



## ***Central Oregon Regional Action Initiative Request for Proposals***

***Community Schools Funding Opportunity  
September 2009***

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### **INFORMATION**

The Oregon Community Foundation 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 Central Oregon, to implement the RAI. **The Central Oregon region includes Crook, Deschutes, Jefferson, Sherman, Wasco and Wheeler Counties, and the Warm Springs Reservation.**

Volunteers from the OCF Central Oregon Leadership Council and the community formed a RAI committee that assessed the needs of children and families in the six counties. Together, they identified the community school model as an effective strategy to improve student achievement, increase parent involvement and build community engagement throughout the region.

### **What is a Community School?**

A community school combines the best quality educational practices with enhanced and **extended day (before and after-school)/summer programming** to foster academic success for students and ensure that children are physically, emotionally and socially prepared to learn. Its integrated focus on academics, health and social services, youth and community development and community engagement leads to improved student learning, stronger families and healthier communities. Schools become centers of the community and are open to everyone – all day, every day, evenings and weekends.

Community schools are flexible in their implementation and reflect a community's needs, culture and environment. No two community schools are identical in their implementation. The **Community Schools Coordinator**, among other school staff, effectively addresses early childhood education, homelessness, hunger, poverty, access to medical and dental care, transportation, student achievement, substance abuse and adult education. Because the school building becomes an anchor for the community, the community has opportunities to come together to support the school and enrich their lives through educational classes and civic

events.

**Partners work together to achieve these results:**

- Children are ready to learn when they enter school and every day thereafter. All students learn and achieve high standards.
- Young people are well prepared for adult roles in the workplace, as parents and as citizens.
- Families and neighborhoods are safe, supportive and engaged.
- Parents and community members are involved with the school and their own life-long learning.

**Service components of a community school include:**

- High quality core instruction and educational enhancement, such as mentoring and tutoring
- Fostering caring relationships with adults
- Youth development
- Before and after-school programming
- Access to health and social services for students and their families
- Applied service learning
- Parent/caregiver education and engagement
- Emphasis on early childhood education
- Adult education and/or life-long learning opportunities

**PROPOSALS**

The Central Oregon Regional Action Initiative committee invites communities who wish to implement a community school program or request funding to sustain an existing community school program in their community to apply through their local school district. Competitive proposals will address each of the funding objectives listed below.

**Funding objectives for the Central Oregon Regional Action Initiative:**

- Improve student achievement
- Increase parent involvement
- Build community engagement through broad community support
- Foster community partnerships
- Create opportunities for beneficial, long-lasting change for students, their families and the community
- Leverage funds and other resources (in kind donations, time, information) to support community school programs
- Sustainable community school programs

**Required proposal elements**

Staffing for a Community School Coordinator is a required element of all proposals. The Coordinator is responsible for directing the extended day programming, building relationships with the community members, recruiting community partnerships and coordinating with school staff to ensure the alignment and coordination of services to meet the needs of students and their families.

**Proposals may request funding for:**

- Staffing
- Training for key staff, community members
- Curricula, materials and supplies
- Transporting students to and from extended day program activities
- Nutritious snacks for participants
- Overhead expenses associated with extended day programming including: utility bills, maintenance & snow removal
- Other reasonable requests necessary to implement and sustain a community school program

**Proposals may not request funding for:**

- One-time events or performance
- Religious activities
- Capital improvements
- Items purchased or grant activities occurring prior to grant activities
- Replacement of school district operating & staff costs for the regular academic school day.

**OUTCOMES**

The Central Oregon RAI committee seeks to improve student achievement, increase parent involvement and build community engagement throughout the region with implementation of the community schools model. Successful outcomes may include:

- readiness for school
- improved academic achievement for students
- improved student attendance
- increased parent involvement and level of engagement at their children's school
- improved student relationships with adults
- improved access to social services, including medical and dental care
- increased community engagement
- increased financial and in-kind resources for school-based services and activities

**Grants will range in size** depending on school district need, level of community support, and a clear plan and ability to demonstrate outcomes. Multi-year requests, 3-years maximum, will be considered. The maximum grant a school district can apply for is \$150,000 over three-years.

