

**THE 2021 ANNUAL UPDATE TO THE COMPREHENSIVE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR EUREKA
COUNTY, NEVADA, 2020 THROUGH 2025**



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Eureka County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2020 through 2025

Economic Development Vision

Eureka County will diversify, innovate, and grow the county’s economy through continued diversification, innovation and growth by investing in key industry sectors, including mining, agriculture, natural resources and small business development and expansion.

Eureka County values our rich rural heritage and lifestyle and future economic development diversification, innovation, and growth will be pursued only if it is consistent with the rich rural heritage and lifestyle that we value.

Eureka County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2020 through 2025

Reprioritized Strategic Economic Development Goals for 2021 through 2022

Priority Area No. 1: Continue to pursue and complete community development related programs and projects designed to address emerging concerns ranging from infrastructure to housing to expanded primary and more advanced healthcare services.

Existing Goal No. 1: Within five years, will include two to seven medical services with urgent care, medical services, birthing center, assisted living, skilled nursing with hospice service to support the aging population of the county.

Existing Goal No. 5: Light industry using a railhead at Beowawe to bring supplies in and products out.

Existing Goal No. 11: Collaborate with developers to build ten new homes per year on county lots starting in 2019.

Priority Area No. 2: Continue to address water supply concerns and continue to work with existing private sector firms in primary industry sectors (agriculture and mining and natural resource extraction) in order to reduce water consumption in existing operations.

Existing Goal No. 12: Increase recharge to Diamond Valley alluvial aquifer from future mining; dewatering in the flow system.

Eureka County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2020 through 2025

Reprioritized Strategic Economic Development Goals for 2021 through 2022

Priority Area No. 3: Promote and enhance Eureka County’s tourism and outdoor recreation sector through new marketing efforts and related infrastructure, housing, new business creation and attraction strategies, and efforts to retain and expand existing businesses that directly support Eureka County’s tourism and outdoor recreation sector.

Existing Goal No. 2: Increase in tourism to achieve an 80 percent occupancy rate by 2020.

Existing Goal No. 3: Develop tourism potential with grants to develop historical resources.

Existing Goal No. 7: Increase visitors to Eureka County by 50 percent to 100 percent by December 2021.

Existing Goal No. 8: Increase events in Eureka County by 300 percent by December 31, 2020.

Priority Area No. 4: Support new business creation and attraction strategies and existing business retention efforts designed to support the continued growth and diversification of existing primary industry sectors (agriculture, mining and natural resource extraction, and tourism and outdoor recreation) through the promotion of existing and emerging small business and entrepreneurial-based funding and technical assistance support services and through improved marketing efforts.

Existing Goal No. 4: Recruit one large non-traditional industry (greater than \$250,000 CAPEX, 15 to 20 jobs) by December 2024.

Existing Goal No. 6: Establish small business loan (grant) program that offers two to three loans annually by December 2021.

Existing Goal No. 9: Add three to five small businesses (\$5 to \$20,000 CAPEX, one to three jobs each) in Eureka County by December 2024.

Existing Goal No. 10: Mining diversification from gold – vanadium and Moly prospects.

1.0 Introduction

Overview

What is strategy? According to John E. Gamble, Margaret A. Peteraf, and Arthur A. Thompson, in their 2015 book, *Essentials of Strategic Management: The Quest for Competitive Advantage*, “A strategy is a way of describing **how** you are going to get things done. It is less specific than an action plan (which tells the who-what-when); instead, it tries to broadly answer the question, ‘How do we get there from here?’ Do we want to take the train? Fly? Walk?” In short, a strategic plan provides an organization or community with a fundamental affirmation of the organization’s or community’s core values, strategic mission, and strategic vision while outlining the goals, objectives, and implementation measures the organization or community will attempt to achieve and implement over the strategic planning horizon.

Typically, a strategic plan includes three basic elements. First, the strategic plan is a recognition of the existing barriers an organization or community faces and the resources the organization or community has at its disposal to achieve strategic objectives. Second, the strategic plan is generally tied to an overall vision, mission, and a set of clearly defined objectives. And, third, the strategic plan provides direction to the organization or community for the organization’s or community’s future planned initiatives focusing on providing information, enhancing support, removing barriers, and providing resources to different parts of the organization or community and key stakeholders who have an interest in the achievement of the strategic plan.

When evaluating and developing a strategic plan, five basic questions must be answered, including:

- Does the strategic plan give overall direction to the organization? The strategic plan should point out the overall path without dictating a particular narrow approach.
- Does the strategic plan realistically fit available resources with identified opportunities? The strategic plan should take advantage of current resources and assets while embracing new opportunities for growth and success.
- Does the strategic plan minimize existing and future resistance and barriers the organization currently confronts and may have to address in the future? The strategic plan should keep in mind that opposition and resistance to implementation of the strategic plan is inevitable. Good strategic plans should attract allies and deter opponents.
- Does the strategic plan reach those that may be affected, positively and negatively, by implementing the strategic plan? The strategic plan should connect the intervention with those who it should benefit while minimizing potential negative impacts to those impacted by the plan.

-
- Does the strategic plan advance the strategic mission of the organization? The strategy should make a difference on the mission of the organization while enabling the organization to achieve stated goals and objectives.

Unlike strategic plans for private sector firms, a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, as outlined in Title 13 Part 303 of the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations, must focus on how a public sector economic development organization and authority will bring together the public and private sectors through the creation of an economic roadmap designed to diversify and strengthen regional and local economies. The inherent public sector nature of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy requires consideration of both economic and community development goals and objectives in order to support and facilitate an environment of growth, investment, and job creation.

Between July 2019 and September 2019, public sector, private sector, and non-profit organization representatives participated in a series of community strategic economic development planning workshops for the purpose of developing a series of community-level Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies aimed at guiding community-level and regional economic development efforts for the five-year 2020 through 2025 period. Individual Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy documents were developed for Elko County, Eureka County, Lander County, and White Pine County and for the individual communities of the City of Carlin, the City of Wells, and the City of West Wendover. As required by the U.S. Economic Development Administration, faculty and staff from the University Center for Economic Development, part of the College of Business at the University of Nevada, Reno, facilitated a series of annual update and evaluation workshops held on the following dates and in the following communities for the associated exiting Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy documents:

- City of Carlin Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2020 through 2025 Annual Update and Evaluation: April 26, 2021 in Carlin, Nevada
- City of Wells Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2020 through 2025 Annual Update and Evaluation: March 4, 2021 in Wells, Nevada
- City of West Wendover Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2020 through 2025 Annual Update and Evaluation: May 5, 2021 in West Wendover, Nevada
- Elko County, City of Elko, Jackpot and Spring Creek Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2020 through 2025: July 13, 2021 in Elko, Nevada (Elko County and City of Elko); July 14, 2021 in Spring Creek, Nevada (Spring Creek); July 15, 2021 in Jackpot, Nevada (Jackpot)
- Eureka County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2020 through 2025 Annual Update and Evaluation: December 16, 2021 (held virtually)

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- Lander County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2020 through 2025 Annual Update and Evaluation: April 28, 2021 in Battle Mountain, Nevada
 - White Pine County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2020 through 2025 Annual Update and Evaluation: May 3, 2021 in Ely, Nevada

Each of these individual annual update and evaluation strategic economic development planning workshops consisted of an overview of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy and of resiliency and contingency planning along with a series of facilitated small group and large group participant exercises designed to evaluate and, if necessary, to revise the strategic economic development vision statement and individual goals and objectives identified in each individual community-level Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy developed in 2019 through 2020. Workshop participants were also asked to identify a series of priority projects for the coming year and participated in a series of facilitated small group and large group exercises designed to develop a set of economic resiliency and contingency elements.

This University Center for Economic Development technical report presents the results from the local community and county-level Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy annual update and evaluation workshop held virtually on Thursday, December 16, 2021 for Eureka County as part of the annual update and evaluation of the five-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Eureka County covering the 2020 through 2025 period. Section 2.0 of this University Center for Economic Development technical report presents an updated socio-demographic and economic data profile of each county and community within the northeastern Nevada region. It should be noted that, while the University Center for Economic Development utilizes data primarily from the U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey five-year estimates, a brief comparison between the data presented in Section 2.0 of this technical report and data certified by the Nevada State Demographer's Office often results in significant differences, especially in the estimation of total population and other demographic statistics. For example, according to the Nevada State Demographer's Office, communities within the northeastern Nevada region recorded a total population of approximately 16.2 percent greater than what was estimated by the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey for 2019. U.S. Census Bureau data is primarily used in this technical report in compliance with U.S. Economic Development Administration requirements. Section 3.0 of this University Center for Economic Development technical report presents an overview of potential revisions to the existing economic vision statement, goals and actionable items, and specific resiliency and recovery actions developed by community leaders and representatives.

2.0 Analysis: Existing Community and Regional Conditions

This section presents a comprehensive overview of updated socio-demographic, economic, and industry and occupation sector data for individual communities and counties within the northeastern Nevada region. The results of this socio-demographic, economic, and industry and occupation sector data analysis were presented to participants of the annual update and review workshops held for individual communities within the northeastern Nevada region between March 2021 and July 2021.

2.1 Socio-Demographic and Economic Trends for the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority Region

Eleven separate socio-demographic, economic, and industry and occupation sector data categories were examined by participants of the individual community annual update and review strategic economic development planning workshops held between March 2021 and July 2021. These categories include total population, median age, total number of households and average household size, median household income, median family income, and per capita income, the percentage of total population living below the poverty line, civilian workforce and the civilian unemployment rate, and total civilian employment by major industry sector. Whenever possible, comparison of local and countywide trends to statewide and national trends are provided for the 2013 to 2019 period.

2.1.a Total Population

Table 2.1 presents the change in total population for each county within the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority region, for the state of Nevada, and for the United States between 2013 and 2019. Eureka County is highlighted.

