

From Team EEIP:

Business Oregon's EEIP team has created a quarterly bulletin to share important program updates, project profiles or successes, client impact stories, program related news stories, and more. This is the first edition of the EEIP bulletin. We sincerely hope you will consider contributing potential content for subsequent editions. Have you met a major milestone? Has an eligible beneficiary achieved something life altering? Were you featured in the media? Did you receive new funding to complement your EEIP work?

[CLICK HERE to share your news.](#)

[This cohort of 36 EEIP organizations](#) is on the vanguard of efforts to challenge, disrupt, and eliminate economic inequities and we want to keep you all apprised of each other's successes. And challenges. As a new program, it is important that we take time to celebrate wins – big and small-- be open to learning new things, and cataloguing highlights that demonstrate the impact of your work.

Thank you for all the work you do. We see you. We see your impact. It matters.

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EEIP Updates**Program Evaluation:**

SB 1579, which established the EEIP, required Business Oregon to conduct biennial evaluations of the program and submit a report to the legislature in September of 2024. We understand that change of the magnitude we are seeking will not be completely visible in only one year, but we also recognize the immediate impact that many of our EEIP programs are having and the trajectory we are on.

We have engaged the University of Oregon's Institute for Policy Research and Engagement (IPRE) to support this effort. The IPRE team, made up of UO faculty and Masters' Degree Students, has been working diligently to develop processes and tools for measuring impacts, including the client survey we sent around for comments a few weeks ago. We will introduce you all to UO's IPRE team at [our next all-hands EEIP meeting on Tuesday, November 7, 1:30 – 2:30 pm](#). We welcome your participation in ensuring that the evaluation process is reflective of and responsive to the communities you work with.

Technical Assistance:

The legislature also set aside some funding to provide technical assistance (TA) for EEIP organizations as they implement and administer their projects. TA support could take many different forms, including help establishing, tracking and reporting systems; developing program-related materials; strategic planning and development; grant writing; marketing infrastructure, impact assessment; and general capacity building that supports organizations with their projects.

With the help of a few EEIP recipient organizations, Business Oregon will select an EEIP TA consultant very soon. We appreciate the involvement of the EEIP organizations who are contributing to the evaluation process. We expect to introduce the selected consultant to everyone [at our next all-hands EEIP meeting on Tuesday, November 7, 1:30 – 2:30 pm](#). We are very excited to be able to offer this resource to you.

Community and Shelter Assistance (CASA of Oregon)

CASA works to build intergenerational wealth for those who have been marginalized, specifically farmworkers and people of color, through advocacy, asset building, and affordable housing development. CASA is one of the leading IDA providers in Oregon. In just the first 3.5 months of the EEIP, CASA has already committed nearly **\$200,000 of matching funds** throughout the state. So far, **6 of those IDA recipients/savers have become first time home-owners.**

Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization (IRCO)

IRCO provides an array of services to its members including IDA matches, workforce assistance, small business grants, and immigration legal services. This Fall they will provide one of two legal clinics that will assist immigrant communities in Malheur County with immigration legal services. The clinic will address barriers caused by immigration status on employment, entrepreneurship, and financial independence. EEIP funds will **support up to 160 individuals -- 100 of those will receive small business grants, IDA matched savings, and workforce support services.**

Capaces Leadership Institute:

Celebrating Indigenous Farming Traditions: Past, Present, and Future

Capaces Leadership Institute is a nonprofit organization based in the Willamette Valley that works primarily with farmworker communities. They are part of the Alianza Poder network, a group of 10 culturally specific organizations that work with Indigenous, Latinx, and farmworker communities to improve quality of life through economic equity, workforce skills, and housing.

The Anahuac Farm has been transformative by providing Indigenous people, many of them farmworkers, with ancestral cultural farming techniques. These techniques allow them to reclaim knowledge of ancestral crops and develop the skills of future organic farmers.

Capaces received a \$300,000 EEIP grant to expand the Anahuac Farm workforce, improve its infrastructure, develop the skills of future organic farmers and Indigenous culinary entrepreneurs, and increase the distribution of culturally specific foods to farmworker families.



EEIP grant funds will provide **food benefits and culinary arts programs to 250 people, 50 of which will also receive agricultural training.**

On Aug. 24th Capaces gathered community leaders, including Senator Ron Wyden, Congresswoman Andrea Salinas, several state legislators, local officials, and more, at the Anahuac Farm to discuss the needs of the Mid-Willamette Valley communities. Guests were given a tour of the Anahuac Farm to show the importance the farm brings to the peoples they serve.

