



2027-2029 Oregon Conservation Corps Request for Applications

Pre-Application Meeting
via Zoom

Presented by: Hillary Blackstone

October 14, 2026

Agenda

- ☐ Technical Assistance Providers available
- ☐ Review where to access the Request for Applications (RFA)
- ☐ Walk through the RFA, specific Oregon Conservation Corps requirements
- ☐ Open and review application components
- ☐ This recording, along with the subsequent Q & A Summary will also be saved on the HECC's Grant and Contracting website.



Technical Assistance Providers

RFA Technical Assistance Providers

1. Applicants can have two hours of support for: **first draft review, final draft review, or general advice.**
2. It is recommended that you contact them early in the application process.
3. Provider contact list will be added to the RFA posting as an addendum



RFA Basics

The following slides reference the RFA. The **full** RFA must be utilized and complied with, even if something is omitted in this overview.

Funding Note

- This is a competitive RFA. **Funding is not guaranteed and is subject to competition, requirements, and the availability of funds.**

Key Dates

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ October 1, 2026: | RFA Opens |
| ☐ February 26, 2027: | RFA Closes |
| ☐ April 12, 2027: | Letters of Intent to Award/Not-Award Sent |
| ☐ June 30, 2027: | Contracts Executed (signed by both parties) |
| ☐ July 1, 2027: | Period of Performance Starts |

RFA Access

- The RFA is posted on the HECC's Grants and Contracting webpage:
<https://www.oregon.gov/highered/about/pages/grants-contracts.aspx>
- Click on “Request for Applications 27-001-RFA Oregon Conservation Corps 2027-29”

OCC Overview

(page 3 of the RFA)

- The OCC Program provides grant funding to reduce the risk wildfires pose to communities and critical infrastructure, create fire-adapted communities, and engage youth and young adults (ages 16 through 26) in workforce training to develop the next generation of land managers. The program was established by Senate Bill 762 (2021).
- Grants will be awarded to eligible organizations, public entities, and sovereign nations across the state to aid in reducing wildfire risk to communities while offering paid work experience, job training, skill development and forest-related or rangeland-related career path training.

Key points

- ❑ **One** application window, no rolling reviews
 - ❑ There is no benefit to applying early or on the date of the deadline. Apply when your materials are ready.
- ❑ Entities may only receive one award
- ❑ Award maximum \$600,000 for the biennium, no minimum award amount – all applications will be considered
- ❑ All applications must include a fire fuels reduction crew component.
- ❑ All successful applicants are expected to work in collaboration with local partners like Oregon Department of Forestry (or equivalent), Oregon State Fire Marshal, Oregon Emergency Management, local Tribes, etc.
- ❑ All treatments must take place within the Wildland Urban Interface, training can take place outside of the WUI

FYI: Farm/Forest Labor Contractors

- ☐ BOLI-required license for any person or entity that recruits, solicits, supplies or employs workers for the production of farm crops or the reforestation of lands must have a valid Farm/Forest Labor Contractor License.
- ☐ If you have questions, please contact whd.screener@boli.oregon.gov or call 971-245-3844.

Reporting requirements

- ☐ Certified payroll reports are due no later than 35 days after starting work on each contract and at each successive 35-day interval thereafter. Farm/forest labor contractors may submit certified true copies of payroll records in person, by regular mail or via email.

[There are exceptions for this license. Read more on BOLI's website.](#)



How to Apply

The following portion will walk applicants through where they access application materials and through each of those components

Applications include:

- ☐ Attachment A or B – Application Form
- ☐ Attachment C – Budget (program/operational applications only)
- ☐ Attachment D – Application Certification Sheet
- ☐ Treatment Site(s) attachments (program/operational applications only)

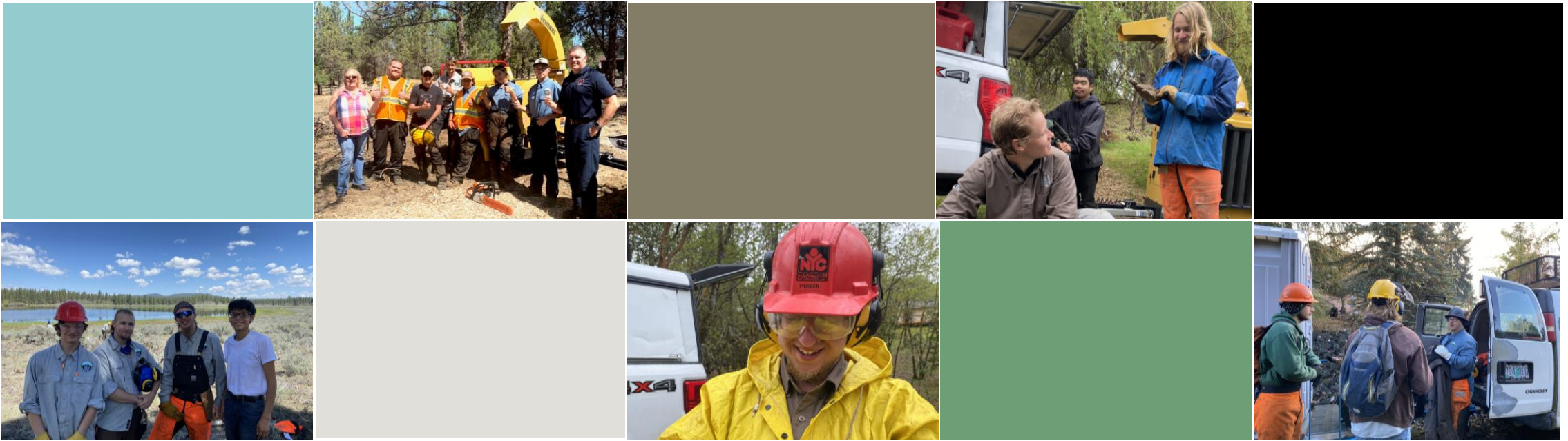
Walk through:

- ☐ HECC Grants Page

- ☐ “Review all Requirements” RFA through Attachment E
- ☐ Note: please still review Attachment I, the Reimbursement Template, and the Reporting Template. Your organization will have to have the capacity to complete these to have a successful award.

