



# Board of Directors Meeting Packet

March 20 ,2025  
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Attend In Person at

Toledo Cascades West Center  
1400 Queen Ave SE, Toledo, OR 97391

Or Attend Virtually:

[Click to Join Teams Meeting](#)

**Next Board of Directors  
Meeting: May 15, 2025 at  
2:00 pm**

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*OCWCOG strives to host inclusive, accessible events that enable all individuals, including individuals with disabilities, to engage fully. To request an accommodation or for inquiries about accessibility please contact Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments at 541-967-8720 or [adminGA@ocwcog.org](mailto:adminGA@ocwcog.org), forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting.*



1400 Queen Ave SE • Suite 201 • Albany, OR 97322  
(541) 967-8720 • FAX (541) 967-6123

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**OREGON CASCADES WEST COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS' AGENDA**

**March 20, 2025**

**2:00 – 4:00 pm**

[203 N Main St, Toledo, OR 97391](#)

[Join Teams Meeting](#)

*An Executive Session may be called as deemed necessary by the Chair, pursuant to ORS 192.660.*

**NOTE:** Please contact Angelykah Light at 541.405.8420 or [alight@ocwcog.org](mailto:alight@ocwcog.org) no later than noon on Wednesday, March 19, 2025, to confirm your attendance.

1. **Welcome and Introductions** (Chair Pat Malone)  
(2:00 pm – 2:05 pm)

2. **Public Comment** (Chair Pat Malone)  
(2:05 pm – 2:10 pm)

The floor will be open to the public for comment.

3. **Consent Calendar** (Chair Pat Malone)  
(2:10 pm - 2:15 pm)

- a. Approve meeting minutes from January 16, 2025 (Page 5)
- b. Financial Report YTD ([Page 11](#))

**ACTION: Motion to approve Consent Calendar items.**

4. **Cascades West Economic Development District (CWEDD)** (Community and Economic Development (CED) Director Jaclyn Disney)  
(2:15 pm – 2:20 pm)

- a) 2025 CWEDD Membership Appointment ([Page 18](#))

- b) CWEDD EDA Match Memo ([Page 19](#))
- c) CWEDD EDA Match Resolution ([Page 20](#))

**ACTION: Motion to approve the CWEDD items.**

**5. Linn Benton Brownfields Project Presentation** (*Planning Manager Justin Peterson*)  
(2:20 pm – 2:35 pm)

Brownfields Presentation

For additional information please visit our website [HERE](#)

**ACTION: Information only, no action needed.**

**6. Strategic Planning Presentation** (*Project Manager Nick Andrews*)  
(2:35 pm – 3:05 pm)

Strategic Planning Presentation ([Page 21](#))

**ACTION: Information only, no action needed.**

**7. OCWCOG Program Updates**  
(3:05 pm – 3:10 pm)

Community and Economic Development Director Jaclyn Disney ([Page 31](#))

Chief Information Officer Jason Sele ([Page 41](#))

Human Resources Director Ryan Schulze ([Page 42](#))

Senior, Disability, and Community Services Program Director Randi Moore ([Page 43](#))

**ACTION: Information only, no action needed.**

**8. Subcommittee Reports**  
(3:10 pm – 3:15 pm)

Cascades West Area Commission on Transportation (CWACT) ([Page 46](#))

Cascades West Economic Development District (CWEDD) ([Page 48](#))

Transportation Brokerage Advisory Committee (TBAC) ([Page 50](#))  
Loan Program Advisory Committee (LPAC) ([Page 51](#))  
Senior Services Advisory Council (SSAC)& Disability Services Advisory Council (DSAC)  
([Page 53](#))

**ACTION: Information only, no action needed.**

**9. Executive Director Update** (*Executive Director Ryan Vogt*)  
(3:15 pm – 3:30 pm)

- Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments and Community Services Consortium Partnership Update

**ACTION: Information only, no action needed.**

**10. Other Business**  
(3:30 pm – 3:35 pm)

**11. Adjournment**  
(3:35 pm)



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**OREGON CASCADES WEST COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING MINUTES**

**January 16, 2024  
2:00 – 4:00 pm**

*An Executive Session may be called as deemed necessary by the Chair, pursuant to ORS 192.660.*

**Attendees:** **Chair** Commissioner Claire Hall, Lincon County; **Vice Chair** Commissioner Sherrie Sprenger, Linn County; **Treasurer** Commissioner Pat Malone, Benton County; Mayor Alex Johnson II, Albany; Mayor Charles Maughn, Corvallis; Mayor Jan Kaplin, Newport; Mayor Rod Cross, Toledo; Councilor Debbie Poland, Depoe Bay; Councilor Jeanni Cuthbertson, Monroe; Councilor Rick Booth, Waldport; and Member Bonnie Peterson, Confederated Tribe of Siletz Indians.

**Absent:** Mayor Scott Cowan, Millersburg; Councilor Jeremy Romer, Halsey; Councilor Mike Caughey, Harrisburg; Councilor Riley Hogland, Lincoln City; Councilor Joseph Parsons, Sodaville; Councilor Joshua Thorstad, Sweet Home; Councilor Carol Korn, Tangent; and Commissioner Gil Sylvia, Port of Newport.

**Staff:** Executive Director Ryan Vogt; Finance Director Marit Nelson; Chief Information Officer (CIO) Jason Sele; Human Resources (HR) Director Ryan Schulze; Community and Economic Development (CED) Director Jaclyn Disney; Community Services Programs (CSP) Manager Alicia Lucke; Brokerage Program Manager Britny Chandler, Community and Economic Development (CED) Planner 1 Justin Peterson, and Executive Assistant Angelykah Light

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

The Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments (OCWCOG) Board of Directors Meeting was called to order by Chair Hall on January 16, 2025, at 2:05 pm Via Teams Video and Audio Conferencing, and in-person attendees.

**2. Public Comment**

No Comments from the Public.

**3. Consent Calendar**

Mayor Cross moved to approve the consent calendar including the September 19, 2024, and December 05, 2024, meeting minutes, the Year-to-Date Financial Report for October 2024

and December 2024, and the 2025 meeting schedule. Treasurer Malone seconded the motion. With no opposition, the consent calendar items were voted on and passed.

**4. Election of Board Officers and At Large Members of the Executive Committee**

Executive Director Vogt reminded the Members of the Board of Directors that with each election year, marks the time to elect new Members at Large and the Executive Committee. The current officers may continue to serve but must take an alternative position to the one they hold currently as they have served 2 terms. Executive Director Vogt asked Commissioner Hall, Commissioner Sprenger, and Commissioner Malone if they would be willing to remain in officer roles.

Chair Hall, Vice Chair Sprenger, and Treasurer Malone all stated that they would be willing to remain in Officer Positions.

Commissioner Sprenger nominated Commissioner Malone for the position of Chair. Commissioner Hall seconded the nomination. With no opposition, the nomination was passed. Commissioner Malone accepted and is now the Chair of the OCWCOG Board of Directors.

Mayor Kaplin nominated Commissioner Hall for the position of Vice Chair. Chair Commissioner Malone seconded the motion. With no opposition, the nomination was passed. Commissioner Hall accepted and is now the Vice Chair of the OCWCOG Board of Directors.

Chair Commissioner Malone nominated Commissioner Sprenger for the position of Treasurer. Mayor Cross seconded the motion. With no opposition, the nomination was passed. Commissioner Sprenger accepted and is now the Treasurer of the OCWCOG Board of Directors.

Treasurer Sprenger nominated Mayor Johnson as the Linn County Member at Large. Vice Chair Hall seconded the motion. With no opposition, the nomination was passed. Mayor Johnson accepted and will remain the Linn County Member at Large.

Mayor Cross nominated Counselor Booth as the Lincoln County Member at Large. Vice Chair Hall Seconded the motion. With no opposition, the nomination was passed. Councilor Booth accepted and will remain the Lincoln County Member at Large.

Mayor Cross nominated Mayor Maughan as the Benton County Member at Large. Chair Malone seconded the motion. With no opposition, the nomination was passed. Mayor Maughan accepted and is now the Benton County Mamber at Large.

**5. Senior Services Advisory Council (SSAC) Membership Application Approval**

Executive Director Vogt introduced the SSAC membership appointment of Mimi Tzuhua in SDS Director Moore's absence. The membership application has been reviewed by the Senior Services Advisory Council prior to being presented to the Board of Directors for approval.

Chair Malone asked for discussion or concern appointing Mimi to the advisory Council.

Mayor Kaplin moved to approve Mimi Tzuhua's appointment to the SSAC. Treasurer Sprenger seconded the motion. With no opposition, the motion was passed.

**6. Disability Services Advisory Council (DSAC) Membership Application Approval**

Chair Malone entertained a motion to approve the membership application of Gena Sellers appointment on the Disability Services Advisory Council.

Treasurer Sprenger moved to approve Gena Sellers' appointment to DSAC. Mayor Kaplin Seconded the motion. With no opposition, the motion was passed.

**7. Transportation Brokerage Advisory Committee (TBAC) Bylaws Approval**

CED Director Disney provided a summary of TBAC's intent as an advisory body. The Bylaw changes are to better reflect contracts and provide consistent language regarding meeting quorums. The Bylaw changes have been reviewed by TBAC prior to coming before the Board of Directors for approval. A summary of the changes to the Bylaws has been provided. The changes include additions to membership requirements, updated language to article three and article four, updates to the quorum language in article six, and language regarding the Bylaws amendment process in article seven.

