



Lorraine Clarno
President/CEO
503-312-2357
lorraine@beaverton.org

City of Beaverton
Media Relations
503-213-0789
publicinformation@BeavertonOregon.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 18, 2020

COVID-19 HELP FOR LOCAL BUSINESS: IMPACTS SURVEYED AND ADDRESSED BY CITY OF BEAVERTON AND BEAVERTON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

BEAVERTON, Ore. – The City of Beaverton, in partnership with the Beaverton Area Chamber of Commerce, has launched an Emergency Business Assistance Program to support our small business community as they work to respond to mandatory changes in service.

The city's assistance program will provide an initial \$250,000 in grant funding to eligible businesses within the city to assist with commercial rental or mortgage payments during the COVID-19 pandemic. This assistance will be provided to businesses directly affected by mandatory changes in service, most recently ordered by Executive Order 20-07, which prohibits restaurants and bars from serving food and drink on premises. Additional information and the application is available at www.beavertonoregon.gov/EmergencyBizAssistance.

“The economic strain facing local businesses is unprecedented, especially as the full impacts of COVID-19 remain unknown,” said Beaverton Mayor Denny Doyle. “We have to act fast and do all we can to respond to rapidly changing conditions. I’m confident this program will support our business community, and lend support to establishments, employees and those in need.”

Earlier in the week, the city and the Chamber released a business survey, the results of which show that emergency commercial lease and mortgage assistance was a top concern of local Beaverton businesses. Full survey data will be made available at <https://beaverton.org/covid-19-coronavirus-business-resources/>.

“This week’s business survey – with more than 200 local businesses participating – shows immediate and serious impacts to businesses in Beaverton, including current and future revenue impact, staff/coverage concerns, and overall operational disruptions,” said Lorraine Clarno, President/CEO of the Beaverton Area Chamber of Commerce. “We are so grateful to Mayor Doyle and his Economic Development team for this partnership to establish a localized emergency business fund. This fund will be invaluable to Beaverton businesses that have already suffered severe economic impacts.” She added there will be continued and ongoing collaboration “at every turn” as well as availability to respond to businesses’ concerns and needs.

The goal of the Emergency Business Assistance Program is to keep as many businesses in place and able to reopen following the COVID-19 pandemic. Eligibility requirements include businesses with 50 or less full time equivalent employees in Beaverton affected by a mandatory change in service; businesses with an active Beaverton license; businesses with a lease or mortgage payment on the property; and business experiencing economic loss due to COVID-19. National chains are excluded.

The program is in effect during the city's declared state of emergency and while funds are available. Reimbursement grants of up to \$2,500 per business are available for eligible businesses.

Businesses are also invited to participate in a free webinar to discuss the state of Beaverton businesses, as well as share survey results and resources on Monday, March 23 at 1 p.m. The webinar is limited to the first 100 participants. [Register Here.](#)

Said local realtor with Wright Century 21 and 2020 Chair of the Chamber's Board Keith Wright, "We are in this together and Chamber and city leadership are working diligently together to be as proactive and collaborative as possible."

Additional program guidelines, program application and additional business resources are available at www.beavertonoregon.gov/1379/COVID-19-Business-Resources.

###