



May 2, 2023

Governor Tina Kotek
Senate President Rob Wagner
Speaker Dan Rayfield
Co-Chair Senator Elizabeth Steiner
Co-Chair Representative Tawna Sanchez
Joint Ways & Means Committee
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Governor Kotek and Legislative Leaders:

RE: Business Oregon Culturally Specific Technical Assistance

Hello – I am reaching out on behalf of the staff, board of directors, business advisors, and 400+ women business owners statewide who are served by [Xcelerate Women](#), a 501c3 nonprofit organization whose mission is to help women business owners overcome systemic inequities to grow their businesses and build economic power now. We ask that you fully fund business Oregon's Technical Assistance program for the upcoming fiscal year.

As the state's leadership with the power to determine how best to budget public funds, we ask that you restore \$4 million in funding to Business Oregon's Governor's Recommended Budget from \$5 million to \$9 million. These funds are used by our organization to provide gender and culturally competent direct services such as one-on-one coaching, peer mentorship, and growth education, to Oregon's women and gender expansive business owners. This request can be accomplished through a Christmas allocation or restoration in Business Oregon's budget bill.

In 2022, Xcelerate Women provided direct services to 406 women-owned businesses valued at \$31.3M and collectively employing 577 Oregonians. 45% of owners served were women of color. 34% of participants represented LGBTQIA+, disabled, immigrant, and single mother communities. 44% made under \$60K per annum for an average family of 2.5 individuals. 34% resided outside of Multnomah County and were direct beneficiaries of the Technical Assistance Program.

The first iteration of the Technical Assistance program enhanced our efforts and provided measurable economic development impact to underrepresented and under resourced communities. We hope the program can continue to serve small businesses at it's current capacity by restoring the funding levels for the program.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Abby Guyer", written in a cursive style.

Abby Guyer
Interim Executive Director
Xcelerate Women