



Agenda Item Number

8.

Letter of Support for Lane County Economic Development Administration Recompete Program

Date: September 28, 2023

Presenter: Brenda Wilson

Subject: Letter of Support for Recompete Program

Action Recommended: Approve Letter of Support

Background:

On September 11, 2023, the Lane Economic Committee voted unanimously to recommend the Lane Council of Governments Board of Directors send a letter of support for Lane County's proposal to the Economic Development Administration's (EDA) Recompete Program. This grant application is due October 3, 2023.

The Distressed Area Recompete Pilot Program (Recompete Program) aims to alleviate persistent economic distress and support long-term, comprehensive economic development and job creation in places with a high prime-age (25 to 54 years) employment gap. In Lane County, that includes Dunes City, Florence, Veneta, Lowell, Westfir, and Oakridge as well as Mapleton.

There are two Separate Phases (1) Planning and 2) Implementation). The EDA will run this competitive grant in two phases through two separate Notices of Funding Opportunity (NOFOs). In the Phase 1 NOFO, the EDA will fund Strategy Development Grants and will approve Recompete Plans for certain regions. Applicants in the Phase 1 NOFO must choose whether they are pursuing a Strategy Development Grant, approval of a Recompete

Plan, or both. Lane County is proposing pursuit of Phase 1 funds for Strategy Development.

These grants are \$250,000 - \$500,000 and the EDA anticipates approximately \$6,000,000 to \$12,000,000 being awarded in Phase 1. Under the Phase 2 NOFO, the EDA will award Implementation funding. No match is required for Phase 1, but match will be an evaluation criteria in Phase 2.

Strategy Development Grants may fund the following types of activities:

- (1) Coordination and execution of an inclusive, locally-defined planning process, across jurisdictions and agencies, to develop a comprehensive regional strategy to address high prime-age employment gaps in the regions (i.e., a PAEG strategy);
- (2) Identification and fostering of regional partnerships for developing and implementing a comprehensive regional PAEG strategy;
- (3) Implementation or updating of assessments to determine regional needs and capabilities;
- (4) Development or updating of goals and strategies to implement an existing comprehensive regional PAEG strategy;
- (5) Identification or implementation of planning, local zoning, and other changes to code, law, or policy necessary to implement a comprehensive regional PAEG strategy;
- (6) Development of plans for promoting broad-based economic growth in a region;
- (7) Hiring of the coalition's RPC to lead the overall effort and other necessary staff;
- (8) Formation of a workforce development strategy, according to the needs for a skilled and diverse technical workforce aligned with the region's strengths;
- (9) Activities necessary to prepare for strategy implementation, which may include workforce development strategies, environmental, and engineering documentation, if applicable.

This project furthers the Cascades West Economic Development District's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CED) Workforce Support priority. All of our communities are struggling to provide quality, accessible childcare, career connected learning across our K-12 system, affordable housing, and person/family centered healthcare. Each of these strands affect our high prime-age (25 to 54 years) employment gap.

How these gaps are best addressed depends on the character, needs and unique resources of each community.

Proposed action: Approve Submission of Letter of Support for Lane County's proposal to the Economic Development Administration's Recompete Program.

Attachment : Letter of Support