

YOUTH & YOU

Oregon Youth Development Council



**Youth & Innovation:
Entrepreneurship and Career Readiness Grant
Request for Applications
2016 – 2017**

Application Due Date: 5:00 p.m. PDT, June 8, 2016

Oregon Youth Development Council
255 Capitol Street NE
Salem, OR 97301-0203

Overview

The *Youth & Innovation Grant* is a community-based grant designed to assist existing efforts in improving education and workforce success for youth who are disconnected from the education system and labor market. The target population of the *Youth & Innovation: Entrepreneurship and Career Readiness Grant* is Opportunity Youth – young people ages 16-24 who are disconnected from the education system and the labor market.

The Oregon Youth Development Council (YDC) identified additional funding that could be utilized during the current biennium to support services for youth, and determined that these funds should be distributed to projects that facilitate Opportunity Youth career readiness and skill building.

To this end, the YDC is issuing a Request for Applications for a *Youth & Innovation: Entrepreneurship and Career Readiness Grant* to support innovative training projects for Opportunity Youth.

Youth & Innovation: Entrepreneurship and Career Readiness Grant Scope

The *Youth & Innovation: Entrepreneurship and Career Readiness Grant* is a non-recurrent, community-based grant designed to assist existing efforts or pilot projects in improving career readiness and success for Opportunity Youth. The purpose of this grant is to support innovative projects that deliver training, services and supports to Opportunity Youth, with a distinct focus on developing both employment and entrepreneurial skills.

The efforts funded through this grant should offer a diverse array of skill-building activities and opportunities; both innovative and evidence-based approaches are encouraged. Services and activities are required to be equitable and inclusive, culturally appropriate, sexual orientation and gender-identity responsive, and should address various barriers to personal, educational and career success.

The proposed project should identify key trainings, activities and skills that will be delivered in order to prepare participants for success in the job market, help them to identify career interests and advance on career pathways, and provide them

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with a strong understanding of entrepreneurship, business development and leadership. Proposals should demonstrate how the program content will provide youth with the essential skills to be successful whether they pursue entrepreneurial opportunities, embark on a career path within the workforce, or both. These skills are identified in the 21st Century Skills framework*, and include:

- Life and Career Skills
- Learning and Innovation Skills
- Information, Media and Technology Skills

*More information on 21st Century Skills can be found here:

<http://www.p21.org/about-us/p21-framework>

Proposed projects may also include social service components, connections with secondary and/or post-secondary education, business partnerships, social enterprise projects, and pathways to recognized certifications and credentials.

The project proposed for funding must contain the following components:

- **Career readiness and soft skills development** (workplace behaviors, communication, problem solving, critical thinking, social skills, self-management, etc.)
- **Entrepreneurship training and activities** (business models, networking, leadership, team-based projects, creative thinking, marketing and market research, finance/budgeting, etc.)

In addition, proposals are encouraged to include one or more of the following components:

- Career exploration
- Business technology skills (software, web design, social media, project management, etc.)
- Business start-up incubation
- Invention and product development
- STEM-related curriculum and activities
- Community engagement
- Guest speakers, job shadows and worksite tours
- Vocational skills training
- Internships and work-based experiences
- Post-secondary education and training exposure and access support
- Recognized credentials and certifications

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Proposals may additionally include activities and curriculum to develop workplace readiness and entrepreneurial skills which are not listed above; innovative and creative approaches are encouraged, but wherever possible, evidence-based approaches or best practices should be utilized.

Project performance will be measured through the tracking of various program outcomes to be collected and reported at a program level and individual level. Metrics will include participation and completion of programming, attainment of employment and certifications, entrepreneurial activities and outcomes (such as business model creation, business license attainment, product development and other business activities), and other measurements as described in the grant application, and agreed to by YDC staff and grant recipients.

The target population for this grant is Opportunity Youth: those youth ages 16-24 who are disconnected from the education system and the labor market. Projects may be a part of a larger continuum of services that seeks to reconnect Opportunity Youth with education, training and employment; project participants may be in the process of reengaging in education, the workforce or both. Efforts that also serve under-attached youth may be considered, however projects that can demonstrate effective strategies for outreach, engagement and support of disconnected youth will be given higher priority.

Eligibility

1. The following entities are eligible to apply:

Educational agencies, tribal programs, community-based organizations, local workforce investment boards, businesses, and partnerships or collaboratives focused on education, workforce, community and economic development.

