

Agenda
Advisory Committee on Aging
Friday, October 25, 2024
11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Centennial Center of Generations
6972 S Vine St, Ste 366
Centennial, CO 80122

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Times listed with each agenda item are approximate. It is requested that all cell phones be silenced during the Advisory Committee on Aging meeting. Persons in need of auxiliary aids or services, such as interpretation services or assisted listening devices, are asked to contact the Denver Regional Council of Governments at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

- 1 11:00 a.m. Call to Order and Introductions
- 2 11:05 a.m. Public comment
Up to 45 minutes is allocated now for public comment and each speaker will be limited to 3 minutes. If there are additional requests from the public to address the Committee, time will be allocated at the end of the meeting to complete public comment.
- 3 11:10 a.m. Report of the Chair – Bob Brocker

Consent agenda

- 4 11:15 a.m. Move to Approve Consent Agenda
Minutes from September 27, 2024, meeting.
(Attachment A)
- 5 11:20 a.m. Lunch
- 6 11:45 a.m. Report of the AAA Director – Jayla Sanchez-Warren

Informational briefings

- 7 12:05 p.m. Presentation by YMCA Director and facility tour – Paula Hillman
(Attachment B)
- 8 12:30 p.m. DRCOG website presentation – Keona Gardner
(Attachment C)

- 9 1:10 p.m. DRCOG Board Report
- 10 1:15 p.m. County Reports

Administrative items

- 11 **Next meeting is November 22, 2024.**
- 12 1:25 p.m. Other Matters by Members
- 13 1:30 p.m. Adjourn

Calander of future meetings

December 27, 2024 – Virtual

January 24, 2025 – Virtual

February 28, 2025 – Virtual

March 28, 2025 – Virtual

April 25, 2025 – In person

May 23, 2025 – Virtual

June 27, 2025 – In person

July 25, 2025 – Virtual

August 22, 2025 – In person

September 26, 2025 – Virtual

October 24, 2025 – In person

November 28, 2024 – Virtual

ATTACH A

Advisory Committee on Aging (ACA) Meeting Summary

Friday, September 27, 2024

If you have difficulty using this document's content, please email mpatton@drcog.org or call 303-480-6723. Please expect a response within 72 hours (three business days).

Members Present

Ada Anderson	Douglas County
Andrea Suhaka	Arapahoe County
Chris Lynn	Jefferson County
David Appel	Jefferson County
Dawn Perez	Adams County
Donna Mullins	Jefferson County
Greg Kahler	Adams County
Gretchen Lopez	Douglas County
Jim Dale	Jefferson County
Paul Haseman	DRCOG Board Golden
Phil Cernanec	Arapahoe County
Shari Haidvogl	Clear Creek County
Sharon Tessier	Broomfield County
Steve Conklin	DRCOG Board Edgewater
Wynne Shaw	DRCOG Board-Lone Tree

Guests Present

George Ryan, Adams County, Nathan Estrada, Benefits in Action.

DRCOG Staff Present

AJ Diamontopoulos, Senior Management Analyst, Doug Rex, DRCOG Executive Director, Erika Dubray, ADRC Manager, Erin Iserman, Compliance Specialist, Fonda Buckles, Community Resource Manager, Jayla Sanchez- Warren, AAA Division Director, Kelly Roberts, Community Resource Specialist, Mason Green AAA Grant Specialist, Mindy Patton, Division Assistant, Rich Mauro, Director Legislative Affairs, Sharon Day, AAA Business Operations Manager, Susan Anderson, Case Management Program Manager, Travis Noon, AAA Grant, Compliance Program Manager.

Call to Order

Wynne Shaw Committee Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m.

Public Comment Period (Non-ACA Members)

There was no public comment.

Report of the Chair

There was no report from the Chair.

Report of the AAA Director – Jayla Sanchez-Warren

Jayla participated in multiple meetings regarding the updated Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). This comprehensive rewrite by the federal government, the first since 1988, is now complete. The next phase involves the state integrating these federal regulations into their own policies and procedures. Both state and federal authorities have been conducting training sessions to facilitate this transition.

