



Merger Implementation TA Grants 2015 Overview and Guidance

- Grant Offering:** Merger Implementation TA Grants 2015
- ELIGIBILITY:** Must be a newly merged watershed council. The organizational restructuring must align with the goals and purposes of OWEB's Council Capacity Grant program direction, adopted by the OWEB Board in June 2013 and July 2014.
- AVAILABLE FUNDING:** OWEB will not award a Building Capacity Merger Implementation grant for the same organization for more than two biennia and the total of both grant awards cannot exceed \$400,000. **The initial OWEB grant application cannot exceed \$200,000.**
- PRE-CONSULTATION: (Required)** Interested applicants **MUST** contact Courtney Shaff, OWEB's Grant Program Coordinator, to discuss the proposed merger implementation grant least 5 working days prior to submitting a full application.
- DUE DATE:** Applications are accepted at any time between August 3, 2015-January 4, 2016.
- SUBMISSION:** Email to Courtney Shaff: courtney.shaff@state.or.us
Subject: Merger Implementation Grant
- QUESTIONS:** Courtney Shaff, Grant Program Coordinator
503-986-0046, courtney.shaff@state.or.us

The purpose of the Merger Implementation grant is to support the Board's policy to build capacity through resource sharing and organizational restructuring, and facilitate success of the newly merged or consolidated watershed councils.

ALLOWABLE COSTS

It is expected that mergers/consolidations will result in more effective and efficient implementation of projects to protect or restore native fish or wildlife habitats and restore natural watershed functions to improve water quality or stream flows. To ensure such structures are sound allowable costs in merger and consolidation grants include:

- Strategic planning
- Work plan development
- Organizational development
- Leadership development
- Board development
- Executive transition
- Evaluation and performance management
- IT infrastructure and planning
- Action plan development
- Marketing and communications
- Fundraising capacity development
- Human resource management and training
- Financial planning and management
- Legal issues
- Volunteer recruitment and management
- Conflict resolution
- One-time office set-up costs

EVALUATION CRITERIA

OWEB is seeking applications that best demonstrate:

1. The organizations have completed the merger process.
2. A well thought out merger implementation plan.
3. A clearly defined need for Merger Implementation funds and link between the funds and the challenges the organization needs to overcome during merger implementation.
4. Shared commitment, ability, and likelihood of success of the merged organization.