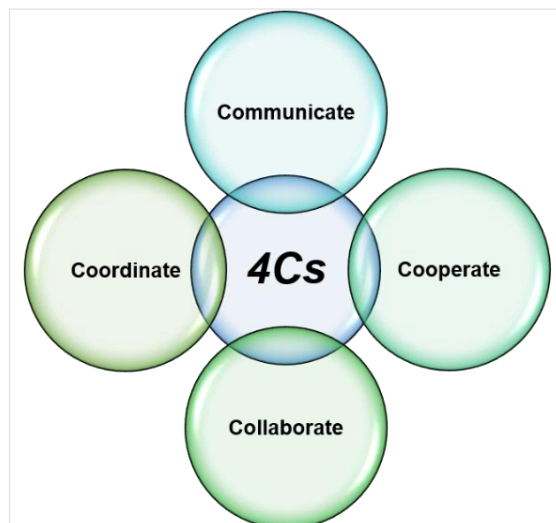
#### Main Themes and Outlines

##### **a. Advocate/promote/facilitate:**

- For more funding opportunities
- For educational opportunities for youth and adults
- To increase partnerships, local networks, working groups
- To improve overall quality of life (i.e. public safety, healthcare, education)
- To resolve jurisdictional issues (i.e. roads, infrastructure, public safety)
- To increase public educations (i.e. crime prevention)
- For interagency support and cooperation
- To increase communication and transparency (i.e. county activities)
- For continued support for current/ongoing projects/initiatives with new leadership
- To be proactive and responsive to changing sociocultural realities
- To address permitting issues with wastewater lagoons, etc.
- Increased initiatives for in-school clinics (i.e. San Juan College’s school mental health programs)
- For community outreach initiatives/programs
- To encourage public involvement
- To strengthen intergovernmental agreements
- To expand much needed services
- To increase attention for our region’s efforts/initiatives at the state level
- To strengthen existing working relationships/partnerships

## Identify ways/opportunities:

- To bridge existing gaps across all agencies
- To bring 'everyone to the table' (i.e. leadership, organizations)
- For the **4Cs**: **Cooperation**, **Communication**, **Collaboration**, **Coordination** (see below)
- To foster and improve policies and actions
- To resolve capital improvement issues
- To increase career awareness/job skills opportunities
- To increase community engagement
- To address issues with anti-donation clauses
- To address regional plant closures
- To increase career awareness/job skills opportunities
- To work together to avoid duplication of efforts/projects
- To use data to steer/guide policy and action
- To increase regulatory reform for water systems
- To identify loopholes that work to close existing gaps
- To partner with those who are knowledgeable
- To increase efforts/support for senior centers
- To assist agencies to expand services/programs for rural communities
- To take advantage of our region's human capital
- To strengthen community involvement
- To improve infrastructure for communications/broadband
- To resolve communication 'loopholes'
- To address unemployment issues for our region
- To resolve rural addressing issues



## **b. Establish**

- An oversight committee to monitor needs and responses
- With cataloging assets and resources
- A regional consortium for training opportunities, mutual aid (i.e. operators)
- Community working groups to help mediate local issues with strategies
- Healthcare as one of the main economic contributors
- A competitive workforce to alleviate brain-drain and to increase job retention
- A local crisis response teams to address mental health events/issues
- Para-medicine networks and programs
- Policies to mediate inter-jurisdictional issues

## **c. Support**

- Local tourism initiatives through strategic marketing
- Remediation for historical environmental disasters that may have impacted local water sources
- Environmental contamination cleanup efforts
- Agriculture and food security initiatives
- Regional tourism (i.e. Four Corners *Geotourism*)
- Entrepreneurs through incubator programs/partnerships
- Current economic developments (i.e. HM72/41, Gallup Inland Port)
- Increased initiatives for drought planning and mapping
- Initiatives calling for a change in local mindset from “individualism” to “community-ism”
- Veteran’s health services and programs

## **d. Encourage**

- New/existing community developments (i.e. IHS hospital)
- Local agencies to communicate proposed/current projects
- Local agencies to prepare projects to be ‘shovel-ready’ .
- Local board members to participate and stay involved
- All agencies and governments to be proactive in intergovernmental agreements
- All local agencies to ‘step forward’ and assist where needed
- All to share resources, if available, and apply where needed
- County to educate the public on ongoing/upcoming projects

## **e. Expand**

- Existing programs and services for efficiency, improve quality of life
- Infrastructure from NGWSP
- Non-emergency, medical services for rural communities
- Existing academic and training programs

## **f. Develop**

- Partnerships with local agencies with academic institutions
- An advanced systematic emergency response system that increases efficiency and accessibility

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### **Other Areas of Focus:**

- 1) Acknowledge cultural diversity and find ways to invest in it
- 2) Revamp policies and asset management
- 3) Consider developing a regional, interjurisdictional model using NGWSP as a way to mitigate rural infrastructure issues
- 4) Consider establishing local training centers to enhance our local talent base in critical areas (i.e. health, public safety)
- 5) Consider future housing developments for current/incoming professionals
- 6) Consider filling economic gaps by attracting developers/investors county-wide
- 7) Consider incorporating all existing regional plans into one master plan that focuses on all the comp plan elements, and expand where needed
- 8) Consider increasing awareness and efforts for sustainability by encouraging residents and businesses
- 9) Consider underground water protection from wastewater leakages/overflows