The state has been holding numerous meetings to address waitlist prioritization, aiming to standardize procedures and alleviate the administrative burden on Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) and contractors. Contractors share common concerns about the extensive waitlists, driven by high demand, a shortage of volunteers, and funding deficits. Due to reduced funding, many have had to downsize their staff. Despite applying for grants, contractors have struggled to secure funding, as many grants prioritize new technology or innovative evidence-based applications, while contractors urgently need support for basic services. There is growing concern about the sustainability of these contractors' operations.

The AAA is taking steps, with managers and program managers reviewing workloads and workflows to enhance efficiency despite having fewer staff and higher demand. They aim to reduce staff burnout by working smarter. Managers are also emphasizing the importance of quality documentation and cross-training in other programs. With numerous changes due to new regulations, programs, and compliance responsibilities, Jayla praised the staff for their continued excellent performance.

Move to approve consent agenda.

Items on the consent agenda included: August 23, 2024, meeting summary.

Phil Cernanec motioned for approval. Paul Haseman seconded the motion; the consent agenda was unanimously approved.

Informational Briefings

Discussions of Legislative Issues – Rich Mauro

Rich Mauro provided the following updates:

House Bill 1211 was initiated in early February. Rachel Zenzinger carried the bill and was able to get approval by the Joint Budget Committee (JBC). This bill created a \$2 million emergency fund for the AAA's and their contractors to use for financial or operational emergencies caused by a disruption in the delivery of eligible services due to an unexpected change in provider availability or operational capacity; an unintended delay or interruption of state or federal allocations; or an emergency disaster declaration. The state is in the process of implementing guidelines to accept requests for the funding.

Senate Bill 40 was introduced with Senator Jesse Danielson and Representative Mary Young. Part of the motivation for this bill was the JBC's non-committal stance. They were somewhat encouraging, indicating they might take action if funds were available.

The initial draft of the bill included two main provisions. First, it required the state to evaluate the adequacy of state funding for senior services starting in 2024, with updates every three years. Second, it mandated that the budget for that line item be adjusted for inflation annually. However, this provision was removed during the legislative process.

DRCOG amended the bill as it progressed, with significant help from many across the state. They successfully added a \$6 million amendment in the House, it went on to the Senate, when the bill returned to the JBC, it was one of the few amendments passed in both chambers. Traditionally, this is accepted, however, they reduced the funding to \$2 million for the entire state.

DRCOG will continue with the Senate Bill 40 process. The state has taken some time getting started holding a few meetings. They are working on a draft evaluation and plan to engage stakeholders, including the AAAs and other interested parties in the coming months. The bill requires the state to submit a report to the JBC by November. Rich will keep the committee updated on the.

House Bill 1322 builds on a previous bill that authorizes Health Care Policy and Finance (HCPF) to submit a waiver to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). This waiver allows the state to study the feasibility of covering specified housing and nutrition services and report to the General Assembly by November 10, 2024. They have submitted a 1115 waiver request, which waives certain Medicaid provisions for experimental, pilot, or demonstration projects, and are currently awaiting a response from CMS. Once approved, there will be a process to implement the program.

Federal Older Americans Act Reauthorization:

DRCOG is currently developing a federal advocacy plan, which includes updating materials and gathering stories. There was an extensive discussion about ACA members advocating with legislators, either by joining an existing group or forming a subcommittee within the ACA. It was decided to schedule a meeting with Doug Rex, Jayla Sanchez-Warren, Rich Mauro, Bob Brocker, and Wynne Shaw for further discussion.

Rich concluded his update by informing the members that a Continuing Resolution, which will maintain current funding levels as the Federal budget year ends on September 30, is under consideration. He also noted that the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act is expected to be delayed until after the election and the new administration takes office.

Update on DRCOG-Community Care Hub and Payor Contracting – AJ Diamontopoulos

AJ Diamontopoulos updated the members on the recent funding received for the Community Care Hub (Hub). The Hub serves as a single point of contact between healthcare entities and a network of community-based organizations. DRCOG has been working on creating a Hub since 2021. The Hub will be responsible for contracting and payment operations, client referral management, and organizing health-related social needs service delivery in partnership with network providers. It will also handle

technology systems such as data transfer, collection, reporting, governance, and compliance.

