



January 19, 2024

City of Sandy

39250 Pioneer Blvd.

Sandy, Oregon

97055

Dear Mayor Pulliam and Members of the City Council,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Sandy Area Chamber of Commerce (SACC) to request your support and funding for our Chamber programming. In August of 2023, we submitted a proposal for tourism funding with the long-term goal of becoming a local Destination Marketing Organization (DMO) through the City's Special Services Contract. While this remains a significant objective, we find ourselves in need of general funding at this time to sustain our ongoing initiatives and serve the Sandy Area community effectively.

One critical aspect of our current financial situation is the impending conclusion of our American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding, scheduled to end on May 31st of this year. Unfortunately, there is no clear path to secure additional funding through ARPA, which has been vital in supporting our Chamber's activities and outreach. Our primary concern is the continuity of our Business Resource Center (BRC) programming, which has been instrumental in providing valuable resources and support to local businesses in the Sandy Area.

Through 2022 and 2023, our ARPA funding allowed 2.5 Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs). As of January 1st, we employ one dedicated staff member who works 30 hours a week to manage the BRC program. Additionally, this staff member dedicates 10 hours a week to various SACC marketing initiatives and projects. The BRC serves as a vital hub for local businesses seeking guidance, resources, and support in navigating the challenges of the current economic landscape. Without the essential funding we have received through ARPA, retaining our BRC staff and continuing these critical services will be severely impacted.

To ensure the sustainability of the BRC program and our broader efforts to support Sandy Area businesses, we kindly request the City of Sandy's financial support. Specifically, we are seeking

to retain \$14,000, contributing to a total of \$28,000 biannually, to maintain the vital work we do in assisting and promoting local businesses.

Your investment in our Chamber of Commerce programming not only empowers businesses in our community but also fosters economic growth and development in the Sandy Area. We believe that our collaborative efforts will continue to make our city a thriving and vibrant place to live and work.

We thank you for the opportunity to discuss this funding request in further detail and explore how our partnership can continue to benefit both the city and the local business community.

Sincerely,

Khrys Jones

Executive Director

Sandy Area Chamber of Commerce and Business Resource Center

503.668.4006

Khrys@SandyOregonChamber.org

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS:

- Programs and Services Provided by the Sandy Area Chamber of Commerce and the Sandy Business Resource Center

Attachment A:

These programs and services provided by the Sandy Area Chamber of Commerce and the Sandy Business Resource Center demonstrate our commitment to the local business community.

- Ribbon Cuttings
- Good Morning Sandy (3rd Wednesday of the month)
- Morning Perk (1st Wednesday of the month)
- REACH {Relationships Established at Cocktail Hour} (2nd Wednesday of the month)
- Career & Education Committee
 - Thrive @ 25
 - Principal For a Day
 - CTE Tours (MHCC) {Career and Technical Education}
 - Job Fairs
- Lunch & Learns
- Grow With Us Luncheons
- Annual Meeting
- Heart of the Community Award (Quarterly)
- Candidate Forums
- Music, Fair & Feast
- Trick or Treat Trail
- Welcome Home Bags
- Digital Marketing Boost
- Workforce Wednesday
- Friday Flyers
- Non-Profit Board Training
- Chamber Ambassadors – Chamber Squad
- Consulting services to business owners and entrepreneurs

- Engage with partners to ensure open communication and understanding of process guides and rulemaking
- Advocates for anything that improves the business climate of this community, county and state
- ARPA grants to local businesses, through ARPA funding
- Research for available grants, not only SACC but for businesses
- Serve on numerous boards, advisory boards, and committees