



# Office of the County Court Harney County, Oregon

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Phone: 541-573-6356 Fax: 541-573-8387  
www.co.harney.or.us ♦ [www.harneycounty.org](http://www.harneycounty.org)

February 24, 2021

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Dear Governor Brown,

As a County Court that is heavily involved in economic development work, we are writing on behalf of our constituents to ask for your help. Please fully restore the proposed 41% statewide cut to the Oregon Small Business Development Center (SBDC) funding, which is currently reflected in your recommended state budget.

Our county is struggling to weather the pandemic shutdowns and business restrictions, and we are holding on largely because of federal COVID-related funding and SBDC efforts. Since March 2020, Harney County has been served by one (very outstanding) local person provided by our regional SBDC office, from Treasure Valley Community College. She has served and worked with over 100 clients, assisting Harney County local businesses in receiving \$1,547,101.75 in COVID relief funding. This is phenomenal service in such a vast, remote and frontier county. We could not have done it without her.

Additionally, she partnered with Biz Harney to provide one on one technical assistance to businesses in Harney County, and helped launch the Shop Harney initiative which to date has sold over \$45,000 in gift cards, 100% of which goes directly back into the local economy. Her hands-on assistance to the backbone of our economy – small business – is crucial to our recovery and future.

Any cuts to SBDC funding will severely impact the SBDC's ability to offer free services to businesses at a crucial time for Oregonians. As the pandemic continues, full funding is more important than ever to help our businesses survive and rebuild.

Please fully fund Oregon's SBDC program statewide.

Thank you so much for your willingness to work with us.

Sincerely,

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Pete Runnels  
Harney County Judge

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Kristen Shelman  
Harney County Commissioner

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Patty Dorroh  
Harney County Commissioner



# ONTARIO AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

251 SW 9<sup>th</sup> St • Ontario, Oregon 97914

(541) 889-8012 • Fax (541) 889-8331

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Ranelle Crosby Board chair-elect

Sandy Hemenway – Treasurer

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Treasure Valley  
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Waldo Agencies

February 23, 2020

Representative David Gomberg

Senator Lee Beyer

Ways and Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs Gomberg and Beyer,

The Ontario Area Chamber of Commerce would like to express support for full funding of our local Small Business Development Center (SBDC). It is our understanding that the Governor's proposed budget dramatically reduced funding for SBDC's. We wish to express that this decision would have negative impacts on our business community.

The SBDC has been and continues to be a valuable resource for Ontario and all of Malheur County. There is simply no other resource available like the Small Business Development Center for people who want to start a business, but don't know how to begin the process. Our SBDC has been able to bring people's ideas to solid businesses that add value and enrichment to our city.

The SBDC has been especially invaluable during this pandemic. Our Chamber city staff has worked together with the SBDC to understand and address the needs of local small businesses over the past year. We functioned very closely as a team between city staff, the SBDC, and Business Oregon to solve challenges. It was the SBDC that had the personal relationships with the small businesses. Without their involvement we would not have been aware of the acute needs of local businesses.

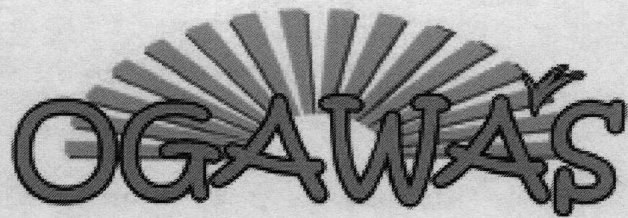
We sincerely hope that you will find funding to continue to support Small Business Development Centers throughout the state and most specifically here in Ontario.

John Breidenbach

President/CEO

Ontario Area Chamber of Commerce

Executive Director Ontario Convention and Visitors Bureau



WICKED SUSHI, BURGERS AND BOWLS

375 E. Idaho Ave., Ontario, OR 97914, (541) 881-9662

February 24, 2021

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Connie Huston. My husband Tom and I have owned Ogawa's, a Japanese-American (fusion) Restaurant since August 1, 2015. We have had great success with our little business over the past 5 ½ years... success that has been supported through the assistance of the SBDC, and its staff.

From the due diligence process to today, the SBDC, Treasure Valley Community College, 650 College Blvd., Ontario, OR 97914, has been a huge support system. SBDC has provided instrumental resources which have assisted us through the journey and growth of our business. Additionally, the reasonably priced educational classes coordinated through SBDC, TVCC have provide a value to me, as a business owner, as well as to my staff. Finally, the one-on-one consultations have been extremely helpful.

Furthermore, as small business has been, and continues to maneuver through the trials this pandemic has placed on their survival. SBDC has continued to reached out with any assistance they can provide. Again, that ongoing support and care for small business is of great importance to our community (Ontario, OR/Malheur County), and communities around the State of Oregon.

Overall, the SBDC is a valuable resource for small business, from one-on-one consultation to education classes, they provide a positive impact to our community, its growth and its prosperity. SBDC helps make dreams come true by providing sound advice, financial guidance, and invaluable relationships.

