



Eastern Oregon Border Board

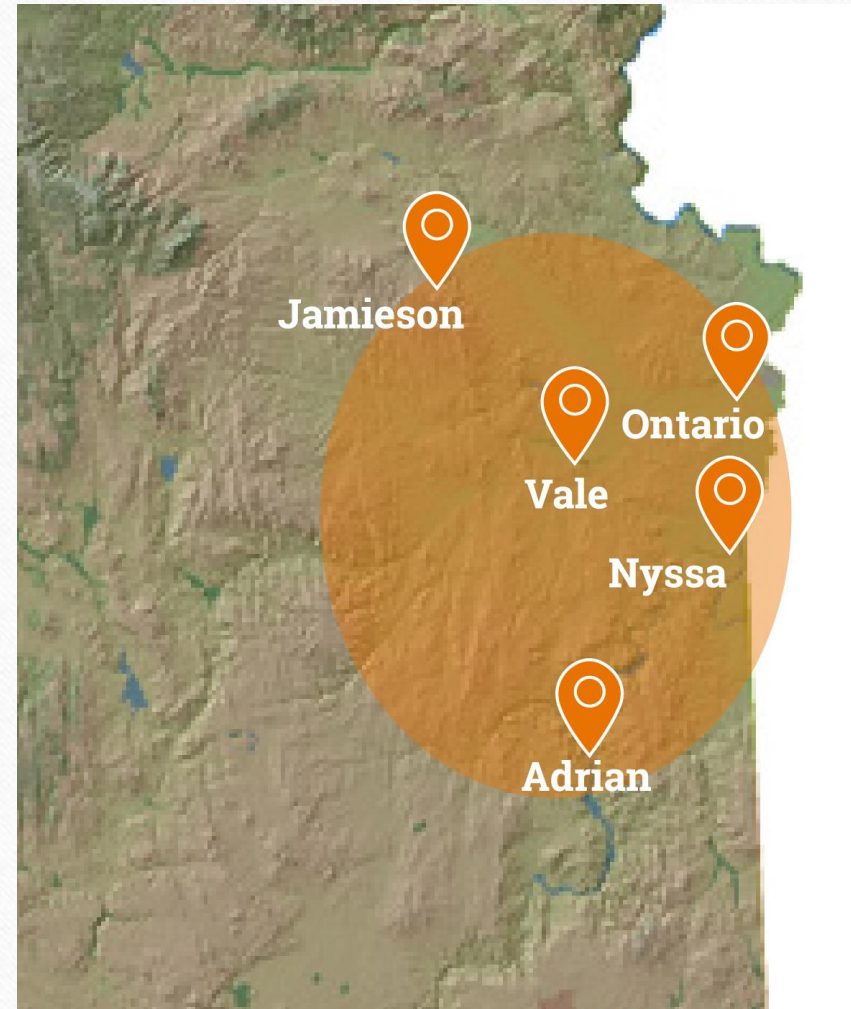
Strengthening Our Region's Economic Future

Background on HB 2012

- Far eastern Oregon consistently has higher rates of unemployment and lower household incomes when compared to the rest of Oregon.
- Neighboring Idaho's very different political landscape and policies create unique challenges for our region.
- Just across the border in Idaho is one of the fastest growing regions in the country, but far Eastern Oregon's growth is stagnant and losing businesses and residents to Idaho.
- HB 2012 created the Eastern Oregon Border Economic Development Region, Board, and Fund.

Eastern Oregon Border Economic Development Region

- Is within 20 miles of the Oregon border with the state of Idaho, and that includes but is not limited to the cities of Ontario, Vale and Nyssa
- Includes Willowcreek and Brogan
- Is an area in Oregon that is across the Oregon border from Weiser, Idaho
- Is an area southwest of Vale for a distance of 10 miles



Eastern Oregon Economic Development Region Border Fund

HB 2012 created the Border Fund providing \$5million to support economic and workforce development in the Border Region.

All Border Fund expenditures must significantly impact education, workforce and/or economic development capacity in the Border Region. Priority will be given to programs and projects that:

- Enhance prosperity in the Border Region
- Improve the Border Region's property tax base
- Improve the Border Region's competitiveness with Idaho
- Increase workforce availability and skills in the Border Region
- Improve the image of the Border Region
- Leverage funds with a complement of outside funding

Border Fund Administration



The passage of HB 4209 in June paved the way for transition of administration of the Border Board's programs to a third-party administrator.

The Oregon Community Foundation was the ideal partner and the Border Board and Region are benefitting from their expertise and experience.

The nimble and efficient approach of OCF is a perfect match for the innovative programs of the Border Board.

Border Fund Programs

Grant Programs

Community Improvement Planning Grant: Local governments may apply for this grant to complete community improvement planning such as master plans, transportation, airports, parks, etc. It can be used as a match with local, state, federal planning funds, feasibility studies, preliminary engineering, and initial cost estimates. Maximum grant for one entity is \$200,000 for all projects.

