

Request for Proposals

RFP#	OWR-RFP-1543-01
Title	Capacitation Grants for Community-Based Support Services for ECO: Skills-Sharing Workshops
Summary	Equity Corps of Oregon is an effort to facilitate universal representation so that every eligible Oregonian can defend against an unjust or unfair deportation or civic exclusion on account of immigration status. Through periodic outreach and facilitated workshops, ECO participants across the state and situated in different cultural communities can participate in, learn and share skills and knowledge that help improve successful individual and community outcomes.
Date Posted	January 12, 2023
Date Opens	January 13, 2023
Date Closes	February 3, 2023 5.01pm pt
More Info	Visit: https://equitycorps.org/rfps Email: info@equitycorps.org



SUMMARY – Equity Corps of Oregon is an effort to facilitate universal representation so that every eligible Oregonian can defend against an unjust or unfair deportation or civic exclusion on account of immigration status. Through periodic outreach and facilitated workshops, ECO participants across the state and situated in different cultural communities can participate in, learn and share skills and knowledge that help improve successful individual and community outcomes.

PART 1. OVERVIEW

The ongoing, massive buildup of immigration policing, anti-immigrant sentiment, and the weaponization of our immigration court system has fueled an unprecedented deportation and detention crisis that is devastating immigrant families and immigrant communities of color in Oregon. It threatens the safety of our community and Oregon’s collective prosperity. Equity Corps of Oregon’s objective is to provide universal representation, which protects our communities by making sure that no individual has to face the risk of deportation alone. Equity Corps ultimately aims to end unjust and unfair deportations by providing access to an attorney and support services for every eligible Oregonian at risk of removal on account of immigration status.

PART 2. BACKGROUND

The Equity Corps of Oregon (ECO) program launched in October 2018 with funding from the City of Portland and Multnomah County. In June 2019, the State of Oregon provided \$2 million in funding to expand the Equity Corps pilot. The funding covered services from October 1, 2019 to June 30, 2021. The City of Portland provided additional support for services for eligible individuals with \$250,000 in funding from September 1, 2020 to August 31, 2021. In June 2021, the State of Oregon provided \$2 million in funding for the period July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2023. The City of Portland provided \$2 million in funding through December 1, 2024.



On March 23, 2022, the State of Oregon enacted a permanent fund called the Universal Representation Fund. See Senate Bill 1543 (2022 Regular Session), Oregon Laws 2022, Chapter 88. The legislation allocates \$10.5 million in funding to Oregon Worker Relief for the purposes of providing universal representation, in addition to \$4.5 million provided to the Oregon State Bar for similar purposes. Of this overall budget, which is to be disbursed by June 30, 2023, Oregon Worker Relief will contract with Community-Based Organizations for capacitation to provide ECO Skill-Sharing Workshops.



PART 3. DESCRIPTION – SCOPE OF WORK

The U.S. immigration system is highly complex and confusing. It over-relies on enforcement and deportation practices that are punitive and damaging to the community. The deportation system uses an adversarial administrative court system where individuals are not promised an attorney, the government is always represented, and court practices result in unfair and unjust deportations and civic exclusions. The immigration & deportation systems as a whole structurally impede access to information, disempower members of the community from accessing rights or benefits under law, and obscure application procedures. As a result, deportation rates and exclusion rates are high, in part, because community members lack information and skills to successfully navigate the immigration and deportation system.

The set up of a mutual aid and skill sharing monthly workshop for ECO participants will include working within coalitions throughout Oregon and engaging with community residents to develop and train community leaders to educate the Oregonian migrant population on their rights and relevant issues important to the migrant community, including, but not limited to, health, education, and housing. The workshop should focus on advocating for long-lasting social change through the Oregonian migrant community. The goal is to provide the educational tools needed for the stabilization and protection of ECO participants. Oregon Worker Relief organizations are willing to participate in the peer review of specific educational curricula to ensure accuracy.

A. ECO Skill-Sharing Workshops

During the period of the project, the Awardee organization will provide, at a minimum, periodic skill-sharing workshops, which are defined below, at least on a monthly basis. The workshops should be widely promoted to the target population, should be accessible to different language and cultural groups, provide high-quality information, promote skill-sharing, and use participatory methods of facilitation and



instruction. The service hours for the workshops should be at times and locations that serve the target population, including evenings, weekends, in-person, walk-ins, and virtual.

B. Target Populations

Oregonians who are members of the immigrant, refugee and migrant communities and participate in, or are enqueued to participate in, ECO. In addition to other individuals, this includes any individual referred by the ECO Clearinghouse for workshop services.

C. Geographic Areas & Culturally-Specific Services

Your proposal should indicate whether it is serving a specific geographic area, culturally-specific population, or both.

- **Geographic Area.** ECO has 10 service regions. At least 33% of the funding will be allocated to serve rural target populations.
 - Region 1: Clatsop, Columbia, Tillamook
 - Region 2: Multnomah, Washington, Clackamas
 - Region 3: Yamhill, Polk, Marion
 - Region 4: Lincoln, Benton, Linn, Lane
 - Region 5: Coos, Curry, Douglas, Josephine, Jackson
 - Region 6: Klamath, Lake, Harney, Malheur
 - Region 7: Deschutes, Crooks, Jefferson
 - Region 8: Hood River, Wasco
 - Region 9: Sherman, Gilliam, Wheeler
 - Region 10: Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Grant, Baker, Wallowa
- **Culturally-Specific Populations.** OWR Network members serve distinct culturally-specific populations. Funding not otherwise allocated to rural target populations will be available for culturally-specific population outreach.

