Future Ready Oregon Workforce Ready Grants – Technology

Grant-funded projects are color-coded by funding round. See the final page for an additional grant-funded projects from the 2023 "Innovation in Workforce Programs" round; these projects advance workforce education and training programs in technology as well as either healthcare or manufacturing.

Capacity-Building Grants (2022; projects complete June 30, 2023) | **Innovation in Workforce Programs Grants (2023; projects ongoing through June 30, 2026)** | **Sector-focused Grants – Technology (2024; projects ongoing through June 30, 2026)**

Grantee	Project Description	Counties Served	Priority Populations Served	Amount Awarded
Afghan Support Network	The Afghan Information Technology Career Program will train 100 Afghan refugees in Oregon to prepare them for careers in the information technology (IT) field. Afghan Support Network will provide culturally appropriate training geared towards achieving certifications valued by the IT profession and positioning them for future employment. In addition to the training, Afghan Support Network will provide career coaching, vocational English classes, and other wraparound services to support refugees and remove barriers to success. Afghan Support Network anticipates having at least 75 Afghan refugees entering the IT profession by the end of the grant period.	Clackamas, Marion, Multnomah, Polk, Washington	communities of color, low-income communities	$623,902
Apprenti	Apprenti will grow a new technology workforce focused on women, communities of color, individuals with disabilities and veterans through Registered Apprenticeship Programs (RAP) in technology occupations throughout Oregon. Apprenti will conduct outreach to identify employers with mid-level career opportunities in tech. Apprenti will educate and engage with these employers to build a sustainable pathway to careers for underrepresented groups, as part of a long-term workforce strategy. Apprenti will partner with Oregon workforce boards statewide to identify the needs of apprentices and to provide wraparound services to support apprentices to minimize barriers to successful program completion.	Oregon	communities of color, persons with disabilities, veterans, women	$400,000
Chemeketa Community College	Chemeketa Community College's project will support access to careers in computer information systems and cybersecurity by recruiting students to the field through funding Computer Information Systems Certificate coursework and supporting the Tech Support Specialist Apprenticeship. Chemeketa currently has an application under review with the Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) to be the statewide intermediary for the Apprenticeship. This Workforce Ready Grant will support the program launch (once approved by BOLI), while simultaneously serving non-apprenticeship students through recruitment of underrepresented students, tuition-free coursework, increased advising, and a focus on student engagement with specialized learning opportunities in the tech field.	Linn, Marion, Polk, Yamhill	communities of color, LGBTQ+ individuals, low-income communities, women	$297,443

Workforce Ready Grants – Technology Projects

Grantee	Project Description	Counties Served	Priority Populations Served	Amount Awarded
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation	The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation will partner with Cayuse Native Solutions, DelMar Aerospace and Blue Mountain Community College to offer pathways for unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) credentialing and wraparound services through their Workforce Development Program.	Umatilla	communities of color, women, low-income communities, veterans, persons with disabilities, incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals, members of Oregon Tribes, older adults, LGBTQ+, rural communities	$2,130,362
Eastern Oregon University (Acquisition of Computer and Technical Skills)	The Eastern Oregon University Acquisition of Computer and Technical Skills (EOU-ACTS) project will provide cybersecurity training for 70 Computer Science students and Information Technology (IT) internships for six students at Eastern Oregon University (EOU) over two years, from July 2024 to June 2026. The project will prioritize students from rural Eastern Oregon communities, low-income students, and women. The program will extend existing academic coursework by providing hands-on IT network support and cybersecurity training. Students will use Cybersecurity training platforms to learn current cyber defense techniques. IT interns will learn to replace network infrastructure, manage critical services, integrate artificial intelligence (AI) tools, and implement VPNs with the EOU IT department. Students can earn academic credit for the cybersecurity training and IT internships, in addition to receiving monetary support provided by the grant funding.	Union	low-income communities, rural and frontier communities, women	$1,142,977
Eastern Oregon University (Greater Oregon STEM Hub)	Greater Oregon STEM Hub (GO STEM) will hire a Technology Workforce Exploration Educator (TWEE) to develop and provide technology-focused lessons via EOU's established Mobile Maker Lab Effort (MMLE), and act as the expert-in-residence to empower local educators to craft lessons tailored to the local community and region, harnessing the power of artificial intelligence (AI). This added team member will enable GO STEM to deliver more comprehensive workforce development education across Eastern Oregon through a deeply personalized career-focused curriculum, as well as through an innovative train-the-trainer model for regional educators to bolster school-to-workforce connections.	Baker, Grant, Harney, Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa	rural and frontier communities	$444,999
EncodeXP	EncodeXP will build a robust new model for training in digital literacy and create career exploration opportunities and pathways to entrepreneurship and employment in the technology industry, partnering with youth-serving organizations in Southern Oregon.	Jackson, Josephine	communities of color, women, low-income communities, veterans, incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals, older adults, LGBTQ+, rural communities	$712,101

