Spencer J. Cox

Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER
2021-4
Moving Jobs to Rural Utah

WHEREAS, residents of Utah should be able to work where they live;

WHEREAS, Utah enjoys one of the strongest economies in the world, but that economic strength is not enjoyed equally by all areas in Utah;

WHEREAS, our response to the COVID-19 pandemic has encouraged government and businesses to rely more heavily on remote work;

WHEREAS, government and businesses have learned that remote work can be highly productive;

WHEREAS, additional jobs can be performed through remote work;

WHEREAS, employers throughout Utah are searching for talented individuals with a commitment to high quality work;

WHEREAS, talented individuals with a commitment to high quality work reside throughout all of Utah;

WHEREAS, many individuals in rural Utah leave rural Utah because they cannot find adequate employment opportunities, but would prefer to remain in rural Utah and contribute to the success of those communities;

WHEREAS, rural Utah has a history of innovation and entrepreneurship that can be integral in Utah's economic prosperity;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Spencer J. Cox, Governor of the State of Utah, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Utah do hereby order that:

1. As used in this order:
    a. "Agency" means a state executive branch agency, including:
        i. the State Tax Commission;
        ii. the Board of Pardons and Parole;
        iii. a public institution of higher education; and

iv. the Utah Board of Higher Education.

b. "Remote work" means work at a place other than a regularly assigned office location, such as an employee's residence or an alternative location approved by the employee's supervisor.

2. Agencies shall:
   a. develop and implement a plan to actively recruit in rural Utah;
   b. identify jobs, offices, divisions, and functions that can be transferred to an onsite location in rural Utah;
   c. deliver a report to me by July 1, 2021 of the jobs, offices, divisions, and functions that will be transferred to an onsite location in rural Utah; and
   d. as appropriations from the Legislature permit, invest in infrastructure that supports increased remote work opportunities in rural Utah, including:
      i. high-speed broadband deployment; and
      ii. remote and coworking innovation centers.
3. The Utah Board of Higher Education shall develop and implement a plan to provide training opportunities to individuals in rural Utah that will help them compete in the global economy and secure gainful employment while residing in rural Utah.
4. The Department of Workforce Services shall:
   a. expand coordination efforts with private sector partners to support non-government job growth; and
   b. ensure the state's labor exchange system is modernized and responsive to the individualized needs of citizens seeking rural and remote employment opportunities.
5. The Department of Technical Services shall make itself available to consult with local governments and community partners to identify and propose solutions to infrastructure needs in rural Utah that create obstacles to remote work.
6. The Department of Human Resource Management shall assist agencies in complying with Sections (2)(a) and (2)(b) of this Order.

FURTHERMORE, I invite businesses and individuals throughout Utah to assist in these efforts by:

1. expanding recruiting and hiring opportunities in rural Utah;
2. expanding remote work opportunities in rural Utah;
3. investing in infrastructure that supports increased remote work opportunities in rural Utah, including:
   a. high-speed broadband deployment; and
   b. remote and coworking innovation centers; and
4. moving jobs to an onsite location in rural Utah.

This Order is effective January 11, 2021, and shall remain in effect until modified, amended, rescinded, or superseded.

IN WITNESS, WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Utah. Done in Salt Lake City, Utah, on this, the 11th day of January, 2021.

Spencer J. Cox
Governor

ATTEST:

Deidre M. Henderson
Lieutenant Governor