



May 2, 2023

Governor Tina Kotek
Senate President Rob Wagner
Speaker Dan Rayfield
Co-Chair Senator Elizabeth Steiner
Co-Chair Representative Tawna Sanchez
Joint Ways & Means Committee

Dear Governor Kotek and Legislative Leaders:

RE: Business Oregon Culturally Specific Technical Assistance

LatinoBuilt is a culturally specific business organization whose mission is to help achieve financial independence among low-income communities of color. Our primary purpose is to support and empower Latino-owned businesses in construction. LatinoBuilt works with partners within the community to address current inequities in the construction industry across the state and connects contractors to public works project opportunities.

The most significant barrier our Latino community faces is access to education; these funds are critical in assisting our business owners and workforce to have the necessary training in a culturally responsive environment. How will Oregon meet its construction needs if the government needs to provide appropriate funding to a community that has built our communities? Remember, Latinos built this country!

LatinoBuilt primary goal is to meet members' small business development needs through quality training, mentoring, technical assistance, and relationship building with owner/management teams. LatinoBuilt uses funds to offer state-wide business construction services, preconstruction services, project management, administrative support, and document control. Our efforts have produced valuable services for our 240 business members and have connected our members to an array of private and government contracting opportunities.

The Technical Assistance program enhanced our efforts and impact on underrepresented and under-resourced communities. We hope the program can continue to serve small businesses at its current capacity by restoring the funding levels for the program. We ask that you restore \$4 million in funding to Business Oregon's Governor's Recommended Budget from \$5 million to \$9 million.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

George Carrillo
Executive Director