

**Workforce Ready Grants, Round 3: Sector-focused Grants in Healthcare, Manufacturing, and Technology (2024) – Preliminary Project Descriptions**

<b>Workforce Ready Grants in Healthcare – Healthcare Career Pathways</b>				
<b>Organization</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Priority Populations</b>	<b>Amount Awarded</b>
<a href="#"><u>Adelante Mujeres</u></a>	The Adelante Mujeres Advancing Culturally Specific Holistic Healthcare project will create a more diverse healthcare workforce in two phases. First, the project will deepen a new, innovative behavioral health workforce development pathway for bilingual and bicultural graduate social workers and occupational therapists. Second, it will strengthen a long-standing Community Health Worker professional development and certification model, ensuring the Latine community in Washington County is served with holistic healthcare that is culturally and linguistically responsive. Both phases will address the gap in culturally responsive healthcare providers in Washington County.	Washington	communities of color; low-income communities; women	\$548,113
<a href="#"><u>AntFarm</u></a>	AntFarm's Community Work Program will focus on enhancing employability and professional skills for youth in the healthcare sector in Sandy, Estacada, and Molalla. The program will include helping youth apply for higher education opportunities and financial aid, as well as providing career-specific college tours and site visits. Finally, the program will help participants secure a paid on-the-job training placement in a local healthcare business in their community. These program elements will further the educational and employment opportunities for participants and help them develop their network of professional contacts and advisors.	Clackamas	communities of color; low-income communities; rural and frontier communities	\$500,000
<a href="#"><u>Cascadia Health, Inc.</u></a>	Cascadia Health and the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Multnomah will conduct two OHA-certified curricula pathways—one for Peer Support Specialists (PSS), and one for Peer Wellness Specialists (PWS)—and will adapt the PSS curriculum for three culturally specific workforces (veteran, LGBTQIA+, and BIPOC communities). In all, they will make available five curricula, 10 total training sessions to certify 200 PSS/PWS, and 20 hours of continuing education coursework to grow and help stabilize the adult mental health peer support workforce.	Multnomah	communities of color; low-income communities; women	\$453,046
<a href="#"><u>Familias en Acción</u></a>	Familias en Acción will provide health worker skill building and employment opportunities for Latinés through their culturally and linguistically specific workforce development program for Promotores de Salud/Community Health Workers (CHWs). The program includes: 1) training and support to secure state certification; 2) continuing education opportunities; 3) career coaching and job placement support. This project will involve three 90-hour CHW training cohorts per year; tuition support to make the training low-cost or no-cost to participants; curriculum development; IT/data support to improve data tracking and evaluation; building internal infrastructure to offer Oral Health training and Suicide Prevention training; and outreach and communications to assist with participant and facilitator recruitment.	Clackamas; Hood River; Marion; Multnomah; Polk; Umatilla; Washington; Yamhill	communities of color; low-income communities; women	\$500,000

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<p><a href="#"><u>HIV Alliance</u></a></p>	<p>HIV Alliance will develop and retain a highly skilled and diverse healthcare workforce, including BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, women, rural/frontier, and low-income workers, and workers with the lived experience of substance use disorder. These professionals, based in offices in six Oregon counties, will provide a range of prevention, navigation/support, medical, and behavioral healthcare services to marginalized and at-risk people. This project will give HIV Alliance the opportunity to implement promising workforce development and retention strategies for more than 150 healthcare workers. It will reduce barriers to engagement with the community-based healthcare sector and enhance healthcare delivery by and for underserved community members.</p>	<p>Coos; Douglas; Jackson; Josephine; Lane; Marion</p>	<p>communities of color; LGBTQ+ individuals; low-income communities</p>	<p>\$500,000</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Klamath Union High School</u></a></p>	<p>Klamath Union High School will create a new Health Occupations Program to provide access to high-wage, high-demand jobs and expand existing partnerships with Sky Lakes Medical Center, Klamath Community College, and Oregon Tech. This program will be modeled after existing programs that Sky Lakes has developed with Henley and Mazama High Schools to help address the need for skilled workers in the medical field by creating more equitable student access to healthcare jobs and pathways to employment.</p>	<p>Klamath</p>	<p>communities of color; low-income communities</p>	<p>\$440,843</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>La Clinica del Valle Family Health Care Center, Inc.</u></a></p>	<p>La Clinica’s project aims to develop and expand career pathways in the behavioral health sector, enhancing the diversity and number of certified and licensed providers. La Clinica will offer paid work experience, training, mentoring, and clinical supervision to diverse participants, guiding them through state licensing and certification processes and necessary academic programs. Participants will gain skills in mental health counseling, family support, drug and alcohol counseling, crisis intervention, peer support, and skills training. The project is designed to create inclusive, culturally appropriate career-connected learning and employment opportunities, and prioritizes equity by recruiting underrepresented groups, including bilingual/bicultural individuals, those with addiction/recovery lived experience, lower-income individuals, and LGBTQIA+ members.</p>	<p>Jackson</p>	<p>communities of color; LGBTQ+ individuals; low-income communities</p>	<p>\$839,879</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Lane Education Service District</u></a></p>	<p>Lane Education Service District (LESD) will establish a high school behavioral health services pathway via the Lane Career Academy model, which delivers curriculum and training to high school students at their home school and at industry partner sites. Upon completion of this culturally relevant, regional Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathway, students will be prepared for further education and careers in settings such as mental health agencies, social service organizations, substance abuse treatment centers, schools, hospitals, in-home healthcare settings, and more. The first year of implementation will involve creating engagement plans, scoping research, interviewing industry, education, and community partners, designing programming, and developing curriculum. In year two, LESD will conduct the pathway pilot in three to five high schools, prioritizing rural and underserved communities.</p>	<p>Lane</p>	<p>communities of color; rural and frontier communities</p>	<p>\$1,000,000</p>

