

Oregon's Operational Cost Assistance Grants for Small Businesses Closes June 6!

The **deadline** for the final portion of Business Oregon's program to provide grants for small businesses to help with commercial rent and operational costs in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic is **Sunday, June 6**.

The Oregon Legislative Emergency Board allocated approximately \$100 million for the program to help small businesses impacted by the pandemic and the restrictions it necessitated. Following two rounds of distribution of Commercial Rent Relief assistance grants, approximately \$28 million remains to be distributed in this final round through the Operational Cost Assistance Grant.

The Operational Cost Assistance Grant is designed for businesses with 100 or fewer employees in industries that were particularly affected by the pandemic, including those that:

- offer the consumption of food and or drink on premise;
- provide specified indoor physical exercise, recreational or family entertainment; **OR**
- provide specified personal services.

Restaurants, bars, gyms, brewpubs, theaters, bowling centers, and salons are some of the more common examples of eligible businesses. Full details of the program, including eligible industries, are available on [Business Oregon's website](#) and in application materials. Applicants must have faced financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic in Oregon.

Applications for the Operational Cost Assistance Grant will be accepted through June 6.

The application process is NOT first-come, first-served. Awards will be selected after a random lottery process of all complete and eligible applications received. Applicants are encouraged to take time with the application form to make sure all information is correct. Missing or incorrect information, particularly simple contact information such as email and phone numbers delays processing significantly. Businesses that previously received assistance grants through the State of Oregon Commercial Rent Relief Program for the same location are eligible to receive this new grant, as long as the award amount through the Commercial Rent Relief Program was less than \$100,000. Total combined awards from either program will not exceed \$100,000 for a single applicant.

More program information and eligibility details, along with the application materials are available on [Business Oregon's website](#).

Chamber Membership Luncheon Season Passes on Sale Now!

The Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce's 2021-22 membership meeting lunch schedule is set and season passes are on sale. The chamber's in-person membership meeting lunches are set to resume on Monday, September 20, 2021. NEVER RSVP for a chamber luncheon again! Attend membership meeting lunches with the purchase of a season pass and not only save money due to the discounted price, but even better, never worry about forgetting to make a reservation. With your season pass, it's all taken care of! Individual season passes for RACC members are \$175. A full table of eight for the entire season is \$1,400. Season passes for 2021-22 may be purchased [ONLINE HERE](#). RACC members interested in paying in advance for a full table for the whole 2021-22 season may purchase online or contact the chamber at roseburg@roseburgareachamber.org to be billed.

Mark the Calendar / 2021-22 Membership Meeting Luncheons

Monday, September 20, 2021
Monday, October 18, 2021
Monday, November 15, 2021
Monday, January 10, 2022
Monday, February 14, 2022
Monday, March 14, 2022
Monday, April 11, 2022
Monday, May 16, 2022

Chamber's Most Requested/Distributed Publication Opens Ad Sales

The Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce's 2021-22 *InUmpqua*—a business directory, community profile and visitor magazine—is now accepting reservations for ad placement. Thousands of copies of the *InUmpqua* have and will be distributed to residents, businesses, visitors and folks relocating to our area. Not to mention the thousands of views and downloads of the online edition of the publication each year.

The *InUmpqua* remains one of the best advertising mediums available to market our members' goods and services. It also provides an opportunity to support the chamber and local business community, as a portion of these "non-dues" revenue helps underwrite the work the chamber does each year on behalf of businesses.

Check out the online edition of the [2020-21 InUmpqua](#) and the [2021-22 InUmpqua advertising rate sheet](#).

Save These Dates

As chamber programs, activities and events return, in addition to the membership meeting lunch dates, above, be sure and save these dates, too!

September 9, 2021 2021-22 Project Leadership Commences / Applications Forms Coming in June

September 14, 2021 Business After Hours TBA

September 23, 2021 Annual Awards Dinner (w/Breakfast & Lunch Events, too) / Details Soon

November 15, 2021 Economic Forecast 2021

More news and details coming soon!

Free PPE Still Available to Roseburg Area Businesses

The Roseburg Area Chamber through a partnership with the City of Roseburg continues to provide free PPE to Roseburg businesses. The PPE available includes: 3-ply ear-loop disposal masks, washable reusable cloth masks, non-surgical KN95 masks, pump-bottle hand sanitizer, antibacterial wipes and disposable nitrile gloves.

To receive the no-cost PPE, businesses should apply through the chamber's website. To apply, visit [COVID-19 Business Recovery Resource Center Library](#) or click [HERE](#)!

Oregon OSHA COVID-19 Workplace Mandates

May 19, Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) updated its COVID-19 workplace rules with new mask guidance issued by Oregon Health Authority (OHA) on May 18. Oregon OSHA released [a statement](#) clarifying how the [updated mask guidance](#) from the Oregon Health Authority impacts their workplace rules related to COVID.

From OSHA's statement: "As outlined in the OHA document, if the employer chooses to allow either employees or visitors to the workplace to make use of the vaccine exemption, the employer does not need to enforce the physical distancing and facial covering requirements in relation to those individuals provided that the employer verifies the vaccination status of such individuals. An employer who requests and reviews verification of vaccination may permit fully vaccinated individuals with such proof of vaccination to go without a mask, face covering or face shield, and does not need to enforce physical distancing requirements for such individuals. If an individual who claims to be vaccinated but refuses to provide verification of vaccination status, the employer need take no further action but must enforce the physical distancing and facial covering requirements without regard to the exemption."

Chamber Positions and Testimony on Bills in the Oregon Legislature

For the most up-to-date information and details about the bills the chamber is watching, has taken positions and links to actual testimony submitted as well as positions on matters before the US Congress, please check out our [CURRENT NEWS](#) page on the chamber website.

Chamber News, Programs & Updates

Check out the chamber's [May/June 2021 Business Perspectives newsletter](#) online.

The Roseburg Area Chamber's 2021 "Shop Chamber & Save" exclusive member-to-member discount program flyer is [online](#).

The chamber's annual celebration of business and awards event tentatively planned for March 18 has been rescheduled for Thursday, September 23, 2021. SAVE THE DATE!

Missed a past issue of *Business Perspectives* or one of those "oh-so-informative" membership email blasts? No worries. They are posted on the chamber website on the [Monthly Newsletter page](#) . . . just scroll.

Business Recovery Resource Center Library

Please continue to check the chamber's online ["Business Recovery Resource Center Library Re: COVID-19 Pandemic,"](#) as the chamber updates its resource information at least weekly. And, please share this link with friends and colleagues. The more our local businesses are armed with information and access to resources, the stronger our recovery.

Debbie

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