

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF CLACKAMAS COUNTY, STATE OF OREGON**

In the Matter of

Economic Recovery in Clackamas
County Post-Pandemic

Resolution No. 2021-54

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WHEREAS, since March 4, 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has severely impacted Clackamas County residents and businesses with unprecedented interruptions in all aspects of our daily life; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic, in conjunction with emergency measures from the Governor's Office and the Oregon Health Authority, have closed schools and day cares, shuttered restaurants and bars, and imposed social distancing requirements that made office work environment virtually untenable; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused massive unemployment resulting in those once gainfully employed to experience financial distress, often resulting in an inability to pay rent, maintain mortgage payments, and meet basic needs; and

WHEREAS, Clackamas County has lost 32% of its licensed childcare programs during the pandemic, further limiting the ability of workers to return to the workplace; and

WHEREAS, at the height of the pandemic, the number of workers in Clackamas County's labor force fell by nearly 11,000; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has taken the lives of over 2,750 Oregonians and caused the hospitalization of 11,640 more, which has stressed our community's health care facilities and health care workers; and

WHEREAS, receiving the COVID-19 vaccine is free and encouraged for good public health, and taking the vaccine is a choice; and

WHEREAS, many Oregonians may experience barriers to vaccinations because of racial, economic or geographic disparities, or because of vaccine hesitancy; and

WHEREAS, Clackamas County has developed an equity plan addressing known community barriers so everyone has access to the vaccine; and

WHEREAS, businesses requiring vaccines could be a barrier to employment, especially for marginalized communities, the immunocompromised, and those who claim religious exemptions; and

WHEREAS, business impacts have included lost revenue as well as accumulated costs specific to pandemic response; and

WHEREAS, workforce shortages are making it challenging for businesses to hire staff, further impeding recovery; and

WHEREAS, in response, Clackamas County has provided assistance to businesses, including creating the Who's Open website to encourage connectivity between businesses and

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customers; providing complimentary PPE; funding grants to small businesses, including childcare providers; temporarily waiving rules to support physical distancing; and providing funds to create a small business legal clinic and six Business Recovery Centers across the County; and

WHEREAS, Clackamas County did not receive direct federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act dollars and did not receive equal amount of CARES support from the State, which impeded Clackamas County's ability to support businesses at the level of neighboring jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, businesses are still struggling and needs continue to exceed available aid; and

WHEREAS, businesses are integral to the well-being and economic security of our communities and the State of Oregon.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS that:

1. The Board of County Commissioners recognizes the need to position not only Clackamas County, but the state, as an attractive and competitive place for businesses to thrive;
2. State government is encouraged to open daycares, schools, camps, recreational activities and other outlets to full capacity to allow our children to engage with each other and provide working parents the alternatives they need to return to the workforce and on-site employment;
3. State government is encouraged to employ other available resources to return our workforce to gainful employment through training and development to meet the changing business circumstances post COVID-19;
4. The Board of Commissioners resolves to continue exploration of Federal and State funds to use in efforts to support business recovery and community resilience;
5. The Board of Commissioners supports the development of business resilience recovery planning in partnership with the State and other local governments to help businesses succeed, which should include strategies for assisting business recovery such as financial assistance, grant programs, childcare option expansion, workforce development, and other tools.

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6. The Board of Commissioners calls on the State to dedicate additional funds and resources to support the development and implementation of a plan as described above to ensure a positive future and forward direction for our businesses and community members.

DATED this 1 day of July 2021.

CLACKAMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Chair

Recording Secretary