



City of Tigard Press Release

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Tigard Helps Small Business Startups with New Guide

The City of Tigard is home to more than 3,000 businesses from nearly every sector, including larger firms with a global reach (Gerber Gear and Stash Tea) and small businesses with a local focus (Koi Fusion and Zuñiga Foods). To make it easier for smaller firms to thrive, the city's Economic Development Department is launching a new guide and resource webpage for would-be and existing entrepreneurs.

Tigard's *10 Steps to Starting a Small Business Guide*, available in English and Spanish, provides information and links to resources to help Tigard entrepreneurs grow their ideas into successful businesses.

"Tigard's economic diversity can be seen in the types of companies that move here and expand existing operations," says Economic Development Coordinator Dylan Dekay-Bemis. "We want to make it easier for firms to access the tools they need throughout their life cycle; this guide clearly and concisely outlines the steps to start a business in Tigard, and keep it thriving."

To complement the guide, the city has built a new webpage that provides a comprehensive database of small business resources, including links to local and national organizations that provide one-on-one business mentoring and access to capital, among other services. The new webpage also includes a section on support services for women- and minority-owned businesses that the city hopes will help spur entrepreneurship in underrepresented segments of the business community.

While many companies already know about Tigard's desirable location next to Interstate 5 and state highways 99W and 217, just minutes outside of Portland and Beaverton, they may not know about the city's local incentives to encourage business growth. For example, Tigard's Urban Renewal Improvement Program provides 50-50 matching grant funds that make it easier for businesses in the City Center Urban Renewal District, an area that includes most of downtown Tigard, to make building improvements. The Tigard-Lake Oswego Enterprise Zone program also offers 100 percent tax abatement for three to five years on new capital investments for qualifying firms that increase their employment by 10 percent.

The new webpage is available at: www.tigard-or.gov/BizResources.

The new guide can be found on the webpage and downloaded directly at:

- **English:** www.tigard-or.gov/document_center/Business/SmallBusinessResourceGuide.pdf;
- **Spanish:** www.tigard-or.gov/document_center/Business/SmallBusinessResourceGuide_espanol.pdf.

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