



January 2024

Honorable Dan Rayfield, Oregon House Speaker

Honorable Rob Wagner, Oregon Senate President

Representative Tawna Sanchez, Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Senator Elizabeth Steiner, Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Subject: Request for \$5,000,000 in Capital Funding for Barbara Roberts CTEC

Dear Speaker Rayfield, President Wagner, Representative Sanchez, and Senator Steiner,

I am writing to formally request your support and endorsement for a critical investment in developing the Barbara Roberts Career Technical Education Center (CTEC) in Sheridan. Specifically, I seek your assistance in securing a capital funding allocation of \$5,000,000.

Investing state funds in the capital expenses for rural Career Technical Education (CTE) programs is a strategic move with substantial economic development benefits. The evidence provided below underscores the positive impact such investments can have in the following areas:

Social Equity and Inclusion

The American Educational Research Journal¹ emphasizes that CTE programs can reduce educational and economic disparities. State-funded capital expenses for rural CTE programs promote social equity by providing accessible educational opportunities. This ensures that individuals from diverse backgrounds and underrepresented rural communities have the chance to acquire valuable skills, contributing to a more inclusive and economically vibrant society.

Workforce Development and Industry Alignment

A study by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)² found that students who participate in CTE are more likely to graduate high school and have higher earnings post-graduation. State-funded capital expenses for rural CTE programs ensure the development of modern, well-equipped facilities that align with the needs of local industries. This alignment leads to a more skilled and job-ready workforce, contributing to economic growth.

¹ [Equity in Second Career and Technical Education](#)

² [Bridging the Skills Gap: Career and Technical Education in High School](#)

Job Creation and Economic Impact

The Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE)³ reports that every dollar invested in CTE returns \$10.70 in additional income. By funding the capital expenses for rural CTE programs, states stimulate job creation. Graduates with relevant skills contribute to local industries, fostering economic development and generating a positive economic impact.

Reducing Unemployment and Poverty

A longitudinal study published in the Journal of Career and Technical Education Research⁴ found that CTE participation is associated with lower unemployment and poverty rates. State investment in rural CTE capital expenses directly addresses unemployment and poverty by providing individuals with the skills needed for gainful employment. This, in turn, leads to reduced reliance on social services and increased economic self-sufficiency.

In conclusion, allocating state funds for the capital expenses of the Barbara Roberts CTEC will be an investment in the lives of students, our future workforce. Since purchasing the property October 2021, Sheridan School District has contracted with SEDCOR (industry partnerships), Just Look Left (grant writing), OTAK Project Management, Bric Architect, Bremik Construction Company, and secured funding through state and federal grants. Recently we met with Congresswoman Salinas and discussed additional federal funding opportunities that would potentially match this state request.

Barbara Roberts CTEC will be the first rural CTEC in Oregon. The pathways offered will impact the lives of students living in rural Yamhill and Polk Counties, create the future workforce, and provide economic revitalization to this region. Please fund our request during the upcoming short session. The \$5,000,000 capital allocation will be instrumental in realizing the full potential of the Barbara Roberts CTEC.

I am available to provide any additional information, answer questions, or participate in discussions to further elaborate on the importance of this funding request. Your support for this initiative will undoubtedly make a lasting and positive impact on our region's educational and economic landscape.

Thank you in advance for your advocacy in funding rural CTE programs. I look forward to discussing this request in more detail.

Respectfully,



Dorie Vickery, Ed. D.
Superintendent, Sheridan School District



³ [Investing in Career & Technical Education Yields Big Returns](#)

⁴ [College and Career Preparation Activities and Their Influence on Post-High School Education and Work Attainment](#)

2023-25 CAPITAL FUNDING REQUEST

PROJECT INFORMATION FORM

Legislative Fiscal Office
900 Court St. NE, H-178
Salem, OR 97301



CONTACT INFORMATION FOR RECIPIENT ORGANIZATION

Legal Name Sheridan School District 48J

Organization Type School District Federal Tax ID Number 93-6001127

Address 435 South Bridge Street

City Sheridan State OR Zip Code 97378

Contact Person Superintendent Dorie Vickery

Contact Phone (971) 261-6959 Contact Email dorie.vickery@sheridan.k12.or.us

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name Barbara Roberts Career Technical Education Center

Project Description

BRCTEC is a regional CTE center providing hands-on technical learning to Rural students in Yamhill and Polk counties. This project brings the educational opportunity of CTE that Urban students benefit from to smaller districts. Typically, a Capital project like this would be funded primarily through local General Obligation Bonds. As we will serve multiple communities (Sheridan, Amity, Willamina, Newberg, Perrydale, and Dayton) as well as students from the Confederated Tribes of Grande Ronde (CTGR), GO bonds on a single jurisdiction are not an option. We are asking the State to provide Capital Funding. This project will create a model that can be replicated around Oregon to serve small rural school districts and communities.

Project Location 540 SE Jefferson Street, Sheridan, Oregon, 97378

Project Schedule (Please describe the project's readiness, including planned start and end dates and any remaining permits, approvals, or other steps that must be completed prior to beginning.)

This application is for the first phase of construction. This focuses on two of the four strands (Diesel Mechanics and Fire Science) We are nearly to 100% complete on construction documents but have not sought local permits. Our CMGC partner has indicated we can begin moving dirt 90 days after receipt of funding. Our goal is to have the project fully built out and ready for students by 9/2026. We will begin partial opening sooner.

PROJECT BUDGET

Estimated Project Cost

Construction/Renovation	12,800,000
Site Improvements	2,000,000
Land Acquisition	1,900,000
Architectural and Engineering Fees	1,548,000
Equipment	800,000
Contingencies	740,000
Other Costs (specify) <u>Management</u>	592,000
Other Costs (specify) <u>Consultants, Inspections, Permits</u>	1,470,219
Estimated Total Project Costs	21,850,219

Amount Requested 5,000,000 Percent of Total Project Cost 23%

Type of Funding Requested Lottery Bond - Economic Development

Matching Funds

State Funds (source) <u>ODE, ODOE, Lottery Dollars</u>	2,625,000
Federal Funds (source) <u>Department of Labor (CDS)</u>	500,000
Private/Other Grants	
Donations/Gifts	
Other Revenues/Financing (source) <u>Yamhill County</u>	1,400,000
Other Revenues/Financing (source) <u>United Way</u>	74,000
Total Matching Funds	4,599,000

OTHER INFORMATION

Grants financed through the issuance of bonds are not available until bonds are sold. Multiple factors impact the timing of sales; however, many sales often occur during the last six months of the biennium (Oregon's biennial budget begins on July 1 of odd-numbered years and runs through June 30 of the next odd-numbered year). Significant decreases in revenues or changes in financial conditions subsequent to authorization may also delay or prevent the issuance of bonds, which means that the approved projects or grants would also be delayed or not funded.

Public works projects, including any project that uses \$750,000 or more of public funds for constructing, reconstructing, painting or performing a major renovation on a road, highway, building, structure or improvement of any type, may be subject prevailing wage requirements. Grant recipients must comply with prevailing wage rate laws and should consult the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries to determine whether a project is subject to prevailing wage.

Please return the completed form and any supporting documentation to:

Walt Campbell, Principal Legislative (Bonds) Analyst
walt.campbell@oregonlegislature.gov