

Sophorn Cheang - Invest in Technical Assistance for Underrepresented Businesses

If I were to have more resources, we'll continue to develop, expand the access to access to capital for small businesses.

But to be specific though, if I were to state that to be more strategic and be able to go for a long term, for a long-term plan if you have more resources is to invest in the Technical Assistant for underrepresented business businesses program.

I talked a little bit on part of my the conversation that we we have today which is a word grant to organization that provided technical assistance to historically and currently under so and under resourced small businesses across the state.

This program, this is only the second round.

It's not a part of our agency budget.

We are hoping that if we would have more resources we could do more we could reach the community more.

We could be able to to have to have more diverse community partners and also business partners across the state.

And I I also wanted to to share that auto small business support program exists including the state funded on the Oregon Small Business Development Centers network.

I share a little bit about this already and a part of the conversation earlier.

Few are delivered by staff that similar cultural language and also live experience and this program seeks to feel that why and ensure that all business in Oregon have access to the technical assistance to support the equitable participation in the economy.

In supporting not just Need the woman but in also communities of colors and tribal communities and other understood businesses across the state.

The technical assistance programs take a small take a small that important step toward addressing historic inequities and improve economic security for our underrepresented community including women and communities of color as well as our tribal community.

So through this program if we would have more funding we would be able to partner with with the providers that within that day as the provider within the programs framework they can develop and

determine their own scope and scope of work that based on their capacity back, based on their expertise and also assess and understand their client needs.

If they would just serve grants and refugee communities they know that what they need the language barrier, the system and then also the civic engagement and also understanding on how a really basic information how to open a bank account and also how to design A website and how to have the ACH payment for example.

So this flexibility that we through this program if it were to be able to have more funding, it will allow the the program to embrace and also find a wide range of technical assistance programs throughout the state who in turns meet and reflects on the equality disparate needs of the Oregon diverse small businesses population here in Oregon.

And they are ranging from contractor to child care providers to Main Street retailers to food based enterprises and also to just folks who just like wanted to have the part time.

But they are creative.

They also have other communities within their own to be able to to bring and it's like really have uplift one another.

So that that would be the programs that I I would continue to invest more if we would have available funding.