

# Community Economic Development Grant 2023-24

Row 17

<b>Name of Applicant (Organization)</b>	Exceed Enterprises
<b>Mailing Address</b>	5285 SE Mallard Way Milwaukie, OR 97222
<b>Name of Contact Person</b>	Cosette LeMay
<b>Contact Phone</b>	(971) 233-8863
<b>Contact Email Address</b>	cosettel@exceedoregon.com
<b>Name of Project</b>	Employment First Lincoln County
<b>Total Project Budget</b>	\$20,000.00
<b>Amount Requested from this Program</b>	\$15,000.00
<b>Project Description</b>	<p>Exceed Enterprises seeks funding to host community events, foster collaboration between service agencies, and implement Employment First in Lincoln County to provide workforce support and resources for individuals with disabilities. Employment First is a national model that uses collaboration to deliver meaningful employment, fair wages, and career advancement for people with disabilities. Although Employment First previously operated locally up until 2020, there is no such resource in the community today. While there are agencies that serve individuals with disabilities, including Exceed, they are currently siloed and lack a central hub for sharing employment resources and job opportunities. Exceed is excited to take the lead in relaunching this critical program that will impact over 200 individuals with disabilities and economically benefit the community. Historically, individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities experience much higher rates of unemployment than the general population—currently, 21.3% are employed, according to the latest data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Building strong partnerships with the local business community expands the availability of community-based jobs for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and improves the overall economic viability of the County. The goal of this program is to bring businesses, government agencies, nonprofits, families, and individuals with disabilities together to collaborate and share employment resources and opportunities in Lincoln County. We will meet monthly as well as through special events with ongoing communication as needed. The benefit of in-person collaboration</p>

includes voicing concerns and challenges, matching those in need with specific resources, sharing ideas and job opportunities, and more. Thirteen organizations have currently expressed excitement over participation, and Exceed will continue to reach out to other businesses and organizations in the community to attend meetings. Examples of services/resources through Employment First include:

- Explore community jobs
- Meet peer-mentors who are employed and offer support
- Connect to job coaching, customized training, and tools such as resume building, completing job applications, mock job interviews, and self-advocacy
- Connect businesses to services that provide education and technical assistance on the benefits of employing workers with disabilities, the ADA, and any financial assistance available to the employer
- Transportation fund to address the challenge of the lack of public transportation
- Provide opportunities for social engagement
- Offer a free clothing closet that provides professional outfits or uniforms, as well as hygiene products

Our first two events for 2024 include: January 6: Circus Carnival for clients of all agencies January 12: First Meet and Greet More events will be planned when the group begins convening. Employment First will operate year-round. Founded in 1968, Exceed is a one-stop nonprofit that serves Oregonians with disabilities through vocational, recreational, and personal development services. Although our headquarters is in Clackamas County, we offer services throughout the state, including Lincoln County. If funded, this grant would only be used in the Lincoln County service region. Kathy Sewell, Coastal Program Manager, will oversee this program, utilizing her experience of working with individuals with disabilities, as well as from her service as a board member of the Oregon chapter of APSE, a national nonprofit that supports Employment First to facilitate the full inclusion of people with disabilities in the workforce and community.

<b>Funding</b>	\$5,000 - Winifred Glossop-Asenath Evans Trust (Received, July 2023)
<b>Collaboration</b>	Employment First is a collaboration between the government, nonprofits and businesses that we hope to grow in order to share resources Committed partnership in Employment First (as of 12/2023) include: Exceed Enterprises (lead) Beach Buddies Special Olympics ARC Day Program County Disability Services Ride a Long program. Transition Programs (3)
<b>Viability</b>	Timeline: We will launch Employment First in January but are seeking funding, beginning in March, to help grow our network of partners through promotion/marketing, increase the transportation and clothing fund, and support special events such as job fairs, networking opportunities, and disability-aware social events. Projected outcomes include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employment First launches with regular meeting attendance and collaboration.</li> <li>• ~200 individuals with disabilities benefit from shared resources</li> <li>• Increased collaboration between disability providers</li> <li>• Individuals with disabilities are able to shop for free clothing and access transportation funds to assist with employment goals</li> <li>• Increased job opportunities for individuals with disabilities in Lincoln County</li> <li>• More inclusive and accessible peer-to-peer events, including seasonal dances and game nights</li> </ul> Once this program is successfully implemented, we do not anticipate significant ongoing funding. We will seek any additional support through fundraising from private sources.
<b>Desired Start Date</b>	03/18/24
<b>Desired Completion</b>	03/17/25

**Date**

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**Name of Chief Executive** Nadja Sailesman

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**Position Title** CEO

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**Chief Executive Email** nadjas@exceedoregon.com

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**Tax ID#** 23-7017274

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**Type of Applicant** 501(c)(3) Nonprofit

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**Grant Pool** Standard Grant (max \$15,000)

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**Date Submitted** 12/18/23 3:36 PM

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<b>Expense category</b>	<b>Budget amount</b>
Employment First meeting fund - <i>Food, meeting space, accessibility needs for community meetings</i>	\$5,000.00
Event fund - <i>Food, venue, accessibility, entertainment for peer-to-peer social events</i>	\$6,500.00
Marketing/publicity fund - <i>Print and digital advertising/information</i>	\$1,000.00
Transportation fund - <i>Transportation support for job seekers with disabilities</i>	\$2,500.00
Clothing and hygiene fund - <i>Appropriate clothing, PPE, and hygiene products for job seekers with disabilities</i>	\$5,000.00
<b>Project total:</b>	<b>\$20,000.00</b>

<b>Funding sources</b>	<b>Funding amount</b>	<b>Status</b>
Winifred Glossop-Asenath Evans Trust	\$5,000	Received
Lincoln County 2023-24 Community and Economic Development Grant Program	\$15,000	Applied