Workforce Ready Grants – Technology Projects

Grantee	Project Description	Counties Served	Priority Populations Served	Amount Awarded
Nonprofit Technology Enterprise Network	The Open Source Fellowship (OSF) will recruit, educate, and train neurodivergent individuals, ages 18-35, including those with dyslexia, ADHD, and autism spectrum disorders who are interested in advancing their technology and open source development careers. The OSF program will also include opportunities for learning and capacity building for staff in nonprofit organizations and technology companies through Fellow work placements, online and offline training, and networking events. Fellows will receive training as full-stack developers, contributing to open source projects for local nonprofits. The innovative program was developed by practitioners with lived neurodiversity experiences, emphasizing evidence-based practices, financial accessibility, and wraparound supports to build equitable opportunities for participants. By addressing systemic challenges and leveraging participatory approaches, the fellowship OSF aims to improve employment outcomes while advancing inclusive opportunities for neurodivergent professionals.	Clackamas, Columbia, Multnomah, Washington, Yamhill	persons with disabilities	$666,880
Oregon Institute of Technology (UX Writing, Design, and Research)	This project aims to: 1) develop a training program that provides upskilling/reskilling in user experience (UX) writing, research, and design, and 2) build awareness of transferable technology skills in UX to a range of occupations. It will serve the state workforce growth interest by creating hands-on, engaged learning experiences that will help Oregonians develop UX skills for positions across technology industries. Through hands-on class projects and a paid apprenticeship, certificate students will learn user-centered design, use cases, design principles and theory, accessibility, user research methods, and industry-standard UX tools. Certificate students can pursue career opportunities as UX professionals in fields like software development, information technology (IT), mechanical and medical device engineering, and instructional design and education.	Oregon	low-income communities, rural and frontier communities, women	$500,000
Oregon Institute of Technology (Applied Computing)	The "Applied Computing Training for Upskilling and Reskilling Professionals" project aims to equip professionals from underserved communities with essential concepts and tools in applied computing, covering topics from system architecture to data science methodologies. The program's key objectives are to develop a skilled workforce by equipping participants with the technical skills and knowledge required for high-demand careers, facilitate professional development through specialized training and mentorship, promote continuous learning habits to keep pace with evolving technologies, provide problem-solving support for real-world challenges through applied research and collaboration, and encourage knowledge exchange in a collaborative environment. By achieving these goals, the project aims to ensure that participants from underserved communities gain the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively navigate and utilize technology-driven environments.	Klamath	members of Oregon Tribes, veterans, women	$709,546

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Grantee	Project Description	Counties Served	Priority Populations Served	Amount Awarded
Oregon Solar Energy Education Fund	Oregon Solar Energy Education Fund will provide women, low-income individuals, and members of BIPOC communities with tools, books, and coursework reimbursement for apprentices enrolled in the Limited Renewable Energy Technician (LRT) Apprenticeship Program, and paid internships at solar companies.	Clackamas, Deschutes, Jackson, Lane, Multnomah, Polk, Washington	communities of color, women, low-income communities, incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals, members of Oregon Tribes, LGBTQ+, rural communities	$724,621
Oregon State University (College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences)	Geospatial Internship & Skills Training for Employment and Professional development (GIS-STEP) is a collaborative, evidence-based innovative workforce partnership between Oregon State University, Central Oregon Community College, Blue Mountain Community College, and employers, creating geospatial technology workforce ready cohorts to reskill and upskill incumbent workers. Participants will be employable in Oregon's high-wage, high-demand geospatial information and technology industries due to their technical expertise, analytical skills, and hands-on work experience. GIS-STEP will cover tuition, fees, and books for in-person and/or online classes, career readiness training, and a paid GIS internship for 55 participants to pursue geospatial technology careers. Supporting educational equity, GIS-STEP will prioritize communities of color, low-income communities, and rural and frontier communities in Oregon.	Oregon	communities of color, low-income communities, rural and frontier communities	$1,000,000
Oregon State University (OSU Professional and Continuing Education)	Oregon State University's (OSU's) proposed PDX Software Career Accelerator program will provide underserved learners with 12-week boot camp-style programs taking place in convenient, accessible, and culturally relevant sites across Portland (for example, community centers and churches). Upon completion, participants will enter into nine-month apprenticeships connected to Portland-area employers—with guidance and support from program personnel throughout. This innovative, partnership-driven effort is designed to provide local industry with qualified professionals to meet growing demand for software and web developers in the Portland area.	Clackamas	communities of color, low-income communities, women	$1,000,000

