



Forums: Jobs and Economic Growth

You are cordially invited to attend one of the two Community Forums on Jobs and Economic Growth hosted by the United States Department of Agriculture in Oregon. The USDA is leading an effort nationwide to listen to Rural America's thoughts and ideas about what is needed to create jobs and stimulate economic development in rural communities across the country. These forums follow the lead of President Obama's December 3, 2009, national roundtable discussion.

So plan to attend and share your thoughts and ideas about job creation and economic growth. Your input and participation at one of the following Community Forums would be greatly appreciated.

Thursday, January 21

When: 9:00 am – Noon

Where: Albany

Linn County Fair & Expo Center
Willamette Event Center
Conference Center Rooms 1 & 2
3700 Knox Butte Road
Albany, OR 97322

*Located on East side of I-5 at Exit 234,
near the Albany Municipal Airport*

<http://www.lcfairexpo.com>

Thursday, January 28

When: 1:00 – 4:00 pm

Where: Bend

Central Oregon Community College
Hitchcock Auditorium
2600 NW College Way
Bend, OR 97701

*Located on South side of Pioneer Hall adjacent
to Newberry Hall on North side of campus.
Limited visitor parking available in lot North of
Metolius Hall, & North of Barber Library. Visitor
parking passes for other lots available at Campus
Services Office located behind Boyle Education
Center. Call (541) 383-7775 for more information.
Directions and campus map at links below.*

<http://visitors.cocc.edu/Visiting/Directions/default.aspx>
<http://web.cocc.edu/admit/new/publ/bendcampusparking.pdf>

What

From these listening sessions, the USDA is compiling a report on what is needed to create jobs and stimulate growth in rural America. The actual agenda is very brief and speakers will be experts in key economic areas. The presentations are to be short and help stimulate discussion from the audience and what can be done.

Each session will be gathering the following information:

- What parts of the local economy are working and thriving? What business centers are expanding and hiring? What can be done to encourage these efforts?
- What parts of the local economy are not working and thriving? What businesses and sectors have been hit the hardest? What are people struggling with the most? What can be done to help these sectors?
- What are the opportunities for growth in your community? What business sectors seem poised to rebound? What do you see as the “jobs of the future”?
- What are the obstacles to job creation in your community? What could make local businesses more likely to start hiring?
- Are there specific changes to USDA programs and regulations that could positively impact the development of businesses in Rural America or strengthen current businesses? What innovative ideas should USDA consider to increase economic opportunity in rural areas?
- How can coordination between Federal, State, and nonprofit programs be improved for rural communities?
- What other issues and ideas should the President consider?

The sessions will be in a simple town hall format. There is no charge to attend the session. There will be no luncheon. There will be no keynote speakers. The only thing USDA requests from participants is they are encouraged to share their thoughts on what can be done to stimulate rural Oregon’s economy and they allow others the same opportunity to do so. The effectiveness of the forums will be based on the amount of input received from the audience.

Who

The forums are open to the public. Everyone who has ideas on how to improve the economy is welcome to participate including:

- State and Local Government
- Private Industry
- Small Businesses Owners
- Entrepreneurs
- Academia
- Concerned Citizens

Can't attend – no problem. You can e-mail us your job creation and economic development suggestions to AskFSA@usda.gov with “Oregon Jobs and Economic Growth Forum” in the subject line. You can also post your job creation and economic development suggestions on the web. Just follow the “Oregon Jobs and Economic Growth Forums” link at www.usda.gov/blog. Comments from the forums and the websites will be compiled and send to the President Obama, so please let us have your thoughts and ideas.

For More Information

Updates concerning the Jobs and Economic Growth forums will be periodically posted at the following websites: www.rurdev.usda.gov/or/ or www.fsa.usda.gov/or/.

If you have any questions about the Community Forums, please contact either:

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Hope to See You There