

August 19, 2020

Coba's Capitol Comments

Marshall Coba, ACEC Oregon lobbyist
Coba Company Government Affairs

Last month the Emergency Board approved \$35 million for Oregonians negatively impacted by COVID-19. This would include employees who were laid off or hours were cut and can meet the qualifications on the website.

This link will show the qualifications, process and banks and credit unions in local towns where people can go to get their \$500 which will be on a debit card. This is available now and just went live today.
<https://emergencychecks.oregon.gov/>

To get the \$500, people will need to follow the directions on the website and go to a bank or credit union that is involved or sign up online to get an appointment. Not all banks and credit unions are involved in this process.

Forward this to impacted employees. When the \$35 million runs out it runs out.

I expect a lot of interest in the funds. There are a couple of limitations that are spelled out on the website.

This is being done because the legislators were frustrated by the Employment Department not being able to get money out to those who needed it. This program was just stood up in the last few weeks.

A third special session is being planned for later in September to deal with some policy issues related to COVID-19. No date has been finalized.

Legislative days will September 23-25 and policy committees will hear concepts for introduction into the 2021 legislative session. Unlimited bill concepts can be dropped at the legislative counsel office by September 25 to ensure they will be drafted by Dec. 7. After September 25, policy concepts for bill drafting will need to use a legislators limited priority bill or be introduced by a committee or amend an existing bill during the 2021 session.