

August 3, 2026

Bend Economic Development Advisory Board



Public Comment



Approve Meeting Minutes

July 6



Mayor Pro Tem Perkins Updates



Staff Schedule & Updates

Cyrus Mooney, Business Development Manager



Community Speakers Series Conversation

John Evons, Chair

Jillian Taylor, Vice Chair





East Cascades
WORKS

Connecting Talent To Opportunity

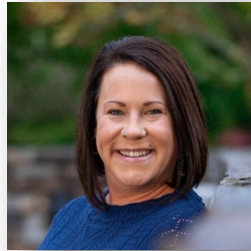
Heather Ficht
Executive Director
541-904-5070
heather@ecworks.org



Dave Baiocchi
Chair



K'Lynn Lane
Vice Chair



Wendy Jackson
Secretary/Treasurer



David Burger



Greg Davis



Kenny DeCrans



Jaime Eder



Bryan Fix



Cortney Gibson



Soledad Haines



John Hanner



Quinn Hanson



Kenneth Lawson



Susan Lewis



Kimberli Munn



Cristy Rodriguez



Robbie Smith



Eric Strobel



Chad Young

Meet our Board



Kelly Simmelink
Jefferson County
Commissioner

Chair



Cris Patnode
Gilliam County
Judge

Co-Vice Chair



Mark Albertson
Lake County
Commissioner

Co-Vice Chair