Mayor Cross moved to approve the updates to the TBAC Bylaws document. Mayor Kaplin seconded the motion. With no opposition, the motion was passed.

Brokerage Program Manager Britny Chandler provided an update from her presentation at the December OCWCOG Board of Directors meeting. Program Manager Chandler stated that Lyft is not serviceable in Lincoln County. To combat this, Ride Line has fully onboarded Uber to provide nonemergent medical transportation in the Lincoln County area.

Councilor Booth thanked Program Manager Chandler for the updated information.

**8. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Update**

CED Planner Peterson provided an update on Cascades West Economic Development District (CWEDD) and the CEDS Committee. The CWEDD is made up of the Counties within the OCWCOG boundaries as well as Lane County. CWEDD funding is on a three-year cycle and the CEDS document is on a five-year cycle. Funding is received in a set amount that does not change. The four counties in CWEDD are to provide a broad spectrum of insight.

CED Planner Peterson provided a presentation on the development of the next CEDS. The CEDS is developed around five priority areas. The priority areas are believed to largely remain the same in the new development cycle. The CEDS is developed by workgroups made up of specific regional stakeholders. The current CEDS will be reviewed by the work groups and updated or revised to reflect the needs of the region.

Members of the Board of Directors requested email copies of the CEDS document after the meeting.

Executive Director Vogt asked for clarity on the effect of the OCWCOG Board of Director's approving the Linn, Benton and Lincoln County members and at large members if Lane County has not yet chosen members.

CED Planner Peterson stated the OCWCOG Board of Directors is only responsible for the adoption of members from the OCWCOG region.

Executive Director Vogt clarified that Britt Hoskins from Linn County is stepping down and will be replaced by Dale Moon.

CED Planner Peterson stated that is correct.

Executive Director Vogt thanked CED Planner Peterson and his team for the hard work they have put into the CEDS and the Regional CWEDD kick-off meeting that was hosted for the first time in 10 years.

Mayor Kaplin moved to approve the CEDS committee members with the insertion of Dale Moon to replace Britt Hoskins. Treasurer Sprenger seconded the motion. With no opposition, the motion passed.

## **9. OCWCOG Program Updates**

CED Director Disney referred to the provided memo to give an update on the CED programs. CED Director Disney expressed her gratitude for the hard work put into planning the CWEDD regional meeting. The Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) updates are provided in the document as well as updates on the Mobility Hub project. These hubs would be available around Linn-Benton Community College and Oregon State University. The goal is to have the Mobility Hub project in the permit process within the year. Some grant and Ride Line data are provided in the memo as well. Cascades West Business Lending (CWBL) has funded a loan for Nye Beach Café in Newport to aid the seller to refinance and expand the Business. Please reach out to CED Director Disney for any additional questions or information.

Chair Malone asked if the Mobility Hub project would be ready around the next construction season.

CED Director Disney stated that the project should be ready if the University and the City come to an agreement.

Chair Malone asked CED Director Disney if there have been applications for additional project funding.

CED Director Disney stated she believes there was a request for additional funding to augment the funding that would have expired. Because of some of the changes that have some, there has been a need for some amendments to the agreements to adjust to timeline changes and material and personnel inflation.

Mayor Kaplin requested that OCWCOG staff refrain from using acronyms in future Board Memos.

CIO Sele referred to the Tech Services memo to provide an update to the Board of Directors. OCWCOG is currently working to migrate all files from a computer drive over to a cloud environment. Training was provided for staff before this change. There are now ticket systems for Finance and Human Resources to better track work disbursement and the magnitude of needs.

Chair Malone asked CIO Sele the jurisdictions that received Tech Services from OCWCOG.

CIO Sele stated Sweet Home, Sweet Home Fire Department, Millersburg, Monroe, and Depoe Bay received OCWCOG tech services.

HR Director Schulze referred to the provided memo for an HR update. OCWCOG HR is currently fully staffed. Over the next year, the team will be building tools to support staff and managers to strive for excellence. CSC bargaining will begin in February, then OCWCOG bargaining will begin in April or May. OCWCOG HR is also available to provide services to members such as recruitment.

Community Services Programs (CSP) Manager Lucke provided an update on the \$tand By Me program. The program has been without a coordinator, someone has since been hired and started their first day on the job. The program has been replicated from the program that has been long standing in the State of Delaware. Financial literacy has been passed through legislature to be provided to all high school seniors. \$tand By Me has already been consulted to aid in providing the curriculum.

#### **10. Subcommittee Reports**

Chair Malone encouraged OCWCOG Board Members to review the subcommittee updates provided in the meeting packet.

#### **11. New Board Member Orientation**

Executive Director Vogt invited the OCWCOG Board members to the New Board Member Orientation. Outlook invitations will be sent out soon and everyone is encouraged to attend and meet the new members that will be joining the Board of Directors.

A survey will be sent out to city managers asking to identify the members they would like to work on the Board as well as provide updated contact information.

#### **12. Executive Director Update**

Executive Director Vogt provided an update on the recruitment for a new Agency Director. Soon, a panel will sit in for two full days of interviews. March 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> are the OCWCOG all staff. Board members are invited to attend lunch hour and converse with the staff. The Meeting will take place at the Benton County Fair Grounds. The Strategic plan holds emphasis on investing in staff. After evaluation, we have identified we are in need of training and tools for

supervisors. Supervisors will partake in external leadership training and internal policy trainings to feel better supported in “the year of the supervisor”.

**13. Other Business**

Chair Malone stated that there is currently a project in Adair Village to add about 800 additional housing units and a wastewater treatment project. This project is something to be aware of and may have an unforeseen regional impact.

**14. Adjournment**

Chair Malone adjourned the meeting at 3:45 pm.

*Meeting minutes taken by Angelykah Light.*



**Quarterly Actuals**  
 Total De  
 Total  
 Generated on March

	FY25 Actual Q1	FY25 Actual Q2
<b>Net Income/(Loss)</b>	<b>-640,809</b>	<b>-481,850</b>
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>10,902,664</b>	<b>11,933,076</b>
<b>Revenues</b>	<b>10,902,664</b>	<b>11,933,076</b>
40000 - Beginning Balance	-	-
<b>Total 42000 - Fees &amp; Dues</b>	<b>2,215,453</b>	<b>1,823,201</b>
42000 - Fees & Dues	-	-
42100 - Dues	383,162	1,538
42200 - Program revenue (including Fees)	750,695	743,869
42800 - Internal service charges revenue	1,081,596	1,077,794
<b>Total 43000 - Intergovernmental</b>	<b>8,282,232</b>	<b>9,721,980</b>
43000 - Intergovernmental	-	-
43100 - Contracts	2,843,591	3,200,879
43200 - FedDir	199,435	35,329
43300 - FedInd	4,630	9,616
43400 - State	4,954,394	6,185,826
43500 - Local	280,182	290,330
44100 - Rents	25,102	29,190
<b>Total 46000 - Interest &amp; Misc &amp; Donations</b>	<b>379,877</b>	<b>358,705</b>
46100 - Interest Revenue	246,745	256,258
46110 - Lending Program Interest revenue	30,630	29,889
46200 - Donations	0	-
46210 - Donations Received: Money	61,558	24,421
46240 - Donations Received: Private Grants	-	-
46700 - Matching Contributions	25,573	26,823
46900 - Misc Revenue	15,373	22,500
46910 - Over/short	-	-1,187
47000 - Gain/Loss on sale of capital	-	-

<b>Other Income</b>	-	-
<b>Total 48000 - Transfers In</b>	-	-
48000 - Transfers In	-	-
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>-11,543,473</b>	<b>-12,414,926</b>
<b>Expense</b>	<b>11,483,405</b>	<b>12,351,416</b>
<b>Personnel</b>	<b>5,801,006</b>	<b>6,205,872</b>
51000 - Wages	3,451,208	3,654,061
52000 - Benefits	2,349,798	2,551,811
<b>Supplies &amp; Services</b>	<b>5,428,334</b>	<b>5,929,031</b>
<b>Total 61100 - Supplies</b>	<b>29,596</b>	<b>29,411</b>
61100 - Supplies	27,018	23,231
61200 - Supplies: Volunteer recognition	2,542	5,966
61250 - Supplies: Food MOW	36	214
<b>Total 61300 - Equipment (non-capitalized)</b>	<b>29,051</b>	<b>113,694</b>
61300 - Equipment (non-capitalized)	29,051	113,694
61400 - Furniture	-	-
<b>Total 62000 - Services</b>	<b>5,369,687</b>	<b>5,785,927</b>
62000 - Services	-	-
62100 - Professional Services	3,909,188	4,296,375
62110 - Legal services	5,469	2,415
62120 - Marketing services	14,477	26,336
62130 - Insurance services	27,615	33,918
62140 - Banking services	3,045	3,312
62210 - Printing/copying	19,943	28,089
62220 - Postage	8,583	14,534
62300 - Software	12,363	67,177
62400 - Telephone/internet	17,148	22,521
62500 - Memberships/Dues	10,851	53,735
62600 - Travel and training	26,419	23,724
62610 - Trainers	5,986	2,012
62621 - Employee mileage	45,878	46,960
62622 - Company automobile	1,507	1,095
62623 - Other employee travel	456	5
62630 - Volunteer travel	13,484	13,569
62640 - Employee travel meals	956	1,258
62650 - Employee lodging	2,380	2,873

