



## Agenda/Notes

Office of Governor Tina Kotek  
RJC Economic Opportunity Committee  
September 02, 2026 – Zoom  
2:30 – 3:30 pm  
Moderator – Javier Cervantes

### MEMBERS

|   |                    |   |                 |   |               |
|---|--------------------|---|-----------------|---|---------------|
| X | Ciara Pressler     | A | James Cador     | X | Marin Arreola |
| A | Evann Goss-Lemelle | X | Justice Rajee   | E | Khang Tran    |
| X | James Alan Parker  | X | Katrina Barguil |   |               |

### OTHER ATTENDEES

|   |                |   |                  |   |             |
|---|----------------|---|------------------|---|-------------|
| X | Andre Bealer   | X | Javier Cervantes | X | Jesse Hyatt |
| X | Yasmin Solorio |   | Sarah Means      |   |             |

| Topic/Lead                           | Notes/Main Points                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Decisions/Action Items |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Committee Priority Discussion</b> | <p><i>Meeting starts at 2:35 p.m. Javier shares “EOC Priorities Combined Responses 2026” doc and reviews rank order submissions.</i></p> <p><b>James:</b> I suggest we combine two Dept. of Administrative Services (DAS) items.</p> <p><b>Marin:</b> Agree. Javier, on the bottom of priorities, we talked about Future Ready Oregon and workforce, and yes for legislative advocacy. Where does that go, or how do we work that out?</p> <p><b>James:</b> Economic Equity Investment Program (EEIP) went under the radar. Senators convened a workgroup, and the idea was to provide incentives and investments into communities that have long been impacted by state policy preventing them. It was explicit on the focus of who to serve. This program as designed allowed organizations to rebrand in a lot of ways. For example, with Northwest Native Chamber, it made investments up to \$100K for transformational business changes, if it's buying real estate, heavy equipment, etc., for its growth trajectory.</p> <p><b>Ciara:</b> Want to be mindful of potential conflicts of interest. Think a good number of organizations run organizations that use this funding and want to be</p> |                        |

mindful of that.

**Javier:** Yes, ethics is important.

**Marin:** With other programs, as long as anyone isn't a part of the committee or grants process as to who decides who gets funding. Have seen it with other funding.

**Ciara:** Don't feel good about that. We don't have a number of organizations on an equal footing for it.

**James:** We do advocate and have unique points of view and positions that should be advocating for communities. There's a reason why the Racial Justice Council (RJC) exists because so many communities have been sidelined. Never once are we in the weeds with business. Appreciate that transparency is upfront.

**Jesse:** You bring up a very salient point just with perception. If I'm remembering back two cycles ago with Technical Assistance Program (TAP) and advocacy, I think part of the conversation is around the program itself being funded vs. how it operates. So long as there isn't modification of the program to go to a specific organization, we should be in the clear on that.

**Javier:** We're looking at just creating priorities and want to identify points that came out of the template received from folks. Are these three topics the committee's priorities?

**James:** If we roll DAS into one and have three priorities, we'd be remiss if we didn't pay attention to rollout and implementation of it.

**Ciara:** Concerned that we aren't balanced with workforce initiative. Would love to see balance with workforce-related work.

**Marin:** That would go hand in hand with us recommending Future Ready Oregon and the workforce model it used to provide workforce training and other services to Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) and other vulnerable communities. Have worked with workforce development for 30 years. We want to continue Future Ready Oregon, and once we go through the process... Future Ready Oregon has allowed that workforce piece. We will have to go through this model for RJC having support, and Governor having support. Would want it to be a big piece in next biennium to continue Future Ready

Oregon model.

**Ciara:** We want the program to continue, but that's my comment about the three areas threatened by AI, which are tech and manufacturing.

**James:** Marin, what did you serve on?

**Marin:** Back with Governor Brown, she created a subcommittee within EOC. People were saying COVID had impacted BIPOC and vulnerable communities. That subcommittee met weekly for six months during COVID and created this proposal, along with the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, to create Future Ready Oregon. We lobbied and got \$200M to support the program. We saw at that time how current workforce systems weren't supporting our communities.

**Ciara:** Appreciate your background on these issues. Anytime we can talk about these issues and get context means a lot.

**Kathi:** Aligned on including this in the priorities. Want to reinforce how workforce development in Central and Eastern Oregon is still in infancy phases and carried by maybe one organization for such an expansive region. Want to emphasize geographic expansion and capacity building for other parts of the state.