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<p><a href="#"><u>Nehalem Bay Health Center and Pharmacy</u></a></p>	<p>Nehalem Bay Health Center and Pharmacy, working in partnership with their region’s Rural Health Network, proposes the innovative, new Pathways to Equity in Tillamook County project. Pathways to Equity will create healthcare career pathways for community members in priority populations and for Nehalem Bay Health Center and Pharmacy staff. These pathways will address Tillamook County healthcare workforce needs. Priority populations to be served include communities of color, with a particular emphasis on the Latinx community; rural communities; and members of the LGBTQ+ community.</p>	<p>Tillamook</p>	<p>communities of color; LGBTQ+ individuals; rural and frontier communities</p>	<p>\$500,000</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Northeast Oregon Network</u></a></p>	<p>The Northeast Oregon Network (NEON) Community Health Worker (CHW) Training Hub Project will create a satellite and hub training program in 10 counties in the Gorge and mid-Willamette regions in Oregon. The Hub will provide onsite, hybrid, culturally responsive recruitment and training to 90 new CHWs from communities of color and low-income communities. The project will focus on upskilling and career pathway development for an additional 110 current CHWs by providing supervisor and train-the-trainer training to experienced CHWs. NEON will use its existing training infrastructure, the Oregon Coalition of Local Health Official’s (CLHO) scholarship and expertise in wraparound support services, and the Bridges to Health and Mid-Willamette Valley Action Agency’s deep community relationships to realize the project’s goals.</p>	<p>Gilliam; Hood River; Jefferson; Marion; Morrow; Polk; Sherman; Wasco; Wheeler; Yamhill</p>	<p>communities of color; low-income communities</p>	<p>\$351,512</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center, Inc. and Rosemary Anderson High School</u></a></p>	<p>The Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center (POIC) and Rosemary Anderson High School (RAHS) Healthcare Careers Pathway project will use POIC’s Workforce Opportunities Training (WOT) program to engage 45 low-income young adults of color over a two-year period. The project will provide students and graduates of RAHS, as well as out-of-school young adults, with workforce readiness training, postsecondary education support, and career coaching—helping support them in obtaining employment in healthcare. The project also prepares participants to enter a healthcare certificate program at a local community college, provided through one of POIC and RAHS’s community partners, and supports participants with internship/job placement services for one year following certificate completion. Finally, POIC and RAHS will connect all workforce trainees with wraparound support services to support retention and project success.</p>	<p>Clackamas; Multnomah; Washington</p>	<p>communities of color; incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals; low-income communities</p>	<p>\$500,000</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Portland State University</u></a></p>	<p>The Fostering Oregon’s Workforce in Advanced and Restorative Healthcare Program at Portland State University (FORWARD PSU) aims to prepare a cohort of 30 American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) undergraduate students to pursue a terminal degree in a health professions program—Master of Public Health (MPH), Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD), Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD), or Doctor of Medicine (MD)—and enter critical healthcare roles in Oregon. Developed through a partnership between PSU and Oregon Health &amp; Science University’s (OHSU’s) Northwest Native American Center for Excellence (NNACoE), FORWARD PSU will identify undergraduate AI/AN students on healthcare pathways and engage them in a holistic, paid 15-month intensive, including clinical internships, multitiered mentorship, and culturally responsive curriculum to help ensure future AI/AN representation in Oregon’s healthcare workforce.</p>	<p>Multnomah</p>	<p>communities of color; members of Oregon Tribes</p>	<p>\$1,229,321</p>

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<p><a href="#"><u>Project Youth+</u></a></p>	<p>College Dreams' Project Youth+, a nonprofit workforce development provider in Southern Oregon, proposes the HealthPlus Innovation in Health Pathways (HIP) project. This project will offer various healthcare career pathway opportunities to 100 low-income youth, ages 16-24, from rural communities. Career exploration and training include a three-day HealthPlus Explorers Cohort, paid work experience at one of the Project Youth+ partner facilities (such as hospitals and retirement communities), and healthcare certifications including Certified Nurse Assistant, Medical Assistant, Certified Medication Aide, and Phlebotomy. The project will also provide comprehensive wraparound support to ensure participant success.</p>	<p>Jackson; Josephine</p>	<p>low-income communities; rural and frontier communities</p>	<p>\$500,000</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>The Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization</u></a></p>	<p>The Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization (IRCO) will create equitable healthcare career pathways with quality wages for immigrant, refugee, and other healthcare career jobseekers of color, ages 16+. This project will include culturally specific strengths-based outreach, career mapping/planning and occupational training, links to trainings for licensing providers, as well as job search assistance, placement, and retention services.</p>	<p>Clackamas; Multnomah; Washington</p>	<p>communities of color; low-income communities</p>	<p>\$500,000</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Western Oregon University</u></a></p>	<p>Western Oregon University's program will address the shortage of bilingual mental health professionals by recruiting Spanish-speaking bilingual (and multilingual) students interested in behavioral health careers. Students will receive scholarships, wraparound supports, cultural competency training, and earn-to-learn opportunities. WOU is partnering with Polk and Marion counties to provide students with supervised work experience and training under the guidance of licensed professionals. Interface Network is a community-based organization that will help with participant outreach, cultural competency training, engagement and funding for transportation, childcare services, or technology, if needed, to further reduce barriers to participation for students from diverse communities. The proposed program will create a behavioral health training pathway from community college to bachelor's degrees, graduate degrees, and postgraduate clinical supervision.</p>	<p>Marion; Polk</p>	<p>communities of color; low-income communities; women</p>	<p>\$2,000,000</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Willamette Education Service District</u></a></p>	<p>Willamette Education Service District's Building Blocks for Health Care Futures (BBHCF) will expand two Health Services programs, serving up to 75 high school students enrolled at Willamette Career Academy (WCA) annually. WCA is a regional Career and Technical Education (CTE) center operated by the Willamette Education Service District, which serves students from multiple regional school districts. The first of the two Health Services programs is a new Medical Interpreting credential for students who speak Spanish and are currently participating in WCA's Medical Assisting (MA) or Dental Assisting (DA) programs. In the second Health Services program, MA and DA students can earn a Certified Nursing Assistant 1 (CNA1) credential through paid work experience at Salem Health.</p>	<p>Marion; Polk; Yamhill</p>	<p>communities of color; low-income communities</p>	<p>\$499,332</p>

