



# OPPORTUNITIES IN RURAL ECONOMIES

## LOAN PARTICIPATION PROGRAM

### Strengthening Rural Economies Through Partnerships

**The ORE LPP is a flexible, state-funded revolving loan fund to help sustain and grow rural businesses.**

By partnering with local lenders and economic development organizations, the Montana Department of Commerce shares the risk on eligible loans, making it more attainable to finance impactful rural projects.

### At a Glance, the ORE LPP:

- Supports business expansion, job creation and infrastructure in rural communities
- Leverages state dollars by participating alongside private lenders
- Helps close financing gaps for projects that benefit local economies
- Encourages collaboration between borrowers, banks and economic development organizations



## How It Works

1. Borrower works with an enrolled EDO and a participating lender to prepare a strong application.
2. EDO submits the necessary applications to Commerce.
3. If approved, Commerce contributes a portion of the loan to reduce risk for the lender and support project viability.
4. Loan is closed and serviced by the lender; EDO provides ongoing support.

## Ideal for Projects Like:

- Facility expansion
- Equipment purchases
- Rural infrastructure
- Childcare creation



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## Clarifying the Program's Scope

**It's not a grant.** ORE LPP provides partial loan capital through participating lenders. Borrowers must repay the full loan under standard lending terms.

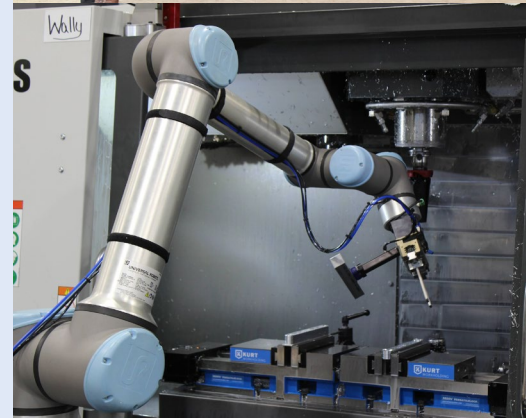
**It's not a direct loan to businesses.** Commerce does not lend directly. All loans originate with a bank, credit union, an EDO that manages revolving loan funds or a community development financial institution.

**It's not unlimited.** ORE LPP funds are limited and competitive. Priority goes to projects in rural areas with clear community impact.

**It's not automatic.** Participation is not guaranteed. Projects must meet program goals and pass due diligence.

**It's not just paperwork.** EDOs play a crucial role — not just in submitting paperwork, but in helping borrowers prepare, qualify and stay on track.

Images courtesy of Montana Department of Commerce.



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