

Meet the Human Resources Manager

By C. Clark

Ryan Schulze joined the OCWCOG family as HR Manager in February of 2019. As the title suggests, he is directly involved with nearly every person employed and service provided through OCWCOG.



Ryan is enthusiastic about the work done at OCWCOG. He is currently excited about the effort with the Labor Management Advisory Committee (LMAC), which is focusing on the creation of a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee at the COG. While there will be a lot of work ahead for this group, the amount of support and passion revolving around this committee is inspiring to Ryan.

“I have been thrilled with the level of interest in the organization around getting this committee started, as well as the level of engagement from LMAC to develop a recommendation.”

Ryan has a long history of being of service to his community. He joined the Marine Corps after high school and served for 10 years, where he learned about and experienced cultures from across the world. Reflecting upon that time, he gained a great sense of appreciation of the freedoms and wealth the U.S. offers to its citizens. In 2005, Ryan moved to Salem, OR to settle down and start a family. At the time he worked as an Office Manager with DHS Child Welfare, and eventually found his way into Human Resources. He wore many hats in that position, ranging from an HR Analyst responsible for Labor Relations, Operations and Policy Analyst developing Organizational Development strategies, HR Manager for the Stabilization and Crisis Unit (SACU) at DHS, and ultimately as an Emergency Management Coordinator developing statewide essential needs strategies in disaster response and recovery operations. While the work was fulfilling and intrinsically interesting, Ryan was drawn to more specific work within HR, which finally led him to OCWCOG.

Ryan is a family man through and through. He and his wife are expecting a new family member in November, and their two current children are very excited about being big siblings. Ryan loves his family so much, he even accepted a puppy as a Father’s Day gift two years ago because his daughter insisted that they needed one. Ryan adopted Arlo the puppy from the Oregon Humane Society and said he’s the best dog he has ever owned. He and his family like to go on adventures together; sometimes its nature focused like hiking by the coast and other times it is more kid orientated, like a day at the skate park or the mall. Recently, Ryan has taken up archery as a hobby as a combination of survivalist skill and inner child excitement of learning a fun new ability. Looking towards the upcoming summer months, Ryan is planning on preparing the household for the new family member between household projects, landscaping, and setting up a nursery. That said, the family will still find time for their annual camping trip and river floats together.

“When I look at the turmoil the last year has brought for our nation and then see how our community has responded I feel good about where I am.”

Looking back over the past year, Ryan’s enthusiasm for our community has been bolstered. He appreciates the region for its small town feel with all the conveniences of city life. With Ryan Schulze on the OCWCOG team, we are confident that good things will continue to come from him and his work, which in turn will support everyone who is connected with OCWCOG. We appreciate everything you do Ryan!

COVID-19 Updates

COVID-19 Vaccine Info & Resources



A new and exciting change in the past few weeks was the announcement that COVID-19 vaccines are now **available to all Oregonians over the age of 16.**

we're all in this
TOGETHER

For information on how to get the vaccine, please visit the [Benton](#), [Linn](#) or [Lincoln](#) county websites, or visit the [Oregon State website](#), the [SamHealth](#) website, or the [official CDC](#) website for more resources, such as pharmacies where you can receive the vaccine or the closest vaccination site to you.

Safety Section

Wildfire Readiness – Virtual Community Presentations by Lincoln County

May 1st is Wildfire Community Preparedness Day; this is a great day to develop a list of the items you can do around your home or property for wildfire mitigation.

The Lincoln County Fire Defense Board, Lincoln County Sheriff's Office and Lincoln County Public Health are partnering together to prepare community members, business owners, and visitors on local wildfire threat conditions, public safety evacuation response procedures, and efforts individuals can take to be ready for wildfire season.

The Emergency Management Division at the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office is expanding their 2-hour Lincoln County Wildfire Readiness presentation into **six modules** and adding an additional session for each Fire District and Department of Lincoln County. These sessions, which are split up into modules, will give more flexibility to our community members to pick and choose those sessions of most interest to them.

Click [HERE](#) for more information, details on the schedule, and access the recordings and presentation slides.

