Grants Pass Daily Courier

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Deadline near to apply for Josephine County economic development grants

By Chrissy Ewald of the Daily Courier

Businesses, nonprofit organizations and county departments in Josephine County have until Oct. 30 to apply for county economic development grants.

A link to the application form can be found at tinyurl.com/joco-grants.

Counties across Oregon receive money from the Oregon Lottery to promote economic development.

The Josephine County Board of Commissioners is interested in projects that create jobs, build infrastructure, support tourism, generate commerce or otherwise boost the county economy.

Proposals will be evaluated and recommended for approval by county staff and by the newly formed Josephine County Economic Development Grant Advisory Committee.

The Board of Commissioners has final say on which projects get money.

Members of the committee are:

• Jay Duque, a financial professional in Cave Junction and founder of an independent financial education and consulting practice.

• Sherri Breslin of the Grants Pass area, office manager of a local security company.

• Roger Singer of Grants Pass, director of marketing at Grocery Outlets of Josephine County and board member for the Josephine County Food Bank.

• Connie Roach, the former Josephine County assessor. She currently serves on the board of directors for the Grants Pass Pregnancy Care Center and is on the budget committee for the Grants Pass/Josephine County Solid Waste Agency.

• Tom Bradbeer, who served as director of economic development in Tillamook County, as an economics professor at what is now Eastern Oregon University and as a dean at Rogue Community College. Locally, Bradbeer has served on the Grants Pass Budget Committee and on the board of the homeless services organization MINT.

The members will serve for one year, through Sept. 22, 2027.

Interim County Commissioner Colene Martin said the county has $445,000 available.

In April, Martin and her colleagues on the Board of Commissioners revamped the application process, after years of commissioners questioning the screening process and what the money can be used for.

Josephine County has in recent years put money toward multiple local businesses and organizations, including a truck manufacturer, a homeless ministry, a zoo and a fishing guide.

The county has also used the money to support the Small Business Development Center at Rogue Community College, to pay dues to a regional economic development organization and to pay for courthouse security.

The most recent round of economic development grants was approved by a previous iteration of the Board of Commissioners in December 2025.

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