Sincerely,

Connie S. Huston

Owner / Business Manager

T C & T Inc. dba: Ogawa's

**From:** [ANNAMARIE AVERA](#)  
**To:** [Andrea Testi](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed SBDC Budget Reductions  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 23, 2021 1:03:42 PM

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David Gomberg and Senator Lee Beyer

900 Court St. NE

Salem, OR 97301

February 23, 2021

Re: Proposed SBDC Budget Reductions

Dear Representative Gomberg and Senator Beyer,

As a small business owner, I am concerned about the cuts to the Oregon SBDC in the Governor's proposed budget. I own Hotshots Gymnastics in Ontario; specializing in skilled gymnastic instruction and coaching for all youth of the Treasure Valley. I first went to the Treasure Valley SBDC in 2013 when I started my business.

The SBDC has helped me better understand my business finances and create a business plan. During this pandemic, the SBDC has been enormously helpful advising me how to best use the PPP loan and grant to help my business survive.

This is an important service that has helped many small business owners like me. I strongly urge you to maintain the current funding for Oregon's SBDCs so they can continue to help small businesses. Without the assistance of the SBDC, we could not, in confidence, go forward with our business, in such a dire time, continuing to impact our community in a positive way by focusing on the youths in our community. Your concern for small business in our area is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Anna and John Avera

Owner, Hotshot Gymnastics



406 N Broadway, Burns Oregon 97720  
541-573-1575 (p) 541-573-1578 (f)  
dr.keady@gmail.com

Feb 23, 2021

**Governor Brown**  
**State of Oregon**  
**Re: SBDC funding cuts**

Governor Brown,

I am writing to express SERIOUS concern about your proposals to cut funding to the Small Business Development Center budget. A 41% cut will be horribly detrimental to our small businesses across the state that have already faced unprecedented problems over the course of the past year.

Our local SBDC representative Andrea Letham has been CRUCIAL in keeping our small businesses up to date on what is within our reach to stay afloat and weather the storm. She partnered with our local 'Biz Harney' to provide one on one technical assistance to our local businesses. She helped launch a new program to keep "dollars local" with a gift card initiative that has already had over \$45,000 purchased - 100% of which comes right back into our local economy. She was an integral part of helping business owners wade through the paperwork of PPP and potential grant funding. She personally helped my business - Family Eyecare - in more ways than I can count.

Harney County cannot afford to have one more hit to our local economy. Please DO NOT cut funding to SBDC.

Thank you for your time,

*Jennifer Keady, OD*

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THE BARN  
253 N Broadway Avenue  
Burns, Oregon 97720  
541-413-3901

February 23, 2021

Governor Kate Brown  
Office of the Governor  
900 Court Street NE, Suite 254  
Salem, OR 97301-4047

RE: Support for the Treasure Valley Community College Small Business Development Center

To the Honorable Governor Kate Brown,

Being a small business owner in rural eastern Oregon, I am writing to request that full funding be restored to Oregon's SBDC's.

Our community was hit hard by Covid and closures. In a small town, losing just one business can be detrimental to our entire community. Our local SBDC went above and beyond to support us through the pandemic and they still offer valuable resources to our community of small businesses. They offer learning and growth opportunities through classes and education. They boost sales in our community by creating shop local events and they fought to get us funding and grants when we had no option but to close our doors.

Our community will greatly suffer without this amazing resource and all that it has to offer. Without there constant hard work and support, many of our businesses would not be open now, including mine. When you have to drive 130 miles to shop, every small business matters and they should all matter anyway.

I ask that you please reconsider this cut as it would be devastating to all people in Oregon. It will devastate our small businesses not having this resource available. I ask that you please restore funding as soon as possible. Thank you for your time.

Cindy Lasich  
Small Business Owner



Wheelhouse RV & Floral  
1510 Hines Blvd, Burns, OR 97720  
(541) 413 – 1523  
Wheelhousefloralandgifts@gmail.com

Representative Mark Owens

Senator Lynn Findley

900 Court Street, NE H-475

Salem, OR 97301

Re: Proposed SBDC Budget Reductions

Wednesday, February 24, 2021

Dear Representative Owens and Senator Findley,

I am writing in support of full funding in the new state budget for the Small Business Development Centers. As a small business owner, I am genuinely concerned to hear about cuts to the Oregon SBDC in the Governor's proposed budget. I own Wheelhouse in Burns, Oregon. I originally bought a building that housed an upholstery shop and an RV supply and repair shop. This business had been closed for 14 years. My original plan was to open a flower and gift store and enlist the help of my husband for help as needed in this endeavor. The building came with shelves full of RV supplies and hardware, and with the help of SBDC and many others we saw the value of changing our original business plan to accommodate the opportunity that an RV supply and repair business could be for not only us, but the community we live in.

I opened for business in June of 2019 and have utilized SBDC, Biz Harney and other entities that have been available locally starting in January of that year.

The SBDC has helped me with learning QuickBooks, developing, and understanding the importance of a business plan. During this pandemic I have relied on SBDC to advise me and help me stay aware of funds to help me keep my doors open and to keep going.

The services and connections that the SBDC has provided to the many small business owners like me has been invaluable especially during this time of maneuvering through and around a worldwide pandemic. I am strongly urging you to maintain the current funding for Oregon's SBDCs so they can continue to help small businesses.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Smith

Owner, Wheelhouse RV & Floral