



Oregon

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State Approves \$2.3 Million in Small Community Incentive Fund Awards

Salem, Oregon (January 9, 2007) – In 2006, Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) approved over \$2.3 million in grants and loans to assist 36 community development projects across Oregon through its Small Community Incentive Fund (SCIF) program. The SCIF is designed to provide the financial incentive or the gap financing that will help local communities meet one or more of the Governor’s Oregon Livability Initiatives.

“We realize that some projects may need additional resources to get off the ground,” said Buz Ortiz, State Housing Council Chair, “The Small Community Incentive Fund is a great opportunity for communities to complete projects that otherwise might fail, so we are happy to offer this extra support”

“Small” in the program name refers to the \$80,000 limit on the amount of funding requested and does not refer to the size of the community in which the project is located. The SCIF is not intended to replace other project financing from private or public sources. It is intended to be a flexible resource that promotes worthy projects by bridging funding gaps, which may be created by the difficult and costly nature of purposeful developments or provide incentives which will encourage commitment of other resources. Without the investment of SCIF moneys, the project will either not move forward, or will move forward in a manner which does not achieve the objectives of Oregon livability principles.

The SCIF Program is administered by OHCS through 10 Regional Economic Revitalization Teams (RERTs) across Oregon. Each of the RERTs identified eligible projects within their region to receive these resources in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$240,000. \$2.6 million in resources were available statewide for the 2006 SCIF Program.

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All applications were reviewed by the RERTs on their own merit and were evaluated against selected criteria and other submittals. The RERTs determined which proposals best met the goals of the Incentive Fund and which were determined to be a priority for the region and recommended those for funding. Recommended projects were then forwarded to the SCIF Advisory Board for input, then to the Director of OHCS for final approval.

Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) is the State's housing finance agency and community services program administrator. The Department provides financial and program support to create and preserve opportunities for quality, affordable housing for Oregonians of lower and moderate income and administers federal and state antipoverty, homeless, energy assistance and community service programs. The OHCS mission is to "Reach out for opportunities to create partnerships that improve Oregonians' lives and the quality of our communities." For more information, visit our website at www.ohcs.oregon.gov.

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Note to Editors – The following list summarizes each of the projects receiving SCIF funding:

- **Baker City, OR - Crossroads Center for the Creative and Performing Arts.** Crossroads Center for the Creative and Performing Arts received an \$80,000 SCIF grant to restore the historic 1909 Carnegie Library to be the permanent home of the 43 year old Crossroads Art Center, to better serve the Eastern Oregon region, and to impact local economic development.
- **Estacada, OR – SE 4th and Stafford Street Realignment.** The City of Estacada received a \$40,000 SCIF grant and a \$40,000 SCIF loan to complete realignment of SE 4th Avenue's connection to Main Street. Fourth Avenue is a major transportation link connecting most of Estacada's existing and new neighborhoods to Main Street and Hwy 224. Estacada's two industrial parks are less than one mile from the project; and roughly 80% of their workforce commutes outside of Estacada on a daily basis.
- **Molalla, OR – Molalla Façade Improvements Program.** The Team for Economic Action in Molalla (TEAM) received a \$25,000 SCIF grant to restore and revitalize buildings within Molalla's commercial business district.
- **Scappoose, OR – Covered Farmer's Market.** The City of Scappoose received an \$80,000 SCIF grant to establish a permanently covered farmer's market resulting in enlarged, protected shelter for farmers, growers and vendors, and to provide the community greater access to fresh, locally grown produce over an extended season.

