

# EAGLE COUNTY, COLORADO



EAGLE COUNTY

## COMMUNITY FINANCIAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2021

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January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021



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## Eagle County, Colorado

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can be found at:

<https://www.eaglecounty.us/finance/annualfinancialreports>

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# LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY

Eagle County Citizens,

It is our pleasure to present to you the Community Financial Report. This report is for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2021. The purpose of this report is to give the Eagle County community a tool to learn about the county's finances and financial health. We believe in being transparent and presenting the community with accurate and useful information.

The financial information presented in this report comes from Eagle County's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report. The annual report is a complete set of financial statements presented in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) and is audited by a third party firm of licensed certified public accountants. This Community Financial Report was not audited, but was created by extracting financial information from GAAP-compliant audited data in the annual report. The 2021 annual report can be found here: [2021 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report](#).

This Community Financial Report includes governmental and business-type activities of the primary government but does not include Golden Eagle Elderly Housing Corporation or Eagle County Emergency Telephone Service Authority (E911). These two entities were omitted because they are not included in the government wide financial reporting. You can reference these entities or any other individual fund detail in the annual audit.

Eagle County's total net position increased by \$22 million in 2021. The majority of the increase is from an \$18M Certificate of Participation issuance for the Eagle Valley Trail construction project. These funds will be used to connect Eagle-Vail to Dotsero. Eagle County is positioned for sustained success by budgeting and spending thoughtfully. Thank you for taking the time to review this report and for being engaged with your local government. We are committed to maintaining Eagle County's healthy financial position so that the community can continue to thrive as we live out our mission of "Creating a better Eagle County for all."

Respectfully submitted,



Jill Klosterman  
Chief Financial Officer

Anna Earl  
Finance Manager



**Jill Klosterman**  
Chief Financial Officer

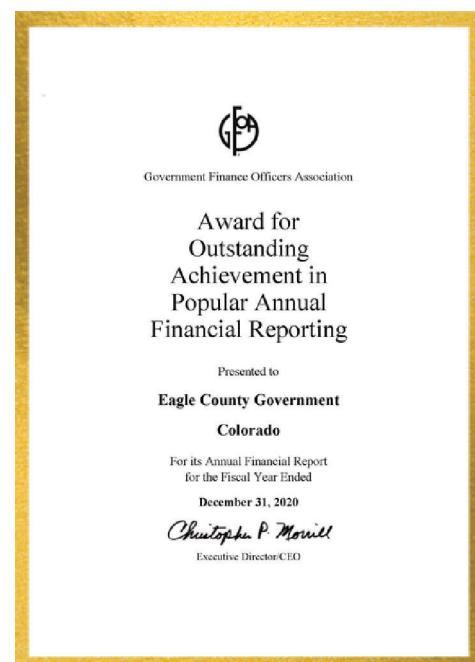


**Anna Earl**  
Finance Manager

In 2020, Eagle County Government won the Award for **Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting (PAFR)** by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA).



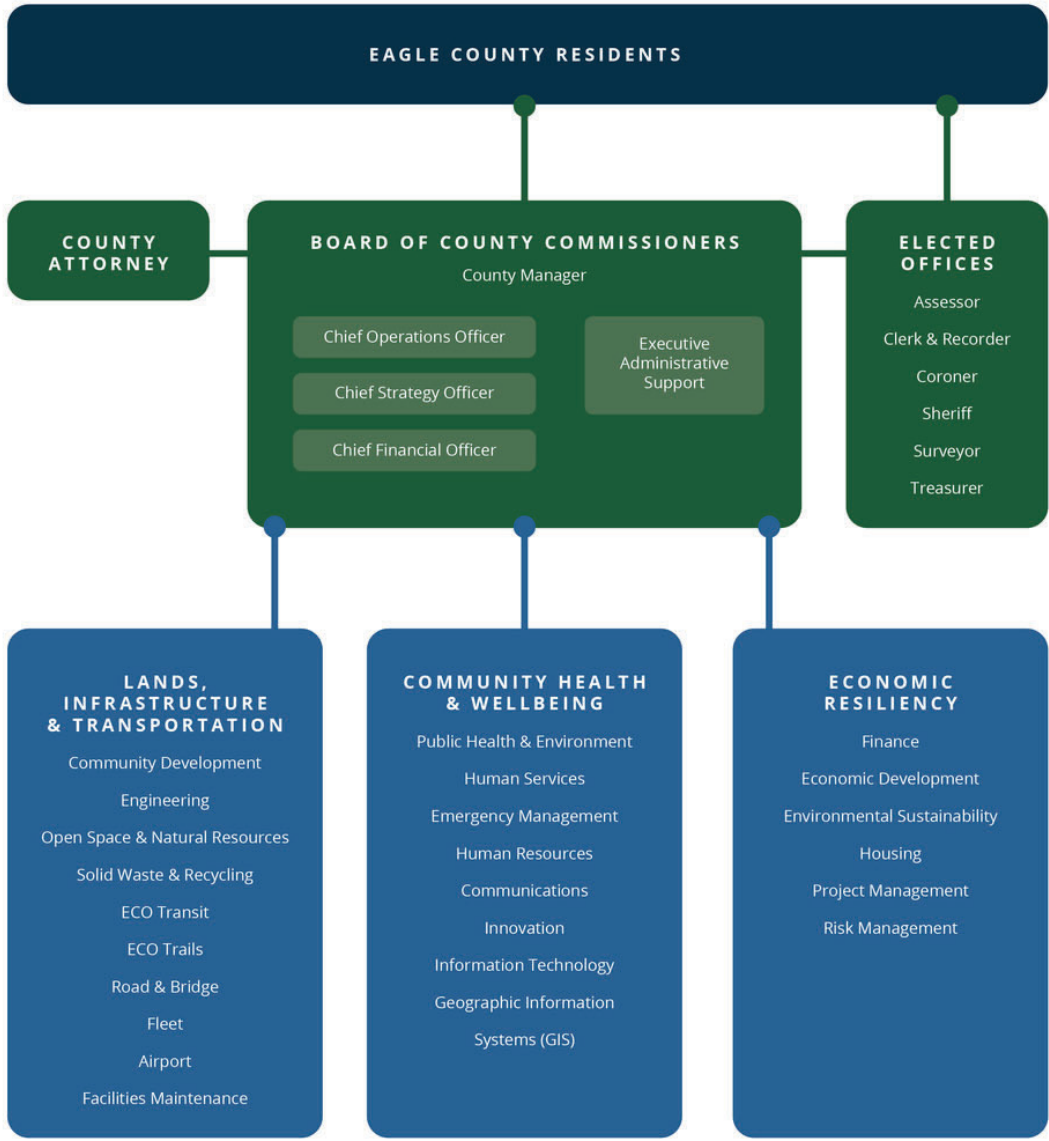
In addition, Eagle County Government was awarded the **Triple Crown** for 2020. GFOA's Triple Crown recognizes governments who have received GFOA's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, Popular Annual Financial Reporting Award, and the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award. 2020 was the 23rd consecutive year that Eagle County has received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.







