

Lean/Efficiency Improvement Assistance for Portland Manufacturers

Availability of Funds

The PDC is committed to helping Portland manufacturers achieve, and maintain, the highest attainable level of competitiveness. Since 2004, the PDC has collaborated with the Oregon Manufacturing Extension Partnership to provide lean/efficiency improvement consultations for more than 50 Portland manufacturers. PDC provides a 50% match of up to \$12,500 for OMEP services to qualified companies.

Purpose of Program

The PDC – OMEP partnership was established to help Portland manufacturers achieve a high level of global competitiveness. With assistance from OMEP, area manufacturers have increased efficiencies by as much as 60%. These improvements have enabled manufacturers to retain and increase sales; benefit from cost savings resulting from waste elimination; increase investments in facilities, equipment and information systems; and retain and create new jobs.

OMEP's Process

OMEP works with owners, executives, managers and operators to assess company needs in all areas. Clients receive a customized approach that focuses on their specific obstacles to growth. OMEP moves quickly from assessment to implementation to ensure that the client's efforts provide an immediate payback. Entry points range from creating improved flow on the production line, to speeding sales order processing, to training the workforce on problem solving approaches, to developing a strategy to enter new markets.

How to Apply

Manufacturers interested in pursuing OMEP consultations should begin by contacting PDC. PDC staff will work with OMEP to arrange a free 60-90 minute consultation that includes an assessment of the company's overall operation. OMEP will prepare a proposal for the client based on the assessment, and then submits a request to PDC for approval of the 50% match.

Eligibility and Resources

- Businesses must be located within the city limits of Portland.
- Businesses must be part of the Advanced Manufacturing cluster.
- PDC funding match for OMEP consultations are contingent on available City General Fund resources, or Tax Increment Finance (TIF) resources for businesses located in one of Portland's [urban renewal areas](#).
- There must be eligible physical improvements to the business property in conjunction with OMEP consultations in order to access TIF resources.

For more information on how to take advantage of OMEP consultations, please contact Kevin Johnson at PDC.

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