Between 2013 and 2019, the total population for all of Elko County increased from an estimated 50,023 total individuals in 2013 to an estimated 52,297 total individuals in 2019, a net increase of 2,274 total individuals or by 4.5 percent. For the City of Carlin, total population decreased between 2013 and 2019, decreasing from an estimated 2,634 total individuals in 2013 to an estimated 2,025 total individuals in 2019, a net decrease of 609 total individuals or by -23.1 percent. Total population for the City of Elko increased from an estimated 18,888 total individuals in 2013 to an estimated 20,304 total individuals in 2019, a net increase of 1,416 total individuals or by 7.5 percent while total population for the City of Wells decreased from an estimated 1,374 total individuals in 2013 to an estimated 1,022 total individuals in 2019, a net decrease of 352 total individuals or by -25.6 percent. The total population for the City of West Wendover decreased from an estimated 4,442 total individuals in 2013 to an estimated 4,285 total individuals in 2019, a net decrease of 157 total individuals or by -3.5 percent.

For all of Eureka County, the total population countywide increased from an estimated 1,804 total individuals in 2013 to an estimated 1,859 total individuals in 2019, a net increase of 55 total individuals or by 2.7 percent and the total population for just the town of Eureka increased from an estimated 450 total individuals in 2013 to an estimated 462 total individuals in 2019, a net increase of 12 total individuals or by 2.7 percent. The total population for all of Lander County decreased from an estimated 5,844 total individuals in 2013 to an estimated 5,643 total individuals in 2019, a net decrease of 201 total individuals or by a percentage decrease of -3.4 percent. For the town of Austin, located in southern Lander County, the total population has decreased significantly between 2013 and 2019, decreasing from an estimated 580 total individuals in 2013 to an estimated 113 total individuals in 2019, a net decrease of 467 total individuals or by a percentage decrease of -80.5 percent while the total population for the town of Battle Mountain, located in northern Lander County, increased from an estimated 3,241 total individuals in 2013 to an estimated 3,698 total individuals in 2019, a net increase of 457 total individuals or by 14.1 percent.

| Table 2.1 – Total Population | | | | |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Communities within the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority | | | | |
| Community | 2013 | 2019 | 2013-2019 Actual Change | 2013-2019 Percent Change |
| Elko County | 50,023 | 52,297 | 2,274 | 4.5% |
| Carlin | 2,634 | 2,025 | -609 | -23.1% |
| Elko | 18,888 | 20,304 | 1,416 | 7.5% |
| Wells | 1,374 | 1,022 | -352 | -25.6% |
| West Wendover | 4,442 | 4,285 | -157 | -3.5% |
| Eureka County | 1,804 | 1,859 | 55 | 3.0% |
| Eureka | 450 | 462 | 12 | 2.7% |
| Lander County | 5,844 | 5,643 | -201 | -3.4% |
| Austin | 580 | 113 | -467 | -80.5% |
| Battle Mountain | 3,241 | 3,698 | 457 | 14.1% |
| White Pine County | 10,023 | 9,679 | -344 | -3.4% |
| Ely | 4,246 | 4,035 | -211 | -5.0% |
| State of Nevada | 2,730,066 | 2,972,382 | 242,316 | 8.9% |
| United States | 311,536,594 | 324,697,795 | 13,161,201 | 4.2% |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates; 2013 and 2019

For White Pine County, the countywide population decreased from an estimated 10,023 total individuals in 2013 to an estimated 9,679 total individuals in 2019, a net decrease of 344 total individuals or by a percentage decrease of -3.4 percent. The total population of the City of Ely, located in White Pine County, also decreased between 2013 and 2019, decreasing from an estimated 4,246 total individuals in 2013 to an estimated 4,035 total individuals in 2019, a net decrease of 211 total individuals or by a percentage decrease of -5.0 percent.

Comparatively, the total population for the entire state of Nevada increased between 2013 and 2019, increasing from an estimated 2.73 million total individuals in 2013 to an estimated 2.97

million total individuals in 2019, a net increase of 242,316 total individuals or by 8.9 percent. Nationwide, the total population for the entire United States increased from an estimated 311.54 million total individuals in 2013 to an estimated 324.70 million total individuals in 2019, a net increase of approximately 13.16 million total individuals or by 4.2 percent.

2.1.b Median Age

Table 2.2 presents the change in median age for each county within the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority region, the state of Nevada, and for the United States between 2013 and 2019. Eureka County is highlighted.

| Table 2.2 – Median Age | | | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Communities within the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority | | | | |
| Community | 2013 | 2019 | 2013-2019 Actual Change | 2013-2019 Percent Change |
| Elko County | 33.3 | 34.1 | 0.8 | 2.4% |
| Carlin | 34.8 | 44.1 | 9.3 | 26.7% |
| Elko | 30.3 | 32.6 | 2.3 | 7.6% |
| Wells | 34.6 | 50.5 | 15.9 | 46.0% |
| West Wendover | 26.1 | 32.0 | 5.9 | 22.6% |
| Eureka County | 38.3 | 47.7 | 9.4 | 24.5% |
| Eureka | 46.5 | 56.0 | 9.5 | 20.4% |
| Lander County | 37.3 | 37.4 | 0.1 | 0.3% |
| Austin | 43.3 | 51.6 | 8.3 | 19.2% |
| Battle Mountain | 37.7 | 38.7 | 1.0 | 2.7% |
| White Pine County | 40.9 | 39.8 | -1.1 | -2.7% |
| Ely | 44.0 | 39.0 | -5.0 | -11.4% |
| State of Nevada | 36.6 | 38.0 | 1.4 | 3.8% |
| United States | 37.3 | 38.1 | 0.8 | 2.1% |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates; 2013 and 2019

The estimated median age for all of Elko County increased between 2013 and 2019, increasing from an estimated median age of 33.3 years of age in 2013 to an estimated 34.1 years of age in 2019, a net increase of 0.8 years of age or by 2.4 percent. For the City of Carlin, the estimated median age increased significantly between 2013 and 2019, increasing from an estimated 34.8 years of age in 2013 to an estimated 44.1 years of age in 2019, a net increase of 9.3 years of age or by 26.7 percent. The median age for the City of Elko increased from an estimated 30.3 years of age in 2013 to an estimated 32.6 years of age in 2019, a net increase of 2.3 years of age or by 7.6 percent while the median age for the City of Wells increased significantly between 2013 and 2019, increasing from an estimated 34.6 years of age in 2013 to an estimated 50.5 years of age in 2019, a net increase of 15.9 years of age or by 46.0 percent. For the City of West Wendover, the estimated median age increased significantly, increasing from an estimated 26.1 years of age in 2013 to an estimated 32.0 years of age in 2019, a net increase of 5.9 years of age or by 22.6 percent.

For all of Eureka County, the estimated median age increased significantly between 2013 and 2019, increasing from an estimated 38.3 years of age in 2013 to an estimated 47.7 years of age in 2019, a net increase of 9.4 years of age or by 24.5 percent. The estimated median age for just the town of Eureka also increased significantly between 2013 and 2019, increasing from an estimated 46.5 years of age in 2013 to an estimated 56.0 years of age in 2019, a net increase of 9.5 years of age or by 20.4 percent. For all Lander County, the estimated median age increased only slightly between 2013 and 2019, increasing from an estimated 37.3 years of age in 2013 to an estimated 37.4 years of age in 2019, a net increase of 0.1 years of age or by 0.3 percent. For just the town of Austin, the estimated median age increased significantly between 2013 and 2019, increasing from an estimated 43.3 years of age in 2013 to an estimated 51.6 years of age in 2019, a net increase of 8.3 years of age or by 19.2 percent while the estimated median age for just the town of Battle Mountain increased from an estimated 37.7 years of age in 2013 to an estimated 38.7 years of age in 2019, a net increase of 1.0 years of age or by 2.7 percent.

The estimated median age for all of White Pine County decreased from an estimated 40.9 years of age in 2013 to an estimated 39.8 years of age in 2019, a net decrease of 1.1 years of age or by a percentage decrease of -2.7 percent. White Pine County was the only county within the northeastern Nevada region with a decrease in the countywide median age between 2013 and 2019. For just the City of Ely, the estimated median age also decreased between 2013 and 2019, decreasing from an estimated 44.0 years of age in 2013 to an estimated 39.0 years of age in 2019, a net decrease of 5.0 years of age or by a percentage decrease of -11.4 percent.

Comparatively, the estimated median age for the entire state of Nevada increased between 2013 and 2019, increasing from an estimated 36.6 years of age in 2013 to an estimated 38.0 years of age in 2019, a net increase of 1.4 years of age or by 3.8 percent. Nationwide, the estimated median age for the entire United States increased from an estimated 37.3 years of age in 2013 to an estimated 38.1 years of age in 2019, a net increase of 0.8 years of age or by 2.1 percent.

2.1.c Total Number of Households

Table 2.3 presents the change in the total number of households for each county within the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority region, the state of Nevada, and for the United States between 2013 and 2019. Eureka County is highlighted.