EAGLE COUNTY ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



Background image by Bob Silva

Eagle County Government



Eagle County is governed by a three-member Board of Commissioners that serves as both an administrative and policy-making body. The board members are elected at large to four year staggered terms. The board governs the County by adopting local ordinances, adopting the annual budget, and establishing property tax rates. The board appoints the County Manager, County Attorney, and members of boards and commissions.

# COUNTY OFFICIALS

## Eagle County Commisioners



**Kathy Chandler-Henry**



**Jeanne McQueeney**



**Matt Scherr**

## Elected Officials



**Mark Chapin**  
Assessor



**Regina O'Brien**  
Clerk & Recorder



**Kara Bettis**  
Coroner



**James Van Beek**  
Sheriff



**Kelly Miller**  
Surveyor



**Teak Simonton**  
Treasurer/Trustee

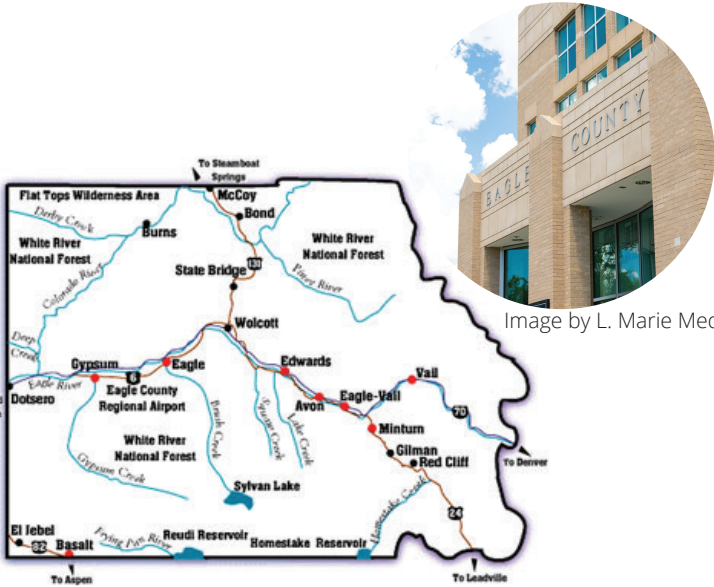
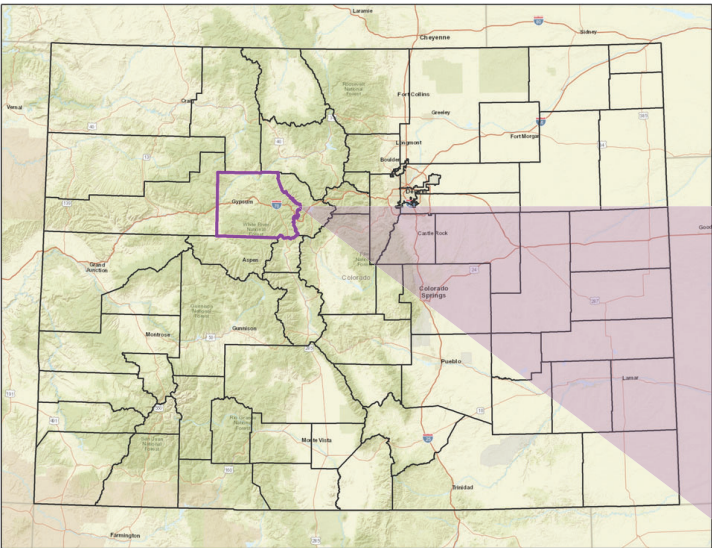
## County Manager



**Jeff Shroll**  
County Manager

Appointed by the commissioners, the County Manager is the chief administrative officer of the County and serves at the pleasure of the Board. The major responsibilities of the County Manager include supervising and coordinating the activities of County departments, attending Board meetings, making recommendations on appropriate matters of business, and assisting with the preparation and recommendation of the annual budget. The County Manager also ascertains that all orders and policies of the Board are implemented and represents the County in business and other agencies.





