



Context

For the past 20 years, OCF's Community Grants program, with strong support of OCF donors, has invested in strengthening the social fabric of our communities. In 2021, Community Grants will continue to support our communities with a sharpened focus on the most pressing challenges Oregon is facing today: the impact of COVID-19, systemic racism and racial injustice, wildfires and the underinvestment and lack of infrastructure in under-resourced rural and marginalized communities across our state. This funding opportunity recognizes that deeply entrenched inequities mean that our current challenges – and resulting traumas – are disproportionately impacting some populations and communities.

Our 2021 Community Grants program is an interim approach. We anticipate a longer-term approach will emerge in 2022, based on what we learn about evolving community needs. We look forward to partnering with organizations and communities across Oregon in the year ahead and sharing your needs with OCF donors.

Please review the following information carefully as the types of funding available, funding priorities and other program details for 2021 differ from past years.

Program Goal

To provide an open, responsive grantmaking program that offers community-based nonprofits flexible types of support, with prioritized support for those communities most disproportionately impacted by the multiple crises in Oregon.

Guiding Principles

- We value Oregon's diverse regions and populations, and we seek to advance equity, diversity and inclusion through our funding
- We are committed to funding across Oregon with grant dollars reaching our remote, rural, suburban and urban communities across every region of our state.
- We give high priority to investments that are strengths-based and create positive, substantive change
- We prioritize investments that demonstrate strong community support, solid planning and wise stewardship
- We believe that impactful, creative and sustainable solutions come from people closest to the issues being addressed and implemented by organizations trusted by the community

Funding Priorities

We know that funding needs will far exceed our limited grant dollars. While a broad range of organizations are eligible to apply, we will prioritize funding in support of the following populations disproportionately impacted by inequities exacerbated by racial and social injustice, COVID-19 and/or wildfires:

- Black, Indigenous, Latinx and people of color
- Immigrants and/or refugees
- People experiencing disabilities
- People living on low incomes
- People living in under-resourced communities and/or communities lacking critical infrastructure
- People who are homeless/unsheltered
- People who identify as LGBTQIA+
- Survivors of domestic violence and/or child abuse

Nondiscrimination Policy

OCF does not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, religion, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, ability/disability, age, status as a veteran, national origin or any other protected class. Applicants for 2021 Community Grants must hold similar standards in the provision of services.

Application Details

FUNDS AVAILABLE

Over two grant cycles in 2021, Community Grants anticipates awarding at least \$5 million, boosted by donor advised funds.

We aim to fund a mix of proposals in communities across Oregon and anticipate funding organizations working in a range of fields and addressing an array of challenges.

TIMELINE AND PROCESS

We will offer two opportunities to apply for a Community Grant in 2021:

- Spring Cycle – Accepting applications December 15, 2020 through **February 1, 2021, at 5 p.m.**, with decisions by early May 2021
 - *Early Bird Submissions: All applicants who submit before 5 pm on January 18, 2021, will be entered into a drawing to receive one of two \$2,500 grants for general operating support*

- As part of the decision-making process, applicants may be contacted for additional information or a virtual site visit during March
- Fall Cycle – Timeline TBA (deadline summer 2021 with decisions by early November 2021)

GENERAL ORGANIZATIONAL ELIGIBILITY

- 501(c)(3) organizations, Tribal entities and government entities are eligible to apply. Additionally, other types of organizations may work with a 501(c)(3) fiscal sponsor to submit an application. Applicants must submit formal paperwork confirming the fiscal sponsor relationship.
- Organizations with an active Community Grant, Oregon Community Recovery Fund grant or any other OCF grant are eligible to apply.
- Organizations scheduled to apply for renewal of an active Community Grant may submit either a Community Grants Renewal application or a new 2021 Community Grants application, but not both.
- Organizations may apply for a 2021 Community Grant only once.

GRANT TYPES AND AMOUNTS

Three types of funding will be offered. Because community conditions are in a state of significant transition, all grants will be one year in duration.

Type of Funding	Eligible Applicants	Funding Amount
General Operating Support <i>Unrestricted funding to support an organization in carrying out its mission</i>	Culturally specific organizations located anywhere in Oregon and of any budget size Rural-based nonprofits with annual operating budgets of \$100,000 or less <u>and</u> whose work aligns with OCF’s priorities for this funding opportunity	Up to \$20,000
Capacity Building <i>To help strengthen and stabilize an organization’s governance or operations</i>	Open to all types of organizations	Up to \$40,000; \$20,000 average grant size
Project/Program Grants <i>To adapt or expand existing projects/programs or develop new projects/programs to respond to current community challenges</i>	Open to all types of organizations	Up to \$40,000; \$20,000 average grant size

What We Look for in Strong Proposals

The strongest proposals will:

- Address a clear and compelling community need
- Have goals/work that are relevant to Oregon's current crises
- If the project addresses the needs of a specific population, have staff and board with appropriate cultural expertise to serve that population
- Demonstrate that people with lived experience are meaningfully leading and/or influencing the work
- Reflect realistic goals and solid planning
- Show strong potential to build the organization's stability, effectiveness or capacity
- Demonstrate strong community support, including the support of people being served
- Clearly communicate the role and potential impact of an OCF grant in this moment
- Have a realistic plan for securing remaining funds needed to carry out the work within the grant period
- If the proposal involves new staff or other significant on-going expense, explain how they are thinking about sustainability

Priority will be given to organizations that:

- Primarily serve one or more 2021 Funding Priority populations
- Are reasonably positioned for long-term organizational viability
- Support OCF in advancing equity, diversity and inclusion through our funding
- Reflect a strengths-based orientation
- Work to create positive, substantive change

Activities We Typically Won't Fund in 2021

- Capital Projects
- Projects in individual schools
- Grants to subsidize participation (scholarships) or re-granting programs
- Purchases or activities that occur prior to grant decisions
- Deficit funding
- Funding for public entities to replace government dollars

- Lobbying to influence legislation (a particular bill)
- Scientific research
- Religious activities
- Annual fund appeals and contributions to endowments

How to Apply

For the spring cycle, the application window opens December 15, 2020, and applications are due **February 1, 2021, at 5pm**, with decisions made by early May 2021. Online applications are accepted through [MyOCF](#). Your organization will need to register and set up an account to apply.

Please note renewal applicants (organizations previously invited to reapply to the Community Grants Program for continuation of funded activities) will be emailed instructions directly to reapply through a new and separate process.

Important!

- If after reviewing this information you decide not to apply for a 2021 Community Grant, we still want to connect with you! We encourage you to share your current needs with donors by completing this [Organizational Profile Tool](#).
- If you do apply, you are also invited to complete this [Organizational Profile Tool](#).
- In addition, organizations that apply for a 2021 Community Grant will automatically have information about their proposal shared with OCF donors. We encourage applicants to provide clear and complete project descriptions in their proposal to support donor connections.

Questions?

Please see the FAQ section on the [2021 Community Grants page](#).

If you still have questions, please reach out to the program officer in your [region](#).

If you are experiencing technical difficulties with MyOCF, please email grants@oregoncf.org.