



Eastern Oregon Regional Action Initiative
Request for Proposals:
Access to Higher Education and Career Training for Student Success

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Oregon Community Foundation (OCF) launched the Regional Action Initiative (RAI) in 2008 to engage Oregonians in a new level of civic leadership to increase Oregon's quality of life and improve communities in a significant and lasting way. To implement the RAI, the Foundation contributed a one-time special allocation of \$1 million to each of its eight service regions, including Eastern Oregon. **The Eastern Oregon region includes Baker, Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union and Wallowa counties.**

The Eastern Oregon RAI focuses on **strengthening mentoring programs and enrichment activities that improve education for regional youth.** To date, the OCF Eastern Oregon Leadership Council has allocated more than \$800,000 to training and grants that benefit the region's nine counties. The final year of this Initiative will be 2013.

OVERVIEW

To support student success beyond high school, the Council seeks to invest in programs that help youth access opportunities for higher education and career training. Organizations that offer college and career readiness programs, emphasize innovation and have strong partnerships are encouraged to apply.

GOALS

- Increase the resources available for Eastern Oregon students
- Strengthen existing programs that promote student success after high school
- Encourage partnerships that leverage resources
- Engage communities in student success

ELIGIBILITY

Each applicant must be a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization or school district within Baker, Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union or Wallowa County. Further, each applicant must be classified as a public entity, rather than a private foundation as defined by section 509(a) of the Internal Revenue Code. Alternatively, the applicant must have a qualified fiscal sponsor (i.e., a tax-exempt sponsoring organization).

FUNDING

Grants of up to \$10,000 are available for programs serving one regional community. Programs serving multiple communities are eligible for as much as \$50,000, depending on the program's size and scope. The Council seeks to support programs with a clear plan and an ability to demonstrate outcomes. **Priority is given to organizations demonstrating strong partnerships and a proven record of success.**

PROPOSALS

Eligible organizations are encouraged to submit proposals for funding to implement or support an existing program that promotes student access to higher education opportunities and career training.

Competitive proposals will demonstrate:

- A clear description of how funds will be used
- Evidence of partnerships to support the effort
- Expected outcomes and evaluation plans
- A plan for leveraging additional funds and other resources (in-kind donations, time, information)
- A plan for sustainability beyond funding from the Eastern Oregon Leadership Council

Proposals may request funding for:

- Program activities and supplies
- Planning
- Volunteer training, recruitment and incentives
- Training for key staff
- Staffing
- Program evaluation
- Other reasonable requests necessary to implement and sustain a high-quality program

Successful outcomes may include:

- Improved student attitude toward school and career aspirations
- Increased community coordination
- Increased volunteer engagement
- Improved academic achievement
- Increased financial and in-kind resources

Proposal requirements:

- Application form
- Detailed project narrative
- Itemized project budget and narrative
- Organization budget for current year, including revenues and expenditures (one page)
- Financial statements for most recent fiscal year
- Organization's 501(c)(3) determination letter from the IRS
- List of board members and affiliations
- Two letters of support for the proposal

Project narrative requirements:

- No more than three pages, with 1.5-inch line spacing, 12-point font and 1-inch margins
- Project overview
- Describe the format, programs and services for requested funds
- Describe the roles and responsibilities of key staff
- Demonstrate community support for program
- Identify partnerships and their roles
- A plan and timeline for implementation
- Expected outcomes and evaluation plan
- Sustainability plan

Itemized project budget and narrative requirements:

- No more than two pages, with 1.5-inch line spacing, 12-point font and 1-inch margins
- The itemized budget should include all expenses and funds committed to the project (both in-kind and cash donations), as well as a narrative describing the budget items

DUE DATE AND REVIEW PROCESS

All proposals are due by December 20, 2012. Mailed proposals must be postmarked by this date.

The Eastern Oregon Leadership Council will review all proposals. Competitive proposals will undergo a thorough evaluation, which may include a site visit. Funding decisions will be announced in March 2013.

The completed application, proposal, budget narrative and all supplemental requirements should be submitted in hard copy to:

**The Oregon Community Foundation
Eastern Oregon Regional Action Initiative
Attn: Tiffany Hegarty, Coordinator
306 NW Ingram Lane
Pendleton, OR 97801**

For additional information, please contact:

**Tiffany Hegarty, Eastern Oregon Regional Action Initiative Coordinator
541.276.1898 or t.hegarty@q.com**



THE OREGON
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

For official use only.
Date submitted:

Eastern Oregon Regional Action Initiative *Application Form*

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Organization Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State: _____ ZIP Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____ Website: _____

Contact Person: _____ Title: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Mission of Organization:

Communities and counties served: _____

Number of board members: _____ volunteers: _____ paid employees: _____

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Community members involved in program (name / title / email and phone number / role):

PROPOSAL INFORMATION

Total amount requested: \$ _____ Total budget for effort: \$ _____

Please provide a one-sentence description of your proposal:

Briefly describe the project components, the number of youth expected to participate, and the number of volunteers you plan to engage:

What other funding sources and support do you intend to receive for this proposal? Please note which sources are guaranteed.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Organization budget for **current year**: _____

Expenditure total for **last year**: _____

I certify that the above information is correct, and that I am authorized by the governing board of this organization to submit this grant application to The Oregon Community Foundation.

Signature of Executive Director Board Chair Other

If Other, please describe: _____

Required Materials: (unstapled, unbound)

- Application form
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