Grants Awarded in 2020 – City of Ontario Municipal Airport and Malheur County Rural Housing Initiative

Scott Fairley Memorial Edge Grant: The Edge Grant will be awarded to applicants who show they can enhance economic vitality and opportunity by way of innovative and creative solutions in the Border Region. It is open to all residents, land owners, schools, businesses, local governments, nonprofit organizations, and community groups within the Border Region. Maximum grant is \$25,000.

Grants Awarded in 2020 – Adrian 2040, Nyssa Chamber of Commerce & Ag, Red Rock Ag Products

Border Fund Programs

Grant Programs

Ready Workforce Mobilization Grant: The Ready Workforce Mobilization Grant will be awarded to applicants that aim to mobilize a workforce, targeting current or potential employees living and working or attending school in the Border Region. Applicants may be businesses, non-profit organizations, local governments, and educational service providers. Maximum grant is \$100,000 per project.

Grants Awarded in 2020 – Wiggles and Giggles Childcare Facility

Education and Workforce Training Grant: The Education and Workforce Training Grant will be awarded to local educational service providers for programs, equipment or facility upgrades for workforce training that conforms with identified industry standards. Industry letters of support will be required to support the need for training. A one-to-one match is required. Maximum grant is \$200,000 per project.

Grants Awarded in 2020 – Vale School District, Nyssa High School, Treasure Valley Community College, Frontier STEM Hub

Border Fund Programs

Loan Programs

Infrastructure Revolving Loan Program: Local governments or developers may receive a 25% loan up to \$250,000 for infrastructure, to attract new residential, commercial, or industrial development. The loan is repaid the sooner of when lots sell/exchange hands for the first time or 5 years after the original loan date.

Industrial Land Certification Loan Program: Private land owners may apply for up to \$50,000 loan to complete or recertify industrial land development readiness documentation using Oregon Certified Shovel Ready Industrial Lands guidelines.

Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program: Homeowners within the urban grown boundaries and/or city limits receive a loan, not to exceed \$15,000, to improve exterior aesthetics of their home. This is a 0% loan to be paid back over a 5-year period and will be given on a reimbursement basis.

Grants Awarded/Leverages

| Organization Name | Grant Applied for | Award | Leverage |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Adrian 2040 | Edge Grant | \$3,000 | \$1,025 |
| Nyssa Chamber of Commerce | Edge Grant | \$25,000 | \$7,000 |
| Red Rock Ag Products, LLC | Edge Grant | \$25,000 | \$75,000 |
| Vale School District | Education and Workforce Training | \$30,000 | \$30,000 |
| TVCC | Education and Workforce Training | \$100,000 | \$104,000 |
| Frontier STEM Hub/OSU Extension | Education and Workforce Training | \$34,555 | \$34,555 |
| Nyssa High School | Education and Workforce Training | \$43,183 | \$44,523 |
| Wiggles and Giggles | Ready Workforce Mobilization | \$100,000 | \$74,290 |
| City of Ontario | Community Improvement Planning | \$200,000 | \$2,681,199 |
| Malheur County | Community Improvement Planning | \$50,000 | \$73,263 |
| | | \$610,738 | \$3,124,855 |

Border Fund Programs

Incentive Programs

Competitive Housing Incentive Program (CHIP): Homeowners receive \$6,000 within 30 days of completion of a new stick built, single-family home or townhouse/duplex assessed at a value of at least \$125,000, as long as owner-occupied. Homeowner is also eligible to submit paid property tax receipt each year to be reimbursed a maximum of \$1,500 for up to 10 years.

Property Improvement Rebate Program: Applicant will receive a 15% cash rebate, not to exceed \$30,000, on substantial improvements to existing residential, industrial or commercial property and new development of multi-family residential, industrial or commercial property that increases the tax assessed value by a minimum of \$10,000.

* The Border Fund is replenished for both incentive programs through part of the new property tax revenue.

Proposed Legislation for 2021

LC 1703 – Requires public employers to give preference to residents of Eastern Oregon Border Economic Development Region for civil service positions if majority of work of position will be performed within the region.

LC 1708 – Designates onion as the official state vegetable.

HB 2456 (2019 Session) – Allow up to one hundred 2-acre lots of non-viable farmland to be rezoned for rural residential use through the Eastern Oregon Border Economic Development Board.

HB 2454 (2019 Session) – Allow professional licensing board to issue a temporary license to out-of-state applicants if the applicant is licensed or authorized in another state to work in the same profession and if the applicant intends to work in that profession in the Eastern Oregon Border Economic Development Region.

Next Steps...

- Implement the Border Board's incentive programs.
- Continued analysis of barriers to the Border Region's economic success.
- Development of and advocacy for policies and programs that remove these barriers and increase the Border Region's competitiveness.