

Oregon Department of Education
Request for Proposals Number: ODE-1170-21
YDD Reengagement Opportunity Grants

Date: June 15, 2021
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Questions and Answers

- 1. If both the Youth Community Investment Grant and Reengagement Opportunity Grant applications could satisfy the work we are currently doing, which should we apply for?**
Please review both RFAs to determine which best fits your particular program. Please pay particular attention to Section 1 GENERAL INFORMATION and Section 2 AUTHORITY AND SCOPE of each RFA for variations between youth eligibility, access to Educational Services, and required Reengagement Services.
- 2. What are we required to submit by July 13 to complete our application?**
Required elements for a complete application are listed in Section 3.2 APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS of the RFA document. The SM Apply online application will prompt you to answer questions and upload required documents.
- 3. Are we able to conduct programming at multiple sites?**
Yes, program activities may be conducted at multiple sites and with multiple partners.
- 4. We currently partner with school districts to support drop-out prevention and the scope of our work is such that it seems to fit under both the Reengagement Opportunity Grant and the Youth Community Investment Grant's Youth Promise Initiative. Which should we apply for?**
Please review both RFAs, particularly Reengagement Opportunity RFA Section 2.4 SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES and Community Investment RFA Section 2.3.3 SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES to determine which program best fits your specific needs. Please also see Reengagement Opportunity RFA Section 2.2 DEFINITION OF TERMS and Community Investment RFA Section 2.3.3 for youth eligibility requirements.
- 5. How does the Youth Community Investment Grant's Youth Promise Initiative differ from the Reengagement Opportunity Grant with regard to serving students at risk of disengagement?**
The primary target population for the Reengagement System is youth ages 14-21 who have left school without a high school credential. The Reengagement Opportunity Grant has specific requirements for youth eligibility and Educational Services that differ from the Community

Investment Grant's Youth Promise Initiative. Please review Section 2 AUTHORITY AND SCOPE of each RFA.

6. We currently partner with school districts and the scope of our work is such that it seems to fit under both the Reengagement Opportunity Grant and the Youth Community Investment Grant's Youth Promise Initiative. Which should we apply for?

The primary target population for the Reengagement System is youth ages 14-21 who have left school without a high school credential. The Reengagement Opportunity Grant has specific requirements for youth eligibility and Educational Services that differ from the Community Investment Grant's Youth Promise Initiative. Please review Section 2 AUTHORITY AND SCOPE of each RFA.

7. How many applications does YDD anticipate receiving?

As with past grant cycles, we anticipate more applications than can be funded with available grant dollars.

8. Can we apply for both the Youth Community Investment and Reengagement Opportunity Grants?

An Applicant may submit an application for each grant opportunity. The applications should be for separate and distinct programs and services.

9. Can the same youth be supported by the Reengagement Opportunity Grant and the Community Investment Grant's Workforce Readiness Initiative if different services are supported by each grant?

Yes, the same youth may be supported by different grants if the services are separate and distinct. Applicants must ensure that the distinction between services in each grant is very clear in your applications.

10. Will the Reengagement Opportunity Grant RFA or the Youth Community Investment Grant RFA be more competitive?

Both the Reengagement Opportunity Grant and the Youth Community Investment Grant opportunities are competitive.

11. Can we apply for funding to continue another 12 months of the Reengagement Opportunity Grant awarded for January 2021 - June 2021?

Applicants may apply for a new grant to continue your current Reengagement project for the new 2021-2023 biennium. All applicants must still go through the same competitive application process. This RFA is for the full two-year grant cycle.

12. Does YDD have a preference for number of youth served, or acuity of youth served?

YDD does not have a preference for number of youth served. Anticipated costs of over \$3,000 per youth should be outlined in the budget narrative of your proposal as mentioned in Section 3.2.2.2 BUDGET NARRATIVE of the RFA.

13. If we submit RFAs for two different grant initiatives, do we need to serve different youth?

Applicants may submit separate applications for the two separate RFAs. The applications should be for separate and distinct programs and services.

14. Where can I find information on the Youth Solutions Initiative of the Youth Community Investment Grant?

The Youth Solutions Initiative is part of the Youth Community Investment Grant RFA as indicated in Section 2.3.3 SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES of the RFA.

15. When is the application due? When is the deadline for submitting questions?

All grant applications will be due no later than 1:00pm on Tuesday, July 13, 2021. Questions may be submitted to the Single Point of Contact no later than 1:00pm on Friday, June 25. See the RFA cover page for Single Point of Contact information and Section 1.4 SCHEDULE for all deadlines.

