

Oregon Community Foundation and Northwest Area Foundation Announce Oregon Grants

PORTLAND, Ore., (May 20, 2010)- The Northwest Area Foundation, through the Oregon Community Foundation, has awarded grants to eight organizations throughout Oregon to support microenterprise development services that help disadvantaged business owners build assets and wealth. The grant awarded to the Oregon Microenterprise Network (OMEN) will expand programming that increases small business owners' access to capital, market research and access to new business markets.

“These grants will support innovative work being pioneered in Oregon to increase economic opportunity and strengthen Oregon communities,” said Valerie Plummer, Executive Director of the Oregon Microenterprise Network. “We are grateful to the Northwest Area Foundation and the Oregon Community Foundation. Their investment truly strengthens the work of these eight organizations to build prosperity throughout Oregon.”

The grant recipients are OMEN member organizations that address minority business development, individual development account savings programs, increased access to credit, small business loans and green jobs training opportunities. These organizations are:

- Community and Shelter Assistance Corporation of Oregon (CASA) of Newberg
- Entrepreneurial Development Services (eDev) of Eugene
- Native American Youth and Family Center of Portland
- Oregon Microenterprise Network (OMEN) of Portland
- Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives, Inc. of Portland
- Portland Development Commission of Portland
- ShoreBank Enterprise Cascadia of Portland
- Umpqua Community Development Corporation of Roseburg

OMEN is a statewide association of microenterprise development organizations and their supporters that provide training, lending and other enterprise opportunities to entrepreneurs with limited access to economic resources. With this generous support from the Northwest Area Foundation and Oregon Community Foundation, OMEN and its member organizations will strengthen the network of services offered to Oregon's underserved communities and entrepreneurs. For more information on the Oregon Microenterprise Network, visit www.oregon-microbiz.org or contact OMEN at 503.546.9913 or info@oregon-microbiz.org.

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