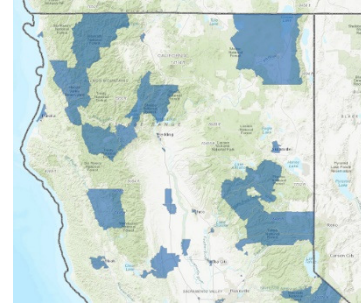




Final Report 2017-2018



Purpose: Direct services to businesses to strengthen Chico's businesses and economy through the Retention/Expansion/Start-up/Attraction of business investment.

Focus: Data collection and reporting through online data sourcing, monthly business walks, and meetings.



Economic development highlights:

- Opportunity Zones
- James Irvine Foundation LinkedLearning Grant
- Retail Watch
- Property Based Improvement District

Summary:

- Theme was "data collection" and we utilized PG&E grant funds to purchase iPads and software to collect data on business walks. We identified GoCanvas as an App to survey businesses and plan to deliver "service tickets" to the corresponding agency for follow up.
- Exploring the creation of an economic dashboard with the Chico State Center for Economic Development, Geographic Information Systems.
- Awarded LinkedLearning grant – 2018-2019 funds to make businesses aware of Advance North State externships, mentoring, retaining talent through jobs. Continued building connections with partners in education, the Chamber Network and James Irvine Foundation.
- Re-purposed Community Safety meetings into the more specific Retail Watch program, measuring shrink and educating retailers on the benefits of prevention, reporting, and prosecuting. Participating organizations: Chamber, DCBA, PBID, and Chico PD who made this a department priority. Oxford Suites hosts monthly meetings. Team Chico will survey retailers in July.
- Partnered with the Jesus Center to conduct a business walk and input session to gather feedback on their possible relocation to the 20th Street corridor.
- Introduced concept of Community Choice Aggregation to the Team for business outreach and consultation.
- Co-hosted SCORE workshops for business trainings.
- Connected with Chico State President on master planning process and economic development goals.
- Mentoring Corning economic development partners on Team model.

