Introduction
One of our core focus areas is supporting entrepreneurs and small business development in our community. We provide space and support for several small businesses utilizing our repurposed buildings and shop spaces. We actively support the development of social ventures that lead to hiring locally, job training, and advance social and environmental community initiatives as partners and collaborators. Furthermore, we are working to implement unique tourism strategies that create opportunities for visiting the Cuyama Valley while appreciating the rural lifestyle our community holds close to their hearts. We are looking to create an economic development report titled “Made in Cuyama” in order to 1) publish our economic development impact and strategies from 2018 - 2019, and 2) formalize the work accomplished under a USDA Rural Business Development Grant. See examples of our previous published reports on our website [here](#).

Scope of Work
1. Design and production of the 2019 Blue Sky Center Economic Development “Made in Cuyama” Report
   Approximately 4,000 words (10-20 pages); all text and photographs provided by BSC. Graphics, layout, illustration, and production responsibility of Design Consultant. For print and digital distribution.

Qualifications
- Experience in project management, design process, and attention to timelines
- Professional understanding of rural economic development is a plus
- Experience creating organizational reports (nonprofit report experience a plus)
- Lived rural experience and/or appreciation

Submission Requirements
- Statement of interest
- A minimum of three (3) and up to six (6) relevant graphic/product design project examples with relevant details
- Addressing, either through the project examples or the statement, meeting the qualifications
- Submissions are requested in the form of a single PDF not exceeding six (6) letter-sized (8-½” x 11”) pages emailed to RFP@blueskycenter.org.

Remuneration
- $1,000 Designer Stipend, paid as taxable income and reported via IRS Form 1099
- $400 Travel Stipend (if needed), paid as a non-taxable reimbursement; lodging provided
Evaluation Metrics

- Established creative practice
- Quality and relevance of work examples
- Capacity to design, produce, and complete external field reports
- Project management experience
- Informed understanding of rural places, as shown by a history of work and/or personal experience

Timeline

- RFP released: April 24, 2019
- RFP response due: Noon PST on May 24th, by email to RFP@blueskycenter.org
- Interviews of selected short list of candidates: May 28-29
- Selection notification: June 5
- Project complete and deliverables submitted: July 12

Requirement to disclose conflict of interest

Any person/business responding to or evaluating this RFP that has a real, possible, or perceived conflict of interest must disclose the conflict(s) within the response/proposal submission/evaluation process. Any person/business that assisted in the development of this RFP is excluded from responding.

Nondiscrimination statement

Blue Sky Center is committed to provide equal opportunity without regard to race, color, sex, age, disability, religion, national origin, marital status, pregnancy, ancestry, citizenship status, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other basis protected by federal, state, or local law.

About the Cuyama Valley & Blue Sky Center

Blue Sky Center (BSC) is a rural nonprofit located in New Cuyama, California. With a vision to build models for resilient, thriving rural economies, we work to strengthen our communities within the surrounding Cuyama Valley by supporting entrepreneurs and building our regional creative and economic resources. The Cuyama Valley, a 300-square-mile high-desert region, is home to 2,000 residents and lies just north of the Los Padres National Forest and south of the Carrizo Plain National Monument.

Founded as an ARCO company town in 1952, today the townsite of New Cuyama now serves 216 homes and contains the Cuyama Valley High School & Elementary School, the Cuyama Valley Recreation District office, a family resource center, a post office, a small local library, and a number of commercial businesses. Blue Sky Center operates out of renovated industrial and office buildings from the ARCO era. The larger Cuyama Valley is home to a number of agricultural operations, which is the primary industry, along with oil production and ranching.

More information on Blue Sky Center can be found on our website, our 2018 Annual Report, Instagram, and Facebook.