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News Release

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Foundations provide funds to support state's strategic plan
Oregon Community Foundation and the Ford Institute each give \$10K

Salem—The Oregon Progress Board has received two grants of \$10,000 each, one from the Oregon Community Foundation and another from The Ford Family Foundation's Ford Institute, the state Department of Administrative Services announced Tuesday.

The grants will help the Oregon Progress Board prepare for renewal of the state's 20-year old strategic plan, "Oregon Shines."

Governor Ted Kulongoski welcomed the support, and praised the goals of the Oregon Progress Board and the strategic plan. "Oregon Shines provides a roadmap toward creation of better jobs, stronger and safer communities and a healthier environment," the Governor said.

The Legislature created the original Oregon Shines in 1989, and updated it with Oregon Shines II in 1997. The Progress Board analyzes data to develop a biennial report, the *Benchmark Report to the People of Oregon*, which assesses how well state and local governments, communities and the private sector are meeting the goals of Oregon Shines.

The Progress Board will use the two foundation grants and another \$10,000 from a private donor to hire help in designing the actual budget and business plan for Oregon Shines III over a three-month period. The business plan will then become the basis for fundraising to support execution of the Oregon Shines process through 2009.

The Progress Board projects the following goals for Oregon Shines III project:

- A better understanding of the trends affecting Oregon's future

- General agreement among key stakeholders, experts and civic leaders on the most important “drivers” of the Oregon Shines goals, which are:
 - Good jobs for all Oregonians
 - Engaged, caring and safe communities
 - Healthy, sustainable surroundings
- A tune-up of the *Oregon Benchmarks* to ensure they accurately gauge the drivers and logically measure Oregon’s societal progress towards the goals
- An online “infrastructure for results,” in which state government, communities and their private-sector partners link their respective programs and performance to the *Oregon Benchmarks*

Anyone may now generate a report on one or more of the benchmarks at benchmarks.oregon.gov.

The Governor released the latest *Benchmark Report to the People of Oregon* in April of 2007. The report is a “point-in-time” snapshot of Oregon’s condition in several important categories, including jobs, the environment and safe communities. The Governor will issue the next *Report* early in 2009.