

**Multnomah-Washington Regional Investment Board**  
**2001 Project Activity Summary**

*Information below reflects activities reported through November 30*  
*Projects should be completed by June 2002*

**Black United Fund Community & Economic Development Initiative**

Project Management: **Black United Fund of Oregon, Inc.**

Contact: Karen Powell, 503-282-7973

Project Cost: **\$438,750**      RIP Funding: **\$200,000**      Matching Funds: **\$238,750**

RIP funds will help finance Phase I of the Black United Fund's plans to renovate and expand its headquarters at 2828 NE Alberta. When completed, the new facility will house two enterprises - the Center for Community Development, a non-profit incubator, and the NE Business Center. The goal is to provide space where nonprofit organizations and community-based, minority-owned, small and emerging businesses can flourish. Phase I will encompass pre-development stages of the project. To date, the architect has completed two sets of design alternatives and is preparing preliminary floor plan and a development schedule. Fundraising by staff is underway including outreach to major foundations.

**Conexion**

Project Management: **Hispanic Metropolitan Chamber**

Contact: Gayle Castillo, 503-226-2556

Project Cost: **\$114,000**      RIP Funding: **\$98,100**      Matching Funds: **\$16,000**

This project seeks to promote stability and growth of the region's Hispanic-owned businesses by heightening their visibility, enhancing access to economic development resources, and encouraging entrepreneurial opportunities. Funds have supported the creation of a web site at [www.hmccoregon.com/](http://www.hmccoregon.com/), featuring an electronic business directory and Hispanic business locator to increase networking and trade among these businesses, and between them and the larger community. To those same ends, the chamber has schedule two forums, with the high tech and creative services industry. An executive director and staff assistant have also been hired.

**Customized Hispanic Workforce Development Program for the Hospitality Industry**

Project Management: **Oregon Restaurant Education Foundation (OREF)**

Contact: Sharyl Parker, 503-682-4422, [Sharyl@OREFoundation.org](mailto:Sharyl@OREFoundation.org)

Project Cost: **\$234,254**      RIP Funding: **\$98,000**      Matching Funds: **\$136,254**

OREF is developing a program that will provide Hispanic workers skills training and expanded job opportunities in the hospitality industry, resulting in new career pathways and higher wages. Following industry meetings with owners, operators and key trainers, and workers, a curriculum team has met and drafted training materials. A pilot test of the training program has been scheduled for the Spring.

**Forest Grove Education and Training Consortium**

Project Management: **Forest Grove Economic Development Partnership**

Project Cost: **\$157,900**      RIP Funding: **\$104,800**      Matching Funds: **\$53,100**

Contact: Ann Mulroney, 503-226-7825

The consortium, composed of seven Forest Grove manufacturers, Pacific University, PCC's Customized and Workforce Training Department, and the Forest Grove School District, has designed and is implementing a program to link all levels of education with local work place opportunities and needs. Specifically, it has created a training and education curriculum within participating companies and is completing a demonstration project with Forest Grove High School to connect work place and academic learning objectives.

## **Learning a Living: Strategies for Upward Mobility and Community Building**

Project Management: **East Multnomah County One-Stop Career System (ECOS)**

Project Cost: **\$195,377**      RIP Funding: **\$124,377**      Matching Funds: **\$71,000**

Contact: Joan Pasco, 503-661-3981, [jpasco@1stop.org](mailto:jpasco@1stop.org)

ECOS is using RIP funding four large planning initiatives, one to leverage federal funds for an economic development project in Rockwood, and three to facilitate upward mobility of the region's work force. The Rockwood project would tap into "Operation Weed and Seed," a community revitalization program sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice. It funds law enforcement efforts to "weed out" crime in a targeted area along with provision of needed human and social services. The Weed and Seed application is complete and submitted, with more information available at [www.weedandseedoregon.org](http://www.weedandseedoregon.org).

The other projects include an East County healthcare planning consortium which has surveyed employer and training resources in the field. They recently applied for a grant from the Oregon Workforce Investment Board to increase capacity for Certified Nurse Assistant Training. The ESL Train the Trainer Project, scheduled for the Spring, will train people fluent in two or more languages as job coaches, classroom instructors and mentors. Those trained will help individuals with language barriers find meaningful employment. Lastly, research has begun on successful local individuals, creating written and on-line career mobility tools to help difficult-to-employ citizens with career development plans.