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<b>Workforce Ready Grants in Healthcare – Nursing Career Pathways</b>				
<a href="#"><u>Blue Mountain Community College</u></a>	Blue Mountain Community College’s (BMCC) Health Horizons in Eastern Oregon (HHEO) project will enhance healthcare career pathways in Eastern Oregon by streamlining the Medical Assisting (MA) Certificate program, upgrading lab equipment, and developing immersive technology to introduce high school students to healthcare careers. HHEO aims to improve bilingual and Hispanic representation in the healthcare workforce and create new entry points into healthcare fields. BMCC will collaborate with local medical facilities, a tribal health center, and high school career programs to support this initiative and address regional healthcare workforce needs.	Baker; Morrow; Umatilla	communities of color; low-income communities; rural and frontier communities	\$788,015
<a href="#"><u>Bushnell University</u></a>	Bushnell University’s Paving a Pathway to Practice (PPP) is an outreach-education-mentorship pilot program. The goal is to help relieve Oregon’s nursing shortage by recruiting, training, and retaining new licensed, bachelor’s degree-level nurses who are low-income, women, and/or choose to work in rural hospitals. Mentorship opportunities with healthcare providers and wraparound services will address the employee retention gap in rural healthcare settings for Lane County. This collaborative effort by Bushnell University’s School of Nursing, PeaceHealth Oregon, and Lane Workforce Partnership will remove financial and practical barriers to enrollment, train student nurses quickly and effectively for clinical care, place students into mentor-supported practice settings, and create a sustainable source of nurse leaders.	Lane	low-income communities; rural and frontier communities; women	\$1,000,000
<a href="#"><u>Chemeketa Community College</u></a>	Chemeketa Community College will eliminate barriers to nursing careers by leveraging partnerships to create accessible, accelerated pathways. The project will use an Integrated Education and Training (IET) model to offer embedded and contextualized support to increase the number of individuals becoming certified through the Medical Assisting Program. Additionally, it will address the need for more Registered Nurse (RN) graduates by developing and implementing a hybrid “LPN-to-RN” program separate from Chemeketa’s traditional RN program, reducing barriers that prevent working Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) from transitioning into registered nursing careers, and enhancing access for those who could not participate in or complete the conventional program. This project will focus on expanding education and training, job placement, and career advancement into nursing careers.	Linn; Marion; Polk; Yamhill	communities of color; low-income communities; rural and frontier communities	\$1,000,000
<a href="#"><u>Columbia Health Services</u></a>	Columbia Health Services (CHS) will increase its capacity to prepare students from communities of color to be trained in high wage, in-demand healthcare professions. At present, the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) program has 37 students, with a total of 40 students registered for the program in Fall 2024. This funding will allow CHS to serve this increased student population, implement focused recruitment and meaningful engagement in planning and capacity building to continue to grow the existing program. The program will also include stipends for students working in a healthcare workplace training program and increase awareness of the program among communities of color.	Columbia	communities of color	\$440,733

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<p><a href="#"><u>Oregon Health &amp; Science University</u></a></p>	<p>OHSU’s project, Recruitment and Retention of Nurse Educators to Advance Nursing Capacity and Health Equity, will: 1) recruit and retain registered nurses from underrepresented communities, including communities of color and rural/frontier communities, to become nurse educators to advance nursing education capacity; and, 2) evaluate the impact and support for educational certification as a retention strategy for nurse educators in Oregon. The project will expand career pathways for registered nurses, and aims to address the nursing shortage by resolving the nursing faculty shortage.</p>	<p>Jackson; Klamath; Marion; Multnomah; Union</p>	<p>communities of color; rural and frontier communities; women</p>	<p>\$732,620</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Portland Community College</u></a></p>	<p>Portland Community College (PCC) will deliver a revitalized Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) education program and expand it as part of a nursing career pathway to RN and beyond. This project includes partnering with employers to upskill workers in healthcare-adjacent occupations; providing holistic coaching and other wraparound supports, including financial assistance; offering Integrated Education and Training (IET) cohorts for English language learners; creating a college credit option for the training; leveraging partnerships to maximize access and success for members of communities of color and low-income communities; and further developing the nursing pathway in collaboration with workforce and community partners.</p>	<p>Clackamas; Columbia; Multnomah; Washington; Yamhill</p>	<p>communities of color; low-income communities</p>	<p>\$842,773</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Providence Health &amp; Services - Oregon</u></a></p>	<p>The Providence “Earn-to-Learn PCT to CNA Program” will hire and upskill women, low-income, and rural community members. It will hire and/or enroll 108 entry-level caregivers as Patient Care Technicians (PCTs) and train them to obtain state certification as Certified Nursing Assistant 1 (CNA) within 3-4 months. This program will bring a traveling instructor to rural locations, provide all participant costs/supplies, and conduct trainings within work hours in Clatsop, Yamhill, Clackamas, and Washington counties. These program aspects help eliminate the barriers of distance to training, personal finances, and time in order to promote career advancement for priority populations and address Oregon’s healthcare staffing shortage.</p>	<p>Clackamas; Clatsop; Washington; Yamhill</p>	<p>low-income communities; rural and frontier communities; women</p>	<p>\$621,992</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>RISE Partnership</u></a></p>	<p>The RISE Partnership Nursing Career Pathway Program will expand existing education and training programs to encourage Oregonians to enter the direct care workforce, and guide and support their career development. The program will include three phases: 1) recruitment and training of homecare workers, 2) advancing homecare workers into Certified Nursing Assistant roles; 3) developing Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) into Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) pathways. The program is focused on building career pathways for long-term care workers, who according to a recent analysis by the Professional Healthcare Institute (PHI), are disproportionately women of color and live at or near the poverty line. The RISE Partnership Program will include free training, tuition support, financial stipends, wraparound support services to mitigate barriers to learning, paid licensing fees, career coaching, and job placement services.</p>	<p>Benton; Clackamas; Deschutes; Jackson; Josephine; Lane; Marion; Multnomah; Polk; Umatilla; Washington; Yamhill</p>	<p>communities of color; low-income communities; women</p>	<p>\$2,000,000</p>