**James Alan Parker:** Motion for approval.

**Ciara:** Seconds.

**Other discussion:** None.

**Present members voting for approval:**

- James
- Justice
- Kathi
- Ciara
- Marin

**Committee members unanimously approve of the priorities list.**

*Javier reviews Prosperity Council recommendations.*

**James:** What do you see, Kathi, that can reflect that recommendation for rural that would look differently?

**Kathi:** Roads and other infrastructure access and power efficiency. Really thinking about what development-ready or development readiness looks like in rural areas. Thinking of something like a road –

what does that mean for some of that work? Power sufficiency, there might not be clear power for the entire site, but are there innovative things like solar power or other alternatives of energy to power? It requires a bit of flexibility. Sometimes things are impossible to get to a certain level without an incredible amount of capital.

**Marin:** Glad you mention that. Maybe we add that small and rural areas have proper infrastructure and things in place. Historically, rural areas have been underfunded.

**James:** Maybe we get that language now to add it in. Site readiness strategies should include flexible options for localized rural development strategies. Would that seem comprehensive enough?

**Kathi:** Think so because it then leaves a bit of openness for jurisdiction, planning, permitting office, to allow interpretation for that area.

**Kathi:** Language in that portion for 11 didn't seem like a recommendation.

**Ciara:** Would it make sense to have it more general, like site readiness investments should prioritize projects that enable urban and rural small business expansion alongside—

**James:** Would like to do an “and” and not “instead of.”

**Marin:** Motions to accept current recommendations and input as it is right now.

**Justice:** Seconds.

**Other discussion:** None.

**Questions:** None.

**Present members voting in favor:**

- Marin
- Ciara
- Kathi
- Justice
- James

*Meeting ends at 3:30 p.m.*

## Meeting Materials



EOC Priorities  
Combined Response:

## Zoom Chat

2026-09-02 14:35:24 From Andre Bealer (he/him) Gov. Office to Hosts and panelists:  
on a call brb

2026-09-02 14:41:12 From Jesse.J.Hyatt to Hosts and panelists:  
of note- DAS 5-yr plan is from an Executive Order (22-15) and the transformation is a project plan i believe

2026-09-02 15:09:03 From Ciara Pressler RJC to Hosts and panelists:  
Thank you for incorporating our comments!

2026-09-02 15:25:02 From Javier Cervantes, Gov. Office (El, He, Him, His) to Hosts and panelists:  
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/182Cy6PwBaNEJKaBi1YLRe7yCSi9HgYErA7WEp6kQjOc/edit?tab=t.0>

2026-09-02 15:27:08 From RJC Marin Arreola to Hosts and panelists:  
I need to log off at 3:30 p.m. for another meeting.

2026-09-02 15:27:47 From Javier Cervantes, Gov. Office (El, He, Him, His) to Hosts and panelists:  
Can you sit tight until we vote? Por fa!

2026-09-02 15:30:17 From Ciara Pressler RJC to Hosts and panelists:  
THANK YOU

## EOC Priorities: Combined Responses

The following are the responses I received for the priorities of the EOC. Note, not all those that returned the template filled out each priority area (if they left the priority blank, they were assigned a 4 as a low priority).

### Priorities:

1. Technical Assistance Program Small Business Support
2. DAS Procurement Transformation Project
  - Procurement Revisions
  - DAS 5-Year Work Plan
3. Economic Equity Investment Program (EEIP)
4. Future Ready Oregon Recommendations & Workforce Efforts

| Priorities                                             | Comments: Goal (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-Based)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Rank Order |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Technical Assistance Program<br>Small Business Support | My #1 priority.<br>The people administering these seem to base decisions on inclusion vs objective, business acumen-informed data and experience. It can be both<br>I don't think the team at BizO is fully qualified to admin these programs without outside help. These should be informed by established entrepreneurs, small biz owners, and investors (what is a viable concept for growth). It should be about funding those with a proven track record NOT just bc they exist and purport to serve a certain audience.<br>In fact, granting to the wrong organizations actively f's them over by encouraging bad business models, personal debt, and depriving the state of tax revenue. | 1          |
|                                                        | No Comment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 2          |
|                                                        | First priority is to ensure full funding of a minimum of 5mil.<br>2nd priority is move the program to the baseline BizO budget ensuring continuity for service providers and small businesses.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 1          |
|                                                        | By the end of 2027, strengthen and expand statewide technical assistance for small and emerging businesses, particularly COBID-certified and historically underserved firms, by identifying service gaps, improving access to procurement readiness, capital, compliance, and business-growth support, and establishing measurable outcomes for business participation, contract awards, and growth.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 1          |
|                                                        | Critical to the success of other programs like the EEIP (as there is org crossover). By 2027, expanding geographic participation statewide, with organizations that already provide and have the people infrastructure to provide small business support, and are offering services adapted to the needs of underrepresented communities, in other languages, and have proven success in their model.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 1          |
|                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Total: 6   |