## **Highland's Haven**

Project Management: Highland's Haven

Project Cost: **\$74,200**      RIP Funding: **\$38,840**      Matching Funds: **\$35,360**

Contact: Wilbur Hardy, 503-287-9567

The program offers Northeast Portland youth a variety of programs including tutoring, mentorship, job shadowing, and skills training. RIP funding has been used to hire a volunteer outreach coordinator and support the operation of a number of summer and after school youth projects.

## **Lents Community Market**

Project Management: **Neighborhood Pride Team**

Project Cost: **\$46,000**      RIP Funding: **\$20,000**      Matching Funds: **\$26,000**

Contact: Nancy Yuill, 503-775-7993

RIP funding has supported this popular open-air market serving low-income families, seniors and other residents of outer southeast Portland. The market brings together local small-scale produce growers, bakers, crafters and performance artists, and provides a forum for distributing information on social service and neighborhood programs.

## **Lents Tech Center**

Project Management: **Lents Tech Center, (Portland Community College)**

Contact: Mimi Maduro, 503-788-6209, [maduro@pcc.edu](mailto:maduro@pcc.edu)

Project Cost: **\$465,004**      RIP Funding: **\$175,000**      Matching Funds: **\$310,004**

With additional funding through the RIP, the Lents Tech Center located at Marshall High School will expand its services to help underemployed local workers upgrade their skills and find living-wage jobs in area industries. After major employer partners withdrew, the Board approved a revised scope of work for the project, management of which was transferred from SE Works to Portland Community College. They have initiated an assessment of information technology employers in the I-205 corridor area. This is the first step in designing and marketing a training curriculum matching current labor market demands. The results will be reviewed by the Board before final funding for project implementation will be released.

### **Model Farm Worker Congregate Housing Project**

Project Management: **Housing Development Corp. of Washington County**

Contact: Linda Netherton, 503-693-2937, LJNnDSL@AOL.com

Project Cost: **\$66,598**      RIP Funding: **\$43,132**      Matching Funds: **\$23,466**The

This project will develop and implement a model for quality, affordable housing for seasonal farm workers in Washington County. Building on the work of the Oregon Legislature's Farm Worker Housing Task Force, it will leverage funds invested by participating employers (growers) and other public and private sources. Besides devising a new model for farm- or community-based housing developments - which will each include a Community Learning Center where community- and faith-based organizations can provide services - the project will create housing management plans and training programs for growers, and a streamlined process for growers to access funding sources. To date they have identified a model, located a site, design and supplier, and completed a financing strategy.

### **Neighborhood Pride Team**

Project Management: **Neighborhood Pride Team (NPT)**

Contact: Molly Cooley, 503-774-4880, molly@neighborhoodpride.org

Project Cost: **\$140,300**      RIP Funding: **\$60,000**      Matching Funds: **\$80,300**

NPT, devoted to job skills training and community economic development, has used RIP funds to expand its services in four low-income outer southeast neighborhoods - Brentwood-Darlington, Lents, Mt. Scott-Arleta, and Foster-Powell. NPT's Skills Center helps residents train for information technology and creative services jobs.

### **Overcoming Barriers: Hispanic Adult Education Program (AEP)**

Project Management: **El Centro Mexicano de Oregon (Mexican Center of Oregon)**

Contact: Estela Garcia, 503-946-0100, cemp@hotmail.org

Project Cost: **\$152,500**      RIP Funding: **\$60,000**      Matching Funds: **\$92,500**The

RIP funds have enabled the Mexican Center to create local coordinator and part-time assistant positions for its AEP program, thereby expanding participation and better monitoring quality and progress. With state-of-the-art training materials supplied by Mexico's Institute for Adult Education, the Center provides a three-year educational program for illiterate or functionally illiterate Hispanic adults, leading to an equivalency degree. Classes are currently offered in Gresham, Hillsboro and Cornelius.

### **PCC Accelerated Entry-Level Technician Training Program**

Project Management: **PCC CAPITAL Career Center**

Contact: Julie Wyckoff Beyers, 503-533-2767, jwyckoff@pcc.edu

Project Cost: **\$183,175**      RIP Funding: **\$110,973**      Matching Funds: **\$72,202**

This project is developing curriculum designed specifically to meet the needs of high-technology companies employing entry-level technicians whose duties often overlap with those of operators in the high-technology industry. This curriculum will insure that graduates are not only able to succeed in entry-level positions but are also able to use those courses as a pathway to continued education and advanced positions in high technology. A Work Keys Job Profile has been completed. Instructors have been hired and student screening and recruitment is underway. The project's major employer partner remains actively committed despite the current downturn in the industry.

