

Chapter 4

VIDEO LOTTERY ALLOCATION POLICY

4.100 Purpose. The Video Lottery Allocation policy reaffirms the philosophy that video lottery receipts must be applied to programs and activities

which support economic development in Lane County. Video lottery revenue is received from the State of Oregon as a transfer from the Oregon State Lottery Fund. The Oregon State Lottery Fund is governed by Oregon Constitution, Article XV Section 4. This policy defines economic development activities for Lane County and provides guidance for strategic allocation of video lottery funds to economic development programs and activities. This policy reaffirmation is the basis for all video lottery allocation decisions. The intent of the policies is to encourage partnerships between the County, communities within the county and other parties directly involved in activities, which meet one or more of the four development categories defined below for Lane County citizens.

4.105 Definition of Economic Development. Economic development is a program, a group of policies, and/or activity that seeks to improve the

economic well being and quality of life for a community. Ideally, it will create and retain jobs and provide a stable tax base. In order to create an effective program that works to improve the local economy, the County will consider any one or all of the following categories of development, based on the geography, economy, and policies of local jurisdictions including unincorporated areas:

(1) Organizational Capacity Development. Develop capacity to address the economic development needs of the community. Enhance the ability to develop strategies, raise funds, and work in a more efficient manner with partners (e.g., committees, commissioners and forums).

(2) Community Development. Investments to include but not be limited to infrastructure, downtown areas, gateways, business parks, speculative buildings and/or public/private partnership opportunities.

(3) Business Development. Programs that encourage business growth and investment such as business attraction, retention and expansion, tourism, and start-up and emerging businesses.

(4) Workforce Development. Partnerships between business, education and government that build the skills of the local workforce.

4.110 Allocation. Within the above definition, the revenues derived from the State's 2.5% video lottery distribution shall be allocated between two economic development categories. Through the annual budget process, the Board shall appropriate a maximum of 50% of the annual receipts to general allocation programs and the remainder (50% minimum) of the annual receipts for economic development strategic investment projects. All (100%) of unspent monies from previous years shall be appropriated for economic development strategic investment projects.

(1) Category 1 - General Allocation for Economic Development Program. Up to half (50%) of the County's annual receipts from video lottery revenue shall be allocated to the Category of General Allocation Economic Development Program. The purpose of the General Allocation is to pay for ongoing County programs and services which meet the adopted definition of economic development. The rationale is that citizens, tourists, employees and potential business owners shall benefit from a stable economic base, prepared and ready workforce, nurturing atmosphere for business growth and investment and consistent and knowledgeable development staff. Guidelines for the General Allocation for Economic Development Program shall be:

(a) The cost of administering the video lottery receipts shall be paid with video lottery funds from the General Allocation category.

(b) A working capital reserve for General Allocation programs may be maintained.

(c) The County may continue to participate in forums for exchanging ideas and addressing the economic development needs of the County.

(d) The County may contract with other agencies for the purpose of community/county promotion, marketing/recruitment, and other economic development support services, the sole purpose of which is to build capacity over time and increase and/or stabilize the economy of the County and its citizens.

(e) The County may maintain or hire County staff internally or contract with other agencies to provide economic development support services to the county and/or communities within the county.

(2) Category 2 - Economic Development Strategic Investment Program. The County shall establish the "Economic Development Strategic Investment Program." The purpose of this category is to assist communities to pro-actively leverage video lottery dollars through public-private partnerships that will make a measurable difference in the economic growth and stability of Lane County. This program shall be capitalized annually with a minimum of 50% of the new video lottery revenue received each year from the Oregon State Lottery Commission's transfer to counties for economic development activities. In addition, all revenue unspent in previous years will be added to this category. General guidelines for this category shall be:

(a) Any activity or project supported by this program must demonstrably and directly increase the chance of making a measurable difference to the economy of Lane County and its citizens.

(b) Projects are expected to have some financial support other than video lottery money.

(c) Allocations toward projects or facilities identified in a recognized capital improvement plan (e.g., the County, community within the county or economic development organization's capital improvement plan) shall receive priority consideration.

(d) Projects that require multi-year commitments may be funded.

(e) Allocations shall be made by the Board upon the advice of the Economic Development Standing Committee, after review and comment by the Lane Economic Committee.

(f) No obligation shall exist to recommend an annual expenditure from this category. Projects should only be recommended for funding if they substantially meet the general guidelines and can demonstrate a direct impact on economic development of the community. Some or all of the funds may be carried over in any year for larger allocations in a later year.

(g) The cost of administering the Economic Development Strategic Investment program shall be paid with video lottery funds from the economic development strategic investment category.