Higher Education Coordinating Commission
RFP 27-002: Oregon Youth Corps 2027-2029

Date: October 26, 2026
Single Point of Contact: Lisa Kelly-Harriman
Phone: 503-979-5839
Email: lisa.m.kelly-harriman@hecc.oregon.gov

Questions & Answers

1. **Attachment A erroneously listed 'Please provide an initial budget request for up to $50,000 per project'.**

   This has been corrected to match the RFA, as $52,500 per project is allowed.

2. **Why does clicking the Attachment A – Application link direct back to the RFA?**

   This was a technical issue on our end and we apologize. It has been fixed as of 10/21.

3. **Will the info session be recorded if a potential applicant is unable to attend?**

   Yes, the info session (on Friday October 30, 2026 at 11am via Zoom **(Registration Link)**) will be recorded and posted on the grant and contracts opportunities page the following week to view along with the PowerPoint slides.

4. **Eligible activities: Would youth-led field surveys, GIS inventories, and drone mapping supporting trail management, habitat monitoring, or restoration qualify as stewardship projects?**

   These proposed projects would qualify as eligible stewardship projects.

5. **Must project partners and worksites be confirmed when applying?**

   Partners do not need to be confirmed at the time of application.

6. **Participant compensation: May SLE funds support participation or completion stipends? What restrictions apply? For OJT, under what circumstances may stipends be used instead of wages?**

   Program participants where wages are required must be compensated in the following manner:

   - At least Oregon minimum wage by region according to the current rules regarding Oregon minimum wage established by the Bureau of Labor & Industries; OR
   - As per OAR 715-102-0020, if a grantee is prohibited by state or federal law from the payment of wages, such as an AmeriCorps program, an allowance or stipend, or a combination of an allowance or stipend and postsecondary education and training

monetary award, such that the total monetary value of the allowance or stipend and the total monetary value of any other postsecondary education monetary award or institutional credit hour award received by the participant or on behalf of the participant, when totaled and divided by the total hours served in the program, is equal to or exceeds the monetary value of minimum wage as described in the bullet point above.

Minimum wage rate chart can be found at:
https://www.oregon.gov/boli/workers/Pages/minimum-wage.aspx

7. **Faculty compensation: May either grant cover PI and Co-PI summer salary and fringe benefits for curriculum development, instruction, youth supervision, coordination, and evaluation? Are there limits?**

   It is allowable for staff salary and fringe benefits to be charged to the direct costs of this grant. Curriculum development, instruction, youth supervision, coordination and evaluation are all staff activities that could be completed under staff salary/wages. However, please note that the majority of funds are intended to go to wages/stipends for youth participants at the equivalent value minimum wage as discussed above. Most applicants are allowed up to an indirect cost rate of 15% de minimis.

8. **Program duration: We understand that SLE requires at least three months and OJT at least five weeks. Must these periods be continuous and completed by each participant? Could SLE operate part-time over three months and OJT operate as a summer-only program? Are minimum weekly or total participant hours required?**

   Please note that the specific project and activity terms, such as experience hours to be provided to each youth participant, will be negotiated should you receive an intent to award after this RFA application period has closed. For the purpose of the application, please closely review Section 3.3 Point and Score Calculations Pages 10 and 11 (which align with Attachment A: Application Form) and answer all questions in the application form as best as possible. If the application does not clearly state requirements such as what you listed above, then your score will be impacted regarding your response to those specific requirements. Scoring is only based on what is outlined in the questions in the Attachment A: Application Form.

9. **Participant numbers: Is there a minimum enrollment or crew size, or an expected cost per participant?**

   There is not a minimum enrollment requirement or crew size. The only calculation involved is related to minimum wage value (either in wages or stipend) as discussed above. Your proposed budget needs to account for stipends/wages for participants and align with your proposed project and not exceed the allowable request limits.

10. **Participation in both programs: May the same eligible youth complete SLE training and then participate in a separately funded OJT project? If so, how should overlapping participants be counted and reported?**

    Yes, Youth Participants are allowed to participate in both SLE and OJT projects and activities. If you are issued an intent to award notice, during the period of agreement

negotiation, you would be able to have that conversation with the grant program administrator.

11. **Other budget items: Are project-specific equipment, software, certification fees, and tuition or college-credit fees allowable? Are there purchasing limits or prior-approval requirements?**

    These are allowable costs for this grant. Certification fees, tuition, and college credit fees are examples of things that can be calculated into the minimum wage value as discussed above. A youth participant could receive a combination of wages/learning stipends and certification fees, tuition and college credit fees that have a combined total value of minimum wage for their time in the program per that calculation mentioned above.

12. **Indirect costs and match: May an applicant use its applicable federally negotiated indirect cost rate, or does a different cap apply? Please also confirm whether any matching contribution is required.**

    Yes, an applicant may use their federally negotiated indirect cost rate in the proposal. The standard Indirect Cost Rate is 15% de minimis. A matching contribution is not required, and there is no mechanism within the RFA that awards extra points for matching contributions.

13. **Application structure: For one SLE and one OJT project in the same county, should we submit one Attachment A covering both projects or separate applications? Are partner or university commitment letters required beyond Attachments A and C?**

    Attachment A: Application Form is able to be completed for more than 1 project. The form should cue throughout that you are allowed to write narrative descriptions for more than 1 project in a particular text field. There is no requirement for university commitment letters. The full completion of Attachment A and C by a representative that is legally authorized to sign said attachments are what is needed to complete the application.

14. **How and where does a proposer send a completed application?**

    When you are ready to submit your application, please email it to Lisa Kelly-Harriman at Lisa.M.Kelly-Harriman@hecc.oregon.gov **and** copy our procurement inbox at hecc.procurement@hecc.oregon.gov !