2016 Go Code Colorado

Challenge Statement

What's The Problem Statement?

Create an app and business concept that helps businesses build a competitive strategy.

Business strategy sounds daunting. What if I don't know much about it?

If you aren't familiar with business strategy, don't worry. We've broken it down to help you learn it (and we hope it will help make you a better working professional in your other endeavors as well). One way to think about business strategy is that it answers three questions:

1.   Where will I play?

2.   How will I win?

3.   Is it worth it?

So this is a business challenge. What if I don't know much about business strategy?

Yes. All app and business challenges require participants to learn about an industry or cause. Developers and entrepreneurs, often with no previous experience in that area, must dive into the nuances and people affected in order to make an app that solves a problem.

In fact, challenges are often created for this very purpose: outside perspectives can bring the most innovative solutions.

Health care is a perfect example. Health care tech challenges tap into the tech entrepreneurship community because health care needs more forward-thinking developers and entrepreneurs than they have now. Participants in health care challenges must dive into the industry to understand what health care leaders and decision makers need most in order to create something that solves a problem (and wins the competition).

For Go Code Colorado, participants must understand business—what business strategy is, what makes a business succeed when other business are vying for the same customers, and how businesses go about deciding if they want to create a new product or service or expand into a different market (or if an entrepreneur wants to start a new business in the first place).

How did you get to this problem statement?

In previous years we've tackled more focused elements of running a successful business. Things like site location, supply chain partner matching, and industry benchmarking. But there's always been a common theme among all the problem statements: essentially, businesses are asking us to help them operate more competitively. So this year we've zoomed out to make the challenge more open and broad.

We surveyed thousands of business decision makers and received hundreds of responses on what types of problems they face and how public data can help them make better, more-informed decisions.   Think of it as initial market research.

That sounds like it might be a little *too* broad.

You can address the challenge with a solution that is as broad or as specific as you like. For instance, your app and business concept could just touch upon "Where will I play?" and even focus on a specific sector. Or your app could answer multiple issues raised by many types of business owners. It's up to you.

I'm a developer and I'm used to these challenges just telling me what to build. So, what am I supposed to build?

We don't want to tell you exactly what to build because we want you to tell *us.* We're in the business of gathering and managing data, you're in the business of making meaning of it and we don't want to bridle your creativity.

Now, if you think you're more of a problem solver than a problem definer, then we encourage you to find a teammate or two who can bring that strength to your team. It will definitely help if you have some business expertise on the team as well. After two years of running this challenge, we're amazed by creative solutions that we would have never thought of—and we're looking forward to more of that brilliance from the tech entrepreneurship community as we define the challenge a bit more broadly.

OK. Tell me more.

Let's dive a bit deeper into each strategy question to understand them. We've added quotes and examples—some directly from our survey responses—under each question to help you understand how each one works in the real world.

The examples are illustrative; they are not exhaustive. We always try to give voice to the businesspeople we are trying to help. But don't let the examples limit your creativity. If you have an idea that helps answer the question and make businesses more competitive, run with it.

1.   **Where will I play?**

Where in the competitive landscape does my business compete? Who else is in this space—who are my competitors ? If my business has a physical location where is it best to locate it based on my access to potential customers and employees ?

Several respondents wanted an easier way to research varying sales tax rates across the state, to understand what their final prices would be to consumers.

Echoing a desire from many survey respondents, one business owner asked for "heat mapping based on census data and property tax data to better understand demographics of neighborhoods in terms of socioeconomic potential."

Another business person said recruiting good employees is a problem and asked for a solution that "show[s] areas in the state that have the best schools and most affordable housing," so that she can locate the business nearby.

2. How will I win?

How do I develop a competitive advantage? What can set me apart from the competition? What intelligence is available for me to get an edge?

One business decision maker asked for "the ability to get public data on contracts awarded...to help small businesses get a better understanding of cost for services."

Another, who is challenged to find and keep employees, wants to know "Migration trends of professional workers. Where are they moving, why?

Other respondents asked for a better understanding of potential business partners and suppliers that are nearby.

3. Is it worth it?

What are the costs associated with my line of business so I can forecast profits? Costs include regulatory costs from state or local permitting or licensing, to what businesses pay employees , to the electric bill to keep the lights on.

How can I plan on margins for new lines of business or a new business altogether?

One business owner told us he could use "Streamline[d] permit pricing and requirements for building and mechanical" needs.

Another wants information to help make smarter hiring decisions. "How many people in the state...are freelance technologists?" she asked us.

2016 CDOS and OEDIT Combined survey of Colorado Business Decision Makers

These responses were selected based on their highest level of relevance to Go Code competitors seeking to better understand the problems of business decision makers. Each nw line represents a new response, and each response is answering these two questions:

1. Please describe a business problem or issue that may be solved or addressed with available state...
2. Please describe additional public data that could be provided to make better business decisions.

A comprehensive over view of i-70 traffic and population influx so we can see where during peak and off seasons people are traveling to and staying at. Not sure this is possible but it would be nice.

Mailing to license holders increases enrollment in our offerings.   1. Opt-in email addresses of license holders, in addition to postal addresses. / 2. List employer or self-employed status of massage license holders (there is more of this info for physical therapy license holders). / 3. List address type (home or work) for license holders.

The ability to cross reference permit data. (water well permits and discharge permits) as an example. Universal land ownership information across counties.

Maps, income averages   Utility usages

Most of the public data that we need are environmental and natural resource data that are already avalable.

Where most tech firms are located Density of tech firms ina given area

I don't know   Demographics that are easy to find

Streamline permit pricing and requirements for building and mechanical

heat mapping based on census data and property tax data to better understand demographics of neighborhoods in terms of socioeconomic potential

Better display of pollution data.

