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Clackamas County
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DAN JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Clackamas County Board of County Commissioners (BCC)
FROM: Dan Johnson, Director, Department of Transportation & Development
RE: Economic Development: Business Development Grant Program – FY2027
DATE: May 19, 2026

REQUEST: Board approval of the third year of the Business Development Grant program.

BACKGROUND: On April 17, 2024, the Board directed the Office of Economic Development (OED) to develop a Business Development Grant program that awards \$600,000 annually to local businesses to ensure their ongoing success in the County. OED staff developed a competitive grant program providing funding to existing traded sector businesses relocating to or expanding operations in Clackamas County. Funding is to support capital investments and/or workforce development projects, with a maximum award of \$100,000 per business.

For Year 1 of the program (FY2025), OED received 34 applications and funded 10 qualified businesses for a total of \$550,000 in grant awards. Awards ranged in size from \$20,000 to \$100,000, with a median award amount of \$50,000. Awarded projects are on track to spend \$4.8M, primarily on taxable capital equipment or real property improvements, representing an 8x return on the grant funds invested.

For Year 2 (FY2026), OED received 24 applications and funded 12 qualified businesses for a total of \$650,000 in grant awards. Awards ranged in size from \$4,500 - \$100,000, with a median award amount of \$62,000. Awarded projects are estimated to spend \$2.5M within 2 years.

Due to the success of this program, OED staff recommends maintaining the already established funding criteria for Year 3 (FY2027). This funding will invest in the growth of an additional cohort of traded sector businesses in the County.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends the Board approve \$600,000 in lottery funding and maintain existing criteria for the FY2027 Business Development Grant Program.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dan Johnson
Director, Department of Transportation & Development