

SORED I Receives \$400,000 State Grant to Power Southern Oregon Innovation Hub

Medford, OR – Southern Oregon Regional Economic Development Inc. (SORED I) has been awarded a \$400,000 grant from Business Oregon’s Regional Innovation Hub – Launch Track program, with support from the Oregon Innovation Council (Oregon InC), to continue leading the Southern Oregon Innovation Hub (SOIH) through the 2025–2027 biennium.

The Southern Oregon Innovation Hub fuels entrepreneurship and innovation across Jackson and Josephine counties, offering startups and founders access to technical assistance, capital, mentorship, networking, and talent development.

“This bold investment from Business Oregon supercharges Southern Oregon’s entrepreneurial ecosystem and fuels innovation across the state,” said Kim Freeze, SOIH Ecosystem Director. “We’re building a vibrant culture where big ideas thrive—from spark to scale—and empowering startups with the resources they need to succeed right here in our region. The future of innovation is being built in Oregon, and we’re proud to be part of it.”

About SOIH and SORED I

SOIH is one of eight organizations statewide selected to receive a share of \$3.77 million in funding. For more information about the Southern Oregon Innovation Hub, visit [SORED I website link](#) or contact Kim Freeze, SOIH Ecosystem Director at soihsteward@soredi.org or 530-340-3371.

Southern Oregon Regional Economic Development, Inc. (SORED I) is the regional lead for SOIH. SORED I convenes partners to foster collaboration, streamline services, and strengthen the innovation pipeline. As a nonprofit organization, SORED I is a private, non-profit, member-based organization that has been serving Jackson and Josephine counties since 1987. As the designated economic development district for the region, SORED I's mission is to support business growth and create a thriving economy through a variety of services, including business assistance, financial programs, and collaborative partnerships.

About the Regional Innovation Hub and Business Oregon

The Regional Innovation Hub state program is a cornerstone of Business Oregon’s 10-Year Innovation Plan, designed to unify support services and cultivate a statewide culture of innovation.

Business Oregon is the state's economic development agency. The Business Oregon Commission oversees the agency's activities to ensure a coherent, integrated approach to economic development and a continuous policy direction that can transcend changes in executive and legislative leadership.