



December 14, 2021

Economic Development Administration  
US Department of Commerce  
EDA Good Jobs Challenge Grant Administrator

Dear EDA Good Jobs Challenge Grant Administrator,

The Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) is pleased to support Lane Workforce Partnership's (LWP) Good Jobs Challenge Grant proposal on behalf of community and industry partners in Lane County, Oregon. The proposed project aligns closely with the Cascade West Economic Development District's 2020-2025 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).

LWP's proposal supports Priority Areas 1- Regional Collaboration and Partnerships, Area 2- Sector Diversification through Business Development, 4- Workforce Support, and 5- Rural Vitality.

Area 1 - Regional Collaboration and Partnerships is advanced through stakeholder groups working to form the Regional Workforce Training System as well as the formation of nine industry sector partnerships.

Area 2 – Sector Diversification through Business Development is advanced through the development and implementation of entrepreneurial training and support for the Bioscience and Creatives industries.

Area 4 – Workforce Support is advanced via activities increasing access to and providing a range of employment opportunities as well as development and alignment of training programs to meet specific industry partner needs for a talented workforce. This project's goal to map cross-sector career pathways aligns with increasing access to high-growth, high-wage jobs in Lane County. The project also includes a component to increase housing to reduce the number of unhoused in Lane County.

Area 5 – Rural Vitality is supported through the "World Class Industries" campaign as well as a specific emphasis on Lane County's rural communities through our targeted outreach plan.

LCOG is committed to partnering and working closely with stakeholders to successfully implement the CEDS. Lane County has a long history of collaboration and under the Good Jobs Challenge Grant partners are committed to continuing efforts to realize our collective and aligned goals.

LCOG strongly encourages the EDA to award funds to Lane Workforce Partnership's proposal. The result of this project will be unprecedented economic and wage growth for Lane County.

Sincerely,

Mary Walston, Board Chair  
Lane Council of Governments