Sometimes data is presented in PDF documents that would be easier to access if were in searchable databases, such as birth numbers or different types of birth related data. Child abuse rates, out of home placements, free or reduced lunch rates, etc.

Manufacturing businesses take a special infrastructure to be successful and efficient. The typical data about demographics, crime rates is okay but manufactuers need support businesses to succeed. We need suppliers for machine fabrication, repair and maintenance of equipment, businesses supplying parts, specialty components, service companies, IT support companies, ingredient suppliers for food companies, LTL trucking availability, etc. Business classifications more granular than a standard SIC code. We use Google a lot to query exactly what we need to find a suppier for it. It takes a lot of filtering before find a supplier and many times it would be a local supplier if we just could have found them in the good ol' yellow pages.

Typical amount of visitors to a business per month/per year.   If the business currently receives any special help in the areas of marketing from the government or local entities (Downtown Development)

The ability to get public data on contracts awarded to firm from the City/County/State. This information can help small buinsesses get a better understanding of cost for services.

Im not sure what data available and public. New build home sales within 7 days of closing.

To verify a company good standing To verify if a company is local

business Energy usage

Arts assistance and programs in Colorado that offer grants to the arts and the parameters for those programs. Special programs to provide ticket assistance to assisted living facilities and schools. /   Programs to support arts in non-urban regions of the state...especially mountain regions. Promotional data & resources for mountain and smaller town tourism.

We often have to verify sales tax licenses and use tax information. Sometimes we cannot find the answer online so then we must contact a person from the revenue department.   I would just like the Colorado revenue online site to be more user friendly.

Public licensees of various agriculture products such as Hemp Growers Location contact inoformation

The ability to identify how many residents are employed in our (northern Colorado) construction market. Possibly identify a sub category for specific construction disciplines (in our case earthwork and utility construction)? Economic/ real-estate data? new construction projects coming online? residential, commercial etc.

difficult to find up to date free and reduced lunch statistics for individual schools

energy efficiency information. / Cost of projects completed.

It would be helpful if you could access Department of Revenue motor vehicle records on-line.

Getting the agencies to be on the same system output would be terrific enabling me to download/combine data into spreadsheets. Parks & Wildlife, Dept of Rev, County/City Ethnicity numbers/percentages, Crime Rates per county/city, Education Rates, ...   Agriculture data, specifically around vegetables -- consumption per county, city, region. Also historical data in this world. We build/design/install organic vegetable gardens for customers all over CO. From a planning perspective it would be very useful to see historical buying/consumption patterns of all vegetables. / /

Land ownership and land use. Business organization. Access to recorded documents affecting real estate. Access to county and municipal land use documents.

Being able to access construction data such as starts and new permits pulled by county   More concise information on healthcare and more construction data

demographic data, housing starts geographically, building permit data referencing density increases

Problem: locate general managemnt and quality/reliability management people in Colorado (first) and with Colorado connections (second) who are producer-customer *sets*. For example (in Colorado), a tech-oriented injection molding shop and, say, Medtronic. (Just an example!) Who's the (possible) producer and who's the (possible) customer? These identities may (may not, actually) be available in separate databases, but not easily "matched" due to poor descriptions/codes based on lack of understanding of details of needs, lines of business, technical terminologies etc.

1. Lease owner data documenting all of the owners of oil and gas leases so I can easily contact them about buying or selling their interests. / 2. Technical engineering data associated with completion and construction of oil and gas wells.

Unknown   It would be helpful if there was a site that told us what Building Permits had been issued and who the General Contractor is.

Migration trends of professional workers. Where are they moving, why? Is there a correlation between high speed data access and professional employment trends. My experience tells me it's a huge factor but don't know where to confirm my suspicions. Expected state (or private/public) infrastructure projects in technology, transportation/road improvements in rural areas.

Often it is hard to get data concerning real estate tax trends, price trends, crime rates etc in one place with ease and consistent formats /   We develope and rent commercial and residential properties. It would be fantastic if all government data were available on line

Tourism affects our budget making decisions every year.   Clearer tourism data, like age, income, dollars spent, etc would be helpful.

I have had to wade through IRS data to find info on numbers and types of charities in our state. The available Sec. of State info. on charities/nonprofits could be deeper and wider.   See above.

Nothing comes to mind. We are a CPA firm and the main issue we have is current tax data and the problems with CO Dept. of Revenue being difficult to access.

Grant information as we are non-profit. What available. Who gives what and why.

WHERE ARE REAL ESTATE BUYERS COMING FROM?   CAPTURE BUYER FROM INFORMATION WHEN CLOSING THE TRANSACTION.

How many people in the state of CO are freelance technologists? For example, how many are photographers, web designers, filmmakers, etc.

We are an estate planning law firm, so often need information on ownership of real property, and court filings. We also do a lot of filings with the Secretary of State for business entities. Being able to search state-wide on real property could be a help. Just in our own business, we use notaries, so streamlining that process for our employees renewing their notary licenses would help.

Home Builders are required to hire Structural Engineers for the construction or major remodel of a single family residence (home), but not an architect or MEP Engineers.

The numbers of citizens who are on different types of insurance

Information relating to formation of entities and status   Business information for entities, such as partnerships that is limited or difficult to locate

Accessing pubic data such as recorded plats and other recorded document much like a title company would allows me to provide information to help my clients make development decisions.   Accessing public data online without fees and restrictions on printing would be hugely beneficial. The problem is that county clerks rest on the purchase of data to fund operations.

grants and funding for non-profits, ADA requirements...We do use state information upon further reflection. Trends in grant requests, funding for the arts

internet service to provide sales tax by customer address, and changes from administration - from current zillion-jurisdictions to single, centralized system (with redistribution at appropriate rates to the zillion jurisdictions.) If I knew when restaurants were setting up, and had contact info, that'd be helpful.