The Bracero Program, which brought Mexican workers temporarily into the U.S. to work on farms and railroads, was also commemorated. This year marks the 80th anniversary of the first Braceros arriving to Oregon. Former Bracero, Don Angel (pictured below), recounted his journey through the program and subsequent efforts organizing farmworkers for better wages and working conditions.



EEIP Spotlight



SITE PLAN



COTTAGE ELEVATION



MULTIFAMILY ELEVATION

RootedHomes: Creating Affordable Living Opportunities

Kor Community Land Trust, dba RootedHomes, provides environmentally sustainable and permanently affordable homeownership opportunities for those who contribute to the fabric of the Central Oregon economy and community. In Central Oregon, there is no public grant funding for non-profit affordable housing developers to purchase land, making it very difficult to acquire land for affordable

housing development projects. There is also a shortage of rental units available, contributing to the high number of people with housing insecurity in the region. Business Oregon's EEIP grant to RootedHomes is breaking down these barriers. Thanks to the EEIP funds, RootedHomes has been able to purchase two parcels of land, in Redmond and La Pine, creating sustainable housing

for income-eligible BIPOC households. These projects will create **40 units of affordable and sustainable housing for first time buyers** and **50 new units of affordable rentals**, all developed by Housing Works. Importantly, these first-time homeowners will vacate rental units, further adding to the supply of rentals in the region.

Rural Development Initiative (RDI)

RDI has been working with communities to strengthen rural people, places, and economies in the Pacific Northwest since 1991. Their "Pasos al Exito" program is empowering Latinx community members of Talent/Phoenix, Oregon with classes on bank accounts, savings, credit, and loans. Many members of these communities are still recovering from the 2020 Almeda fires with some members dealing with insecure housing, rebuilding of savings, and hardships of navigating financial institutions. RDI has been able to provide its services to help their participants build wealth and have a better understanding of their finances. **EEIP funds will support up to 80 beneficiaries with financial literacy and/or grant funding.**

EEIP Spotlight

The Next Door: Small Investments Yield Big Results

Through its Programa Promoviendo Prosperidad / Promoting Prosperity Program, The Next Door, Inc. helps Latinos in the Mid-Columbia Gorge region build sustainable small businesses by providing technical assistance support, permitting, financial literacy and access to capital. The Next Door's programs prove that sometimes a small grant can have a big impact!



So far, they have already helped **11 businesses register to do business** in Oregon. The Next Door also provided small grants of less than \$1,000 to pay for the business registration fees and licenses

required for those businesses, including Construction Contractors Board courses, exams and licenses, food handlers' certificates, health department permits, and others. Thanks to this support, these new businesses got off on the right foot and we can't wait to see what they do next!

EEIP In The News

Your work is being recognized! Since EEIP launched on June 30, 2023, many EEIP Grant Awardees have been recognized in the media and have received additional grants for their work. Here are the ones we have heard about:

- ✦ **AHIVORY:** [Article in the Oregon Wine Press](#)
- ✦ **Consejo Hispano:** [Article in the Daily Astorian](#)
- ✦ The Mexican Consul chose **Centro Cultural** for the Reconocimiento Ohtli/Ohtli Award, recognizing Centro's "unwavering commitment to the Mexican community here and globally."
- ✦ In recognition of its EEIP program as an "innovative, scalable program to help individuals overcome common barriers to achieving financial security, attaining homeownership, and sustaining homeownership," Neighborhood Reinvestment Corp awarded **NeighborWorks Umpqua** a \$50,000 Wealth Building Grant.
- ✦ **Be-Blac** was awarded \$140,000 from United Way, \$50,000 of which will add to its Black Empowerment Grant Fund.
- ✦ **Bohemia Food Hub** was awarded a USDA Rural Business Development Grant (RBDG) for \$100,000. This grant will allow Bohemia to purchase equipment for its commercial kitchen, including a commercial grade dehydrator, a forklift, sheeter, proofer, and more.
- ✦ **POIC/RAHS** received a \$200,000 SEED Award from the City of Portland/Prosper Portland for their Contruction Pre-Apprenticeship Program.

We Want Your News!

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EEIP Team



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EEIP Making The Rounds!

Your work and your communities matter and we'd love to see you in action! EEIP staff began making site visits across the state to see your work up close. WOW! We are in awe and overwhelmed with appreciation for what you do and the impact you are having. The map below shows where the 36 EEIP organizations are running programs. The car icon denotes where we have visited already. Click on the map to explore.