Location

Located approximately 90 miles west of Denver and 100 miles east of Grand Junction, Eagle County resides in the magnificent Colorado Rocky Mountains.

History

The Ute Native Americans claimed county lands for summer hunting and fishing grounds. In 1840, Kit Carson guided the first European party through the region. Miners and settlers arrived next.



Named for the Eagle River that runs through it, Eagle County was formed by the Colorado legislature in 1883. The town of Eagle became the County seat in 1921.

The evolution of Vail from a quiet sheep pasture to an international resort is credited to the famous 10th Mountain Division ski troops who were introduced to the valley while training at Camp Hale in the 1940s.

Geography



Eagle County encompasses 1,694 square miles and is rich with trails, protected forests, and wilderness areas. Much of the county is comprised of the White River National

Forest. Eagle County is an access point to Sylvan Lake State Park, Vail Resorts, and the 10th Mountain Division hut system. The Bureau of Land Management oversees much of the remainder of the land.

Municipal Populations

Avon .....	6,072
Basalt .....	3,984
Eagle (County Seat) .....	7,511
Gypsum .....	8,040
Minturn .....	1,033
Red Cliff .....	257
Vail .....	4,835

Source: U.S. Census Bureau population estimates 2020

# DEMOGRAPHICS



**55,727**

**Population** \*



**37.7**

**Median Age** ^



**25.7%**

**Language other  
than English** \*  
(spoken at home)



**33,174**

**Housing Units** \*



**7,562**

**School  
Enrollment** ^



**\$93,016**

**Median  
Household  
Income** ^



**92.9%**

**Households  
with broadband  
internet  
subscription** \*



**68,004**

**Vehicle  
Registrations** ^

\*Source: U.S. Census Bureau

^Source: Eagle County Annual Comprehensive Financial Report

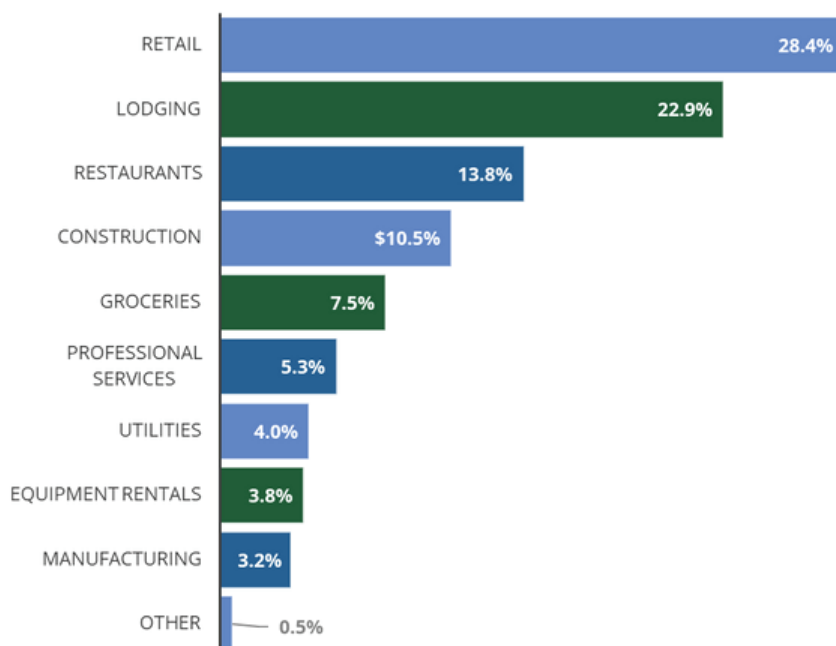


## Top Employers with number of employees

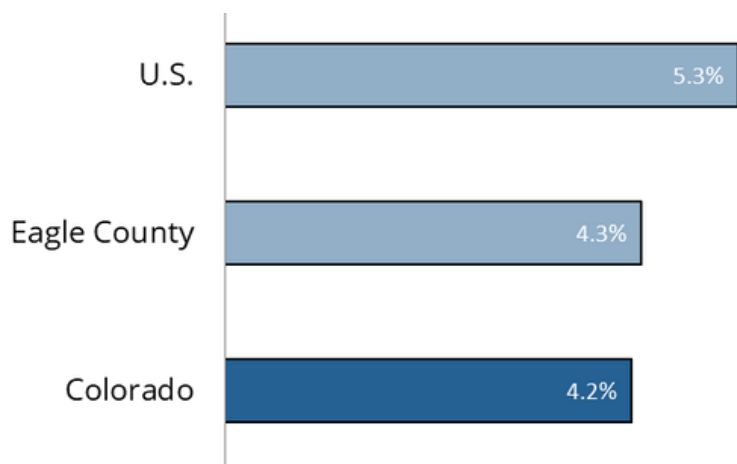
Vail Resorts .....	>1500
Eagle County Schools .....	500-1000
Vail Health .....	500-1000
Eagle County Government .....	500-600
Grand Hyatt Vail .....	400-500
Sonnenalp Resort .....	400-500
Ritz Carlton .....	300-400
Walmart .....	300-400
Town of Vail .....	200-300
Vail Marriott .....	200-300



