



NEWS RELEASE

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**Economic Development Council and Visit Tillamook County
Announce Availability of Tourism-Related Facilities Grants**
First phase of grant funds offers \$450,000 for projects and planning

Tillamook County, Oregon. March 26, 2015 – The Tillamook County Economic Development Council (EDC) announced today the availability of grants for tourism-related facilities, as funded by the county-wide transient lodging tax. The first phase of grant funding is officially available March 30, 2015, and deadline for application is June 30, 2015. Grants will be available twice a year, approximately every six months.

Eligible applicants include any city, county or other local government, including a port, special district, or intergovernmental agency. Each such eligible applicant may also submit an application on behalf of any non-governmental agency (NGO) subject to conditions described in the grant packet.

The grant packet can be downloaded at www.tillamookcoast.com/grants. Packets may be requested through email or by phone at susan@tillamookcoast.com, 503 842-2672. They may also be picked up at the EDC/Visit Tillamook Coast offices at Tillamook Bay Community College, 4301 Third Street, Tillamook.

The county's transient lodging tax went into effect January 1, 2014. Under state law, 70% of this tax must be devoted to tourism promotion and tourism-related facilities; the 30% balance is dedicated to the maintenance of county roads. Of the 70% a large portion will be made available each year as grants for tourism-related facilities, and a lesser amount as grants for marketing and promotions. Phase One of the tourism-related facilities grants represents approximately 50% of available funds.

Tillamook County's tourism program is the only one in Oregon to designate funding for physical facilities used by visitors, such as restrooms, boat launches, conference centers and more. The remainder of the 70% funds not dedicated to grant awards will be used to promote the Tillamook Coast as a nature-based destination to regional, national and international visitor markets, and to build an effective, sustainable tourism marketing organization.

For questions on the grants and eligibility requirements, contact Nan Devlin, tourism director, at nan@tillamookcoast.com

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About Tillamook Coast

The Tillamook Coast is one of Oregon's most popular destinations. Bays, rivers, ocean beaches, forests and farms offer visitors a wide range of nature-based activities, from surfing, kayaking, fishing and clamming to beachcombing, hiking and agritourism activities. Fresh seafood is a specialty, as is world-famous cheese and breweries. The Tillamook Coast includes several villages, each with their own unique character, from Manzanita in the north to Pacific City and Neskowin in the south. For more information and to plan your getaway, visit www.tillamookcoast.com

