

Request for Proposals

RFP#	OWR-RFP-1543-04
Title	Navigation Services
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.
Date Posted	January 12, 2023
Date Opens	January 13, 2023
Date Closes	Open until funding exhausted
More Info	Visit: https://equitycorps.org/rfps Email: info@equitycorps.org



SUMMARY - Equity Corps of Oregon (ECO) 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 targeted outreach, ECO participants will be enrolled into ECO through legal navigations. This grant provides capacitation support for community-based organizations to navigate and support for individual navigations.

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 to undermine 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.

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 in operation 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/deportation system.

PART 2. BACKGROUND

The Equity Corps 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,

RFP#: OWR-RFP-1543-04

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Revised



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. Oregon Worker Relief will contract with Community-Based Organizations for capacitation to provide ECO Navigation Services and a fee for service contract for navigations..

PART 3. DESCRIPTION - SCOPE OF WORK

Oregon Worker Relief seeks to provide grant funding for Community-Based Navigation Organizations to develop capacity to perform legal service navigations into to ECO. Oregon Worker Relief seeks to provide grant funding to at least one CBO as a Lead Navigating CBO.

Lead Navigating CBO

Lead Navigating CBO should propose a plan to conduct culturally-responsive outreach presentations to impacted immigrant and refugee populations. Outreach presentations must include, at a minimum, information about the ECO program, how to prepare for a navigation, and how to access ECO services. The outreach presentations should focus on culturally-specific communities and different geographic communities. They may be in-person, online, or a mixture provided they are designed to maximize community engagement. They should occur periodically throughout the project period.

Lead CBO should propose a plan to ensure the completion of no less than 2000 culturally-responsive, legal services navigations throughout the entire system, including navigations by the Lead CBO and other participating CBOs. The plan should be designed so that at least 33% of the navigations are of program-eligible immigrants who reside outside of the Portland metropolitan area. The plan should also include a method for training new organizations and individuals interested in navigating.

“Culturally-responsive” means a service that is respectful of, and relevant to, the beliefs, practices, cultures and linguistic needs of diverse consumer or client populations and communities whose members identify as having particular cultural or linguistic affiliations by virtue of their place of birth, ancestry or ethnic origin, religion, preferred language or languages spoken at home, and that has the capacity to respond to the issues of diverse communities and require knowledge and capacity at systemic, organizational, professional and individual levels of intervention.

Navigating CBO

Navigating CBOs should propose a plan for building capacity within their organization to provide ECO navigation services, including participating in training and creating all the necessary protocols and policies to ensure navigations are conducted in a trauma-informed, culturally-responsive manner and ECO participants' information is maintained with strict confidentiality.



Funding Summary

Funding Mechanism	Grant
Anticipated Total Available Funding	\$400,000
Anticipated Number of Awards	Various
Anticipated Funding Amount per Award	\$15,000 to \$300,000, estimated
Project Period	12 months from contracting

Administration of Award

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

Schedule

RFP Posted	January 13, 2023
Application Period Opens	January 13, 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;
- 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.

RFP#: OWR-RFP-1543-04

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PART 4. ELIGIBILITY

In order to serve as an Awardee, the applicant must:

- Is a member of the Oregon Worker Relief network;
- Is a 501(c)(3) organization or is fiscally sponsored by one;
- Has a mission or programming that includes services to immigrants and/or culturally specific services;
- Has a history of providing services to members of the immigrant community, including undocumented people, for three or more years (or, if a newer organization, since the organization's launch);
- Occupies a position of community trust;
- Is culturally competent;
- Has staff fluent in English and Spanish (it is strongly recommended that all staff having regular contact with individuals referred for placement be fluent in both English and Spanish, at a minimum) and an articulated plan to work with individuals speaking other languages;
- Has strong internal managerial structures, reporting capabilities, and financial controls;
- Commit to a Universal Representation model of service;
- Agrees to be trained to avoid the unlawful practice of law and to sign an agreement to do so;
- Commitment and ability to provide services to target populations free of charge.

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..