



COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING
Wednesday, July 15, 2020
265 Strand Street, St. Helens, OR 97051
www.ci.st-helens.or.us

Welcome!

All persons planning to address the Council, please sign-in at the back of the room. When invited to provide comment regarding items not on tonight's agenda, please raise your hand to be recognized, walk to the podium in the front of the room to the right, and state your name only. You are not required to give your address when speaking to the City Council. If you wish to address a specific item on the agenda, you should make your request known to the Mayor as soon as possible before the item comes up. The Council has the authority to grant or deny your request. Agenda times and order of items are estimated and are subject to change without notice.

1. **6:45 PM - Open Public Hearing**

2. **Topic**

- 2.A. 2020 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FROM BUSINESS OREGON FOR PUBLIC SERVICES, EMERGENCY SMALL BUSINESS AND MICRO-ENTERPRISE ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM
[CDBG Application for Funds - COVID-19 Assistance.pdf](#)

3. **Close Public Hearing**

Zoom Meeting Details -

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/92671547285>

Meeting ID: 926 7154 7285

Dial by your location: 1 346 248 7799

The St. Helens City Council Chambers are handicapped accessible. If you wish to participate or attend the meeting and need special accommodation, please contact City Hall at 503-397-6272 in advance of the meeting.

**Be a part of the vision...get involved with your City...volunteer for a City of St. Helens Board or Commission!
For more information or for an application, stop by City Hall or call 503-366-8217.**



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NOTE: Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, you may participate in the Public Hearing remotely by computer or telephone. You will be able to hear and/or view the proceedings and fully participate remotely. Please access the following URL to reach the options: <https://www.ci.st-helens.or.us/calendar>

Public Notice and Notice of Public Hearing

The City of St. Helens is eligible to apply for a 2020 Community Development Block Grant from Business Oregon. Community Development Block Grant funds come from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The grants can be used for public facilities and housing improvements, primarily for persons with low and moderate incomes.

Approximately \$12 million will be awarded to Oregon non-metropolitan cities and counties in 2020. The State expects to receive approximately \$18.6 million in additional CDBG funds and if more funds become available from the CDBG program, the City of St. Helens intends to request additional funds for the two project types we are applying for: **Public Services Grant** and **Emergency Small Business and Microenterprise Assistance Grant**.

The City of St. Helens is preparing two applications for 2020 Community Development Block Grants from Business Oregon. The first is a joint project seeking a **Public Services Grant for Columbia County, for COVID-19 Community Response for \$50,000**. The maximum grant that a City or County can receive is \$50,000 for a project of this type. It is estimated that the proposed projects will benefit at least 4,000 persons, of whom 46.36% will be low or moderate income.

The second application that the City of St Helens may submit is a 2020 Community Development Block Grant from Business Oregon for Emergency Small Business and Microenterprise Assistance Grant, serving Columbia County, for COVID-19 Community Response for \$150,000. The maximum grant a City or County can receive for a project of this type is \$150,000. It is estimated that the project will benefit 30 to 50 business owners and their employees, of whom 50% will be low- or moderate-income.

A public hearing will be held by the St. Helens City Council at 6:45 PM on July 15, 2020 electronically via phone and video conference. Meeting information and a link to participate is available here: <https://www.ci.st-helens.or.us/calendar>. The purpose of this hearing is for the City Council to obtain citizen views and to respond to questions and comments about: community development and housing needs, especially the needs of low- and moderate-income persons, as well as other needs in the community that might be assisted with a Community Development Block Grant project; and the proposed project.

Written comments are also welcome and must be received by 5:00 PM on July 14, 2020 at kathy@ci.st-helens.or.us or to City of St. Helens, Attn: City Recorder, 265 Strand Street, St. Helens, OR 97051. Both oral and written comments will be considered by the City Council in deciding whether to apply.



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The method of the hearing is accessible to persons with disabilities. Please contact the City Recorder's Office at 503-366-8217 if you will need any special accommodations to attend or participate in the meeting.

