

ECO Clearinghouse Services

RFA#	RFA-OWR-1543-CH-2025
Title	Request for Applications for Clearinghouse Services
Summary	Equity Corps of Oregon has established a clearinghouse to provide services in support of the universal representation system.
Date Posted	November 16, 2025



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 undermines 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

Equity Corps of Oregon (commonly known as "ECO") is a network of organizations that provide immigration legal services to Oregon's immigrant and refugee communities. Community-based organizations, legal service providers, navigators, the Oregon State Bar, and many others are working towards the same goal of building community resilience through legal representation. ECO is a project of Oregon Worker Relief.

Oregon Worker Relief (OWR) is a community-based organization that creates and manages systems and funds to promote immigrant participation in the collective prosperity of Oregon. OWR uses a form of participatory governance in which impacted individuals and stakeholders directly govern and implement. Oregon Worker Relief has had great success with its model, including several different funds and programs for impacted immigrant communities. Because Oregon Worker Relief is made up of a network of many organizations, it is attentive to conflicts of interest that might arise in the participatory governance framework. Organizations that participate in governance are not excluded from seeking contracts or grants. Instead, such organizations who are seeking funding or contracts must declare a conflict of interest and must recuse themselves; they are then excluded from all aspects of relevant decision-making.

In 2022, Oregon enacted Senate Bill 1543, known by its short title, Universal Representation. It is a permanent law that creates a community-governed and administered fund for the purposes of providing access to legal services for immigration matters. The law mandates certain standards and processes while leaving implementation to the fiscal agent. The fiscal agent is selected by the Oregon legislature. In 2022 and 2023, the Oregon legislature selected Oregon Worker Relief as the fiscal agent.



The overall objective of the law is to serve as many eligible individuals as possible so that immigrant Oregonians can thrive in Oregon for the benefit of everyone's collective prosperity. Oregon is more prosperous because of the economic, cultural, intellectual, and artistic contributions made by its immigrant communities.

Oregon Worker Relief balances the community's high need for immigration legal services with limited financial resources and the acute immigration attorney shortage. In advocating for and designing ECO, community stakeholders made clear that Oregon Worker Relief must create a culture of yes. Before ECO, immigration legal services were so tightly rationed by providers that many people seeking services were simply shut out entirely or, equally bad, experienced a perpetual referral shuffle to nowhere. This system gave a few community members services but left most of the community unserved. The community mandated that OWR change that and so now, ECO has adopted a culture of yes. By using a simple prioritization process and focusing limited resources on where the most impact can be made, most people in the community can get effective and meaningful services.

Oregon Worker Relief has designed ECO to avoid a "one-size-fits-all" approach. People in the community have different needs at different times and have consistently preferred having a range of choices and options. The community Oregon Worker Relief serves through ECO is not a monolithic entity, but rather a complex and diverse range of individuals, families, and sub-communities with differing legal needs, capacities, and resources. Oregon Worker Relief is always working to improve existing strategies and develop new responses.

Within the ECO network of providers, there are organizations and providers who are organized to provide extensive individual representation over a broad range of immigration matters while others may offer only limited-scope representation, short-term advice, or pro se assistance through legal clinics and workshops.

ECO members may access free, high-quality legal services from the many attorneys in the ECO network through legal clinics, mutual aid support groups and skill-building sessions, and in some instances may receive legal services from private attorneys within the ECO network. In addition, ECO members may access the Client Service Fund for support with certain costs associated with legal services, such as expert witness fees; forensic provider network for forensic evaluations to support member immigration applications; and rapid response and detained support for Oregonians targeted by ICE lawlessness

PART 3. DESCRIPTION - SCOPE OF WORK

In June 2025, the State of Oregon awarded \$10.5 million in funding to Oregon Worker Relief for the purposes of providing universal representation under ORS 9.860, in addition to \$4.5 million provided to the Oregon State Bar for similar purposes. Of this overall budget Oregon Worker Relief will contract with an Awardee to provide Clearinghouse Services. Assuming



compliance with the contract, the Awardee will be paid on properly presented periodic invoices under the terms described below, in order to minimally achieve the following deliverables:

The Awardee will provide Clearinghouse Services. "Clearinghouse Services" means the applied, developed and coordinated logistics for case management, data management, user management, and ancillary support for operations, design flows, process flows, and work flows to achieve program eligibility verification, priority recommendations, and referrals for services within the meaning and objectives of SB1543's Universal Representation. The Clearinghouse manages the verification eligibility, priority recommendations, and referrals for service delivery; provides the case management technology that enables navigations, record creation, and casework; shepherds cases through the representation process; provides legal and technical support to the attorneys housed by the collaborative's legal service providers and unrepresented ECO members waiting for a referral; manages the technology that connects the components; and coordinates the system. The Awardee must apply best practices at all times in the delivery of service for logistics, technical and strategic legal support, engineering and technology support, queue and helpdesk support, and coalition coordination.

Funding Summary

Funding Mechanism:	Grant or Contract.
Anticipated Number of Awards:	1
Anticipated Funding Amount per Award:	The maximum awards permitted by category are: \$1,250,000 for services under ORS 9.860(1)(a)(E) \$600,000 for services under ORS 9.860(1)(a)(F) (related to technical assistance attorneys, mentoring) \$1,250,000 for services under ORS 9.860(1)(a)(F) (all other)
Project Period:	July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2027
Applications Available	November 15, 2025
Applications Due	December 12, 2025

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

RFA Released	November 15, 2025
Applications Due	December 12, 2025
Signed Contract	January 1, 2026
Payment	Awardee is required to invoice at least once per month or as agreed for services rendered. Payment generally made within 14-days of invoice verification.

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,
- Lobbying activities.

PART 4. ELIGIBILITY

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

- Be a 501(c)(3) organization and registered in Oregon as a nonprofit corporation for at least two-years;
- Be a member in good standing of the Oregon Worker Relief Network
- Have a mission or programming that includes services to immigrants and/or culturally responsive services;
- Have a demonstrated history of at least two years of previously managing clearinghouse services, or have substantially similar and indistinguishable experience in managing legal services
- Have demonstrated experience of at least two years in managing, creating, developing and deploying technology systems, and have capacity to continue developing and deploying such systems at scale on behalf of immigrant populations
- Have demonstrated experience managing, operating, and representing individuals and providing technical assistance to organizations providing services to individuals within the immigration adjudication system
- Have capacity to provide technical assistance at novice, intermediate and advanced levels to lawyers, accredited representatives, and other stakeholders at scale



- Have demonstrated experience of successfully providing community-facing education, information and communications on complex immigration and law related topics
- Have demonstrated direct experience with federal court litigation, immigration court litigation, courtroom practice in federal and immigration courts, and ability to provide legal services in Oregon state courts
- Have demonstrated direct experience working with federal and state related immigration and refugee agencies, stakeholders, and partners
- Have demonstrated direct experience with delivering legal services to detained populations
- Have strong internal managerial structures, reporting capabilities, and financial controls;
- Commit to a Universal Representation model of service.
- Demonstrate that all professionals involved in the providing of services under the subcontract have the appropriate professional licenses and are in good standing professionally;
- Demonstrate that all paraprofessionals are adequately and appropriately supervised;
- Demonstrate capability to productively collaborate with community-based organizations and relevant government stakeholders.