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<p><a href="#"><u>Rogue Community College</u></a></p>	<p>The Expanding Nursing Pathways project will build upon Rogue Community College's existing 2023 Workforce Ready Grant project for Registered Nursing (RN) by implementing two innovative components: 1) integrating virtual reality (VR) simulation training experiences into the RN program, and 2) developing curriculum to incorporate the existing Practical Nursing (PN) program into the first year of the RN program.</p>	<p>Jackson; Josephine</p>	<p>low-income communities; rural and frontier communities; women</p>	<p>\$435,410</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center</u></a></p>	<p>Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center (VGMHC) will expand their Workforce Development and Clinical Training Program, designed to train, prepare, and credential Latiné community members in healthcare professions. The project will strengthen workforce pathways for Medical Assistants (MAs) and Registered Nurses (RNs) by funding three key training positions and direct supports for participants working to earn MA certifications and RN licenses. The project will expand their workforce development program launched in 2021 to meet the growing need for healthcare professionals in the organization and region, specifically MAs and RNs who share the cultural background and languages of VGMHC patients. Their “grow our own” strategy ensures workforce participants reflect the population served, are culturally competent, and bilingual/bicultural.</p>	<p>Washington</p>	<p>communities of color; low-income communities</p>	<p>\$710,318</p>

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<b>Workforce Ready Grants in Manufacturing</b>				
<a href="#"><u>Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council</u></a>	The Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council (COIC) will expand its employment program by partnering with local manufacturers across Deschutes, Jefferson, and Crook counties, including a prominent HVAC company. This initiative is designed to support returning citizens, adults in custody (AICs), and other vulnerable populations facing employment barriers by offering specialized training, industry-recognized certifications, and hands-on work experience. The goal is to accelerate their entry into manufacturing careers. COIC will also deploy its Mobile Employment Resource Van to rural communities, homeless shelters, and other underserved areas, ensuring access to vital employment resources, personalized training, and support services. Beyond technical skills, COIC provides comprehensive wraparound services such as on-the-job training, career guidance, and ongoing support, equipping participants with tools for long-term success and self-sufficiency.	Crook; Deschutes; Jefferson	incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals; low-income communities; rural and frontier communities	\$301,759
<a href="#"><u>Centro Cultural del Condado de Washington</u></a>	Centro will use a comprehensive approach to engage Latino families in manufacturing careers. Activities will span from the earliest school grades to experienced workers needing a career change. The project includes three aspects: 1) K-12 outreach, career awareness and exploration, 2) young adult earn-and-learn opportunities, and 3) training for at least 60 adults who would benefit from upskilling and entering the workforce, providing cost-free training and other supports (including earn-and-learn opportunities) to enter careers in areas such as semiconductors, welding, small machinery, winery production, advanced manufacturing, or other high-demand occupations.	Multnomah; Washington	communities of color; low-income communities	\$500,823
<a href="#"><u>Chemeketa Community College</u></a>	The Mobile Learning Lab for Manufacturing, led by Chemeketa Community College and Mid-Willamette Education Consortium (MWEC), will transform manufacturing education in the college's and MWEC's region through innovative partnerships and technologies. Central to the initiative are virtual reality (VR) simulators, offering hands-on experiences in realistic manufacturing settings for skills like welding and equipment operation. These simulations will bolster technical skills and confidence, preparing participants for real-world challenges. The project will prioritize industry certifications like OSHA 10 and pre-apprenticeship training, ensuring graduates meet industry standards. The lab will optimize learning outcomes and guide students through diverse manufacturing pathways. Cultural inclusivity will be promoted through partnerships with local organizations, making resources accessible and relevant to diverse backgrounds. The lab will develop a comprehensive approach to manufacturing education, fostering equity, and preparing students for successful careers.	Lincoln; Linn; Marion; Polk; Yamhill	communities of color; low-income communities; rural and frontier communities	\$1,000,000
<a href="#"><u>City of Hillsboro</u></a>	This project will expand the Advanced Manufacturing Training and Education Coalition of Hillsboro (AMTECH). The City of Hillsboro, in collaboration with multiple school districts, will significantly increase K-12 outreach and exposure to the manufacturing industry throughout western Washington County, the most diverse county in Oregon. Through events, community gatherings, and collaboration with community-based organizations, the City will increase community engagement and access to related manufacturing career pathways and training throughout the diverse Washington County community, in alignment with regional manufacturing workforce needs and initiatives.	Washington	communities of color; rural and frontier communities; women	\$500,000