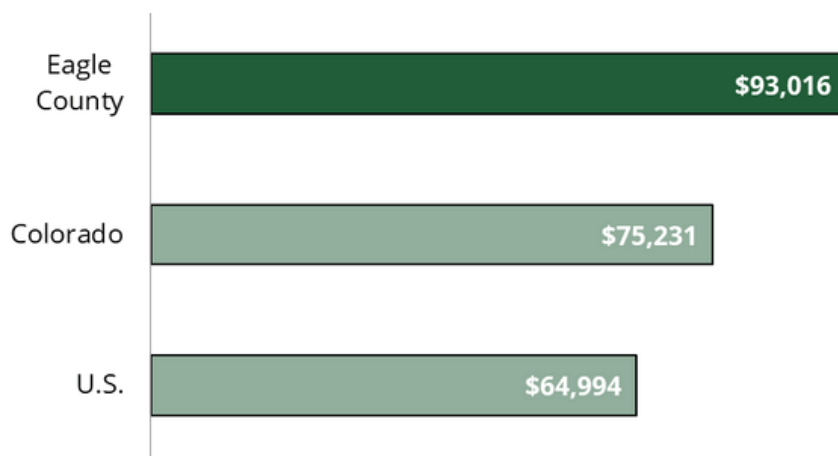
## Sales Tax Collected by Industry



## Unemployment Rate monthly average over FY2021



## Median Household Income



Source (for US and CO): U.S. Census Bureau  
& US Department of Labor



# SERVICE BY THE NUMBERS



Sheriff Calls Received



Miles Driven by ECO Bus Drivers



Registered Voters



Building Permits



ECO Bus Ridership



Completed Miles of ECO Trails



Enplaned Passengers



Tons of Solid Waste and Recyclables Processed



Acres of Open Space

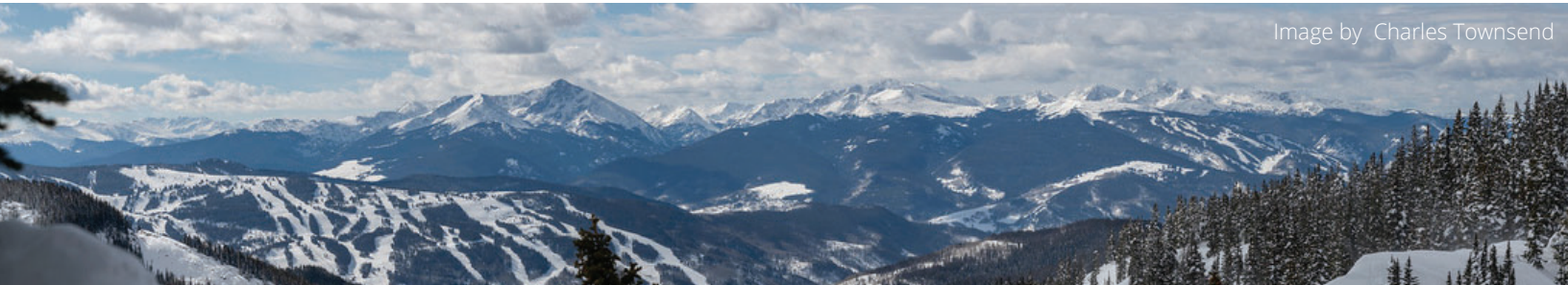


Image by Charles Townsend

## Eagle County is Financially Sound

- The County's total net position increased by \$22.2 million.
- Sustained a desirable environment attracting both tourists and residents providing a \$5.9 million increase in sales tax revenue.
- Housing refinanced the Riverview Apartments mortgage from a 5.3% interest rate down to 2.24%.
- Eagle County Regional Airport experienced the highest passenger visitation rate in 13 years.

## Eagle County is a Great Place to Live for All

- Eagle County Sheriff's Office maintained a 24/7 level of service to the community across all teams despite facing COVID-19 challenges.
- Housing won the Housing Colorado Eagle Award nominee for Two10 at Castle Peak. A LEED Gold certified workforce housing property.
- Colorado State University Extension supported community health and helped reduce food insecurity for seniors through the donation of 549 pounds of produce (458 meals) from their demonstration gardens.



## Eagle County Protects the Natural Environment

- Solid Waste & Recycling opened a new free public recycling site in Edwards and hosted a free public recycling event in Basalt in the summer of 2021. The events were a huge success and properly disposed of metal appliances, food waste, paper, tires, electronics and household waste.
- In response to heightened outdoor traffic, Open Space addressed and implemented a comprehensive set of rules and regulations for all properties and rolled out a Commercial Use permitting program. These were both designed to protect natural resources while maintaining a high-level user experience with the County's conserved landscapes.
- The Brush Creek Valley Ranch and Open Space received the Starburst award from the Colorado Lottery. The award recognizes excellence in the use of lottery funds for community conservation projects. Winners are chosen based on the creativity of the project, economic and social impact on the community, and whether the project achieved its goal.





