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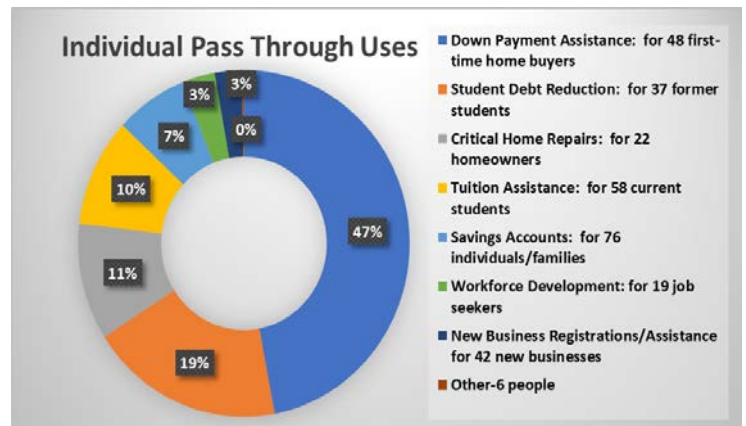
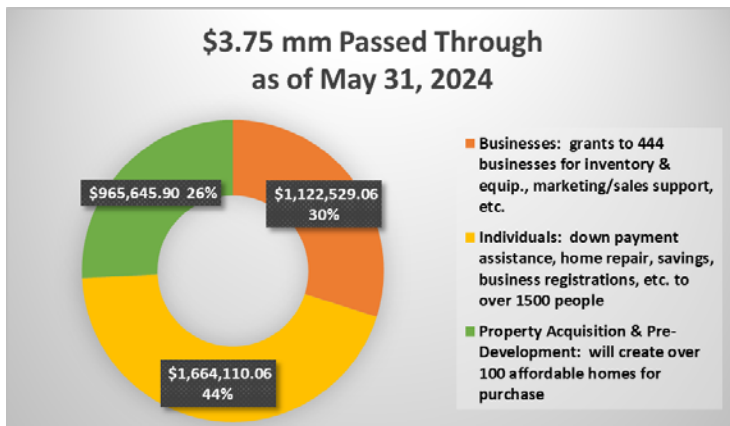
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From Team EEIP

Outcomes to date:

During March, April, and May, EEIP recipient organizations have been incredibly busy serving eligible beneficiaries. Since the program began less than a year ago, the 36 EEIP recipient organizations passed through \$3.75 million directly to eligible beneficiaries--\$1.4 million of which was passed through in the last 3 months. In the same 3-month period, the amount passed through to businesses as grants nearly tripled, from \$410,000 to \$1.2 million. Down payment assistance for first time homeowners more than doubled, from \$312K to \$782K, providing homes for 48 families. Student debts are being reduced by \$312,000, and the program has helped register over 42 new businesses, providing them with support and critical funding.

These are just a few of the key achievements of the EEIP to date. The impact these programs are having on individuals, families and businesses cannot be overstated. EEIP recipient organizations are advancing opportunity and economic prosperity across Oregon.



The EEIP received an additional \$8 mm during the legislative short session. Business Oregon will be releasing a request for grant applications later this summer. All information will be posted on the [EEIP webpage](#).



Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center and Rosemary Anderson High School

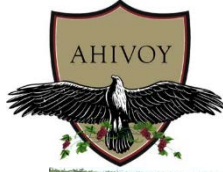
(POIC + RAHS)

POIC + RAHS provides high quality services in alternative education, mentoring, family outreach, employment training, and placement. POIC + RAHS works with those who have been impacted by trauma, who have formerly been incarcerated, or were victims of community violence.

EEIP funding provided support to 15 participants in POIC + RAHS's 12-week Construction Pre-Apprenticeship program, the Kitchen Culinary Academy, and the Community Safety Worker Training program. In addition to hands-on training and placement support, the beneficiaries also received a stipend for completing the program. You can learn more about the program [here](#).