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<p><a href="#"><u>Clackamas Community College</u></a></p>	<p>Clackamas Community College’s Fab*Your*Future project will bring together 20 partner organizations to expand access to training and careers for communities of color and low-income communities in the region. The college will launch a new hands-on welding course offered entirely in Spanish. Designed specifically for English language learners, this career awareness opportunity will introduce students to a career pathway. The project also includes earn-and-learn opportunities in renewable energy infrastructure, industrial maintenance, and welding career pathways. Fab*Your*Future is student-centered, with equity as its core guiding principle, and is designed to reach participants where they are, while ensuring a positive, successful learning experience that leads to high-wage, high-demand careers.</p>	<p>Clackamas</p>	<p>communities of color; low-income communities</p>	<p>\$1,000,000</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Clackamas Workforce Partnership</u></a></p>	<p>Through a partnership with The Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization (IRCO), Clackamas Workforce Partnership’s (CWP) Manufacturing for All (MFA) program will increase the number of skilled jobseekers available to local manufacturers by expanding CWP/IRCO’s capacity to provide manufacturing-specific career services. One hundred low-income youth, ages 16-24, from communities of color will participate in career service activities, including career planning, job shadowing, exploration of training opportunities, wraparound supports for success, essential employability skills training, paid internships, and advanced manufacturing programs of study. MFA will increase engagement in career pathways to manufacturing positions, providing equitable opportunity for youth participants, and expanding the number of skilled jobseekers available to employers.</p>	<p>Clackamas</p>	<p>communities of color</p>	<p>\$632,125</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Consejo Hispano</u></a></p>	<p>La Cocina &amp; Tortillería is a workforce development and training program for Latinx youth (ages 16+) and Latinas, focusing on the food manufacturing industry. The program includes a commercial kitchen to support the production of culturally specific goods for consumption, providing participants with technical, business, and leadership skills. Consejo Hispano will expand existing certifications and training, improving financial stability and career opportunities for participants by equipping them with industry-relevant skills and credentials, while also addressing local workforce needs in the manufacturing sector.</p>	<p>Clatsop</p>	<p>communities of color; low-income communities; rural and frontier communities</p>	<p>\$500,000</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Golden Rule ReEntry</u></a></p>	<p>Golden Rule ReEntry (GRR) will continue its Prison to Prosperity residential Manufacturing Workforce Development program for formerly incarcerated adults. GRR’s program includes manufacturing training, as well as wraparound supports with case management, life skills, essential employability skills, financial literacy, nutrition education, tech-competency, community-service, and a social safety net. The intensive six-month program is followed by six additional months of reentry/recovery housing, allowing participants to remain in place, while gaining employment in the manufacturing field or studying manufacturing at Rogue Community College. GRR’s training program will reach beyond the core residential cohort by being available to all participants who come to GRR’s Medford Drop-In Center, which offers life skills development classes, a hang-out lounge, case management, and peer resources.</p>	<p>Jackson; Josephine; Klamath</p>	<p>incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals</p>	<p>\$683,794</p>

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<p><a href="#"><u>iUrban Teen</u></a></p>	<p>This project aims to empower youth and adults from communities of color in three counties in Oregon by providing a comprehensive pathway into STEM internships and manufacturing careers. Through a series of summits, workshops, and hands-on training programs focused on semiconductor manufacturing, participants will gain exposure to in-demand fields, develop essential skills, and build connections with industry professionals. This initiative will leverage the expertise and resources of Clackamas Community College, Oregon Tradeswomen, and iUrban Teen, creating a collaborative effort to foster diversity and inclusion in the workforce. By equipping participants with the tools and knowledge to succeed, this project will drive economic mobility and strengthen the community.</p>	<p>Clackamas; Multnomah; Washington</p>	<p>communities of color</p>	<p>\$847,208</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Klamath County School District (Mazama High School)</u></a></p>	<p>Klamath County School District will renovate and revitalize Mazama High School’s woodshop, creating a modern learning environment that mirrors the dynamic world of manufacturing. The district’s investment in cutting-edge, industry-standard equipment will empower students to earn industry-recognized credentials and pre-apprenticeships, setting them on a path to high-skill, high-wage careers. This initiative is designed to prepare students and provide the local economy with a skilled workforce.</p>	<p>Klamath</p>	<p>communities of color; low-income communities; women</p>	<p>\$302,793</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency</u></a></p>	<p>Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency (MWVCAA), in collaboration with SEDCOR and Chemeketa Community College, will provide comprehensive employment and industry-specific education opportunities to incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals in Marion and Polk counties. By consulting local manufacturing employers, MWVCAA has identified in-demand skillsets and will provide training opportunities in line with employer feedback. Incarcerated and formerly incarcerated clients will have priority access to education and workforce training, wraparound supports, such as resource navigation, and connections with employers in the manufacturing field, thereby increasing career success and self-reliance, and reducing recidivism. Alongside traditional certifications, participants will also earn microcredentials through innovative digital badges.</p>	<p>Marion; Polk</p>	<p>incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals; low-income communities; rural and frontier communities</p>	<p>\$500,000</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Northwest Oregon Works</u></a></p>	<p>Northwest Oregon Works will partner with five community colleges across its service area to increase outreach, enrollment, and completions among rural youth in manufacturing-related Career and Technical Education (CTE) and earn-and-learn programs. Supported programs will include a new pre-apprenticeship, a new advanced manufacturing pre-trades certification, a welding program with new manufacturing/fabrication curriculum, as well as internship programs partnered with manufacturing-sector businesses. Programs will serve K-12 and community college students and work with manufacturing sector partners to provide participants career exploration and exposure.</p>	<p>Benton; Clatsop; Columbia; Lincoln; Tillamook</p>	<p>incarcerated and formerly incarcerated communities; rural and frontier communities; women</p>	<p>\$1,000,000</p>