DRCOG pursued this endeavor to develop new partnerships and provide additional funds to the AAA. This model works well because it partners with healthcare providers, benefits older adults in the region, and complements the services already provided by the AAA and its partners.

To date, DRCOG has:

- Received a grant to continue the Health Navigation program.
- Received funding to build and deploy a closed-loop referral system to share client information with AAA contractors.
- Hired Torrie Fields Analytics, Inc. to assist with healthcare partnership development.
- Has been accepted into the Health Equity Learning Collaborative to design a new program with Denver Health
- Is one of 20 organizations in the nation to receive funding from the Center of Excellence to develop the Community Care Hub.

The Administration for Community Living (ACL) intends to assist with establishing hubs to complement the AAAs and capitalize on future opportunities being pushed by Medicare. The ACL funded the Center of Excellence to help community-based organizations and states across the country develop the ability to work with healthcare. In August, DRCOG was awarded funding to support these efforts.

In the coming months, the AAA will review the existing technology of the Hub, the AAA, and their contracted partners to establish a baseline of current capabilities. They will evaluate whether to build or buy technology to ensure efficient communication of client information among all partners. Additionally, they will assess delivery costs, the current capacity of each provider, and develop a forward-looking plan. DRCOG will continue collaborating with Torrie Fields to educate network partners on new billing requirements.

In a few months, the AAA anticipates concluding negotiations with Denver Health to implement the program. Through Torrie Fields, they will also begin discussions with Medicare Advantage plans. Additionally, there is potential to seek reimbursement from a new Medicaid community health worker benefit.

In October, Jayla, AJ, and the team from Torrie Fields Analytics will meet with physicians and clinic managers to explore business development opportunities. This is an excellent chance to start small and gradually expand. Multiple clinics are associated with this accountable care organization, making them ideal partners for receiving referrals and providing navigation services.

DRCOG Board Report – DRCOG Board Immediate Past Chair Steve Conklin

Immediate Past Chair Conklin informed the committee that the board is in the process of conducting the Executive Director Review.

DRCOG has received nearly \$200 million in grant funding to support decarbonization efforts. During the last board meeting, they discussed program oversight.

A special meeting will be held to consider the board's position on the RTD Revenue Retention Initiative. Additionally, there was a report on the Federal Boulevard Bus Rapid Transit Project and an update on the Front Range Passenger Rail.

Immediate Past Chair Conklin expressed gratitude to Steve Erickson and the Communications and Marketing team for their efforts on the Awards event.

County Reports

Adams County – Greg Kahler

Adams County hosted a Political Forum where county representatives provided updates on their election activities. Around 60 members and older adults attended, engaging in a Q&A session.

On October 30th, they will have their senior resource fair at the Bison Ridge Recreation Center in Commerce City.

Douglas County – Gretchen Lopez

The Seniors Council, in collaboration with the Douglas County Government, hosted an interactive workshop called "Aging Well, Finishing Strong." The workshop aimed to engage older adults based on their age and medical status, discussing how they can be the best version of themselves.

After a break, participants received legacy binders and discussed the importance of collecting essential information for assistance in case of long-term disability or passing. The goal was to have 50 attendees, and the event featured two panelists, including an attorney who addressed legal issues.

Jefferson County – Name

The Jefferson County Council on Aging will host a candidate forum on October 10th at the Apex Community Recreation Center, located at 6842 Wadsworth Boulevard. The forum will feature candidates serving all of Jefferson County and will cover senior issues such as affordable and accessible housing, independence, health care, safety, food availability, transportation, and property tax.

Other Matters by Members

There were no other matters discussed.

Next meeting – October 25, 2024.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:02 p.m.

ATTACH B

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Advisory Committee on Aging Meeting

Name of Committee: Advisory Committee on Aging

Meeting date: August 23, 2024

Agenda Item #: 7

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Centennial Center of Generations Presentation

Agenda item type: Informational briefing

Summary

Staff from Centennial Center of Generations will provide a tour and overview of the center.