62700 - Facility and Utilities	32,118	34,475
62710 - Rent expense	222,018	217,852
62720 - Facility maintenance svcs	37,775	29,147
62721 - Janitorial Service	1,343	1,787
62731 - Electricity	13,173	11,694
62732 - Water/sewer	-	-
62800 - Internal service charges expenditure	851,513	847,662
62150 - Grants to subrecipients	86,000	3,400
62900 - Miscellaneous Expenses	-	-
<b>Total 64000 - Client Assistance</b>	<b>182,532</b>	<b>177,676</b>
64000 - Client Assistance	-	-
64200 - Client Assist: Lending programs	-	0
64400 - Client Assist: Support services	98,356	49,150
64300 - Client Assist: Program wages	84,175	128,526
67000 - Resource Reserves	-	12,008
70000 - Capital	71,533	26,828
<b>Other Expense</b>	<b>60,069</b>	<b>63,510</b>
71000 - Equipment	31,225	34,182
74000 - Capital Improvements	-	-
77000 - Software (multi-year)	25,973	29,328
<b>Debt, Transfers &amp; Contingency</b>	<b>2,871</b>	-
92000 - Debt Interest	2,871	-
95000 - Contingency	-	-
<b>Total 98000 - Transfers Out</b>	-	-
98000 - Transfers Out	-	-

**sv AnnualBudget**

Department

Fund

12/12/2025 12:30PM

FY25 Actual Q3	FY25 Actual Q4	FY25 Actual YearTotal	FY25 Adopted Budget YearTotal	FY 2025 Forecast
1,030,521	-	-92,139	14,449,308	17,294,299
8,277,668	-	31,113,407	79,619,438	73,604,521
8,277,668	-	31,113,407	79,304,438	53,337,269
-	-	-	21,542,484	19,952,252
2,653,536	-	6,692,189	7,248,214	11,472,324
-	-	-	8,000	
-	-	384,700	385,763	659,486
2,289,515	-	3,784,078	2,635,000	6,486,991
364,021	-	2,523,411	4,219,451	4,325,847
5,469,792	-	23,474,005	49,255,522	40,241,151
-	-	-	231,562	
2,098,124	-	8,142,595	13,186,466	13,958,734
62,821	-	297,586	1,349,971	510,147
3,969	-	18,215	115,838	31,226
3,063,814	-	14,204,034	30,508,330	24,349,773
241,065	-	811,576	3,863,355	1,391,273
21,709	-	76,001	110,417	130,287
132,630	-	871,212	1,147,800	1,493,506
84,098	-	587,101	740,000	1,006,459
21,093	-	81,611	100,000	139,905
-	-	0	-	0
33,862	-	119,841	170,500	205,442
-	-	-	90,300	
469	-	52,866	45,000	90,627
-6,893	-	30,980	2,000	53,109
-	-	-1,187	-	-2,035
-	-	-	-	

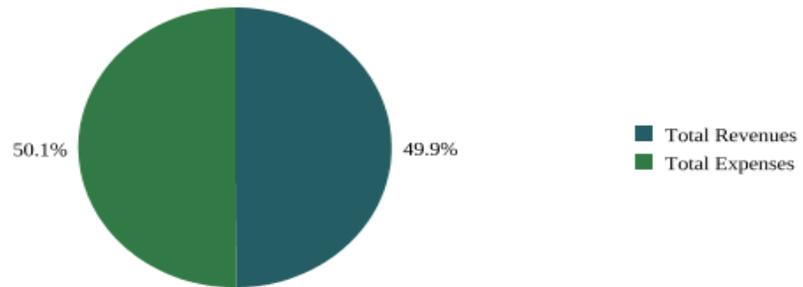
-	-	-	<b>315,000</b>	<b>315,000</b>
-	-	-	<b>315,000</b>	
-	-	-	315,000	315,000
<b>-7,247,147</b>	-	<b>-31,205,546</b>	<b>-65,170,130</b>	<b>-56,310,222</b>
<b>7,184,795</b>	-	<b>31,019,616</b>	<b>62,700,679</b>	<b>53,176,485</b>
<b>4,159,282</b>	-	<b>16,166,161</b>	<b>28,674,333</b>	<b>27,713,419</b>
2,561,114	-	9,666,383	17,625,528	16,570,942
1,598,168	-	6,499,778	11,048,805	11,142,477
<b>2,900,770</b>	-	<b>14,258,135</b>	<b>32,770,362</b>	<b>24,442,517</b>
<b>27,866</b>	-	<b>86,873</b>	<b>188,317</b>	<b>148,925</b>
11,174	-	61,423	156,523	105,297
5,192	-	13,700	31,794	23,486
11,500	-	11,750	-	20,143
<b>84,527</b>	-	<b>227,272</b>	<b>252,680</b>	<b>389,609</b>
84,527	-	227,272	252,680	389,609
-	-	-	44,500	
<b>2,788,377</b>	-	<b>13,943,991</b>	<b>32,279,665</b>	<b>23,903,985</b>
-	-	-	5,000	
2,277,475	-	10,483,037	21,097,715	17,970,921
1,828	-	9,711	90,700	16,647
1,622	-	42,435	38,300	72,746
-	-	61,533	137,850	105,485
1,474	-	7,830	16,600	13,423
18,307	-	66,338	109,200	113,722
7,983	-	31,101	38,500	53,316
10,377	-	89,917	351,401	154,143
9,877	-	49,546	126,663	84,936
200	-	64,786	79,000	111,062
6,183	-	56,326	206,245	96,559
2,100	-	10,097	67,700	17,309
20,766	-	113,604	146,263	194,750
275	-	2,877	15,500	4,932
-	-	461	-	790
7,274	-	34,327	34,000	58,846
-	-	2,214	2,000	3,795
437	-	5,691	3,000	9,756

16,631	-	83,224	74,000	142,670
75,561	-	515,431	925,873	883,596
20,620	-	87,542	62,150	150,072
15,292	-	18,422	71,100	31,581
7,030	-	31,898	45,000	54,682
-	-	-	-	-
287,066	-	1,986,241	3,413,546	3,404,985
-	-	89,400	5,122,359	3,653,257
-	-	-	5,200	-
<b>106,550</b>	-	<b>466,758</b>	<b>849,984</b>	<b>800,157</b>
-	-	-	2,000	-
0	-	0	-	0
28,742	-	176,249	306,000	302,141
77,808	-	290,509	541,984	498,015
12,680	-	24,689	-	42,324
5,513	-	103,873	406,000	178,068
<b>62,352</b>	-	<b>185,930</b>	<b>2,469,451</b>	<b>318,737</b>
-	-	65,407	60,000	112,126
-	-	-	50,000	-
62,352	-	117,653	191,506	201,691
-	-	<b>2,871</b>	<b>2,167,945</b>	<b>4,922</b>
-	-	2,871	-	4,922
-	-	-	1,852,945	-
-	-	-	<b>315,000</b>	<b>315,000</b>
-	-	-	315,000	315,000

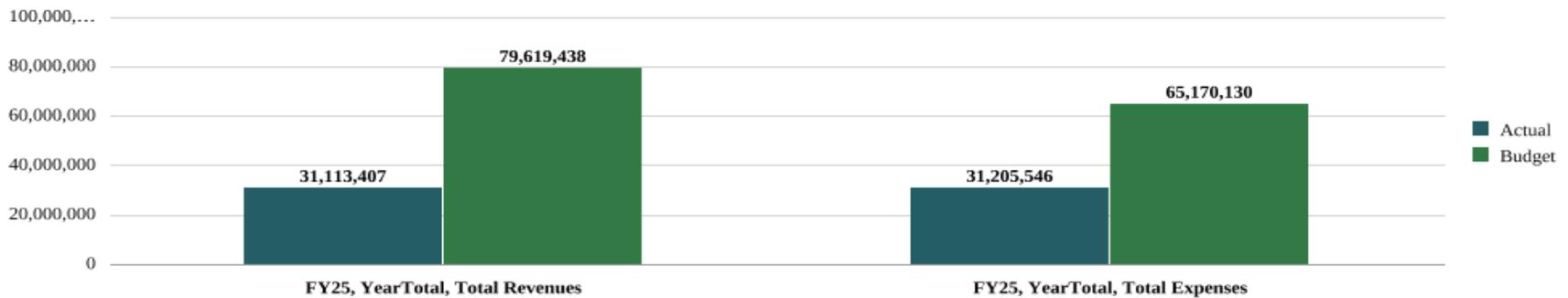


Quarterly Actuals Annual Budget  
 Total Department  
 Total Fund  
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Year to Date Total Actuals



Year to Date Actuals to Total Budget





**VISION** To promote a thriving region through service, connectivity, and innovation.

**MISSION** We are a regional leader and partner providing inclusive services to meet individual and community needs.

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## Appointments to Cascades West Economic Development District (CWEDD) Board Memo to the OCWCOG Board of Directors

March 20, 2025

Community and Economic Development Staff recommends the following individuals be appointed to the Cascades West Economic Development District (CWEDD) Board for one-year terms. The only change from last year is Christopher Jacobs replacing Sophie Adams with Albany. This matches historic appointments and Sophie filled in while Corvallis hired an Economic Development Manager.