Locating sites for commercial development. Population densities in a defined area and by occupation and type of housing in an area.

demographic data on various locales.   Ethnicity, economic status, service needs

Home and commercial inspections Home and commercial inspections

Be able to determine if there is adequate resources for a new venture We are a water conservation district and our clientele need to know how to appropriate the limited water resources in our state for various activities: industry, agriculture, recreation, municipal water use etc..

Saturation of towing companies in our area unsure

I can not think of anything. I am in the mortgage business   access to how borrowers pay their property taxes on their existing properties

Location and ownership of multifamily properties, apartment complexes.   Historic vacancy rates for those properties, utility costs, etc.

Professional licenses

The above issues are not what I look for. I look for graduation rates for students in higher education, which is an issue for our students. They need to graduate within four years for monetary reasons. That data generally is found within each of our public institutions.   Perhaps more information regarding our school systems, though there

is a pretty well informed website on the educational website for the state. But, each school district should provide their graduation rate, how many students attend college, etc. that may be helpful for parents moving into the state with school choice.

rents, economic trends   utilize real estate sales/leasing data from multiple listing service IRES in Northern Colorado

Estimating mortgage debt Virtually all demographic data including household income, education levels, etc.

Determination of Registered Agent for business

Environmental needs, grants and budgets

Where to best look for certain types of projects   New construction of various building types in different areas/zip codes

SIC Codes are no longer useful. Need a coding system that has changed with new business environment - that are more detailed/descriptive

demographics for advertising for clinical trials

Housing starts and employment data are the two main state info, I don't believe there is a timely solution within the states data to solve for in quarter business decisions.   From a local level, planning and permitting data along with primary contact would be very helpful for any new residential or business construction, along with any road or rights of way work - much of this work is high cost, and would be most beneficial if available 6 - 12 months before a project starts.

Assess demographic data to evaluate needs as business grows.   median incomes, population growth

Finding local area markets for a product based on categorized sales tax data.   Slaes trends by product category based on slaes tax data?

New public and private projects upcoming for each city and county along the front range and around Colorado / / / /   Sales taxes for each county and city. It's too hard to get good information from the state website

Permits required for certain types of manufacturing operations, particularly CDPHE permits issued to companies doing similar types of work.

Maybe a way to search state companies by industry type along with contact info.

Information on specific sections of the Denver Metropolitan area as to growth, real estate information, age demographics.

In edtech, it is extremely difficult to find contacts at the school and district level for k-12. A consistent source of information that remains up to date would be incredibly useful. Teachers, coaches/specialists, and administrators at all levels.

Projecting how the construction industry may look each year. For example, how many homes are expected to e built.   Information to assist construction businesses with ways to locate labor, since the market is so tight.

The number of cars registered of certain makes and general location of vehicles (per county). This information would be very beneficial to me because my business is very specific. This information is sold to second party then to third (me).

avail good standing report

I Sometimes depend on government data for market pricing in the United States   Data reporting imported raw material meat products for further processing into Colorado

Public records could have current info on inspections, changes made to properties from the county inspectors/permits.   Same as above

Verifying the existence of businesses owned by mortgage clients through the secretary of state website.

Local township or city census data to help small businesses determine their market potentials

We don't need more gov. / You didn't even list recreation on types of businesses in this survey. / Recreation is one of the largest industries in Colorado. / Stop expanding gov. Please.

targeted marketing   demography data

too much government involvement. takes up too much of a small business' time   why would you have a Colorado business survey that didn't include tourism? Hello....

Example - how many food trucks operate in Mesa County? I called the Health Dept to see if food truck licenses were posted someshere. They are not, and I could get only an estimate of the total, and no idea of types of food served by each.   I'd like to see all state and county licenses for various business operations in a database. For the food truck example, how many focus on ice cream, how many on BBQ, etc. If I want to host a food truck in my retail parking lot, what are the options. If I want to start a food truck business, what foods are already being served, etc.

Demographics are always helpful. Information on the age of homes and there permit status would help too.

Knowing the Utilities service area of people who wish to use the business would be helpful to understanding which rebate programs folks are in.   Demographic information on which neighborhoods are experiencing the highest rates of growth or turnover in ownership. Additionally, which neighborhoods have higher percentage of renters than others.

Having a state data base on line of businesses, their type of business, and contact information for use in marketing. How many employees they have

land ownership records   trends in landownership

Locating legal descriptions of real estate based on street address.   Combined database of local county property listings databases.

Pay rate structures for various positions within companies based on company size and niche.

I manage a storage facility. We have property that we can expand our site to, or we can develop it for something else. Public data such as demographic information and tax revenues can help us decide in which direction we should move.   I think quicker access to changing trends would be immensely useful. The influx of people in and out of Colorado is huge, and knowing more about where people are moving to and leaving from would be very helpful.

HOA contacts   HOA contacts

Business Licenses - permits

Population counts, traveler counts, area average earnings are all data we use to estimate the feasibility of a business and if it is going to be successful.   Family data helps us know what to buy for resale. Fishing data helps us know where to go fishing and send tourists. Zip Code info. provides us with where we need to market or expand marketing efforts.

Event planning by location.   Traffic volumes and trends. Plans and schedules for public roads projects -- widening, changing, extending, trails, green-ways, etc.. Household income averages by areas and township. Tax rates by area.

the information i didn't find was how much percent to charged taxes online store

New home data, before they start developing or breaking ground.   Contact names of the companies doing the construction.

replacement cost for homes from county web sites, insurance complaint ratios uninsured motorist stats, average auto prices, health insurance costs by procedure, building costs per square foot by zip,

We may consider reviewing data such as the number of people moving into Colorado compared to moving out to budget future years equipment needs. Construction starts both residential and non-residential compared to previous years would also help.