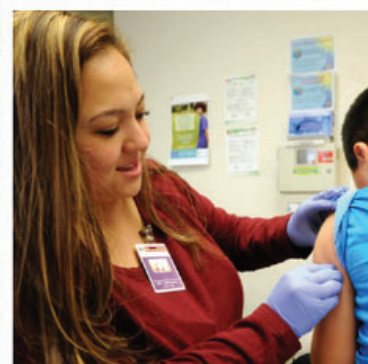
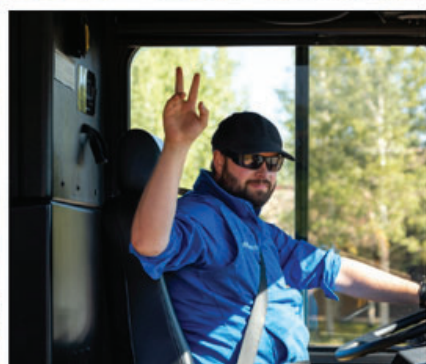
## Eagle County Promotes a Diverse and Resilient Economy

- Road & Bridge faced floods and fires and successfully worked to keep Cottonwood Pass as safe as possible and open during the Glenwood Canyon closures.
- Supported new businesses and jobs by directing over \$143,000 of pass-through federal grant dollars to the Northwest Loan Fund. The fund offers loans to startup businesses in Eagle County and other northwest Colorado communities.



## Eagle County is a High-Performing Organization

- Jeff Shroll, County Manager, received the Colorado County and City Management Association's (CCCMA) County Manager of the Year for 2021.
- Eagle County Government was awarded the 2021 Best Place to Work by the Vail Valley Partnership Success Award program.
- Department of Human Services was awarded the 2021 C-Stat Distinguished Performer Award again - 8 years running. Distinguished performers are counties that met 70% or more of monthly C-Stat goals.
- Eco Transit's front line staff including drivers, supervisors, maintenance and customer service personnel were recognized as "Front Line Heroes" with the 2021 Rural Mobility Champion Award given out to rural transit operators by the National Rural and Intercity Bus Transit Conference.



# FACTORS AFFECTING ECONOMIC CONDITION

The information presented in the financial statements is perhaps best understood when it is considered from the perspective of the environment within which the County operates.

- The average unemployment rate for Eagle County during 2021 was 4.3%, as compared to 9.5% during 2020 and 2.2% during 2019.
- The Eagle County Regional Airport experienced a 38% increase in enplanements in 2021 over 2020. Compared to the pre-COVID era, 2021 enplanements were 6% greater than in 2019.
- Ridership on ECO Transit buses decreased from 719,232 in 2020 to 679,536 in 2021. The continued reduction reflected COVID-19 impacts, capacity restrictions and reduced staffing driven by the shortage of available workers. Service revenue increased 51% in 2021 over 2020 due to waived fares during 2020. Revenue in 2021 decreased by 3% over 2019.
- The economy in Eagle County continues to be driven by the ski industry, real estate, and other tourism-related businesses. Summer recreational activities such as rafting, kayaking, paddle boarding, horseback riding, camping, backpacking, mountain climbing, and mountain biking make a significant contribution to the economy. In addition, fishing and big game hunting for deer and elk are also large contributors.
- Eagle County real estate ended the year with \$4.3 billion in total dollar volume (23% increase over 2020) and the number of transactions increased by 9%. This suggests a greater dollar volume per sales transaction.
- The County is home to premier golf courses designed by Arnold Palmer, Greg Norman, Robert Trent Jones, Jr., and Tom Fazio, among others. Golf rounds played on the County's 16 golf courses decreased 1.8% from 2020 to 2021.



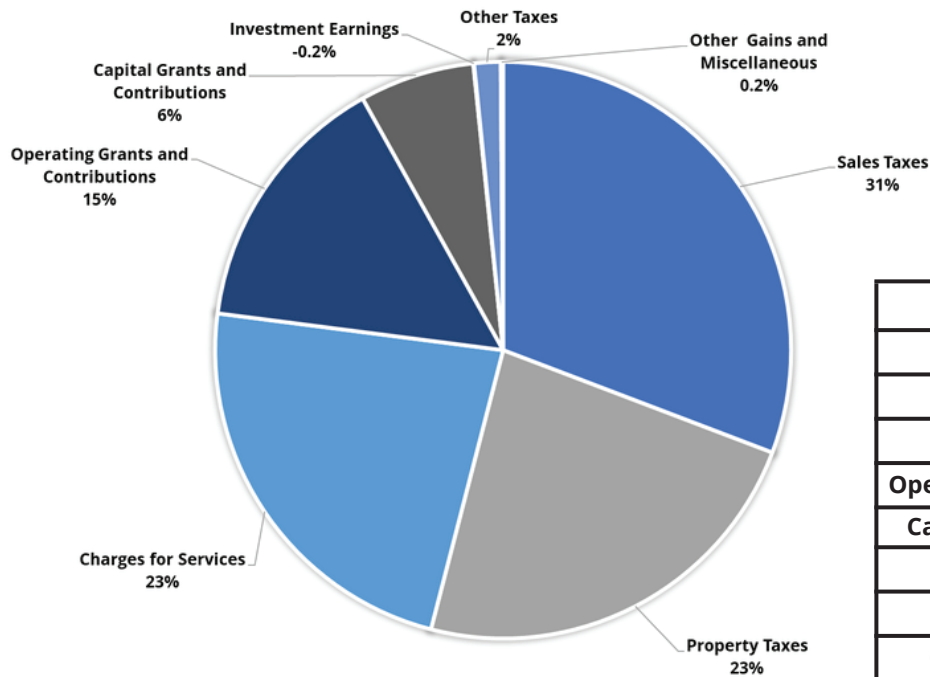
Image by Charles Townsend

- Led by the the Eagle County Housing and Development Authority (ECHDA), several additional County-sponsored affordable housing initiatives continually strive to address the critical need for affordable housing. These programs incorporate several local, state and federal funding sources to provide programs including HUD-subsidized complexes, down payment assistance program, and affordable senior housing. In 2021, as a part of their Bold Housing Moves initiative several new programs were launched with the intent of helping the workforce secure affordable homes - which include buying deed restrictions, enhancements to down payment loans and rental assistance.