Benton County:

- ◆ **Chris Workman**, City of Philomath, City Manager
- ◆ **Christopher Jacobs**, City of Corvallis, Economic Development Manager

Lincoln County:

- ◆ **Paul Schuytema**, Economic Development Alliance of Lincoln County, Executive Director
- ◆ **Pam Barlow-Lind**, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Tribal Planner

Linn County:

- ◆ **Kelly Hart**, City of Lebanon, Community Development Director
- ◆ **John Pascone**, Albany Millersburg Economic Development Corporation, President

The CWEDD Board has twenty members. The requested appointments will join the OCWCOG Board Executive Committee, LCOG Executive Committee, and two-Lane Economic Committee members appointed by LCOG to comprise the CWEDD Board. See attached for full membership.

The primary responsibility of the CWEDD Board is the review and approval of the CWEDD Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy every five years as required by our planning grant from the federal Economic Development Administration. The CWEDD Board also provides input on an annual Update Report required under this planning grant.

**ACTION: Appointment of Benton, Lincoln, and Linn County members to the Cascades West Economic Development District Board.**

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**Resolution #2025- 03- 01: *Authorizing Economic Development Administration Planning Grant Submittal***  
**Memorandum**

March 20, 2025

Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2025 is the third year in the three-year planning grant cycle for the Economic Development Administration’s (EDA) *Partnership Planning Program*. OCWCOG submitted a proposed Budget to the EDA for the entire three-year project period in January 2023. The EDA awards funds annually, with the future allocation of funding contingent upon the availability of funds as determined by Congress; satisfactory performance of the program; and the continued relevance of program objectives. All funding allocations are at the sole discretion of the EDA. Resolutions are brought to the OCWCOG Board of Directors for approval on a yearly basis for submission to EDA with the application.

Attached is Resolution #2025-03-01: *Authorizing Economic Development Administration Planning Grant Submittal*. If approved by the OCWCOG Board of Directors, this Resolution would authorize a funding match for the FFY2025 EDA planning grant. This grant award is for the period of April 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026. The grant is for \$75,000 and requires an equal amount of match from OCWCOG. The Cascades West Economic Development District funded by this grant covers the four-County Region encompassing Linn, Benton, Lincoln, and Lane Counties, OCWCOG is applying for this grant in coordination with Lane Council of Governments (LCOG). LCOG provides a proportional share of match funding.

Or other categories of updates the board(s) may be interested in. Breaking down the information like this will help them scan and find pertinent information and make our updates more standardized.

**ACTION: Approval of the required Resolution #2025-03-01: *Authorizing Economic Development Administration Planning Grant Submittal*.**

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**OREGON CASCADES WEST COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

**RESOLUTION # 2025-03-01**

*Authorizing Economic Development Administration Planning Grant Submittal*

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**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA) has invited a planning grant application for the period of April 1, 2025 through March 31, 2026; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board finds that past planning grants have supported a sound and effective program for community and economic development in Linn, Benton, Lincoln, and Lane Counties; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board finds that local funds available to match the requested grant are severely constrained;

**NOW THEREFORE**, Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments resolves that:

1. Application for an EDA planning grant is hereby authorized.
2. The amount of the grant request shall be \$75,000 in Federal funds.
3. \$75,000 is committed as cash-match for this project. Funds will be made available as needed for the project. These funds are not, and will not be, conditioned or encumbered in any way that would preclude their use, consistent with EDA investment assistance requirements.
4. The Chairperson and/or the Executive Director are authorized and empowered to execute any and all grant documents for application, acceptance, or amendment of this grant.

**ADOPTED** this 21st day of March 2025, at Albany, Oregon.

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Pat Malone  
OCWCOG Board Chair

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Ryan Vogt  
OCWCOG Executive Director



**OREGON CASCADES WEST  
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

**Nick Andrews**

*Project Manager/GA*

[nandrews@ocwcog.org](mailto:nandrews@ocwcog.org)

# Agenda

- 1 Welcome & Purpose
- 2 Strategic Plan Overview & History
- 3 4 2023-2025 Focus Areas
- 4 2024 Highlights
- 5 What's Coming in 2025
- 6 Looking Ahead: 2026-2029
- 7 Closing & QA



# OUR MISSION

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*To promote a thriving region through service, connectivity, and innovation.*



## VISION

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We are a regional leader and partner who provides inclusive services to meet individual and community needs.

## VALUES

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Compassion  
Collaboration  
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion  
Integrity  
Respect

# Strategic Plan Overview & History



## Why We Do This?

Aligning programs, services, and operations with community needs.

- As OCWCOG has grown and services have expanded, there is a need to reassess its Mission, Vision, Values.
- The COG's Executive Director and much of its Senior Leadership Team are fairly new to the organization, providing an opportunity to build alignment and consider new direction.
- Most importantly, the plan is intended to set direction and priorities for the COG to ensure it is providing the right mix of services to meet the needs of the region, and to continually enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of services.

- The Boards of OCWCOG and its sister agency, the Community Services Consortium (CSC)—which provides highly complementary services—have previously directed the two organizations to explore merging into a single organization. While a merger is not being actively pursued, both agencies are highly invested in fully leveraging a comprehensive partnership. A Strategic Plan could provide a roadmap and momentum for this unification process.



# Strategic Plan Overview & History



2023-2025

## Strategic Plan

### OUR MISSION

To promote a thriving region through service, connectivity, and innovation.

### OUR VISION

We are a regional leader and partner who provides inclusive services to meet individual and community needs.

### VALUES

- Compassion - Actively caring for others
- Collaboration - Working together to achieve common goals
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion - Creating an environment where everyone is welcomed, supported, and given the resources needed to thrive
- Integrity - Always doing the right thing
- Respect - Honoring one another

### STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



#### Community Visibility

New compelling Mission, Vision, and Values • Strong brand, effective communication and outreach • Identify common problems and develop/promote regional solutions • Consumers are aware of available services



#### Organizational Excellence

Efficient, high-value operations and processes • Decisive, data-informed action • Support and empower staff in delivering programs • Enhance teamwork and collaboration among staff



#### Partnerships & Collaboration

Further alignment and systems improvement with Community Services Consortium (CSC) • Expand engagement with non-profit organizations • Deliver and align with key State agency partner services • Strong engagement of Board and member governments



#### Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Identify and address historical gaps and barriers to accessing services • Meaningful engagement of under-represented communities • Enhance our workforce to reflect the diversity of our communities • Position the agency to be a role model



#### Expansion & Innovation

Use data to assess the reach and impact of our programs • Actively anticipate new regional needs before they emerge • Be positioned to respond to national and statewide changes • Take measured risks to deliver new programs and services



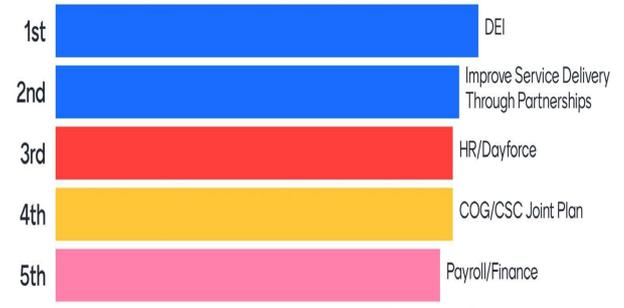
Promoting a thriving region.

# 2024 Strategic Plan



2024 KPI Total Milestones - 107	Percentages
Met/On Target = 103	96%
In Progress = 4	4%
Not Met = 0	0%

## Strategic Plan Objectives



# Strategic Plan 2024 Highlights

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- **HR Team:** Dayforce software implementation is complete. This will drive and enhance the overall employee engagement experience, supporting our commitment to streamlined and effective HR practices in line with evolving industry standards .
- **Finance Team:** Oracle NetSuite was implemented as our new platform for payroll, timesheets, and core financial operations. This powerful, cloud-based system will streamline processes, improve accuracy, and enhance our overall efficiency. With NetSuite, we're investing in a more integrated, user-friendly solution to better support our growing organizational needs.
- The launch of a new committee dedicated to enhancing our employee engagement experience (EEE). This committee will play a vital role in fostering a supportive and fulfilling work environment for all staff.
- Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments (OCWCOG) and Community Services Consortium (CSC) are now co-housed under one roof in Benton County. By consolidating resources and services into a single, one-stop location, we're making it easier for community members to access the support they need. This collaboration enhances coordination, increases efficiency, and strengthens our shared commitment to serving individuals and families across the region—more seamlessly than ever before.
- OCWCOG IT & HR staffed to provide full services across both COG and CSC, driving our ability to effectively support both organizations more efficiently.
- The launch of the EEE created the Employee Recognition Committee (ERC) that supports our COG star (staff monthly recognition program), longevity recognition event, random acts of kindness, and our prestigious All Staff Agency Awards.

# 2025 Strategic Plan

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*The Year of the Supervisor.*



## Target Areas

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- **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion:** Position the agency to be a role model
- **Organizational Excellence:** Support & empower staff in delivering programs
- **Organizational Excellence:** Efficient, high-value operations & processes.
- **Consumer Visibility** – New COG Website
- **Expansion & Innovation:** Be positioned to respond to state/national changes.

# Connect

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## *We're here to serve you!*

Our team is always here to answer questions about who we are, how to get help, how to get involved, and what's going on in the community. Connect with us in any of the ways below!



[nandrews@ocwcog.org](mailto:nandrews@ocwcog.org)



[OCWCOG.org](http://OCWCOG.org)



[Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments](#)



# Thank You

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Questions?



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## Community and Economic Development OCWCOG Board Updates

March 20, 2025

### **Introduction to the Community and Economic Development (CED) Department:**

CED is a diverse department with a wide range of programs, projects, and goals. Currently the CED department has been growing and now has 33 staff. CED's primary focus areas cover: Cascades West Business Lending, Cascades West Ride Line, Transportation Planning, GIS Services, Community/ Economic Development Planning, and Grant Writing.

