



2023-2025 Commission Goals and Strategies

Job Category

MARCH 2024 UPDATE

Department Contact:	Economic Development	Date:	March 4, 2024
	50%	Target Completion:	December 31, 2025

Goal 5.1 Create and promote economic development opportunities City-wide to support a healthy, and sustainable local economy.

IMPORTANT OR RELEVANT DATES/MILESTONES: (LOOKING AHEAD AT THE NEXT 3 MONTHS)

- **Talent Ready** is a job skill development program that utilizes existing support services to help would-be employees to be prepared for unfilled jobs. Talent Ready works to create partnerships with private for-profit businesses that need employees and public agencies that provide “wrap-around services” to help individuals mitigate employment barriers, i.e., child issues, mental health challenges, and lack of job skills to name a few.
- **Further develop and promote small business technical assistance and financial support services.**
- **Establish initiatives that support a “business-friendly” environment in Oregon City.**
- **Work to help prepare City-owned and Urban renewal-owned properties for future development.**
- **Work to promote the Arts as an important economic development element.**

STATUS: (WHAT HAS BEEN DONE/IS BEING DONE)

- **Talent Ready** –
 - Oregon State University (OSU) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Oregon City Economic Development Department aimed at providing OSU training resources as well as its job opportunities to individuals seeking to mitigate barriers to employment through Talent Ready. OSU joins the following entities that have also signed an MOU with the Department to help alleviate worker shortages:
 - Providence Willamette Falls Medical Services (For-Profit)
 - Avamere Rehabilitation (For-Profit)
 - Oregon City Municipal Court (Government)
- Staff will continue to seek additional partnerships with the organizations and businesses to provide training to would-be employees and to refer workers to businesses to mitigate workforce shortages.
- **Small Business Technical Assistance and Financial Support Services**
 - Developed the Entrepreneurial Opportunity Loan Program (“EOLP”) in partnership with EMBOLD Community Credit Union (Two small businesses received loans from EOLP)
 - Established the BIZ POD Program (Graduated 6 emerging businesses last year, will start the program again in February 2024).
 - Made a small business loan to “American Made Construction” in the amount of \$20,000 through the Entrepreneurial Opportunity Loan Program (“EOLP”) in partnership with EMBOLD Community Credit Union. (This will bring the total to three loans made since the program’s inception)
 - Hosting the second cohort of the BIZ POD Program starting on March 16th.
 - Launched the small business micro-enterprise grant program for existing small businesses with five or fewer employees.

- Business Friendly Environment
 - Continue to work on the Ombudsman Initiative (working with the Depts of Community Development and Public Works to educate commercial/business investors on the City's development processes and serve as an advocate for commercial/business investors in the community)
 - With City Commission approval, City staff implemented the new Oregon City Business License program. Staff recommended changes designed to reduce the cost of City business licenses for both new and existing business licenses. City Commission approved the proposed changes on November 1, 2023
- Owned/Urban Renewal Owned Properties
 - A Phase I Environmental Assessment was completed for the Stimson Property
 - A geo-technical study will be conducted on the Stimson Property
 - A new lease was executed with Clackamas Landscape Supply for one additional year, ending on December 2024.
- The Arts Commission
 - City staff presented a slate of ideas to the Arts Commission aimed at improving the visibility of the Arts Commission and designed to improve the public's perception of how important the Arts is in Oregon City. The Arts Commission will discuss these ideas at its January 2024 strategic planning session.
 - The Arts Commission will review proposals aimed at replacing the metal sculpture situated on the corner of Center and 7th street. In addition, the Arts Commission hired a consultant to review and assess damaged public Art within the City.

