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SORED I Foundation Issues Matching Grant to Josephine County StartUps

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SORED I Foundation is proud to announce a matching gift to catalyze childcare businesses through a new pilot small business mentoring partnership between the Southern Oregon Early Learning Hub (SOELS) and Rogue Community College Small Business Development Center (RCC SBDC).

The foundation gift, totaling \$10,000, will be directed towards the Josephine County's Childcare Business Accelerator Pilot Program, aiming to help mitigate the challenge of workforce childcare shortages and will be leveraged for \$10,000 more in matching funds. Other funding partners include \$10,000 from Josephine County's SOELS and the City of Grants Pass Childcare Grant which contributed \$30,000 in grant incentives for businesses within the Urban Growth boundaries.

Operational funds have also been leveraged with Business Oregon Capacity Building and Marketing funds, RCC SBDC staff and advisors matching efforts, and RCC. These funds will be disbursed to childcare businesses upon completion of the program.

SOELS offers to administer and distribute funds. The RCC SBDC will facilitate outreach, business startup and growth advising, mentoring, and state licensing checklists coordination with SOELS.

Participants who sign up for this new "Childcare Accelerator" program will be required to register for SBDC advising and mentoring and must meet a checklist of readiness and training. "Southern Oregon is considered a childcare desert because fewer than 33% of children 0-5 have access to a slot due to lack of availability." (Rene Brandon, SOELS) The Childcare Business Accelerator pilot project will contribute to the establishment of in-home licensed childcare businesses and expanding childcare providers in Josephine County.

The pilot will build new SBDC curriculum and training programs and will increase alignment of the childcare support ecosystem available to entrepreneurs in Josephine County.

"SORED I Foundation is honored to support this initiative by RCC SBDC and SOELS. This gift will help to strengthen Josephine County communities and make a tangible difference in businesses and people's lives," said Tom Fischer, SORED I Board of Directors and SORED I Foundation President.

To learn more about the Josephine County Childcare Business Accelerator Pilot Program visit roguecc.edu/sbdc (<http://roguecc.edu/sbdc>) or click this link (<https://www.roguecommunity.net/small-business-development-center-receives-grant-to-support-entrepreneurs-child-care-providers-rural-business-owners-in-josephine-county/>) to read more about the program.

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← The SORED I 2025 State of the Rogue Valley Breakfast brought together entrepreneurs, investors, and community leaders to celebrate (<https://southernoregonbusiness.com/the-soredi-2025-state-of-the-rogue-valley-breakfast-brought-together-entrepreneurs-investors-and-community-leaders-to-celebrate/>)

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