### **Cascades West Business Lending:**

Cascades West Business Lending (CWBL) is actively working with working with several loan prospects.

A new western apparel online and popup vendor at live rodeos across the Country. The business is in Harrisburg and the loan will be for equipment and working capital.

An existing diesel and auto mechanic in Philomath who has outgrown his current location.

The loan will be to finance new construction of a larger shop in the same location. This loan would be an SBA 504 loan completed in partnership with Citizen's Bank.

An individual wanting to purchase a semi-truck and go into business for himself. A party interested in purchasing the Logsdon Store in Logsdon. This property is a gas station, c-store, pet food store, camping and fishing supply store, post office, and all-around gathering spot for the town of Logsdon. This loan would be made in partnership with Oregon Coast Bank.

An already existing borrower, a veterinarian in Corvallis, who is looking to purchase the building they are currently leasing. The lease comes up for renewal with an option to

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purchase in September. The loan would be done in partnership with Oregon State Credit Union. The work on this loan will start in May.

CWBL now has a signed contract with Business Oregon for their Oregon Business Development Fund (OBDF) Loan Referral Fee Program. The program allows CWBL to receive a referral fee when a qualified referral is sent to Business Oregon for their OBDF loan program culminates in a booked loan. OBDF provides fixed rate financing for land, buildings, equipment, machinery, and permanent working capital. Participants must typically be a traded sector business in manufacturing, processing, or distribution.

CWBL has submitted an Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant application to improve visibility, access, and the small business lending program. If funded, the proceeds would be used to conduct market research, rebrand the program, and update CWBL's website, social media, loan applications and documents. Funds will also be used to develop bilingual marketing materials and loan information, and to purchase a display for trade fairs and community events. Business lending loan portfolios and workplans will also be updated. This is essential in keeping us seen in a market that is being saturated with online and out of State lenders. This is still under consideration.

CWBL marketing efforts continue with our ongoing work on the new Unity Lending partnership with the CCD Business Development Corporation, Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments, and Lane Council of Governments. The website has been launched, and new marketing tools are being created. CWBL is actively working with our Management and our Communications Manager on a formal marketing plan for lending in 2025 and has generated some great ideas on how to reach our customer base. There is a meeting scheduled to speak to the new and fully staffed Small Business Development Center at Linn-Benton Community College as well as a meeting set up to present at an upcoming Relationship and Operations Managers meeting at Umpqua Bank. The attendees cover areas from Salem to Roseburg.

### **Cascades West Ride Line:**

**Funder Updates:** Cascades West Ride Line (Ride Line) remains engaged with our Contractors. The two largest Contracts have not presented a fully executed contract for

calendar year 2025. The contract language requires negotiation and determination of delegated tasks related to Appeals & Grievances. Ride Line has aims to have the contract fully executed no later than 3/31/2025.

**Staffing Updates:** 2 staff separation from services and 4 staff onboarded (1 Program Supervisor, 1 Customer Service Coordinator, 2 Customer Service Representatives).

**Program Changes:**

Ride Line implemented a Member Portal where clients can skip the wait time when they call into the call center and book/cancel their trips online. In addition, Ride Line has implemented a Facility Portal where caregiver facilities that manage multiple Ride Line Client's medical appointments can book/cancel each trip online.

Our Contractor provided a rate increase for Mileage Reimbursement directly impacting our community members that utilize the Ride Line Mileage Reimbursement program. This resulted in an increase in mileage reimbursement per mile traveled, meal reimbursement, and overnight lodging reimbursement.

Ride Line successfully closed out previous Compliance Incidents related to Grievance Reporting and workflow development, Denial Workflow, Business Continuity & Disaster Recovery Plan, and Data collection and reporting.

**Program Outcomes:**

January Statistics:

- Ride Line is currently Subcontracted with 27 driving companies with over 100 vehicles in service.
- Ride Line scheduled 1,090 rides on average per working day.
- Ride Line scheduled a total of 23,999 rides for the month of January.
- Ride Line clients traveled a total of 361,374 miles during the month of January, totaling 17,545 trips provided to the region.
- The top three medical appointments traveled the most frequently:
  - Alcohol & Drug Recovery Appointments (5,060 trips in January)
  - Access to Mental Health Appointments (1,996 trips in January)

- Access to Dialysis Treatment (1,749 trips in January)
- The Ride Line call center serviced 10,284 inbound calls in the month of January and conducted 11,659 outbound calls.
  - Total talk time resulted in 740 hours of total talk time with impacted community members.

2024 Quality Driven Metric Success:

- Goal 1 - 70% of all calls are answered by a live voice within 45 seconds
  - Ride Line achieved an 80.76% rate.
- Goal 2 – Reduce Client No-Shows to 2.1%
  - Ride Line achieved a 1.80% rate.

**Community Events:**

Ride Line training was provided to Samaritan Health Plan (our market share Contractor) Care Coordination Team. This training included NEMT benefit coverage and trained staff on how clients can utilize the new Member Portal.

January 23<sup>rd</sup>: ANNE—Albany Non-Profit Network Event: Attended by both community members and non-profit members. COG staff attending, Jackie Saling and Alicia Lucke/Stand by Me and Annie Strocchio/SDS. A small handful of Latino network staff took Spanish brochures, but no Latino members of the public attended.

February 20<sup>th</sup>: Newport Friends of 60+ -- Online Presentation with group members. Reviewed Ride Line slides and Transportation Options.

**On the Horizon:** Ride Line aims to be the NEMT Provider that all other Brokerages are measured against. Ride Line will focus on refining Quality Assurance measures to ensure program integrity and top tier customer service.

**Transportation:**

*AAMPO/CAMPO*

Ongoing Tasks

- Staff have been leading AAMPO/CAMPO through the process of updating the Public Participation Plan and the Title VI Nondiscrimination Plan. These documents will be shared between the two MPO's in furtherance of the goal of increasing coordination

and collaboration within the region. The plans are scheduled for approval by the respective Policy Boards in late March or early April, ahead of the June deadline.

- Staff have been leading the MPO's through the process of developing and approving the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for each MPO. This process is being synchronized this year in furtherance of the goal of increasing coordination and collaboration within the region. The UPWP for each MPO was reviewed and approved by our partners at ODOT and the Federal Highway Administration in February.
- The MPO is reframing its workplan development process to be more reflective of member priorities and have selected tasks for the next year that include supporting local transportation safety priorities, active transportation in the region and grant prospecting on behalf of identified needs.
- Both MPOs continued their process of amending the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) to reflect the projects happening in our region.
- Both MPOs continued to attend statewide planning coordination meetings such as OMPOC, MPO/Transit Provider Meeting, and the Travel Survey Subcommittee.
- Collaborated with staff at the Oregon Department of Transportation/Transportation Planning and Analysis Unit (TPAU) as well as other statewide and partner organizations on a variety of transportation topics.
- Held regular meetings of both MPO Technical Advisory Committees and Policy Boards, as well as anticipating a joint AAMPO/CAMPO meeting in July.
- CAMPO staff attended City of Corvallis/Benton County Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Task Force meeting in July. Planner Corum Ketchum will serve as Chair for the Task Force during the development of a Safety Action Plan for both Corvallis and Benton County. This process is expected to inform OCWCOG participation in future SS4A projects in Linn and Lincoln counties in the future.
- AAMPO is continuing to work with City of Tangent on their local Transportation System Plan (TSP) update. This process is scheduled to be completed in 2026.
- AAMPO staff are continuing to meet with each member jurisdiction staff (Albany, Benton, Jefferson, Linn, Millersburg, Tangent) to get feedback regarding the MPO's role and to develop jurisdictional priorities for future projects.
- Expanded the bike and pedestrian count program by formalizing cooperation between AAMPO and CAMPO on a regional program.

#### Trainings:

- Staff attended the Common and Emerging Innovative Intersections webinar hosted by Oregon State University in February. In addition, staff will be attending Advancing Multimodal Safety through research and Practical Use of the MUTCD and other Design Guidance in March. This webinar is part of the Transportation Engineering Safety Workshop series hosted by Oregon State University.

#### Long Range Plan Updates

- Staff have begun amending the yearly work plan to reflect member priorities and federal obligations. The plans will be reviewed through March and adopted early Q2 2025.
- The Public Participation Plan which governs how the organization conducts its outreach and engagement, is being drafted, and will be jointly adopted next quarter.

#### *CWACT*

- CWACT met in February 2025 and received presentations covering Cascades West Ride Line Services and the COG's Transportation Options program.
- The next CWACT Executive and Full Commission Meetings will be in April.
- CWACT Staff continue to coordinate with ODOT regional staff on projects and updates.
- Staff are continuing the conversation about the priority project list. The list now includes top and secondary projects for each county. Staff will also maintain the larger list of projects for future reference.
- Staff continue to keep the membership list up to date. Currently the CWACT membership update renewal process has ended and the full list of the CWACT members can be found on the website.

#### *Cascades West Transportation Options*

##### Task 1: Get There Commute

- 65 new users were added to CWTO Get There Network this quarter.
- 0 Emergency Ride Home requests.

##### Task 4: Safety and Encouragement

- One Travel Training request and advised rider of CW Ride and Ride Line services.
- Two presentations with staff from Kidco, and Aging and Disability.
- Continued assistance for personalized transportation options to medical appointments for individuals unable to drive, including 63 new Spanish speaking clients.

