

Parks and Recreation Department

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Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Nosse and Members of the Committee,

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) supports the \$10 million in lottery bonding for the Oregon Main Street revitalization grant program included in SB 5531. This funding was included as a part of the department's Governor Recommended Budget.

Since it's creation by the Oregon Legislature in 2015, the Oregon Main Street Revitalization Grant has supported building projects to stimulate economic vitality in 59 communities. The local Main Street organizations that administer the application and grant processes for the local property owners have brought from \$53,000 to \$900,000 to their communities through the life of the program, which awarded grants in 2017, 2019, 2022 and 2023.

Communities across Oregon have had positive experiences with the program. For example, over multiple grants, the City of Reedsport has improved 10 properties and has six more in progress. In Stayton, the Main Street program shared, "The OMS Grant also spurred private investment in three buildings not involved in the grant. Two building owners improved their facades and added businesses. The third building owner sold his building for a good price and the new owners relocated their business to downtown and improved the building."

The results demonstrate that the grant is meeting its purpose to acquire, rehabilitate or construct buildings to facilitate community revitalization. Even with several projects still in progress, the local benefits are remarkable.

- 92 buildings improved
- 101 housing units added
- At least 12 vacant buildings filled
- 5 intentional ADA improvements
- 7 structure re-enforcement projects
- 31 façade restoration projects

In the 2023 session, the Oregon legislature approved \$10 million for the program. Those funds will be awarded later this year.

Learn more about the grant at www.oregonheritage.org.

Grant Award Information 2019, 2022, & 2023

