

HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING COMMISSION

2027-2029 Oregon Youth Corps: Request for Applications

Pre-Application Meeting via Zoom

Presented by: Mike Norman

October 30, 2026
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM Presentation

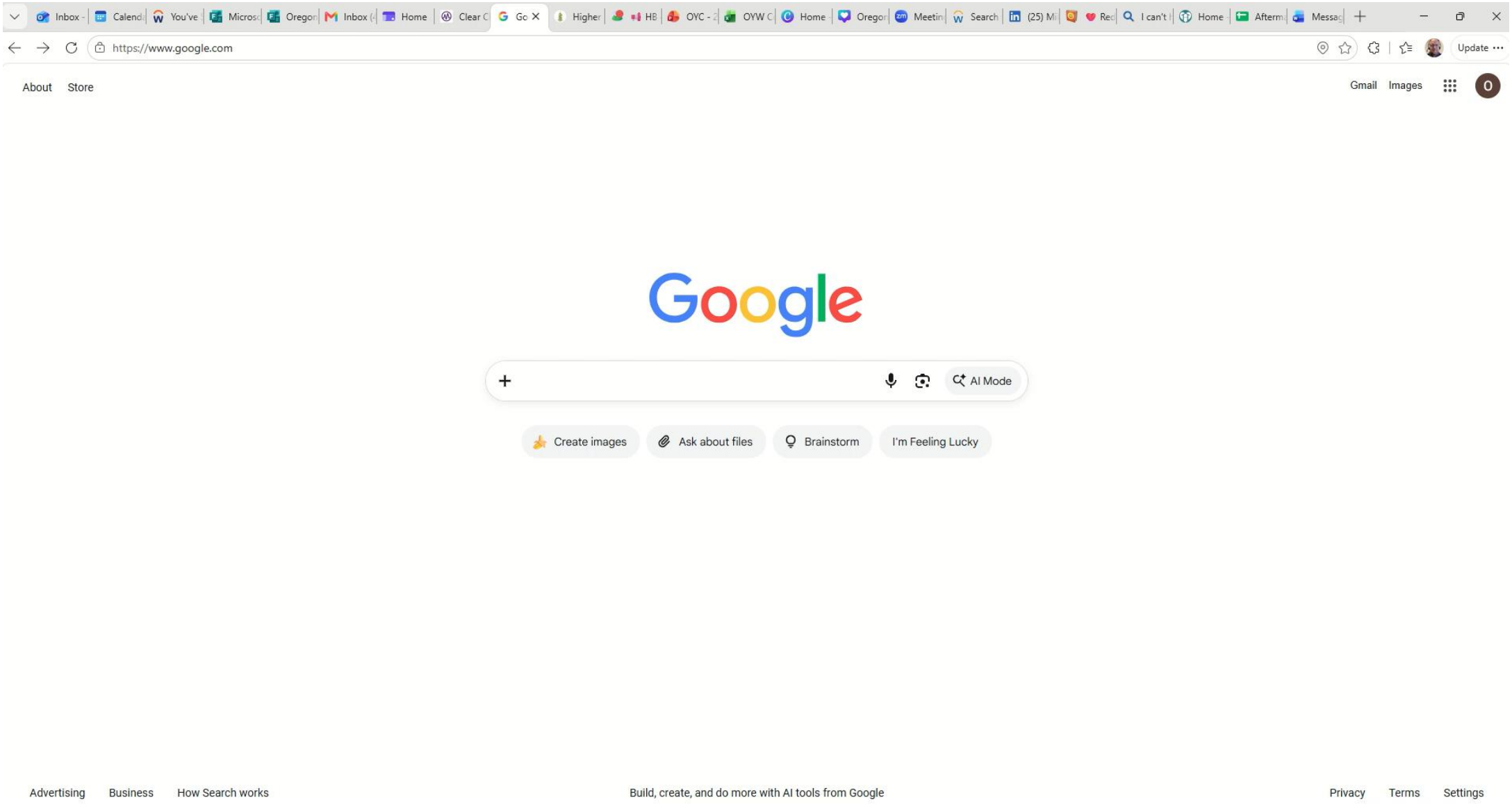


Request for Applications

- Review where to access the Request for Applications (RFA)
- Meet the Technical Assistance Providers (Self-Introduction)
- Important Dates
- Walk through the RFA and Community Stewardship Corps' requirements
- Walk through the RFA Application Form
- Q&A

Note: This recording, along with the subsequent Q & A Summary will also be uploaded to the HECC's Grant and Contracting webpage.

