



Support HB 4040

Over the past two years, our county fairgrounds and the State Fair stepped up when our communities needed them the most. Through the global pandemic, wildfire relief efforts, and vaccination efforts, our fairgrounds were transformed overnight into testing centers, makeshift hospitals, shelter for thousands of people and animals, and vaccination clinics.

Meanwhile, our fairs, youth education events, cultural festivals, trade shows and expositions, equestrian events, craft & hobby shows, consumer shows, non-profit fundraisers, and community social events were almost all cancelled. This left our fairgrounds financially strapped – with no income – and ineligible for most federal COVID relief funding.

Our fairgrounds are an economic hub in our community. Most recently in 2019 (pre-pandemic):

- Fairgrounds hosted 6.15 million people during annual fairs and over 17,000 local events, bringing business to local hotels, restaurants, retail establishments, and service providers.
- Over 600 non-profit groups used our fairgrounds to generate more than \$10 million in charitable donations.
- 10,000 volunteers dedicated over 200,000 hours of volunteer service at their local fairgrounds.
- Fairgrounds directly employed 479 workers with a payroll of over \$10 million

A recent economic study by Oregon State University estimated that fairgrounds generated an economic footprint of approximately \$52 million in output, \$28 million in value-added income, and 867 full- and part-time jobs.

HB 4040 is so important because no other grant program to date has been able to assist county fairgrounds in making up for the lost gate receipts for the 2020 fair season and missed convention season. HB 4040 is the first bill to directly recognize and address this inequity. The Oregon Fairs Association SUPPORTS HB 4040.

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