D. Deliverables

During the period of the project, the Proposal should describe specific, measurable deliverables that address any or all of the following. Workshops can be in-person,



online, or a mixture of both provided that the delivery and facilitation method are designed to serve the particular geographic or culturally-specific community identified in the proposal.

- Educational sessions
 - Substantive education on the immigration process
 - Providing a safe space for a review of basic rights under immigration law, including any or all of the following:
 - Substantive elements of the limited immigration relief options, including TPS (for specific communities) etc.
 - Understanding immigration law procedures, including removal and bond proceedings
 - Educating the community on asylum
 - Use the Five-Finger approach to claim development
 - Educating the community on removal hearing process
 - Preparing for a master calendar hearing
 - Preparing for a merits hearing
 - Proposals that identify community leaders who have experienced the removal hearing process and present on their past experiences and explain courtroom procedure are encouraged
 - Discussing and explaining the forms of legal relief and other parts of the removal process, including, but not limited to, notices to appear and voluntary departure
 - Educating the community on Equity Corps of Oregon
 - How to enroll
 - How to access services
 - Educating the community on how to work with an accredited representative or lawyer.
- Self-help workshops
 - Teaching about immigration court proceedings in classroom-like sessions so that ECO participants are more knowledgeable of the immigration process, what to expect and how to self-advocate.
 - Identify community leaders that have experienced a MCH and have them share their experiences with the community



- Provide information about Prosecutorial Discretion
- Provide 1 on 1 mentoring opportunities for both community members who have gone through specific immigration processes and those are experiencing immigration processes currently
- Leadership Development & Advocacy
 - Development of Community Leaders who will contribute and create a positive impact on their local communities, and receive mentoring and access to networking opportunities with partners of ECO.
 - Recruiting, organizing, and training community leaders who have experienced the immigration system or are experiencing the immigration system to work together to create advocacy educational curricula for other members of the community on immigration policies, court preparation, legal resources, and their rights under immigration law.
 - Preparing leaders to advocate at local, state, and national levels for change of immigration policy and policies which promote civic inclusion.
 - Creating activities for civic engagement and connecting more members with these educational tools through workshops, resources, and more.
 - Creating a nurturing space for participants to gain self confidence, and empowerment; to share their values and experiences; and to nurture an interest in becoming a part of the ECO system.
- Community navigation
 - Teaching and certifying individuals to be navigators for ECO
- Mutual Aid & Support Groups
 - Mutual Aid or support groups for individuals experiencing deportation or the deportation process
 - Mutual Aid or support groups for individuals who are or have experienced detention



Funding Summary

Funding Mechanism	Grant
Anticipated Total Available Funding	\$300,000
Anticipated Number of Awards	Various
Anticipated Funding Amount per Award	\$25,000 to \$150,000, estimated
Project Period	12 months, with an additional 6 month or 12 month extension possible

Schedule

RFP Posted	January 12, 2023
Application Period Opens	January 16, 2023
Informational Session (Optional)	January 24, 2023
Applications Due	February 3, 2023
Anticipated Signed Contract & Implementation Date	March 3, 2023
Payment	In quarterly installments paid in advance, conditioned upon satisfactory reporting.
Report	Quarterly reporting.

Funding is not available for the following, at a minimum:

- Any activity that violates local, State, or Federal laws;

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- Any activity that violates the terms or conditions of the State of Oregon’s contract;
- Payment for services not directly related to the proposed activities or for any case or matter not referred through the Equity Corps clearinghouse; or,
- Lobbying activities.

Administration of Award

Funds will be administered by Oregon Worker Relief. The Awardee will enter into a contracting agreement directly with Oregon Worker Relief and must be willing to be a contributing member of the Oregon Worker Relief Network.. The Awardee may be required to comply with additional terms and conditions as required by or imposed by the State of Oregon.

PART 4. ELIGIBILITY

An organization must:

- Be an organizational member of the Oregon Worker Relief network;
- Have a connection with, serve, or support individuals from the immigrant, migrant and refugee community;
- Has a professional history that demonstrates zealous and skilled advocacy for immigrants;
- Has experience or demonstrated ability to communicate with and advocate for immigrants from different cultures;
- Exhibits good moral and ethical character and has demonstrated professional demeanor;
- Agrees to participate in universal representation navigation;
- Agrees to the principles of universal representation;
- Has strong internal financial controls and managerial controls

PART 5. SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Evaluation Method

Applications will be reviewed in three stages. First, applications will be reviewed for



technical sufficiency and completeness. If an application has responses to all of the questions and all of the required materials are provided, the application will be referred to an advisory committee for review and recommendation. The advisory committee will score applications according to the eligibility requirements and the proposal. The advisory committee will make recommendations for an award and refer the recommendation to the Oregon Worker Relief Executive Committee for adjudication. The decision of the OWR EC is final.

How to apply

Interested parties are encouraged to attend the information session. To register for the informational session, which is optional, email info@equitycorps.org. All applications must be submitted online through the Equity Corp website. If you require a reasonable accommodation in the process, you may email the ECO Clearinghouse or call..