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- **Scappoose, OR – Evergreen Aviation Services and Aircraft Restoration Relocation.** Scappoose Hanger and Storage, LLC, received a \$40,000 SCIF grant and a \$40,000 SCIF loan to rehabilitate and expand a commercial aircraft hanger at Scappoose Airport to allow relocation of Evergreen Aircraft Services and Restoration from Vancouver, Washington.
- **Port Orford, OR – Port Orford Marine Transportation Improvement Project.** The Port of Port Orford received an \$80,000 SCIF grant to purchase and install dredging equipment that will help preserve jobs, increase productivity and improve the safety of the Port Orford commercial fishing fleet.
- **Gold Beach, OR – Gold Beach Marine Transportation Improvement, High Dock Repair.** The Port of Gold Beach received an \$80,000 SCIF grant to repair the Port of Gold Beach high dock to prevent structural failure and to support the continuation of marine transportation, commercial fisheries and related activities associated with the high dock.
- **Bend, OR – Daggett Lane Development Infrastructure.** The Bend Area Habitat for Humanity (BAHFH) received an \$80,000 SCIF grant for the construction of needed infrastructure (water/sewer, gas/electricity, etc) in preparation for BAHFH to build nine affordable homes.
- **Sisters, OR – East Cascade Homes.** The Sisters Habitat for Humanity received a \$40,000 SCIF grant and a \$40,000 SCIF loan to prepare the site and install infrastructure for five homes.
- **Winston, OR – Winston Community Center and Library.** The Winston Area Community Partnership received an \$80,000 SCIF grant to construct a 21,500 square foot community center which will include a senior center, teen center, preschool, large conference room with stage, large commercial kitchen, and library with technology room.
- **Prairie City, OR – Historic Hotel Prairie.** The Historic Hotel Prairie, LLC, received an \$80,000 SCIF grant to restore the lobby and 8 rooms of the Hotel Prairie to its original use and historic 1905 character. Located on Prairie City's main street, this will assist in downtown revitalization and create jobs for citizens of this rural, economically distressed community.
- **Prairie City, OR – Prairie City Depot Renovation.** Grant County received a \$50,000 SCIF grant to renovate the nationally registered 96-year old Sumpter Valley Railroad Depot by providing ADA access, heating, air conditioning, insulation, safer electric, weatherization and exterior surface protection to the Depot. Anticipated results include extending the Depot's useful life, stimulating interest, and attracting visitors to the area.
- **Mt. Vernon, OR – Mt. Vernon Community Hall Renovation.** The City of Mt. Vernon received a \$30,000 SCIF grant to purchase commercial grade kitchen equipment for the community hall renovation project, which was fully funded with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, except for the kitchen, which was prohibitive under CDBG rules.

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- **Butte Falls, OR – Community Hall/Emergency Shelter Building Siding Replacement Project.** The Town of Butte Falls received a \$20,000 SCIF grant to renovate the Town's 50 year old Community Hall. Improvements include residing, ADA upgrades, landscaping and the addition of an emergency generator.
- **Medford, OR – Jefferson Nature Center Farmhouse Renovation.** The Jefferson Nature Center received a \$30,000 SCIF grant. The Jefferson Nature Center has a 10-year lease with the City of Medford to use an existing farmhouse in the Medford Sports Park as a community education center and offices. The grant will be used to renovate the farmhouse.
- **Phoenix, OR – Rising Sun Farms Equipment Purchases.** Rising Sun Farms Inc. received an \$80,000 SCIF loan to purchase equipment to keep business in Oregon and to help employees work more efficiently to keep up with demand.
- **Rogue River, OR – Rogue River Community Center Improvement Project.** The Rogue River Community Center received a \$50,307 SCIF grant to improve many systems at the Community Center, to assure buildings will be more energy efficient, cleaner and safer.
- **Talent, OR – Civic Center Commons.** The City of Talent received a \$20,885 SCIF grant to construct public restrooms, which is a part of the development of a Commons area in downtown Talent that will include a parking lot for City and Library use, recreation area, lighting and a sidewalk system that connects the new Library, new City Hall and the Community Center as a focal point to downtown vitality.
- **Culver, OR – Culver Hwy 361 Planning and Engineering.** The City of Culver received a \$60,000 SCIF grant and a \$20,000 SCIF loan for the initial planning and engineering of an Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) project which will install curbs, sidewalks, landscaping, and storm-water improvements to Culver Hwy 361. This will help the city meet matching fund requirements.
- **Grants Pass, OR – Food and Friends Josephine County Kitchen Relocation.** The Rogue Valley Council of Governments (RVCOG) received a \$30,808 SCIF grant to provide new equipment, repairs to existing equipment and minor remodeling critical to achieving a successful relocation & continuation at present service levels (approx. 90,000 meals) for RVCOG's Senior Meals Program (Food and Friends) within Josephine County.
- **Klamath Falls, OR – Klamath Falls 7th Street Parking Lot.** The City of Klamath Falls received a \$15,075 SCIF grant and a \$15,075 SCIF loan to develop a public parking lot as part of the City's Downtown Renewal Program.
- **Merrill, OR – Merrill Flag Pole Park Project.** The City of Merrill received a \$40,000 SCIF grant and a \$20,000 SCIF loan for Phase II of a park/visitor center in Merrill to revitalize the downtown area and encourage motorists to stop and visit Merrill area businesses. This phase consists of paving the parking lot, installing public restrooms, visitor information center and landscaping.