16. Are current YDD grantees able to submit applications to continue an initiative that is already funded by YDD?

Any Eligible Entity may apply to support a current YDD-funded program. However, review all application questions and requirements as they differ from the previous RFAs.

17. Does a broad-based program that also includes Reengagement elements, such as school-wide restorative practices, qualify?

All Reengagement Opportunity Grant applications must demonstrate that they will be able to meet the required Reengagement Services, particularly access to Educational Services for Eligible Youth as defined in Section 2.2 DEFINITIONS. Review Section 2.4 SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES to ensure that you are able to meet all requirements including ensuring that all program participants are Eligible Youth.

18. Must the grant activities continue for the full two-year grant cycle, or may we propose expending the total grant in less than two years?

Reengagement Opportunity Grant funds are intended to support a full two-year grant period. Grant activities and reporting are expected to be maintained throughout the grant cycle.

19. Would different school districts count as multiple reengagement partners?

Yes, multiple school districts would count as multiple reengagement partners.

20. Can applicants have more than one Reengagement Partner?

Yes, applicants may have multiple reengagement partners per Section 2.4.2 REENGAGEMENT PARTNER.

21. Are there requirements for the format of the Letter of Intent to Partner?

No, there is no required format for the Letter of Intent to Partner; however, the letter must make all partners' roles clear and should indicate a commitment to work together if awarded a grant. Refer to Attachment G SAMPLE LETTER OF INTENT TO PARTNER for a sample template.

22. Are applicants required to have different community partners if applying for both the Reengagement Opportunity and Youth Community Investment grants?

Applicants may work with the same community partners on different grants, but services and/or population or communities served should be separate and distinct if applying for more than one YDD grant.

23. If multiple entities (e.g., nonprofits, school districts, Education Service Districts, etc.) will be collaborating, is there a preference for which entity should be the principal applicant?

Any Eligible Entity may apply for a grant and that entity will be responsible for the insurance requirements of the grant (see Attachment A). YDD does not have a preference which entity is the principal applicant. However, each partner's role must be made clear in the application.

24. If there is a primary education service provider for reengagement youth in our community, do we need to have partners listed in our application?

Per Section 2.4.2 REENGAGEMENT PARTNER, at least one partnership is required. The Applicant must demonstrate in the application and in the MOU/Letter of Intent to Partner how youth will have access to the Educational Services including the roles and responsibilities of each partner. The Applicant, may choose not to list all partners in your application, but at least one must be listed and you must demonstrate that applicant can fulfill all requirements.

25. Is there information on other organizations in our area that are applying?

YDD cannot provide this information. The best way to find this information is through your own conversations and outreach to community partners.

26. If we have more than one partner, how many letters can we submit?

Applicant may submit multiple partnerships letters; however, at least one (1) letter must be uploaded in SM Apply. See Section 3.2.9 PARTNERSHIP DOCUMENTATION AT APPLICATION for details.

27. Is GED completion considered the same as high school completion?

Yes, achieving a GED credential is considered high school completion per Section 2.4.1 REQUIRED REENGAGEMENT SERVICES.

28. Can our partner provide the high school completion services if we do not offer high school classes directly?

Educational Services do not have to be provided by the Applicant. The Applicants' partner may provide the Educational Services. The Applicant must demonstrate in the application and in the MOU/Letter of Intent to Partner how youth will have access to the Educational Services including the roles and responsibilities of each partner.

29. Which initiatives are considered part of the Youth Community Investment Grant? Do they require access to Educational Services?

The Youth Promise, Youth Solutions, Youth Workforce Readiness, and Youth Violence & Gang Prevention are all initiatives within the Youth Community Investment Grant. The Youth Community Investment Grant does not have a required educational component.

30. Are we able to serve Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) youth up to age 25?

Reengagement Opportunity grants may only serve youth ages 14-21.

31. Can Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) refer youth to Reengagement Programs?

Yes, OYA may refer youth to Reengagement programs. A full list of referral sources can be found in Section 2.2 DEFINITIONS.

32. Will the age range for eligible reengagement youth be changing due to recent legislation?

For the current 2021-2023 grant cycle, the age range for Reengagement grants is 14-21.

Although House Bill 2051 (2021) passed and will expand the age range of future eligible youth to 14-24, the legislation must first be implemented and incorporated into YDD rules before the change is adopted.

