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GEODC To Distribute Small Business Relief Funding ***Business Oregon Program Targets Operations Missed in Cares Act***

PENDLETON, Ore. – The Greater Eastern Oregon Development Corporation (GEODC) has been awarded \$370,000 from Business Oregon to support small businesses in its seven-county region.

Business Oregon approved \$5 million statewide in the second round of grants through the Emergency Business Assistance Grant Fund to help businesses that have been impacted by COVID-19 but have not received federal CARES Act funding.

The program is for businesses with fewer than 25 employees and encourages providing access to sole proprietors and historically disadvantaged business owners.

County	Allocation (Max)
Gilliam	\$7,500
Grant	\$25,000
Harney	\$25,000
Malheur	\$75,000
Morrow	\$30,000
Umatilla	\$200,000
Wheeler	\$7,500
Total	\$370,000

Businesses may use the proceeds for any business-related operating expense, including the cost of reopening while abiding by state guidance.

“We are pleased to be able to coordinate with our community partners and support small businesses as they work through the reopening process,” said GEODC Executive Director Susan Christensen. “These grant funds from Business Oregon will support women, minority, disadvantaged, and sole proprietor businesses as they make their comeback.”

“Many businesses have been hit hard by COVID-19, and the Small Business Relief Fund was funded by the State’s Emergency Board and administered by Business Oregon to assist the most vulnerable, giving businesses support needed to come back from it,” said Ryan DeGrofft, Business Oregon Regional Development Officer for Umatilla, Morrow, Gilliam and Wheeler counties. “By focusing on the businesses that did not receive CARES Act or other federal funding, we hope to provide an equitable road to recovery.”

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Greater Eastern Oregon Development Corporation is a regional economic development non-profit sanctioned by the Department of Commerce to support job creation and economic growth by assisting to create, retain, and expand businesses. GEODC teams with local government to develop human and physical infrastructure to support these businesses and the communities they serve. We offer a variety of lending and grant-writing programs to assist with land/building acquisition, new construction, equipment/machinery, fixtures, inventory, supplies, and working capital.