



Yamhill County Economic Development Newsletter

May 14, 2025

Business Information:

- [Oregon Business and Industry](#) is launching the Coolest Thing Made in Oregon Contest. In partnership with Here is Oregon, this is the third annual Coolest Thing Made in Oregon contest, in which Oregonians will vote for the coolest thing manufactured in our beautiful state. Finalists will be chosen from a list of products nominated by the public. It's a bracket style tournament, with four rounds of voting to produce a winner. Nominations can be done until July 10th, and 16th finalists will be announced in September. You can nominate a business for the tournament [here](#). To qualify for the contest, products must be manufactured substantially within Oregon and be legal to purchase in all 50 states (handmade products do not qualify). Anyone can nominate a product, and manufacturers are encouraged to do so. You can read more about it [here](#).
- OBI published the [2025 Oregon Competitiveness Book](#), a study on the state's competitiveness. The report shows how Oregon compares with other states on key indicators such as taxes, regulation, home ownership, and education funding and outcomes.
- The Federal Trade Commission, Consumer Alerts shared about the [rule on unfair or deceptive fees](#). You can sign up for Consumer Alerts [here](#). You can report fraud [here](#).
- The Mac Coffee Club for Start Ups is held the third Tuesday of the Month at Chemeketa Yamhill Valley Campus at 9am. Join entrepreneurs for an hour of connection and conversation. You can register [here](#).
- The Small Business Development Center at Chemeketa is a resource for small business with free counseling and resources to help you and your business. You can request an appointment [here](#). There is a dedicated advisor in Yamhill County.
- The [SBA](#), Small Business Administration offers loans and assistance to small businesses.

- The [US Patent and Trademark Office](#) is the federal agency under the Department of Commerce and is responsible for granting US patents and registering trademarks. You can learn more [here](#). On May 21st, the Deputy Commissioner of Patents will share insights on reducing the time patent applications are awaiting examination. You can register [here](#). You can learn about registering your trademark [here](#).
- [CO-by the US Chamber](#) has a list of over 100 grants, loans and programs for small business [here](#).
- Congresswoman Andrea Salinas is asking businesses, residents and organizations being impacted by the funding freeze to use [this form](#) so their office can stay in touch with you. The Congresswoman's office also writes letters of support for your applications to federal grants. You can complete a request form [here](#).
- [The Oregon Office of Economic Analysis](#) prepared the Quarterly Forecast (Q1), released May 14, 2025. The Executive Summary can be found [here](#). You can read the Economic Forecast [here](#).
- [Launch Mid-Valley's](#) Oregon Startup Conference is at George Fox University on June 20th, 2025. This is for founders, funders, and forward-thinkers to come together for bold ideas and real connections. You can find more information [here](#) and register [here](#). Special pricing until May 31, 2025 - \$215.26 (includes fee).

Grants:

- The US Department of Rural Development Business Programs provide financial support and technical assistance to promote rural business growth. They offer [loans, guarantees and grants](#) to enhance economic opportunities and job creation in rural areas. Deadlines and requirements vary by program.
- The [US Department of Education](#) has grants for small businesses in the education sector.
- [Work Opportunity Tax Credit](#) is a federal tax credit that encourages companies to hire employees from groups who have historically faced barriers to gainful employment. The credit is extended to December 31, 2025.
- [Amazon Business](#) Small Business Grant has opened the applications for a chance to receive \$25,000, with over \$250,000 in prizes for 15 businesses. Applications close May 23rd. Prizes include 1 year of Business Prime, Amazon device bundle, and Amazon Basics Office Supplies. You can read about it and apply [here](#). Must be an

existing Amazon Business Customer, must be self-owned by a US resident, have revenue of less than \$1M, one entry per Amazon Business Account, must have purchased on Amazon Business within the last 12 months preceding May 1, 2025.

- The [Awesome Foundation](#) awards grants of \$1,000 to individuals and groups looking to fund various projects. You can find the application [here](#).
- The Freed Fellowship is offering an opportunity for \$2,500 small business grant and two months of free mentorship. They also offer a \$500 grant to invest in your business. You can learn more [here](#).
- [Accion Opportunity Fund](#) grants small businesses loans ranging from \$5k-\$250k along with educational resources, coaching and support networks in English and Spanish. You can apply [here](#) for a loan.
- [America's Seed Fund](#), sponsored by the National Science Foundation offers up to \$2M for US based startups and small businesses that are developing innovative technology. [Project Pitches](#) are accepted on a rolling basis. NSF has a [page](#) dedicated to the implementation of recent executive orders.
- [National Association for the Self-Employed](#) offers growth grants to members (must be a member for at least 90 days to apply). [Growth grants](#) provide up to \$4k to assist with training, marketing and more.
- The State Trade Expansion Program ([STEP](#)) is an official program under the SBA, however, you can apply through Business Oregon [here](#). The program assists business obtain grants and find customers in the international marketplace. The program helps small businesses overcome obstacles to exporting by providing grants to cover costs associated with entering and expanding into international markets.

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