

Item 12: Oregon Business Development Department

Personal Protective Equipment for Small Business

Analyst: Steve Bender

Request: Establish a \$10,000,000 Other Funds expenditure limitation for funding from the Coronavirus Relief Fund received by the Department of Administrative Services and transferred to the Oregon Business Development Department for business, innovation and trade, to provide personal protective equipment for small businesses.

Description: Many small businesses are purchasing personal protective equipment (PPE) to enhance the safety of employees, customers, and others visiting business premises during the COVID-19 pandemic. PPE includes equipment, such as masks, gloves, and gowns, worn to minimize the exposure to and the transmission of infectious coronavirus. These purchases impose additional costs on businesses that are experiencing reduced revenues at the same time.

The requested Emergency Board action would provide \$10 million of Coronavirus Relief Fund monies to small businesses for the costs of personal protective equipment, as both a business assistance and safety enhancement measure. The Oregon Business Development Department (OBDD) would distribute grants to small business development centers, chambers of commerce, and other organizations for the purchasing and distributing of PPE to small businesses at no or reduced charge.

Funds would be provided from the state's distribution of CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) monies. The Department of Administrative Services would transfer \$10 million of CRF funds to OBDD for this program. CRF funds are restricted to necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to COVID-19 during the period from March 1, 2020 through December 30, 2020. Grant recipients would not receive payment for PPE purchases after these dates.

Recommendation: The Co-Chairs of the Emergency Board recommend approval of establishing a \$10,000,000 Other Funds expenditure limitation for the Oregon Business Development Department (OBDD) for funding from the Coronavirus Relief Fund received by the Department of Administrative Services and transferred to OBDD for business, innovation, and trade, to provide personal protective equipment for small businesses.