Module	Description	Session #01, 7-8pm	Session #02, 7-8pm
Module 1	Financial and Property Protection / Business Preparedness	Monday, May 3, 2021	Wednesday, May 12, 2021
Module 2	Animal Preparedness (Pets & Livestock)	Wednesday, May 5, 2021	Monday, May 10, 2021
Module 3	Property Protection by Understanding Wildfire Risk	Monday, May 17, 2021	Wednesday, May 26, 2021
Module 4	Emergency Notifications & Evacuation Processes	Wednesday, May 19, 2021	Monday, May 24, 2021
Module 5	Sheltering with the American Red Cross and Medically Fragile Community Members	Wednesday, June 2, 2021	Monday, June 7, 2021
Module 6	Air Quality Considerations and Access and Functional Needs Persons Preparedness	Wednesday, June 9, 2021	Monday, June 14, 2021

“Wildfire threat is not just a risk for rural areas of Lincoln County; each property owner should take the time to look at their yards and properties and build a defensible space to protect their homes and structures. Lincoln County is generally considered to have a lower threat for wildfire compared to other central and eastern counties. However, with our expected seasonal weather conditions, our local risk increases. Our cooperation as a community to reduce our fire risk, adhere to fire safety rules and stay aware of current conditions are some of the important steps community members can do to protect themselves and assist public safety with seasonal wildfire risk reduction.”

Chief Rob Murphy, Lincoln County Fire Defense Board Chief

Additional Resources:

Many additional partners are also providing community preparedness campaigns:

- Keep Oregon Green - [Keep Oregon Green](#)
- Oregon State University Extension Service - [Wildfire Wednesdays](#)
- Oregon State Fire Marshall's Office – [Wildland Urban Interface](#)
- Oregon Department of Forestry – [Fire Prevention](#)
- Oregon Health Authority – [Prepare for Wildfire/Reducing Health Effects of Wildfire Smoke](#)
- Oregon Emergency Management – [Oregon Wildfire Response](#)
- National Fire Protection Agency – [Wildfire Community Preparedness Day](#)



If you are unable to attend one of the sessions or want additional information you can check out the Wildfire Readiness page at <https://www.co.lincoln.or.us/emergencymanagement/page/seasonal-hazards-wildfire>

Project Updates

AAMPO Launches Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan Project Website!

The Albany Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (AAMPO) is pleased to announce the website launch for the AAMPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, www.walkbikeplan2021.com. The Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan is intended to identify projects to make walking and biking easier and safer in Jefferson, Millersburg, Albany, and Tangent. The plan will also include policy and program recommendations that support walking and biking.

The website contains information about the [planning process](#), a [survey](#) of walking and biking preferences, and an interactive [mapping exercise](#) where community members can pinpoint destinations and barriers to walking and biking. AAMPO encourages everyone who lives, works, or plays in the greater Albany area, regardless of whether they walk or bike, to provide input on the plan via the survey and interactive mapping exercise.



Additional questions and comments about the plan can be sent to Catherine Rohan at crohan@ocwcog.org

Other Announcements

Business Oregon Announces Second Round of Commercial Rent Relief Grants to Help Small Businesses Cover Outstanding Lease Payments (EDA)

On April 22, Business Oregon will open the second round of a grant program for building owners to cover outstanding lease payments from small business tenants that are behind on rent due to COVID-19. The grants can go up to \$100,000 per each business tenant, but not more than \$3 million for each landlord.

There is \$42 million available in this round. Round one of the program launched on March 22nd, with 2,965 applications requesting \$65.4 million. Most grant applicants from round one are receiving funding, as there was \$49.9M

available in round one. The funding is being allocated by region, to ensure it reaches businesses throughout the state. 2,609 grants will be awarded from the round one applicant pool, with only the Portland Metro region seeing more demand than available funds. Those applicants not selected in round one are automatically entered into round two.

This program helps small business tenants that have 100 or fewer employees. Both the business tenant and prop-

erty owner will need to participate in the application process and sign the grant agreement, but the initial application needs to be completed by the landlord. The online application process is very simple, and information is available in multiple languages. In addition to Business Oregon staff, the agency has contracted with culturally-focused organizations to help small businesses and their landlords with the process if they have questions. A list is available on the Business Oregon website.

There are some minor changes to round two versus round one to accommodate additional applicants. The minimum grant amount is now \$500 (from \$1,000), landlords can be publicly-traded businesses, and sole proprietors do not need to register their business with the Secretary of State if they are not otherwise required to do so.

The program opened for online applications Wednesday April 22 at 9am and will be open for two weeks, **closing May 6**. It is NOT first-come, first-served. Applications will be chosen by a random lottery system in any geographic regions that have more applicants than available funds. This is the seventh COVID-specific program Business Oregon has implemented to help businesses navigate the impacts of the pandemic. One of those programs — the

emergency small business grant — helped about 7,400 small businesses with \$43 million in grants to help offset revenue impacts from COVID-19. More program information and eligibility details are available on Business Oregon's website, along with the application link.