Child abuse rates - is it a good thing and reflects excellent reporting or is it a bad thing showing our region has more child abuse than other areas of the state? What do the rates really mean?

Checking for business names already in use.

Public data on average sales prices of homes in a geographic area for specific periods of time.

Neighborhood population counts and auto drive-by counts at a specific location

Health care costs, medical billing,access to the All Payer Claims Data Base.   Statistics from HCPF regarding health status of the Medicaid populations.

We use the states website for two items, UCC filings and checking business status   Yes, Ucc section could be enhanced to be more productive. For example, If a lien is terminated, eliminate it from the search options. only show current information.

How many patents or copy rights are issued each year?   Retail sales figures for all "Art Merchants."

I am a commercial real estate broker and it would be great to have access to contact information of commercial property owners.

            Demographics of disabled adults (18 and over) and elderly over 60 years of age by County would be very helpful information

Real Estate Sales Statistics are always helpful.   Real Estate Sales Statistics and Information concerning new businesses coming to the area or leaving the area are the most helpful to my business.

Seasonal tourism traffic Demographics of visitors

We have a tourist business and in our town we have a Colorado national monument just behind us and out of all guest 80% guest don't know about it. So we need more advertising about Colorado and it's natural beauty like UT state does.   ??

            List of all non-profits based in Colorado but working international.

Punitive use tax in Boulder County should be compared with other counties for clarity. Probably would have impacted our business decision to locate here.   Colorado SOS is a good resource and easy to use.

Rental rates are quite high for small spaces. Parking is always a concern.

Problem: Recruiting good people. Solution: show areas in the state that have the best schools and most affordable housing. It would be up to me to locate my business within 30 minute drive time of those hot spots. Problem: I worry about infrastructure failing. If power/internet/gas goes out we lose $100 a minute. Solution: Show me a map of the reliability of power/internet/gas across the state. Problem: Getting businesses to use less power. Solution: Publicly post the electrical and gas usage for every building location. It would do wonders for energy reduction. 1) Perhaps school district borders. 2) I am a fan of public data. Please release everything you can and we will find creative ways of applying them.

Number of people with disabilities, age of population, residential setting where people live if not at home

Consolidate permitting requirement. Diminish paperwork. MAKE THE ENTERPRISE ZONE credits easier to get. Dont require PRE-certification.   tourist traffic economic stats and local community economic stats

No   Availability of state grants as we are a non-profit

Yes. Crime and arrest stats from the CBI were very helpful.   Motor vehicle and driver license stats are hard if not impossible to collect from the Revenue department.

I can not think of one   I think a Colorado Company Directory of goods and services around the state would be helpful especially for advanced manufacturing companies to find local suppliers. This could be accomplished by adding a section to the Annual filings with SOS each company makes that would describe their business. Just a thought.

The state could make a database available so that we can search for businesses in our area that could have an interest in supporting us could be located and contacted. We would also like to look at a list of nonprofits in our local area so that we could look at opportunities to partner on projects.   No, I don't think so.

Urban expansion plans for infrastructure planning. Expected growth rates of each city for personnel planning. Convenience store retail sales figures. Marijuana sales trends by zip code. A better system is needed for the licensing and registration of semi-trucks and trailers in CO. It is currently very labor intensive and time consuming.

Local city public transportation Location of Government Facilities in comparison to public populations in need not sure

Determining business trends that appear to be headed in the wrong direction.   Benchmarks from other comparable businesses, such as what is mentioned above..

We would love better access to accurate demographics regarding the developmentally disabled community and the need for services. Better and more public transportation   see above

It might be helpful to see how many new small businesses are started, but then fail within the first three years. I would like to see how many small businesses fail within the first three years and the cause(s) of the failure. I find that most new business owners have no idea how to capitalize and run a new business. They are shocked when I explain to them what they need to do to be successful and profitable. They have no clue!

Having business rental owner be ADA compliant such as accessible wheel chair ramps and parking   no

Transportation infrastructure   All Tax data

Quality of housing, traffic, and out of control expenses are problems.

Talent availability - demographics of available specially trained/educated employee pool would be valuable. Support business availability - demographics of specialty support businesses would be valuable.

perhaps a business that is not in good standing?   criminal activity or arrests

Denver 16th Street Mall Revitalization - Crazy crime & rampant homelessness in Denver Central Business District, Civic Center Park, etc. - So how to make it safer/more attractive to residents & visitors. Does data support homelessness being worse? Do we have data that shows what works? Using 16th Street Mall revitalization data above - what are trends in retail sales across stores by types on the mall - increasing or decreasing? why? Impact of theft if any on retail retention on mall? i.e. are crimes changing over time/in location

Require all contractors regardless of type of business, a license to work in Colorado. Florida has this law and it helps to protect all contractors and sub-contractors from non-payments when services are rendered and protects homeowners from fraud. Not sure.

Comparison of our business to one in another successful city. Any or most economic trends....Employment costs Cost of living, Close recreational areas (in the grand Valley, there are many close and many a short distance away.

Funding available for small business owners, ex: investors wanting to invest in our state businesses.
Statistics regarding population, people moving in or out of the state. Register voter information.

Conflicting and sometimes lack of licensing of non professionals and some professionals by cities, counties and the state. This causes business to liable for errors and omissions of these others when problems arise and is an impediment to success.   We could use a easily obtained listing of all businesses by county and city within specific classifications such as professions or related activities.

Traffic information has been valuable to describe changes to our demographics. Although the number living here has grown more slowly, traffic through our county has increased dramatically.   customer percentages: local resident purchases vs. pass-through traffic vs. online- by sector. Many local businesses focus on pass through, but do not recognize the sustainability available by recognizing and investing in other customers.

