

Orlando
Community
Foundation

Community Grant Program Guidelines



SPRING 2025

OCF's 2025 Spring Cycle of Community Grants is an open, competitive program for nonprofit organizations and programs. Organize, identify,



Background

For years, and with strong support from donors, OCF's Community Grants program has invested in community livability and vitality by listening and responding to the people closest to the problems we're working to address.

As our state has evolved and grown, so too has the complexity of issues facing us as Oregonians.

Compounding these challenges is a history of

systems that have not benefited everyone equitably. ET EMC /P <</Lang (en-US)/MCID 22 >>BD 22 >>esFm [. 73.0 01 0 0 10

Contents

Principles and Priorities 2

Program goal 2

Guiding principles 2

2025 Funding Opportunities 3

2025 Community Grant availability 3

2025 grant cycles 3

2025 Spring Cycle eligibility 3

Funding priorities 4

Organizations typically not funded 4

Grant duration and award amount 4

2025 Spring Cycle dates 4

2025 Spring Cycle Process 5

Application review process 5

How and when to apply 6

Nondiscrimination policy 6

FRONT COVER PHOTOS

■ Lakeview Community Partnership—Alger Theater.

■ Constructing Hope, Portland.

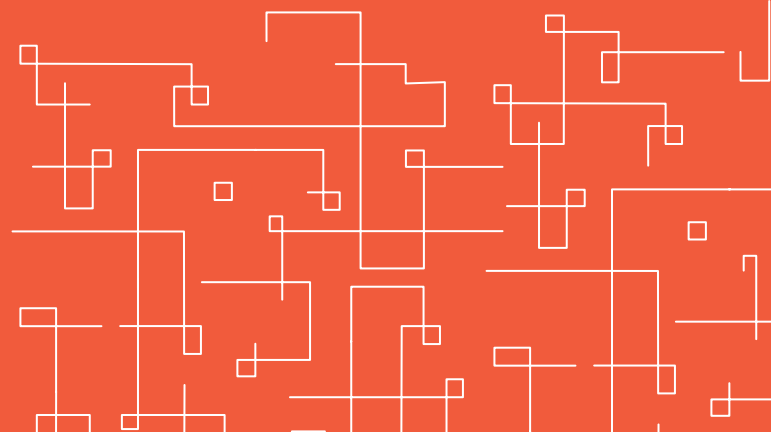
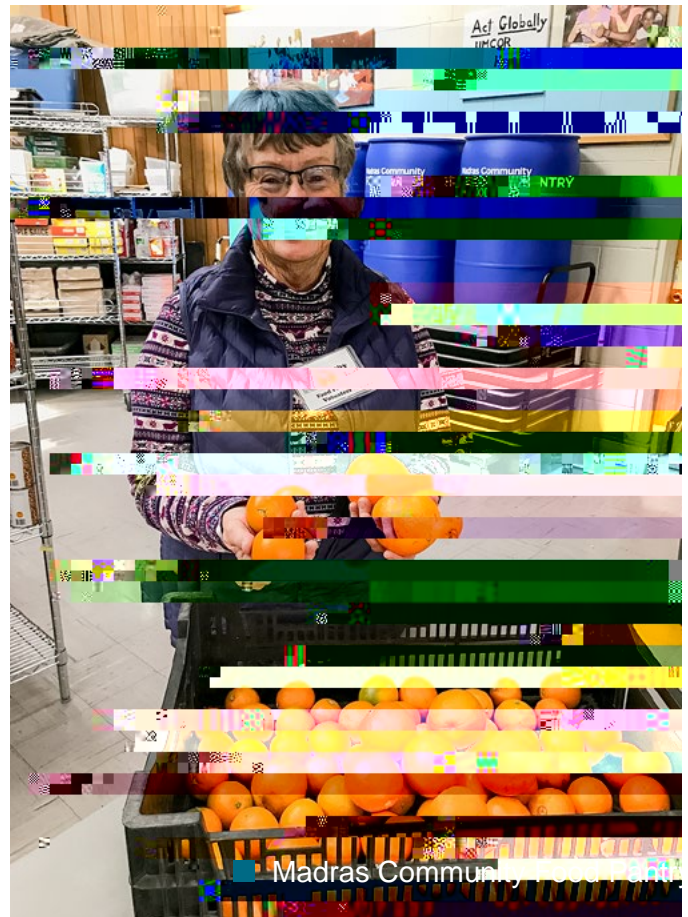
■ Curry Coast Community Radio.

