



RESOLUTION NO. 3474

A Resolution of the City Council establishing a Small Business Assistance Grant Program to support implementation of the City of Bend Economic Development Strategic Plan and the City of Bend 2025 Community Climate Action Plan

Findings

- A. The Bend City Council has expressed a commitment to supporting economic growth, opportunity, and prosperity in Bend. This commitment was expressed most recently through the City Council's approval of the City of Bend Economic Development Strategic Plan (the "Strategic Plan") on February 4, 2026.
- B. The Strategic Plan aligns with the Council Economic Prosperity Goal. It establishes goals, strategies, and metrics to accomplish several objectives, including building productive and supportive relationships with Bend's businesses, and deploying strategies to keep Bend's economy durable and innovative.
- C. In connection with the Strategic Plan, Council directed staff to develop a Small Business Assistance Grant Program. This direction originates in Goal 1 within the Strategic Plan: "Retain, grow, and recruit business." There are several metrics identified in the Strategic Plan to track Goal 1. One of the metrics is small business grant awards and longevity of recipients.
- D. To implement Goal 1 consistent with its identified metrics, staff developed a plan for the Small Business Assistance Grant Program. The Small Business Assistance Grant Program is intended to be flexible and wide-ranging to meet the various needs of businesses within the City of Bend. By providing grant funding for a wide range of qualifying projects that support the Strategic Plan's core economic development objectives, the Program will support implementation of the Strategic Plan.
- E. In addition to supporting economic growth, opportunity, and prosperity in Bend, the City Council has also expressed a commitment to doing its part to seek to mitigate the impact of climate change, to be good stewards of the natural environment and support a healthy environment for generations to come. The City of Bend adopted Resolution 3044 on September 7, 2016 establishing climate action goals for the City. The goals include reducing fossil fuel consumption communitywide by 40% by 2030 and 70% by 2050. The resolution called for the City to work with the whole community, including establishing partnerships with businesses, to collectively work to achieve the climate action goals.
- F. On April 16, 2025, the City Council adopted by Resolution 3421 the 2025 Community Climate Action Plan Update (2025 CCAP), which was recommended by the



Environmental and Climate Committee (ECC). In connection with the 2025 CCAP, Council directed staff to develop a Climate Action Partner Grant Program, the purpose of which is to provide funding to community organizations that are able and willing to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Bend by implementing some of the 2025 CCAP actions.

- G. On June 4, 2025, following a recommendation by the ECC, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 3429, establishing the Climate Action Partner Grant Program. Grants dispersed through the Climate Action Partner Grant Program are awarded to non-profits, government agencies, and higher education institutions. Grant awards are given for projects that directly support specific 2025 CCAP strategies and actions.
 - 1. Following a successful first year of the Climate Action Partner Grant program, the ECC suggested that the City explore providing grants to private businesses leading climate action projects as part of their business operations, in addition to the grants already available to nonprofit and governmental entities through the Climate Action Partner Grant Program. Concurrently, as part of ongoing efforts to perform outreach and implement education-related CCAP strategies, staff were exploring ways to expand energy efficiency and climate action programs to the community. Staff identified the Small Business Assistance Program as an avenue to meet both objectives. Staff also identified alignment between the Small Business Assistance Program and the goal established in Resolution 3044 to partner with the business community to reduce fossil fuel consumption.
 - 2. On April 9, 2026, the ECC recommended that Council approve the Small Business Assistance Grant Program with a portion of funds available to support small business projects that align with the 2025 CCAP's focus areas.
- H. The Bend Economic Development Board (BEDAB) is the committee responsible for advising the Council on City economic development policies and projects using business-sector expertise and experience. On May 4, 2026, BEDAB recommended that the City Council adopt the Small Business Assistance Grant Program to support small business retention, operational resilience, inclusive economic participation, and long-term competitiveness. These objectives are all priority focus areas in the Strategic Plan. BEDAB's recommendation included general support for a portion of Small Business Assistance Grant Program funds being used to support the 2025 CCAP focus areas.
 - I. Consistent with the recommendations of BEDAB and the ECC, grants disbursed through the Small Business Assistance Grant Program will be awarded to small private businesses in Bend that are able and willing to deliver projects that support and align with Strategic Plan objectives, or the 2025 CCAP focus areas. Applications will be evaluated based on project impact, organizational capacity, feasibility, alignment with Strategic Plan or 2025 CCAP goals as applicable, and equity and accessibility. Recipients will be required to enter grant agreements and report on their expenditures and impacts of the project.
- J. The City Council recognizes that the City cannot implement the entire Strategic Plan and 2025 CCAP alone, and that participation from small businesses in the community is a natural and critical way to achieve Strategic Plan and 2025 CCAP goals. The Small



Business Assistance Grant Program will help facilitate private business partner-led implementation of the Strategic Plan and 2025 CCAP while continuing to provide City leadership in these important areas.

Resolution

Based on these findings, the City Council of the City Of Bend resolves as follows:

3. A Small Business Assistance Grant Program is established for the purpose of providing community grants to support the implementation of the Economic Development Strategic Plan and the 2025 Community Climate Action Plan, by assisting private small businesses in delivering projects that support and align with the Economic Development Strategic Plan core objectives, and the Community Climate Action Plan focus areas.
4. The City Manager is authorized to adopt an Administrative Policy which will govern the Small Business Assistance Grant Program consistent with this Resolution. The Administrative Policy will address administration and procedures for the Small Business Assistance Grant Program, including the Program’s purpose, eligibility, application process, and evaluation criteria. The City Manager is authorized to revise the Administrative Policy as necessary to implement the Small Business Assistance Grant Program.
5. Implementation of the Program is subject to funds being available and approved for the Program by the City Council each budget cycle.

Adopted by the Bend City Council

May 20, 2026

Yes: Kebler, Franzosa, Méndez, Norris, Perkins, Platt, Riley

No:

Melanie Kebler, Mayor

Attest:

Ashley Bontje, City Recorder

Approved as to form:

Ian Leitheiser, City Attorney