



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

DATE: March 30, 2020

CONTACT: Christine Jarski, (541) 962-1307; cjarski@cityoflagrande.org

La Grande, OR – With the passage of the CARES act on Friday, March 29, 2020 several new federal resources became available to small businesses and employees who have been negatively impacted by COVID-19. The vast amount of information can be confusing and leave you with many questions.

Before you start applying, investigate the resources that are available and make a plan of the resources that will be best for you and your business. Also, check with your lenders and property owners to see if they are offering forbearance or rent/lease relief options.



The Oregon Economic Development Association (OEDA) website oeda.biz, has [Assistance for Businesses impacted by COVID-19](#) with information regarding Federal, State and some local resources that are available. The [Small Business Owners Guide to the CARES Act](#) on the OEDA website provides an overview of the federal programs that were passed on March 29, 2020.

Qualifying, small Businesses, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, 501(c)(19) veterans organizations, and tribal businesses, are eligible to apply for the Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program. The OEDA website also contains information to industry specific resources such as the [Restaurant Employee Relief Fund](#) or [Assistance for Freelancers or Gig Workers](#). The website also includes information for those in agriculture, the tourism industry, construction or child care industries. Additionally, there are templates for landlords/property owners who are interested in offering rent relief. Many private companies are also offering assistance to small businesses. Links to these programs are also at oeda.biz.



You can contact the local Small Business Development Center for assistance with Small Business Administration related applications. Their email address is: EOUSBDC@gmail.com or you can call (541) 962-1532. Demand for assistance is high, so please be patient.

The IRS.gov website has many resources for individuals, small business as well as not-for-profit organizations. According to information provided by Oregon's Congressional Delegation, Refundable tax credits are available for private-sector employers that are required to offer coronavirus related paid leave to employees. IRS will be posting information soon on these credits on its website (www.irs.gov), including information on how to obtain advance payment of these credits. Additionally, an employee retention tax credit is available for struggling businesses that are not eligible or choose not to participate in the new SBA Paycheck Protection Program. Refundable tax credits are available for independent contractors who would have qualified for coronavirus related paid leave if they were employees. IRS will be posting information soon on these credits on its website (www.irs.gov), including information on how to claim these credits.



Additionally, the OED Website includes links to state assistance and resources through [Business Oregon](#). The [Oregon Employment Department](#) has information regarding expanded unemployment benefits. Work Share provides an alternative for employers and workers who may be facing the prospect of a lay off situation. Visit their website at: [Work Share Oregon](#).

[Business Oregon](#) at www.Oregon4biz.com also has resources available to assist small businesses. They offer a variety of webinars to help business get through this difficult period topics include:

Webinars and Virtual Sessions

- [Outdoor industry webinar](#), March 31
- [Register for "Create Your New Financial Forecast Scenario for SBA Loans"](#), free webinar, April 1, 2020
- [Oregon Manufacturing Extension Partnership](#)—series of free webinars on a variety of topics designed to provide constructive information to manufacturers about successfully managing their businesses now and in the future
- [RAIN Oregon](#) free weekly entrepreneur support meetings; Fridays at 9:00 am on Zoom

Locally, the Eastern Oregon Workforce Board is offering grants available to business for [Grants for Layoff Aversion](#). They have already awarded \$23,000 to nine businesses in eastern Oregon. The next application due date is April 1, 2020.

The Ignite Entrepreneurial Center in La Grande, in collaboration with The Foundry Collective is offering “Let’s Keep Connected” crowd casts. If you’re a small business owner, entrepreneur, service provider or someone who just wants to connect, join us on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11:30 am. [Let's Keep Connected](#) or visit foundrycollective.org.



Your local team of economic developers is working hard to gather information and get this out to you as quickly as possible. We are using the Union County Chamber of Commerce as a collector of all information. Here is the link to their website: [Union County Chamber of Commerce COVID-19 Updates](#). Additionally, La Grande Main Street Downtown is also posting information on [La Grande Main Street Facebook](#) showing which restaurants and retailers in the downtown are doing business and their specific offerings.

In order to continue to get resources for our local businesses, we are trying collect information locally and across Oregon about the impacts of COVID-19 on your business. Please fill out one of these surveys to help us coordinate efforts: [Travel Oregon Survey](#) or Eastern Oregon Visitors Association [EOVA Business Challenges](#).

There is a network of local economic development resources. Please contact us if you need help.

EOU Small Business Development Center

(541) 962-1532

eousbdc@gmail.com



City of La Grande Economic Development

(541) 962-1307

ciarski@cityoflagrande.org



(541)-963-8588

Info@visitunioncounty.org



Northeast Oregon Economic Development District

CARRYING BUSINESS - STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES

Development District (541) 426-3598

lisadawson@neoedd.com

Northeast Oregon Economic

La Grande Main Street

(541) 963-1223

director@lagrandemainstreet.org



###END###