What is wage data and benefit data --info to compare similarly situated organizations   there may be data on benefits and wages about which I am unaware

Cost of renting is to high property owners monopolizing ownership, Insider knowledge of available sites not made public

Poor communication of the real energy needs of state and where it comes from. The state looks at the oil & gas industry as bad   better describe the true benefits of the new technologies for extraction of oil &m gas and do not bow to the uninformed or biased few who want to shut down commerce yet still have their cars!

All College and University enrollment, drop-rate,, and graduation data by major field of study.   Area's business income and employment data

We always use available percentages for different Health and Human Service problems/opportunities.   Most data is at least 2 years old, sometimes 3 or more. I know it is very difficult to provide really current data but it really is important to realistic figures.

1. A good oil and gas company and oil and gas services company directory

Better/easier online access to records of the Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, State Land Office, Bureau of Land Management

        Paid and unpaid caregiver statistics for Colorado by location (e.g., zipcode).

More amateur friendly planning/zoing/permits/regulations government division.   Questions to ask and protocol to follow when applying for permits and new construction projects.

Demographics of Medicaid recipients vs resources available in their area.   Police policies when dealing with people with a disability - hidden or obvious.

Increasing number of people moving to area has created a dangerous situation on I-25 off ramp going into Wellington. The infrastructure does not accommodate the traffic coming off I-25, causing major backups onto the right travel lanes at that exit. Foes CDOT have any plans to expand that off ramp to safely handle the increasing traffic and eliminate the overflow back on to I-25?   unknown

Need better APIs to agregate data for business registrations, closures and standings. My buisness would lije to track domain name registrations of colorado based companies to determine growth of various sectors especially with mobile services. Csv from Ftp and emails are very 1980.   How many electronic communications are sent and received from/to businesses about business standings, by type-- especially delinquent notices, and by sector as recognized by fed gov. Even better to have a mobile api for such data

Market expansion.   1. Years in business 2. Number of employees 3. Main location of business 4. Contact name and number/email address

Unused funding that could be made available to nonprofit organizations   demographics on families with children who have a parent diagnosed with/living with cancer

Improve alternative transportation

Health insurance for small businesses is a complete disaster and is likely to put people out of business!!!!! Industry numbers for hunting, fishing, restaurant, outdoor rec.

I have nneve thought about this.   Same as above.

Colorado is running mining out of CO and will raise power rates with ineffective investment in wind and solar.

I don't believe I have such an issue.

More forward-looking data

Possibly statistics gathered by various agencies

can't think of any

employee pay, benefits, etc comparison

Do not Know   Do not know

na   na

The department of revenue requires all taxpayers that receive an oil/gas royalty to file a severance tax form. It costs money for people to generate, process and record these tax forms. The state does not have enough people to administer the tax system properly du to budgetary constraints. Why not set a level, say $100. If you have less than $100 in revenues from oil/gas royalty or have less than $100 severance tax then you are not required to file the severance tax form. Many people are penalized up to $1000 because they think that their oil/gas royalty is deminis, and do not file the tax forms, only to be hit by a large penalty for not filing a trivial severance tax form. Lets change the tax code to be smarter, and save money to be spent on really meaningful revenue issues.

na   na

Public safety including a natural disaster plan and better information about safe travel on our state roads. Any information to do with public saftey on our roads. Keep the public better informed with information about roads and statistics on deaths or injurys on our state highways.

Since I am an individual potter, I do not believe there would be much to help me. Thanks for asking.

My company plans high school reunions on a professional basis. If I had access to public school graduation and other demographic data, I could target specific schools and alumni whose profile most closely meet my business needs.

Which public agencies contract for emergency water supply by truck.

Better summation of local energy code adoption (IECC, etc).

I can't think of any that would affect our business.

I don't need that kinda info   I have no need

none comes to mind

Linking to student home district and where they attend

?

Easy Access

cost of public health insurance vs. private health insurance.   Comparative and actual all-in costs of health procedures.

Amount of money State spends on Microsoft and VMware software.   Who is responsible for managing the Microsoft and VMware contracts.

City codes and procedures. An outline to follow or checklist. They change constantly

Business opportunities that companies have won.

na   na

Can't think of anything

N/A   N/A

Can't think of anything

Any changes, data, laws for the Aviation field, and FAA decisions

None. / I repair computersNone. / I repair computers

our govener & president ,,, paperwork pushing, money grabbing ass holes// lets let in some more welfare people thats would be swell . the 30th of Nov was my last day in bussiness after 23 years / lets have another qe 18 letting free markets take care of them selves makes no sence, huh   truth

Next   Next

don't know

I don't know of anything

Not knowing the competetion   Sales averages by types of business

Wage Surveys   Wage surveys mor often

Many times it takes too many clicks to get the information you are searching for them it loops you back into the page you started. None that I can think of at this moment. /

Proper information regarding phone numbers, address both mailing and physical along with website info

I am an Indedpendent Educational Consultant working with families world wide assisting them with wise educational placement. While some students wish to come to Colorado for their higher education or private or public education, probably right now, the most important data for students (more for parents perhaps)wishing to come to Colorado, i for education is the data on student usage or lack thereof when discussing the legalization of marijuana. That seems to be number one on their minds. For me, I don't think about it. I have no numbers to show them. I suppose, it is too early in the process to discuss it with them.   Colorado is very appealing to students and families when choosing universities or making a major move. We know how much sunshine there is annually, we know about the great outdoors, etc. We need to have better information regarding schools, and perhaps a push to open more schools and bring in more teachers and take a good hard look at their pay scale in order to keep them in the profession longer.

N/A

none   none

Unknown - Not sure if this applies to us.   Unknown - Not sure if this applies to us.

I am sorry I do not have any suggestions to address this issue as I am a non-profit animal rescue.

