



THE OREGON  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION



### Trail Blazers Foundation Fund – LEARN Grant

The Trail Blazers are dedicated to positively impacting the lives of children and families who have been historically underserved, where they live, learn, and play. Through the LEARN grant, the Trail Blazers Foundation Fund of The Oregon Community Foundation, supports organizations throughout Oregon and SW, Washington that are supporting youth in their journey to and through high school.

**Please note: Organizations may only apply for one Trail Blazers Foundation Fund grant type (LIVE, LEARN or PLAY) per year.**

### Funding Priorities

One of the ways the Trail Blazers invests in our region is by providing cash grants to organizations that fit our mission. When it comes to our LEARN focus area, these are organizations that are supporting youth to graduate from high school or ensure they hit the many academic benchmarks critical to achieving this goal, including reading at grade level by third grade, increasing student attendance, and supporting a student's transition from 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

Organizations with a mission or major program aligned with the LEARN grant parameters are invited to apply for up to \$15,000 of annual funding. After an initial year of support, organizations may be selected to receive an additional year of funding.

### Funding Priorities

TBFF prioritizes LEARN grants for organizations that:

- Serve youth who are coming from communities that have been historically underserved based on race, gender, socioeconomic status, ability/disability, sexual orientation or other factors
- Have proven connections to high school graduation rates, including organizations and/or programs that are shown to have a positive impact on key educational milestones (reading at third grade, improved attendance rates, etc.) throughout a student's journey
- Represent geographic diversity throughout the state of Oregon and SW Washington
- Are able to show, quantitatively or qualitatively, that the existence of their program has made a difference in the lives of youth served
- Have not received funding from the Trail Blazers Foundation in the past 12 months (organizations who have received funds from the 5050 raffle are still eligible to apply)

### Funding Guidelines

- Organizations with a mission aligned with the LEARN funding priorities may apply for general operating/unrestricted support; organizations with a major program aligned with the LEARN funding priorities may apply for funding to support that program
- Priority will go to programs serving predominantly underrepresented and/or low-income children
- Organizations may apply for up to \$15,000 in funding per year
- Organizations must be providing services in Oregon and SW Washington
- Organizations may request funds for travel/transportation provided that they are essential components of the organization or program in question
- If you represent a PTO, PTA, or school, please instead apply for a grant from the Trail Blazers Foundation and Wells Fargo' through the Take it to the Court for Education program by visiting [www.trailblazers.com/takeittothecourt](http://www.trailblazers.com/takeittothecourt) to complete an application in the fall

## Eligibility

### Geographic Focus and Organizational Requirements

Because the Trail Blazers Foundation raises money from fans across the state, it is important for us to give back to communities throughout Oregon.

Applications are accepted from organizations that are a 501(c)(3) public charity; an IRC 787I Federally-Recognized Indian Tribe; or a government entity (such as a City Parks & Recreation department).

### Frequency of Application

- You may apply for one grant type (LIVE, LEARN or PLAY) from Trail Blazers Foundation Fund per year
- You may receive only one grant from the Trail Blazers Foundation Fund per year
- Applying to Trail Blazers Foundation Fund does not preclude you from applying to other OCF grant programs
- This grant program will **NOT** be open to applications in 2019. Organizations that receive funding this year (2018) will receive a request for information in spring 2019. If they continue with programming and remain in good standing, additional funding will be available. **This means applications for Live, Learn, and Play grants won't be accepted again until spring 2020.**

### Not Eligible for Funding

- Organizations which discriminate based on age, ethnicity/race, political affiliation, religion, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, physical or other disability, or national origin
- Individuals (including scholarships, stipends, fellowships, and personal assistance)
- Scholarship funding, unless it's the core purpose of your organization. *If you'd like to provide underserved youth access to your programming, please apply to the program expenses rather than a scholarship amount*
- Research or project planning activities
- Schools
- Endowments, memorials, budget deficits, or fundraising activities
- Religious organizations whose programs do not have a secular and community focus
- Lobbying, political, or fraternal activities
- Organizations that intend to regrant the funds awarded
- Projects and events that occur prior to a Trail Blazers Foundation Fund grant award

## Application Process

All applications should be submitted using the online grants system, [MyOCF](#) by April 30. Late applications will not be considered. Award decisions will be made and communicated by June 30. Organizations should expect to receive grants in early July.

## Grantee Reporting and Renewal Opportunity

An impact report is 9 months after a grant is awarded. It is submitted electronically. The opportunity of a one-year grant renewal is at the discretion of Trail Blazers Foundation Fund staff and advisors.

## Staff Assistance

If you have any questions after reviewing the information available on this page, please contact:

- Trail Blazers Foundation Staff [trailblazersfoundation@trailblazers.com](mailto:trailblazersfoundation@trailblazers.com)
- OCF Staff: [ocf-trailblazersfund@oregoncf.org](mailto:ocf-trailblazersfund@oregoncf.org)