



DOUGLAS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Douglas County Courthouse, Room 217
1036 SE Douglas Avenue, Roseburg, Oregon 97470

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 31, 2020

Commissioners Continue to Make Local Businesses a Top Priority

(Douglas County, Ore.) The Douglas County Board of Commissioners are thrilled to announce that they have awarded and distributed the \$1,470,000 in grant funds from the Douglas County COVID-19 Business Grant Program to one hundred and three (103) small local businesses. The 1.47 million in grant funds were part of the Federal CARES Act Coronavirus Business Relief Fund that the State finally passed through to the individual counties for disbursement in mid-November this year in order to support small Douglas County businesses who were detrimentally impacted by COVID-19.

Because the funding we received from the State from the Federal CARES Act fell short of covering the relief applications we received from our local businesses, Commissioners decided to allocate an additional \$350,000 to provide COVID relief grant dollars to twenty-two (22) more deserving businesses. Additionally, the Commissioners chose to pay the cost of the fees charged by CCD for administration separately rather than withdraw funds from the grant, so 100% of this funding went directly to our local businesses. The portal for the grant application process opened on Friday, December 4, 2020, closed on Friday, December 11, 2020 and the last of the checks were mailed on Wednesday, December 30, 2020.

Additionally, the Commissioners are pleased to announce that they have completed another business grant program, initiated by them to help local businesses that are required to have an environmental health license with the county in order to operate. The Commissioners allocated up to \$350,000 in county grant funding and offered an opportunity for those businesses to apply and receive a \$500 grant, as a refund for the cost of their 2020 health license. Plus, the Commissioners have decided to waive the 2021 environmental health licensing fees, and have refunded or applied payment to 2022 licensing for those businesses that already paid for their 2021 licenses.

“Since the beginning of the pandemic, the Douglas County Board of Commissioners have made protecting our local businesses a top priority. We have worked hard to help keep our business communities as healthy as we can, despite the State’s mandates. We have provided daily updates with accurate information and links to available assistance programs, all while encouraging our citizens and businesses to stay healthy by managing their personal and business health during COVID. Having the ability to distribute and then add to the available relief funds for our local businesses, who are in dire need, is one of the many ways your Board of Commissioners are helping. I want to personally thank my fellow Commissioners for going above and beyond the call of duty this year to support our local businesses. We are very aware that many of our local businesses have been tremendously impacted by COVID, and we are thankful that we have the ability to bring desperately needed financial relief to them,” stated Commissioner Chris Boice.

After hearing the news in November of the funding coming our way, the Commissioners swiftly contracted with Coos Curry Douglas (CCD) Business Development Corporation to facilitate and administer the grant funds for the much needed relief program. **Douglas County was one of the first counties, if not the first in Oregon to get our business relief program launched, executed and checks mailed.** The Federal CARES Act grant dollars were divided up amongst the 36 Oregon counties, and each county is responsible for establishing a local application process and allocation program. CCD Business Development Corporation is a private nonprofit Oregon corporation which was formed in 1971. CCD enjoys a national reputation as one of the leading economic development organizations in the United States and is the federally recognized Economic Development District for Coos, Curry and Douglas counties.

CCD Assistant Director, Bryan Sykes added, *“We were very impressed with how quickly the Douglas County Commissioners got the ball rolling for these grants (the first to do so), for their diligence in making sure the program helped as many local businesses as possible, and for graciously adding additional grant dollars to the program to make sure that as many qualifying applicants as possible received some funding.”*

If and when any new business funding, loan or grant opportunities become available, we will make sure to get the information out to our local business community as soon as possible. In the meantime, businesses can sign up for our Douglas County e-Newsletter ([click here to subscribe](#)) or email us at dcinfo@co.douglas.or.us to be added to our business email list.

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