Between 2013 and 2019, the total number of households in all of Elko County increased from an estimated 17,599 total households in 2013 to an estimated 18,065 total households in 2019, a net increase of 466 total households or by 2.6 percent. For just the City of Carlin, the total number of households decreased significantly between 2013 and 2019, decreasing from an estimated 895 total households in 2013 to an estimated 700 total households in 2019, a net decrease of 195 total households or by a percentage decrease of -21.8 percent. For just the City of Elko, the total number of households increased from an estimated 6,662 total households in 2013 to an estimated 7,232 total households in 2019, a net increase of 570 total households or by 8.6 percent while the total number of households for just the City of Wells decreased significantly, decreasing from an estimated 800 total households in 2013 to an estimated 463 total households in 2019, a net decrease of 337 total households or by a percentage decrease of -42.1 percent. For

just the City of West Wendover, the total number of households also decreased between 2013 and 2019, decreasing from an estimated 1,362 total households in 2013 to an estimated 1,232 total households in 2019, a net decrease of 130 total households or by -9.5 percent.

| Table 2.3 – Total Number of Households | | | | |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Communities within the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority | | | | |
| Community | 2013 | 2019 | 2013-2019 Actual Change | 2013-2019 Percent Change |
| Elko County | 17,599 | 18,065 | 466 | 2.6% |
| Carlin | 895 | 700 | -195 | -21.8% |
| Elko | 6,662 | 7,232 | 570 | 8.6% |
| Wells | 800 | 463 | -337 | -42.1% |
| West Wendover | 1,362 | 1,232 | -130 | -9.5% |
| Eureka County | 733 | 774 | 41 | 5.6% |
| Eureka | 504 | 249 | -255 | -50.6% |
| Lander County | 2,010 | 2,198 | 188 | 9.4% |
| Austin | 207 | 65 | -142 | -68.6% |
| Battle Mountain | 1,126 | 1,465 | 339 | 30.1% |
| White Pine County | 3,357 | 3,516 | 159 | 4.7% |
| Ely | 1,605 | 1,703 | 98 | 6.1% |
| State of Nevada | 999,016 | 1,098,602 | 99,586 | 10.0% |
| United States | 115,610,216 | 120,756,048 | 5,145,832 | 4.5% |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates; 2013 and 2019

For all of Eureka County, the total number of households increased between 2013 and 2019, increasing from 733 total households in 2013 to 774 total households in 2019, a net increase of 41 total households or by 5.6 percent while the total number of households for just the town of Eureka decreased significantly from 504 total households in 2013 to 249 total households in 2019, a net decrease of 255 total households or by -50.6 percent. For all Lander County, the total number of households increased between 2013 and 2019, increasing from an estimated 2,010 total households in 2013 to an estimated 2,198 total households in 2019, a net increase of 188 total households or by 9.4 percent. For just the town of Austin, the total number of households decreased significantly from an estimated 207 total households in 2013 to an estimated 65 total households in 2019, a net decrease of 142 total households or by -68.6 percent while the total number of households for just the town of Battle Mountain increased from an estimated 1,126 total households in 2013 to an estimated 1,465 total households in 2019, a net increase of 339 total households or by 30.1 percent.

Between 2013 and 2019, the total number of households for all of White Pine County increased from an estimated 3,357 total households in 2013 to an estimated 3,516 total households in 2019, a net increase of 159 total households or by 4.7 percent. For just the City of Ely, the total number of households also increased between 2013 and 2019, increasing from an estimated 1,605 total households in 2013 to an estimated 1,703 total households in 2019, a net increase of 98 total households or by 6.1 percent.

Statewide, the total number of households for the entire state of Nevada increased from an estimated 999,016 total households in 2013 to an estimated 1.10 million total households in 2019, a net increase of 99,586 total households or by 10.0 percent. Nationwide, the total number of households for the entire United States increased from an estimated 115.61 million total households in 2013 to an estimated 120.76 million total households in 2019, a net increase of 5.15 million total households or by a percentage increase of 4.5 percent.

2.1.d Average Household Size

Table 2.4 presents the change in average household size for each county within the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority region, the state of Nevada, and for the United States between 2013 and 2019. Eureka County is highlighted.

| Table 2.4 – Average Household Size | | | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Communities within the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority | | | | |
| Community | 2013 | 2019 | 2013-2019 Actual Change | 2013-2019 Percent Change |
| Elko County | 2.80 | 2.85 | 0.05 | 1.8% |
| Carlin | 2.75 | 2.66 | -0.09 | -3.3% |
| Elko | 2.78 | 2.74 | -0.04 | -1.4% |
| Wells | 2.34 | 2.21 | -0.13 | -5.6% |
| West Wendover | 3.26 | 3.48 | 0.22 | 6.7% |
| Eureka County | 2.43 | 2.40 | -0.03 | -1.2% |
| Eureka | 2.61 | 1.84 | -0.77 | -29.5% |
| Lander County | 2.87 | 2.54 | -0.33 | -11.5% |
| Austin | 2.78 | 1.74 | -1.04 | -37.4% |
| Battle Mountain | 2.85 | 2.49 | -0.36 | -12.6% |
| White Pine County | 2.74 | 2.33 | -0.41 | -15.0% |
| Ely | 2.60 | 2.33 | -0.27 | -10.4% |
| State of Nevada | 2.70 | 2.67 | -0.03 | -1.1% |
| United States | 2.63 | 2.62 | -0.01 | -0.4% |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates; 2013 and 2019

Between 2013 and 2019, Elko County was the only county within the northeastern Nevada region that experienced an increase in the estimated average household size. For all of Elko County, the estimated average household size increased from an estimated 2.80 people per household in 2013 to an estimated 2.85 people per household in 2019, a net increase of 0.05 people per household or by 1.8 percent. For just the City of Carlin, the estimated average household size decreased from an estimated 2.75 people per household in 2013 to an estimated 2.66 people per household in 2019, a net decrease of 0.09 people per household or by -3.3 percent while the estimated average household size for the City of Elko decreased from an estimated 2.78 people per household in 2013 to an estimated 2.74 people per household in 2019, a net decrease of 0.04 people per household or by -1.4 percent. For the City of Wells, the

estimated average household size decreased from an estimated 2.34 people per household in 2013 to an estimated 2.21 people per household in 2019, a net decrease of 0.13 people per household or by -5.6 percent while the average household size for the City of West Wendover actually increased, increasing from an estimated 3.26 people per household in 2013 to an estimated 3.48 people per household in 2019, a net increase of 0.22 people per household or by 6.7 percent.

For all of Eureka County, the estimated average household size decreased from an estimated 2.43 people per household in 2013 to an estimated 2.40 people per household in 2019, a net decrease of 0.03 people per household or by -1.2 percent while the average household size for just the town of Eureka decreased significantly, decreasing from an estimated 2.61 people per household in 2013 to an estimated 1.84 people per household in 2019, a net decrease of 0.77 people per household or by -29.5 percent. For all of Lander County, the estimated average household size decreased from an estimated 2.87 people per household in 2013 to an estimated 2.54 people per household in 2019, a net decrease of 0.33 people per household or by -11.5 percent. The average household size for just the town of Austin decreased significantly from an estimated 2.78 people per household in 2013 to an estimated 1.74 people per household in 2019, a net decrease of 1.04 people per household or by -37.4 percent. For just the town of Battle Mountain, the estimated average household size decreased from an estimated 2.85 people per household in 2013 to an estimated 2.49 people per household in 2019, a net decrease of 0.36 people per household or by a percentage decrease of -12.6 percent.

Between 2013 and 2019, the estimated average household size for all of White Pine County decreased from an estimated 2.74 people per household in 2013 to an estimated 2.33 people per household in 2019, a net decrease of 0.41 people per household or by -15.0 percent. For just the City of Ely, the estimated average household size decreased from an estimated 2.60 people per household in 2013 to an estimated 2.33 people per household in 2019, a net decrease of 0.27 people per household or by a percentage decrease of -10.4 percent.

Statewide, the estimated average household size for the entire state of Nevada decreased slightly, decreasing from an estimated 2.70 people per household in 2013 to an estimated 2.67 people per household in 2019, a net decrease of just 0.03 people per household or by -1.1 percent. Nationwide, the estimated average household size for the entire United States also decreased only slightly, decreasing from an estimated 2.63 people per household in 2013 to an estimated 2.62 people per household in 2019, a net decrease of just 0.01 people per household or by a percentage decrease of -0.4 percent.

2.1.e Median Household Income

Table 2.5 presents the change in median household income (in 2019 inflation-adjusted dollars) for each county within the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority region, the state of Nevada, and for the United States between 2013 and 2019. Eureka County is highlighted.

Between 2013 and 2019, the estimated median household income for all Elko County increased from an estimated \$70,238 in 2013 to an estimated \$78,929 in 2019, a net increase of \$10,994 or

by 15.7 percent. Over the same 2013 to 2019 period, the estimated median household income for the City of Carlin, the City of Elko, the City of Wells, and the City of West Wendover all increased. For the City of Carlin, the estimated median household income increased by a total of \$9,822 or by 14.2 percent between 2013 and 2019, increased by an estimated \$2,337 or by a percentage increase of 2.8 percent for the City of Elko, increased by an estimated \$8,058 or by a percentage increase of 14.5 percent for the City of Wells, and increased significantly by an estimated \$26,534 or by 70.3 percent for the City of West Wendover.

| Table 2.5 – Median Household Income (2019 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars) Communities within the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority | | | | |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Community | 2013 | 2019 | 2013-2019 Actual Change | 2013-2019 Percent Change |
| Elko County | \$70,238 | \$81,232 | \$10,994 | 15.7% |
| Carlin | \$69,107 | \$78,929 | \$9,822 | 14.2% |
| Elko | \$75,989 | \$79,205 | \$3,216 | 4.2% |
| Wells | \$46,875 | \$48,958 | \$2,083 | 4.4% |
| West Wendover | \$37,740 | \$64,274 | \$26,534 | 70.3% |
| Eureka County | \$64,632 | \$67,105 | \$2,473 | 3.8% |
| Eureka | \$50,268 | \$63,560 | \$13,292 | 26.4% |
| Lander County | \$72,742 | \$88,030 | \$15,288 | 21.0% |
| Austin | \$43,809 | - | - | - |
| Battle Mountain | \$76,090 | \$73,536 | -\$2,554 | -3.4% |
| White Pine County | \$48,586 | \$60,827 | \$12,241 | 25.2% |
| Ely | \$49,316 | \$60,048 | \$10,732 | 21.8% |
| State of Nevada | \$52,800 | \$60,365 | \$7,565 | 14.3% |
| United States | \$53,046 | \$62,843 | \$9,797 | 18.5% |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates; 2013 and 2019

For all of Eureka County, the estimated median household income increased from an estimated \$64,632 in 2013 to an estimated \$67,105 in 2019, a net increase of \$2,473 or by a percentage increase of 3.8 percent while the estimated median household income for just the town of Eureka increased significantly between 2013 and 2019, increasing by an estimated \$13,292 or by a percentage increase of 26.4 percent. For all of Lander County, the estimated median household income increased significantly from an estimated \$72,742 in 2013 to an estimated \$88,030 in 2019, a net increase of \$15,288 or by 21.0 percent. While data for median household income for the town of Austin was not available for 2019, the estimated median household income for the town of Austin in 2013 was an estimated \$43,809. The estimated median household income for just the town of Battle Mountain decreased between 2013 and 2019, decreasing by an estimated \$2,554 or by a percentage decrease of -3.4 percent.