Seth Crawford
Crook County
Commissioner



Tony Debone
Deschutes County
Commissioner



Ed Weathers
Hood River County
Commissioner



Derrick DeGroot
Klamath County
Commissioner



Joe Dabulskis
Sherman County
Judge



Jeff Justesen
Wasco County
Commissioner



Lynn Morley
Wheeler County
Judge

Meet the COWC



Heather Ficht

Executive
Director



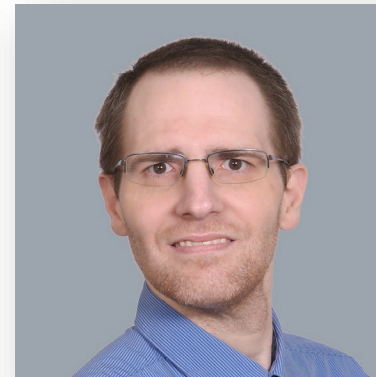
Jessica Fitzpatrick

Chief Operating
Officer



Matthew Gorman

Chief Financial
Officer



Matthew Koch

Senior Accounting
Technician



Nickelle Haffey

Project
Coordinator

Meet the Operations Team



Teresa Cummings-Weir

Director of Programs



Jo Dancen

Youth Program
Manager



Kristyn Fix

Business & Community
Engagement Manager



Ashley Thunell

Adult Program
Manager



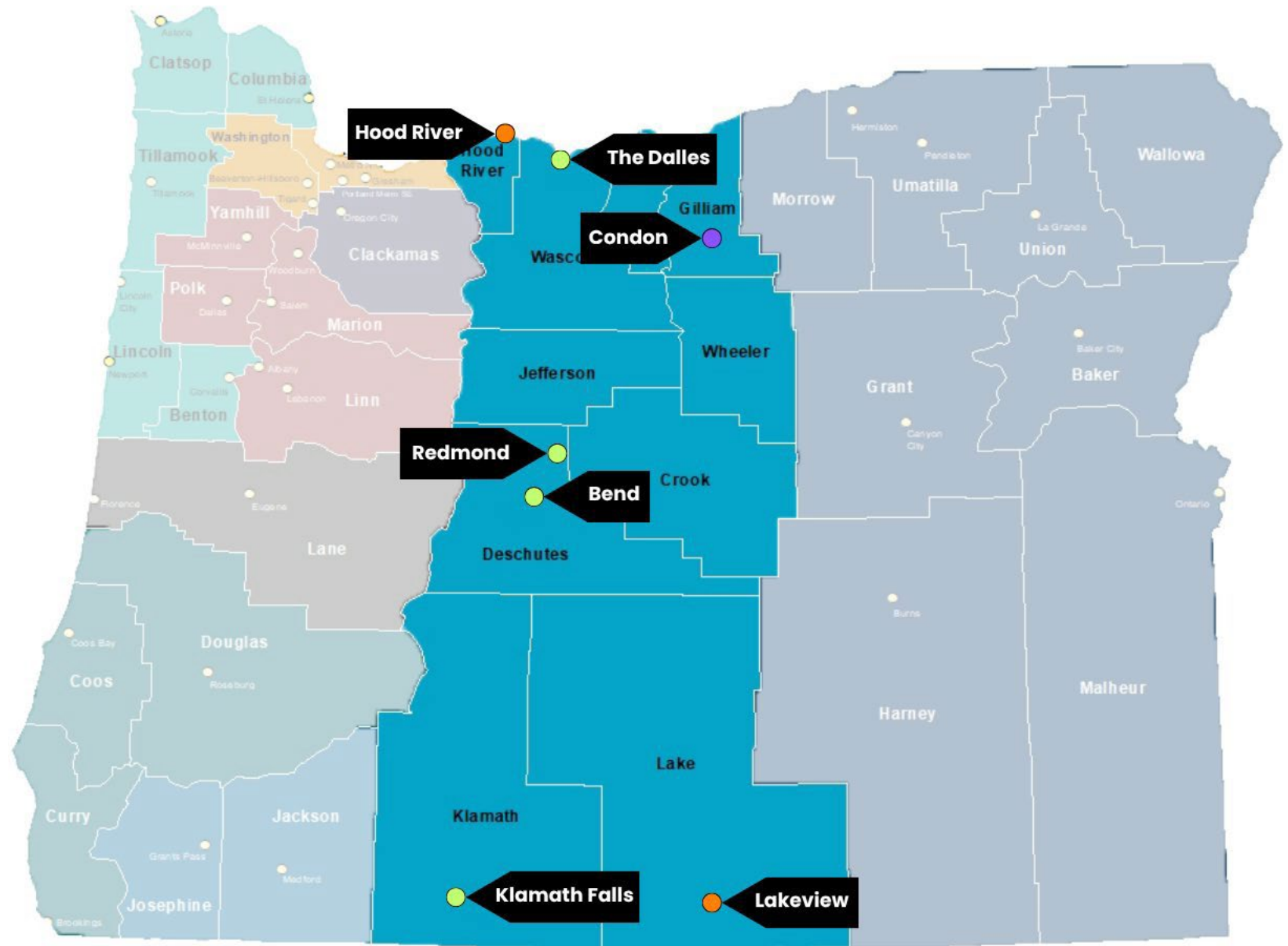
Ryan Miller

Lake County
Career Counselor

Meet the Program Team

WorkSource Oregon Centers

- Comprehensive, Affiliate, and Partner Access Sites
- Mobile WSO:
 - COIC
 - OED



