

**Oregon Community Foundation
Community Grant Program
RFP Summary**

Application Deadline: January 15, 2016

Notification Deadline: May 2016

Range of Award: \$10,000 to \$50,000

Average Award: \$20,000

Eligibility: Little Pudding School District is eligible to apply. However, OCF says that projects in individual schools are “generally not eligible for funding.” About 850 applications are received each year; approximately 300 grants are awarded. Most awards go to small- and moderate-sized nonprofits.

Mission & Purpose: It’s worth quoting OCF’s Guiding Principles in full:

- We believe that creative and sustainable solutions come from people who work in partnership to address common needs and aspirations.
- We give high priority to investments that create positive, substantive change and attempt to resolve problems at their source.
- We recognize and respect Oregon’s diverse regions and populations, and we seek to advance equity, diversity and inclusion through our programs.

Priorities: OCF has four top priorities. They are *Health & Wellbeing of Vulnerable Populations* (30 to 40 percent of awards); *Educational Opportunities & Achievement* (30 to 40 percent of awards); *Arts & Cultural Organizations* (15 to 25 percent of awards); and *Community Livability, Environment & Citizen Engagement* (10 to 20 percent of awards). The most relevant priority is *Educational Opportunities & Achievement*, which has the following objectives:

1. Promote social, emotional and cognitive development of young children, including programs that support and educate parents and efforts that engage volunteers
2. Expand academic support, mentoring and recreational programs for children and youth, particularly to close the achievement gap
3. Broaden workplace, career and postsecondary experiences and opportunities for youth
4. Improve adult literacy, skill development, education and workforce training

Capital Projects: OCF does support capital projects. But we have to demonstrate how the capital support will improve the quality of life for the larger community. There are other considerations for capital requests [here \(PDF\)](#).

Observations: Not surprisingly, given the name of the grant program, the focus of this grant is on the “community.” OCF wants to award grants that will have a broad community impact. They want to fund projects that address “a significant community need” (p. 1). They want to support organizations that can demonstrate community support, through local contributions and volunteer engagement (p. 3). When evaluating our budget, they will look for signs of “broad-based support, including funds from the local community” (p. 4). In other words, we will need to make the case that there is strong local enthusiasm for our efforts.

Initial Questions: The following high-level questions are inspired by OCF’s application guidelines:

- Who will directly and indirectly benefit from our project? What is their ethnicity, income, education, age, gender? Are there any other defining characteristics we should describe?
- What is our relevant track record serving this community? What are two or three facts or accomplishments that best define us?
- What critical community need will our project address?
- What is our plan for addressing this need? What is our goal? Be as specific as possible!
- What are the specific activities that will be supported by this grant? How long will those activities take?
- Who are our collaborators in this project?
- Who will be ultimately responsible for the project? Will we have a program or project leader? If so, what will their role be? What are their qualifications? How do our leaders reflect the population or community that we serve?
- What is our evaluation plan? What are some of the measurable objectives we have identified for our project? How will we measure success?
- How does our project fit the objectives of the OCF Community Grant Program?

URL: <http://www.oregoncf.org/grants-scholarships/grants/community-grants>