Between 2013 and 2019, the estimated median household income for all of White Pine County increased from an estimated \$48,586 in 2013 to an estimated \$60,827 in 2019, a significant net increase of \$12,241 or by an estimated 25.2 percent. For just the City of Ely, the estimated

median household income also increased significantly between 2013 and 2019, increasing by an estimated \$10,732 or by a percentage increase of 21.8 percent.

Statewide, the estimated median household income for the entire state of Nevada increased from an estimated \$52,800 in 2013 to an estimated \$60,365 in 2019, a net increase of \$7,565 or by a percentage increase of 14.3 percent. Nationwide, the estimated median household income for the entire United States increased from an estimated \$53,046 in 2013 to an estimated \$62,843 in 2019, a net increase of \$9,797 or by a percentage increase of 18.5 percent.

2.1.f Median Family Income

Table 2.6 presents the change in median family income (in 2019 inflation-adjusted dollars) for each county within the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority region, the state of Nevada, and for the United States between 2013 and 2019. Eureka County is highlighted.

| Table 2.6 – Median Family Income (2019 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars) Communities within the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority | | | | |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Community | 2013 | 2019 | 2013-2019 Actual Change | 2013-2019 Percent Change |
| Elko County | \$75,231 | \$91,288 | \$16,057 | 21.3% |
| Carlin | \$75,046 | \$82,679 | \$7,633 | 10.2% |
| Elko | \$84,458 | \$86,795 | \$2,337 | 2.8% |
| Wells | \$55,500 | \$63,558 | \$8,058 | 14.5% |
| West Wendover | \$41,208 | \$68,289 | \$27,081 | 65.7% |
| Eureka County | \$94,648 | \$85,096 | -\$9,552 | -10.1% |
| Eureka | \$64,853 | \$66,447 | \$1,594 | 2.5% |
| Lander County | \$75,857 | \$98,516 | \$22,659 | 29.9% |
| Austin | \$60,278 | - | - | - |
| Battle Mountain | \$80,313 | \$88,890 | \$8,577 | 10.7% |
| White Pine County | \$63,982 | \$72,238 | \$8,256 | 12.9% |
| Ely | \$63,459 | \$63,102 | -\$357 | -0.6% |
| State of Nevada | \$61,359 | \$71,916 | \$10,557 | 17.2% |
| United States | \$64,719 | \$77,263 | \$12,544 | 19.4% |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates; 2013 and 2019

Between 2013 and 2019, median family income for all of Elko County increased significantly from an estimated \$75,231 in 2013 to an estimated \$91,288 in 2019, a net increase of \$16,057 or by 21.3 percent. Median family income for just the City of Carlin increased by an estimated \$7,633 or by 10.2 percent between 2013 and 2019, increased by an estimated \$2,337 or by 2.8 percent for the City of Elko, increased by an estimated \$8,058 or by 14.5 percent for the City of Wells, and increased significantly by an estimated \$27,081 or by 65.7 percent for the City of West Wendover. For just Eureka County, median family income decreased between 2013 and 2019, decreasing from an estimated \$94,648 in 2013 to an estimated \$85,096 in 2019 a net decrease of \$9,552 or by a percentage decrease of -10.1 percent. For just the town of Eureka,

median family income increased from an estimated \$64,853 in 2013 to an estimated \$66,447 in 2019, a net increase of \$1,594 or by 2.5 percent.

For all of Lander County, median family income increased significantly between 2013 and 2019, increasing from an estimated \$75,857 in 2013 to an estimated \$98,516 in 2019, a net increase of \$22,659 or by 29.9 percent. While median family income was unavailable for the town of Austin in 2019, the estimated median family income for the town of Austin in 2013 was an estimated \$60,278 and increased for the town of Battle Mountain by an estimated \$8,577 or by 10.7 percent between 2013 and 2019. For all of White Pine County, median family income increased from an estimated \$63,982 in 2013 to an estimated \$72,238 in 2019, a net increase of \$8,256 or by 12.9 percent and, for the City of Ely, median family income declined only slightly, decreasing from an estimated \$63,459 in 2013 to an estimated \$63,102 in 2019, a net decrease of just \$357 or by -0.6 percent.

Comparatively, median family income for the entire state of Nevada increased from an estimated \$61,359 in 2013 to an estimated \$71,916 in 2019, a net increase of \$10,557 or by 17.2 percent. Nationwide, median family income for the entire United States increased from an estimated \$64,719 in 2013 to an estimated \$77,263 in 2019, a net increase of \$12,544 or by 19.4 percent.

2.1.g Per Capita (Mean) Income

Table 2.7 presents the change in per capita income (in 2019 inflation-adjusted dollars) for each county within the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority region, the state of Nevada, and for the United States between 2013 and 2019. Eureka County is highlighted.

Between 2013 and 2019, per capita income for all of Elko County increased significantly from an estimated \$28,358 in 2013 to an estimated \$33,875 in 2019, a net increase of \$5,517 or by 19.5 percent. For just the City of Carlin, per capita income increased by an estimated \$4,098 or by 14.0 percent between 2013 and 2019, increased by an estimated \$4,228 or by 13.6 percent for the City of Elko, increased by an estimated \$4,253 or by 18.2 percent for the City of Wells, and increased dramatically by an estimated \$10,658 or by 71.1 percent for the City of West Wendover. For all of Eureka County, per capita income increased from an estimated \$28,056 in 2013 to an estimated \$34,249 in 2019, a net increase of \$6,193 or by 22.1 percent and, for just the town of Eureka, per capita income increased from an estimated \$24,700 in 2013 to an estimated \$29,504 in 2019, a net increase of \$4,804 or by 19.4 percent.

For all of Lander County, per capita income increased from an estimated \$29,800 in 2013 to an estimated \$34,000 in 2019, a net increase of \$4,200 or by 14.1 percent. While per capita income was unavailable for the town of Austin in 2019, the estimated per capita income for the town of Austin in 2013 was an estimated \$17,523 and increased for the town of Battle Mountain by an estimated \$1,002 or by 3.2 percent between 2013 and 2019. For all of White Pine County, per capita income increased from an estimated \$24,435 in 2013 to an estimated \$25,675 in 2019, a net increase of \$1,240 or by 5.1 percent but decreased for the City of Ely, decreasing from an estimated \$28,226 in 2013 to an estimated \$27,774 in 2019, a net decrease of \$452 or by a percentage decrease of -1.6 percent.

| Table 2.7 – Per Capita (Mean) Income, Individuals (2019 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars) Communities within the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority | | | | |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Community | 2013 | 2019 | 2013-2019 Actual Change | 2013-2019 Percent Change |
| Elko County | \$28,358 | \$33,875 | \$5,517 | 19.5% |
| Carlin | \$29,339 | \$33,437 | \$4,098 | 14.0% |
| Elko | \$31,042 | \$35,270 | \$4,228 | 13.6% |
| Wells | \$23,401 | \$27,654 | \$4,253 | 18.2% |
| West Wendover | \$14,982 | \$25,640 | \$10,658 | 71.1% |
| | | | | |
| Eureka County | \$28,056 | \$34,249 | \$6,193 | 22.1% |
| Eureka | \$24,700 | \$29,504 | \$4,804 | 19.4% |
| | | | | |
| Lander County | \$29,800 | \$34,000 | \$4,200 | 14.1% |
| Austin | \$17,523 | - | - | - |
| Battle Mountain | \$31,153 | \$32,155 | \$1,002 | 3.2% |
| | | | | |
| White Pine County | \$24,435 | \$25,675 | \$1,240 | 5.1% |
| Ely | \$28,226 | \$27,774 | -\$452 | -1.6% |
| | | | | |
| State of Nevada | \$26,589 | \$31,557 | \$4,968 | 18.7% |
| United States | \$28,155 | \$34,103 | \$5,948 | 21.1% |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates; 2013 and 2019

Statewide, per capita income for the entire state of Nevada increased from an estimated \$26,589 in 2013 to an estimated \$31,557 in 2019, a net increase of \$4,968 or by an estimated 18.7 percent. Nationwide, per capita income for the entire United States increased from an estimated \$28,155 in 2013 to an estimated \$34,103 in 2019, a net increase of \$5,948 or by an estimated 21.1 percent.

2.1.h Percent of Total Population Living Below the Poverty Line

Table 2.8 presents the change in the percentage of total population living below the poverty line for each county within the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority region, the state of Nevada, and for the United States between 2013 and 2019. Eureka County is highlighted.