- Comprehensive Center
- Affiliate Center
- Partner Access Site



YOUTH COMPASS PROGRAM

Guiding Young Adults to Success

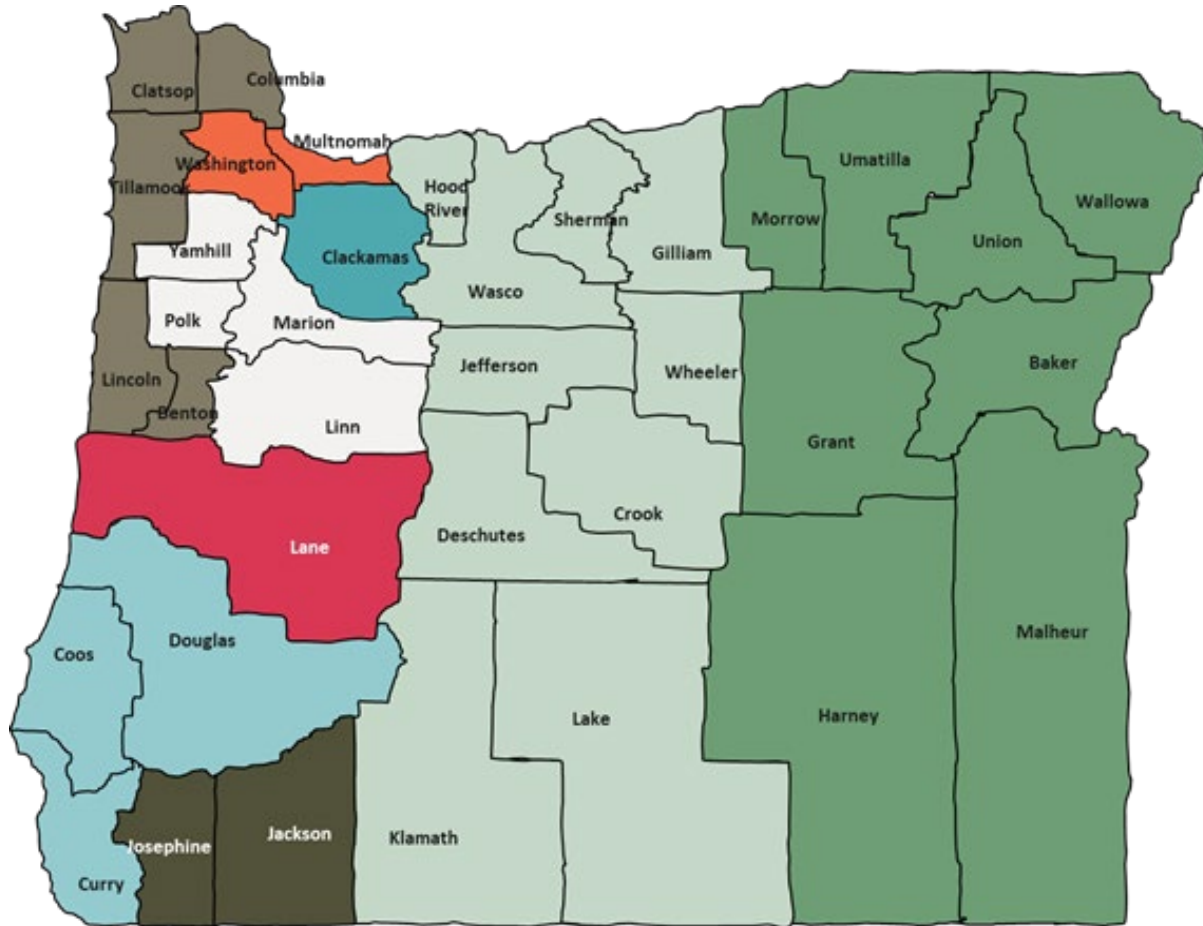
- Work Readiness Training
- Paid internships
- Support services
- Skills, confidence, and career exposure for success
- GED prep, career guidance, credit recovery, postsecondary prep
- Attachment to employment or post secondary education