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Important Dates

Event	Date	Time
Request for Applications posted	October 19, 2026	By 5:00 p.m. PST
Pre-Application info session Register in advance for this meeting via zoom After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.	October 30, 2026	11:00 a.m. PST
RFA questions end date	December 9, 2026	3:00 p.m. PST
Applications due date	December 18, 2026	5:00 p.m. PST
Approximate issuance of intent to award	February 26, 2027	5:00 p.m. PST
Estimated Period of Performance start date	July 1, 2027 *upon execution of agreement	12:01 p.m. PST

Need help with your Application?

Meet our Technical Assistance Providers		
Name: Jaimie Lewis **Organization Name:** Anese and Associates **Phone:** 1-818-235-8750 **Email:** jaimie@aneseandassociates.com	**Name:** Genavieve (Gena) M. Sharkey **Organization Name:** Pacific Coast Business Solutions **Phone:** 1-458-455-9356 **Email:** pacificcoastbizsolutions@gmail.com	**Name:** Lupe Ramos Amith **Organization Name:** Outsource Execs, LLC **Phone:** 1-760-275-1554 **Email:** outsourceexecs@gmail.com
Name: Casey Grey Applegate **Organization Name:** WorkED **Phone:** 1-540-815-3636 **Email:** caseygrey@workedconsulting.com	**Name:** Harriet Lewis **Organization Name:** Konesens **Phone:** 1-888-297-9422 x700 **Email:** harriet@konesensdevelopment.com	**Name:** Susan Taylor **Organization Name:** The Grants Lab **Phone:** 1-540-505-3689 **Email:** susan@thegrantslab.com
Name: Delano Smith **Phone**: 1-682-302-0388 **Email**: dsmith.grants@gmail.com	**Name:** Marianne Boules **Organization Name:** Boules Consulting **Phone:** 1-818-599-2692 **Email:** marianne@boulesconsulting.org	

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Overview

- Oregon Youth Corps (OYC) is a state funded grant program
  - Program grants are offered for Service-Learning Education (SLE) projects and On-the-Job Training (OJT) projects.
- Grants run on a biennium timeline July – June
  - Funded programs typically operate year-round. Traditional Natural Resources project-based programs operate their SLE projects during the school year (September – June) and their OJT projects during the summer (June – August). However, different programs operate different models and may run SLE and OJT programming year-round.
- 2027-2029 Outlook:
  - Award ~$1,890,000 in initial funding. HECC reserves the right to amend agreements and add funds after this RFA closes.
    - Up to 72 grant awards are estimated to be awarded
  - Program grant award amounts likely to range $52,500 - $105,000
    - More than likely, most programs will apply for 1 SLE and 1 OJT project for $105,000
  - There are some larger programs that operate in more than 1 county that may apply for more than 2 total grant projects and beyond the $105,000 threshold.

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Grant Purpose

- To protect, conserve, rehabilitate and improve the natural, historical, and cultural resources of Oregon; and
- To increase educational, training and employment opportunities for disadvantaged and at-risk youth aged 13-24 in workforce training.
  - 75% of the youth participants must meet HECC's definition of disadvantaged and at-risk youth, which is broadly defined as: ***"those who may be unable to achieve the educational, economic, or social expectations of their community."***
- OYC Program Goal: Our program currently serves in 32 of 36 counties. We would like to serve in all 36 counties and hold agreements with all 9 federally recognized tribal nations of Oregon.

This is accomplished through:

- Crews and/or individual placement(s) of youth in SLE and/or OJT experiences that not only meet the goals of SLE and OJT experiences for work readiness "soft" and "technical" skills development for youth, but that also provides a clear public benefit.

Demonstrated Activities and Projects

- Attachment B (pg. 15) has examples of projects completed historically within this program portfolio.

Project Requirements:

- Projects must be located within the State of Oregon or within federally recognized tribal sovereign nation land within Oregon.
  - Project work may be on private land; however, this is strongly discouraged for the RFA application. See Section 2.2 of RFA for details.
- Youth participants work skills and education objectives must display measurable increase
- Public benefit must be defined for project proposed

Education & Work Training Requirements

- Their experiences need to provide them opportunities to develop and practice:
  - Essential Employability Skills (i.e. Soft Skills) such as integrity, dependability, work ethic, effective communication, open-mindedness, teamwork, creativity, problem-solving, critical thinking, adaptability, organization, willingness to learn, and empathy.
  - Opportunities for career and educational pathway exposure, learning and discovery (such as industry or college tours, guest speakers, job shadowing, hands-on-training and learning experiences, etc.)

