

**The Local Innovation Fund**  
**Watersheds, Economies, Communities**  
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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## **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

### **Local Innovation Fund Goals**

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) has established the Local Innovation Fund to support initiatives that benefit and strengthen the connections between the local watershed, economy, and community. Projects should work to reduce perceived conflicts between the environment, economy, and community, and provide benefits to all three.

### **OWEB's Mission**

OWEB's mission is to help create and maintain healthy watersheds and natural habitats that support thriving communities and strong economies. OWEB's programs generally support the restoration and protection of healthy watersheds through a competitive grant program that funds on-the-ground restoration and protection of habitat, and project technical assistance, education, and monitoring.

The Local Innovation Fund expands that approach. Rather than funding projects solely for their watershed benefit, the Local Innovation Fund seeks projects that make explicit connections between environmental restoration activities and pressing social and economic needs, effectively "leveraging" a conservation investment for positive outcomes in the community and economic spheres.

### **Funding Limitations**

OWEB's primary funding source is state lottery profits dedicated by a citizen ballot initiative in 1998 to protect and restore native salmonids, fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, and watersheds. The funds provided by OWEB through its Local Innovation Fund must be used for these purposes, and in addition, should also leverage positive connections to the economic and community spheres.

During this grant cycle, the Local Innovation Fund will only provide funding for on-the-ground watershed restoration activities that also benefit and provide connections to the local economy and community. Project costs unrelated to on-the-ground watershed restoration activities are not eligible for funding. Due to the limits on how OWEB funding may be used, the Board encourages applicants to discuss potential funding requests with OWEB staff, and to seek a diversity of funding partners in addition to OWEB.

## **Timeline**

<b>May 1, 2006</b>	<b>Request for Proposals Issued</b>
<b>June 15, 2006</b>	<b>Proposals due to OWEB</b>
<b>July-August 2006</b>	<b>Evaluation of proposals by OWEB staff for recommendation to OWEB Board</b>
<b>September 19-20, 2006</b>	<b>OWEB Board selects projects for funding</b>

## **Application and Selection Process**

Applicants to the Local Innovation Fund must submit a completed Local Innovation Fund Grant Application (Capital) to OWEB by 5:00 p.m. on June 15, 2006. This application may be obtained by:

1. Visiting OWEB's website at [www.oregon.gov/OWEB/Local\\_Innovation\\_Fund.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/OWEB/Local_Innovation_Fund.shtml), and downloading the application, or
2. By requesting the application from Maribeth Mattson. Maribeth may be reached by calling (503)986-0202, emailing [Maribeth.Mattson@state.or.us](mailto:Maribeth.Mattson@state.or.us), writing to her at 775 Summer St. NE, Suite 360, Salem, OR, 97301-1290, or visiting her at OWEB's Salem office.

Completed grant applications must be mailed to Melissa Leoni, Local Innovation Fund, OWEB, 775 Summer Street NE Suite 360, Salem, OR 97301-1290. Faxed or emailed applications will not be accepted. Grant applications will be evaluated by reviewers with expertise in watershed restoration and protection, economic development, and community development. The OWEB Board will make the final funding decisions.

## **Eligibility**

Eligible applicants to the Local Innovation Fund are: any person, business, non-profit or community group, tribe, watershed council, soil and water conservation district, educational institution, or local or regional government. State and federal agencies are not eligible, but may apply as a co-applicant with an eligible applicant listed above.

## **Contact Information**

For more information about the Local Innovation Fund and the application process, please contact Melissa Leoni, Senior Policy Coordinator, at [melissa.leoni@state.or.us](mailto:melissa.leoni@state.or.us), or (503) 986-0179. Additional information about the Local Innovation Fund can be found at: [www.oregon.gov/OWEB/Local\\_Innovation\\_Fund.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/OWEB/Local_Innovation_Fund.shtml).