

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Eric Mongan, City Planner

SUBJECT: A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF AN APPLICATION FOR A RURAL OPPORTUNITY INITIATIVE GRANT THROUGH BUSINESS OREGON TO FOSTER A ROBUST RURAL ENTREPRENEURIAL COMMUNITY

DATE: October 18, 2023

Background:

Business Oregon has issued a Request for Grant Applications (RFGA) for the 2023-2025 Rural Opportunity Initiative (ROI) Grant Program. ROI is an investment in the vision and proficiency of rural communities and aligns with Business Oregon’s strategic plan to grow local businesses, cultivate rural economic stability, and champion opportunities for underrepresented Oregonians. The Oregon Legislature has allocated \$2 million to the ROI Grant Program for the current biennium.

ROI focuses on empowering rural communities to support entrepreneurs and small business growth through the cultivation of strong entrepreneurial ecosystems. At its core, ROI is designed to create an economy that works for all Oregonians.

This RFGA is expected to result in the selection of a cohort of ROI grant recipient communities for the 2023-25 biennium. Grant recipients will have until June 30, 2025, to implement their projects.

Staff is requesting the support of the City Council for the submittal of an ROI Grant application to Business Oregon for the purpose of supporting local small businesses and the incubation of new ventures. The ROI Grant Program is intended to support projects that demonstrate and vision and a plan to address identified gaps and inefficiencies in their local economy in order to strengthen and diversify the local business ecosystem.

Recommendation:


That the City Council adopt the attached draft Resolution demonstrating its support of the City’s application for funding to the Business Oregon Rural Opportunity Initiative Grant Program to foster a robust rural local business and entrepreneurial community.

Cost:

Staff time.

 For:

David Clyne, City Manager-Pro Tem

 For:

Eric Mongan, City Planner

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF AN APPLICATION FOR A RURAL OPPORTUNITY INITIATIVE GRANT THROUGH BUSINESS OREGON TO FOSTER A ROBUST RURAL ENTREPRENEURIAL COMMUNITY

WHEREAS, the City of Cottage Grove actively supports the efforts of economic community stakeholder organizations; and

WHEREAS, the economic community stakeholders are: the Community Development Corporation (CDC), the Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Downtown Cottage Grove Association; and

WHEREAS, Business Oregon is currently accepting applications for its Rural Opportunity Initiative (ROI) Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, it is understood that a collaborative effort is the best effort when working to foster a strong and resilient local economy; and

WHEREAS, it is proposed that if awarded an ROI Grant the City will work with our economic community stakeholders to address program opportunities and inefficiencies that constrain the individual success of the partner organizations and our local businesses; and

WHEREAS, there is not a required monetary match requirement for ROI Grants; and

WHEREAS, the deadline for grant application submission is October 27, 2023 and it is recommended by staff that the City apply for the necessary funding to support our local businesses and entrepreneurs through a focused effort aimed at establishing a cohesive group of organizations with the purpose driven goal of supporting and incubating businesses in Cottage Grove.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council demonstrates its commitment to support an application for a Business Oregon ROI Grant to fund the effort to establish a cohesive goal drive group of community stakeholders by allowing the City Manager to sign the necessary documents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR THIS 23rd
DAY OF OCTOBER, 2023.

APPROVED:

Candace Solesbee, Mayor

Date: _____

ATTEST:

David Clyne, City Manager-Pro Tem

Date: _____