- 2 tabling events: Philomath Open House & Health Fair and Alsea School Resource and Wellness.
- OCWCOG agreed to continue funding bicycle training for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes in the Sweet Home School District.
- Hosted community bike ride after school, available to all bike education students.

#### Other

- COG Staff is coordinating with ODOT Climate Office and staff, city partners, and electric utility companies to increase the number of electric vehicle (EV) charging stations in Linn, Lincoln, and Benton counties. Work closely with the City of Albany to construction four new EV chargers.
- Developed a scope of work for a Safe Routes to School Regional Toolkit, that will be funded using Transportation Options dollars
- Reviewed TO Strategic Action Plan
- Staff were able to write a successful preapplication on behalf of Newport and the Newport Trolley project to the ODOT Innovative Mobility Program.
- Staff have an outstanding application to the Innovative Mobility Program to conduct community engagement around safety and low-cost transportation system improvements.

#### **Projects:**

##### *Mobility Hubs*

- Received 100% site plans for both project sites, Linn Benton Community College at Takena Hall, and at Oregon State University approximately at 15th and SW Jefferson Way.
- Both projects are in review with their respective local governments. Depending on the outcome and timelines of these processes, construction may come as soon as summer 2025.
- Coordinated meetings with project partners and participated in technical decisions around the projects.
- Was awarded Discretionary State Transit Improvement Fund (STIF) dollars totaling \$840,000 for the construction of the OSU Mobility Hub.

- Secured a carry-forward commitment from Benton County regarding construction funds for the OSU Hub. This carryforward was pursued in anticipation of not completing construction before the 2025 FY end. A similar decision from Linn County regarding the LBCC hub will conclude toward the end of January.
- Received an updated quote for project completion from Parametrix which included a Stormwater report for the OSU site that was unanticipated, as well as additional hours for responding to comments from Corvallis.

### *Seamless Transit*

- Staff are coordinating with Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Counties to submit a 25-27 STIF request to continue the program.
- Staff coordinated with Swiftly and Transit Partnership contractors to understand projects during the transition phase.
- Staff held a meeting on January 21<sup>st</sup> to share Swiftly, Samsara Transit Partnership, and CWRide updates with regional transit partners. An additional meeting was requested and set up for April 2025 as a follow-up.
- Completed regular updates to CW Ride website. Working with the contractor to schedule a website training.
- Processed recurring invoices for Swiftly, Transit Partnership, and Madison Avenue Collective.
- Provided updates and submitted billings to providers

### SS4A

- FHWA/USDOT Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Linn County Application: USDOT has notified the City of Tangent (our fiscal agent and lead entity) that the Linn County Safe Streets and Roads for All Safety Action Plan proposal has been funded. This represents a total budget of \$480,462, combined \$80,077 city/county match, and \$400,385 USDOT funding. The purpose of the funding is to create a regional safety action plan to reduce road fatalities and injuries. It will be comprehensive and include regional-wide and subset city strategies. Partners include Linn County and the cities of Albany, Lebanon, Millersburg, Tangent, and Sweet Home. The Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments (OCWCOG) grant writing team developed the project, facilitated video work sessions, and prepared the budget application and budget. The

City of Tangent will subcontract with OCWCOG to provide project management, professional, and reporting services.

- A similar regional Safety Action Planning grant application was submitted for the coast cities: Lincoln City, Depoe Bay, Newport, Waldport, Yachats, and Toledo. The proposed budget is \$382,000; \$76,400 combined city match, and a USDOT request of \$264,205. This application was deferred to the August 29<sup>th</sup> review and pending. A revised proposal and budget will be resubmitted in 2025.
- OCWCOG has been asked to participate in the Corvallis/Benton County SS4A process as a member of the process Task Force in an advisory capacity.

### **Community/ Economic Development Planning:**

- Staff continue to work on the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Update process. Staff hosted three Strategy Committee meetings and presented to the Cascades West Economic Development District (CWEDD) Board at the March meeting.
- Staff completed the CEDS Annual Report and submitted it to the Economic Development Administration.
- OCWCOG continues to work on the Linn Benton Brownfields grant. Outreach efforts for additional sites started this year.
- OCWCOG continues to serve our rural communities. We actively participate in the Regional Solutions Team meetings and visit our rural communities to hear about their pressing infrastructure needs. We work with DEQ, DLCD, USDA, and Business Oregon on the best way to address these needs. Staff recently attended the RST visit it East Albany.

### **Grant Writing:**

- The Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments is the lead entity and fiscal agent for the Cascades West Innovation Hub, one of nine Oregon Innovation Hubs to support science and technology traded sector businesses. Over 30 people attended a Kickoff event on February 26, 2025 to discuss how to best leverage and coordinate business development and support services in the Benton, Lane, Lincoln, and Linn county region. [Oregon Innovation Hub](#)
- We received an Oregon Development Land Conservation and Development \$15,481 Mass Timber grant to provide professional development and industry outreach about the use of engineered wood and mass timber in housing construction. The City of Lincoln City is a

subrecipient and will host a professional development workshop/event for the construction industry in spring 2025.

- The grants team assisted the City of Sodaville prepare an Oregon Health Authority \$50,000 Sustainable Infrastructure Planning Project (SIPP) grant application for a water master plan. This plan will be used for long-term planning, infrastructure improvements, address immediate and long-term needs, water stewardship, conservation and management; and ensure that the community has a reliable and affordable well system. Earlier this year, the City was awarded a \$20,000 SIPP grant to conduct a water rate study. That award was declined in favor of the larger grant.
- We continue to collaborate with the South Valley/Mid-Coast Regional Solutions Team (commissioned by the Oregon Legislature and staffed by the Governor's Office) to coordinate strategies and tackle economic development and infrastructure (e.g., wastewater, drinking water, and storm water systems) problems/projects across Benton, Lane, Lincoln, and Linn counties. The team includes representatives from the Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments, Business Oregon, and Oregon departments of Emergency Management, Environmental Quality, Housing and Community Services, Land Conservation and Development, and Transportation; and the US Department of Agriculture. [Governor of Oregon : Regional Solutions : Regional Solutions : State of Oregon](#)



## VISION

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## MISSION

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## Technology Services

### Board Updates

March 20, 2025

CSC File Migration to Teams is complete. We are in the process of doing the same thing for the COG. IT has met with each program staff to identify local storage that needs to be migrated, and each team is working to clean up those files in preparation for cutover. We are actively moving data to Teams through the month of March. This will house all our data files in Teams, SharePoint, and OneDrive, making them available remotely as well as securing them within the Microsoft universe of data protection.

### Teams Training

We have completed training for all COG staff on the use of Teams, SharePoint, and OneDrive for file storage and use. This is intended to equip staff with best practices on how to use these cloud services to name, store, and share files as well as restore old versions of files when needed. This is a major shift in how we manage data and collaborate among team members.

### COG Intranet Site

One of our next projects is to create a new Intranet site for the COG. This is used for staff to access forms, share information, and get links to resources within the agency. In preparation for this project, we have built out the initial template for the site. As soon as the file migration is complete, we'll be launching this initiative.

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## Office of Human Resources Board of Directors Memo

March 20, 2025

HR is continuing to grow and evolve as a team. Individual assignments within the team have been shifting to better meet the needs of both COG and CSC. We are developing a deeper understanding of the application of data around our work so we can be more responsive to program needs. Some quick highlights include:

### Staffing Updates:

- **Tiffani Baker has resigned (HRG2)**
- **Melissa Wright promoted (HRG1-HRG2)**
- **Actively recruiting for HRG1**

### Program Outcomes:

- **Employee Engagement Survey Launched**
- **COG Positions filled in the Calendar Year: 17**
- **Applicants to COG positions this Calendar Year: 175**

### On the Horizon:

- **Collective Bargaining with SEIU**
- **Ongoing efforts to develop and modernize tools and resources for managers and staff**
- **Creation of Emergency Management/Continuity of Operations and Organizational Training & Development Specialist positions**

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# Senior, Disability, and Community Services Programs

## Board of Director Updates

March 20, 2025

### Program Changes

#### Oregon Project Independence – Medicaid (OPI-M) Opens to the Public

Oregon Project Independence - Medicaid (OPI-M), which was launched in the fall of 2024, provides access to limited, preventive in-home services to older adults and adults with disabilities who require assistance with activities of daily living. The purpose of OPI-M is to provide support to individuals so they may remain independent, in their own homes and delay or prevent the need for full Medicaid long term services. In the fall consumers in Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Counties who were on the “classic” Oregon Project Independence program and were interested in the new OPIM program were given the opportunity to enroll. We’re now (as of March 3<sup>rd</sup>) excited to be able to offer OPIM to consumers across the three counties who haven’t previously been on classic OPI. We expect to see an increase in calls to the ADRC and an increase in requests for Medicaid intake as we offer this new program.