33. If the implementation of the reengagement bill occurs during the two-year grant period, will successful grant recipients be allowed to amend their services and/or funding in order to serve additional participants?

The Reengagement System administrative rules will be updated to reflect all statutory changes; however, the changes are not immediate. YDD cannot provide a timeline or other information the potential impact of rule changes on the current grants. Applications must adhere to the SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES described in the RFA.

34. Can current youth being served through a Reengagement grant continue if the program is funded again and be counted toward the number served?

Eligible Youth participating in a current YDD funded program may continue in a new program.

35. What if our organization wants to provide programming in several regions/counties in Oregon that are different from our business address?

An Applicant that would like its application to be considered in a region that differs from the business address must submit supporting documentation to the Single Point of Contact (see RFA Section 4.4.1.1 for details). The Applicant may consider concentration of services as a factor when applying for a region. Applicant must justify its request to be considered in a different region than the business location.

36. I have a question about youth assessment of eligible youth: what are the options?

Eligible Youth are defined in Section 2.2 DEFINITIONS and tracking requirements are in Section 2.4.4 PARTICIPANT VERIFICATION REQUIREMENTS of the RFA. Applicants may need to partner with an education provider to aid in identifying Eligible Youth.

37. How do we identify number of youth supported who benefit from reengagement through restorative practices within a school program?

Under this RFA and grant funds, youth must be identified as an Eligible Youth to participate as defined in Section 2.2 DEFINITIONS. Individual tracking of Eligible Youth is outlined in Section 2.4.4. Programs serving youth not meeting these eligibility requirements may wish to review the requirements for a YDD Youth Community Investment Grant.

38. What constitutes a "service"?

As defined in section 2.2 of the RFA, "Reengagement Services" refers to the range of services including but not limited to outreach services; Educational Services; one-on-one case management, advocacy, academic and career coaching; college and career services, access to Workforce Development, post-secondary education and training; barrier removal and supportive services; and ongoing (follow-up) services. (Further defined in Section 2.4 SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES). Applicants are required to provide at least one Reengagement Service, but may also provide multiple Reengagement Services. All services and program activities are described in Evaluation Item 2 (4.2.2).

39. Can you clarify the purpose of the Outcomes chart? And how to complete the chart?

The Outcomes Chart included in Attachment B APPLICATION is an initial goal setting tool for Applicants to begin outlining anticipated number of Eligible Youth to be served in several of the Reengagement Services categories as well as to map the services and primary service providers. If there is a primary service provider for services noted on a corresponding line, put the estimated number of youth to be served in that column only. If both Partner and Applicant are providing services on a corresponding line, put the estimated numbers of youth to be served in both the Applicant and the Partner columns. Estimate the number of youth to be served for each line by Reengagement Program and/or Partner service delivery. (Do not count the number of services provided.) It is acceptable that overlapping services between Applicant and Reengagement Partner duplicate youth in estimates where applicable. Some categories may not be provided as part of the proposed programming; write NA where applicable.

40. How would we enter numbers on the Outcomes chart of a youth served by the partner if we have more than one partner?

Count as one (1) youth served under Reengagement Partner column if one (1) reengaged youth will receive services from multiple Partners corresponding to one line or row in the chart.

41. If both we and a partner provide a different service to the same youth, do we double count in the Outcomes chart--do we include that youth in the count for both ourselves and partner?

Yes, Applicant would estimate the number of the reengaged youth served by the Program services and Partner services separately even if for the same youth. For example, if the Applicant Program provides supportive services such as basic needs navigation and the Partner provides supportive services such as mental health counselling to the same student, count one (1) in the Applicant Program column and count one (1) in the Partner column.

42. If we can do programming at our space in the community, can we ask for funds that include paying rent for our space and/or a percentage of it?

A wide array of expenses can be claimed within YDD Grants, including Operating costs. Attachment D (Budget Template) defines specific budget categories in the Category Definitions tab.

43. Are musical instruments considered an allowable equipment cost?

Yes, musical instruments and other items used for Youth Reengagement activities may be purchased. Equipment and other purchases need to be specific to the grant proposal activities and agreed upon Work Plan, as well as not otherwise prohibited in the grant agreement (Attachment A). Attachment A (Sample Grant) and Attachment D (Budget Template) further outline expense requirements and restrictions.