## Where the Money Comes From

### 2021 Governmental Revenues by Source



Revenue Source	Amount
Sales Taxes	\$38,221,884
Property Taxes	\$28,873,863
Charges for Services	\$28,566,141
Operating Grants and Contributions	\$18,435,424
Capital Grants and Contributions	\$8,018,418
Investment Earnings*	(\$50,165)
Other Taxes	\$1,843,303
Other Gains & Miscellaneous	\$164,575

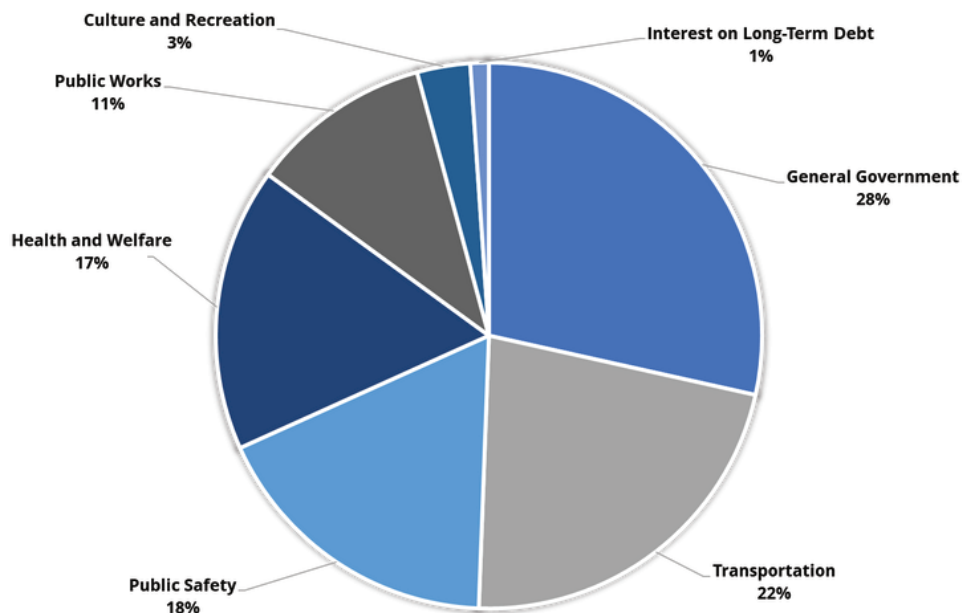
\*Investment earnings decreased due to the decrease in interest rates during 2021.

## Where the Money Goes

### 2021 Governmental Expenses by Function



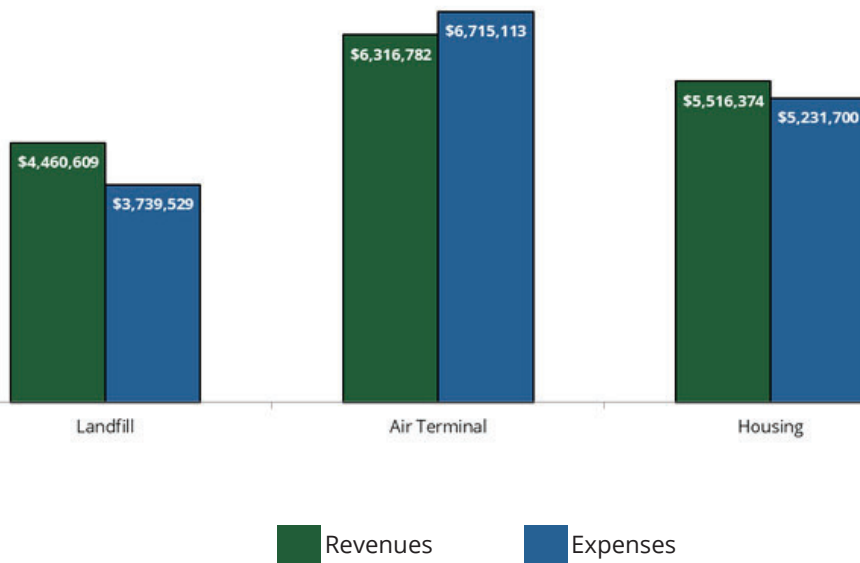
Function	Amount
General Government*	\$29,319,010
Transportation	\$22,750,439
Public Safety	\$18,166,490
Health and Welfare	\$17,271,174
Public Works	\$11,043,047
Culture and Recreation	\$3,237,443
Interest on Long-Term Debt	\$1,125,153



\* General Government includes wages, operating, and program expenses for the County Commissioners, administration, clerk and recorder, attorney, assessor, treasurer, public trustee, finance, human resources, communications, GIS, IT, planning, surveyor, facilities, and project management.

## Business-Type Activities

### 2021 Business-Type Program Revenues and Expenses



Eagle County's Business-type activities for fiscal year 2021 include:

- Landfill service revenues increased by \$946K, or 27%, over 2020 due to charging regular user fees again in 2021 as well as a 12.7% increase in tons processed.
- Eagle County Air Terminal charges for services increased by \$263K, or 5%, over 2020 due to improved concessionaire performance. Passenger facility charges increased \$357K, or 73%, over 2020 due to enjoying a large unanticipated increase in summer flights as an alternate destination while many international flights were canceled.
- Eagle County Housing and Development Authority service revenue increased by \$630K, or 13%, over 2020 as a result of resuming normal rent fees which had been reduced due to the COVID-19 pandemic-related rent concessions.