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Grantee	Project Description	Counties Served	Priority Populations Served	Amount Awarded
Oregon TRIO Association	Oregon TRIO Association will launch an initiative aimed at strengthening its support for 55 TRIO programs across Oregon, directly impacting 300 students pursuing careers in technology. Oregon TRIO will hire a Workforce Readiness Director dedicated to leading practical workshops that introduce students to various technology careers and impart vital, versatile tech skills. Efforts will concentrate on middle and high school students from low-income, first-generation, rural, and BIPOC backgrounds. TRIO programs aim to raise awareness of tech career opportunities and encourage thorough exploration of high-tech fields throughout the state with the goal of preparing students with the essential skills and knowledge to succeed in the rapidly changing tech sector, contributing to long-term economic and personal growth.	Baker, Benton, Clatsop, Columbia, Coos, Crook, Curry, Deschutes, Douglas, Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Hood River, Jackson, Jefferson, Josephine, Klamath, Lake, Lane, Linn, Malheur, Marion, Morrow, Multnomah, Polk, Sherman, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, Wasco, Wheeler, Yamhill	communities of color, low-income communities, rural and frontier communities	$223,939
Pacific University	Pacific University's "Empowering Communities Through Student Leadership & Technology Integration" program will leverage the talents of diverse College of Business students to support local Oregon businesses through technology. Over 1.5 years, the program will create three to five teams of three students each semester that will support small businesses in collaboration with Birdee Media. Each student-led team will assess a website and social media platforms, providing data analytic insights for business growth. This hands-on approach will teach students practical, technical, and digital skills while supporting business growth. The project will foster collaboration, aiming to enhance student employability and business success via a thorough assessment of customer-facing digital platforms. Learn more here: www.boxerbusinessfutures.com/	Washington	communities of color, women	$525,100
Portland State University	This collaborative project represents an innovative training program that will upskill and reskill tribal members in cybersecurity jobs. This partnership between Hatfield Cybersecurity and Cyber Defense Policy Center (part of Oregon Cybersecurity Center of Excellence - CCD/OCCOE), CISCO, Institute of Tribal Government, and Umpqua Technologies of the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians will build awareness and lower barriers to pursue careers in cybersecurity with an industry-recognized certification. This two-year program will include nine one-day-long introductory cybersecurity seminars held on tribal sites, followed by virtual advanced certificate options: (a) a no-cost 12-week noncredit cybersecurity resilience certificate at CCD/OCCOE, or (b) a selection of fee-based certificate trainings for those who prefer an industry option (with scholarships available).	Multnomah	members of Oregon Tribes	$604,378