### On the Horizon

#### Linn-Benton Health Equity Alliance Grant awarded to OCWCOG Stand By Me and Andares for FY2026

The Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments, Stand By Me Program and the Greater Albany Public Schools (GAPS) will offer financial literacy workshops at Albany schools. This project will support the implementation at GAPS of the Oregon Senate Bill 3, which mandates financial literacy education in schools. OCWCOG Stand By Me and Andares will offer financial literacy workshops and presentations to Latinx high school students and families on topics related to the basics of financial management and entrepreneurship Financial Literacy. These services will be offered in English and Spanish. An explanation of the new diploma requirement and Senate Bill 3 can be found here: [Oregon Diploma Requirements](#)

#### Medicare Fraud Prevention Week is coming 6/2-6/8/2025

The OCWCOG serves as local sponsor to the Senior Health Insurance Benefits Assistance (SHIBA) Program, which provides options counseling to local Medicare beneficiaries in Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Counties. As a sponsor, OCWCOG is also able to apply for and operate a

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Senior Medicare Patrol grant, which empowers and assists Medicare beneficiaries, their families, and caregivers to prevent, detect, and report health care fraud, errors, and abuse. Several of our SHIBA volunteers are also credentialed to detect and report Medicare abuse to the Department of Justice; and the funding open doors to hosting fraud prevention events in our communities. This coming June, OCWCOG plans to host a Shred Event in South Lincoln County, City of Waldport, in partnership with local banks and community non-profits. Be on the lookout for more information in the coming month to share with your constituents.

Read more Fraud Prevention week here: [Medicare Fraud Prevention Week](#) .

## **Program Data**

### ADRC Data

- January: 223 consumers served with 229 calls. 414 referrals provided
- February: 197 consumers served with 204 calls. 390 referrals provided.
- Home delivered meals and in-home supports were the most requested service in January and February.

### APS Data

- December: 333 complaints of possible abuse received, 79 assigned for community investigation, 59 assigned for facility investigation.
- January: 377 complaints of possible abuse received, 80 assigned for community investigation, 36 assigned for facility investigation.

## **Impact Stories**

### Benton County VSO Office Helping Families

This past quarter the OCWCOG Benton County VSO worked with the family of a Navy veteran who suffered from mental health conditions and substance abuse and ultimately was a victim of overdose. The VSO Office was able to serve the surviving spouse through a trauma-informed lens at our new Corvallis Office on 9<sup>th</sup> Street in Corvallis. The VSO took on POA for the client and was successful in a DIC claim, or Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC), a monthly benefit paid by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to eligible survivors of veterans who died from service-connected disabilities or while on active duty. In addition to the approved claim, the surviving spouse was also awarded a retro-active payment of \$20,000.

### Interact Club Visits Albany Meals on Wheels Site

On January 30<sup>th</sup> Meals on Wheels of Albany welcomed the West Albany High School Interact Club to the Meal Site. Interact is a service club for high school students funded by Rotary. They encourage community interaction, learning what nonprofits do, and pursuing volunteer opportunities in the community.

A group of 15 eager students attended. They had the opportunity to learn about the consumers MOW's serves, and how to connect community members they may meet to services at our

agency by Tonie Fisher our Meals on Wheels Coordinator. The Meal site manager Julie Tatum explained proper food practices and the students helped with packaging food, preparing bags of frozen meals for the weekend and helping with some long-term meal site projects. We also spent some time creating fun cards to go out to residents.

Several students took volunteer applications with them and planned to volunteer over the summer break.





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# Cascades West Area Commission on Transportation

## Subcommittee Updates for the COG Board

March 20, 2025

### Introduction to CWACT:

The Cascades West Area Commission on Transportation (CWACT) provides a forum for local governments to collaborate on local, regional, and State transportation issues in the Benton, Lincoln, and Linn County Region. The CWACT is chartered by the Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) and provides input, advice, and recommendations to the OTC and the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) on State transportation plans and policies. Among other work items, the CWACT solicits public input on transportation needs and provides recommendations to ODOT and the OTC on project priorities for the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). *CWACT also serves as the OCWCOG Transportation Committee as both committees make up the same membership.*

### CWACT Meeting Summary:

The CWACT Full Commission hosted a Hybrid Meeting at the Albany OCWCOG ABC meeting room on Thursday, February 27, 2025. This meeting was well attended with 22 members/guests. The Full Commissioner Members in attendance discussed the new member orientation, and Transportation Options, which provides outreach, education, and carpool/vanpool matching services for commuters living or working in Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Counties.

Members also received a presentation on Cascades West Ride Line. The Ride Line program coordinates Non-Emergent Medical Transportation (NEMT) services for IHN, OHP Open Card, Samaritan Advantage Health Plan, and some Benton County Veteran enrollees.

The members also discussed construction grant awards and education awards for the Safe Routes to School grants in the CWACT region. More information on those can be found at these links: Construction Grant Awards - Education Awards - [Education Grant Program Information - Oregon Safe Routes to Schools](#) Harrisburg School District was awarded \$150,000. Members also discussed the regional priority projects list which can be reviewed here: [Attachment 02 SRTS Project Recommendations List.pdf](#).

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The Full Commission also approved the Executive Committee's nominations for representatives covering the 2025 Calendar Year. Representing Benton County will be County Commissioner Pat Malone, and Philomath City Councilor Rich Saalsaa. Representing Lincoln County will be County Commissioner Claire Hall, and Toledo City Councilor Frank Silvia. Representing Linn County will be County Commissioner Roger Nyquist and Albany City Councilor Jackie Montague.

The next regularly scheduled CWACT FC Meeting is set for Thursday, April 24, 2024. This meeting will be hybrid, and the in-person location will be at the Benton County Commissioner Kalapuya Meeting Room. Members of the public and interested parties are welcome and encouraged to attend any CWACT FC meetings either in person or virtually via Microsoft Teams. Meeting information and agenda packets are available on the CWACT website here: [Cascades West Commission on Transportation | OCWCOG](#).

**Project and Task Updates:**

- CWACT Staff continued working on the regional priority projects list which currently shows 2-3 projects per county in the CWACT region.
- Staff continue to watch the OTC recordings to stay up to date on State priorities.



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## Cascades West Economic Development District Subcommittee Updates to the COG Board

March 20, 2025

### Introduction to CWEDD:

The Cascades West Economic Development District (CWEDD) is designated by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration to work on economic development efforts in Linn, Benton, Lane, and Lincoln Counties. The CWEDD advocates for, supports, and coordinates, regionally significant economic development activities in the region. Staffed by both OCWCOG and Lane Council of Governments (LCOG), the CWEDD prepared the [2020-2025 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy \(CEDS\)](#) to guide regionally significant economic development projects and activities over the next five years.

### CWEDD Meetings Summary:

At the November CWEDD Board Meeting, held at Central Coast Foodweb in Lincoln County, members discussed The CEDS 2025-2030 Update which includes the CWEDD CEDS Scope of Work, CEDS Strategy Committee, and a project update. Additionally, members discussed a SWOT Analysis Survey that had been sent out prior to the meeting.

Members received presentations from the Regional Innovation Engine from Oregon State University. FAST is an innovative ecosystem within and near Oregon's Silicon Forest that will develop and commercialize an artificial intelligence-based Advanced Process Control (AI-APC) system that will enable wafer fabs to manufacture higher-performance chips at lower cost. As a result, U.S. chip makers will regain the ability to manufacture leading-edge chips and increase their global market shares. A collaborative consortium of chip makers, their suppliers, institutes of higher education, workforce development boards, economic development, entrepreneurship, and community-based organizations will leverage FAST's technical success to catalyze inclusive economic growth, job creation, and innovation throughout the Region of Service.

Members received updates from the CEDS working groups such as the Broadband Action Team (BAT), The Cascades West Regional Consortium (CWRC), Early Childhood Education, Rural Economic Alliance (REAL), Lane Economic Committee (LEC), and a Blue Economy update from the Economic Development Alliance of Lincoln County (EDALC).

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The group received a presentation on the Foodweb, and a tour of the facility after the regularly scheduled meeting. Other business that was discussed included discussions regarding future bylaws' updates regarding the CWEDD Executive Committee Quorum Requirements, CWEDD's Regional project list, Executive Committee Updates, and Regionally significant jurisdictional updates from all member jurisdictions.

The CWEDD held a special meeting and met on Thursday, January 09, 2025, to discuss the CEDS Update Process and forming the Strategy Committee. Additionally, updates were provided on the Innovation Hub.

The CWEDD Board met on Thursday, March 06, 2025, at Lane Council of Governments (LCOG). Members discussed CWEDD Board membership, executive committee updates, CEDS updates, Innovation Hub updates, HB3395 updates.

The group also received a presentation on the Abilities Diner and Baker located in Eugene Oregon. Abilities offer jobs to those who have disabilities and have encountered difficulty finding work elsewhere. The restaurant tries to focus on their abilities not their disabilities, hence the name. The diner is a family-friendly atmosphere that offers options for the you and the old, including a child's menu as well as a full bar. A variety of vegetarian options on the menu including salads, veggie burger, and omelets are also offered.

The next regularly scheduled CWEDD Board Meeting is set for Thursday, June 12, 2025, at 9:00am. This meeting will be hybrid, and the in-person location will be in Lincoln County. Members of the public and interested parties are welcome and encouraged to attend any CWEDD Board meetings either in person or virtually via Microsoft Teams. Meeting information and agenda packets are available on the CWEDD website here: [Cascades West Economic Development District | OCWCOG](#).

### **Project and Task Updates:**

- The priority project for CWEDD is the 2025-2030 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) update. Staff drafted a scope of work and will be working on the CEDS update starting in 2024 and continuing into 2025. The goal is to focus on implementation of the CEDS. More details are available in the scope.



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## Transportation Brokerage Advisory Committee Subcommittee Updates for the COG Board

March 20, 2025

### Introduction to TBAC:

The Transportation Brokerage Advisory Committee (TBAC) is established by the Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments (OCWCOG) to advise OCWCOG staff and Board members on matters relating to development and ongoing operation of Cascades West Ride Line, the transportation brokerage serving Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Counties.

