

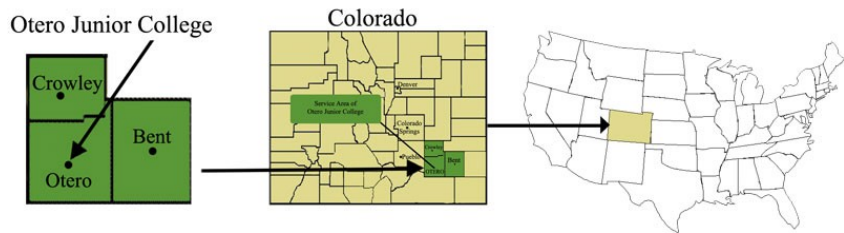


Otero Junior College Microenterprise Development Center

Type of activity: Economic development

Target area: Crowley County, Colorado

Project summary: Otero Junior College, located in La Junta, Colorado, is developing the Microenterprise Development Center, a one-stop economic development facility that will serve a rural, economically-depressed county in OJC's service area. Crowley County is the poorest county in Colorado and the 23rd poorest county in the nation. The center will help residents of this underserved area of southeastern Colorado achieve success in business start-up, continuation and expansion through a series of services including one-on-one counseling, group workshops and shared work space. There will also be a housing component to educate residents about fair housing and provide opportunities to build new housing or rehabilitate existing homes. This project will allow OJC to assist the county in reviving its business community by renovating a vacant, highly-visible downtown building and providing a variety of support services to existing and potential businesses.



Proposed impact: Training 120 people; providing technical assistance to 60 clients; retaining 15 jobs; creating 15 new businesses and 20 new jobs; and providing housing services including training 40 people, assisting in building five new homes and renovating six homes.

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