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

Date: November 25, 2026
Single Point of Contact: Lisa Kelly-Harriman
Phone: 503-979-5839
Email: lisa.m.kelly-harriman@hecc.oregon.gov

Questions & Answers 3

1. **Can OJT and SLE operate concurrently with the same youth participants, provided the organization/entity documents the distinct requirements and document the activities and outcomes of each?**

   Yes. OJT and SLE activities can operate concurrently, and youth participants can simultaneously participate in both programs. The grant administrator would discuss with an applicant during the negotiation phase requirements for documentation of activities for a single youth participating in both SLE and OJT programming. There would also be ongoing technical assistance, post agreement execution.

2. **If awarded funds, could OYC -funded activities count toward a required program match of another funder, assuming the expenses are eligible under both awards?**

   This is potentially possible. The grant administrator would discuss with an applicant during the negotiation phase and provide ongoing technical assistance, post agreement execution.

3. **Is there a cost for the technical assistance or are these services free of charge?**

   Oregon Youth Corps is using funds from its own program budget to pay for Technical Assistance Provider (TAP) services for applicants. There is no cost to the applicant to utilize TAP services.

4. **Can HECC provide an <u>example</u> budget request?**

   This is for example purposes only: "We are requesting $52,500 for this project. Direct costs will total $45,652.16, with roughly $30,000 estimated for participant wages and benefits, $10,000 for staff wages and benefits, and the remaining $5,652 to be split as needed to cover supplies and transportation costs. Our indirect cost rate will be the de minimis 15% of $6,847.84."

5. **Does "heritage interpretation" for visitors count as a public benefit?**

   Heritage Interpretation for community visitors would fall under the program's intent via this RFA to conserve cultural resources of the state and provides public benefit and community stewardship.

6. **Is Columbia County 1 of the 4 counties OYC does not currently have Community Stewardship Corps programs in?**

   The 4 counties OYC does not currently have Community Stewardship Corps programs in are: Clatsop, Columbia, Morrow and Yamhill county.

7. **Does HECC want all proposals in one document or separate proposals for each project?**

   The application document is a single document, and regardless of whether you are requesting funds for 1 project or the maximum of 10 proposals, it can all be completed within 1 single application. The application form is found on HECC's Grant and Contract Opportunities page.

8. **Can HECC confirm that needs are based on community needs, not individual participant needs?**

   The intent of the grant is to provide stewardship for public lands or communities. Individual benefit will be received by individual participants; HECC asks for individual impacts in the application. It is recommended to answer each question in the application fully, as it will provide a picture of the community and individual impacts in the appropriate section(s).

9. **In Section 3.4 on discussing credentials – HECC does not require certification but if the applicant offers credits that students will receive in school classes, would that qualify as a positive reply to certification?**

   Yes, it can include certificates, courses and/or educational credits.

10. **Is the deadline for questions (12/9/26) for the Single Point of Contact, or is that also the cutoff date for applicants to reach out to Technical Assistance Providers?**

    12/09/2026 is the deadline for questions to the Single-Point of Contact. Applicants are allowed to work with TAPS up until 11:59 PM PST on 12/18/2026.

11. **Is it allowable to include stipends for job shadow providers in the budget?**

    Yes – HECC suggests providing a narrative for grant evaluators to understand why a job shadow provider may expect payment/stipend or why the applicant needs funds from the grant to pay those stipends as opposed to paying out of their general funds. This is a "direct cost" and thus allowable, but because it's a unique budget item, it would be helpful to provide context around need.

12. **If an organization provides services that benefit a private landowner, is that allowable?**

    As stated in the Pre-Application Information Session on 10/30 and noted in the RFA itself, it is strongly discouraged to present proposals in this application for projects that benefit private lands and/or landowners. However, projects that benefit a private landowner or private landowner are allowable under this grant program IF the project meets the

definition of community stewardship AND provides a larger benefit to the public than to the private person(s) or private land itself. If a proposal is for a project benefiting a private land or person(s), the applicant should communicate clearly how the project meets the community stewardship intent/definition AND how it benefits the public more than the private land or person(s).

13. **Is it required to apply for a Planning Grant first if applicant has not had an OYC grant before?**

    This is not a requirement under RFA 27-002. Any organization that is eligible to apply under Section 2.2 of this RFA (i.e. they have an eligible corporate status) may apply, regardless of whether they have had a planning grant with OYC previously or not.

14. **Are there limits on the number of counties served in a proposal? Would it be allowable to engage 5 groups of youth in 5 different counties and submit an application for $260,000 for SLE and $260,000 for OJT?**

    Yes - an applicant is allowed to apply for projects in up to 5 counties. This means: applicant may apply for 5 SLE and 5 OJT projects potentially, at up to $52,500 total per project, which would be up to a total of $262,500 for OJT and $262,500 for SLE - for a grand total of up to $525,000.

15. **Are there minimum amounts of time required for employment in On-the-Job Trainings, and Service Learning Education?**

    No, HECC is not incorporating minimum requirements of experience hours per participant. HECC is only requires a detailed narrative on proposed project activities and intended amounts of youth to serve. Should your organization receive an intent-to-award notification, at the time of negotiation and execution of an agreement, you would discuss that with the grant administrator for specific outcomes/expectations beyond what is listed in the RFA's sections 2.2 (pgs 7 & 8) and 3.3 (pgs 10 & 11).