### **Sustainable Economic Growth for the Westside**

Project Management: **Westside Consortium for Economic Health**

Contact: Betty Atteberry, 503-968-3100, [batteberry@wstside-alliance.org](mailto:batteberry@wstside-alliance.org)

Project Cost: **\$110,000**      RIP Funding: **\$50,000**      Matching Funds/In-Kind: **\$60,000**

The Sustainable Economic Growth for the Westside Project has commissioned a study of the region's economy that will: (1) highlight the key factors in the development and evolution of the region's economy; (2) show how state and local government policies regarding taxation, land use, transportation, education and environmental regulation affect the local economic ecology; and (3) serve as a guide for public and private decision makers concerned about the long-term vitality and livability of the region. A consultant has been hired and the research is proceeding.

### **Washington County Fair Complex & Community Center Redevelopment Planning Project**

Project Management: **Washington County Fair Board/Washington County**

Contact: Gerald Kubiak, 503-846-8685, [Gerald\\_kubiak@co.washington.or.us](mailto:Gerald_kubiak@co.washington.or.us)

Project Cost: **\$112,850**      RIP Funding: **\$50,000**      Matching Funds: **\$62,850**

This project is using grant funds to retain consulting and architectural services that will facilitate a strategic planning process for the redevelopment of the Washington County Fair Complex. The project task force meetings and outreach are complete. A final draft of the document is underway.

## **Rural Investment Projects:**

### **Banks/Vernonia Linear Trail Extension - Engineering**

Project Management: **City of Banks**

Contact: K.J. Won, 503-229-2221, kjwon@mac.com

Project Cost: **\$40,000**      RIP Funding: **\$20,000**      Matching Funds: **\$20,000**

This project will support the completion of the final leg of the Banks-Vernonia Linear Trail. This trail currently extends over twenty miles from the City of Vernonia to its present dead end, which is located about a quarter-mile north of the Banks City limits. This grant pertains to the first phase of this project and will provide the engineering work necessary to resolve design issues pertaining to the Banks Road/Sellers Road intersection, the existing railroad crossing, and connection between Banks Road and the depot. Topographic survey for the project is complete and has been submitted. An aerial photograph/baseline mapping has also been completed and submitted and a draft document is under discussion.

### **Low-Income Hispanic Job Training Project**

Project Management: **Centro Cultural of Washington County**

Contact: Bridget Cooke, 503-359-0446, bridgetc@centrocultural.org

Project Cost: **\$141,580**      RIP Funding: **\$104,980**      Matching Funds: **\$36,600**

This project will increase the employability of day laborers and immigrant women using three means: basic education, job readiness to prepare workers for the local work environment, and specific skills training in the nursery industry with attention paid to environmentally sustainable practices. The women will be provided basic business skills and income while they participate in Adelante Mujeres! (Forward, Woman), a women's folk art collective where the participants gather weekly to learn folk art skills from skilled artisans. The project has completed several Basic Education (Math, English, Basic Computer, and Spanish Literacy) and job readiness classes that will continue through the life of this project. Specific advanced skills training classes needed in the nursery products industry have also been completed.

### **Verboort Water Supply & Drainage Feasibility Study/Improvement Plan**

Project Management: **Columbia-Pacific Economic Development District**

Contact: Jeff King, 503-397-2888, colpacedd@columbia-center.org

Project Cost: **\$30,000**      RIP Funding: **\$24,000**      Matching Funds: **\$6,000**

The unincorporated area of Verboort is experiencing significant water supply and surface water drainage issues. This project will support the completion of the plan that will develop a solution to these infrastructure problems. The report will look at causes and present possible alternatives that cover cost, financing, land use issues and technical feasibility elements. A draft of the report has been completed.

### **WorkLink**

Project Management: **Ride Connection**

Contact: Bonnie Schoffner, 503-413-5345

Project Cost: **\$133,000**      RIP Funding: **\$66,500**      Matching Funds: **\$66,500**

Worklink aims to increase the capacity of low-income Washington County residents to participate in and benefit from recent economic growth in the tri-county area by offering short-term demand response ride service, travel skills training, and by coordinating a network of alternative service providers. Implementation and outreach for the project is ongoing.