Background

Opening in the summer of 2023, the Centennial YMCA Center of Generations at The Streets at SouthGlenn is a collaborative effort between the City of Centennial and the YMCA of Metro Denver. This center creates a multi-generational space where youth and older adults can come together. The initiative was driven by the City Council and senior and youth commissions, who worked closely with the YMCA to recommend programs for the center.

Action by others

None`

Previous discussions/actions

None

Recommendation

None

Attachment

None

For more information

If you need additional information, please contact Mindy Patton, Division Assistant, Area Agency on Aging (303) 480-6723 or mpatton@drcog.org.

ATTACH C

Advisory Committee on Aging Meeting

Name of Committee: Advisory Committee on Aging

Meeting date: October 25, 2024

Agenda Item #: 8

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Update on accessibility features to the redesigned drcog.org website

Agenda item type: Informational briefing

Summary

Web communications specialist Keona Gardner will provide an update on the accessibility features on the newly redesigned drcog.org website.

Background

The redesigned drcog.org website launched late June. The redesign was needed to improve user experience and to comply with the state of Colorado's accessibility law requiring all public facing websites to be accessible to all users regardless of auditory, cognitive, neurological, physical, speech or visual ability.

Action by others

None.

Previous discussions/actions

None.

Recommendation

The Advisory Committee on Aging is welcome to provide feedback on the website.

Attachment

PowerPoint presentation: Drcog.org redesign.

For more information

If you need additional information, please contact Keona Gardner, web communications specialist, Communications and Marketing, 303-480-6764, kgardner@drcog.org.

Attachment

1. Powerpoint presentation: Drcog.org redesign.

For more information

If you need additional information, please contact Keona Gardner, web communications specialist, Communications and Marketing, 303-480-6764, kgardner@drcog.org.





Drcog.org redesign

Advisory Committee on Aging, October 25, 2024

Advisory Committee on Aging



Visit the committee page

Visit drcog.org/advisorycommitteeonaging

Welcome to the new drcog.org

English  ▼

Text Size: A A A

About DRCOG Area Agency on Aging Data, Maps & Modeling  Growth & Development Transportation Way to Go 

Area Agency on Aging

The need for a new web design

The **former website** was last updated nine years ago and **could not keep pace with technological advancements in website functionality and design.**