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<p><a href="#"><u>Oregon State University (Mechanized Harvesting Laboratory)</u></a></p>	<p>The Oregon State University (OSU) Mechanized Harvesting Laboratory will partner with Umpqua Community College (UCC), Melcher Logging, Papé Machinery, John Deere, Associated Oregon Loggers, and the Future Natural Resources Leaders to deliver the following training certificates through OSU’s computer-based forest harvesting machine simulators: 1) Forest Machine Management Certificate: OSU undergraduate certificate for managers of mechanized forest harvesting operations; 2) Mechanized Forestry Technician Certificate: UCC certificate focused on training forestry technicians capable of implementing mechanized harvesting operations; 3) Forest Machine Operator Certificate: OSU Professional and Continuing Education certificate providing upskill training for operating modern forest harvesting equipment; and 4) Introduction to Mechanized Forest Harvesting: OSU PACE certificate available to high school students participating in the Career and Technical Education (CTE) simulator program.</p>	<p>Benton; Douglas; Jackson; Lane; Linn; Tillamook; Willowa</p>	<p>communities of color; rural and frontier communities; women</p>	<p>\$383,730</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Oregon State University (Veterans Semiconductor Upskilling)</u></a></p>	<p>Oregon State University (OSU) proposes an evidence-based training and upskilling initiative, VETS-UP (Veterans Semiconductor Upskilling), that will close skills gaps and prepare veterans for careers in the semiconductor industry. It includes: 1) paid internships at Analog Devices, Inc., in their semiconductor training facility; 2) add-on online modules that count for academic credit; 3) tuition scholarships and promotion of OSU semiconductor educational programs; and 4) wraparound resources for veterans to secure family-wage jobs in the industry.</p>	<p>Benton; Washington</p>	<p>veterans</p>	<p>\$1,000,000</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Sheridan School District 48J</u></a></p>	<p>Sheridan School District (SSD) will complete next steps in the development of the Manufacturing pathway at the Barbara Roberts Career Technical Education Center (BRCTEC). Once completed, BRCTEC will offer career technical education to multiple underserved, rural school districts across the Western Willamette Valley alongside adults reintegrating into the workforce from the federal prison in Sheridan. SSD will focus on addressing: 1) developing curriculum in collaboration with future end users, local manufacturing sector businesses, and industry advisors; and 2) purchasing state-of-the-art, industry-specific equipment for the Manufacturing pathway.</p>	<p>Polk; Yamhill</p>	<p>incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals; members of Oregon Tribes; rural and frontier communities</p>	<p>\$500,000</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Umpqua Community College</u></a></p>	<p>Career Ready Umpqua (CRU) is a program designed by Umpqua Community College (UCC) in partnership with local manufacturers to allow rural and low-income students to explore careers in Douglas County’s manufacturing sector. The CRU program incorporates K-12 outreach, recruitment events, facilities tours, mentorship opportunities, professional skills workshops, scholarships incentives, and a competitive paid internship experience for students in Mechatronics, Engineering, Welding, and Forestry. The CRU program will serve at least 100 students, focusing on those with low incomes from rural and frontier communities. Students will have clearer, well-supported pathways from education to the manufacturing workforce in which they can earn family-supporting wages and contribute Oregon’s manufacturing sector.</p>	<p>Douglas</p>	<p>low-income communities; rural and frontier communities</p>	<p>\$500,000</p>

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<p><a href="#"><u>Unidos Bridging Community</u></a></p>	<p>Unidos Bridging Community’s collaborative project aims to expand their Level Up program, a multifaceted approach to advancing intergenerational wealth-building of Latinx families by increasing equitable participation in economic mobility and workforce development. Level Up creates pathways to viable careers for Latinx youth, ages 18-25, through paid internships, including coaching and training in essential employability skills. These skills include communication, problem-solving, critical thinking, professionalism, teamwork, networking, interviewing, and financial literacy. Participants will engage in eight-week earn-and-learn internships and job training opportunities at local manufacturing employers. Unidos partners at Chemeketa Community College will assist with enrollment in their welding or manufacturing certificate programs. Unidos will provide culturally tailored mentorship and wraparound support services to ensure participants complete the certificate program and their internships.</p>	<p>Yamhill</p>	<p>communities of color; low-income communities; rural and frontier communities</p>	<p>\$959,691</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>West Linn-Wilsonville School District 3Jt</u></a></p>	<p>This project will launch a new Career &amp; Technical Education program at Wilsonville High School and scale up an existing program at West Linn High School. The project will reach 400 high school students annually, allowing them to explore careers in manufacturing and gain technical skills. The project is designed to recruit and support female participants, students of color, and students experiencing a disability. This program will provide students: 1) hands-on training in a machine shop and through the use of virtual reality simulations; 2) dual credit, giving a head start toward postsecondary education; 3) connections with role models from diverse backgrounds who provide mentorship; 4) wraparound supports to help participants be successful; and 5) a manufacturing pre-apprenticeship certificate upon completion.</p>	<p>Clackamas</p>	<p>communities of color; persons with disabilities; women</p>	<p>\$500,000</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Worksystems, Inc.</u></a></p>	<p>In partnership with Portland Community College, Mt. Hood Community College, semiconductor employers, and community partners, the proposed project will train 270 participants from priority populations in the Quick Start to Semiconductor program. Training cost-of-living stipends will be provided for all program participants so they can earn while they learn.</p>	<p>Multnomah; Washington</p>	<p>communities of color; low-income communities; women</p>	<p>\$1,000,000</p>

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<b>Workforce Ready Grants in Technology</b>				
<a href="#"><u><b>Afghan Support Network</b></u></a>	The Afghan Information Technology Career Program will train 100 Afghan refugees in Oregon to prepare them for careers in the information technology (IT) field. Afghan Support Network will provide culturally appropriate training geared towards achieving certifications valued by the IT profession and positioning them for future employment. In addition to the training, Afghan Support Network will provide career coaching, vocational English classes, and other wraparound services to support refugees and remove barriers to success. Afghan Support Network anticipates having at least 75 Afghan refugees entering the IT profession by the end of the grant period.	Clackamas; Marion; Multnomah; Polk; Washington	communities of color; low-income communities	\$623,902
<a href="#"><u><b>Apprenti</b></u></a>	Apprenti will grow a new technology workforce focused on women, communities of color, individuals with disabilities and veterans through Registered Apprenticeship Programs (RAP) in technology occupations throughout Oregon. Apprenti will conduct outreach to identify employers with mid-level career opportunities in tech. Apprenti will educate and engage with these employers to build a sustainable pathway to careers for underrepresented groups, as part of a long-term workforce strategy. Apprenti will partner with Oregon workforce boards statewide to identify the needs of apprentices and to provide wraparound services to support apprentices to minimize barriers to successful program completion.	Oregon	communities of color; persons with disabilities; veterans; women	\$400,000
<a href="#"><u><b>Chemeketa Community College</b></u></a>	Chemeketa Community College’s project will support access to careers in computer information systems and cybersecurity by recruiting students to the field through funding Computer Information Systems Certificate coursework and supporting the Tech Support Specialist Apprenticeship. Chemeketa currently has an application under review with the Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) to be the statewide intermediary for the Apprenticeship. This Workforce Ready Grant will support the program launch (once approved by BOLI), while simultaneously serving non-apprenticeship students through recruitment of underrepresented students, tuition-free coursework, increased advising, and a focus on student engagement with specialized learning opportunities in the tech field.	Linn; Marion; Polk; Yamhill	communities of color; LGBTQ+ individuals; low-income communities; women	\$297,443
<a href="#"><u><b>Eastern Oregon University (Acquisition of Computer and Technical Skills)</b></u></a>	The Eastern Oregon University Acquisition of Computer and Technical Skills (EOU-ACTS) project will provide cybersecurity training for 70 Computer Science students and Information Technology (IT) internships for six students at Eastern Oregon University (EOU) over two years, from July 2024 to June 2026. The project will prioritize students from rural Eastern Oregon communities, low-income students, and women. The program will extend existing academic coursework by providing hands-on IT network support and cybersecurity training. Students will use Cybersecurity training platforms to learn current cyber defense techniques. IT interns will learn to replace network infrastructure, manage critical services, integrate artificial intelligence (AI) tools, and implement VPNs with the EOU IT department. Students can earn academic credit for the cybersecurity training and IT internships, in addition to receiving monetary support provided by the grant funding.	Union	low-income communities; rural and frontier communities; women	\$1,142,977