Appendix 1

Application questions 7

Appendix 2

Application review criteria 11



Principles and Priorities

PROGRAM GOAL

To provide equitable access to flexible funding for organizations serving communities' most pressing needs throughout Oregon.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- We seek to build bridges of connection, eradicate the practice of “othering” and actively promote a sense of belonging for all Oregonians through our funding.
- We are committed to funding across Oregon with grant dollars reaching rural and urban communities in every region.
- We value our state’s diverse regions and populations and affirm that every Oregonian is an integral part of our community.
- We believe creative, impactful and sustainable solutions come from people closest to the issues being addressed and should be implemented by organizations the community trusts.
- We prioritize efforts that demonstrate strong community support, solid planning and wise stewardship.

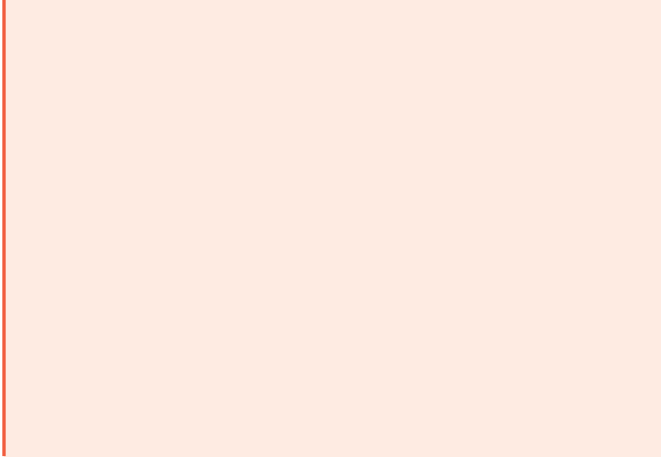
We encourage a broad range of nonprofits to apply. We prioritize work that clearly addresses community-identified needs in support of the following Oregon populations who have historically experienced significant bias, discrimination or underinvestment:

- Black, Indigenous, Latino/x and communities of color. (Communities of color include, but are not limited to, Black/African/African American, Indigenous/Native American, Latino/x, Asian/Asian American, Southwest Asian and North African/Middle Eastern and North African, and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander.)



