City of Canby and Canby Urban Renewal Agency

Community Profile

Population 14,705
Location Canby

Position Description

Sponsor City of Canby
Supervisor John R. Williams, Community Development and Planning Director

Assignment The RARE participant will first refine an existing database of Canby businesses. Working with partner agencies, the RARE participant will then develop a survey instrument to form the basis of outreach efforts. The RARE participant will provide follow-up on all questions generated by the survey. The RARE participant will add survey results to the database, and will use the completed database to prepare reports outlining business needs and trends. This report will be presented to the Canby Urban Renewal Agency and boards/committees of partner organizations. The RARE participant will create a database containing information on all of Canby’s businesses, including basic information to more advanced information such as five-year employment projections and market location. In addition, the RARE participant will produce a verbal and written report summarizing the project. This will be presented to the Urban Renewal Agency as the project conclusion. Staff will work with the RARE participant to include recommendations for next steps and continued outreach.

Required Skills Excellent communication, specifically speaking and listening skills are essential to this project. The RARE participant will need to be self-motivated, able to interact with businesses, and able to formulate information into a workable database. The RARE participant will need to be adept at translating gathered information into the database and written reports. A moderate level of technical skills with MS Word, Excel, Access, and PowerPoint will be needed as well.

RARE Member

Stephan Lewis is a native Oregonian from Portland. Raised in his father’s graphic design and fine art studio, he developed skills as a graphic designer and communicator. He has worked in an architecture studio and, in the face of his changing landscape, became involved in his local community with the intent of insuring positive change. This experience awakened him to the power of Community Development, which became his primary subject of study at Portland State University. With a focus on housing and economic development, he also studied real estate development, environmental sustainability, and geographic information systems (GIS). Development of these skills and others are helping him build capacity in communities at the local level while affecting positive change.