



DLCD

Department of
Land Conservation
& Development

2026 Achievement in Community Engagement Award

Applications accepted through May 5, 2026

Each year, Oregon's Community Involvement Advisory Committee reviews applications for the Achievement in Community Engagement or ACE Awards. Local governments, special districts, and community organizations are all welcome to apply. These awards are intended to recognize community engagement in land use planning activities. This includes short and long range planning, community visioning, and similar activities. The ACE awards are not meant to apply to activities that are done to carry out land use plans already in place.

In establishing Oregon's land use planning program, the Oregon legislature recognized that effective community engagement is key to the successful implementation of community planning. It is no accident that the statewide planning goal with top billing, Goal 1, requires local agencies to meaningfully engage community members in the land use planning process. Under Goal 1, governmental agencies are required to:

- **Provide for widespread community engagement in all phases of the planning process,**
- **Provide for two-way communication between members of the public and decision-makers as plans are prepared, assuring that responses to public inquiries and input are provided;**
- **Make technical information available and understandable.**

The ACE Award recognizes land use planning projects that support and expand our ideas of what it means to pursue "best practices" in community engagement. "Land use planning projects" are projects with outcomes that guide the future actions or development of a community. It presents a vision for the future, with long-range goals and objectives that affect use of the land, the built environment, and local government.

Note: In Survey Monkey, respondents are unable to save and return to this application. Unfortunately, applications that are not submitted upon completion will be lost. If you plan to apply, we recommend you review the [pdf question guide](#) before completing the online survey.



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ACE Award Application

Eligibility: Project submissions must address excellence in engaging the community in land use planning. Eligible projects are related to land use planning and must have completed at least one phase of public outreach prior to submission.

Deadline: Applications must be submitted to DLCD by Monday, May 5, 2026. If you have questions, please contact Sadie Carney, 503-383-6648, sadie.carney@dlcd.oregon.gov; or Ingrid Caudel, 971-701-1133, ingrid.caudel@dlcd.oregon.gov.

Award Notification: On the CIAC's behalf, DLCD will announce the results in the summer of 2026.

* 1. Name of Project:

* 2. Jurisdiction or Local Government:

* 3. Applicant name:

* 4. Contact email:

5. Contact phone number:

* 6. Name of organization or agency:

* 7. Does this project relate to short or long range land use planning, community visioning, or similar activities?

Yes

No

8. Optional: Upload a cover letter or memo describing your project.

Please limit document length to less than one two-sided page.

Choose File

Choose File

No file chosen



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Project Team and Partners

9. Who led the community engagement effort for this project?

- Tribal Government
- City government
- County government
- Special District
- Community based organization
- Consultant
- Other (please specify)

10. Project start date:

Generalizations acceptable: e.g. "Spring 2024" or "2025"

11. Target project completion date:

12. What organizations participated in the project team and/or as project partners?

If a project team or partnership includes a community based organization as a fundamental project team participant, please include them here.

13. If community-based or community-serving organizations were involved in community engagement efforts, please identify the community or communities they represent in your response.

14. To what extent were Oregon's tribes or tribal voices engaged in this conversation?

15. Was a compensation model used for participation? If so, briefly describe.

No

Yes, we used a compensation model that:

16. Was this project supported through grant funding?

No

Unsure

Yes, this project received grant funding from:



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Project Description

The CIAC considers land use planning projects of all sizes in ACE Award applications. Their evaluation process takes into consideration jurisdiction size and the creative use of resources when reviewing applications.

Answers to questions must stand on their own, for purposes of evaluation. However, applicants may feel free to add links to project documents, web pages, online surveys, or other materials at any point. Linked support materials add important context and help us create a robust body of tools for local governments throughout Oregon.

17. Please describe the area affected by this project.

18. Where is your project in the planning cycle?

Plan Development	Plan Adoption	Implementation and Review	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="radio"/>			

19. What is the desired outcome of this planning process?

What will this land use planning effort accomplish?



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Community Engagement

Community engagement is foundational to successful publicly funded land use plans and projects. By gathering and using information from multiple points of view, agencies can ensure that plans reflect their community's varied needs and concerns. Engaging community members in a meaningful way as decisions are made is key, rather than simply conducting participation activities because they are required. A great community engagement program gives participants assurance that they will be heard, and gives elected leaders confidence that decisions will be balanced and positioned for the public good.

20. What are the community engagement objectives for this land use plan or project?

21. How did decision-makers use or consider this information in the decision-making process? (if applicable)

22. What equity focused approaches did you use for communication and community engagement?

Refer to [DLCD's Equitable Engagement Toolkit](#) for descriptions of the tools below.

- Community Agreements
- Community Learning Cohorts or Community Advocates
- Community Listening Sessions
- Compensation Model (stipends, participation incentives)
- Conflict resolution
- Cultural Humility and culturally specific engagement
- Diverse Communication Channels
- Equitable facilitation
- Feedback Loop Implementation
- Focus groups
- Language Access (translation, interpretation)
- Low-Intensity in-person Engagement (information booth, open house, outreach at events)
- Online Open Houses
- Online survey/interactive engagement
- Accessibility (closed captioning, materials meet ADA standards, accessible venues)
- Partnerships (e.g., collaboration with a community-based organization)
- Trauma-Informed Approach
- Youth Engagement
- Other

23. If you answered "other" to the previous question, please describe what additional communication and community engagement tools were or are used.



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Active Outreach and Engagement

This means that agencies have proactively sought out their intended audiences and worked hard to seek guidance and feedback.

“Engaging” means having two-way communication with community members as plans are prepared and decisions are made.

24. Please describe the commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and how it influenced or is influencing this work.

25. What process did you use to identify priority populations/underserved communities affected by this work?

26. What intentional efforts did you make to include priority populations/underserved communities?



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Monitoring, Evaluation and Documenting Your Community Engagement Program

27. What assessments/evaluations have you conducted of the community engagement work to date?

- Tracking public meeting attendance
- Tracking website traffic
- Tracking social media impressions
- Tracking newsletter or email engagement
- Project team debrief after events
- Updating or changing plans based on evaluation
- Evaluation form for participants in engagement activities
- Multiple opportunities for communities, individuals, or organization to express concerns about engagement
- Open log of public comments available to the public
- Synthesis of public comments and feedback
- Other (please specify)

28. If the project is ongoing, describe assessments or evaluations planned as the project moves forward.



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Lessons Learned

29. What did you learn through the assessment and evaluation of the community engagement process?

30. Do any lessons learned have the potential to inform other, future phases, or new community engagement efforts? If so, please explain.

31. How does the community engagement for this project align with overall community engagement efforts for this organization?