

Staff Report Summary

Clackamas County Tourism Business Grant Program Presentation

Background:

Clackamas County Office of Economic Development in partnership with Oregon's Mt. Hood Territory has launched a new one-time Tourism Business Grant Program aimed at supporting tourism-related businesses throughout Clackamas County. The program is funded through Transient Lodging Tax (TLT) revenues and was created to address the limited availability of long-term investment funding opportunities for tourism and hospitality businesses.

The program is intended to strengthen the county's tourism economy by supporting business growth, enhancing visitor experiences, and helping tourism-related businesses remain competitive in the regional market. Eligible businesses may include lodging operators, tour companies, recreation providers, hospitality businesses, and visitor-serving attractions located within Clackamas County.

Program Timeline

- Applications Open: May 14, 2026
- Applications Close: June 18, 2026
- Review & Scoring Period: June–July 2026
- Funding Decisions Announced: August 2026
- Grant Agreements & Distribution: Fall 2026

Program Goals

The Tourism Business Grant Program seeks to:

- Support long-term business investment in the tourism sector
- Encourage tourism-related economic development
- Increase visitor attraction and spending throughout Clackamas County
- Strengthen tourism infrastructure and visitor-serving businesses
- Expand opportunities for local tourism operators and hospitality businesses
- Reinforce tourism as an economic driver supporting jobs, events, recreation, and community vitality

Discussion

Tourism continues to play a significant role in Clackamas County's economy, supporting local businesses, recreation assets, community events, and hospitality-related employment opportunities. The establishment of

this grant program demonstrates the County's continued investment in strengthening tourism infrastructure and supporting local business growth.

The program aligns with broader regional tourism strategies that focus on enhancing visitor experiences, improving recreational amenities, promoting destination awareness, and encouraging year-round economic activity throughout the county. Similar tourism-related funding initiatives across Oregon have helped communities leverage tourism as a catalyst for downtown revitalization, outdoor recreation investments, trail enhancements, and business expansion opportunities.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends continued coordination and outreach with local tourism-related businesses and community partners to ensure awareness of the Tourism Business Grant Program and to encourage eligible applicants to participate. The program presents an opportunity to support business expansion, visitor attraction efforts, and economic vitality throughout Clackamas County communities.

For additional information and application materials, businesses may visit:

[Clackamas County Tourism Business Grant Program](#)