- ☐ CWPP Planning Tool

- ☐ Burn Probability (.01 and higher probability prioritized)
- ☐ Wildfire Risk (moderate and higher loss prioritized)
- ☐ The higher the probability or loss the higher the points assigned in this section of the rubric



Review Process

What the process includes (*with tentative dates*):

1. January - Reviewers selected
2. January - Reviewers receive initial training (or watch the recorded training video)
3. March 4 - Reviewers sign a conflict-of-interest form prior to application assignment
4. March 5-12 - Reviewers are assigned 3-6 applications to review
5. March 12 - April 2- Reviewers independently read, review, and score assigned applications
6. April 5-8 - Reviewers and HECC staff (Procurement and facilitators) meet for score norming (opportunity to review scores with peer reviewers and discuss any discrepancies) and to determine recommendations of awards/non-awards for Office of Workforce Investment leadership to consider.
7. April 9 – Grant Administrator presents recommendations to Office of Workforce Investment leadership.
8. April 12 – Grant Administrator sends Letters of Intent to Award (or Not-Award).

Program Application Rubric

Program Application: Total Points Possible		100
Section	Criteria	Weighted Total
Application	Section 2.2: Applicant Capacity	25
	Describe what your program will look like or include covering each purpose area of the grant: Reduce potential impact of fire through fuels reduction, create fire adapted communities, train the land managers of tomorrow.	
	Describe your organization and/or program's experience, expertise, and competency to successfully implement an Oregon Conservation Corps operational grant	



Program Application: Total Points Possible		100
Section	Criteria	Weighted Total
Application Section 2.3: Partnerships		20
	How does your organization currently engage with and plan to serve community members with the most need for fuels reduction supports?	
	How do the proposed projects engage Tribal stewards or partners to actively advise on the treatment process, site identification, or education to youth participants? (10 points for direct tribal applicants. At least 5 points to applicants with a direct tribal partner with letter of support included in application submission. Up to 5 points max for documented history of partnership. No documented history of partnership can only result in up to 3 points. All points become weighted for final score.)	
	How does your organization plan to engage with regional Oregon State Fire Marshal Risk Reduction Specialists to increase the effectiveness of your work?	
	Check the entities engaged in your proposed projects: ☐ Oregon Department of Forestry ☐ Oregon State Fire Marshal ☐ Oregon Emergency Management ☐ Regional Fire Protection Association(s) ☐ Local Fire Department(s) ☐ County/Municipal Emergency Management Office(s) ☐ County/Municipal land management offices (i.e. watershed councils, parks departments, fish and wildlife entities, etc.) ☐ US Department of Forestry ☐ Bureau of Indian Affairs ☐ Bureau of Land Management ☐ Other	

Program Application: Total Points Possible		100
Section	Criteria	Weighted Total
Application Section 2.4: Treatment Locations		20
	Identify project areas with maps referencing the Oregon CWPP Planning Tool map.	
	Which ZIP codes will be impacted by your proposed treatment sites?	
	Which counties do your treatment areas fall within?	
	What types of treatment will take place in the defined areas and how will debris be removed/broken down?	
Application Section 2.5: Participant Experience		25
	What are the estimate hours per week of service/training and what is the average duration of a participant’s experience?	
	Describe career exposure, career exploration, and/or education opportunities provided to participants.	
	Describe how your program supports culturally and developmentally appropriate participant experiences based on participant need.	
	Describe wraparound supports available to participants through your organization or through external coordination assisted by your staff.	
Application Section 2.6: Industry Training		10
	What specific transferrable skills will participants learn? (Reference O*Net, may also include specific occupational codes that training aims to prepare participants for.)	
	What certificates or industry-recognized credentials will participants be able to earn? This may include professional industry certificates/courses and/or educational credits.	

Planning Application Rubric

Planning Application: Total Points Possible		100
Section	Criteria	Weighted Total
Application Section 2.2: Applicant Capacity		25
	Describe your organization and/or program's experience, expertise, and competencies to initiate an Oregon Conservation Corps planning grant keeping in mind the grant's purpose to reduce potential impact of fire through fuels reduction, create fire adapted communities, train the land managers of tomorrow.	
Application Section 2.3: Partnership		20
	What partnerships are you hoping to further develop with these funds and why?	



Planning Application Scoring (2/2)



Program Application: Total Points Possible		100
Section	Criteria	Weighted Total
Application Section 2.4: Treatment Locations		20
	Which counties do your treatment areas fall within?	
	What types of treatment will take place in the defined areas and how will debris be removed/broken down?	
Application Section 2.5: Participant Experience		25
	Describe career exposure, career exploration, and/or education opportunities provided to participants.	
	Describe how your program supports culturally and developmentally appropriate participant experiences based on participant need.	
Application Section 2.6: Industry Training		10
	What specific transferrable skills will participants learn? (Reference O*Net, may also include specific occupational codes that training aims to prepare participants for.)	

- ☐ Browse by Transferable Skills
- ☐ Search for the jobs you are hoping to prepare your participants for
- ☐ Scroll down to “Transferable Skills”



Questions?

Single Point of Contact (“SPC”):
Shannon Ziglinski

Email: shannon.ziglinski@hecc.oregon.gov and
copy: hecc.procurement@hecc.oregon.gov