

ENDOW asks Legislature for \$56 million

- [By News Record Staff](#)
- Jan 3, 2018

As part of Gov. Matt Mead's plan to diversify Wyoming's economy, ENDOW has released its first detailed list of recommendations to state lawmakers.

Commercial air service and internet service improvements top the organization's list of improvements the state could make to help diversify the state's economy.

The Economically Needed Diversity Options for Wyoming is asking for more than \$56 million that would likely come from the state's rainy day fund, if approved.

The \$56 million includes \$15 million for expanding commercial air service in Wyoming, \$10.3 million to improve access to broadband internet and \$11 million to establish a research and innovation firm in the state, as well as a startup company to build the state's entrepreneurial platform.

An additional \$20 million would be moved from the state's mineral trust fund into an investment account that would put money back into Wyoming businesses.

Some recommendations that did not request funding included:

- Providing students more opportunity to learn computer science
- Improving higher education attainment and retention of graduates
- Provide resources for workforce training
- Provide preferences to in-state technology contractors
- Allow virtual currency trading in Wyoming

"The recommendations here are primarily focused on reducing existing barriers, which often are a result of our small population and serve to thwart economic growth," ENDOW Chairman Greg Hill wrote in the report.

The report reiterates the importance of the state's workforce.

“Our state has a track record of innovators, community champions and businesses that have overcome unique Wyoming challenges,” Hill wrote. “Our challenge is to better leverage their success through coordination, case studies, mentoring programs and capital incentives.”

It is ENDOW's first official request that attaches money to goals and investments.

The council's final recommendations are due in August.