



## PRESS RELEASE

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CONTACT: Christine Jarski, (541) 962-1307; [cjarski@cityoflagrande.org](mailto:cjarski@cityoflagrande.org)

### City of La Grande Contacting All Businesses

La Grande, OR – Starting April 7, 2020, staff from the City of La Grande and the Union County Chamber of Commerce will begin reaching out to all businesses that are located in the City of La Grande. The calls will broaden efforts started by the Union County Chamber of Commerce, the City, and La Grande Main Street the week of March 15, 2020.

The primary purpose for these calls is to check in with businesses, find out if they are aware of federal and state programs for assistance and let them know about the City's Emergency Loan program. The callers will have basic information about the Federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

"We are making these calls because we want all of our businesses to emerge from this crisis as vibrant as possible," said City Manager, Robert Strobe. "La Grande and Union County have a long history of pulling together in times of need and while this situation is unprecedented, there is help and we want our businesses to have access to as many resources as possible."

The City of La Grande and its partners are also encouraging all businesses to educate themselves about the Economic Injury Disaster Loan funds at [sba.gov](http://sba.gov) and to contact their local lenders if they think they qualify for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), which provides an opportunity for a forgivable loan of up to \$10 Million that is designed to help businesses retain or rehire employees laid off due to the COVID 19 outbreak. The U.S. Treasury's summary of the PPP can be found here: [Summary of PPP](#).

The City of La Grande has also launched an Emergency Loan Program. La Grande businesses can receive a loan of up to \$10,000 at 1% interest with deferred payments and interest for the first six months. Review of applications will begin on Wednesday, April 8, 2020. Go to [ignitemybusiness.org](http://ignitemybusiness.org) blog for a downloadable application and program description.

Anyone who has been laid off or is a private contractor, free-lancer or gig worker should consider applying for unemployment benefits through the [Oregon Employment Department](#).

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