The Asociación Hispana de la Industria del Vino en Oregon y Comunidad (AHIVOY)



The overwhelming majority of those who toil in Oregon vineyards tending to the grapes that make our world-famous wines are of Latinx/Hispanic heritage. The majority of them are low-income and lack a strong command of the English language. They often go overlooked (and underpaid) in their important contribution to creating "the Perfect Pinot."

The Asociación Hispana de la Industria del Vino (AHIVOY) was founded in 2019 to strengthen the Oregon wine community by empowering those who work the land through education, providing them with opportunities to advance in the wine industry. First founded by Hispanic leaders in the wine industry and in partnership with Chemeketa Community College and Linfield University, AHIVOY developed a robust 17-week program to increase the technical grape and wine knowledge of these vineyard workers, referred to as "Vineyard Stewards."



This essential training, conducted in a mix of English and Spanish, builds on the vast knowledge Vineyard Stewards already have while teaching them new skills in preparation for higher level, and better paying, jobs in the wine industry.



To date, AHIVOY has served more than 60 Vineyard Stewards over five 17-week cohorts. Many of those completing the program have secured elevated positions with their winery/vineyard employer. Others have gone on to take additional coursework at Chemeketa or Linfield, honing in on a particular expertise. One graduate has even leased vines to begin producing their own wines.

In addition to Linfield and Chemeketa, over 20 wineries across Oregon wine country have contributed to the program, choosing to invest in the immense promise and potential of their Vineyard Stewards.

Participating vineyards allow their employees to attend the program during what would otherwise be work hours. But because missing work means missing pay, such training has been inaccessible to Vineyard Stewards. Thanks to a grant from Business Oregon's Economic Equity Investment Program (EEIP), AHIVOY was able to provide stipends to Vineyard Stewards attending its Spring 2024 program.

On April 24, 2024, 15 participants completed the AHIVOY Wine Industry Professional Training Program. It is the fifth cohort.

AHIVOY will be celebrating 5 years of impact on July 19th in Portland. Its "Cena con AHIVOY" will raise critical funding for the next cohort. Learn more [here](#).



EEIP Spotlight



Livelihood NW: EEIP Grant Recipients

New business ventures are taking flight for three inspiring Oregon small business owners after securing grants through Business Oregon's Economic Equity Investment Program (EEIP). With this funding opportunity alongside technical assistance from Livelihood NW, they have been able to strategically invest in elevating their business to new levels of success. With support from the EEIP, these businesses received both a Professional Services grant and Small Business Milestone grant, with each receiving a total of \$5,000.

Amza Superfoods is an immigrant-owned, purpose-driven startup in Portland that offers nutrient-dense, tasty, and convenient food that celebrates Tibetan culture. Owner Jolma Ren invested the funds toward shelf-life testing, helping them

secure their first wholesale grocery customer. They were also able to buy equipment which will support increased production for new wholesale orders.



Tierra del Sol Cuisine brings authentic Mexican-Oaxacan food from recipes passed down from generations. Owner Amalia Sierra invested the grant funds in bookkeeping support and also toward purchasing a

company vehicle for catering jobs that are coming up this summer.



Celeste Noche LLC, is a West Coast-based Filipino American

documentary and editorial photographer specializing in food, travel, and portrait photography. EEIP funding and technical assistance support from Livelihood allowed Celeste to revamp her branding and launch her new website that better showcases her work. She also invested in professional bookkeeping services and lighting equipment that will allow her to set up both in studio and on location.



These three businesses demonstrate the importance of providing funding for historically underserved entrepreneurs, helping foster economic stability, self-sufficiency, wealth-building, and equitable economic growth.

Bienestar

Bienestar's home-ownership program offers a path towards asset-building and economic mobility to underserved community members in Washington County. The program provides beneficiaries with homebuyer and financial literacy education and 1:1 housing counseling.

Support from the EEIP enabled Bienestar to continue this program and to provide grants to 5 first-time homeowners for down payment assistance (DPA). Bienestar is one of the few organizations to provide DPA with ITIN holders, who have exceedingly limited opportunities to obtain mortgages. It recently awarded an ITIN holder a DPA grant, and the loan closed last month.

