

US Department of Agriculture Supports Rural Economies

Business and Cooperative Services and Housing:

Partnership and funding through USDA's Business Cooperative Services (BCS) advances regional innovation, contributes to the growth of industry sectors and addresses rural economic development needs. Examples in the Columbia Gorge region include:

- Rural Business Development Grants assisted the region to capitalize on opportunities in regional industry sectors. Recent grants supported MCEDD to develop culinary and agri-tourism and conduct market research for the expanding wine region.
- \$21.3 million in Business and Industry loan guarantees to facilitate \$35.4 million in rural business development and expansion.
- REAP grants to Ship Interior Systems, LLC, Wy'East RC&D, and Rack and Cloth, LLC.
- A USDA RCDI grant provided resources to expand an online marketplace designed to advance community and economic development priorities by matching community needs with public, private and philanthropic funders.



Steelhead Enterprises

Financing to Grow Businesses

USDA's Intermediary Relending Program has provided critical access to capital which has allowed MCEDD to invest in growing local business. A few examples of recently funded loans include:

- **Steelhead Enterprises, LLC**, used a loan from MCEDD's USDA-IRP fund to increase capacity by adding a second 20 person crew and a second engine crew to their wildland firefighting business.
- **The Renewal Workshop** used a loan to expand their operations in Cascade Locks, OR. Their Renewal System takes discarded apparel and textiles and turns them into Renewed Apparel, upcycling materials or feedstock for recycling.



Renewal Workshop

Water and Wastewater:

USDA water and wastewater loans and grants are an essential financing tool to support our rural communities as they seek to accommodate growing businesses. For example, the Parkdale Sanitary District obtained a \$1.51 million loan and a \$1.17 million grant to upgrade their 40-year-old wastewater collection and treatment system. The project provides capacity for a key employer in the fruit packing industry to continue to grow.

For More
Information:



www.mcedd.org