Basic decision making about what the market is for a product and its pricing.   Combined and comprehensive data on population, consumption, and education.

info on new laws that cost companies to comply, and just how we comply before it hits us.

Specific software expertise   I don't know. If companies purchase or upgrade their IT systems, specificall ITSM, can they find out that we are a local Colorado company that provides assistance and training?

We are a mailing services business. We work with address and marketing data provided to us by our clients or procured by us on behalf of our clients and per their specifications.

Make info easier to acquire instead of having to jump through hoops to g to where u want to go

None   Not sure I can think of any at the moment

i have a hard time finding employees willing to work responsibly despite pay scale, where are they

Understanding companies in Colorado (kind of like Hoovers)- the size (revenue and employees), location, industry, etc. This would help with product and service sales.   Nothing other that I can think of.

TAXATION. GOVERNMENTAL REGULATION. LICENSURE

n/a   n/a

.   .

determining which shipping agent/customs broker to use in state for shipments from overseas

Unknown   unknown

I do not know.

Drivers license data being made available to a third party vendor to assist in searching and being a part of a larger data set.

None   None

Where can I find a concentration of qualified or near-qualified employees? What opportunities excess outside of my current geographic market, with regard to where to expand our operation? Traffic patterns, construction patterns (residential and commercial, i.e., census tract-level scrap offs or remodels, types of business expanding into specific neighborhoods).

Test   Test

No use for public data

Vetting companies and individuals

Marketing info

T   T

health statistics and costs

unknown

Not sure of any business problem

Exempt small businesses with 1 employee from Jury Duty.   Don't know.

Not sure Not sure

Can't think of any. I am a very small 1 person business.

none   none

Need to increase sales, government business   not sure

employing responsible and dedicated people - gvt data will not provide assistance with this particular problem.

access to state and fed forms

What profit margins are my competitors operating with   Just easier to access

Adresses of business in a 100 mile radius of 80504

Owner id   Address

I can't think of any.

I'm not sure- we never considered this before but we may in the future. I suppose census data has been helpful. But that is not provided by the state, correct?   Perhaps how people make purchasing decisions. What people read. Whether or not people pay to subscribe to magazines or newspapers for information. And, what their demographics are.

unsolicited phone calls to the owner by name for sales calls. information supplied by mass data bases by gov. Only individual records should be released.

we are a museum, none of this pertains to what we do

.   .

Deciding to move an office

I have no ideas on this   Not sure

I don't know

free online people search

As a company whose revenue is driven by sales, it would be helpful to know how many employees a company has.

none for me   none

NA

none   none

number or percent of businessed that advertise on TV, Radio, Internet, print, etc.

Better Internet and telephone access to various agencies

None I can think of   Same

Phone coverage at my business does not allow cell phone for business use due to no reception. There is a telephone company tower only one mile down the road but for some reason the problem persists. There are many small businesses such as counselors, massage therapists etc in my building having this problem. We have to pay for landlines to get reliable services.

I run an investment fund that is currently in the process of suspending operations and giving money back to my investors. I doubt there is any state government data that would change my plans.

Don't really know any problem now.

not applicable   not applicable

I don't have any questions. /   I have no input.

Wages/other compensation   M

I don't use any state data

Having never used or been made aware of what "government data" is available that "solve or address a business problem", It might be helpful to have a summarized listing of what is, in fact, available ... either by pamphlet or on the internet.

Public transit solutions for hwy.82.

Getting relevant information to the people in our area.   New people to the area on a monthly basis.

None that I am aware of at this time   None

salary information

Registered electors

labor and workforce housing data

Unknown   Unknown

This does not apply to my business This does not apply to my business

potential future population growth due to government over-regulation   political affiliation of parties involved in decision making

?   ?

never used it

none known

Finding information on government sites

Personally being able to identify people without having to pay a fee for something that is only needed for a one time use purpose

None known at this time   None known at this time

water restrictions

unknown

////////////////////////////   ///////////////////////////

Don't know   No suggestions

Can't think of any

Development of new health care services, community needs assessments, projections for services in the future.

None   None

We may need to have access to verify swimmers DOB.

N/A

Info about grant giving organizations

unsure   unsure

I don't know

All information pertaining to local businesses in one data file.

We do not understand the formula for the quasi-governmental firm Pinnacol. It is not a transparent entity. In an attempt to find another workers' comp company, the only link I could find on a state site is through coworkforce.com. Unfortunately, the link is dead, and it may have been dead for nearly 6 years. The page says the last update was 1/5/10. / http://www.coworkforce.com/DWC/FAQs/EmployerFAQs.asp Why are you partnering with CU to compete with McKinsey, Buxton, and many other business analytic companies? Couldn't you partner with these companies to provide them data while using their private sector data to better run the state government? I bet these "big data" companies personally know and network with programmers and designers more than state bureaucrats.

No idea no idea

none that I am aware.   na

New Location or additional locations for expantion.   Single source for all public data, listed by catagory.

We make available to the public any available state government data received. n/a

state government seems clunky and behind the times   issues i have had with the state have not been addressed appropriately. the state, like the feds, communicate in unclear ways and are untimely.

I don't know

Sorry, I don't have any idea on this.

xx

More snail mail   none

Have never really needed any government data

Complaints.   Educate the publics and business owners. But the same time the publics will take advantage of business owner when they can.

Have none

I can't think of one   Same as above

Not needed for my business   not appicable

unsure   unsure

Don't know of any.

Reporting appraisal management companies and having someone police them. Monthly news updates.

Na   Na

How many homes with pets in them in certain zipcodes

Insurance has become an unacceptable expense

State agencies don't share data.   Accurate information.

na   Faster accessibility to updated Medicaid Fee Schedules

i have no ideas here   or here

One common building code

n/a   n/a

Not really relevant to my business - my customers rarely local

?   ?