**Serving youth ages 16-24,
predominately those who are not in
school or working.**



Naomi's Internship with Ember's Bunny Rescue

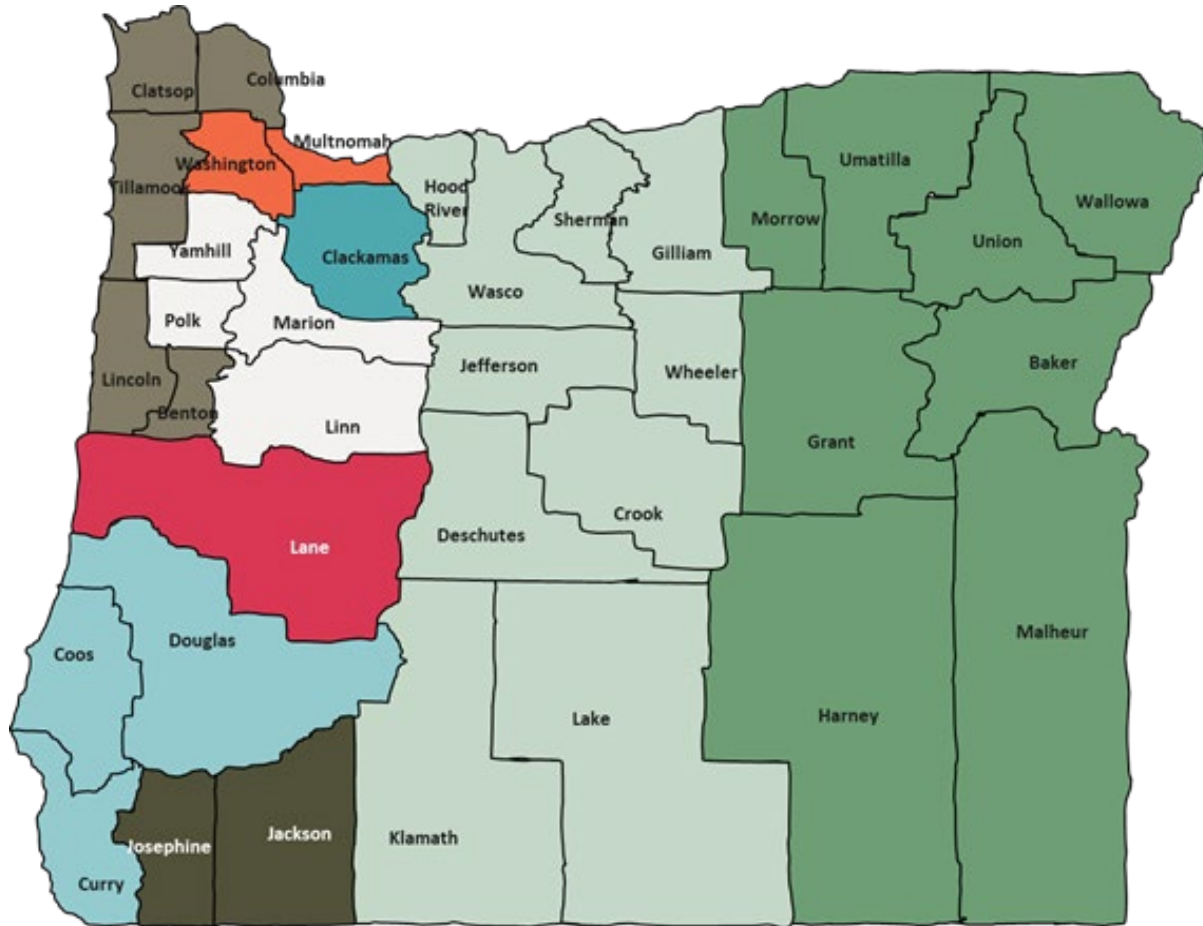
Federal WIOA Funding



*Oregon received \$35.7M in WIOA Title I funding
for July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027*

Counties	Funding 2026	Funding 2025
Clackamas	\$1,607,206	\$1,414,852
Multnomah, Washington	\$7,044,396	\$6,005,584
Benton, Clatsop, Columbia, Lincoln, Tillamook	\$1,801,359	\$1,450,209
Linn, Marion, Polk, Yamhill	\$3,735,711	\$3,056,435
Lane	\$2,312,841	\$1,949,226
Coos, Curry, Douglas	\$3,015,060	\$2,684,607
Jackson, Josephine	\$3,825,748	\$3,582,363
Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, Baker, Grant, Harney, Malheur	\$1,725,974	\$1,456,140
Crook, Deschutes, Gilliam, Hood River, Jefferson, Sherman, Wasco, Wheeler, Klamath, Lake	\$4,237,500	\$3,688,984

Federal WIOA Funding



Purpose	Funding
State Admin costs – 5%	\$1,785,011
Governor’s Reserve Funds or Statewide Activities Funds	\$2,953,510
Rapid Response	\$1,655,953
Total	\$6,394,474

Prosperity Programs

This investment delivered measurable financial returns.

Oregon's investment in workforce readiness has already proven to reduce state costs and boost revenue.

- **\$35 million investment will generate \$23.1 million in new tax revenue from increased earnings and \$195.4 million in reduced social services costs. That amounts to an estimated total annual financial benefit to the state and taxpayers of \$219 million.**

\$219 million benefit to taxpayers



Industry & Sector Engagement



Construction

Progress and engagement continues

BOLI approved pre-apprenticeship in High school CTE programs

Strong private sector advocates: Pahlisch Homes, Hayden Homes, Sunwest



Behavioral Health (COBHC)

Convened as sector partnership

Contracted Juniper Mountain to manage clinical service lines

Maintaining CEU trainings, supervision consultation, scholarships, supervision reimbursement, training platforms, and community didactics



Healthcare

Central OR Consortium re-launched in 2025

Participation in regional health councils

Industry partner shout-outs: EC Works Board Members Wendy Jackson, Mosaic Medical, and Kimberli Munn, St. Charles Health System



Manufacturing

Partner with COCC's Mfg Advisory Board

Bioscience emerging strongly in Bend

Wood Products and Food Mfg are more prevalent outside of Bend

Central Oregon Business Response Network

EMPOWERING YOUR BUSINESS

Discover the resources your business needs to thrive and get connected to the right support quickly. Not sure where to start? Each service area has a single point of contact who will connect you to the right resources.