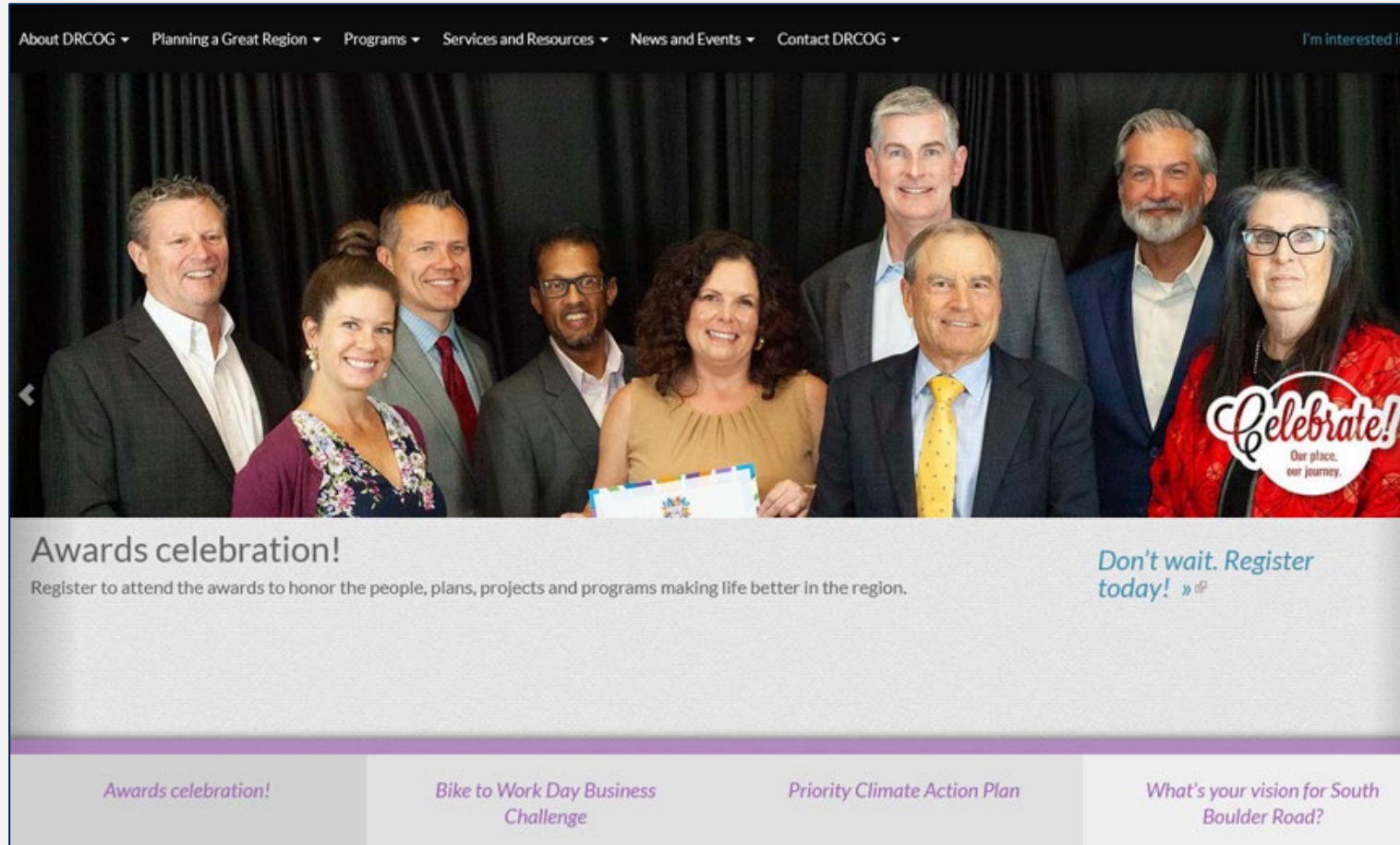


Why a web refresh?

The redesigned site adheres to **Colorado law** requiring all public facing sites to be **accessible to everyone** regardless of auditory, cognitive, neurological physical speech or visual ability.



Old drcog.org homepage



Area Agency on Aging web pages

- The redesign of the **Area Agency on Aging** section starts with **people-centered content**.
- **Network of Care** section directs users to finding help for **popular searches** in the directory.

Network of Care Directory & Resources

A comprehensive, community-based service guide for older adults, people with disabilities and their caregivers.

[Browse Network of Care](#)

- Housing help**
Find assisted living residences and nursing homes.
- Medicare and benefits help**
Get help with Medicare and other benefits.
- Transportation help**
Request a ride to the doctor's office or other locations.
- Food help**
Find out how to get nutritious, affordable meals or groceries.
- Resident rights help**
Connect with an ombudsman for residents of nursing homes or assisted living residences.
- General help**
Help is provided for individuals, families and caregivers.



Accessibility changes

Accessibility changes (1 of 2)

Home ▶ Area Agency on Aging ▶ Choice Services program ▶ Choice Services In-Home Services program

Choice Services In-Home Services program



- The new website has larger **font size of 19** compared to the old website font size of 12.
- The new site will have content written in **plain language** to help users better understand content

Accessibility changes (2 of 2)

Manual check: is the linked document accessible? ×

This automated checker helps ensure **websites** contain the features needed for accessible content, things like heading structure and text alternatives for images and audio. **It is not able to help you check the documents you link.**

Most mobile and assistive device users prefer to read text on Web pages, where content reflows to fit the screen. If the document linked here cannot be converted to a Web page, make sure the document is well structured (headings, lists, table headers) and provides alt text for its images.