SBA Announces Official Restaurant Revitalization Fund Application & Guidelines!

SBA Administrator Isabella Casillas Guzman announced key details on application requirements, eligibility, and a program guide for the Restaurant Revitalization Fund (RRF). The restaurant industry has been among the hardest-hit sectors during the economic downturn caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. To help bring jobs back and revive the industry, the American Rescue Plan, signed into law by President Joe Biden, established the \$28.6 billion Restaurant Revitalization Fund at the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). The SBA will administer the funds to the hardest-hit small restaurants.

Under this announcement, details on application requirements, eligibility, and a program guide are now available in English [HERE](#) or en Español [AQUÍ](#).

Ahead of the application launch and over the next two weeks, the SBA will establish a seven-day pilot period for the RRF application portal and conduct extensive outreach and training. The pilot period will be used to address technical issues ahead of the public launch. Participants in this pilot will be randomly selected from existing PPP borrowers in priority groups for RRF and will not receive funds until the application portal is open to the public.

Following the pilot, the application portal will be opened to the public. The official application launch date will be announced at a later date. For the first 21 days that the program is open, the SBA will prioritize reviewing applications from

small businesses owned by women, veterans, and socially and economically disadvantaged individuals. Following the 21-day period, all eligible applicants are encouraged to submit applications.

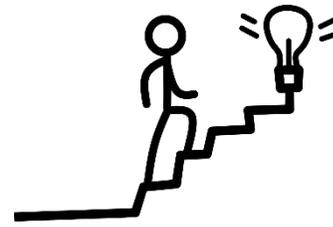
The groundwork for this announcement is the result of a comprehensive effort to reach out to diverse stakeholders in order to understand the needs and barriers restaurants face in accessing emergency relief aid.

Community business leaders from underserved communities also welcomed RRF assistance as much-needed economic relief and are working with their broad membership bases to navigate the grant application process.

In addition to restaurant groups and leading advocacy groups for underserved business communities, the SBA has engaged national and state trade associations, and other small business stakeholders in recent weeks to understand their concerns about relief programs.

At all levels, the SBA will continue engaging with stakeholder communities to inform and design delivery of financial assistance programs. As the SBA builds and prepares to roll out the program, this dedicated SBA website is the best source for up-to-date information for eligible restaurants interested in the RRF.

Upcoming News



Older Americans Month: May 2021

Annually in May, the Administration for Community Living leads our nation's observance of Older Americans Month. The 2021 theme is "*Communities of Strength*". Older adults have built resilience and strength over their lives through successes, failures, joys, and difficulties. Their stories and contributions help to support and inspire others.

Oregon Cascades West Council of Government is observing Older Americans Month in May in honor of our Region's older adults. As volunteers, employees, employers, educators, mentors, advocates, and more, they offer insight and experience that benefit the entire community. We invite you to join us in recognizing the key role these community members play in the vitality of our neighborhoods, networks, and lives.

"Caring for seniors is perhaps the greatest responsibility we have. Those who have walked before us have given us so much and made possible the life we all enjoy."
Senator John Hoeven

Will your City join in? Click **HERE** for a copy of a proclamation template that you can use to edit for your community.

Military Appreciation Month: May 2021

May is National Military Appreciation month: it is our turn to take action and show our appreciation for the brave men and women that have served, or are currently serving our country. A few ways to do that:

- Fly the flag in your yard
- Wear patriotic colors and themed t-shirts and visors
- Send a care package to someone you know, in or out of the active duty
- Buy them a coffee
- Donate to a military charity
- Proclaim it on social media

"On the battlefield, THE MILITARY pledges to leave no man behind. As a nation, let it be our pledge that when they return home, WE leave no veteran behind."

Dan Lipinski

Oregon Cascades West Council of Government will be reading a proclamation at the Benton County Commissioner Meeting on May 4, 2021 and posting on our social media. Regardless of the way you choose to celebrate, the kindness and recognition shown to even one former or current serviceman or woman is a small gesture to thank them for our freedom.

For a sample template you could use, please click **HERE**.

Current Job Openings

- Case Manager, Toledo
- Case Manager, Albany
- Contracts Coordinator, Albany
- Meal Site Manager, Siletz-Toledo
- Program Supervisor for SDS, Albany/Toledo

To learn more, or apply, please visit:

<http://www.ocwcog.org/careers>

Contact Information

Senior & Disability Services
(541) 967-8630

RideLine
(541) 924-8738

Economic Development
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