More information about Oregon Community Development Block Grants, the proposed project, and records about the City of St. Helens' past use of Community Development Block Grant funds is available for public review digitally upon request by emailing rbarry@ci.st-helens.or.us. Advance notice is requested. If special accommodations are needed, please notify the office at 503-366-8217 so that appropriate assistance can be provided.

Permanent involuntary displacement of persons or businesses is not anticipated as a result from the proposed project. If displacement becomes necessary, alternatives will be examined to minimize the displacement and provide required/reasonable benefits to those displaced. Any low- and moderate-income housing that is demolished or converted to another use will be replaced.

City of St. Helens



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July 7, 2020

Community Development Block Grant Application for COVID-19 Emergency Assistance (Public Services and Small Business and Microenterprise Assistance) Grants

Background:

Council has approved these applications separately. Public Services on May 20, 2020 and the Emergency Small Business and Micro Enterprise Assistance on June 3rd, 2020.

When the applications were initial approved approximately \$12 was to be awarded to Oregon non-metropolitan cities and counties in 2020. The State now expects to receive approximately \$18.6 million in additional CDBG funds and if more funds become available from the CDBG program, the City of St. Helens intends to request additional funds for the two project types we are applying for: **Public Services Grant** and **Emergency Small Business and Microenterprise Assistance Grant**.

The City staff have been working with Columbia County, Business Oregon, Columbia County Economic Team (CCET), Community Action Team (CAT) and Columbia-Pacific Economic Development District (Col-Pac) to identify a plan and move forward cooperatively.

These projects will mirror efforts in Tillamook and Clatsop Counties. Applications will be made by currently eligible units of government and the City of St. Helens is poised to make application having recently submitted other CDBG applications.

The **Public Services Grant for Columbia County, for COVID-19 Community Response will request at least \$50,000** to benefit at least 4,000 persons, of whom 46.36% will be low or moderate income. The Public Services grant program is intended to meet outstanding supply and materials needs for community-based public service agencies. Supplies and materials stocks need to be replenished and maintained if vital community services, specifically meal delivery programs, are to be available to the individuals and families that we serve.

The second application for the Emergency Small Business and Microenterprise Assistance Grant, serving Columbia County, for COVID-19 Community Response will request at least \$150,000 to benefit 30 to 50 business owners and their employees, of whom 50% will be low- or moderate-income. The Emergency Business Assistance grant program is intended to:

- Help businesses remain solvent through the crisis and be ready/able to rebuild and/or reopen
- Fill Specific cash flow gaps in businesses' larger efforts to scale down, reduce expenses and take any additional defensive measures to survive the crisis.

A public hearing is required by CDBG before an entity may apply for funding. The purpose of this hearing is for the City Council to obtain citizen views and to respond to questions and comments about COVID-19 related needs in the community that might be assisted by the proposed Community Development Block Grant projects.



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Contacts:

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Columbia-Pacific Economic Development District
Mary McArthur
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City of St. Helens
RESOLUTION NO. 1896

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE APPLICATION FOR COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS FOR COVID-19 EMERGENCY
ASSISTANCE: PUBLIC SERVICES AND EMERGENCY SMALL BUSINESS
& MICRO-ENTERPRISE ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, the City Council of St. Helens is committed to maintaining an effective and efficient organization, serving our community in adherence to our Vision: To provide quality, effective and efficient service to our community; and

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes that during the current COVID-19 pandemic, public service providers and small businesses are impacted and in need of support so that our communities may reopen under the State of Oregon and Columbia County frameworks; and

WHEREAS, the City Council intends to apply for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for COVID-19 Public Services and Emergency Small Business & Micro-Enterprise Assistance and desires to enter into partnerships to serve our residents and those of Columbia County.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the City of St. Helens City Council adopts this Resolution to apply for Community Development Block Grant funds for COVID-19 Public Services and Emergency Small Business & Micro-Enterprise Assistance Grants with the objective to secure these CDBG funds for county-wide support to small business and micro-enterprise.

Approved and adopted by the City Council on July 15, 2020, by the following vote:

Ayes:

Nays:

Rick Scholl, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kathy Payne, City Recorder