- [Tips for MS Word & Google Docs](#)
- [Slideshows & Spreadsheets](#)
- [Documents formatted for print instead of screens \(PDF\)](#)

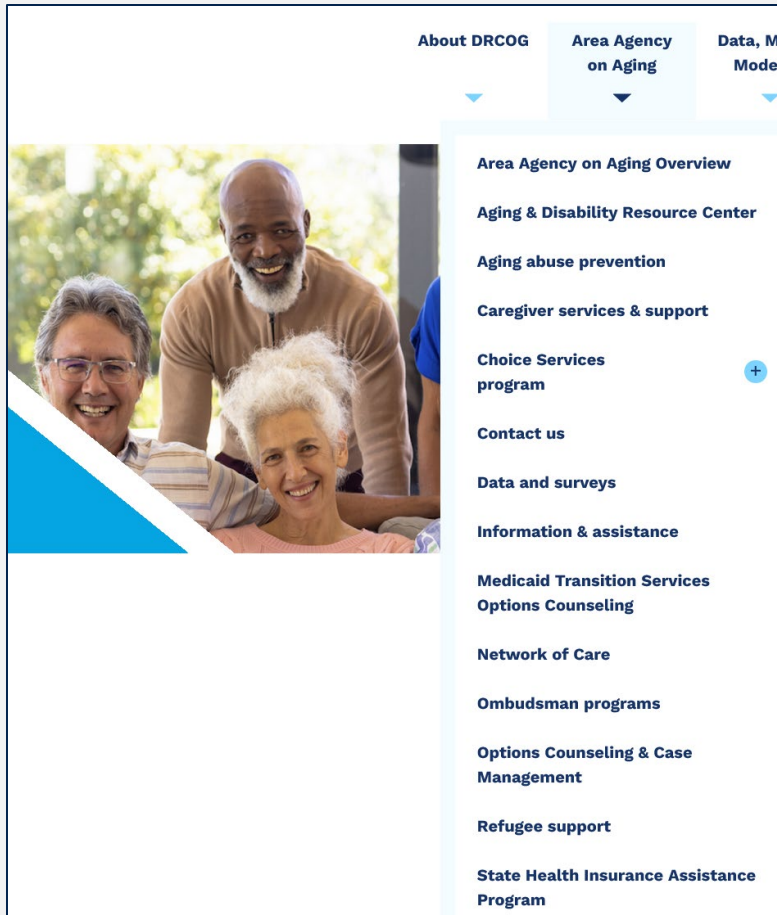
[Restore this alert marked as OK](#)

The new website has a **built-in feature to automatically review** content to meet accessibility guidelines. The example shown asks the content creator to check the linked document is accessible.



Menu navigation

Navigation



- The **inverted arrow** below the headings directs user to a **drop down menu**.
- The menu shown is the view from a personal computer.



Mobile friendly

About DRCOG	+
Area Agency on Aging	-
Aging & Disability Resource Center	
Aging abuse prevention	
Caregiver services & support	
Choice Services program	+
Contact us	
Data and surveys	
Information & assistance	
Medicaid Transition Services Options Counseling	
Network of Care	
Ombudsman programs	
Options Counseling & Case Management	
Refugee support	

Design for mobile devices

- The new website is designed “**mobile first.**”
- The image **displays** the website **menu setting when using a mobile phone.**
- Site visitors can view a **complete listing** of Area Agency on Aging programs and services.



Diversity and inclusion

The site reflects the community



Advocacy and ombudsman services

Area Agency on Aging helps ensure the rights of people living in nursing or assisted living homes. The agency also works with stakeholders across the region to advocate for policy and legislative improvements, and to secure funding for vital programs.

- ▶ Ombudsman programs
- ▶ Aging abuse prevention

Refugees and friends support

Activities for older adults in refugee and immigrant communities to reduce social isolation and improve their health and wellness.

- ▶ Refugee support



The new site features more images **reflecting the region's diverse residents and clients** served by the Area Agency on Aging.



Exciting news



Award winning website

- **The W3 Awards** recently recognized the drcog.org website with the [Silver award for general websites - government-state.](#)
- The W3 awards **recognizes the best digital experiences, content and creativity.**

Thank you!

Please explore drcog.org and **contact Keona Gardner, web communications specialist, kgardner@drcog.org**, if you have any **feedback** on the site.

If you have difficulty using this document's content, please email access@drcog.org or call 303-455-1000. Please expect a response within 72 hours (three business days).