None   None

don't know   none

We are in the moving industry, are biggest challenge is finding qualify CDL licensed / over the road drivers, and the hours of operations imposed by the federal / government will continue to cripple our nation's trucking industry in

the future! / /   The Federal Safety Administrations need to brainstorm idea's / to consider the future of our Nation's trucking industry for future generations, and the effects it will have on jobs and lost revenue. / /

marketing

NONE THAT I CAN THINK OF   NONE THAT I CAN THINK OF

Profit and various sizes of companies in Colorado

N/A

Not sure Not Sure

No problems

Perhaps demographic data could be useful in developing new programs.

Not relevant to my business

The ability to easily find cross state departmental data on human service issues, would allow consultants who work with state agencies to better document client overlap, most pressing issues in terms of lives and costs. Presenting a compleing case could lead to improved collaboration across state agencies and make financial efficiencies as well as being able to draw in grants and other funding to support domestic improvement issues.

It's easier for me to talk to a person than to do things on line.

Currently having a problem with data being compiled (revalidation) for medical providers in the Colorado Medicaid system. / The contractor in charge of revalidation is inept and there is no efficient way to communicate data to the contractor that insures the validity of that data.

a   a

N/A   N/A

A small business dealing with excessive regulation and subjected to the 'fairy tale' that corporatism is a good or possibly the best idea.

Occasionally need public data for research   -

Understanding a client's criminal history would facilitate informed interactions.

Not applicable   None

Not sure, we are a very small construction business, it is nice to be able file online

population, development and salary range statistics could help identify target marketing. / Legal temporary labor

workmens compensation rates are way to high for small business

not sure yet   not sure yet

Teaching first responders about mental and physical health and resilience, it would be very useful to access suicide, line of duty death, and other statistics for fire/law/EMS agencies in the state.   Not sure. Haven't explored what's available yet.

not applicable   not applicable

My only business problem is the inability to find affordable health insurance as an individual in the state of Colorado. I make too much to qualify for tax credits, but not enough to afford the $740/month premium (with $6500 deductible).

I don't know of anything.....

minimum wage issues such as how increases are calculated

cant think of any n/a

Cannot think of any, unless there is info about dealing with the regulations.   none

?   ?

We're not a business, but a social advocacy center for people of diverse genders and sexualities. If you collected that demographic information, we would be interested in using to for needs assessments of different populations.

This is a sales office only. The company is located in NJ. There are no plans to move the company to CO. No business problem is defined.

Don't know really.

at this time, cannot think of any.   better data on different competitors in our business.

none   none

don't know   don't know

I want to know how many women are in business in Colorado, and what those business industries and annual revenues are. We have an opportunity to make Colorado the most diverse economic State in the country is all women have access to opportunities to innovate and build their own companies.   It would be greets to have a hub of Colorado's overall economy -- the industries, the companies in those industries and more. That way entrepreneurs and innovators can see the gaps and we can continue to innovate and launch exceptional startups in those gaps.

collection of past-due homeowner fees   bankruptcy filing records

Water rights held by cities Water rights held by cities

subsidies and loans for micro enterprises.

???   ???

Data could be accurate and updated in real time

Having a link that could allow moving to new filings without starting at beginning.   None

health care expense

.   .

don't know of any

none   None

We use the Prescription Drug Monitoring program to help us in identifying patients who may be seeking narcotics for recreational use rather than therapeutic needs.   Easier access to changes in the Dental Practice Act, i.e., in addition to being able to download the entire regulation it would be helpful to be able to see a summary of the changes that have been made to ensure that we will remain in compliance with regulations specific to our licensure. It would also be helpful to be notified when the legislature is considering changes to the practice act in order that we might be able to provide input into the process - whether directly to the legislature or to the Colorado Dental Board.

salary norms	none

Can't really think of any	None

taxes or corp dues	? Not really sure.

Workers compensation (Pinnacol) is out of control. High cost for office based business is unjustified.	all

Data we need is not currently collected to my knowledge   Search & Rescue missions currently "open" at any point in time. Would require input at county level so is very unlikely to be a viable suggestion.

Impact of TABOR on business development

There is lack of corporate support in boulder to non profits   Yes. Incentives to corporation to ebgage in phillanteopoc giving

no   All public data - i'm a journalist!

We're just perking along and doing just fine. Thanks! No, thank you.

n/a   n/a

I really like the new online nonprofit seminars. They are excellent!   not that I know of.

Our business is dependent on the coal mining and electrical generating industry. We sold equipment and replacement parts / repair items to these two industries. That business has gone away.   Yes - shop destroying the coal mine industry and in turn the electrical power plants in America.

Please so something about the City giving money tio their friends and telling people I am a "hate group" for reporting on them.   no

stop promoting people just because they have been with the Department for the longest. Reward excellence not mediocrity.

It would be nice to see types of professional development used by various businesses.

No   Injury/casualty data

no   I don't know

Not at this time.   None that I can determine at this time.

Integrity/Honesty. I have a peer/CEO of a local small business I deal with that I have come to find out has cheated on his wife with a coworker. That is not a man I wish to do business with. We need a higher standard & accountability when it comes to leadership. (Not that this can be addressed with data.)   I find people of faith make better employees. I would like to see numbers on the religious in Colorado. How many go to church? How many on a regular basis? How many donate to their church? How many volunteer their time to a charity?

The local government is often reluctant to support new businesses, especially in an area previously dependent on coal or natural gas extraction. Data is the one thing that convinces them to be more open to creative and innovative entrepreneurs. The numbers speak volumes and are powerful.   Tracking data is vital to provide proof of positive change in a community's business activity and success. Without the ability to track such change, business and government decisions are made slowly. Updated and current data is also vital.