	For help with:	Reach out to:
Talent Recruitment 	- Finding candidates - Hiring events & job fairs - Posting open jobs - Navigating hiring incentives - Filling hard-to-hire positions	WorkSource Oregon (WSO) Joe Milazzo, MBA Phone: (541) 408-8072 Email: joe.p.milazzo@employoregon.gov
Employee Retention 	- Training current employees - Leadership development - Customized training - Support preventing layoffs - Workplace accommodations - Employee advancement and upskilling opportunities	Central Oregon Community College (COCC) Stephanie Goetsch Phone: (541) 504-2966 Email: sgoetsch@cocc.edu
Business Operations 	- Business problem-solving - Process improvements - HR and compliance support - Site selection and expansion - Tax and wage incentives - Entrepreneur and small business support	Economic Development of Central Oregon (EDCO) Kelsey Haskett Phone: (541) 213-3169 Email: kelsey@edcoinfo.com
Market Analysis 	- Wage and workforce data - Industry and job projections - Labor market reports - Data to support expansion and funding decisions	Oregon Employment Dept Research Division Anastasia Casteel Phone: (541) 306-1645 Email: anastasia.c.casteel@employ.oregon.gov

The Central Oregon Business Response Network (COBRN) brings together local business support organizations to make it easier for employers to access the services they need, by coordinating outreach, reducing duplication, and connecting businesses to the right resources at the right time.



More information!

- [Website](#) – check out all the great resources for yourself.
- [Impact Report](#) – this is a great summary of all the great things our organization and provider network accomplished in Program Year 2025 (July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025) – it will be updated again in October to reflect 2026 accomplishments.
- [Business Response Network](#) – ECW convenes business facing partners in each sub-region to coordinate and better serve our business community.
- [WorkSource Oregon Reentry](#) – we started this statewide program at Deer Ridge and Warner Creek Correctional Institutions in our area – first WorkSource Centers sited inside state prisons. We secured \$5M to take it statewide.
- [Central Oregon Behavioral Health Consortium](#) – professional development and support for licensure for newer behavioral health clinicians.
- [Employee Advancement Grants](#) – incumbent worker training funds for businesses will reopen in October 2026.



**Industry Employment Projections, 2024-2034
Crook, Deschutes, and Jefferson Counties**

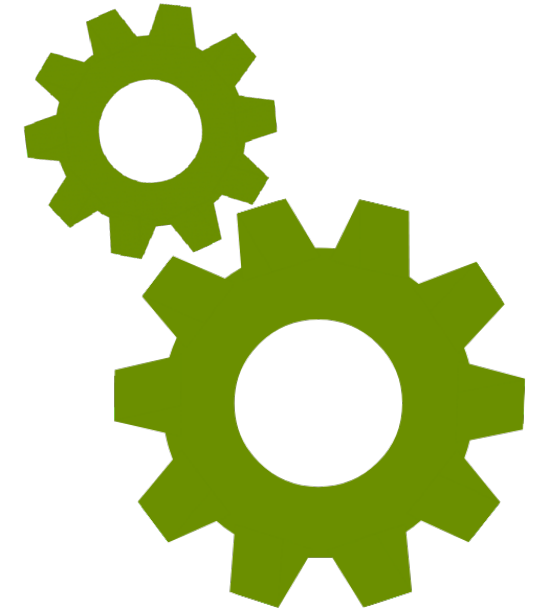
	2024	2034	Change	% Change
Total employment	117,920	126,130	8,210	7%
Total payroll employment	110,710	118,440	7,730	7%
Total private	96,300	103,920	7,620	8%
Natural resources and mining	1,420	1,460	40	3%
Mining and logging	240	240	0	0%
Construction	8,740	9,630	890	10%
Manufacturing	8,300	8,540	240	3%
Durable goods	5,740	5,810	70	1%
Wood product manufacturing	1,820	1,780	-40	-2%
Nondurable goods	2,570	2,730	160	6%
Trade, transportation, and utilities	18,810	19,320	510	3%
Wholesale trade	2,900	3,080	180	6%
Retail trade	13,050	13,100	50	0%
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	2,860	3,140	280	10%
Information	2,230	2,390	160	7%
Financial activities	5,560	5,700	140	3%
Professional and business services	11,950	13,390	1,440	12%
Private educational and health services	18,830	21,280	2,450	13%
Health care and social assistance	17,420	19,720	2,300	13%
Health care	14,080	15,950	1,870	13%
Leisure and hospitality	16,360	17,850	1,490	9%
Accommodation and food services	13,410	14,570	1,160	9%
Other services	4,100	4,360	260	6%
Government	14,410	14,520	110	1%
Federal government	1,470	1,400	-70	-5%
State government	1,640	1,700	60	4%
Local government	11,300	11,420	120	1%
Local government education	5,090	4,920	-170	-3%
Self-employment	7,210	7,690	480	7%

