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#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### OREGON NONPROFITS STRENGTHEN THEIR COMMUNITIES WITH FALL FUNDING FROM OCF

## Oregon Community Foundation Awards \$5.1 Million in Grants to Support Education, Housing, Economic Opportunity, Arts and More

PORTLAND, Ore. — From classrooms and concert halls to food banks and housing services, 260 Oregon nonprofits will get a boost this fall. Oregon Community Foundation is awarding \$5.1 million through its Community Grants program to organizations working to expand access to education, health services, economic opportunity, arts and culture and more. Grants awarded in rural towns and urban neighborhoods reflect OCF's commitment to strengthening communities and tackling urgent needs.

"We are so inspired by the hard work our nonprofits are doing to improve the lives of all Oregonians," said Marcy Bradley, OCF's Chief Community Engagement and Equity Officer. "Community Grants is our open door for new ideas and the 'what if' dreams of our communities. We are proud to stand with the problem solvers in our state."

For 28 years, OCF's Community Grants program has supported nonprofits, Tribal organizations and government agencies in all 36 Oregon counties. The 2025 Fall Cycle prioritized small capital projects (under \$500,000), capacity building and new or expanding programs and projects.

Donors to Oregon Community Foundation make OCF's Community Grants program possible. Grant applications were reviewed by regional OCF staff and volunteers in every region of Oregon.

The next cycle of Community Grants from OCF will prioritize general operating support for small rural organizations, culturally specific organizations and culturally responsive

organizations. Program applications opened on December 2, 2025, and will close on January 13, 2026, at 5 p.m. PST. Grants will be awarded in May 2026. Learn more **here**.

Find the full list of 2025 Fall grantees **here**.

#### Fall 2025 Community Grants Will Support

- 99 first-time OCF nonprofit grantees
- 22 housing-related nonprofits
- 23 food and nutrition service organizations
- 5 library projects
- 14 nonprofits that work with immigrants and refugees
- 14 nonprofits that work in economic development
- 11 environment nonprofits
- 8 mobile programs such as mobile clinics, laundry trucks, libraries and food hubs

# Community Grants Breakdown by Region with Representative Nonprofits Central Oregon | 21 Nonprofits | \$366,768

• Columbia River Institute for Indigenous Development Foundation will expand the Kuskuspum program and launch a full-day, year-round early learning center designed by and for the Warm Springs community.

"Language classes helped me mentally in many different ways, such as helping me learn more about my culture, and really made me feel closer to my grandma and helped come out of my bubble and talk to more people and get closer to new people." — Cassidy Dixon, CRÍID youth participant

• **Council on Aging of Central Oregon** will grow its Caring Connections program that matches a volunteer with a client who has been identified as lonely or isolated.

"If it weren't for this program, I would feel totally alone." — Prineville client Kay B.

Bend client Pam T. says she and a volunteer "have been talking for two and a half years. He keeps me going, he listens to me, we laugh together and get along great ... I don't know what to do without him, I've never had a friend for this long."

#### Eastern Oregon | 17 Nonprofits | \$265,889

• **Four Rivers Community Radio** will purchase equipment to launch a community radio station in the Western Treasure Valley.

"Four Rivers Community Radio is much more than a radio station providing passive listening opportunities. We are a medium for community members to connect to one another, build a shared identity across the region, and begin to understand and meet the varying needs of one another. Our service area is a region that has been under-resourced and ignored for many years, contributing to the deepening divisions we see spreading across the country. Through the dedication and support of our volunteers and local community members, we believe FRCR can change these trends and are deeply grateful to the Oregon Community Foundation for supporting that critical vision." — Andi M. Walsh, Board Secretary

• Wallowa Valley Center for Wellness will create a Wellness Park and Community Garden.

#### Metro Portland | 100 Nonprofits | \$2,225,112

- **Centro Cultural** will increase access to culturally specific wellness services and free meals for low-income seniors through its Edad de Oro program.
- New Narrative will modernize its commercial kitchen, which serves 2,000
  meals weekly to residents in transitional and permanent housing.

"It's been a major challenge, but New Narrative has been a huge part of the positive experience through [my son's mental health] journey. Having a clinician involved on-site, talking about his goals and medications with him, it made an incredible difference. For New Narrative's staff, this is their passion." — Father of a New Narrative participant

"New Narrative's decades of experience position us as an expert in what works and what doesn't. We are seeing more people in the region with a serious and complex set of mental health needs, and we are determined to meet those needs. No one deserves to be ostracized or stigmatized because of their mental health situation. Everyone deserves dignity, community and a roof over their heads." — Julie Ibrahim, CEO

• Workforce Investment Council of Clackamas County will expand legal services for criminal and eviction expungement and immigration needs in rural areas.