State has archaic contracting   Access to state level data is cumbersome

The data available through the CO SOS web site is great. It makes filing documents for new and existing businesses a snap.   Online access to electronic copies of documents filed with each county's clerk & recorder's offices would be a HUGE step in the right direction!

overly expensive regulation by the State of Colorado n/a

No   I would like to know what hourly wage information is available for comparison purposes.

Less regulations!

no

Easy access to public data and where it can be found.

None

I don't know if this fits but when I was laid off I decided to concentrate fully on my business. I was told I could not have unemployment unless I was applying for jobs. Now, realistically, I am a 60 year old with health concerns. My company consults on safety. While most companies would not even consider hiring me as an employee many will and have hired me as a consultant. Why is it that to help me support myself I was not able to receive unemployment benefits to help me establish my business? Seems to me there is a gap of coverage for those in my situation.

Nothing comes to mind. We need to get rid of TABOR, but that is not public data related.

Regulators, after 2008 crash created many more expensive hurdles for our "temporary" structures, requiring wet stamps for each customer which raised the price and problems. Never before, even though we started in 1989. Being an alternative energy business with a round structure, we are still now supported often by local codes. There is not enough attention to making alternative choices feasible.

I think it should be a choice, if it is not damaging.   Same as above

No

Absence of small business advocacy, and support across all areas of government for small businesses and start-up companies, against Big Box corporations that don't care about local employment, the impact of small-business loan failures on local banks and credit unions. State data about the importance of small businesses must be made clear to voters.   Retail sales figures and employment data on the importance of small businesses and start-up enterprises to the health and vitality of this state. Cheap prices at Walmart mean higher local unemployment and higher local loan foreclosure rates, plus a small-business exit from an inhospitable business climate. The governor should not have to intervene to protect small business in the state. Legislators and Big Box corporations need to be taught that 'by the people' does not mean 'buy the people' with phony 'citizen initiative' ballots.

Don't know   Don't know

I wonder if I can find out about other disability peer support service providers. That never seems to be a category.

lack of medical providers and excellence in education are problems in our community and that deter businesses from relocating here.   Private school data in rural areas could help as well as opportunities or programs to bring new physicians to rural areas.

No   Yes

High cost of health care for small businesses

Red tape, restriction, and taxes are extremely excessive.   Show data that has lower red tape, restrictions and taxes.

We are a Homeowners Association. Most of your questions didn't apply to us. However, I think your Customer Service people are all very talented and need a raise.

Unemployment insurance. Our premium is always estimated too high.

Undocumented immigrants

Since we deal mostly with NASA and the DoD, we don't do much with the public other than outreach to school kids.

Let all other stake holders both governmental and private business organizations encourage small business in Colorado like you do . In some business organizations like land lords or lessors should be fair enough when they want to lease their premises for tenants. In fact, the employees are the one who play the role other than the owners of the properties while leasing the premises and stores.

so far none.

N/A   N/A

IRS issues - dealing with wait times on the phone when a question arises.

Two numerous to mention,   No!

Nope

manfuacturing has been growing here but more importantly SEWING skilled labor , there is a need. still contemplating job opportunities here for fashion industry. ALOT of start up companies, not alot with working capital. risky.   keep seraching for the influx of newcomers. demographics etc each year.... helping our retail or do we need to change merchandise mix for younger crowd.?

Good question, nothing as of today!   A continual information on our high areas of low income resident (I mean below AMI) and resources to meet the needs of preventive "homelessness"?

No   If it is public information, it should be accessible through the Internet.

Better support and incentives for health and wellness servicesNo sure

N/A   Yes:personal ID,Vehicle Registration Number

Need to know how to expand.   Who has a business model of expanded services?

Not sure about this. My business is pretty small. The hardest thing for me is to keep informed of new regulations as they come along to make sure we are in compliance. No, nothing the government produces other than demographics is really useful to me.

No

When we're planning events, we try not to overlap with other business-related events. It would be helpful if there were a database of receptions,   Not that I can think of that's not already provided.

none   none, resent my vehicle registration is sold to vendors

Workmans comp is high for a small business.   I don't know if that pertains to our small business.

Not at this time.   N/A

no   no

No

No   No

We needed to register for a sales tax license. Fairly straight forward process. We shall see as we submit taxes collected how the system works.

No   No

Small businesses always need to be supported with the Government loans to be expanded.   N/A

access to financial data for analysis, aggregation, etc.

I have no idea what data you have. your econ dev people never interact with us biz owners   have no idea what resources are available.

please bring back postcard notification for periodic reports. If there are email problems, then I don't receive notifications. Now I'm delinquent!

None   Poverty Data for Brighton & Adams County

No   No

If self-employed and have no employees, why pay into unemployment? I have no opportunity to ever collect anything so why pay in?

Cannot think of any at this time.

Government is not usually the best one to solve a problem.   Do a better job of promoting companies that are here. Example HP

I like the property records we have nothing I can think of

no   no

none   none

Access to business account numbers for clients that do not keep their documentation. (Such as sales tax number and state unemployment number.) No

It would be better if you sent more than one reminder when it's time to file annual report. It sucks when it turns midnight on the day the report is due and you get a notice that you're non-compliant and will be penalized $50. An e-mail before the clock turns would be helpful.   No. public data is available from public and private sources

N/A   N/A

No   Don't know

Not at this time but it would be nice to have an online forum to discuss issues when they arise during the course of business.   Not at this time but it would be nice to have an online forum to discuss issues when they arise during the course of business.

We are a non-profit, so it is not too difficult, but I find that Denver makes it difficult (and expensive) to start a for-profit business

No   By Industry Sales Averages

no   no

No   No

Wage disparity in different industries.