



## PRESS RELEASE

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## Small Business Grants of \$10,000 and loans up to \$2 Million, Payroll Protection Program and expanded Unemployment Benefits

La Grande, OR – With the passage of the CARES Act on March 29, 2020 several aid programs are now available. The Small Business Administration's (SBA) **Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL)** program allows business to apply for a **\$10,000 grant and up to \$2 Million loan** through one basic application. To apply go to [sba.gov](http://sba.gov).

Those eligible to apply include: small business with less than 500 employees, sole proprietorships, independent contractors, cooperatives, agriculture or aquaculture producers, and some non-profits. A full list of eligibility criteria is listed at [sba.gov](http://sba.gov)

If you need help filling out your application, contact the Small Business Development Center at EOU via email at [EOUSBDC@gmail.com](mailto:EOUSBDC@gmail.com) or call (541) 962-1532.

The **Payroll Protection Program (PPP)** is a loan program that you apply for through a bank or credit union starting Friday, April 3. According to the [sba.gov](http://sba.gov) website, "The loan will be fully forgiven if the funds are used for payroll costs, interest on mortgages, rent, and utilities (due to likely high subscription, at least 75% of the forgiven amount must have been used for payroll). Loan payments will also be deferred for six months. No collateral or personal guarantees are required. Neither the government nor lenders will charge fees. The loan will bear interest at 0.5%.

Forgiveness is based on the employer maintaining or quickly rehiring employees and maintaining salary levels. Forgiveness will be reduced if full-time headcount declines, or if salaries and wages decrease. This loan has a maturity of 2 years and an interest rate of 0.5%. Visit [sba.gov](http://sba.gov) for details on accessing the Payroll Protection Program.

**Enhanced Unemployment Benefits** are also available. In addition to the state benefit, the CARES Act provides for an additional \$600 a week for unemployment benefits. It also applies to contractor and "gig workers." To apply, contact the [Oregon Employment Department](http://Oregon Employment Department).

*It is very important to note that you cannot use the federal sources to pay for the same activities. For instance, if you are using the SBA EIDL grant to cover payroll costs, the PPP will not be available for the same activities. Additionally, please be patient as some of the rules for these programs like the PPP are still being created.*

**###END###**