



BUSINESS & COMMUNITY SERVICES

150 BEAVERCREEK ROAD
OREGON CITY, OR 97045
WWW.CLACKAMAS.US/BCS

July 15, 2021

To: Gary Schmidt, County Administrator
From: Sarah Eckman, BCS Interim Director

RE: Request to put Business Recovery Assistance discussion item on July 20, 2021 Administrator’s Issues

Dear Administrator Schmidt:

Summary: I respectfully request that a Business Recovery Assistance discussion item be added to the July 20, 2021 Administrator’s Issues agenda. The purpose of the item is to brief the Board of County Commissioners on how Business and Community Services (BCS) proposes to spend \$2.7 Million in State CARES dollars (via the Oregon Department of Administrative Services) to support COVID-19 business recovery, and ask for Board approval of the concept so that staff can move forward with dollar disbursement.

Background: Clackamas County received \$2,700,986.76 in CARES dollars from the State of Oregon to support businesses who incurred costs due to the COVID-19 pandemic and multiple changes in risk levels. The \$2.7M is the Clackamas County portion of the \$20M the Governor committed to distribute statewide after the April 30, 2021 change to extreme risk level.

The Business Recovery Centers, due to legal requirements, are unable to enter into agreement with the County to facilitate an assistance program.

Staff recommends the following use of the \$2.7M:

Utility Bill Relief Program	(up to) \$300,000
Legal Services for Businesses	(up to) \$10,000
Fund unfunded grant applications	\$2,255,986
Administrative Costs	\$135,000

The utility relief program will pay for business utility accounts that are in arrears with PGE and NW Natural. We are also attempting to coordinate with Canby Utility. Legal Services will be provided through the Lewis & Clark College Small Business Legal Clinic. The bulk of the dollars are proposed to pass through Micro Enterprise Services of Oregon (MESO) to fund grant applications that were unfunded on our last grant round. We anticipate being able to fund 300, \$7,500 awards with these dollars.

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