



Community Impact Grants Program

Frequently Asked Questions

Last Updated: June 24, 2023

Eligibility & Funding Priorities

What kinds of projects/activities are eligible for funding?

Community Impact Grants support *new or innovative* projects and are not intended to support on-going operational expenses. In addition, to be considered for grant funding, projects must:

- Serve Marion and/or Polk County (while broadly projects may serve additional counties, Community Impact Grant funds are intended to only support project activities in the Marion-Polk region);
- Align with one or more impact area outlined below; and
- Support the Willamette Health Council's mission, which is to improve the health of the Marion-Polk community by governing our CCO, investing in our communities, and fostering collaborative relationships.

What are on-going operation expenses?

On-going operation expenses are the costs incurred to run a current program/organization. They include expenses such as staff salaries and benefits, rent and utilities, travel, communications, materials and supplies, and taxes and fees. Programs/organizations seeking support for these types of expenses are not eligible for a Community Impact Grant. *The exception to this is if the proposed project/project component is new and grant funding is being sought to support start-up/expansion-based costs.* In these instances, a project could be eligible for a Community Impact Grant. If you are unsure if your project qualifies for a Community Impact Grant, please reach out to [Mariah Balderrama](#), Community Investments Coordinator, to discuss your proposal.

What are the priority areas for funding?

The Community Impact Grants Program supports projects within the following impact areas:

- Behavioral Health Supports (including mental health and substance use): Projects must align with the specific aims of the [Marion-Polk Community Health Improvement Plan](#).
- Children, Youth & Families: Projects must align with the [Marion-Polk System of Care](#) and/or [Raise Up Oregon](#) strategic plan goals.
- Healthcare Workforce Development: Projects must support local healthcare provider recruitment and retention efforts across the delivery system (including physical, behavioral, and oral health). Projects that impact Oregon Health Plan members and that demonstrate a tie to the local Mid-Valley Behavioral Health Consortium's (MVBHC's) work in the Marion-Polk region are prioritized for funding. (See below for an overview the MVBHC).
- Housing & Homelessness: Projects must provide wraparound services, system navigation and/or care coordination for people experiencing housing insecurity/homelessness. Projects that address immediate needs within the local community (e.g., hospital discharge planning and

housing accessibility), serve specific populations with more acute needs (e.g., youth and young adults and those involved in the foster care system), and that strengthen overall connections between the health and housing sectors are prioritized for funding.

In addition, projects that align with more than one impact area, are equity-driven, demonstrate cultural and linguistic responsiveness, and support integration across service sectors are prioritized for funding.

As it relates to the Healthcare Workforce Development Impact Area, what is the Mid-Valley Behavioral Health Consortium?

The Mid-Valley Behavioral Health Consortium (MVBHC), created by the Willamette Workforce Partnership (WWP) and supported by a Round 4 OHA HOWTO grant, leverages over forty healthcare entities, public agencies, and educational institutions dedicated to increasing the number and diversity of the behavioral health workforce in Marion, Polk, Yamhill, and Linn Counties.

The MVBHC's current priorities include:

- Recruitment & Retention
- Education & Career Pathways
- Administration/Rules, Pay & Access

MVBHC Vision: Create a permanent place where local entities can build and improve industry-driven career pathways, giving agencies and provider groups the diverse workforce they need now, and in the future, and develop clear pathways for multicultural/multilingual education and employment for the incoming workforce. To support this vision, MVBHC established a shared action plan that is available on request by contacting WWP Health Sector Contractor, [Jeanine Stice](#).

As it relates to the Housing & Homelessness Impact Area, what are wraparound services, system navigation, and care coordination?

Wraparound services are supportive services intended to wrap around an individual to support their holistic health and housing needs. System navigation includes any assistance provided to Oregon Health Plan members or other community members to help guide them to health and housing supports and services. Care coordination entails the deliberate organization of health and housing activities for individuals.

I was awarded a WHC grant last year. Can I submit a grant application this year for the same project?

Potentially, if your request entails a new project component or is expansion-based. Please reach out to [Mariah Balderrama](#), Community Investments Coordinator, to discuss your proposal.

I was awarded a WHC Community Impact Donation this year. Can I apply for a Community Impact Grant?

Yes, as long as your grant request is different from your donation request.

LOI: Project Screening Questions

Section: Project Overview

Is there a maximum amount of funds I can apply for?

Yes; the maximum award amount is \$100,000.

Is multi-year funding available?

No; grants are intended to fund projects for one year. Additionally, grants will be awarded in 2023 for projects taking place in 2024.

Can grant funds be used for capital investments?

Yes.

What are capital investments?

Capital investments are identified as the purchasing of physical assets, such as real estate, land, or equipment, to be used to assist long-term operations.

What is meant by “a family”?

A “family” includes two or more individuals residing in the same household.

Section: Will The Project...

What is meant by population health?

As defined by the Oregon Health Authority, population health “connotes a high-level assessment of a group of people. This epidemiologic framework is often in direct opposition to the manner in which the health care system has cared for patients; one individual at a time. ‘Population’ in population health can be defined from several different perspectives:

- Population served by an individual provider or payer
- Population served by the entire delivery system
- Population residing in the broader community.”

What is meant by health care quality improvement?