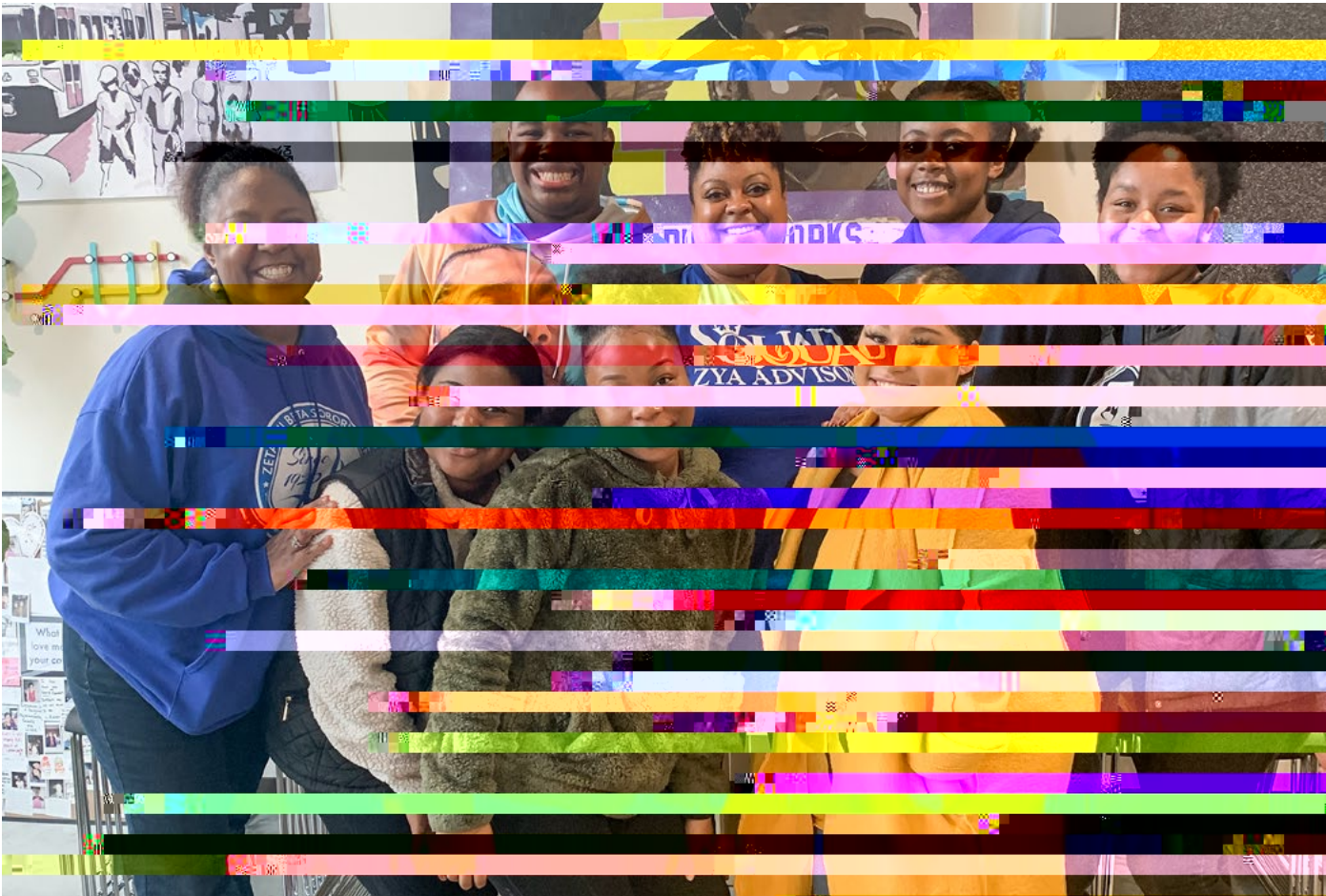
- Immigrants and/or refugees.
- People experiencing disabilities.
- People living on low incomes.
- People living in under-resourced communities.
- People who are homeless/unsheltered.
- People who identify as LGBTQ+.
- Survivors of domestic abuse and/or child abuse.

2025 Funding Opportunities



2025 Spring Cycle Process

Based on feedback provided in [redacted], we are condensing the [redacted] Spring Cycle to a one-step



HOW & WHEN TO APPLY

Submit an application on [MyOCF](#) between December , , and January , , at p.m. If this is your first time using this system, you will need to register and set up a [MyOCF](#) account. Please refer to our review criteria ([page](#)) to explore what makes an application competitive.

Important! To be considered for funding by OCF's network of donors, please update your Organization Profile Tool before 5 p.m. on January 14, 2025.

NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY

OCF seeks to build an inclusive spirit of community encompassing all of Oregon's population groups. OCF does not discriminate against any

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Application Questions

To give all applicants an equal chance to submit a competitive application, we are providing our application review criteria along with sample competitive answers and a scoring rubric.

Section I: Grant Narrative

Project name. *[Up to 55 characters, including space.]*

- . How much are you requesting from OCF?
- . Which of these categories describes your organization?
 - Small rural organization.
 - Culturally specific organization.
 - Culturally responsive organization.
 - Other.
- . Which of the following populations do your organization's activities and outreach *intentionally* focus on? *[Select up to three.]*
 - Black, Indigenous, Latino/x and communities of color.
 - Immigrants and/or refugees.
 - People experiencing disabilities.
 - People living on low incomes.
 - People living in under-resourced communities.
 - People who are homeless/unsheltered.
 - People who identify as LGBTQ+.
 - Survivors of domestic abuse and/or child abuse.
 - Other.
- . Tell us your board-approved organization mission, and describe your programs/services. *[Up to 55 characters, including space.]*

Culturally specific example, North Coast: Our organization helps immigrant families in Clatsop County navigate essential services and integrate into the community. As a small nonprofit, we prioritize

Application Questions

Describe how you have meaningfully engaged the populations you identified in Question 3. [Up to 3,000 characters, including space.]

