



25-27 Oregon Youth Corps Application - Open Questions & Answers - **Updated 11/21/24**

Link to grant application:

https://oregonhecc.smapply.us/prog/25-27_oregon_youth_corps_-_request_for_applications

Question:

Can our organization work in use 2 or more counties under one of the grant applications for On-the-Job Training?

Answer:

Yes, an organization can serve and work across more than one count. Within the application for each grant request, you can define which county you will do the majority of your work, and if your organizations selects to provide programming across more than one county, your application will not receive any priority points (should this application become competitive).

Question:

If our organization works with participants under the age of 18, does this mean we need to come to a higher level of insurance and is that reimbursable from the grant?

Answer:

If an organization intends to serve youth under 18, then that organization, if the application is successful and awarded, would be required to provide the Higher Education Coordinating Commission with an insurance policy certificate of coverage that includes Physical Abuse and Sexual Molestation. The reimbursable cost components for insurance are not a straightforward answer. If the applicant is successful and receives an award, please connect with your grant administrator for your organizations specific circumstance.

Question:

Why do we need to clarify whether motorboat or motor vehicle transportation is being provided for participant or program transportation needs?

Answer:

This question help informs insurance requirements and informs our agencies internal process for agreement development.

Question:

Is there an intent in writing the narrative for higher level technical skills to be provided to participants such as computer skills or other technical skills of that nature?

Answer:

This is not detailed in the RFA with a specific level of skill development. At this time is not the intent of the RFA to specify the specific level of skill development for your organization, only that the organizations provides opportunities to deliver workforce readiness skills and development opportunities. It is up to the applicant to share their impact in delivering workforce skills and their organizations approach. If this application becomes competitive, readers will evaluate the answer and score, it is up to the applicant to describe their narrative in alignment with the question.

Question:

What is being requested in the narrative to support the level of partnerships or advancing pathways?

Answer:

Again, this is not detailed in the RFA with specific level of partnerships and at this time is not the intent of this RFA to specify those partnerships, only that your organization utilizes partnerships to enhance programming for youth. It is up to the applicant to share their connections with community partners and their organizations approach in helping young people find opportunities that help advance their future. If this application becomes competitive, readers will evaluate the answer and score, it is up to the applicant to describe their narrative in alignment with these questions.

Question:

If we want to provide support vouchers, how do we pay for that?

Answer:

At this time this is an optional component because the requirement has been waived. Organizations who do choose to provide support vouchers and use Oregon Youth Corps grant funds will need to follow-up with Oregon Youth Corps staff if awarded. Organizations are not required to provide this and selecting yes to provide support vouchers will not provide any application with a competitive advantage.

Question:

How do we estimate the estimated amount of youth served? With \$15,000, \$37,500, or \$52,500?

Answer:

This application is based on \$52,500; organizations are welcome to write this based on that knowledge. If your total request is not available based on legislative funding not being approved, then we will work with organizations who receive awards to modify their estimates at a later point.

Question:

Are there any penalties to requesting the full \$52,500?

Answer:

There are no scoring advantages/disadvantages for requesting the entire up-to amount.

Question:

Do we have to show proof of educational attainment?

Answer:

If an organization acknowledges they have educational attainment opportunities, they will need to provide additional information in the application. I.e. if an organization selects college credit, they will need to provide which school, which credit, and credit amount. Or if they select non-degree credentials/certification, they need to list the certification type and who endorses the recognized certificate (example being – American Red Cross – First Aid, CPR).

Question:

In the first goal for On-the-Job Training, it references serving certain youth populations or communities, does that limit who we should be focusing our recruitment on?

Answer:

There are three goals of the On-The-Job Training grant. The language used in this first goal now aligns better with the Higher Education Coordinating Commission and the Office of Workforce Investment. This is the same work with youth that in previous RFA's were termed as at-risk youth. Please note, the intent of this goal is to encourage programs to recruit and connect with youth in their community that had been historically unrepresented in youth unemployment.

Question:

What information is needed if we want to provide internships?

Answer:

Internships are an optional component that the organization can provide for their youth. Oregon Youth Corps does not require this, however, organizations who do provide internships beyond the crew experience can receive priority points should their application become competitive. Organizations would need to provide information to support their intent for providing optional paid internships. A fully fleshed out plan is not necessary to receive point consideration if the application becomes competitive.

Question:

Would building affordable housing that uses green building principals for energy efficiency (and training participants in green building) in a crew setting an allowable activity for a SLE grant?

Answer:

Yes, provided the work is of public value and provides a public benefit.

Question:

If an application is written for a one-year timeframe and uses a one-year timeframe for answers within the application, will there be any advantages, disadvantages, or comments on that?

Then, would doing that preclude the organization in any way from being eligible for amendments before or after that one-year timeframe? Or do you recommend the organization represent the number of youth and months that the organization could use funding for the entire timeframe, if it becomes available?

