# LA PLATA FOOD BUSINESS FINDINGS





The LPFEC's Food Business Workgroup provides support to underserved food business entrepreneurs, empowering them to create economic opportunities and increase representation in the community.

We surveyed 58 food business entrepreneurs about the barriers, opportunities and resource gaps that exist for minority-owned businesses in La Plata County. Here's what we learned, and what the LPFEC's Food Business Workgroup is doing to drive solutions.

To learn more visit goodfoodcollective.org/lpfec

## WHO TOOK THE SURVEY

**36%** Rural Business
Outside of Durango

60% Women-Owned Businesses

20% BIPOC (Black, Indigenous & People of Color)

Immigrant-Owned Businesses

Food Truck Businesses



What stage is your food business in?

are in the

5% are in the Scale Stage

61% are in the Early Stage

are in the Formalizing Stage

"I have been running my business officially for over 5 years"

"My food business is in operation and ready to accelerate my growth"

"I have been open less than 5 years"

"I need to create a business plan and get licenses and permits to operate"

Q:

What general business resources do entrepreneurs need most?

RESOURCE LIST: Where to go and who to talk to

LOCAL GRANTS: Leveraging available funds

NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES: Connecting with resources and other entrepreneurs



#### Which local business services in La Plata County are you familiar with? (Check all that apply)



45%

Southwest Colorado **Development Center** 



Region 9 Economic **Development District** of S.W. Colorado



**36%** Durango Chamber of Commerce

**16%** 

SCAPE Accelerator

Program

**Durango Business** Improvement District



**Durango Public Library Business** 



Local First



22%

First Southwest Community Fund

\*15% of participants were not familiar with any services listed above.



**39%** 

35%

33%

28%

25%

23%

21%

21%

19%

18%

16% 14%

14% **4**%



### What food industry specific resources do you need to support your business journey? (Check all that apply)

Commercial kitchen place (commissary)

Dry/cold storage access

Food sourcing, procurement

Marketing channels for my product(s)

Food safety; understanding/complying with regulations

Mobile/food truck station

**Brick and mortar location** 

**Equipment sourcing** 

Overnight storage access

Liquor licensing; understanding/complying with regulations

Zoning; understanding/complying with local regulations

Manufacturing space

Warehouse access

Cleaning and sanitation services

### **Top 3 Preferred Ways to Receive** Information:



Email



Speaking with a person 1:1



Online, on a website & social media

#### **Putting Solutions into Action**

**Food Business Directory** - Online and printable bilingual directory of services in La Plata county to get entrepreneurs the resources they need to start and scale their businesses.

**Communication & Events** - Listsery promoting entrepreneur networking and education opportunities that address gaps in the food business ecosystem.

Shared Kitchen Inventory - Public list of rentable kitchens in La Plata

**Education** - county-wide workshop series for entrepreneurs, to help connect them with funding, know-how, and resources. Thank you City of Durango and City Inclusive Entrepreneurship for making this possible!

To get plugged in, access resources or learn more visit: goodfoodcollective.org/lpfec