Activities that improve health care quality include expenses related to the following, as defined in 42 CFR 438.8(e)(3):

- Activities to improve health outcomes including:
 - Case management, care coordination, and chronic disease management
 - Expenses associated with identifying and addressing ethnic, cultural or racial disparities
 - Effectiveness of identified best clinical practices and evidence-based medicine
 - Quality reporting and documentation of care in a non-electronic format
- Activities to prevent hospital readmission
- Activities to improve patient safety and reduce medical errors
- Wellness and health promotion activities
- Health information technology expenses related to improving health care quality

What are Oregon Health Plan/Medicaid covered services?

Please refer [here](#) to check if your project offers Oregon Health Plan/Medicaid-covered services. Community Benefit Initiative funds cannot be used to cover Oregon Health Plan/Medicaid-covered services.

What are Health-Related Services?

Health-Related Services (HRS) are noncovered services under Oregon’s Medicaid State Plan that are not otherwise administrative requirements and are intended to improve care delivery and overall member and community health and well-being. The two types of HRS include Flexible Services and Community Benefit Initiatives. HRS requirements are established by the Oregon Health Authority and defined by Oregon Administrative Rules. To check if your project qualifies as an HRS, please refer [here](#).

What are Community Benefit Initiatives?

Community Benefit Initiatives (CBI) are a type of Health-Related Service. They include community-level interventions focused on improving population health and health care quality. These initiatives must include Oregon Health Plan members but are not necessarily limited to members.

What is the Marion-Polk Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)?

The CHIP is the Marion-Polk region’s strategic plan for improving community health. The CHIP currently focuses on three priority areas: Behavioral Health Supports, Housing, and Substance Use. You can reference the complete CHIP [here](#). You can also reference a CHIP summary document [here](#). For further information on the CHIP, please contact [Trisha Kumar](#), Community Health Program Manager.

What is the Marion-Polk System of Care and what are its goals?

The Marion-Polk System of Care (SOC) includes a diverse group of local organizations committed to addressing barriers to health and wellness for system-involved youth and families. The SOC has established the following goals for the Marion-Polk region:

1. Strengthen SOC clarity of purpose, functioning, and member engagement;
2. Increase SOC capacity to engage youth, families, and community partners to ensure the SOC is adding value to the community;
3. Improve cross-sector service coordination, capacity, and alignment among youth and family-serving programs, organizations, and initiatives; and
4. Ensure that the SOC workforce needs are represented in workforce development efforts locally.

The [Community Impact Committee](#) will prioritize funding projects that align with the goals of the SOC. For further information on SOC, please visit the SOC webpage [here](#), and/or contact the SOC Program Manager, [Heather Pascoe](#).

What is Raise Up Oregon?

Raise Up Oregon is a statewide early learning system plan for early childhood prenatal to age five. The [Community Impact Committee](#) will prioritize funding projects that align with the goals of Raise Up Oregon, which can be found [here](#).

What is meant by “documented best practice/evidence”?

Documented best practice/evidence includes a procedure or service that has been shown by research and experience to produce optimal results and that is established or proposed as a standard suitable for widespread adoption.

What are examples of the social determinants of health and equity (SDOH-E)?

For a full explanation and examples of SDOH-E, please refer to the Oregon Health Authority’s issue brief on *Addressing Social Determinants of Health & Equity through Health-Related Services* [here](#).

Application & Award Process

What does the grant application process entail?

The WHC has braided two funding streams—[Community Benefit Initiatives](#) and budgeted Community Impact Fund dollars—to establish the Community Impact Grants Program. The first step in the grant application process is to submit a Letter of Intent (LOI). LOIs are reviewed by the WHC team to determine which funding stream the project best aligns with, if any. Projects aligned with [Community Benefit Initiative](#) requirements may be invited to present an overview of their project to the [Community Advisory Council](#). All other projects will be reviewed and evaluated by the [Community Impact Committee](#); applicants will be notified if invited by this committee to submit a full application.

How do I submit an LOI?

Applicants submit an LOI through the WHC's online grant management system [here](#). Organizations applying for WHC funds for the first time need to create a new account within this system. Those who are returning applicants should utilize their organization's existing account to submit the LOI. Please reach out to [Mariah Balderrama](#), Community Investments Coordinator, if you need assistance.

What does the presentation to the Community Advisory Council entail?

Projects that comply with [Community Benefit Initiative](#) requirements will be invited to provide a 10-minute presentation on their project to the [Community Advisory Council](#). More information about presentation requirements will be shared by email with applicants on August 25, 2023. *Given this requirement, we encourage all Community Impact Grant applicants to hold September 28, 2023, 1:00-3:00pm on their calendars, should they be invited for a presentation.*

How do I submit a full grant application?

Applicants invited to submit a full grant application do so using the WHC's online grant management system [here](#). Please reach out to [Mariah Balderrama](#), Community Investments Coordinator, if you need assistance.

If I am awarded a grant, what are the reporting requirements?

Grant recipients will be required to submit bi-annual progress reports through the WHC's online grant management system. Grantees are also required to attend an annual convening jointly hosted by the [Community Advisory Council](#) and [Community Impact Committee](#). Details of this convening are forthcoming.

Timeline

When will I be notified about the outcome of my LOI?

Organizations will be informed of the outcome of their LOI on August 25, 2023.

If invited to submit a full grant application, when will I be notified if my project is awarded funds?

Organizations will be informed if they are awarded a grant by November 30, 2023.

If awarded a grant, when can I expect the funds to be dispersed?

Awardees are required to complete a grant letter of agreement (LOA). Once the LOA is executed, funds will be dispersed in full. The anticipated timeline for funds dispersal is December 2023-January 2024.