## **Multi-regional Investment Projects:**

### **Columbia-Western Washington Downtown Revitalization Cluster Project**

Project Management: **Columbia-Pacific Economic Development District**

Contact: Jeff King, 503-397-2888, colpacedd@columbia-center.org

Project Cost: **\$86,000**      RIP Funding: **\$36,000**      Matching Funds: **\$50,000**

This project will create revitalization strategies for the downtown/ commercial centers of five communities in Western Washington and Columbia Counties. The five communities, Banks, North Plains, Vernonia, Rainier, and St. Helens, are generally economically distressed with both their industrial and commercial base struggling to survive. These strategies will serve as a blueprint to increase the economic vitality of the traditional downtown and improve the business climate and livability within these distressed communities. Additional funding has been secured, plans are completed for North Plains and are in process for other cities.

### **E-Commerce Training for Businesses in Rural and Distressed Oregon Communities**

Project Management: **Oregon Coast Community College**

Contact: Guy Faust, 541-944-4166, guyfaust@hotmail.com

Project Cost: **\$30,047**      RIP Funding: **\$25,047**      Matching Funds/In-Kind: **\$5,000**

This project is designed to give small rural business owners the opportunity to compete in electronic commerce by offering training in E-Commerce. Training has occurred in other areas of the state, and is scheduled this Spring at Portland and Mount Hood Community Colleges.

### **I-205 Corridor Promotional Partnership Phase I and II**

Project Management: **Portland Development Commission (PDC)**

Contact: Michael Ogan, 503-823-3309, Mogan@portlandedev.org

Project Cost: **\$235,000**      RIP Funding: **\$5,000**      Matching Funds: **\$60,000**

The purpose of the I-205 Corridor Promotional Partnership is to support and advocate for transportation, and other infrastructure investments along and adjacent to the I-205 Corridor; to coordinate and enhance promotional efforts for industrial lands, and redevelopment properties along, or adjacent to the I-205 Corridor; and to facilitate greater coordination and mutual support between the local jurisdictions, along or adjacent to the I-205 corridor. The I-205 Corridor is defined as lands within four miles of either side of the freeway and from its southern junction to the Columbia River. Project will commence be completed in the early summer.

### **Industrial Ammonia Refrigeration Distance Learning Demonstration Project**

Project Management: **Northwest Food Processors Association (NWFPA)**

Contact: Kelley Horsman, 503-338-2408

Project Cost: **\$162,500**      RIP Funding: **\$35,000**      Matching Funds/In-Kind: **\$65,000**

The Industrial Ammonia Refrigeration Distance Learning Demonstration Project will identify and re-purpose the best existing curricula into distance learning, utilizing web-based, CD-ROM, interactive TV formats to bring the sophisticated training to workers in their workplace. This will lay a foundation for a networked training system between the education deliverers and the end-users in rural communities. To date, additional funding has been secured, the curriculum has been selected, and course materials have been completed.

### **Keeping Agriculture Viable (KAV) in Oregon**

Project Management: Agri-Business Council of Oregon

Contact: Mary Stewart, 503-241-1487, [aglink@oregonvos.net](mailto:aglink@oregonvos.net)

Project Cost: **\$302,500**      RIP Funding: **\$30,250**      Matching Funds: **\$503,330**

The Keeping Agriculture Viable in Oregon: Oregon Agriculture. Everywhere. Every Day project is an industry-wide, state-wide effort to keep agriculture connected to key audiences. The campaign addresses five strategic areas identified at the 1997 Agriculture Summit: Public Information and Awareness, Broad Industry Involvement and Support, Alliances with Non-Agriculture Groups, Primary and Secondary Education and Connection to Issues Affecting Agriculture. By increasing public awareness and appreciation of agriculture, this project is designed to retain and expand current family-wage jobs, improve brand loyalty and demand for Oregon products, develop new markets and stimulate value-added product growth. Several different media products have been produced and delivered, with most aspects of the project ongoing.

### **Lesser-Known Wood Species**

Project Management: **Northwest Wood Products Association (NWPAA) and OECDD**

Contact: Darren Fleener, 503-996-0070 (OECDD)

Project Cost: **\$300,000**      RIP Funding: **\$10,000**      Matching Funds: **\$50,000**

The purpose of this project is to help Oregon's forest products industry adapt to changes in wood supply, improve competitiveness, take advantage of worldwide information sources and electronic commerce opportunities, and develop sustainable environmentally sensitive strategies for lesser known wood species utilization. To do this the project proposes to assess status, economic impacts, issues, opportunities and trends related to the utilization and marketing of the lesser known wood species in Oregon; develop specific recommendations about how to sustainably develop the market for these products; and to assist manufacturers link with each other, better publicize market leads, and access technical information sources to reduce redundant technical and market research. Consulting with industry partners the project has developed a survey instrument on supplier, workforce and market cost issues.