Culturally specific example, statewide. Our organization intentionally engages the LGBTQ+ community at every level because co-creating our work alongside the community we serve is at the heart of our mission. Our entire leadership team identifies as LGBTQ+, as does the majority of our staff and board; those who do not are recognized as allies and advocates. Our staff embeds community engagement in every aspect of their work, ensuring that we represent the voices of those we serve.

Our organization has two volunteer options: The advisory council supports our staff and board, while program volunteers assist staff at monthly outreach events. We maintain an inclusive, welcoming environment for LGBTQ+ folks who wish to support our work through either role, and our policies and procedures reflect this priority. The fact that 60% of our volunteers are LGBTQ+ demonstrates that our model for community representation is giving the people we serve a voice in our activities.

As a city-based organization serving urban and rural Oregon, we purposefully recruit people from both these geographies into staff and board positions. We have also designated advisory council positions for each of the five regions we serve; this ensures that our organization learns from folks who may be dealing with unique local circumstances in their hometown.

We also partner with other organizations serving the LGBTQ+ community in Oregon and the Pacific Northwest, including Alliance PNW and Inclusivity Oregon. These partnerships inform our strategies by helping us understand what challenges impacting our community are playing out across the region. [1,596 characters.]

Describe how your organization has solicited feedback and adapted programs/services based on input from the populations you identified in Question 3. [Up to 3,000 characters, including space.]

Small rural example, Southern Oregon. We solicit formal and informal feedback from the under-resourced youth we serve in our small rural community. Our most meaningful formal feedback mechanism is a focus group for youth in our after-school program, held twice a year during regular after-school hours. Youth share their successes, challenges, and what they'd like to change about our programming.

In addition, we formally survey local middle school teachers to get their thoughts on our programming and how we can better partner with them. We also survey youth who stopped participating to learn why they left and what, if anything, we can change to make the programming more useful to them.

Informally, we constantly talk with youth and their families about their needs, their wishes and potential improvements. Since youth have no access to other programming in our community, it's essential that our mission and programming reflect and evolve with the needs and preferences of the families we serve.

We take their formal and informal feedback seriously and have made significant changes in response. For example, our organization considered adding a computer skills class last year. We had a volunteer who was excited to teach it and had the technology needed for all youth to participate. However, when we brought this idea to our youth focus group, we found that they were much more interested in a music class, and we changed our offering in response. This taught us that we need to bring youth into our planning processes earlier; we're now exploring options like board positions, a youth steering committee or more frequent focus groups. [1,610 characters.]

- . Describe the strategies and efforts your organization has employed to build connections and collaborate with communities **beyond** those you identified in Question 3). [*Up to 300 characters, including space.*]

Small rural example, Northern Willamette Valley, as an after-school education organization serving under-resourced

Application Questions

Section II: Organization Information

Organization name:

EIN:

Organization address:

Organization website:

Organization phone:

In what county is your organization located?:

What counties does your organization serve?:

What were your operating expenses for your last completed fiscal year?:

Executive director name:

Title:

Email:

Grant contact name:

Title:

Phone:

Email:

[Optional.] Does your organization have a fiscal sponsor?: Y/N

Fiscal sponsor name:

Phone:

EIN:

Email:

Contact name:

Address:

Title:

Section III: Document Upload

- . Fiscal sponsorship agreement (if applicable e.g. a. b. c. d. e.).

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The mission of Oregon Community Foundation is to improve lives for all Oregonians through the power of philanthropy.

Since 1973, OCF has worked in partnership with donors, volunteers and nonprofits to strengthen communities in every county in Oregon through grantmaking, scholarships and research.

Individuals, families, businesses and organizations can work with OCF to create charitable funds that support causes and organizations that are important to them.

Get started at oregoncf.org.

