



**BUSINESS & COMMUNITY SERVICES**

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

July 15, 2021

To: Gary Schmidt, County Administrator; Nancy Bush, Chief Operating Officer  
From: Sarah Eckman, BCS Interim Director

RE: Request to put Business Recovery Assistance discussion item on December 7, 2021 Administrator's Issues

Dear Administrator Schmidt:

**Summary:** I respectfully request that a Business Recovery Assistance discussion item be added to the December 7, 2021 Administrator's Issues agenda. The purpose of the item is to provide an update to the Board of County Commissioners on how Business and Community Services (BCS) has been able to commit \$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 a revised 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 that 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.

In July, BCS came to the Board at Administrator's Issues to propose the following use of funds:

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	<u>\$135,000</u>
	\$2,700,986

Due to not being able to reach a final agreement with utility providers for the utility bill relief program, and there being fewer and fewer utility accounts in arrears, BCS is not able to use the \$300,000 planned for a utility relief program for those purposes. BCS proposes that we redirect all remaining funds to Micro Enterprise Services of Oregon (MESO) to fund more unfunded grant applications. The funding source for these dollars expires on December 31, 2021, and funding more grants allows us to fully expend any remaining dollars in the remaining short amount of time.

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