Black United Funds of OR (BUF)

BUF's 9-month Emerging Entrepreneur Program (EEP) recently graduated a cohort of 6 individuals starting businesses. During this EEIP-supported program, participants drafted business plans and received technical assistance and mentorship from industry experts. Upon successful completion of their milestones, each business received a small grant to assist them in growing their business.

The cohort included the following businesses: North East Productions, Fridie Outdoors, Callie's Custom Hat Wigs, BProud, and Ella Dean.

EEIP Spotlight



Bohemia Food Hub

Bohemia Food Hub (BFH) is a food business incubator supporting start-up and scaling food businesses through its built facilities and wrap-around support services. It currently supports eight food businesses in its shared-use, multi-zone commercial kitchen and three food truck businesses in its developed food truck pod. BFH is currently developing a new retail storefront to house Bohemia's new bakery and micro-grocery store featuring goods produced by tenants in its kitchen.

Thanks to EEIP funding from Business Oregon, BFH has been able to further help clients actualize their dreams of starting a food business by offering much needed start-up capital to cover initial costs like ingredients, licensing, and small

Within this past year, BFH has helped launch and scale six new food businesses with EEIP funds – FoodSmiths, Grandma Dela's, Menu Toscano, Buenas Dias, Hot Winter Hot Sauce, and Wildfire Elixirs.

FoodSmiths, a rural family-run business specializing in breakfast fare, started last June in BFH's incubator food truck (funded by Business Oregon's ROI program). BFH supported this new venture with a \$5,000 EEIP microgrant and weekly technical assistance sessions. FoodSmiths also participated in the SBDC's Cottage Grove Business Plan Challenge this



past winter, where they learned how to put their ideas into words, forecast sales and expenses, and identify target markets. FoodSmiths placed third, winning a cash prize.

In just under a year, with business thriving, FoodSmiths outgrew the incubator food truck and recently moved into a downtown Cottage Grove brick and mortar location. Business Oregon funding has enabled BFH to help grow rural businesses at a whole new scale by offering access to affordable facilities, capital, and wrap-around support that help lift start-ups to success.

EEIP News

EEIP recipient organizations have been very busy! Below are some of the stories and exciting accomplishments that have recently occurred:

- ✦ 1) Habitat For Humanity of Columbia County secured \$280,000 in federal funding through Representative Bonamici's office to help construct 10 townhomes for low-income families. This support is in addition to the \$144,000 in EEIP funds that will support predevelopment costs on the same property, ultimately bringing down the cost for homeowners.
- ✦ 2) National Association of Minority Contractors (NAMC) completed its first NAMC University Bootcamp. These workshops provided technical assistance and mentorship for business owners in the construction industry.
- ✦ 3) Capaces Leadership Institute used some of its EEIP funding to purchase a new electric tractor. The tractor has arrived and is already making a difference in its farming techniques.
- ✦ 4) The Latino Microenterprise Development Program (LMDP) is a collaboration between Unidos, Latino Business Alliance, SEDCOR, Chemeketa's Small Business Development Center, and the Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Local Governments. LMDP completed their first cohort of business entrepreneurs in Yamhill County. Cohort members learned an array of business skills including building a business plan, understanding finances, and leveraging social media.
- ✦ 5) NAYA recently purchased land in the Cully Neighborhood. They plan to redevelop the site with ground-floor commercial units and upper-floor homeownership opportunities, providing affordable housing and business spaces. This acquisition supports the expansion of the Native Cultural Corridor in Cully, allowing NAYA to reclaim land under Native ownership, respond directly to community needs, and ensure full control over development.
- ✦ 6) IRCO hosted their Annual Gala on May 29th, 2024.



We Want Your News!

Have you met a major milestone?

Has an eligible beneficiary achieved something life altering?

Were you featured in the media?

Did you receive new funding to complement your EEIP work?

[CLICK HERE to share your news.](#)

EEIP Team



Brian Plinski



Maggie Finnerty



Armando Medina



Lesly Garcia

EEIP Program Locations

EEIP programs span across the state, from our biggest cities to our frontier towns, and everything in between. The map below shows where the 36 EEIP organizations are running programs. The car icon denotes where Business Oregon staff have visited already. Click on the map to explore.

