

\$[★]STIMULUS



New state Web site drills deep on stimulus spending

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Oregon's Economic Recovery Executive Team has finally assembled the state's most definitive federal stimulus Web site.

And what a site it is. By going to <http://www.oregon.gov/recovery/> and clicking on the dollar-sign icon in the "Funding Breakdown" section, contractors can learn the very latest on programs and their allotted funding levels.

For instance, the state expects to collect \$42 million for an energy program promoting renewable technologies. The information lists contacts businesses can contact to learn how to bid or work with a winning contractor.

The site details stimulus projects related to education, transportation, community services, health and human services, energy, public safety, employment and workforce training, natural resources and broadband technologies.

According to the site, the biggest business-related stimulus projects include:

- \$334 million for transportation projects.
- \$714 million in "Making Work Pay" tax credits.
- At least some of the \$8 billion earmarked nationally toward high-speed

rail projects.

Courtney Warner, a spokeswoman for Gov. Ted Kulongoski's recovery team, said the site will be updated weekly.

DRIVING NEEDS

The final count isn't in yet, but so far, most stimulus money collected in Southeast Oregon will fund transportation projects.

Nearly 64 percent of the \$26 million that's so far been allotted toward Harney and Malheur counties will go toward transportation work. Details are forthcoming, but \$146,000 could create two jobs within the area's Snake River Transportation district. Another job could emerge from a \$79,580 vehicle grant to Harney County's transportation fleet.

Mark Maliwauki, Harney County's economic development director, said the county could also expect a handful of bridge repair projects.

State officials have so far only tracked where the money goes in three stimulus areas — transportation, workforce development and from the Go Oregon state plan — because federal officials haven't divvied up stimulus cash in such areas as health care.

Nevertheless, Maliwauki wonders if stimulus money can help a county with

a 15 percent unemployment rate. The Burns area could lose nearly 250 jobs after Monaco Coach Corp. filed for bankruptcy and Louisiana-Pacific Corp. announced recent layoffs.

Harney-area economic development advocates are devising new strategies that revolve around recruiting, which could attract longer-term job bases, as opposed to relying on stimulus initiatives that might provide temporary fixes.

"It's important to us to expand our current businesses and it's good if they can get a bit of that money to grow, but it's important to us to see if we can find relocating businesses," he said.

SOLAR SYSTEM

Clackamas Community College has found a way to keep its Oregon stimulus money green.

The school will steer some \$650,000 in money from "Go Oregon," the state stimulus package, toward mechanical improvements that include solar-heated hot water systems. The solar-heated water will flow through the college's Pauling, McLoughlin and Randall buildings.

Officials believe the move will save the college thousands in water heating costs each year. Clackamas snared about \$1.35 million of the state stimulus money. Bill Leach, the school's dean of campus services, said the money will fuel about \$2.7 million worth of projects.

The college is also adding energy efficiency controls in its Oregon City and Wilsonville buildings.

HIGH OVERHEAD

In the meantime, Mount Hood Community College is also putting its Go Oregon money to good use.

The school is replacing the roof on its health and physical education complex, a \$2 million project that's expected to be completed in September.

The project is one of seven that Mount Hood will fund from the \$3.8 million it received from the state. Other projects include a \$500,000 rehabilitation of the school's performing arts center stage, \$350,000 for campuswide painting and flooring upgrades and \$200,000 to make Americans With Disability Act restroom upgrades.

The school's Web site (www.mhcc.edu) will update on the number of jobs each project creates, the expenditures to date and the degree to which projects are completed. For instance, the roof replacement project is about 2 percent complete.

Further clicks can uncover contractor and sub-contractor information. Weatherproofing Technologies Inc. of Beachwood, Ohio, is the primary contractor while Stryker Construction of Issaquah, Wash., are the top sub-contractors.

Tracking
the
Stimulus