



Eastern Oregon Regional Action Initiative Request for Proposals November 9, 2009

INFORMATION

The Oregon Community Foundation (OCF) launched the three-year 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. OCF is contributing a one-time special allocation of \$1 million to each of OCF's seven service regions, including Eastern Oregon, to implement the RAI. **The Eastern Oregon region includes Baker, Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union and Wallowa Counties.**

The OCF Eastern Oregon Leadership Council assessed the needs of the communities in the nine county region. Together, they decided to focus their efforts on strengthening mentoring programs and enrichment activities to improve education for youth throughout the region.

Overview

Youth who have access to high quality programs, activities and opportunities during non school hours are less likely to engage in risk-taking behavior, and are more likely to improve their school attendance and academic performance. [1,2] Mentoring programs for youth result in positive outcomes such as improved self-esteem, social skills and career development. Enrichment programs offered in addition to the regular academic day at the school offer students the opportunity to experience art, music, world cultures, career opportunities and sports or recreation; opportunities to which they might not otherwise have access. The Eastern Oregon Leadership Council is committed to investing in mentoring and enrichment activities throughout the region in order to educate our youth and build stronger communities.

GOALS FOR THIS INITIATIVE

With this Initiative, the Eastern Oregon Leadership Council is intent on a) creating long-term, beneficial change, b) fostering innovation, c) leveraging resources and d) sustaining the effort. This funding opportunity is competitive. Preference will be given to applicants who demonstrate collaborative efforts involving community partners that result in strengthening and expanding their capacity. Applicants are encouraged to be creative and demonstrate how the community will be engaged to support youth. Creative collaborations may include partnerships with businesses, schools, volunteers, and/or community organizations. Applicants are also encouraged to utilize best practices as outlined by the following resources:

Oregon Mentors www.oregonmentors.org

Oregon ASK www.oregonask.org

Search Institute www.search-institute.org

[1] Investing in Our Young People, University of Chicago, 2006

[2] Promising After School Programs, University of California at Irvine, 2007

PROPOSALS

Eligible applicants are encouraged to submit proposals for funding to implement or support an existing mentoring or enrichment program in their community.

Competitive proposals will demonstrate:

- Broad community support
- Evidence of community partnerships to support the effort
- How beneficial, long-lasting change will occur for youth, their families and the community
- Expected outcomes and evaluation plans
- How additional funds and other resources (in kind donations, time, information) will be leveraged
- How the effort will be sustained beyond funding from the Eastern Oregon Leadership Council

Proposals may request funding for:

- Building community support
- Program activities and supplies
- Planning
- Volunteer training, recruitment, and incentives
- Training for key staff
- Transporting students to and from program activities
- Program evaluation
- Staffing
- Internships
- Background Checks
- Nutritious snacks for participants
- Other reasonable requests necessary to implement and sustain a high quality program

OUTCOMES

The Eastern Oregon Leadership Council seeks to improve student achievement, decrease risk-taking behaviors, and build community engagement with the implementation and support of mentoring and enrichment programs. Successful outcomes may include:

- Increased community coordination
- Increased volunteer engagement
- Improved academic achievement for students
- Improved student attendance
- Improved attitude toward school and higher educational aspirations
- Decreased behavioral problems
- Improved student relationships with adults
- Increased parent involvement and level of engagement
- Improved social and connection skills
- Improved self-confidence and self-esteem
- Avoidance of drug and alcohol use
- Increased financial and in-kind resources

FUNDING

Grants will range in size depending on community need, level of community support, and a clear plan and ability to demonstrate outcomes. The Council would like to invest funds in each of the region's nine counties if competitive proposals are received. **Priority will be given to organizations demonstrating strong community partnerships and ability to leverage funds.** Multi-year requests will be considered for the duration of the Initiative.

ELGIBILITY

An applicant must be a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization or school district within Baker, Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union and Wallowa Counties and, further, 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 (a sponsoring organization that is tax-exempt). Applicants are strongly encouraged to participate in a RAI Workshop. Proposals are due on March 12, 2010 by 4:30 p.m. at The Oregon Community Foundation's Portland office.

PROPOSAL FORMAT

Proposals shall include a (an):

- Application form
- Detailed project narrative (no more than 5 pages in length, 1.5 spacing, 12 point font, 1" margins)
- Itemized project budget
- Board members and affiliations
- Three letters of support for the proposal
- Organization budget for current year, including revenues and expenditures
- Financial statements for most recent fiscal year
- Organization 501(c)(3) determination letter from the IRS

Project Narrative: no more than 5 pages

Please include the following:

- Project overview
- Describe how the organization will achieve the goals for this Initiative: improve student achievement, decrease risk-taking behaviors, and build community engagement
- Describe the format, programs and services of proposed project
- Describe the role and responsibilities of key staff
- Demonstrate community support for program
- Identify community partners and their roles
- Plan and timeline for implementation
- Expected outcomes and evaluation plan
- Sustainability plan

Itemized budget: 2 pages

The itemized budget should list all expenses and funds committed to the project, both in-kind and cash donations. If the proposal is a multi-year request, the budget must outline income and expenditures for each year of funding requested from OCF. A one page narrative describing the budget items should also be included (1.5 spacing, 12 point font, 1" margins).

RAI WORKSHOPS

The Eastern Oregon Leadership Council will host four workshops in the nine county region for potential applicants. The workshops will provide information on the RAI, best practices in mentoring and enrichment programs for youth, and a chance to develop partnerships, share ideas and ask questions. Participants will receive technical assistance from OCF staff and Leadership Council members.

Please attend one of the following RAI Workshops.

12/09/09	Burns	Harney ESD Regional Services Center, 1225 S. Rock Ave.
12/10/09	Ontario	Treasure Valley Community College, Weese Bldg. 650 College Blvd.
1/13/10	La Grande	La Grande Public Library, 2006 Fourth St.
1/14/10	Pendleton	Umatilla-Morrow ESD, Lodgepole Room, 2001 SW Nye Ave.

All workshops: 10am – 12pm

Registration for workshops is required. Registration deadline is one week prior to the date of each workshop. To register contact Tiffany Hegarty, Eastern Oregon RAI Coordinator, 541.276.1898 or t.hegarty@q.com.

Reimbursement for mileage is available, upon request, at a rate of .55/mile for those traveling more than 50 miles round trip. Funding is limited and carpooling is strongly encouraged. Mileage reimbursement requests are subject to a first come, first serve basis.

DUE DATE & REVIEW PROCESS

All proposals are due at 4:30, March 12, 2010 in The Oregon Community Foundation's Portland office.

Proposals should be sent to:

Eastern Oregon Regional Action Initiative
c/o Melissa Durham
The Oregon Community Foundation
1221 SW Yamhill St., Suite 100
Portland, OR 97205

The Eastern Oregon Leadership Council will review all proposals. Those that are competitive will undergo a thorough evaluation, including a site visit. Funding decisions will be announced in Spring 2010.

For additional information, please contact:

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

Thank you for your interest!