



ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT

M E M O R A N D U M

To: Bend Economic Development Advisory Board

From: Ben Hemson, Business Advocate, City of Bend

Re: CEDR Recommendation: Key Industry Coordinator Funding Request

Date: March 31, 2016

At the March 11 meeting of the BEDAB CEDR Subcommittee, Matt Sybrant presented a request for \$32,500 to partially fund his Key Industry Coordinator position for a second year. The Key Industry Coordinator program began in August of 2015 as a partnership between EDCO, Technology Association of Oregon (TAO), Tech Alliance of Central Oregon, Oregon Outdoor Alliance, Bend Bioscience Consortium, Central Oregon Food Cluster and other community organizations. Matt had previously presented on his program's successes over the past year to the full BEDAB on March 1.

Staff presented an up to date overview of the Bend Business Advocate budget to CEDR, outlining the savings realized by the Business Advocate position vacancy for approximately 6 months through the end of 2015. While a firm savings figure won't be available until the close of the fiscal year, at least \$55,000 was identified as being available for one-time allocation by BEDAB. The subcommittee noted that \$15,000 had already been spent on securing Redmond to Phoenix air service.

After discussion, the CEDR Subcommittee made two recommendations to BEDAB:

- Fund the Key Industry Coordinator position for 2016-17 at the requested amount of \$32,500, acknowledging the progress Matt Sybrant has made in cultivating separate funding sources and revenue streams.
- Future BEDAB strategic planning discussions should take into the account the possibility of excess revenue and allocate it based on target outcomes rather than on a case by case basis when a funding request is made.