



Council Business Meeting

December 19, 2023

Agenda Item	Acceptance of a DLCDC Technical Assistance Economic Opportunity Analysis Grant	
From	Brandon Goldman	Community Development Director
Contact	brandon.goldman@ashland.or.us 541-552-2076	
Item Type	Requested by Council <input type="checkbox"/> Update <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Direction <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Presentation <input type="checkbox"/>	

SUMMARY

The City of Ashland has been awarded a \$60,000 planning grant from the Department of Land Conservation and Development, for the purpose of hiring a consultant to aid in drafting an updated Economic Opportunity Analysis.

POLICIES, PLANS & GOALS SUPPORTED

Oregon Administrative Rules [660-009-0015](#)

Ashland Comprehensive Plan Economic Element:

Goal: GOAL (7.07.03) To ensure that the local economy increases in its health, and diversifies in the number, type, and size of businesses consistent with the local social needs, public service capabilities, and the retention of a high quality environment.

BACKGROUND AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCDC) provides funding for the purpose of providing technical assistance to local governments to update comprehensive plans, update local ordinances, and fund other planning compliance projects. On September 19th, 2023 the City Council authorized Community Development Staff to prepare an application for grant funding to conduct an Economic Opportunity Analysis in 2024.

The principal purpose of an Economic Opportunities Analysis is to reconcile estimates of future employment land demand with existing inventories of vacant and redevelopable employment land within their Urban Growth Boundary (UGB). This assessment can assist in ensuring a City provides an adequate land supply for economic development and employment growth. An EOA includes analysis of local and regional economic trends, evaluation of the community's opportunities and barriers to economic growth, and a determination of the types and amounts of land and infrastructure needed to support expected employment.

The City of Ashland has been granted \$60,000 by the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development. This funding is for hiring an economic consultant to help Ashland create an Economic Opportunities Analysis (EOA). The consultant will also prepare a draft EOA that meets the standards outlined in OAR 660-009-0015. This project is a crucial update to Ashland's EOA from 2007 and is a key initiative supported by both the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCDC) and the City Council.





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Similarly, the City of Medford has also been chosen to receive a grant for updating their EOA in 2024. In light of the shared regional economic context, both Ashland and Medford's planning teams have communicated to the DLCD their intention to collaborate. This partnership aims to work jointly on certain aspects of their respective EOAs, including sharing regional background data and conducting business leader interviews and outreach. The goal of this collaboration is to reduce overall project costs and to integrate a regional perspective into each city's analysis.

FISCAL IMPACTS

The City Council budgeted \$70,000 in 2023–2025 Biennial Budget to complete an Economic Opportunities Analysis in the coming year. The \$60,000 DLCD technical assistance grant substantially reduces the estimated expense to the City of Ashland, resulting in a City contribution of approximately \$10,000 toward this project. Additionally, City staff time will be dedicated to work with the consultant team to support the progress of this activity through the public engagement process.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Not Applicable

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS

Staff recommends that the Council accept the grant award from the Department of Land Conservation and Development and direct the City Manager to execute the final grant agreements for the DLCD Technical Assistance grant award in support of updating Ashland's Economic Opportunities Analysis.

ACTIONS, OPTIONS & POTENTIAL MOTIONS

I move to accept the grant award and authorize the City Manager to execute a final grant agreement with the Department of Land Conservation and Development for a Technical Assistance Grant to draft an Economic Opportunity Analysis.

REFERENCES & ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: DLCD Letter of award dated December 1, 2023



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Department of Land Conservation and Development

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December 1, 2023

Brandon Goldman, Community Development Director
City of Ashland
20 East Main Street
Ashland, Oregon 97520



SENT VIA E-MAIL

RE: Notice of DLCD Technical Assistance grant award

Dear Brandon:

I am very pleased to offer the City of Ashland a Technical Assistance grant award for 2023-2025. Your application was selected from among 49 proposals submitted to the Department of Land Conservation and Development for this biennium. Your proposal aligns well with the priorities established in the Land Conservation and Development Commission's Grants Allocation Plan and other approval criteria. The department is prepared to fund the Ashland Economic Opportunities Analysis Update project for \$60,000.

Please work with your DLCD regional representative to complete a scope of work and grant contract. Once a grant contract is signed by both parties, reimbursable work on the project may begin.

Oregon's current budget provides funding to support the Technical Assistance grant program. Please note, however, in the event of a significant change in state revenue we may be required to limit a portion of the grant award.

If you have any questions about the award, please contact Josh LeBombard, your DLCD regional representative, at 541-414-7932 or josh.lebombard@dlcd.oregon.gov, or me at (503) 856-6935 or Gordon.howard@dlcd.oregon.gov.

Thanks for your interest, and compliments on your successful application. We look forward to working with you on the project.

Yours truly,

Gordon Howard

Community Services Division Manager

cc: Senator Jeff Golden
Representative Pam Marsh
Jessica LaBerge, Regional Solutions Team Coordinator
Josh LeBombard, DLCD Regional Representative
Angela Williamson, DLCD Grants Administrative Specialist