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Grantee	Project Description	Counties Served	Priority Populations Served	Amount Awarded
Project Youth+	Project Youth+, a nonprofit in Southern Oregon, proposes the Rogue Valley NextGen Tech Hub project. This innovative initiative aims to bridge the digital skills gap among low-income rural youth in the Rogue Valley. By offering training in high-demand tech skills such as Python, data science, and artificial intelligence (AI), the project will address critical needs in the tech sector for a historically underserved population. The NextGen Tech Hub provides state-of-the-art technology access and comprehensive support services, overcoming multiple barriers faced by these youth. This holistic approach ensures participants are equipped with cutting-edge technical skills and the necessary support to succeed in their careers.	Jackson, Josephine	low-income communities, rural and frontier communities	$605,964
Ross Ragland Theater	The Ross Ragland Theater Pathways in Technology program will provide education and training opportunities with transferable technology skills in audiovisual (AV) training settings. The program raises awareness of AV technology occupations around theater-performance technologies. Participants can earn credit for a high school diploma, associate degree, or certificate and gain relevant work experience in a technical field. The program will provide paid internships, credit for prior learning, and course credit training on equipment in a professional theater environment. Participants working in this program can earn transferable education credit through articulation agreements with local high schools and higher education entities. Program participants will be prepared for employment in entry-level AV engineering areas. The program will broaden AV understanding and upskill participants in rural and low-income communities.	Klamath	low-income communities, rural and frontier communities, women	$500,000
University of Oregon	The Nurturing Inclusive Cybersecurity Education (NICE) project will lay the foundation for creating more equitable cybersecurity education programs in Oregon high schools and postsecondary institutions that focus on underrepresented students. The project includes three activity tracks: 1) engaging in outreach at several Oregon high schools with high populations of underrepresented students to inform, mentor, and support students in pursuing a postsecondary Cybersecurity degree; 2) curating a culturally responsive Cybersecurity curriculum for Oregon high schools with direct feedback from teachers and underrepresented students; and 3) improving the retention of underrepresented students in University of Oregon Cybersecurity programs by conducting a DEI audit of the Cybersecurity curriculum, and providing community-building, advising, tutoring, and job-placement support.	Benton, Deschutes, Lane, Marion, Polk, Washington, Yamhill	communities of color, low-income communities, women	$500,000
Warm Springs Community Action Team	Warm Springs Community Action Team will build the capacity of the workforce development program by conducting needs assessments and asset mapping, and by developing a vision and strategic plan around technology workforce training in Warm Springs. This includes a variety of technology sectors, including IT and solar. They will serve tribal members living on the Warm Springs Indian Reservation.	Jefferson, Wasco	Communities of color, Women, Low-income communities, Rural and frontier communities, members of Oregon Tribes	$126,079

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Grantee	Project Description	Counties Served	Priority Populations Served	Amount Awarded
Warm Springs Community Action Team	This project will expand on Warm Spring Community Action Team's Grow with Google certificate program to enable Warm Springs community members to complete training and find long-term career opportunities in the technology sector. Fifteen participants per year will have opportunities to complete an internship and create a portfolio, based on what they learn in their Grow with Google certificate program, gaining skills and increasing their competitiveness in the workforce.	Jefferson	low-income communities; members of Oregon Tribes; rural and frontier communities	$452,991

Innovation in Workforce Programs Grants (2023) that served multiple sectors, including technology

Organization	Description	County	Priority Populations	Amount Awarded
Chemeketa Community College	Chemeketa Community College's Community Pathways to Careers program will formalize relationships with community-based organizations and tribal governments that support participants in career exploration, early internships, short-term credentialing, and employment.	Marion, Polk, Yamhill	communities of color, women, low-income communities, incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals, members of Oregon Tribes, LGBTQ+, rural communities	$2,790,578
Connected Lane County	Connected Lane County will provide accelerated workforce education and training in manufacturing, healthcare, and technology for youths ages 16-24, along with internship opportunities and comprehensive support services.	Lane	communities of color, women, low-income communities, persons with disabilities, LGBTQ+, rural communities	$1,400,325
Portland Community College	The Portland Community College (PCC) Community 2 Career (C2C) program will create and expand connections between community-based organizations, PCC's Opportunity Center, and regional employers to support workforce training, industry-recognized certifications, short-term pathways to employment, and other opportunities for economic mobility.	Columbia, Multnomah, Washington	communities of color, low income, veterans, persons with disabilities, incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals, members of Oregon Tribes, rural communities	$2,235,649

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University of Oregon Phil and Penny Knight Campus for Accelerating Scientific Impact	University of Oregon will support career pathways from community college through industry-focused bachelor's and master's degrees that lead to high-tech and manufacturing jobs. The career pathways programming will include scholarships, cultural competency training, and master's-level internships. This project leverages a $4.3M 6-year National Science Foundation-funded program in partnership with Lane, Umpqua, and Central Oregon community colleges.	Deschutes, Douglas, Lane	low-income communities	$1,039,835
Warm Springs Community Action Team	Warm Springs Community Action Team will provide and expand career exploration, training, and work experience opportunities— including training in Information Technology (IT) and solar technology— to Warm Springs Community members.	Jefferson, Wasco	communities of color, low-income communities, incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals, members of Oregon Tribes, LGBTQ+, rural communities	$870,056