Service-Learning Education (SLE) Program Goals

- Advance educational attainment, including earning academic credits, such as:
  - High School Credit
  - A High School Equivalency Certification/GED or a Diploma
  - College Credit
    - While in HS (i.e. dual credits or accelerated credits) or while in post-secondary programming
  - Vocational Training Certifications
    - Section 3.4 Advancing Pathways specifically asks for "industry recognized" certifications and/or credentials.
- Provide work-based learning opportunities to practice workforce skill development

On-the-Job Training (OJT) Program Goals

- Provide paid work-based learning opportunities that introduce and provide for the practice of workforce skills
- Strengthen communities and natural landscapes through stewardship project experiences

Community Stewardship Corps: Mapping Results

The OYC program analyzed service and workforce sector gaps in the 2023 – 2025 Community Stewardship Corps grant portfolio. This analysis was performed by consulting with all current OYC program partners, reviewing Oregon workforce studies and additional workforce studies authored by the Corps Network to identify sector gaps in the current grant program portfolio. The workforce sector gap results identified in these mapping activities are provided for the Applicant's reference in Attachment B.

- What we want applicants to know is that these mapping results are to benefit our collective knowledge of where gaps may be in our current programming, so that way we can all be thinking about ways we can work together to bridge those gaps when possible. There are no additional points to be awarded if responding to gaps is highlighted in a proposal. This is for everyone's reference only.

Community Stewardship Corps: Mapping Results (continued….)

In Attachment B: Examples (p. 15) you will see mapping results, but additionally, under **Section 2.1 Eligible Participants** of the RFA, you will find the following information which resulted from this program mapping:

- Historically, some at-risk communities that have had less than 25% of representation in OYC programs have been ***justice system involved, experience English language barriers, have involvement in the child welfare or foster care system, are unstably housed or experiencing houselessness, identify as LGBTQIA2S+, or are parenting or pregnant youth.***

Community Stewardship Corps: Mapping Results (continued….)

The following sectors or work projects were identified in the mapping results as shown in Attachment B: Examples (p. 15):

- Recycling and Waste Management
- GPS/GIS, Mapping and/or UAS/Drone
- Energy / Weatherization
- Behavioral Health
- Forestry
- Logging
- Wood-Product Manufacturing
- Agriculture

Eligibility: Applicants

Requirements:

- The applicant shall have its principal place of business in Oregon or be otherwise registered to do business in Oregon; and be a:

• **Nonprofit organization** • **Tribal Nation** • **Secondary or Post-Secondary School/School District/Education Services District**	• **Government Entity** • **Domestic Limited Liability Company** • **Public Benefit Corporation** • **Mutual Benefit Corporation**

- The applicant shall have experience developing and/or delivering workforce development and has developed partnerships in coordination of Natural Resource and/or Community Stewardship projects that provide a public benefit.
- The applicant shall meet HECC's requirements for insurance and background checks, as listed in the agreement.

Eligibility: Participants

Requirements:

- Youth participants must be aged 13 – 24
- Youth participants must be residents of Oregon
- 75% of youth participants must meet HECC's definition of disadvantaged and at risk. HECC defines youth who are disadvantaged and at-risk as "those who may be unable to achieve the educational, economic, or social expectations of their community."
  - In addition, participants should **mirror the local community's** diverse gender, ethnic, cultural and social representation.
  - Note: Historically, at-risk youth who have been served by the Community Stewardship Corps grant program have experienced or are experiencing academic gaps, justice system involvement, disabilities, English language barriers, economic hardship, child welfare or foster care system involvement, unstable housing or houselessness, identify as LGBTQIA2S+, are parenting or pregnant youth, have work skills gaps, are members of communities of color, live in a rural or frontier community or are a gender minority.

Point and Score Calculations

- Total points possible that can be awarded for an application are: **100 points**
- Each question (5) is worth **20 points** maximum. (See RFA pgs 10-11)

Question 1

Application Section 3.1 – Applicant Narratives		**20**
	Describe your experience in providing experiential and work-based learning.	
	Describe how these learning experiences incorporated Positive Youth Development, or how your proposed experiences will incorporate Positive Youth Development.	
	Describe how you have historically recruited and plan to recruit underserved and at-risk individuals, as identified in Section 2.1 Eligible Participants.	
	Describe how your past or proposed activities have or will provide equitable experiences for youth who have different lived experiences, or diverse backgrounds or cultures.	

Point and Score Calculations (continued……)

Question 2

Application Section 3.2: Skill Development		**20**
	Describe how your program proposes to teach and develop workforce readiness and technical skills. Which **transferrable skills** does your program hope to develop in participants?	

