

## BOULDER MDC CLOSURE IMPACTS

The following Boulder community impacts as a result of the programmed closure of the Montana Developmental Center (MDC) were discussed at a Boulder Transition Advisory Committee (BTAC) meeting.

1. Loss of 250 MDC positions by 2017
2. Loss of MDC contract support positions
3. Reduction of DPPHS and other staff support visitors to Boulder impacting a reduction of local expenditures for goods and services
4. Relocation of workforce will have a negative impact on school enrollments as families with children relocate. This student reduction will decrease the school ANB funding that could result in school program and teacher reductions. Program cuts may cause remaining families to look for other school options meeting program needs further reducing enrollments.
5. Reduction in water/waste water service fees to the City of Boulder impacting budgets and ability to pay the existing infrastructure debt.
6. Impact to local business cash flows with the workforce reduction and loss of residents.
7. Loss of the MDC community recycling partner.
8. Boulder City currently funds one position based on MDC requirements.
9. Real estate market will have additional properties available that may have a negative impact on existing real estate values. Decreasing real estate values will impact the net worth of property owners.
10. MDC closure will cause several vacant special use buildings that will need aggressive marketing to accomplish reutilization.

## BOULDER STRENGTHS

1. Good infrastructure
2. Good services – police, ambulance, clinic, fire department, local government
3. Active community foundation with some resources
4. Local home town bank
5. Good schools with programs like the After School Program, Headstart
6. Good Chamber of Commerce website with good exposure for Boulder
7. Good library, fitness center, outdoor recreation opportunities
8. Central location between Butte, Bozeman and Helena - well travelled transportation routes I-15 and Highway 69
9. Radon Health Mines
10. Good community/high school spirit and pride
11. Committed community volunteers
12. Save community with good home town feel
13. Good local newspaper
14. Easy access to local officials
15. Jefferson County seat
16. Fair grounds with good resources
17. Do special events – fair, fall festival, car show, rodeo
18. Available building space capacity on main street
19. Housing availability – Big Boulder Apartments, affordable housing, assisted living
20. Museums – Heritage and history
21. Wildlife Heritage – hunting, fishing, etc.
22. Local Ghost Towns

## BOULDER WEAKNESSES

1. Need better internet and telephone capabilities
2. Underutilized business district
3. Location – easy to commute to metropolitan areas for better jobs
4. Image – institution town
5. Low median income and per capita income significantly below county, state and national averages
6. Lack of diversity of businesses in the area
7. High poverty rate
8. MDC publicity and visibility during legislature didn't portray a good image of Boulder and there is a need to get the good stories out and more positive public relations.
9. Community is land locked and has limited expansion opportunity with infrastructure expansion or land use changes.
10. Lack of adequate overnight lodging and services

## BOULDER OPPORTUNITIES

1. Vacant downtown buildings
2. Expanded use of the fairgrounds for activities and events
3. South Campus development
4. Historic district and buildings
5. Expansion of health businesses
6. Recreation opportunities – trails, outdoor activities, etc.
7. Natural resource development
8. Ability to look outside the box for opportunities
9. Internet expansion
10. Location can attract high tech businesses or distribution opportunities to surrounding metropolitan communities
11. Highway traffic travelling through the Boulder downtown such as the large number of Canadians
12. Expanded agriculture opportunities
13. Foreign tourism – radon mines, outdoor recreations, etc.
14. Golf course
15. Housing available for sale
16. Expansions with agriculture and gardening – i.e. farm to table movement
17. Add PTSD services to current MDC facility

## BOULDER THREATS

1. MDC Closure
2. The attitude that “That is the way we always do it”
3. Continued high poverty
4. Lack of knowledge about why things are done
5. Wildfires
6. Natural resource regulations
7. Retaining youth in the area
8. Boulder City infrastructure loan debt
9. Becoming a bedroom city
10. Not replacing lost employment opportunities with good livable wage positions
11. Climate Change
12. Mistrust in Government decisions/process
13. Rural communities struggle – get less attention than urban areas