

Let's Keep Connected (LKC)

Thursday, April 1, 2020 - 11:30am

Speakers:

Brad Attig, Corvallis Foundry (moderator)

Heather DeSart, Northwest Oregon Works

Sandra Easdale, Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments

Melissa Murphy, Business Oregon

Kate Porsche, Corvallis-Benton County Economic Development Office

Jeff Flesch, LBCC SBDC

Lisa Dawson, NE Oregon Economic Development District

Key Points:

1. Update from Heather DeSart of NW Oregon Works & Layoff Aversion Funding
2. Update from OCWCOG, Business Oregon, Corvallis-Benton EDO, NEOEDD, LBCC SBDC
3. Questions Answered

Summary:

1. Update from Heather DeSart of NW Oregon Works & Layoff Aversion Funding
[Northwest Oregon Works \(NOW\)](#) is the designated local workforce board for Benton, Columbia, Clatsop, Lincoln, and Tillamook Counties. There are 9 local workforce boards around the state. They are funded through the Department of Labor and the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC). They primarily serve businesses and job seekers. The local Benton County center is open, by appointment only.

Heather DeSart, Executive Director discussed the Layoff Aversion Funds recently distributed by NOW. The funds were meant to help businesses to stay operational, if not open. They were not meant for wage replacement, which meant that businesses had to get creative when using the funding. For example, a local brewery decided to start doing pickup/delivery services, but needed the right equipment (cans, bottles, etc.). They used these funds to purchase the needed equipment and were able to keep their employees. There was \$67,000 available and NOW was able to fund 2 Benton County Businesses.

There is a possibility for similar, additional funding. Stay tuned.

Additionally, HECC applied for two things:

- a. Disaster Recovery Funds - applied for \$25 million, but do not know how much they will get. These funds will be for supportive services including, but not limited

to, mortgage assistance, daycare assistance, transportation assistance, and health care premium assistance.

- b. Employment Recovery Grant - funds will help with workforce development and training activities

Heather needs to hear from the business community in Benton County regarding needs.

2. Update from OCWCOG, Business Oregon, Corvallis-Benton EDO, NEOEDD, LBCC SBDC

Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments (OCWCOG)

OCWCOG manages a variety of local, State, and Federal programs to serve residents, local governments, and businesses in our tri-County Region. Sandra Easdale, Senior Loan Officer, joined us to talk about their resources and programs. They are not able to offer SBA Loans. The new Payment Protection Program is being handled through banks/credit unions. The portal is not open till tomorrow (4/2). Businesses are advised to use their existing bank/credit union. Sandra has heard that Umpqua Bank has an easy to use online portal. Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL), however, are all done online and you do not have to go through a local lender. The \$10,000 advance on an EIDL may be available even if your EIDL application was declined or is still pending and this \$10,000 will be forgiven.

Sandra shared helpful resources that can be found in the [LKC Library](#).

Business Oregon

Melissa Murphy, Business Oregon's Regional Development Officer for Linn, Lincoln, Benton, Lane was on the call to give an update from the state's economic development office.

The Oregon Growth Fund approved moving roughly \$700,000, or the remaining funds available in the Oregon Growth Fund, to a new Oregon Community Foundation fund called the [Small Business Stabilization Fund](#).

Corvallis-Benton Economic Development Office

Kate Porsche, Corvallis-Benton County Economic Development Manager, discussed continued business resource updates and additions to <https://yescorvallis.org/resources/>.

Highlights:

- [Complete Benton County Business Guide](#), an easy to use, live, google spreadsheet where community members can look up businesses to see what services are being offered. Any business is invited to share their current information via relevant forms on the aforementioned resources webpage.

- [Benton County Rapid Response Form](#), a short questionnaire for local businesses that addresses the current and future economic impact.
- Corvallis Police Department's Community Livability Unit is offering Security Business Screenings, a 20-minute visit where an officer will do a quick walk through with the business or building owner and provide some thoughts and tips on how to have a safe, secured building or business. If interested, please contact Community.Livability@corvallisoregon.gov. They have also started doing prescription drug delivery.
- Thanks to the great work of the Downtown Corvallis Association (DCA) and Corvallis Public Works, our office was able to assist in creating six [pick-up zones](#) throughout downtown Corvallis to allow businesses to provide curb-side pick-up for customers. Contact Jennifer Moreland at the DCA for more info, or to add your business: jennifer@downtowncorvallis.org

The National Restaurant Association created a [Restaurant Employee Relief Fund](#). The fund goes live tomorrow (4/2) and offers a one-time \$500 grant to qualified applicants. Funds will go quick, so it is advised that interested folks be ready as soon as the portal opens. Note: it opens on east coast time!

Northeast Oregon Economic Development District (NEOEDD)

Lisa Dawson, Executive Director of NEOEDD, discussed that they have loan programs similar to OCWCOG and do not offer SBA funding either. They have offered 4 month deferred payments and about half of their businesses have taken them up on the offer.

Similar to the rest of the state, their lodging industry is suffering. Many local businesses in this industry are asking for deferment of payment on the Transient Lodging Tax (TLT). However, this may have to be decided at the state level.

LBCC SBDC

Jeff Flesch reminded folks that SBDC advisors are available and ready to take business calls. Advisors can help walk businesses through the available options and find what options work best for any business situation.

To volunteer to be an SBDC advisor, please contact: contact@bizcenter.org

For SBDC advising:

<https://clients.bizcenter.org/reg.aspx?mode=counsel¢er=2060&subloc=0>

3. Questions Answered

Q: Do agricultural entities qualify for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)?

A: Yes, they do. - *Eric Lind via Jeff Flesch, LBCC Director of Extended Learning*

Q: If a business complies with the PPP forgiveness rules and the debt is forgiven but a business is unable to keep employees past the mandatory 8 weeks due to lost revenues, is the debt still forgiven?

A: Yes, as long as the Feb 10 - June 30 rule and any other guidelines stated are met. -
Eric Lind via Jeff Flesch, LBCC Director of Extended Learning

Q: Can you talk about the non-residential rent moratorium that was just released today?

A: Moratorium on residential evictions has been expanded to the commercial side.
Really good news for businesses worried about paying rent/leasing responsibilities. -
Kate Porsche, Corvallis-Benton County Economic Development Manager