**\*Please note: Only one proposal per school district will be accepted.\***

**FALL CONFERENCE ON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

The Central Oregon Regional Action Initiative committee will host a one-day conference on community schools for communities interested in applying for funding for an existing community school program or to develop a community school in their area. The conference will provide information on the community school model, innovative techniques and

Please join us!  
Inn at Cross Keys Station  
Madras, OR  
Thursday, October 29, 2009  
9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

best practices for implementation, evaluation results, and state and national funding opportunities. During a work session in the afternoon, conference participants will develop or add to a draft of their proposal with The Oregon Community Foundation staff and RAI committee members.

**Interested communities are encouraged to send teams of 4-6 people to attend this conference.** Teams will ideally represent the education, nonprofit, government and business sectors to involve a broad cross-section of the community in the planning and implementation of the community school. Teams are encouraged to include a board or staff member of your local county Commission on Children & Families. By involving a broad cross-section of a community in the vision, planning and implementation of the community school, communities will be more equipped to implement the model, secure support and sustain the program. Applications that do not demonstrate broad community support will not be considered. Participants must be residents of the communities they are representing.

Example: A team might include a school superintendent, a teacher, a business manager, a city commissioner, a public health representative and an active community volunteer.

A flat reimbursement rate for mileage is available, upon request, 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.

## ELIGIBILITY

School districts within Crook, Deschutes, Jefferson, Sherman, Wasco and Wheeler Counties may submit a proposal to the Central Oregon RAI committee. Applicants are strongly encouraged to participate in the Fall Conference on Community Schools on Thursday, Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>. Well-crafted proposals are due after the conference on January 15, 2010 by 4:30 p.m. at The Oregon Community Foundation's Central Oregon office, 15 SW Colorado Ave., Suite 250, Bend, OR, 97702.

## PROPOSAL FORMAT

Interested communities should craft their proposal as a team. Proposals shall include a(an):

- application page (example is attached)
- project narrative (no more than 5 pages in length, 1.5 spacing, 12 point font, 1" margins)
- itemized budget
- Letters of support from community partners of the community school program outlining their role and responsibilities. For example, a community partner could be an employee at a local bank who will teach a financial literacy class to students participating in the after-school program. Minimum of 3 letters of support required.
- Letters of support from community members and agencies outlining their support, both financial and in-kind, to sustain the community school program. For example, a letter of support could come from a local business pledging a financial contribution to the community school in its second and third year of operation. Minimum of 3 letters of support required.

**Project Narrative: 5 pages**

Please include the following:

- project overview
- describe how the team will address the funding objective for the Central Oregon Regional Action Initiative
- identify community needs and describe how grant funding for a community school will address those needs
- demonstrate broad community support for the model
- identify community partners and their roles
- describe the format, programs and services that will be a part of the community school
- describe the role and responsibilities of key staff and community members
- plan and timeline for implementation
- expected outcomes
- detailed evaluation plan
- detailed 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.

**DUE DATE & REVIEW PROCESS**

All proposals are due at 4:30 p.m. on January 15, 2010 at OCF's Central Oregon office:  
The Oregon Community Foundation  
Attn.: Central Oregon Regional Action Initiative  
15 SW Colorado Ave., Suite 250  
Bend, OR 97702

The Central Oregon RAI committee will review all proposals. Those that are competitive will undergo a thorough evaluation, including a site visit. Funding decisions will be announced in April 2010. This is a competitive application process. Due to limited funds available through the Central Oregon Regional Action Initiative, not all proposals received will be funded. **For additional information contact: Jessica Currier, Central Oregon Regional Action Initiative Coordinator, 541.728.0802, [jessicacurrier26@gmail.com](mailto:jessicacurrier26@gmail.com)**