Between 2013 and 2019, the percentage of total population living below the poverty line throughout all of Elko County increased from an estimated 8.8 percent in 2013 to an estimated 11.7 percent in 2019, a net increase of 2.9 percent or by a percentage increase of 33.0 percent. For just the City of Carlin, the percentage of total population living below the poverty line decreased significantly between 2013 and 2019, decreasing by a net 4.8 percent or by a percentage decrease of -81.4 percent, increased significantly for the City of Elko by a net 8.1 percent or by a percentage increase of 128.6 percent, increased significantly for the City of Wells by a net 3.7 percent or by a percentage increase of 46.8 percent, and decreased significantly for the City of West Wendover by a net 11.2 percent or by a percentage decrease of -45.2 percent. The percentage of total population living below the poverty line for all of Eureka County decreased significantly between 2013 and 2019, decreasing from an estimated 13.9 percent in

2013 to an estimated 8.0 percent in 2019, a net decrease of 5.9 percent or by a percentage decrease of -42.4 percent, and decreased by an estimated 0.3 percent or by a percentage decrease of -1.8 percent for just the town of Eureka between 2013 and 2019.

| Table 2.8 – Percent of Total Population Living Below the Poverty Line Communities within the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority | | | | |
|--|--------------|--------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Community | 2013 | 2019 | 2013-2019 Actual Change | 2013-2019 Percent Change |
| Elko County | 8.8% | 11.7% | 2.9% | 33.0% |
| Carlin | 5.9% | 1.1% | -4.8% | -81.4% |
| Elko | 6.3% | 14.4% | 8.1% | 128.6% |
| Wells | 7.9% | 11.6% | 3.7% | 46.8% |
| West Wendover | 24.8% | 13.6% | -11.2% | -45.2% |
| Eureka County | 13.9% | 8.0% | -5.9% | -42.4% |
| Eureka | 16.9% | 16.6% | -0.3% | -1.8% |
| Lander County | 9.3% | 9.7% | 0.4% | 4.3% |
| Austin | 15.2% | - | - | - |
| Battle Mountain | 8.7% | 10.0% | 1.3% | 14.9% |
| White Pine County | 12.9% | 13.6% | 0.7% | 5.4% |
| Ely | 11.2% | 18.2% | 7.0% | 62.5% |
| State of Nevada | 15.0% | 13.1% | -1.9% | -12.7% |
| United States | 15.4% | 13.4% | -2.0% | -13.0% |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates; 2013 and 2019

For all Lander County, the percentage of total population living below the poverty line increased from an estimated 9.3 percent in 2013 to an estimated 9.7 percent in 2019, a net increase of 0.4 percent or by a percentage increase of 4.3 percent. While the percentage of total population living below the poverty line was unavailable for the town of Austin in 2019, the estimated percentage of total population living below the poverty line for just the town of Austin in 2013 was an estimated 15.2 percent and increased between 2013 and 2019 for just the town of Battle Mountain, increasing by an estimated 1.3 percent or by a percentage increase of 14.9 percent. Between 2013 and 2019, the percentage of total population living below the poverty line for all White Pine County increased from an estimated 12.9 percent in 2013 to an estimated 13.6 percent in 2019, a net increase of 0.7 percent or by a percentage increase of 5.4 percent, and increased significantly for just the City of Ely between 2013 and 2019, increasing by a net 7.0 percent or by a percentage increase of 62.5 percent.

Statewide, the percentage of total population living below the poverty line for the entire state of Nevada decreased from an estimated 15.0 percent in 2013 to an estimated 13.1 percent in 2019, a net decrease of 1.9 percent or by a percentage decrease of -12.7 percent. Nationwide, the percentage of total population living below the poverty line for the entire United States decreased from an estimated 15.4 percent in 2013 to an estimated 13.4 percent in 2019, a net decrease of 2.0 percent or by a percentage decrease of -13.0 percent.

2.1.i Civilian Workforce (Individuals 16 Years or Older)

Table 2.9 presents the change in the size of the civilian workforce (individuals aged 16 years or older) for each county within the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority region, the state of Nevada, and for the United States between 2013 and 2019. Eureka County is highlighted.

| Table 2.9 – Civilian Workforce (Individuals 16 Years or Older) Communities within the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority | | | | |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Community | 2013 | 2019 | 2013-2019 Actual Change | 2013-2019 Percent Change |
| Elko County | 26,271 | 27,452 | 1,181 | 4.5% |
| Carlin | 1,278 | 1,065 | -213 | -16.7% |
| Elko | 9,972 | 11,027 | 1,055 | 10.6% |
| Wells | 742 | 450 | -292 | -39.4% |
| West Wendover | 2,163 | 2,213 | 50 | 2.3% |
| Eureka County | 845 | 930 | 85 | 10.1% |
| Eureka | 210 | 260 | 50 | 23.8% |
| Lander County | 2,830 | 2,818 | -12 | -0.4% |
| Austin | - | 101 | - | - |
| Battle Mountain | 1,534 | 1,806 | 272 | 17.7% |
| White Pine County | 4,464 | 3,760 | -704 | -15.8% |
| Ely | 2,028 | 1,818 | -210 | -10.4% |
| State of Nevada | 1,404,746 | 1,498,994 | 94,248 | 6.7% |
| United States | 157,113,886 | 163,555,585 | 6,441,699 | 4.1% |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates; 2013 and 2019

Between 2013 and 2019, the civilian workforce for all of Elko County increased from an estimated 26,271 total individuals in 2013 to an estimated 27,452 in 2019, a net increase of 1,181 total individuals or by 4.5 percent. For just the City of Carlin, the civilian workforce decreased by an estimated 213 total individuals or by a percentage decrease of -16.7 percent between 2013 and 2019, increased by an estimated 1,055 total individuals or by 10.6 percent for just the City of Elko, decreased significantly by an estimated 292 total individuals or by a percentage decrease of -39.4 percent for just the City of Wells, and increased by an estimated 50 total individuals or by 2.3 percent for just the City of West Wendover. For all of Eureka County, the civilian workforce increased from an estimated 845 total individuals in 2013 to an estimated 930 total individuals in 2019, a net increase of 85 total individuals or by 10.1 percent, and increased significantly for just the town of Eureka, increasing by an estimated 50 total individuals or by 23.8 percent between 2013 and 2019.

For all of Lander County, the civilian workforce decreased slightly between 2013 and 2019, decreasing from an estimated 2,830 total individuals in 2013 to an estimated 2,818 total individuals in 2019, a net decrease of just 12 total individuals or by -0.4 percent. While the estimated civilian workforce for the town of Austin was not available for 2013, the estimated

civilian workforce for just the town of Austin in 2019 was an estimated 101 total individuals. The civilian workforce for just the town of Battle Mountain increased significantly between 2013 and 2019, increasing by an estimated 272 total individuals or by a percentage increase of 17.7 percent. Between 2013 and 2019, the civilian workforce for all of White Pine County decreased from an estimated 4,464 total individuals in 2013 to an estimated 3,760 total individuals in 2019, a net decrease of 704 total individuals or by -15.8 percent, and decreased by an estimated 210 total individuals or by a percentage decrease of -10.4 percent for just the City of Ely between 2013 and 2019.

The civilian workforce for the entire state of Nevada increased from an estimated 1.40 million total individuals in 2013 to an estimated 1.50 million total individuals in 2019, a net increase of 94,248 total individuals or by 6.7 percent between 2013 and 2019. Nationwide, the civilian workforce for the entire United States increased from an estimated 157.11 million total individuals in 2013 to an estimated 163.56 million total individuals in 2019, a net increase of 6.44 million total individuals or by 4.1 percent.

2.1.j Civilian Unemployment Rate (Individuals 16 Years or Older)

Table 2.10 presents the change in the estimated civilian unemployment rate (individuals aged 16 years or older) for each county within the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority region, the state of Nevada, and for the United States between 2013 and 2019. Eureka County is highlighted.

Between 2013 and 2019, the civilian unemployment rate for all of Elko County decreased from an estimated 5.7 percent in 2013 to an estimated 4.7 percent in 2019, a net decrease of 1.0 percent or by a percentage decrease of -17.5 percent. For just the City of Carlin, the civilian unemployment rate decreased by a net 2.7 percent or by a percentage decrease of -25.5 percent between 2013 and 2019, increased by a net 0.2 percent or by a percentage increase of 4.2 percent for just the City of Elko, decreased significantly by a net 4.5 percent or by a percentage decrease of -60.8 percent for just the City of Wells, and decreased significantly by a net 6.3 percent or by a percentage decrease of -82.9 percent for just the City of West Wendover. For all of Eureka County, the civilian unemployment rate for the entire county declined substantially from an estimated 5.4 percent in 2013 to an estimated 0.0 percent in 2019, a net decrease of 5.4 percent or by a percentage decrease of -100.0 percent. The civilian unemployment rate for just the town of Eureka declined by the same substantial percentage decrease of -100.0 percent between 2013 and 2019, decreasing from an estimated 1.6 percent in 2013 to an estimated 0.0 percent in 2019, a net decrease of 1.6 percent.

