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Grant lights up job market

Rep. Musgrave presents check

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Jobs are the foundation of the American dream, U.S. Rep. Marilyn Musgrave said Thursday.

She handed over a piece of that dream to the Northern Colorado Economic Development Corp. in the form of a \$25,000 grant check.



Rep. Marilyn Musgrave is encouraged by the Northern Colorado job market.

The money, which came from the Topeka Federal Home Loan Bank, will help pave the way for the creation of 9,175 jobs in Northern Colorado within the next five years, economic development officials said.

The check was presented at the corporation's office suite at 2725 Rocky Mountain Ave.

Andrew Jetter, president and CEO of the bank, said the grant money was slated for economic development in the states the bank serves — Kansas, Colorado, Nebraska and Wyoming. The bank gives 40 such grants in the four-state area every year.

"In the long run, we're all going to benefit from economic growth," he said.

Don Churchwell, CEO of Loveland's Home State Bank and an Economic Development Corp. executive committee member, said, "We're doing exactly what your funds were intended to do."

Corporation officials and Musgrave staffers watched a 10-minute video about the corporation's Leadership 2010 plan while sounds of construction punctuated the relative quiet. The office is near the new Medical Center of the Rockies, which is under construction near Interstate 25 and U.S. 34.

Musgrave said she's encouraged by the group's progress; Leadership 2010 has created or preserved 1,356 primary jobs in Northern Colorado since its inception one year ago. Often, Musgrave said, people expect the government to solve their problems.

"Much of the time, government needs to just get the heck out of the way," she said.

"You made us stronger very quickly; \$25,000 is a huge amount for us," said J.J. Johnston, president and CEO of the corporation.

The group also discussed barriers to economic growth in the region, such as traffic.

Johnston said the corporation will use the money to market the region and bring new jobs into the area.