

## Item 5: Department of Administrative Services

### Grants to Oregon Community Foundation

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**Analyst:** Paul Siebert

**Request:** Establish a General Fund appropriation by allocating \$36,000,000 from the special purpose appropriation made to the Emergency Board for response to the COVID-19 pandemic public health emergency to the Department of Administrative Services for a grant to the Oregon Community Foundation, including \$30,000,000 to provide continued support to the Worker Relief Fund and \$6,000,000 to provide continued support to the Quarantined Worker Fund.

**Description:** The Oregon Community Foundation's (OCF) Worker Relief Fund is a culturally specific community-based grant program that makes payments to workers who are ineligible for wage replacement support from traditional unemployment insurance programs. The Worker Relief Fund has received a total of \$40 million for support payments to date, with the first grant to OCF approved at the April 23, 2020 meeting of the Emergency Board. DAS reports that through November 2020, the Worker Relief Fund has assisted 13,811 individuals with average payments of \$1,650.

The Quarantined Worker Fund is a community-based program that provides financial assistance to agricultural workers who have been exposed to COVID-19 who go into self-quarantine. The Quarantined Worker Fund has helped 2,851 individuals who self-quarantine with average payments of \$1,289. While both funds combined have assisted 16,662 individuals, an estimated 57,000 individuals qualify for either program.

There is an additional unfilled need for assistance to small businesses who have been unable to receive any of the numerous federal assistance programs for businesses. Legislative leadership is requesting an additional \$10 million be provided to meet this need through a Small Enterprise Fund at OCF. The Small Enterprise Fund would provide micro grants of \$5,000 - \$50,000 to eligible small businesses owned or operated by Oregon residents whose enterprise was impacted by COVID-19 or the related health and safety restrictions and who are generally unable to access federal relief. An eligible business should be registered with the Oregon Secretary of State, if required to do so, must be based in Oregon and doing business in Oregon, must be owned by—or whose day-to-day operations are managed by—an ITIN-holder or similar individual, and the business should provide the primary household income for the owner or operator. The priorities of the fund include street vendors, sole proprietors, independent contractors, 1099 workers, food establishments, and similar businesses in Oregon, owned or operated by eligible ITIN-holders or similar individuals who have been unable to access traditional forms of relief because of federal immigration classification.

Finally, legislative leadership is requesting that \$35,000 of the \$10 million dedicated to the Small Enterprise Fund be used to create an Oregon Wildfire Youth Corps Fund. These monies would help create a program to solicit and accept funding from private-sector organizations for grants to qualified organizations to deploy young people in the woods for prescribed wildfire fuel reduction and forest restoration work.

**Recommendation:** The Co-Chairs of the Emergency Board recommend that the Emergency Board establish a General Fund appropriation by allocating \$46,000,000 from the special purpose appropriation made to the Emergency Board during the 3rd special session of 2020 for COVID-19

pandemic public health emergency response to the Department of Administrative Services for a grant to the Oregon Community Foundation, including \$30,000,000 to provide continued support to the Worker Relief Fund, \$6,000,000 to provide continued support to the Quarantined Worker Fund, and \$10,000,000 for the Small Enterprise Fund, of which \$35,000 is dedicated to the Oregon Wildfire Youth Corps Fund.

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Department of Administrative Services  
Ball

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**Request:** Allocate \$36 million from State Emergency Fund for a grant to the Oregon Community Foundation to provide \$30 million to the Oregon Relief Fund and \$6 million to the Quarantined Worker Fund.

**Recommendation:** Approve the request with the following modification: Allocate \$36 million from the special purpose appropriation made to the Emergency Board for the state's response to the COVID-19 pandemic public health emergency for a grant to the Oregon Community Foundation to provide \$30 million to the Oregon Relief Fund and \$6 million to the Quarantined Worker Fund.

**Discussion:** This request will provide additional funding for the Oregon Relief Fund and the Oregon Quarantined Worker Fund. The Department of Administrative Services will pass through funding in the form of grants to the Oregon Community Foundation.

The \$30 million for the Oregon Relief Fund will be used to provide support for Oregon workers impacted by COVID-19, who are ineligible for wage replacement payments from traditional unemployment insurance. The \$6 million for the Quarantined Worker Fund will be used to provide temporary financial assistance to agricultural workers, who have been exposed to COVID-19 and need to self-quarantine.

**Legal Reference:** Allocation of \$36,000,000 from the State Emergency Fund, set aside by the Special Purpose Appropriation under section 2, chapter \_\_\_\_\_, Oregon Laws 2020 (third special session) (Enrolled Senate Bill SB 5731) to supplement the appropriation established for the Department of Administrative Services at the April 23, 2020 meeting of the Emergency Board, for a grant to the Oregon Community Foundation, for the 2019-21 biennium.



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

## Department of Administrative Services

Office of the Chief Operating Officer

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December 30, 2020

The Honorable Senator Peter Courtney, Co-Chair  
The Honorable Representative Tina Kotek, Co-Chair  
State Emergency Board  
900 Court Street NE  
H-178 State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301-4048

Dear Co-Chairpersons,

### **Nature of Request**

The Department of Administrative Services (DAS) respectfully requests \$36,000,000 in General Fund to grant to the Oregon Community Foundation with the intention of \$30,000,000 going to the Worker Relief Fund and \$6,000,000 going to the Quarantined Worker Fund.

### **Agency Action**

The Worker Relief Fund is a culturally specific community-based grant program making payments to workers who are ineligible for wage replacement payments from traditional unemployment insurance programs. The Quarantined Worker Fund is a rapid community-based system that provides financial support to agricultural workers who have been exposed to COVID-19 at work or at home and who self-quarantine.

As of November 30<sup>th</sup>, the Worker Relief Fund has helped 13,811 individuals with an average payment of \$1,650. Also as of November 30<sup>th</sup>, the Quarantined Worker Fund has helped 2,851 individuals who have been exposed to COVID-19 at home or work to self-quarantine with an average payment of \$1,289. These individuals represent less than one third of the estimated 57,000 individuals who qualify for either program.

### **Action Requested**

Allocate \$36,000,000 in General Fund as requested.

### **Legislation Affected**

None.

Sincerely,

Katy Coba

DAS Director | Chief Operating Officer

CC: Dustin Ball, Department of Administrative Services  
Paul Siebert, Legislative Fiscal Office