

Eldon K Sorensen – Business Manager
Reel Theatre 8, LLC Ontario, Oregon
Oregon Theatre Grant Program

March 23, 2021

We are a small family-owned movie theater company with an eight-screen theater located in Ontario Oregon. We opened that location in 1999. This is the only theater in the area. We support all of Malheur County as well as other adjoining counties that have numerous rural communities.

We closed our doors in March of 2020 due to the COVID pandemic and we have not opened for business since that date. The only reason we have hope of reopening is due to the fact that there are some grant funds coming on the horizon from the federal Shuttered Venue Operations Grant. We do not know if those funds alone will be enough. Our hope is we will receive enough money to pay back rents in arrears, creditor past due payments and vendor accrued debt. It is a daunting sum. Otherwise, we will not be able to ever open the doors again.

We need support in the form of grants because we will not be able to service any additional debt on top of what we currently have. We foresee the effects of the pandemic to continue through the end of the year. This is because the requirements of social distancing and occupancy limitations will keep us from meeting maximizing attendance revenues levels. This is compounded by the film companies holding back the major movies until the attendance restrictions are lifted. These feed off each other and are both dependent upon the distribution of the vaccine. Your support in the passage of this legislation is greatly appreciated and needed.