



## Office of Financial Management

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**Board of County Commissioners**  
Steve Rader                      District 1  
Steve Ferrell                    District 2  
Richard Dahl                     District 3

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February 9, 2026

### RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

### PUBLIC AGENCIES ARE INVITED TO SUBMIT PROJECT PROPOSALS

To Interested Public Agencies:

Cowlitz County is the recipient of certain sales and use taxes, commonly known as rural county public facility funds.

These funds may be used only for the purposes authorized by R.C.W. 82.14.370; namely, to finance public facilities serving economic development purposes in rural counties or to finance personnel in economic development offices. The public facility must be listed as an item in the county's capital facilities plan or the capital facilities plan of a city or town located in Cowlitz County.

The statute defines public facilities as: bridges, roads, domestic and industrial water facilities, sanitary sewer facilities, earth stabilization, storm sewer facilities, railroads, electrical facilities, natural gas facilities, research, testing, training and incubation facilities in innovation partnership zones designated under RCW 43.330.270, buildings, structures, telecommunications infrastructure, transportation infrastructure, or commercial infrastructure, and port facilities in the state of Washington Economic development is defined as those purposes that facilitate the creation or retention of businesses and jobs in Cowlitz County.

Cowlitz County is interested in identifying projects that meet the criteria of State law and the program with the intent of the Board of Commissioners. Cowlitz County believes public involvement is important in this process. Therefore, the Board of County Commissioners wishes to provide an opportunity for eligible recipients to present new project proposals and to receive public comment on other potential uses for the sales tax proceeds not already obligated.

The Board of Commissioners may award up to \$1,500,000 toward one or more projects that are construction or business ready for 2026.

Those wishing to present project proposals for consideration return an Electronic Original and Five (5) copies to the Office of Administrative Services no later than March 17th, 2026 by 4:30 p.m. The Project Information Sheet can also be found on our website: [www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/423/Rural-County-Public-Facility-Funds](http://www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/423/Rural-County-Public-Facility-Funds)

The Board of Commissioners will discuss the proposals beginning on Wednesday, April 7, 2026 at a regular public meeting.

For more information contact:

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