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<p><a href="#"><u>Eastern Oregon University (Greater Oregon STEM Hub)</u></a></p>	<p>Greater Oregon STEM Hub (GO STEM) will hire a Technology Workforce Exploration Educator (TWEE) to develop and provide technology-focused lessons via EOU’s established Mobile Maker Lab Effort (MMLE), and act as the expert-in-residence to empower local educators to craft lessons tailored to the local community and region, harnessing the power of artificial intelligence (AI). This added team member will enable GO STEM to deliver more comprehensive workforce development education across Eastern Oregon through a deeply personalized career-focused curriculum, as well as through an innovative train-the-trainer model for regional educators to bolster school-to-workforce connections.</p>	<p>Baker; Grant; Harney; Morrow; Umatilla; Union; Wallowa</p>	<p>rural and frontier communities</p>	<p>\$444,999</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Nonprofit Technology Enterprise Network</u></a></p>	<p>The Open Source Fellowship (OSF) will recruit, educate, and train neurodivergent individuals, ages 18-35, including those with dyslexia, ADHD, and autism spectrum disorders who are interested in advancing their technology and open source development careers. The OSF program will also include opportunities for learning and capacity building for staff in nonprofit organizations and technology companies through Fellow work placements, online and offline training, and networking events. Fellows will receive training as full-stack developers, contributing to open source projects for local nonprofits. The innovative program was developed by practitioners with lived neurodiversity experiences, emphasizing evidence-based practices, financial accessibility, and wraparound supports to build equitable opportunities for participants. By addressing systemic challenges and leveraging participatory approaches, the fellowship OSF aims to improve employment outcomes while advancing inclusive opportunities for neurodivergent professionals.</p>	<p>Clackamas; Columbia; Multnomah; Washington; Yamhill</p>	<p>persons with disabilities</p>	<p>\$666,880</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Oregon Institute of Technology (UX Writing, Design, and Research)</u></a></p>	<p>This project aims to: 1) develop a training program that provides upskilling/reskilling in user experience (UX) writing, research, and design, and 2) build awareness of transferable technology skills in UX to a range of occupations. It will serve the state workforce growth interest by creating hands-on, engaged learning experiences that will help Oregonians develop UX skills for positions across technology industries. Through hands-on class projects and a paid apprenticeship, certificate students will learn user-centered design, use cases, design principles and theory, accessibility, user research methods, and industry-standard UX tools. Certificate students can pursue career opportunities as UX professionals in fields like software development, information technology (IT), mechanical and medical device engineering, and instructional design and education.</p>	<p>Oregon</p>	<p>low-income communities; rural and frontier communities; women</p>	<p>\$500,000</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Oregon Institute of Technology (Applied Computing)</u></a></p>	<p>The “Applied Computing Training for Upskilling and Reskilling Professionals” project aims to equip professionals from underserved communities with essential concepts and tools in applied computing, covering topics from system architecture to data science methodologies. The program’s key objectives are to develop a skilled workforce by equipping participants with the technical skills and knowledge required for high-demand careers, facilitate professional development through specialized training and mentorship, promote continuous learning habits to keep pace with evolving technologies, provide problem-solving support for real-world challenges through applied research and collaboration, and encourage knowledge exchange in a collaborative environment. By achieving these goals, the project aims to ensure that participants from underserved communities gain the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively navigate and utilize technology-driven environments.</p>	<p>Klamath</p>	<p>members of Oregon Tribes; veterans; women</p>	<p>\$709,546</p>

**Workforce Ready Grants, Round 3: Sector-focused Grants in Healthcare, Manufacturing, and Technology (2024) – Preliminary Project Descriptions**

<p><a href="#"><u>Oregon State University (College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences)</u></a></p>	<p>Geospatial Internship &amp; Skills Training for Employment and Professional development (GIS-STEP) is a collaborative, evidence-based innovative workforce partnership between Oregon State University, Central Oregon Community College, Blue Mountain Community College, and employers, creating geospatial technology workforce ready cohorts to reskill and upskill incumbent workers. Participants will be employable in Oregon’s high-wage, high-demand geospatial information and technology industries due to their technical expertise, analytical skills, and hands-on work experience. GIS-STEP will cover tuition, fees, and books for in-person and/or online classes, career readiness training, and a paid GIS internship for 55 participants to pursue geospatial technology careers. Supporting educational equity, GIS-STEP will prioritize communities of color, low-income communities, and rural and frontier communities in Oregon.</p>	<p>Oregon</p>	<p>communities of color; low-income communities; rural and frontier communities</p>	<p>\$1,000,000</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Oregon State University (OSU Professional and Continuing Education)</u></a></p>	<p>Oregon State University’s (OSU’s) proposed PDX Software Career Accelerator program will provide underserved learners with 12-week boot camp-style programs taking place in convenient, accessible, and culturally relevant sites across Portland (for example, community centers and churches). Upon completion, participants will enter into nine-month apprenticeships connected to Portland-area employers—with guidance and support from program personnel throughout. This innovative, partnership-driven effort is designed to provide local industry with qualified professionals to meet growing demand for software and web developers in the Portland area.</p>	<p>Clackamas</p>	<p>communities of color; low-income communities; women</p>	<p>\$1,000,000</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Oregon TRIO Association</u></a></p>	<p>Oregon TRIO Association will launch an initiative aimed at strengthening its support for 55 TRIO programs across Oregon, directly impacting 300 students pursuing careers in technology. Oregon TRIO will hire a Workforce Readiness Director dedicated to leading practical workshops that introduce students to various technology careers and impart vital, versatile tech skills. Efforts will concentrate on middle and high school students from low-income, first-generation, rural, and BIPOC backgrounds. TRIO programs aim to raise awareness of tech career opportunities and encourage thorough exploration of high-tech fields throughout the state with the goal of preparing students with the essential skills and knowledge to succeed in the rapidly changing tech sector, contributing to long-term economic and personal growth.</p>	<p>Baker; Benton; Clatsop; Columbia; Coos; Crook; Curry; Deschutes; Douglas; Gilliam; Grant; Harney; Hood River; Jackson; Jefferson; Josephine; Klamath; Lake; Lane; Linn; Malheur; Marion; Morrow; Multnomah; Polk; Sherman; Umatilla; Union; Wallowa; Wasco; Wheeler; Yamhill</p>	<p>communities of color; low-income communities; rural and frontier communities</p>	<p>\$223,939</p>