For all of Lander County, the civilian unemployment rate decreased from an estimated 11.2 percent in 2013 to an estimated 8.2 percent in 2019, a net decrease of 3.0 percent or by a percentage decrease of -26.8 percent. While the civilian unemployment rate for the town of Austin was not available for 2019, the civilian unemployment rate for just the town of Austin in 2013 was an estimated 17.7 percent. For just the town of Battle Mountain, the civilian unemployment rate declined from an estimated 10.7 percent in 2013 to an estimated 6.3 percent, a net decrease of 4.4 percent or by a percentage decrease of -41.1 percent. Between 2013 and 2019, the civilian unemployment for all of White Pine County declined from an estimated 9.9

percent in 2013 to an estimated 3.4 percent in 2019, a net decrease of 6.5 percent or by a percentage decrease of -65.7 percent, and decreased by a net 2.6 percent or by a percentage decrease of -29.5 percent for just the City of Ely between 2013 and 2019.

| Table 2.10 – Civilian Unemployment Rate (Individuals 16 Years or Older) Communities within the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority | | | | |
|--|--------------|-------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Community | 2013 | 2019 | 2013-2019 Actual Change | 2013-2019 Percent Change |
| Elko County | 5.7% | 4.7% | -1.0% | -17.5% |
| Carlin | 10.6% | 7.9% | -2.7% | -25.5% |
| Elko | 4.8% | 5.0% | 0.2% | 4.2% |
| Wells | 7.4% | 2.9% | -4.5% | -60.8% |
| West Wendover | 7.6% | 1.3% | -6.3% | -82.9% |
| Eureka County | 5.4% | 0.0% | -5.4% | -100.0% |
| Eureka | 1.6% | 0.0% | -1.6% | -100.0% |
| Lander County | 11.2% | 8.2% | -3.0% | -26.8% |
| Austin | 17.7% | - | - | - |
| Battle Mountain | 10.7% | 6.3% | -4.4% | -41.1% |
| White Pine County | 9.9% | 3.4% | -6.5% | -65.7% |
| Ely | 8.8% | 6.2% | -2.6% | -29.5% |
| State of Nevada | 12.5% | 6.2% | -6.3% | -50.4% |
| United States | 9.7% | 5.3% | -4.4% | -45.4% |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates; 2013 and 2019

For the entire state of Nevada, the civilian unemployment rate declined significantly between 2013 and 2019, declining from an estimated 12.5 percent in 2013 to an estimated 6.2 percent in 2019, a net decrease of 6.3 percent or by a percentage decrease of -50.4 percent. Nationwide, the civilian unemployment rate for the entire United States decreased significantly between 2013 and 2019, decreasing from an estimated 9.7 percent in 2013 to an estimated 5.3 percent in 2019, a net decrease of 4.4 percent or by a percentage decrease of -45.4 percent.

2.1.k Total Employment by Major Industry Sector

Table 2.11 presents the total number of individuals employed by major industry sector for Elko County, Eureka County, Lander County, White Pine County, and for the entire state of Nevada and for the entire United States in 2019. The four largest major industry sectors, in-terms of the total number of individuals employed by each individual industry sector, are highlighted for each geographic area.

For Elko County, Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting, and Mining was the single largest major industry sector in 2019, employing an estimated 6,673 total individuals. Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation and Food Services was the second largest major industry sector, employing an estimated 4,354 total individuals, Educational Services, and Health Care and Social Assistance was the third largest major industry sector, employing an estimated

3,817 total individuals, and Retail Trade was the fourth largest major industry sector for Elko County in 2019, employing an estimated 2,603 total individuals.

| Table 2.11 – Civilian Employment (Population 16 Years and Over) Communities within the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority 2019 | | | | | | |
|---|------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Industry Sector | Elko County | Eureka County | Lander County | White Pine County | State of Nevada | United States |
| Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting, and Mining | 6,673 | 406 | 1,200 | 810 | 21,066 | 2,743,687 |
| Construction | 1,952 | 57 | 159 | 215 | 97,988 | 10,207,602 |
| Manufacturing | 562 | 38 | 6 | 50 | 64,737 | 15,651,460 |
| Wholesale Trade | 459 | 0 | 75 | 7 | 28,879 | 4,016,566 |
| Retail Trade | 2,603 | 68 | 168 | 290 | 163,565 | 17,267,009 |
| Transportation and Warehousing, and Utilities | 1,111 | 48 | 113 | 185 | 83,731 | 8,305,602 |
| Information | 325 | 0 | 12 | 14 | 21,414 | 3,114,222 |
| Finance and Insurance, and Real Estate and Rental and Leasing | 652 | 0 | 0 | 39 | 78,121 | 10,151,206 |
| Professional, Scientific, Management, Administrative Waste Management Services | 1,359 | 71 | 107 | 173 | 156,878 | 17,924,655 |
| Educational Services, and Health Care and Social Assistance | 3,817 | 113 | 379 | 549 | 225,489 | 35,840,954 |
| Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation and Food Services | 4,354 | 29 | 137 | 621 | 340,877 | 14,962,299 |
| Other Services, Except Public Administration | 1,007 | 22 | 50 | 111 | 65,091 | 7,522,777 |
| Public Administration | 1,294 | 78 | 180 | 569 | 58,732 | 7,134,146 |
| | | | | | | |
| Total | 26,168 | 930 | 2,586 | 3,633 | 1,406,568 | 154,842,185 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates; 2019

For Eureka County, Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting, and Mining was the single largest major industry sector in 2019, employing an estimated 406 total individuals. Educational Services, and Health Care and Social Assistance was the second largest major industry sector in Eureka County in 2019, employing an estimated 113 total individuals, and Public Administration was the third largest major industry sector in Eureka County in 2019, employing an estimated 78 total individuals. Professional, Scientific, Management, Administrative Waste Management Services was the fourth largest major industry sector in Eureka County, employing an estimated 71 total individuals in 2019.

In 2019, Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting, and Mining was the single largest major industry sector for Lander County, employing an estimated 1,200 total individuals, and Educational Services, and Health Care and Social Assistance was the second largest major industry sector, employing an estimated 379 total individuals. Public Administration was the third largest major industry sector in Lander County in 2019, employing an estimated 180 total individuals, and Retail Trade was the fourth largest major industry sector, employing an estimated 168 total individuals.

For White Pine County, Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting, and Mining was the single largest major industry sector in 2019, employing an estimated 810 total individuals, and Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation and Food Services was the second largest major industry sector, employing an estimated 621 total individuals in 2019. Public Administration was the third largest major industry sector in White Pine County in 2019, employing an estimated 569 total individuals, and Educational Services, and Health Care and Social Assistance was the fourth largest major industry sector, employing an estimated 549 total individuals in 2019.

Statewide, Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation and Food Services was the single largest major industry sector in 2019 for the entire state of Nevada, employing an estimated 340,877 total individuals. Educational Services, and Health Care and Social Assistance was the second largest major industry sector in 2019 for the entire state of Nevada, employing an estimated 225,489 total individuals, and Retail Trade was the third largest major industry sector in 2019 for the entire state of Nevada, employing an estimated 163,565 total individuals. Professional, Scientific, Management, Administrative Waste Management Services was the fourth largest major industry sector for the entire state of Nevada in 2019, employing an estimated 163,565 total individuals.

For the entire United States, Educational Services, and Health Care and Social Assistance was the single largest major industry sector in 2019, employing an estimated 35.84 million total individuals. Professional, Scientific, Management, Administrative Waste Management Services was the second largest major industry sector for the entire United States in 2019, employing an estimated 17.92 million total individuals, and Retail Trade was the third largest major industry sector for the entire United States in 2019, employing an estimated 17.27 million total individuals. Manufacturing was the fourth largest major industry sector in 2019 for the entire United States, employing an estimated 15.65 million total individuals.

3.0 Evaluation of the Vision, Goals, and Objectives

This section presents a summary of the evaluation of the existing strategic economic development vision and goals for Eureka County completed by workshop participants who participated in the December 16, 2021 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy annual update and evaluation workshop. This section also presents a general overall of the reprioritized goals and objectives for Eureka County for the coming year of implementation and a general outline of Eureka County’s economic COVID-19 pandemic recovery and resiliency economic development efforts.

3.1 Evaluation of the Strategic Economic Development Vision

The current strategic economic development vision for Eureka County, developed as part of Eureka County’s current five-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for 2020 through 2025, is:

Eureka County will diversify, innovate, and grow the county’s economy through continued diversification, innovation and growth by investing in key industry sectors, including mining, agriculture, natural resources and small business development and expansion.

Eureka County values our rich rural heritage and lifestyle and future economic development diversification, innovation, and growth will be pursued only if it is consistent with the rich rural heritage and lifestyle that we value.

As part of the evaluation of this current five-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, workshop participants who participated in the December 16, 2021 annual update and evaluation workshop were asked to evaluate the current strategic economic development vision by answering four questions, including: (1) does the strategic vision statement still represent the ‘mountain top’ of what we want to achieve?, (2) have we made progress in achieving this vision?, (3) has the vision changed over the last year?, and (4) over the next year, what parts of the vision do we want to focus on the most? In general, workshop participants agreed that the current strategic economic development vision still represents the absolute ‘mountain top’ of Eureka County’s, the Lander Economic Development Authority’s, and the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority’s broader community and economic development goals. Specifically, workshop participants noted that the vision’s focus on further diversification of Eureka County’s economic base has become increasingly important, especially for specific services such as healthcare and childcare services. Workshop participants further noted that continued economic development and diversification efforts should focus on the county’s existing primary industry and occupation sectors, specifically the existing agricultural and mining and natural resource extraction sectors. Additional ‘value added’ production in both of these sectors will help to close critical gaps in the value networks and supply chains of both

industry sectors while also helping to create new higher paying employment opportunities in a variety of directly and indirectly related sectors.

Workshop participants generally agreed that overall progress has been mixed in achieving specific elements of the existing strategic economic development vision statement for Eureka County. Eureka County, both by itself and in partnership with the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority and other regional community and economic development partners, has made considerable progress in supporting new small business and entrepreneurial-based start-ups. This success has helped fill critical gaps in the county's commercial retail base while also supporting additional outdoor tourism and recreation development efforts. The agriculture and mining and natural resource extraction sectors remain critical drivers of community and economic growth throughout Eureka County and continued growth and diversification of both of these sectors has been successfully achieved over the past year. Workshop participants did note, however, that the development of additional housing across a variety of income and need areas remains a primary challenge and a primary obstacle to additional community and economic growth. Over the next year and for the remainder of the existing five-year strategic planning horizon, addressing the local and regional housing shortage will be a top priority for Eureka County and for the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority.