Question 3

Application Section 3.3: Community Partnerships and Benefit		**20**
	Describe how you propose to address community needs through collaboration with a network of partnerships in your proposed projects. Please identify the community needs to be addressed and partners you will engage for support.	

Point and Score Calculations (continued……)

Question 4

Application Section 3.4: Advancing Pathways		**20**
	What certificates or industry-recognized credentials will participants be able to earn? This may include professional industry certificates/courses and/or educational credits.	

Question 5

Application Section 4 and 5: Grant Specific Request - Narratives		**20**
	For each applicable Service-Learning Experience (SLE) and/or On-The-Job Training (OJT) Grant Specific Request, provide a response for the question below: Describe how your applicable SLE or OJT project will increase access for at-risk and underserved youth to: • **Advance their educational attainment** (e.g., academic credits, vocational trainings, and certifications). • **Gain work-based learning experiences** that provide opportunities to practice workforce skill development.	

The budget

- Typically, the majority of costs go towards youth wages or program staff wages
  - Youth are required to receive compensation either in the form of wages, learning stipends or other compensation equivalent to the value of minimum wages for their SLE/OJT activity time in the program. **(See p. 19 of RFA under "Participant Compensation").**
  - Program staff wages would typically go primarily towards a "crew leader", direct supervisor or educator/trainer, though it is allowable to use funds staff at any level performing work to ensure provision of SLE/OJT activities within the projects under the agreement.
- The remaining charges are often dispersed between:
  - Fringe benefits
  - Transportation costs
  - Materials and supplies
  - Equipment/Tools
  - Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
  - Personal Development (aka training)
  - Support Services
  - Other Direct Costs
  - Administrative Costs

Indirect Cost Rates

- Under this agreement, the standard de minimus indirect cost rate is 15%. However, should an organization have a different federally negotiated indirect cost rate, they are able to provide that in their application or during the agreement negotiation period.

Data Collected & Reporting

- Grantees submit data twice a year. The 6-month progress report collects data more minimally, and then the annual report collects additional data.
  - Data is aggregated and used to inform content for annual reports.

- Data collected includes, but isn't limited to:
  - First and last names and date of birth for all participants (this information will be treated as Confidential Information by both parties);
  - General participant demographics;
  - Total number of hours of work and learning experiences provided;
  - Budget details and expenditure report(s);
  - Project pictures;
  - Certifications earned;
  - Skills developed;
  - Project location by ZIP code;
  - Impact narratives;
  - Data on collaboration and partnerships

Live demonstration of the application form

Request for Applications ("RFA"): 27-002-RFA Oregon Youth Corps 2027-2029

12/18/2026 5:00:00 PM Pacific Time

Name of Grant or Contract	Request for Applications ("RFA"): 27-002-RFA Oregon Youth Corps 2027-2029
OregonBuys number	N/A
Due date	12/18/2026

Review all Requirements Please review all requirements in the RFA:

RFA requirements and instructions
- 27-002-RFA Oregon Youth Corps 2027-2029

RFA Application Form (Word)
- Attachment A-Application Form-Word Doc

RFA Application Form (PDF – Less Optimal)
- Attachment A-Application Form-Fillable PDF

RFA Application Certification Sheet
- Attchment C-Application Certification Sheet

Collected Questions & Answers: Updated until 12/9/2026
- QNA 1

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How and when to submit application

Applicants can submit questions regarding this RFA **up until Wednesday December 9th 2026 at 3:00 PM PST** to the Single Point of Contact (SPC):

- Lisa Kelly-Harriman: Lisa.M.KELLY-HARRIMAN@hecc.oregon.gov &
- HECC Procurement hecc.procurement@hecc.oregon.gov

The Application for this RFA is **due by Friday December 18th 2026 by 5:00 PM PST.**

- Complete submissions **must include**:
  - Attachment A: Application Form
  - Attachment C: Application Certification Sheet

  and be submitted via email to:
- SPC: Lisa.M.KELLY-HARRIMAN@hecc.oregon.gov &
- hecc.procurement@hecc.oregon.gov
  - Please put in the email subject line something like "27-002-RFA OYC"

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Questions?

Grant Administrator
Mike Norman, Program Analyst II,
Oregon Youth Works program.
mike.norman@hecc.oregon.gov
971-372-5655

Single Point of Contact (SPC):
Lisa Kelly-Harriman, Procurement & Contract Specialist
lisa.m.kelly-harriman@hecc.oregon.gov
503-979-5839

10/08/2026