Contact: Nicole Ramos, Regional Economist, Nicole.S.Ramos@employ.oregon.gov, (541) 706-077
Oregon Employment Department, Workforce and Economic Research Division

Published: December 18, 2025

Source: OED East Cascades Industry Employment Projections, 2024-2034

Clare McGrady
Workforce Analyst / Economist
Crook, Deschutes, Gilliam, Hood River, Jefferson, Sherman,
Wasco, and Wheeler County
clare.m.mcgrady@employ.oregon.gov
(541) 306-1645



Employment in Bend by Target Economic Sectors					
2024, Private Employment					
Cross-sector Group	Target Sector	Establishments	Average Employment	Total Wages	Average Wage
Recreation and Tourism	Recreation and Tourism Sector Total	745	9,782	\$ 343,884,458	\$ 35,155
	Outdoor Product Manufacturing	36	382	\$ 25,445,747	\$ 66,612
	Food and Beverage Manufacturing	83	1,140	\$ 54,901,150	\$ 48,159
	Food Service	429	6,162	\$ 194,785,534	\$ 31,611
	Accommodations	54	899	\$ 37,436,537	\$ 41,642
	Entertainment and Recreation	143	1,199	\$ 31,315,490	\$ 26,118
Health Systems	Health Systems Sector Total	1,100	11,970	\$ 1,235,595,871	\$ 103,224
	Health Care	676	9,562	\$ 913,770,516	\$ 95,563
	Wellness Services	51	206	\$ 9,145,365	\$ 44,395
	Bioscience Research, Development, and Manufacturing	79	707	\$ 90,149,057	\$ 127,509
	Management of Companies	66	927	\$ 106,632,789	\$ 115,030
	Computer Systems Design	228	568	\$ 115,898,144	\$ 204,046
Build for Growth	Build for Growth Sector Total	1,458	6,612	\$ 464,318,436	\$ 70,224
	Architecture and Engineering	151	607	\$ 61,071,149	\$ 100,611
	Residential and Commercial Construction	714	3,979	\$ 298,671,882	\$ 75,062
	Building Maintenance	190	924	\$ 37,193,019	\$ 40,252
	Real Estate	384	739	\$ 45,714,145	\$ 61,859
	Wood and Building Product Manufacturing	19	363	\$ 21,668,241	\$ 59,692
Technology and Innovation	Technology and Innovation Sector Total	1,247	4,745	\$ 655,295,601	\$ 138,102
	Aerospace Manufacturing	9	67	\$ 8,221,895	\$ 122,715
	High-Tech Manufacturing	780	2,796	\$ 379,955,356	\$ 135,892
	Architecture and Engineering	151	607	\$ 61,071,149	\$ 100,611
	Computer Systems Design	228	568	\$ 115,898,144	\$ 204,046
	Bioscience Research, Development, and Manufacturing	79	707	\$ 90,149,057	\$ 127,509
	Total Private Employment in Bend City Limits, 2024	7,956	54,787	\$ 3,804,195,068	
Source: OED Geocoded Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Report					

Questions?



East Cascades
WORKS

Connecting Talent To Opportunity

Heather Ficht
Executive Director
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Ex-Officio Updates



Roundtable & Future Topics



Accessible Meeting Information



Accessible Meeting/Alternate Format Notification

This meeting/event location is accessible. Sign and other language interpreter service, assistive listening devices, materials in alternate format such as Braille, large print, electronic formats, language translations or any other accommodations are available upon advance request at no cost. Please email accessibility@bendoregon.gov or call 541-693-2198. Relay Users Dial 7-1-1. All requests are subject to vendor processing times and should be submitted 48-72 hours in advance of events.

Información sobre accesibilidad en reuniones

Hay accesibilidad disponible en esta reunión. Si se solicita con antelación, se puede disponer de servicio de intérprete de lengua de señas, dispositivos de ayuda auditiva, materiales en formatos alternativos como Braille, letra grande, formatos electrónicos o cualquier otro tipo de adaptación. Póngase en contacto en correo electrónico accessibility@bendoregon.gov o número de teléfono 541-693-2198. Los usuarios del servicio de retransmisión deben marcar el 7-1-1. Por favor, envíe sus solicitudes con 48-72 horas de antelación al evento; todas las solicitudes están sujetas a los tiempos de procesamiento del proveedor.