44. Does our nonprofit need to talk about our overall finances?

The application does not request information on funding outside of how YDD grant funds will be used. Applicants may include how services and activities from leveraged funds support proposed programming as part of their Application, but that isn't required.

45. How would we determine how \$3,000 would cover one youth served?

Cost per youth is determined from total grant award and Eligible Youth served. For example, over the 2-year grant cycle for a \$240,000 award, the total number of Eligible Youth anticipated to be served would be 80 if based on a \$3,000 allocation per Eligible Youth.

46. How long is the grant period? Does our expenditure plan have to cover the full grant period?

The 2021-2023 Reengagement Opportunity Grant is a 2-year grant; funding may be used between July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023. It is expected that the Applicant's proposed budget covers anticipated costs for the full 2-year grant cycle.

47. The RFA mentions start-up funds not exceeding 25%. If we have existing programs, but may apply for expansion to hire more staff, is there a limit on how much this grant can cover?

Start-up funds may only be used for activities and services provided under this grant and its performance period (July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2023). The 25% cap is based on the total funding requested in the Application. See RFA Section 3.2.2.1, Attachment A SAMPLE GRANT, and Attachment D BUDGET TEMPLATE for additional information.

48. What are start-up funds?

Start-up funds are defined in Attachment D BUDGET TEMPLATE as funds available upon request at the beginning of the biennial grant cycle, contingent on an executed grant agreement and fund availability. Start-up funds (no greater than 25% of total requested funds) may be used for any allowable program expenses.

49. \$3,000 per youth per biennium? If a young person is served for two years, would we double count?

\$3,000 per youth is based on the 2-year grant cycle and would not double if you serve the same youth for two years. (For example, 1 youth served for 2 years = maximum \$3,000 in 2-year budget.) If anticipated costs are over \$3,000 per youth, this should be outlined in the budget narrative of your proposal as mentioned in Section 3.2.2.2 BUDGET NARRATIVE of the RFA.

50. Generally, should amount requested scale to number of students served or is the nature of the program an equivalent factor if the cost of programming is high? For example robotics, CTE, etc.

Cost per youth can vary widely. The nature of the program is an important factor, and a cost higher than \$3,000 per youth may be explained in the budget narrative.

51. Will there be a confirmation sent once the application is submitted?

Yes, a system-generated email will be sent to the SM Apply account holder and all program personnel listed in the Application.

52. Is it possible to adjust the on-line application so that we can move back and forth between sections?

No. The Applicant must enter information into each required item in SM Apply in sequential order prior to moving to the next screen or task.

Once the Applicant completes Task 1, Task 2 will unlock and become accessible.

While in a Task, Applicants can move between Task questions by selecting the ""Previous"" or ""Next"" button on the bottom of the screen.

In the Reengagement Opportunity Grant, the Applicant will have an opportunity to edit a specific Task after the Applicant completes the initial responses of all Tasks.

Attachments B APPLICATION and C APPLICANT INFORMATION AND CERTIFICATION SHEET show information contained within SM Apply. "

53. If someone is writing these online grants for separate organizations, is there a way to have multiple log-in accounts with one email/log-in?

Grant writers responsible for writing the Applications on behalf of various organizations can apply from the same SM Apply account. One person with one login can have separate applications. Ensure each Application clearly represents the corresponding organization and appropriate personnel.

54. How do I register for a new account in SM Apply?

To register for an SM Apply account go to <https://oregonyouth.smapply.io/> and select the green "Register" button in the top left of your screen. Follow prompts to complete registration for the SM Apply account.

55. Are there school districts that have been awarded a Youth Reengagement grant in the past?

Yes, school districts have received Reengagement Opportunity Grants (ROG) in the past. The YDD website has a complete list of prior grant recipients.

56. Can public charter schools apply directly to YDD or are they required to apply through their fiscal sponsor school district?

Public Charter Schools are considered an Eligible Entity per Section 1.3 ELIGIBILITY of the RFA.

57. Would mentorship-related programming which involves cultural activities, art, music, or dance be considered Reengagement Services?

Please review Section 2.4 SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES. Required Reengagement Services are outlined in Section 2.4.1 of the RFA. Proposals with programming not specific to the Reengagement Opportunity Grant should review the Youth Community Investment Grant RFA to determine the best fit.

58. Who is the Single Point of Contact (SPC)?

Noemi Rios is the Single Point of Contact (SPC). All questions should be in written format and emailed to: Noemi.Rios@ode.state.or.us.