

COIC Overview

Council Report by: Gordon Gillespie

The Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council (COIC) is a regional multi-county organization that provides leadership, expertise and services to communities, businesses and residents to help support regional economic and workforce development. As a Council of Governments, COIC is one of the few organizations in the region that involves all three counties and eight cities in policy making, program planning and service delivery.

COIC manages over \$45 million, which includes a 2009-10 general fund budget of \$17.4 million, and special funds totaling over \$30 million (loan funds and regional grant funds). COIC employs 121 full and part-time staff (96 FTE). Administration, Community and Economic Development, Business Loan Department, Cascades East Ride Center and Cascades East Transit are located in Redmond. The Employment and Training Department operates field offices in Bend, La Pine, Madras, Prineville, Redmond, Lakeview and Klamath Falls.

COIC works to strengthen and diversify Central Oregon's economy for residents in a variety of ways:

- Employment and training services to adults and youth, as well as dislocated workers, through the federal Workforce Investment Act and Family Support Act in Central and South Central Oregon. COIC also operates an alternative high school and work-education program in conjunction with Central and South Central Oregon school districts and other partners. WIA services are also offered to business and industry.**
- Loan packaging assistance is offered to new and expanding businesses through a variety of federal, state and local loan programs, as well as assistance with private loan sources. COIC manages a revolving loan program for Jefferson County and Small Business Administration loans for Oregon Business Development Corp. COIC also operates revolving loan programs funded through the Economic Development Administration and an intermediary relending program funded through USDA Rural Development.**
- COIC provides assistance to cities and counties in preparing applications and managing various state and federal grants, securing millions of dollars for Central Oregon. COIC plays an active role in the development and implementation of regional economic development plans, ascertains the feasibility of private and public economic development proposals, and provides business and economic development information to interested agencies and individuals. COIC provides staff for many committees and boards, and provides project administration.**
- COIC provides assistance to the region in transportation coordination projects. COIC operates the Medical Ride Brokerage Program for Central and Eastern Oregon. COIC also operates Cascades East Transit which provides a combination of general public local demand-response transit and intercommunity buses throughout Central Oregon, with connections to Bend.**