



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

October 19, 2024

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City of Aumsville Receives LOC's Good Governance Award

BEND, Ore. – During its 99th Annual Conference, the League of Oregon Cities (LOC) presented its 2024 Good Governance Award to the city of Aumsville for its Wastewater Facility and Community Outreach program. The award recognizes progressive and innovative city operations and services.

About the Wastewater Facility & Community Outreach Program

Like most small cities, Aumsville has faced consistent challenges over the years. After a recent enforcement action by a state agency, the city was required to finance a new, \$28-million wastewater facility. Looking to reduce the cost share passed to residents in their utility bills, city staff and the city council partnered with local legislators, Business Oregon, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality to submit funding applications.

Direct outreach efforts had two goals: prepare citizens for a possible utility bill increase, but also gain support for alternative funding sources. Thanks in large part to a letter of support signed by nearly 1,000 community members, the city secured more than \$20 million in grants and forgivable loans, including \$9,000,000 from the state budget and \$6,000,000 through the USDA.

In addition to reducing the cost share for Aumsville residents, the outreach conducted by staff and council achieved community buy-in and prepared them for what is now a much more manageable cost share.

About the League of Oregon Cities

Founded in 1925, the LOC is a voluntary association representing all 241 of Oregon's incorporated cities. The League helps city governments serve their citizens by providing legislative services, policy setting, intergovernmental relations, conferences and training, technical assistance and publications.

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