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<p><a href="#"><u>Pacific University</u></a></p>	<p>Pacific University’s "Empowering Communities Through Student Leadership &amp; Technology Integration" program will leverage the talents of diverse College of Business students to support local Oregon businesses through technology. Over 1.5 years, the program will create three to five teams of three students each semester that will support small businesses in collaboration with Birdee Media. Each student-led team will assess a website and social media platforms, providing data analytic insights for business growth. This hands-on approach will teach students practical, technical, and digital skills while supporting business growth. The project will foster collaboration, aiming to enhance student employability and business success via a thorough assessment of customer-facing digital platforms. Learn more here: <a href="http://www.boxerbusinessfutures.com/">www.boxerbusinessfutures.com/</a></p>	<p>Washington</p>	<p>communities of color; women</p>	<p>\$525,100</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Portland State University</u></a></p>	<p>This collaborative project represents an innovative training program that will upskill and reskill tribal members in cybersecurity jobs. This partnership between Hatfield Cybersecurity and Cyber Defense Policy Center (part of Oregon Cybersecurity Center of Excellence - CCD/OCCOE), CISCO, Institute of Tribal Government, and Umpqua Technologies of the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians will build awareness and lower barriers to pursue careers in cybersecurity with an industry-recognized certification. This two-year program will include nine one-day-long introductory cybersecurity seminars held on tribal sites, followed by virtual advanced certificate options: (a) a no-cost 12-week noncredit cybersecurity resilience certificate at CCD/OCCOE, or (b) a selection of fee-based certificate trainings for those who prefer an industry option (with scholarships available).</p>	<p>Multnomah</p>	<p>members of Oregon Tribes</p>	<p>\$604,378</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Project Youth+</u></a></p>	<p>Project Youth+, a nonprofit in Southern Oregon, proposes the Rogue Valley NextGen Tech Hub project. This innovative initiative aims to bridge the digital skills gap among low-income rural youth in the Rogue Valley. By offering training in high-demand tech skills such as Python, data science, and artificial intelligence (AI), the project will address critical needs in the tech sector for a historically underserved population. The NextGen Tech Hub provides state-of-the-art technology access and comprehensive support services, overcoming multiple barriers faced by these youth. This holistic approach ensures participants are equipped with cutting-edge technical skills and the necessary support to succeed in their careers.</p>	<p>Jackson; Josephine</p>	<p>low-income communities; rural and frontier communities</p>	<p>\$605,964</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Ross Ragland Theater</u></a></p>	<p>The Ross Ragland Theater Pathways in Technology program will provide education and training opportunities with transferable technology skills in audiovisual (AV) training settings. The program raises awareness of AV technology occupations around theater-performance technologies. Participants can earn credit for a high school diploma, associate degree, or certificate and gain relevant work experience in a technical field. The program will provide paid internships, credit for prior learning, and course credit training on equipment in a professional theater environment. Participants working in this program can earn transferable education credit through articulation agreements with local high schools and higher education entities. Program participants will be prepared for employment in entry-level AV engineering areas. The program will broaden AV understanding and upskill participants in rural and low-income communities.</p>	<p>Klamath</p>	<p>low-income communities; rural and frontier communities; women</p>	<p>\$500,000</p>

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<p><a href="#"><u>University of Oregon</u></a></p>	<p>The Nurturing Inclusive Cybersecurity Education (NICE) project will lay the foundation for creating more equitable cybersecurity education programs in Oregon high schools and postsecondary institutions that focus on underrepresented students. The project includes three activity tracks: 1) engaging in outreach at several Oregon high schools with high populations of underrepresented students to inform, mentor, and support students in pursuing a postsecondary Cybersecurity degree; 2) curating a culturally responsive Cybersecurity curriculum for Oregon high schools with direct feedback from teachers and underrepresented students; and 3) improving the retention of underrepresented students in University of Oregon Cybersecurity programs by conducting a DEI audit of the Cybersecurity curriculum, and providing community-building, advising, tutoring, and job-placement support.</p>	<p>Benton; Deschutes; Lane; Marion; Polk; Washington; Yamhill</p>	<p>communities of color; low-income communities; women</p>	<p>\$500,000</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Warm Springs Community Action Team</u></a></p>	<p>This project will expand on Warm Spring Community Action Team’s Grow with Google certificate program to enable Warm Springs community members to complete training and find long-term career opportunities in the technology sector. Fifteen participants per year will have opportunities to complete an internship and create a portfolio, based on what they learn in their Grow with Google certificate program, gaining skills and increasing their competitiveness in the workforce.</p>	<p>Jefferson</p>	<p>low-income communities; members of Oregon Tribes; rural and frontier communities</p>	<p>\$452,991</p>