### **Micro Enterprise/Small Business Development Project**

Project Management: **Cascades West Financial Services Inc. (CWFSI)/Cascades West COG**

Contact: Drew Foster, 541-924-8458 (Cascades West COG)

Project Cost: **\$608,144**      RIP Funding: **\$20,000**      Matching Funds: **\$500,108**

This project is a loan fund dedicated to helping small business owners who cannot obtain traditional bank financing. The program targets under-served low-income populations including women, minorities, and veterans for financing start up or expanding businesses. To date thirteen loans have been made in nine counties, including 4 in Multnomah. Ninety-two percent of these were to women-owned businesses. Twenty-one jobs were created or retained, and technical assistance has been provided to 97 individual businesses.

### **Northwest Oregon Regional Partnership Program**

Project Management: **Columbia-Pacific Economic Development District**

Contact: Jeff King, 503-397-2888, [colpcedd@columbia-center.org](mailto:colpcedd@columbia-center.org)

Project Cost: **\$26,000**      RIP Funding: **\$6,500**      Matching Funds: **\$19,500**

This project provides administrative services and support to the Northwest Oregon Regional Partnership. The funding will allow the Partnership to further its progress in addressing priority issues facing the region and to update the comprehensive regional and economic community development strategies. The six identified priority issues are Transportation, Leadership Development, Telecommunications, Workforce Development, Downtown Revitalization, and Endangered Species/Fish Recovery Impacts. To date this project is moving forward and has held Regional Forums, updated

contact lists, and held Leadership Training providing skills and action items update for the Regional Plan, priority issues were identified during the Needs and Issues Training, and implementation is on-going.

### **Regional Industrial Lands Study (RILS) - Phase III**

Project Management: **Portland Development Commission (PDC)**

Contact: Michael Ogan, 503-823-3309, Mogan@portlandedev.org

Project Cost: **\$130,100**      RIP Funding: **\$35,000**      Matching Funds: **\$245,000**

This phase of the Regional Industrial Lands Study project will build on and supplement the two earlier phases. The purpose of the third phase is to identify and evaluate the effect of potential strategies and policy issues that could rectify the shortage of Tier A industrial land. The objective is to thoroughly identify, analyze and discuss potential solutions, together with the implications, tradeoffs, and impacts of these solutions. The final report resulting from this study will provide decision makers with information to assist them as they make land use policy decisions impacting the region's industrial development patterns and capacity. That final report has been produced and presentations are ongoing. The text is available on-line at <http://www.upa.pdx.edu/IMS/RILS/rilsintro.html>.

### **Regional Telecommunications Strategic Plan**

Project Management: **Columbia-Pacific Economic Development District**

Contact: Jeff King, 503-397-2888, colpacedd@columbia-center.org

Project Cost: **\$38,500**      RIP Funding: **\$9,000**      Matching Funds: **\$4,500**

This project will develop a telecommunications strategic plan for Western Washington County, Clatsop, Columbia and Tillamook Counties. The plan will identify current needs and gaps and offer a process and strategies to enhance telecommunications services in the region. To date the Needs and wants section has been completed and "light wave" surveys are nearly complete.

### **Secondary Wood Products Training System (SWPTS)**

Project Management: **SWPTS, Linn-Benton Community College/OECDD**

Contact: Darren Fleener, 503-996-0070 (OECDD)

Project Cost: **\$355,000**      RIP Funding: **\$50,000**      Matching Funds: **\$305,000**

The mission of this project is to enhance the worldwide competitiveness of the secondary wood products industry by providing a comprehensive, technologically current training program for owners, employers, employees and potential employees of the industry. Along with meetings coordinating stakeholders, work to date has included development of enhancements to the project website at <http://www.lbcc.cc.or.us/swpc/>.

### **Statewide Marketing Campaign Implementation**

Project Management: **Oregon Economic Development Association**

Contact: Eric Sande, 541-923-5191

Project Cost: **\$276,950**      RIP Funding: **\$14,100**      Matching Funds: **\$179,000**

This project will develop and implement a statewide marketing plan that will target industries that have the best potential of considering Oregon's rural and metro areas for relocation and expansion. Several different media products have been produced and delivered with visitations planned targeting opportunities in electronics, metals, software, and telecommunications.