2. The community must have a demonstrated need.

A community must have at least three Indicators of Need as described in the next section of this Request for Applications. Level 1 Indicators are prioritized, but Level 2 Indicators should be noted when met. All indicators met by the community should be identified, as applications will be weighted based on need.

3. Projects carried out as part of a Collective Impact Model or partnership are preferred.

Applicants should describe the Collective Impact model or partnership involved in delivery of services.

A description of Collective Impact may be found here:

http://www.ssireview.org/pdf/Channeling_Change_PDF.pdf

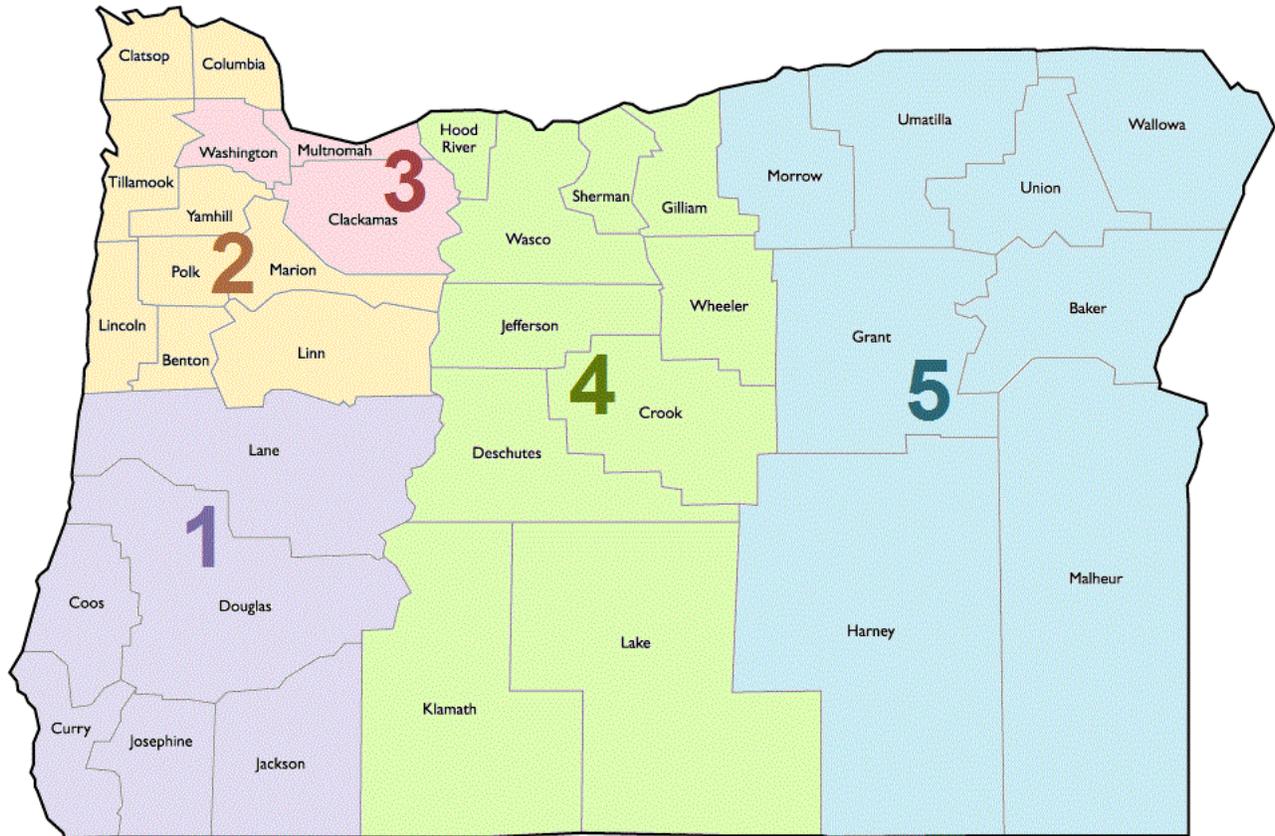
Grant Awards

Youth & Innovation: Entrepreneurship and Career Readiness Grants are not to exceed \$60,000 and will be awarded beginning in mid-July 2016, to be utilized between the award date and June 30, 2017. There is a total of \$300,000 available for awards, with the potential for additional funding.

Grants will be awarded in five regions of the state of Oregon: Northwest, Southwest, Metro, Central and East [See map and list of counties within each region, below]. Applicants must specify the region in which they will be applying and delivering services. Project services are not required to cover the entirety of a region, but services should be delivered within the region indicated.

Proposals for projects seeking less than the maximum grant amount are permitted.