# NET POSITION

Assets are the combined value of everything the County owns such as land, buildings, and vehicles. Liabilities are the combined value of everything the County owes including bills due, debt payments, and other obligations. The total of all assets less all liabilities is net position.

Net position may serve over time as a useful indicator of a government's financial health. Eagle County's assets and deferred outflows of resources exceeded liabilities and deferred inflows of resources by **\$462 million** as of December 31, 2021. The largest portion of Eagle County's net position of 58.8% (\$272 million) reflects its investment in capital assets such as land, buildings, machinery, equipment, and infrastructure less any outstanding related debt used to acquire those assets. Eagle County uses these capital assets to provide services to citizens, yet these assets are not available for future spending. Restricted net position amounts to 24.1% (\$111 million) subject to external restrictions, while 17.1% (\$79 million) is unrestricted and may be used to meet the government's ongoing obligations to citizens and creditors.

As of December 31, 2021, Eagle County reports **positive** balances in both governmental activities and business-type activities. The County's net position **increased \$22.2 million** during 2021.

## Eagle County's Net Position Total Governmental and Business-Type

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
Total assets	558,368,608	567,804,806	616,285,254
Deferred outflows	995,683	816,004	652,174
	<u>559,364,291</u>	<u>568,620,810</u>	<u>616,937,428</u>
Total liabilities	109,532,942	99,689,422	124,789,804
Deferred inflows	28,843,004	28,882,600	29,924,853
	<u>138,375,946</u>	<u>128,572,022</u>	<u>154,714,657</u>
<b>Net Position:</b>			
Net investment in capital assets	281,430,866	279,713,828	271,717,331
Restricted	57,939,371	68,178,988	111,357,217
Unrestricted	81,618,108	92,155,972	79,148,223
Total Net Position	<u>420,988,345</u>	<u>440,048,788</u>	<u>462,222,771</u>

A full statement of net position can be found in the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report at:  
<https://www.eaglecounty.us/finance/annualfinancialreports>

# MAJOR INITIATIVES & PROGRAMS

In 2021, the Board of County Commissioners continued to focus its attention on its strategic plan of "Creating a better Eagle County for all." Additionally, the Board strives to realize its vision: "Eagle County is made up of thriving communities for families and is home to a vibrant workforce, with personal health and wellness achievable for all. Our natural beauty is preserved through purposeful environmental stewardship. We are an international year-round destination with a diverse, resilient economy." Below are several major programs that were initiated to serve the community:

## Bold Housing Moves

\$5.4M transferred from the General Fund to the Housing Fund to help combat the local housing crisis with assistance programs



## Bridge Grant Program

\$3M funded for economic relief to locally-owned small businesses operating at reduced capacity during COVID



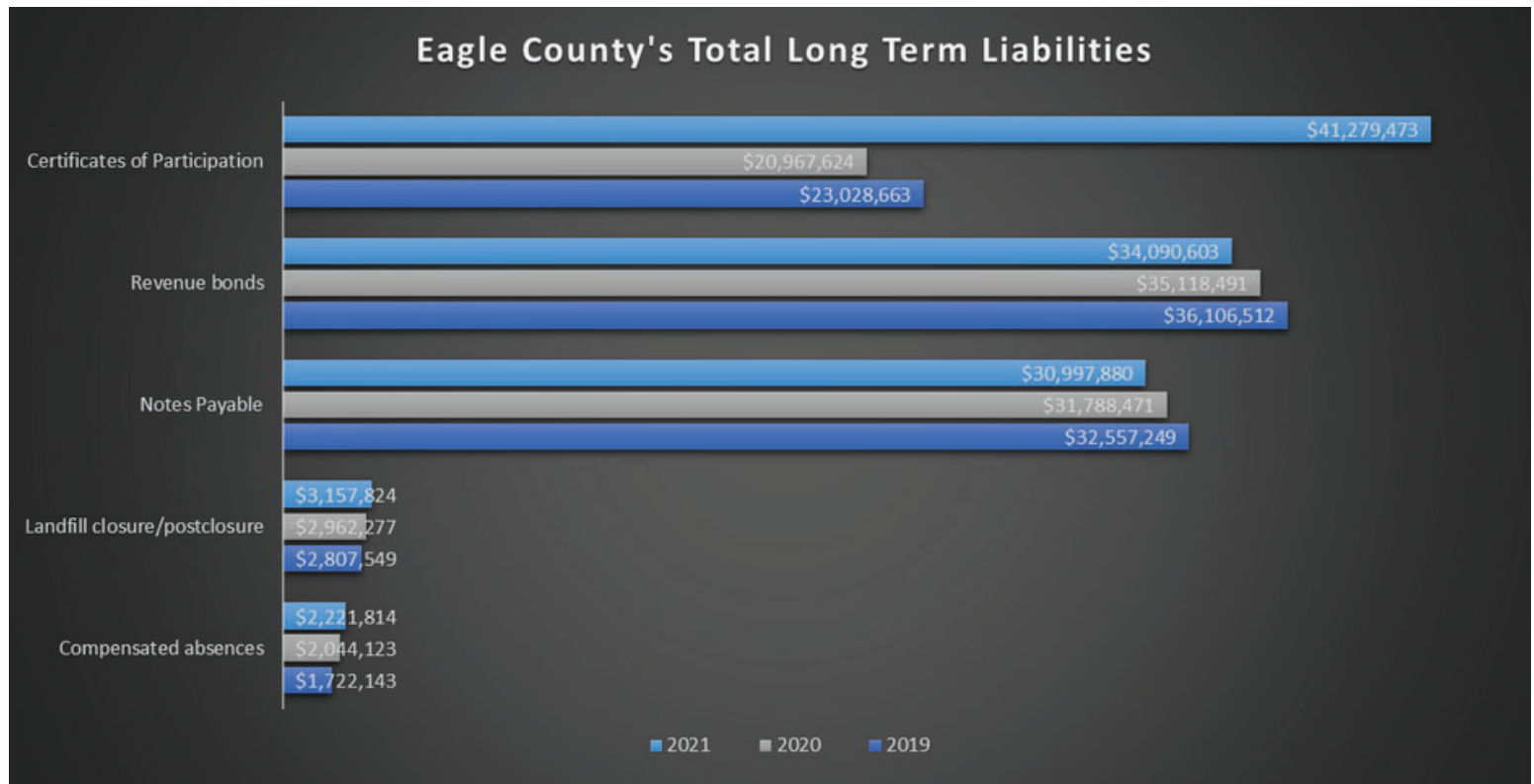
## Certificates of Participation (COP's)

