

Clackamas County Commissioners' Listening Session
March 31, 2020
Summary Q&A

Topic: Local Business & Economic Development

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During the coronavirus pandemic, Clackamas County Commissioners are hosting digital listening sessions with the public in order to hear about community concerns with coronavirus impacts, centered on a given topic. The following is a summary of questions raised during the March 31, 2020 session, with answers (as of April 6, the date of this document's posting).

Q: Looking ahead, what strategies can local partners (cities, county, chambers, etc.) implement individually and together to help businesses get back on their feet?

- The county and local partners will continue to serve as facilitators of information and resources that are rapidly being deployed by the federal, state and local governments. This information can be shared widely through website updates and Public Information Officers. The county and local partners will also be working collaboratively to share resources and coordinate efforts in the provision of services. Businesses can find the Clackamas County updates at: <https://www.clackamas.us/coronavirus/business>

Q: How can small businesses learn more about the loans being offered? Is the loan worth the risk? Will they be forgivable?

- Businesses can learn more about the loans from the Small Business Administration at <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance>
- As we learn of other loan programs, we will be posting this information on the county website.
- Analysis on the risk is best determined by the business owner. Counseling assistance is available from the Clackamas Small Business Development Center and they can be reached via their website at: <https://bizcenter.org/centers/clackamas-sbdc/>

Q: How will small businesses re-start when all this is over?

- Businesses will re-start their operations based on guidelines that will be released from federal, state and local officials.

Q: Is the county considering a grants program for business assistance? Could the county facilitate the acceptance of private donations and then administer a grant program?

- Clackamas County Business and Community Services' Economic Development is developing a plan for how we can leverage our limited funding to help our businesses and workforce connect with the resources they need. We are researching ways for us to partner with stakeholders who have a strong presence in our community and can work with us to implement programs that can support our business and workforce community so they can emerge from the COVID-19 crisis strengthened by the support we've provided.

Q: Is there a program available to help with personal expenses due to the closure of a business?

- The Paycheck Protection Program prioritizes millions of Americans employed by small businesses by authorizing up to \$349 billion toward job retention and certain other expenses. Small businesses and eligible nonprofit organizations, Veterans organizations, and Tribal businesses described in the Small Business Act, as well as individuals who are self-employed or are independent contractors, are eligible if they also meet program size standards. Visit the website for details at: <https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/top-priorities/cares-act/assistance-for-small-businesses>

Q: How is the county ensuring that its processes that support development (i.e., permitting, plan reviews) are still continuing and working in a timely, efficient way?

- Transportation and Development has designed a system to facilitate submittal of most, if not all, development-related applications digitally. This will allow our citizens and members of our development community the opportunity to submit any new development proposal from land use to commercial/industrial permitting starting Monday, April 6. Here is a link to take you to the online portal: <https://clackamasnewstg2.prod.acquia-sites.com/transportation/online-development-services>

Q: How soon will businesses see relief funding?

- Unfortunately, that is not a question we can answer at this time as a specific date has not been provided. However, please know that we are tracking this question and will share information with the public as it becomes available.

Q: Is the county considering creative ways to piggyback on the support being offered by the state and federal governments to fill gaps for those who may not qualify for traditional relief funding?

- We are continuing to monitor actions being taken by the state and federal governments to address the COVID-19 pandemic, and are coordinating closely with state and federal officials regarding additional needed relief measures. The federal government's recently passed CARES Act is expected to bring significant, critically-needed financial resources to Oregon to help address this ongoing public health crisis. As the state gains a better understanding of the federal stimulus, we anticipate additional action will be taken at the state and/or local levels.

Q: Is there consideration being given to delay the new minimum wage increase in July?

- State law regulates the issue of minimum wage in Oregon. For questions or comments on this topic, please [contact your state legislators](#).

Q: Is there a way to mitigate the impacts to unemployment insurance rates?

- State law regulates the issue of unemployment insurance in Oregon. For questions or comments on this topic, please [contact your state legislators](#).