"Through Clean Slate Clackamas, it is our role to educate the population and help to create a more equitable workforce and true system change. Now a fully expunged 'graduate' of Clean Slate Clackamas, Mike has access to doors he thought were closed forever – better employment opportunities, access to housing, even a better credit score. Mike credits Clean Slate Clackamas with helping turn his life around and giving him the tools he needed to overcome this barrier." – Amanda Wall, Communications Director, Clackamas Workforce Partnership

#### North Coast | 12 Nonprofits | \$211,535

• **Lower Columbia Youth Soccer Association** will replace lighting for a community soccer field serving more than 600 youth.

"The amount of growth that we have seen our daughter make is remarkable. (Coach) Danielle's positive attitude, correct level of competitiveness and love for the game is contagious, and it shows in the joy that her players exhibit on the field. We've seen the game of soccer finally click for many of these girls this year, and it's due to the support and effort Danielle puts in every week." — Player's parent

• **Amani Child Abuse Assessment Center** will expand outreach across Columbia County.

#### Northern Willamette Valley | 32 Nonprofits | \$583,682

• **St. Francis Shelter** will become fully powered by solar energy and plan to reinvest savings into programs for houseless individuals.

"Our work makes a difference because it works. Last year, 27 of the 29 families who lived at St. Francis transitioned into permanent housing — and remain housed today. When families have a safe place to live, consistent support, and the chance to rebuild the skills and confidence stolen by trauma and homelessness, they are able to create the stability their children deserve." — Kim Lemman, Executive Director

Salem for Refugees will expand employment and student support services for refugee families.

"My name is Anina, and I am from Syria. When I arrived, everything was new and overwhelming, but Salem for Refugees welcomed me like family. They didn't just help me with housing and basic needs, they supported me emotionally, encouraged me, and made me feel safe again. Their help gave me hope for my future." — Amina, Salem for Refugees client

"Since launching in 2016, Salem for Refugees has walked alongside thousands of newcomers from nearly every region of the world. Today, we serve more than 2,000 refugee and immigrant clients across the Salem and Corvallis areas. We provide initial resettlement, case management, housing, employment and education services. Our mission is far more than providing services — we strive to create a community of belonging, safety and opportunity for families who have endured immense hardship." - Luke Glaze, Executive Director, Salem for Refugees

#### South Coast | 8 Nonprofits | \$152,500

- Bay Area Enterprises will launch a landscaping program to help rural Oregonians with disabilities access paid employment.
- **Camp Myrtlewood** will complete the Dogwood Cabin, a year-round bunkhouse serving low-income and under-resourced people through outdoor school and retreats.

#### Southern Oregon | 24 Nonprofits | \$419,500

Klamath Falls City Schools will pair high school students with downtown businesses to provide marketing services and career experience.

"KU Digital Media turns classrooms into creative studios and our city into a campus. Students design real campaigns for local nonprofits and small businesses, learning professional skills while strengthening the community they call home." — Dan Stearns, CTE Digital Media Teacher and Program Lead, Klamath Union High School

"Working with real clients taught me how to listen, design to a brief, and deliver on deadline. I now see a creative career path that feels possible — and local

partners cheer us on every step of the way." — Isabella Armijo, KU Digital Media student

• **A Greater Applegate** will support a mobile food hub delivering local produce to rural pantries and neighborhoods in an isolated area.

"A Greater Applegate's mission is to build community by sustaining and enhancing the local connections that promote the environmental, economic and social vitality of the Applegate Valley. We are building networks that expand access to local food and business resources and facilitating all-ages fairs and markets that bring families of the Applegate Valley together and help small businesses thrive." — Megan Fehrman, Executive Director

#### Southern Willamette Valley | 46 Nonprofits | \$848,700

• Calapooia Watershed Council will hire an eco-wellness instructor for its freshwater snorkeling program serving youth involved with the Juvenile Department.

"As an environmental science teacher, I can think of few programs that have been as valuable and impactful on so many levels as the snorkeling program. The evolution of their understanding of the connections between the life below the surface, the surrounding forest and themselves in the city of Albany is exactly what environmental science is about." — Gareth Engler, West Albany HS teacher

"After we got back to school, everyone could not stop talking about how great it was!" — Gracie, fifth grade student

• **PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Medical Center Foundation** will expand its Telestroke Program to connect rural hospitals with neurology experts.

"You never know when or where a medical emergency may occur or who will be there to assist. Time is of the essence." — Sally Hampton, PeaceHealth Sacred Heart patient and aneurysm survivor

#### **About Oregon Community Foundation**

Since 1973, Oregon Community Foundation has worked to improve the lives of all Oregonians through the power of philanthropy. In 2024, OCF distributed more than

\$211 million in grants and scholarships in every county in Oregon in partnership with donors and volunteers. Individuals, families, businesses and organizations can work with OCF to create charitable funds to support causes important to them. To learn more, visit oregoncf.org.

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