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- **Bly, OR – Bly Streetscape.** The Bly Community Action Team received a \$69,850 SCIF grant for benches, trees, solar streetlights, trash receptacles and planters to be placed in the downtown Bly area in conjunction with the \$375,000 ODOT downtown revitalization.
- **Lakeview, OR – Lakeview Downtown Public Restroom.** The Town of Lakeview received an \$80,000 SCIF grant to construct a public restroom facility in conjunction with the parking lot development of the South Valley State Bank restoration of the historic Post & King Building for their new Lakeview Branch location.
- **Halsey, OR – Halsey Community Center.** The City of Halsey received an \$80,000 SCIF grant to install an elevator to allow for ADA accessibility to both floors of the Halsey Community Center, which will positively affect the quality of life of the entire Central Linn community.
- **Independence, OR – Independence Cinema Sidewalk Improvement Project.** The City of Independence received a \$40,000 SCIF grant and a \$40,000 SCIF loan to expand the new, pedestrian-friendly infrastructure in downtown Independence to include the block where an 8-screen cinema is being constructed. Infrastructure improvements include widened sidewalks, bulb-outs, benches, trash receptacles, and trees.
- **Moro, OR – Sherman County Library Expansion Project.** The Sherman Development League received an \$80,000 SCIF grant to create "bid-ready" construction documents for Phase II of the library expansion project. The goal is to create a set of documents that can be sent to contractors at the appropriate time to receive the best bids.
- **Moro, OR – Moro Downtown Park Improvements.** The City of Moro received a \$51, 375 SCIF grant to revitalize a green space on Main Street in its downtown area which will include installation of new playground equipment and site improvements including sprinkler system and landscaping.
- **Tillamook, OR – Neah Casa / Tillamook County Domestic Violence Shelter Project.** The Neah Casa / Tillamook County Women’s Crisis Center received a \$25,000 SCIF grant to create Tillamook County's first domestic violence shelter with the capacity to host 4-5 families, or 22 individuals at any given time. The shelter will give survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault the time and support needed to build healthy, violence-free lives for themselves and their children.
- **Hebo, OR – Cedar Creek Child Care Center Facility.** CARE received a \$55,000 SCIF grant to build a 7,500 square foot facility to provide child care, pre-school and after school programs in Hebo. The new facility will more than double the capacity of these services provided to the community.
- **Pilot Rock, OR – Project Main Street.** The City of Pilot Rock received a \$40,000 SCIF grant and a \$40,000 SCIF loan for the Demolition of four, fire-damaged buildings on Main Street and repaving of one block of sidewalks from Birch Creek to Hwy 395. This project is the beginning of Pilot Rock's revitalization, which will in turn make Main Street more inviting to new businesses.

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- **Pendleton, OR – The Horizon Building.** The Horizon Project, Inc. received an \$80,000 SCIF grant for the rehabilitation of 7,000 square foot building to provide county-contracted support services to adults with disabilities. The building will provide 50 jobs, and include administrative offices, alternative employment center, a senior activity center, and an adult daycare center for persons with developmental disabilities.
- **Enterprise, OR – Enterprise Mercantile and Milling Co. Restoration Project (Acquisition Phase).** The Bowlby Group, LLC, received an \$80,000 SCIF loan to acquire city owned property to be used for required parking associated with the mixed-use redevelopment of the historic Enterprise Mercantile and Milling Co. building.
- **The Dalles, OR – East Gateway Streetscape / Transition Area Project / Public Parking Lot.** The City of The Dalles received a \$40,000 SCIF grant and a \$40,000 SCIF loan to complete the final engineering drawings, acquire additional property, level the property, construct retaining wall and rock fall protection elements, and pave and landscape.
- **Forest Grove, OR – Ingels and Pope Building Renovation and Restaurant Retail Project.** Cascade Investments received a \$20,000 SCIF grant and a \$60,000 SCIF loan to recess the face of the building, creating storefront seating area and enhancing the streetscape; to open and replace the windows on the second floor; and to create 1000 feet of courtyard in the back of the building with seating for about 40 people for a new "destination" restaurant.
- **Sheridan, OR – Green Commercial Building.** John and Kim Greene received an \$80,000 SCIF loan to build the first new commercial building in the City's downtown district since 1972. It will have about 4,424 square feet. The first story is 2,424 square feet of commercial space. The second floor will have two affordable apartments with about 1,000 square feet each.

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