Over the past year, the need for affordable and attainable housing has become an increasingly important part of the county's larger community and economic development efforts. New housing development for the county's existing population, especially in the communities of Crescent Valley (in the north-central part of Eureka County) and the town of Eureka (in the southern part of Eureka County), along with the development of new housing to support sustainable and measured population growth has become a primary need and the lack of new housing has become a primary barrier to broader economic development and diversification efforts. New COVID-19 related federal and state government stimulus efforts have also reshaped and refocused on the county's and the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority's broader community and economic development efforts. New funding for infrastructure, healthcare, and even childcare and senior care services presents Eureka County with an opportunity to address significant shortcomings in the county's existing pool of community development assets. Over the next year, Eureka County will continue to explore existing and emerging federal and state government funding options as a way of addressing critical infrastructure, healthcare, childcare, and senior care needs throughout the community.

Workshop participants identified a number of specific areas of focus for Eureka County and for the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority as both the county and the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority continue to implement elements of the existing five-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. As previously mentioned, a comprehensive plan to address community-level housing needs and concerns will be developed and implemented over the next year. Eureka County will also continue to work with local, regional, and statewide partners, including the University of Nevada, Reno's College of Education and Early Childhood Development Center, to develop new childcare services and additional senior care services. Infrastructure, especially the development of more reliable and higher capacity broadband communication infrastructure, will continue to be a priority area of

focus for Eureka County for the next year and for the remainder of the current five-year strategic planning horizon.

From an industry and occupation sector perspective, continued development and diversification of the county's existing agricultural, mining and natural resource extraction, and outdoor tourism and recreation sectors will remain primary areas of focus for Eureka County's economic development efforts. In regard to the agricultural sector, Eureka County will continue to work with its regional and statewide partners to protect the county's existing water resources and will also work with local agricultural producers to explore alternative agricultural processes, additional value added agricultural production opportunities, and to explore the continued development of new national and international markets for locally produced agricultural products. In addition to supporting the continued growth of existing mining and natural resource extraction operations within Eureka County, the county is already working with major regional mining partners and key federal agencies to possibly transfer existing lands to private ownership in order to support the development of a new industrial park in the northern part of Eureka County that could eventually support additional value added production in the mining and natural resource extraction sector, support the closing of critical gaps in the sector's existing value network and supply chain, and even support broader economic diversification efforts in a number of directly or indirectly related industry sectors. Eureka County is also working with its various local, regional and statewide partners to further develop and diversify the county's existing outdoor tourism and recreation sector. Over the next year, Eureka County will aggressively seek to expand tourism and visitor related amenities and attractions and will continue to work with key local, regional and statewide partners to enhance and better market existing outdoor tourism and recreation assets located throughout the county.

3.2 Evaluation of the Strategic Economic Development Goals

In evaluating the current strategic economic development goals, workshop participants who participated in the December 16, 2021 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy annual update and evaluation workshop for Eureka County were asked to evaluate the progress that has been made in achieving each of the original strategic economic development goals developed as part of this current five-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. Workshop participants were also asked to reprioritize each of the existing strategic economic development goals based upon the impacts that the ongoing COVID-19 global pandemic has had on the local and regional economy and based upon changing and emerging opportunities that have arisen over the past year. This sub-section presents a general overview of the evaluation of Eureka County's current strategic economic development goals and objectives.

3.2.a Evaluation of the Current Strategic Goals and Objectives

As part of the current five-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Eureka County for the 2020 through 2025 period, 12 separate strategic economic development goals were initially developed, including:

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- **Goal No. 1:** Within five years, will include two to seven medical services with urgent care, medical services, birthing center, assisted living, skilled nursing with hospice service to support the aging population of the county.
 - **Goal No. 2:** Increase in tourism to achieve an 80 percent occupancy rate by 2020.
 - **Goal No. 3:** Develop tourism potential with grants to develop historical resources.
 - **Goal No. 4:** Recruit one large non-traditional industry (greater than \$250,000 CAPEX, 15 to 20 jobs) by December 2024.
 - **Goal No. 5:** Light industry using a railhead at Beowawe to bring supplies in and products out.
 - **Goal No. 6:** Establish small business loan (grant) program that offers two to three loans annually by December 2021.
 - **Goal No. 7:** Increase visitors to Eureka County by 50 percent to 100 percent by December 2021.
 - **Goal No. 8:** Increase events in Eureka County by 300 percent by December 31, 2020.
 - **Goal No. 9:** Add three to five small businesses (\$5 to \$20,000 CAPEX, one to three jobs each) in Eureka County by December 2024.
 - **Goal No. 10:** Mining diversification from gold – vanadium and Moly prospects.
 - **Goal No. 11:** Collaborate with developers to build ten new homes per year on county lots starting in 2019.
 - **Goal No. 12:** Increase recharge to Diamond Valley alluvial aquifer from future mining; dewatering in the flow system.

As part of the annual Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy update and evaluation workshop held on December 16, 2021, workshop participants were asked to evaluate each individual goal by answering three separate questions, including: (1) has progress been made in achieving this goal?, (2) is the goal still relevant moving forward?, and (3) what can be done to make additional progress moving forward? The resulting evaluation of each individual goal was used to reprioritize the 12 existing strategic economic development goals for the coming year and to develop new economic recovery and resiliency efforts as Eureka County and the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority each continue to address the short-term and long-term impacts of the ongoing COVID-19 global pandemic.

*For **Goal No. 1:** Within five years, will include two to seven medical services with urgent care, medical services, birthing center, assisted living, skilled nursing with hospice service to support*

the aging population of the county, workshop participants agreed that no progress has been made in achieving this specific goal and, in some ways, the county's existing healthcare services have actually taken a step back over the past year. Over the past year, Eureka County lost its only urgent care facility and restoring critical urgent care services is a major priority for Eureka County for the coming year of implementation of the existing five-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. Creating additional public and business support for restoring critical urgent care services and even creating additional basic and even more advanced physical and mental healthcare services is a critical first step in making progress in achieving this specific goal. New skilled nursing services, improved targeted care for the county's existing senior population, and new daycare and childcare services are each additional areas of focus for Eureka County and for the county's other regional and statewide partners. Identifying and securing a sustainable funding source for each of these healthcare areas of focus will also be a top priority for Eureka County and its various partners over the next year.

Workshop participants noted that, despite a temporary decline in overall tourist and visitor rates as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 global pandemic, Eureka County has made measurable progress in achieving elements of **Goal No. 2: Increase in tourism to achieve an 80 percent occupancy rate by 2020** over the past year. Over the past year, Eureka County has hired a new Tourism Director and the county continues to work with its regional, statewide, and federal partners to further develop and expand the county's existing pool of outdoor tourism and recreation assets while also pursuing a number of targeted small business development efforts designed to fill key 'gaps' in the county's existing commercial retail sector. While the overall goal of achieving an 80 percent or better occupancy rate among the county's existing hotel and motel properties has been achieved, achievement of this goal has largely been accomplished through the use of hotel and motel rooms as temporary housing for workers in the mining and natural resource extraction sector. The need to develop additional housing in order to free up hotel and motel rooms throughout the county is part of the county's ongoing efforts to further develop and diversify the existing tourism and visitor sector. The development of historical walking tours, securing funding to improve area bike trails and supporting infrastructure, and continuing to update and improve Eureka County's website as a marketing tool are already being pursued and will be pursued further over the next year.

Similar to the evaluation of Goal No. 2, workshop participants generally agreed that a considerable amount of progress has been made over the past year in achieving certain elements of **Goal No. 3: Develop tourism potential with grants to develop historical resources**. In addition to hiring a new Tourism Director, to pursuing grants to improve area mountain biking trails and supporting infrastructure, and to making needed improvements to the county's existing website, Eureka County has also recently secured a grant from the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office for \$150,000 for restoration of a historical building in the town of Eureka. Workshop participants agreed that both Goal No. 2 and Goal No. 3 remain very important parts of the county's broader community and economic development and diversification strategy as tourism and outdoor recreation remains a vital part of the county's existing economic base. Over the next year, both Eureka County and the Eureka Business Network are exploring the possibility of hiring a dedicated grant writer who would be responsible for identifying, applying for, and securing additional funding that would be used to further grow and diversify the county's existing tourism and outdoor recreation sector.

For **Goal No. 4:** *Recruit one large non-traditional industry (greater than \$250,000 CAPEX, 15 to 20 jobs) by December 2024*, both Eureka County and the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority have continued to explore various new business creation and attraction opportunities. While these efforts have resulted in a number of preliminary talks and inquiries among several private sector firms, these talks and inquiries have remained preliminary without any definitive commitment from any single large non-traditional industry sector based private sector firm. Over the next year, the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority will continue to actively recruit private sector firms on Eureka County's behalf and Eureka County will continue to pursue a variety of community development based efforts, namely the continued effort to improve the county's existing infrastructure assets and to encourage new housing development. Specifically, both Eureka County and the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority will continue to explore possible new development opportunities around the Eureka Airport located adjacent to Nevada State Route 278 in the southern part of the county and possible new industrial development in the northern part of Eureka County.

For the northern part of the county specifically, both Eureka County and the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority have made measurable progress in achieving specific elements of **Goal No. 5:** *Light industry using a railhead at Beowawe to bring supplies in and products out*. Most notably, both Eureka County and the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority continue to work with Nevada Gold Mines and key federal government partners to secure enough land in the northern part of the county located adjacent to and nearby U.S. Interstate 80. Both Eureka County and the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority continue to work with key state government partners to further develop and implement elements of Nevada's recently completed State Rail Plan. Over the long-term and for the remainder of the existing five-year planning horizon of the existing Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, Eureka County and the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority will continue to explore the possibility of extending existing rail services that exist in the northern part of Eureka County to the southern part of the county in order to support broader new business creation and attraction and existing business retention and expansion efforts. Like the other strategic economic development goals that comprise the current five-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, critical infrastructure improvements and new housing development are equally needed elements as part of achieving this specific goal.