\$18M issued for the Eagle Valley Trail construction to complete projects in Eagle-Vail and Dotsero



## Total Long Term Liabilities

At the end of fiscal year 2021, Eagle County had total long-term liabilities outstanding of \$111.7 million. Of this amount, \$5.4 million comprised compensated absences and landfill closure/post-closure liabilities, which are backed by the full faith and credit of the government. The remainder of Eagle County's liabilities consist of certificates of participation, revenue bonds, and mortgage notes payable. Eagle County has an issuer rating of Aa1 from Moody's. The County had no general obligation debt as of December 31, 2021. Eagle County's long-term total liabilities for fiscal years 2019, 2020, and 2021 are displayed in the graph below.



**REVENUE BONDS** - issued by Eagle County Air Terminal Corporation to finance terminal expansion projects and are repaid solely from the revenue generated by the terminal corporation.

**NOTES PAYABLE** - mortgage notes payable by Lake Creek Village LLC, an affordable housing property. Lake Creek Village financials are rolled into Eagle County Housing and Development Authority financials that are presented in the annual audit. These notes were issued in connection with the acquisition and refurbishment of the housing property and are insured by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The Lake Creek Village mortgage was repaid in whole in connection with the sale of the property in early 2022.

**CERTIFICATES OF PARTICIPATION (COP)** - issued in 2015 through Eagle County Justice Center Financing Corporation to finance the Justice Center renovation. The Justice Center is leased to Eagle County for a period concurrent with the terms of the COPs. In 2019, the County issued COPs to finance the construction of a 22-unit workforce housing project, Two10 at Castle Peak, and are secured by lease revenues. In August 2021, the County issued COPs to finance a portion of the costs of constructing, improving and equipping approximately 12 miles of public trails within the county, including the acquisition of real property in connection with the project.

# GLOSSARY

**Assets:** resources that the government owns that can be utilized in providing services.

**Business-type activities:** activities financed by fees charged to users for services. These fees for services offset expenses.

**Capital assets:** assets with an initial cost of \$10,000 (\$5,000 if purchased with federal funds) and an estimated useful life in excess of one year.

**Capital grants:** government awards given to encourage acquisition of capital assets such as buildings, land, and machinery.

**Certificates of Participation (COPs):** government issued shares utilized to fund improvements or infrastructure projects.

**Charges for services:** a charge or fee collected to help fund services. These may include licenses, permits, fines, applications, or other service charges. Some are state mandated and others are county imposed.

**Compensated absences:** accumulated leave that is expected to be paid to employees, such as vacation.

**Annual Comprehensive Financial Report:** financial statements issued by a government in accordance with the requirements of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. The report is comprised of the introductory, financial, and statistical sections, and describes what was spent by the reporting entity during the past year, as well as the ending state of its assets and liabilities. The report is a summary of all of the annual financial reports of the government.

**Deferred inflows:** an acquisition of net assets by the government that is applicable to a future reporting period.

**Deferred outflows:** a consumption of net assets by the government that is applicable to a future reporting period.

**Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP):** the set of rules that encompass the details, complexities, and legalities of accounting.

**Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA):** founded in 1906, this organization represents public finance officials throughout the United States and Canada.

**Governmental activities:** general government activities financed primarily through taxes, intergovernmental revenues, and other non-exchange revenues.

**Governmental funds:** the general fund, special revenue funds, debt-service funds, and capital projects funds.

**Liabilities:** what the government owes.

**Long-term liabilities:** loans, bonds, and debt obligations that are due over more than one year.

**Net position:** assets minus liabilities. Government net worth.

**Notes payable:** written agreements mostly created and issued for debt arrangements.

**PAFR Prepared by:** Eagle County Finance employees Anna Earl and Helen Gies

**Design:** Desiree Adair, 2020 PAFR Fellowship

This Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) design was a result of the collaboration between PAFR Fellow Desiree Adair and the government of Eagle County in 2020. The PAFR Fellowship was a program developed by the organization Engaging Local Government Leaders (ELGL) and the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) to connect graduate students with local governments to create PAFRs.



**EAGLE COUNTY**