|                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |           |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| DAS Procurement Transformation Project              | No Comment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 2         |
|                                                     | No Comment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 1         |
|                                                     | By the end of 2027, engage with and review the DAS Procurement Transformation Project to ensure proposed procurement changes reduce barriers for small and historically underserved businesses, improve access to state contracting opportunities, and include measurable goals for participation, utilization, and accountability. | 2         |
|                                                     | Left Blank                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 4         |
|                                                     | No Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 4         |
|                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Total: 13 |
| COBID Certification Updates                         | WHAT IS TAKING SO LONG?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 2         |
|                                                     | No Comment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 4         |
|                                                     | By the end of 2027, review COBID certification policies and outcomes to identify barriers to certification, renewal, utilization, and business growth, and recommend updates that improve access to contracting opportunities and measurable participation for historically underserved and emerging businesses.                    | 3         |
|                                                     | Left Blank                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 4         |
|                                                     | No Comment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 3         |
|                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Total: 16 |
| DAS Procurement Revisions<br>• DAS 5-Year Work Plan | Lower only bc I have confidence in the current leadership                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 2         |
|                                                     | No Comment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 2         |
|                                                     | The dashboard tells the story. The State has the ability to develop and direct their marketplace to support local small businesses and dismantle barriers that have prevented full participation.                                                                                                                                   | 3         |
|                                                     | By the end of 2027, review and influence DAS procurement revisions and the 5-Year Work Plan to strengthen small-business participation, reduce unnecessary barriers, and establish measurable goals for outreach, utilization, contract awards, and accountability for COBID-certified and emerging firms.                          | 2         |
|                                                     | No Comment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 4         |
|                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Total: 13 |

|                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Disadvantaged & Emerging Small Business (DESB) Loan Program changes and updates | I'd like to see details on this. See above re how loans get evaluated                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 3                |
|                                                                                 | No Comment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 3                |
|                                                                                 | Capital access continues to remain a top 3 priority for small disadvantaged businesses.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 4                |
|                                                                                 | By the end of 2027, review DESB Loan Program policies, utilization, and outcomes, identify barriers to access, and recommend changes that improve timely and affordable capital for disadvantaged and emerging small businesses to support contract performance, business growth, and long-term sustainability.                            | 4                |
|                                                                                 | Access to capital is key, especially in parts of the state where local and county governments and chambers do not provide a similar opportunity/programs or do not have the capacity or people resources to engage with entrepreneurs and small businesses of underrepresented communities, and where there is limited access to financing | 1                |
|                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>Total: 15</b> |
| Economic Equity Investment Program (EEIP)                                       | How have I never heard of this?!!                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 3                |
|                                                                                 | No Comment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 4                |
|                                                                                 | EEIP has demonstrated incredible impact and provides investment in small business catalyzing growth.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 2                |
|                                                                                 | By the end of 2027, review EEIP implementation, investments, and outcomes and recommend improvements that strengthen access to economic opportunity, capital, business growth, and wealth-building for historically underserved businesses and communities, with clear measures for participation, investment, and impact.                 | 2                |
|                                                                                 | For the EEIP program to expand its partnerships throughout the state (broader geographic impact) with clear and measurable metrics on investment, outcomes, and participation.                                                                                                                                                             | 2                |
|                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>Total: 13</b> |

**EOC's current priorities and status discussed at the August 18 meeting.**

| Current Priority                                                                                      | Legislative Advocacy?                                 | Comment                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Future Ready Oregon Recommendations &amp; Workforce</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yes</li> </ul> | We need an AI/futurist-informed approach here. The job market is going into havoc and will only continue to move in that direction. I think decisions are being made based on yesterday's circumstances. |

|                                                                                                 |                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prosperity Council Principles Recommendations</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No</li> </ul> | <p>This is somewhat pointless without understanding the Gov's plan or framework for implementation. We should definitely do it but we are flying blind. I'm happy to work on this.</p> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |  |  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>List other priority areas you believe the EOC might consider.</b>                                                                                                                                                |  |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ease and communications of small biz assistance. They can't even put together the simplest thing, like a webpage with links to all the RFP websites in the state.</li> </ul> |  |  |