

April 16, 2026

GIS/Mapping Training Opportunity

Introduction

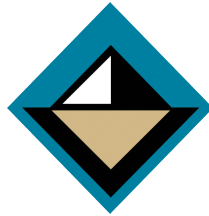
The Colorado Community College System (CCCS), in collaboration with the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT), has issued a statewide grant to support Workforce Resiliency in rural areas impacted by COVID-19. The San Luis Valley Council of Governments (SLVCOG) has secured this grant to offer financial assistance for Geographic Information Systems (GIS) training in the six-county region, addressing a critical need for local GIS expertise following the departure of key regional GIS leadership. In partnership with the San Luis Valley GIS/GPS Authority, this initiative will help equip individuals and jurisdictions with essential GIS skills to enhance career growth, job security, and operational efficiency for their organization. The project aims to foster GIS adoption and growth by providing much needed training funds to support education and networking.

Allowed Costs:

- Professional development for those using, or wanting to utilize, GIS technologies, including but not limited to individuals or local government entities.
- Third-party vendor services for training when community colleges lack capacity.
- Bootcamps or user groups attendance focused on GIS or related technology.
- Training costs incurred directly by organizations seeking GIS training.
- Consumable and miscellaneous items related to training.
- Technology upgrades that support GIS training.

Limitations:

- Training activities may not begin before a Training Proposal Form is submitted to, and approved by, SLVCOG.
- SLVCOG reserves the right to deny or negotiate a training proposal based on the amount of funding remaining, adherence to SLVCOG's awarded grant proposal to the State, and adherence to state and federal guidance and requirements for this program.
- SLVCOG reserves the right to adjust these allowable costs and limitations depending on demand for resources and timeline of the grant program.



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- Recipients of grant-funded training must be organizations or individuals negatively impacted by COVID-19, and beneficiaries are required to complete a COVID “attestation” form to fulfill federal COVID relief fund (SLFRF) compliance.
- Funds must be used for a unique project or an unmet need within the GIS Training Scope (below), though there is some flexibility as to type and source of training.
- State and national level conferences will be restricted to GIS practitioners, or local government executive leadership, due to limited funding.
- No college administration fees can be reimbursed, per State rules.
- State of Colorado travel fiscal rules [found here](#) must be followed and specifically:
 - Mileage Reimbursement [found here](#) (\$.65 effective 1/1/2026)
 - Meals & Incidental Expenses (M&IE) Rate [found here](#) (\$68 base rate 10/1/2025)
- No costs deemed unallowable by federal Uniform Guidance (2 CFR 200) will be reimbursed. For example: alcohol, fines, entertainment costs, lobbying, etc.
- All activities must be completed, and funds used, by **June 15, 2026**.

Reimbursement and Reporting Process:

Employees are to submit training expenses directly to their employer, and the employer in turn will submit a reimbursement request to SLVCOG on a spreadsheet to be provided. Payment from SLVCOG will be made to the employer, not the individual employee. Payment from SLVCOG will be made within 30 days of receipt of the request.

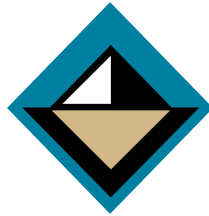
The SLVCOG will periodically check in with the individual employee to verify status of courses enrolled, or any other actions taken to increase GIS capability, in order to support the SLVCOG’s quarterly reporting requirements to the State.

GIS Training Scope

The GIS training funded by this grant aims to equip individuals and organizations in the San Luis Valley region with the skills necessary to effectively use Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology. This training initiative focuses on building workforce resilience and enhancing technology capabilities and capacity, particularly within local government, through technical training and peer networking.

Here are some examples of GIS workforce training opportunities:

- Self-paced, online training at [GeospatialTraining.com](#) (much cheaper than ESRI)
- Training opportunities offered by [ESRI](#)
- Other online sources such as [Udemy.com](#) or [Coursera.org](#)
- Courses at Adams State University (expensive but can also register to audit only)



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- Workshops and webinars hosted by [Geospatial Professional Network](#)
- Courses, webinars, books on GIS through organizations supporting your primary job function such as Planning, Land Use, Transportation, Emergency Services, Public Works, Public/Environmental Health, Tourism, Economic Development, 911, etc.
 - (APA, AASHTO, NENA, APWA, NACCHO, APHA, NADO, IAAO, etc.)

Here are some examples of GIS peer networking and trade organization memberships:

- [GIS Colorado](#) user group meetings (they meet quarterly around the State, maintain a listserv, and offer training opportunities).
- [Geospatial Professional Network](#) (GPN). A GIS resource organization geared primarily for state and local government. Formerly known as the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA)>

Training and networking opportunities are not limited to the above examples.

For questions, or to discuss options, please contact:

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