Answer:

Oregon Youth Corps is releasing this RFA and funding under a biennium approach to serving between 7/1/25-6/30/27, and applicants can write their agreements how this funding best serves their organization during time frame. Each grant opportunity under this RFA has minimum requirements to serve program youth that set the minimum standard.

OYC is not anticipating any additional funding opportunities to provide agreement amendments at the one-year mark with this RFA release. If new funding does become available throughout this biennium, Oregon Youth Corps would work with the new funding source for alignment and if applicable can amend existing agreements as funding becomes available.

Question:

In previous years, amendments were given on a yearly basis if/when additional funds would be available. Is this true looking ahead?

Answer:

At this point we are not anticipating any additional one-time funding opportunities to provide amendments for successful applicants. If additional funds should become available in the future, we would look for alignment in this RFA and work with successful applicants. Grant applications should consider the sources of funding we have within this RFA to develop their individual applications.

Question:

I have an application in SM Apply, or duplicate applications that I would like to have deleted. Can I do this on my own or is it possible to request an application deletion?

Answer:

You are welcome to delete any of your applications, however if you need staff assistance for an application to be deleted, please reach out to us at HECC.OregonYouthWorks@hecc.oregon.gov and let us know. We will need your written approval to remove any applications but, can do so on your behalf.

Question:

To confirm, the initial \$15,000 might increase to \$52,000 for the 2-year period?

Answer:

Each grant application has two budget requests, one is for up to \$15,000 and the other is for up to \$37,500, which combined makes \$52,500 per grant application.

The funds for \$37,500 are state general fund dollars and are not secured yet, as those funds need legislative approval and there for are not guaranteed under this RFA.

Question:

How much of funds can be used for crew wages, PPE and other supplies for project, and administration of the grant?

Answer:

At this time in the RFA Application process we are not asking for a detailed budget breakdown, we are only asking for budget requests for each program application. If awarded, HECC staff will follow-up and request for you to provide a budget detail for awarded funds.

If awarded, these funds are flexible and there aren't restrictions on direct programming costs (i.e.: crew wages, PPE, supplies, etc.).

Additionally, the current rate for administrative costs is 10% of direct program costs. As an agency, this discussion is occurring on whether to raise the administrative cost rate when the source of funds are from the state. Until that decision has been made, this RFA will use the 10% administrative rate for any state funding, including general funds and other funds.

Question:

SMApply and other guidance say the application period will be open until Dec 20th, however the RFA reflects a close date of Dec 17th?

Answer:

December 20th is the close date for all applications under this RFA.

Question:

When the application says, "If your business is registered with the Oregon Secretary of State, please provide" what is meant by this and should be provided? The next question asks for City, State, and Zip Code, and it is confusing on what the ask is.

Answer:

The application launched with the language described in the question above. This has now been adjusted and revised to better match the intent of these questions as seen in the image below:

If your business is registered with the Oregon Secretary of State, please provide your business registry number:

Mailing Address, City, State, ZIP:

Question:

To confirm understanding, the maximum award per individual program application is \$52,500 for the 07/2025 - 06/2027 duration and no other opportunities for this program will be available until 07/2027?

Answer:

Each maximum award per individual application is for \$52,500 over the duration 07/2025 - 06/2027. The only other opportunity that will be made available under this program is to launch an RFA sometime in 2025 for new organizations to Oregon Youth Corps to apply for a planning grant to prepare for future funding opportunities. We don't anticipate releasing any additional RFA's for the Community Stewardship Corps grant program over the next year.

Question:

What if we will need to submit two applications, by County, in two separate counties? Since these are two separate applications, are we eligible for \$52,500 per county application?

Answer:

Yes, you can apply for the two programs as separate grant requests.

Each request applied for is eligible for funds up to \$52,500 per application.

Question:

The FAQ reads as if we can only apply for one individual service-learning grant and one on-the job training grant. Can you provide clarification if this is correct, or can we submit, for example, 1 service-learning application and 2 on-the job training applications?

Answer:

You are welcome to apply for multiple individual service-learning programs or on-the-job training requests, provided they operate separate and distinctly different from each other. Applicants will be required to justify how

their programming is separate and distinctly different if they are submitting more than one application in a grant type.

It is worth noting that if the total number of applications within a county or in the overall number of applications received exceeds the amount of grants/funds available, it will create a competitive process and any applications within that county (specific to the grant applied for) will compete against each other for award.

Question:

Regarding indirect rates, the federal de minimis indirect rate is listed as 10% but it was increased to 15%, effective 10/1/24. Is that an error or is this the cap HECC allows?

Answer:

The current rate for administrative costs is 10% of direct program costs. As an agency, this discussion is occurring on whether to raise the administrative cost rate when the source of funds are from the state. Until that decision has been made, this RFA will use the 10% administrative rate for any state funding, including general funds and other funds.

Additional questions regarding the RFA?

Please feel welcome to reach out to us at:

HECC.OregonYouthWorks@hecc.oregon.gov