### Committee Updates:

The Transportation Brokerage Advisory Committee (TBAC) held their last meeting of the calendar year on Thursday, November 07, 2024. During this meeting the committee approved the previous meetings' minutes and final approval was given for the new Bylaws.

Staff were able to share reports with the group regarding statistics, costs per rider per client, and a budget report.

The final item on the agenda was discussing the QRyde Software Update. Staff shared Upcoming plans for provider trainings, to implement the full use of QRyde software. Additionally, Mileage Reimbursement will migrate to QRyde instead of using the older system. The Member Portal and Rider App will be launched in January 2025 for clients to book requests. The Facility Portal for care homes, health department (care coordinators), and hospital discharges to be launched at the same time. Staff encouraged members to reach out to Ride Line if there is anyone else that would be able to utilize the software.

### Upcoming Meetings:

The TBAC meets quarterly, with next meeting being Thursday, April 03, 2025. Meetings are held every three months on the first Thursday of the month, from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm. Members of the public and interested parties are welcome to attend any TBAC meetings. Meeting information and agenda packets are available on the TBAC website at the following link: [Transportation Brokerage Advisory Committee | OCWCOG.](#)

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## Loan Program Advisory Committee Subcommittee Updates to the COG Board

March 20, 2025

### Cascades West Business Lending Activity Report 10/17/2024 – 02/19/2025

#### New Loans:

A new EDA loan was made to Riverside Door and Window in Corvallis. The \$50,000 loan was for working capital to support their expansion into installation services for their products.

A new Lincoln County Loan Fund loan was made for Nye Beach Café in Newport. The \$94,050 loan was to refinance the business purchase and retire the seller carry note.

#### Closed Loans:

The Bay House in Lincoln City made the final payment on their Lincoln City Urban Renewal Agency loan. Owner Steve Wilson was told the Salishan Lodge was not renewing the lease as they intended to reclaim the space for their banquet department. The restaurant served the Oregon coast for 45 years. Steve has decided to relocate the 4-diamond restaurant to Dayton, Oregon.

#### Business Oregon - Community Lending Loan Loss Reserve Program:

To date \$634,500.00 has been enrolled in the protection program.

#### Available Funds:

Approximately \$2 Million across six active loan programs.

#### Current Rates:

- Local loan program workplans state rates are to be set at approximately Wall Street Journal prime rate currently at 7.5%.
- SBA 504 rates are currently 6.64% 10 years, 6.58% 20 years, and 6.28% 25 years. The SBA 504 loan remains a great choice for small businesses looking to purchase, renovate, or construct commercial property with low rates, long terms, and a down payment or equity injection as low as 10%.

#### Unity Marketing:

OCWCOG is partnering with CCD Business Development Corporation (CCD), Lane Council of Governments, and Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments on a new marketing program that will allow us to share costs, combine tools and expertise, and to reach a much wider audience for our loan programs.

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The website has been launched, and marketing materials have been finalized for use. CCD will start marketing on their social media sites.

### **New Contract with Business Oregon:**

OCWCOG has contracted with Business Oregon on the Oregon Business Development Fund (OBDF) referral program. We help market the OBDF program and support additional loan programs available through Business Oregon. The OBDF is a revolving loan fund that provides fixed-rate financing for land, buildings, equipment, machinery, and permanent working capital. Participants must typically be a traded-sector business in manufacturing processing or distribution. Maximum loan amount \$2,000,000, and terms up to 20 years. If we refer to a qualified prospect for the OBDF fund and the loan is approved and booked, Business Oregon will share 50% of the 1.50% loan fee with CWBL.

### **CWBL Marketing:**

CWBL has sent updates for our internal website to Karla Garrett, Communications Manager, that include linking us to the Unity Lending webpage. Jaclyn Disney and lending staff will be meeting monthly with Karla to formulate a formal marketing plan for lending.

### **New EDA Grant Request:**

OCWCOG has applied for EDA funding to rebrand and expand the OCWCOG's Small Business Lending Program: a comprehensive marketing and outreach plan, promotional materials and a static display, and to update their nine loan workplans. More to come if we get the award...

### **Prospects and Marketing Events:**

Actively reviewing a new prospect, a western clothing online store and event pop up store. The business is in Harrisburg and will sell at rodeo events across the Country.

- Hosted a booth at the Willamette Innovators Network (WIN) Expo 2024 in Corvallis. This former annual event was held for the first time since Covid. The event brings together local businesses, entrepreneurs, and community members to share, learn, and connect.
- Participated on a panel at the LBCC SBDC "Fund your Small Business" live event in Corvallis.
- Met with a new U.S. Bank contact over lunch to explain our programs and how we can partner.
- Attending new OEDD Loan Staff Meetings. The intent of the group is to bring together all the Economic Development Districts in Oregon in order to collaborate and share the best practices around lending and our similar loan programs.

### **Upcoming Meetings:**

The next regularly scheduled Loan Program Advisory Committee (LPAC) Meeting is set for Thursday, April 24, 2025, at 9:00am. This meeting will be hybrid, and the in-person location is still being determined. Members of the public and interested parties are welcome to attend any LPAC Meeting either in person or via teams. Meeting information and agenda packets are available on the LPAC website here: [Loan Program Advisory Committee | OCWCOG](#).



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## Senior & Disability Services Board Updates

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On Tuesday, February 4, 2025 the Senior Services Advisory Council (SSAC) and Disability Services Advisory Council (DSAC) met where they received updates on:

The Legislative Preview for the 2025 Session:

- Session runs from January 21st – June 29th.
- O4AD follows over 400 bills.
- Starting this year, a bill will only get one public hearing rather than the two they had in the past.
- O4AD's bill on *Caseload Forecasting and Workload Modeling* is currently in drafting.
- O4AD's Spring Quarterly meeting is scheduled for April 10th at the Salem's Convention Center.

Oregon Project Independence-Medicaid (OPI-M):

- Medicaid money that helps pay for service benefits without the restrictions and limitations of Oregon Project Independence (OPI) Casual.
- SDS has been offering the program to their OPI recipients since last summer and now have 120 individuals who have transitioned from OPI to OPI-M.
- The State will offer OPI-M to the public this Spring.
- There is concern for the sustainability of OPI-M in the next biennium.

Monitor and Review Committee (MRC) Older Americans Act (OAA) Contract Reviews:

- The MRC conducted OAA contract review visits to the Grace Center for Adult Day Services and the Corvallis Community Center (C3).

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- Both agencies are using their awarded OAA grant funds to support older adults and people with disabilities and the MRC will continue to support them.

#### Care Planning Committee:

- Adult Foster Homes (AFH) program and their payment structure.
  - The number of AFH are declining with the number going from 75 down to 50 in the last five years due to:
    - COVID
    - Restrictions and rules.
    - Lack of caregivers.
    - Availability of homes.
  - Outreach is being done to educate the public.
  - The payment structure to AFH providers is regulated by the State.
    - There is a discrepancy in payment between Developmental Disabilities (DD) homes and Aging and People with Disabilities (APD) homes.
    - A rate and wage study was provided to the Oregon Legislature.

For more information please see the [January Care Planning Meeting Minutes](#).

#### Meals on Wheels (MOW):

- MOW is currently launching a social media fundraising campaign called *Love and Nourish*.
- The number of meals are increasing every month with 29,000 meals being served in December to the three-county region.
- A volunteer survey was completed in December with results showing:
  - A very high number of volunteers enjoy the on-boarding process and volunteering with MOW.
  - MOW needs to improve on sustainability.
- Blizzard boxes have been delivered to MOW meal recipients for emergencies.
- Focus on Volunteers' safety when delivering meals.
- Keeping an eye on consumers in regard to other adverse effects such as heating.
- MOW has received infrastructure grants for updating sites.

### Issues and Advocacy Committee:

- O4AD Wither Quarterly Virtual Meeting:
  - There is interest in Statewide advocacy collaboration led by NWSDS Advisory Council and Public Affairs Specialist Kim Hunt twice a month.
  - Currently in the process of identifying issues to advocate for on all levels of government.
    - Two areas of interest are emergency services and housing.
  - Remembrance of Ruth McEwen - Ruth McEwen was a trailblazing advocate who shaped Oregon's policies and programs for long-term care and disability services. Her strong leadership is missed by all, and the advocates would like to honor her with their first joint advocacy effort by naming it after her.

### Program Director Moore gave Program Updates on:

- Area Plan 2025-29.
  - The draft will be presented to the Care Planning Committee at their March meeting and posted on the OCWCOG website to the end of March for comments before being sent to the State.
- Listening Sessions:
  - Three listening session were held in January, one in each county.
  - There will be one more virtual session.
- Healthcare Promotion Roundtable:
  - Community Centers were brought together for a virtual meeting where they addressed:
    - How O4AD Oregon Wellness Network, and the Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) can be used to support health promotion programming for older adults.
    - How SDS can support them in billing Medicaid for those programs that can be supported by Medicaid.
- OCWCOG Budget:
- Self-Monitoring:
  - SDS had to do a round of self-monitoring on Nutrition Services, Health Promotion, and Legal Assistance to determine if they were in compliance with OAA and State rules regarding OAA services.
  - SDS did well.
- Grants:
  - Received three grants from the State of Oregon for:
    - Infrastructure for 10 of the 11 meal sites.

- Shelf-stable meals and water giving MOW meal recipients two rounds of emergency meals per year.
- Emergency preparedness which will allow MOW to buy over 1,000 go bags for the most at risk consumers over the three-county region.