While small business and entrepreneurial-based development strategies will continue to be a primary area of focus for Eureka County, for the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority, and for key partners such as the Eureka Business Network, workshop participants generally agreed that **Goal No. 6:** *Establish small business loan (grant) program that offers two to three loans annually by December 2021* has largely been accomplished. Over the past year, the Rural Nevada Development Corporation has successfully funded four new small businesses in Eureka County and one small business has applied for funding through the recently created "I-80 Fund" created by Nevada Gold Mines and administered through the Rural Nevada Development Corporation. Ongoing state and federal government COVID-19 related economic stimulus funding has significantly increased the availability of small business and entrepreneurial-based funding and workshop participants agreed that it is essential that Eureka County, the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority, and the Eureka Business

Network continue to community and promote funding opportunities through these various funding services. To better support the longer-term viability of new and existing small businesses and entrepreneurial-based activities, workshop participants agreed that Eureka County should at least explore the possibility of using federal funds such as the 2021 American Rescue Plan Act to fund needed infrastructure and housing projects. Successfully completing new infrastructure projects and supporting additional housing development will ensure that new and existing businesses can better access wider national and international markets, new customers, and needed employees.

For both **Goal No. 7: Increase visitors to Eureka County by 50 percent to 100 percent by December 2021** and **Goal No. 8: Increase events in Eureka County by 300 percent by December 31, 2020**, workshop participants generally agreed that some progress has been made in achieving both goals over the last year. As a predominantly rural community, Eureka County's tourism and outdoor recreation sector was less impacted by statewide and national shutdowns and lockdowns initiated as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 global pandemic in the early part of 2020 and the ongoing disruptions the pandemic created throughout 2021. Over this period, new events, such as the Eureka Gold Rush Games, were created and a number of improvements to existing tourism and outdoor recreation assets and related supporting infrastructure were completed. Moving forward, the development of additional housing, more targeted marketing efforts, and additional improvements to existing tourism and recreation assets will be needed to further grow and diversify the county's existing tourism and outdoor recreation sector. Additional workforce and permanent housing will be needed in order to free-up existing hotel and motel rooms and additional recreation vehicle (RV) and camping sites will be needed to support growing national demand. Continued improvement of Eureka County's website, broader use of Facebook and other social media sites in order to promote existing and new special events, and targeted marketing and attraction efforts in partnership with the Nevada Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs will each be pursued by Eureka County and the Eureka Business Network over the next year.

As already discussed as part of the successful accomplishment of Goal No. 6, workshop participants noted that Eureka County has largely accomplished **Goal No. 9: Add three to five small businesses (\$5 to \$20,000 CAPEX, one to three jobs each) in Eureka County by December 2024** over the past year. While this goal has largely already been accomplished, workshop participants agreed that additional new small business creation and attraction strategies and efforts to retain and expand existing small businesses remains a very relevant part of Eureka County's overall economic development strategy. Continuing to improve the county's broadband and telecommunication infrastructure will be a part of the county's efforts to assist existing and future small businesses in accessing larger national and international market over the next year. Eureka County, the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority, and the Eureka Business Network will also continue to promote existing small business funding sources as part of the ongoing effort to diversify the county's economic base through small business creation, attraction, retention, and expansion strategies.

Workshop participants generally agreed that some progress has been made over the past year in achieving **Goal No. 10: Mining diversification from gold – vanadium and Moly prospects** and that this goal still remains fairly relevant as Eureka County continues to diversify its existing

economic base and key industry sectors. While workshop participants noted that the reference to “and Moly” should be removed, gold mining and rare earth mining opportunities are still critically important drivers of economic activity in Eureka County. While continued high commodity prices for gold nationally and internationally have somewhat crowded out the development of new rare earth mining in Eureka County, workshop participants agreed that the national and global demand for rare earth metals will likely increase for the foreseeable future and, a result of this future increase in demand, Eureka County, the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority, and other strategic partners should continue to support the development of new rare earth mining operations in the county and throughout the region. Over the next year, workshop participants agreed that the county and its strategic partners should focus on developing the necessary infrastructure and housing that will be needed to support continued and expanded gold mining and rare earth mining operations within the county and should work closely with existing and future mining operators to identify future infrastructure and housing needs.

While little to no progress has been made on achieving **Goal No. 11: Collaborate with developers to build ten new homes per year on county lots starting in 2019**, workshop participants noted that some informal discussion have occurred between Eureka County, existing property owners, and potential housing developers. Funding, financing, and existing bonding requirements, state regulatory concerns, various local and state permitting and licensing requirements, and the growing disparity between urban and rural housing builders remain major barriers to achieving this goal. Recently, global supply chain disruptions as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 global pandemic and the rapidly growing costs of housing across Nevada have further inhibited the ability of Eureka County to make meaningful progress on achieving this specific goal over the last year. While this goal remains extremely relevant for Eureka County, workshop participants noted that an ‘outside the box’ approach to addressing local and even regional housing needs will need to be developed and pursued. Developing and securing the necessary funding, addressing local, regional, and state level regulatory barriers, and even developing local and regional housing development incentives were a few of the many ways in which workshop participants suggested that the county could potentially begin to make meaningful progress in achieving this goal over the next year.

Eureka County and its various strategic partners continue to make measurable progress in achieving **Goal No. 12: Increase recharge to Diamond Valley alluvial aquifer from future mining; dewatering in the flow system** but, despite this progress, addressing water supply concerns in Diamond Valley remains a critical community and economic development challenge in the county. Eureka County continues to work with local farmers and property owners within Diamond Valley and state regulators to address the ongoing recharge challenges and concerns within the valley. This effort continues to be addressed by county officials in consultation with its state government representatives and in concert with applicable state government regulators. From an economic development perspective, Eureka County and the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority will continue to explore new business creation and attraction efforts designed to promote alternative agricultural production that will result in less water consumed in existing and future agricultural production activities and will continue to work with existing agricultural producers within Diamond Valley to explore ways of reducing overall water usage.

3.2.b Reprioritizing the Existing Strategic Economic Development Goals for the Coming Year

Workshop participants were asked to reprioritize each of the 12 existing strategic economic development goals for the coming year as Eureka County and the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority each continue to implement elements of the current five-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. In reprioritizing each of these 12 existing strategic economic development goals, workshop participants who participated in the December 16, 2021 annual update and evaluation workshop agreed to combine each of the exiting strategic economic development goals into four priority areas. The prioritization of these four priority areas reflects the county's efforts to address COVID-19 global pandemic related community and economic development impacts and to address issues that have emerged since the development of the existing strategic economic development goals. The following list outlines the results of this effort including which existing strategic economic development goals have been incorporated into each priority area:

- **Priority Area No. 1:** Continue to pursue and complete community development related programs and projects designed to address emerging concerns ranging from infrastructure to housing to expanded primary and more advanced healthcare services.
 - **Existing Goal No. 1:** Within five years, will include two to seven medical services with urgent care, medical services, birthing center, assisted living, skilled nursing with hospice service to support the aging population of the county.
 - **Existing Goal No. 5:** Light industry using a railhead at Beowawe to bring supplies in and products out.
 - **Existing Goal No. 11:** Collaborate with developers to build ten new homes per year on county lots starting in 2019.
- **Priority Area No. 2:** Continue to address water supply concerns and continue to work with existing private sector firms in primary industry sectors (agriculture and mining and natural resource extraction) in order to reduce water consumption in existing operations.
 - **Existing Goal No. 12:** Increase recharge to Diamond Valley alluvial aquifer from future mining; dewatering in the flow system.
- **Priority Area No. 3:** Promote and enhance Eureka County's tourism and outdoor recreation sector through new marketing efforts and related infrastructure, housing, new business creation and attraction strategies, and efforts to retain and expand existing businesses that directly support Eureka County's tourism and outdoor recreation sector.
 - **Existing Goal No. 2:** Increase in tourism to achieve an 80 percent occupancy rate by 2020.

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- **Existing Goal No. 3:** Develop tourism potential with grants to develop historical resources.
 - **Existing Goal No. 7:** Increase visitors to Eureka County by 50 percent to 100 percent by December 2021.
 - **Existing Goal No. 8:** Increase events in Eureka County by 300 percent by December 31, 2020.
 - **Priority Area No. 4:** Support new business creation and attraction strategies and existing business retention efforts designed to support the continued growth and diversification of existing primary industry sectors (agriculture, mining and natural resource extraction, and tourism and outdoor recreation) through the promotion of existing and emerging small business and entrepreneurial-based funding and technical assistance support services and through improved marketing efforts.
 - **Existing Goal No. 4:** Recruit one large non-traditional industry (greater than \$250,000 CAPEX, 15 to 20 jobs) by December 2024.
 - **Existing Goal No. 6:** Establish small business loan (grant) program that offers two to three loans annually by December 2021.
 - **Existing Goal No. 9:** Add three to five small businesses (\$5 to \$20,000 CAPEX, one to three jobs each) in Eureka County by December 2024.
 - **Existing Goal No. 10:** Mining diversification from gold – vanadium and Moly prospects.

For the coming 2021 through 2022 year of continued implementation of the current five-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Eureka County, workshop participants have decided to focus on identifying and completing necessary community development elements including the completion of necessary infrastructure improvements, necessary housing, and restoring various healthcare services lost over the past year and creating new childcare, senior care, and additional basic and more advanced healthcare services. By completing these needed community development elements, workshop participants agreed that other economic development interests will be served and better supported. As part of this community development focus for the next year, continued priority focus on addressing ongoing water supply issues will remain a top priority for Eureka County over the next year. And while Eureka County and its key partners, including the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority and the Eureka Business Network, have made significant progress in supporting tourism and outdoor recreation development and further development and diversification of the county's existing economic base, tourism and outdoor recreation and additional business creation, attraction, retention, and expansion efforts will be pursued as needed and as opportunities continue to present themselves.