Grant Regions



1. **Southwest:** Coos, Curry, Douglas, Jackson, Josephine, and Lane counties
2. **Northwest:** Benton, Clatsop, Columbia, Lincoln, Linn, Marion, Polk, Tillamook and Yamhill counties
3. **Metro:** Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington counties
4. **Central:** Crook, Deschutes, Gilliam, Hood River, Jefferson, Klamath, Lake, Sherman, Wasco and Wheeler counties
5. **East:** Baker, Grant, Harney, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union and Wallowa counties

Indicators of Need

(For school-related indicators, use high school data unless otherwise noted)

Level 1 Indicators of Need:

- Minority high school student population as a percent of all students above the statewide average
- Free and reduced price lunch eligible students as a percent of all students above the statewide average
- Number of homeless students (in the district) as a percent of district enrollment above the statewide average (all grade levels)
- Students with disabilities as a percent of all students above the statewide average
- Limited English proficient students as a percent of all students above the statewide average
- Disparities in graduation rates, completion rates, dropout rates, attendance rates, or school performance scores between all students and those who are economically disadvantaged, limited English proficient, or underserved races/ethnicities
- Juvenile referral rate in the juvenile justice system as a percent of all youth above the statewide average
- Disparities in juvenile referral rates between all youth and those who are economically disadvantaged, limited English proficient, or underserved races/ethnicities

Level 2 Indicators of Need:

- Four-year graduation rate or five-year graduation rate below the statewide average
- Attendance rates of students below the statewide average
- Drop-out rate above the statewide average
- Percent of students meeting or exceeding on statewide assessments in reading below the statewide average
- Percent of students meeting or exceeding on statewide assessments in math below the statewide average
- Percent of students meeting or exceeding on statewide assessments in science below the statewide average
- Opportunity Youth rates above the statewide average if available, at <http://opportunityindex.org/#4.00/40.00/-97.00/>

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Expectations

Recipients of the *Youth & Innovation: Entrepreneurship and Career Readiness Grant* must be able to demonstrate the community's ability to monitor changes in any identified indicators of need, at both a community and individual level.

Individual level data that can be monitored to evaluate results should include, but is not limited to the following:

- School attendance/activity/attainment level, pre- and post-involvement
- Employment history, pre- and post-involvement
- Entrepreneurial youth-led business and product creation, as a result of program activity
- Skill development and/or credential attainment
- Anecdotal data, such as youth testimonials and surveys, products of entrepreneurial activities, and other information that would reflect the impact of this project on youth participants

Community level data that can be monitored to evaluate results should include, but is not limited to the following:

- Youth employment rates
- Opportunity Youth rates (youth disengaged from education and employment, if available at county or community level)
- Anecdotal data, such as community and business testimonials and other information that would reflect the impact of this project on the community

Additional Information

For additional information on the application eligibility, requirements, review process, or selection, please contact *Youth & Innovation: Entrepreneurship and Career Readiness Grant* Manager, Cord Bueker, Jr.

Questions and answers will be posted on a FAQ page on the YDC Website at this link: <https://sites.google.com/a/oregonlearning.org/ydd/>.

cord.bueker@state.or.us

Phone: 503.947.5504

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Application, Review, and Selection Process

Week of April 25	Request for Applications Opens
Week of June 6	Application Period Ends
Week of June 13	Review of Applications
Week of June 20	Review Complete and Award Announcement Made, Appeals Period Opens
Week of June 27	Appeals Period Closes & Final Award Announcement
Week of July 11	Grants in Communities

Application Instructions

If the community meets the eligibility criteria and would like to apply for a *Youth & Innovation: Entrepreneurship and Career Readiness Grant*, please complete the 2016-17 *Youth & Innovation: Entrepreneurship and Career Readiness Grant* Application Form.

Please be sure to examine the *YDC Youth & Innovation: Entrepreneurship and Career Readiness Grant Scoring Sheet* to better understand the criteria on which each application will be reviewed.

An **electronic version** of the completed application form in PDF format must be received by **5:00 p.m. PDT, June 8, 2016**.

Electronic submissions must be made to: yddgrants.odeprocure@ode.state.or.us

In addition, a print version of the completed application form must be postmarked and mailed by **5:00 p.m. PDT, June 8, 2016**.

Print submissions must be made to:

Oregon Department of Education, Youth Development Division
Attention: Lillie Gray, Procurement Services Director
255 Capitol Street NE Salem,
OR 97310-0203

It will be the applicant's responsibility to verify receipt of documents.

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