

Oregon Community Summer Grant Program

Summer Community Programs Equip, Encourage, Excite, and Engage!

Summer learning programs provided by community-based organizations from across the state can provide critical continuity in education, connection, and necessary supports for children, youth and families. This includes a range of options that may provide engaging enrichment, learning opportunities, recreation, wraparound services, mental health supports, youth-adult relationships, and peer interactions.



Summer Programs are Essential.

The Summer of 2022 was an important time for Oregon’s youth to re-engage, be encouraged, and get excited for the year ahead. Thanks to all the partners and programs who worked together to ensure that quality summer opportunities were available to children and youth in every Oregon community.



The money awarded this summer came from the Oregon State Legislature as a special allocation from Oregon general funds. Funding was distributed in direct response to the barriers youth and families have experienced in accessing support over the last 2 years due to COVID. While many students found themselves back in school buildings last year, many youth have not been able to make up for the loss of connection with peers and limited access to nutrition, sports, drama, music, clubs, and all sorts of social events that get youth authentically engaged.

Funding was allocated with the express purpose of reaching youth who have been underserved by our public systems, including a clear focus on increasing community supports to elevate youth who have long been underserved by our public education system, including families or youths of color and tribal/Indigenous youths; families or youths impacted by disabilities; families or youths who are emerging bilinguals; families or youths navigating poverty, homelessness or foster care; families or youths in rural areas; and other local demographic groups who may be underserved in your region.

In 2021, the Oregon Legislature allocated \$250 million for summer learning, including \$40 million that went through Oregon Community Foundation for community enrichment. In 2022, \$150 was allocated to Oregon Department of Education, with \$50 million being passed to Oregon Association of Education Service Districts to distribute funding through the fiscal office at the Clackamas Education Service District. This year, the Oregon Community Summer Grant distributed nearly \$48 million for community enrichment grants to be used for summer of 2022.

Over the last two years, Oregon's legislators have recognized how youth centered community summer opportunities are essential in helping Equip, Encourage, Excite, and Engage Oregon youth.

Together, we are all elevating the importance and impact of providing relevant, robust, enriching, and exciting options for all of Oregon's school age children and young adults.



Oregon Community Summer Grant Reporting & Impact Process



Capturing the Story of Summer Programs

In August 2022, Region 16 Comprehensive Center in partnership with the Oregon Association of Education Service Districts, awarded a contract to OregonASK to provide reporting support for the Oregon Community Summer Grant initiative. Throughout the reporting process, Region 16 Comprehensive Center, the Oregon Association of Education Service Districts and OregonASK plan to rely heavily on qualitative (narrative) data, and hearing directly from those most impacted by the grant funding. The stories and feedback we are able to capture will supplement the quantitative data collected through the application process and grant reporting form.

In an effort to most effectively capture the story of the Oregon Community Summer Grant funds, our work is designed around the following research questions:

- What was the impact of the summer learning initiative?
 - What did the funding make possible?
 - What was the impact/lived experiences of program directors, staff, and youth?
 - How were the priority populations served with this funding?
- What were the successes, challenges, and lessons learned from this initiative?



To explore these research questions, we aim to intentionally create space for various experiences to be shared in an authentic, meaningful way. Two of the largest groups we plan to hear from will be: 1) the **programs** who transformed grant dollars into meaningful camps, classes, and other summer learning opportunities; and 2) the **youth** who participated in these camps and classes.

Feedback will be captured in **live virtual focus groups**, as well as other written feedback from program staff, partners, and youth. Recruitment for focus groups will be intentional and targeted, to ensure participants are representative of different geographies, program types, etc. All feedback collected in written or verbal format will be shared back in an aggregate report, anonymously.



There will also be provided opportunities to share impact through several other avenues, including a resource portfolio and individual program impact stories.

The **Impact & Resource Portfolio** might include activity plans, registration forms, feedback surveys, resources for families, photos, examples of student work, communication materials, schedules, onboarding resources, handbooks or anything that helped make it a great summer. Programs will be invited to share their own samples or templates to help build the knowledge base, learn from one another, and boost the quality and efficiency of the summer learning ecosystem in Oregon.



Examples of specific **impact stories** will be collected from programs in each region around the state. Impact stories may include photo or video footage, quotes from the community, and a brief explanation of the programming provided. Stories will be compiled and shared through a variety of mediums, including film, website, and formatted PDF.

Overall, we hope to demonstrate the reach and impact of the Summer Community Grant initiative, while highlighting the lived experiences of those most impacted, and have results ready to share back to the Oregon Legislature who allocated funds.



Oregon Community Summer Impact Process & Timeline



Sharing the Story of Summer Programs

As important feedback and data is collected related to Oregon's Community Summer Grant process and implementation, updates about opportunities and findings will be shared back throughout the fall. You can find more information and regular updates posted on <https://oregonask.org/summer-learning/2022> or at <https://www.oaesd.org/summer-grant-program/>

September	Begin collecting resources, materials, photos, and other documentation for impact portfolio
September through mid-October	Collect qualitative data and feedback through focus groups, asynchronous feedback opportunities, individual conversations, etc
	Host virtual focus groups for program staff and partners. <u>Share availability HERE</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• September 21st• September 28th• October 6th• October 7th• October 13th An additional Spanish session still to be set
September through October	Collect qualitative feedback from youth from virtual focus groups and other asynchronous methods
October through early November:	Data cleaning and analysis, using qualitative data from focus groups, interviews, and other feedback mechanisms, as well as any information and data from the grant reporting process
October	Continue collecting resources, materials, photos, and other documentation for impact portfolio
November	Draft findings, feedback on findings, and report writing Share draft results with stakeholders
December	Finalize findings, report, and other materials

You are welcome to contact Community Relations Manager, Bethany Thrasher at OregonASK with questions or inquiries about being involved in further feedback or sharing opportunities.

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