

THE WHY OVERVIEW

THE WHAT REQUIREMENTS

THE HOW LOGISTICS

THE WHOO HOO GETTING STARTED

FEDERAL LEVERAGE FUND

THE WHY

Unprecedented federal funding is upon us with \$2 trillion in federal funds expected to become available to states, local communities, and nonprofit organizations within the next five to ten years. These funds – in the form of tax incentives, competitive grants, consumer savings, and more – include the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (\$550B for community infrastructure projects), the CHIPS & Science Act (\$550B for R&D and STEM learning, workforce development, and more), the Inflation Reduction Act (\$500B for clean energy, healthcare, agriculture, and more), and other opportunities still in development.

This funding is here now and operationalizing fast – with 47% of these new resources already awarded or obligated – and hundreds of millions in competitive grant opportunities supporting everything from renewable energy installation to bridge construction to disaster resilience hubs.

This investment presents an enormous opportunity for jurisdictions and nonprofit organizations in Oregon, particularly for historically-underfunded BIPOC and rural-based organizations and communities. Beyond this once-in-a-generation influx of funds, recurring federal contracts and grants are one of the most powerful opportunities for bringing long-term funding into communities to develop projects and enact change.

However, many small jurisdictions and nonprofits, especially those led by and serving marginalized community members, never develop the capacity necessary to win and manage these awards. They lack funding to grow the programmatic scope and experience necessary to be competitive for government contracts. Without trusted, hands-on support, these opportunities pass us by – and once again rural, underserved and disinvested communities go without.

THE WHY
OVERVIEWTHE WHAT
REQUIREMENTSTHE HOW
LOGISTICSTHE WHOO HOO
GETTING STARTED

FEDERAL LEVERAGE FUND

THE WHAT

The Federal Readiness & Leverage Fund is a coordinated action system to increase access to federal funds for nonprofits led by and reaching underserved populations, and for jurisdictions in disinvested and rural communities.

The Fund was developed by a collaborative group of philanthropic partners over a series of individual and group meetings with Kelley Nonprofit Consulting (Kelley NPC). Kelley NPC supplemented this planning with their own experience as one of Oregon's longest-serving technical assistance providers for nonprofits and public sector partners, as well as dozens of conversations with the entities across the Pacific Northwest who would benefit most from this model. This initiative was molded through confirmations of their frustrations and hopes.

The Federal Readiness & Leverage Fund addresses barriers to ensure game-changing and transformative federal funds aren't left on the table.

The Federal Readiness & Leverage Fund has three cascading goals:

- Direct federal funds into Oregon and the Pacific Northwest, capturing large-scale investments for innovative infrastructure and other complex projects.
- Increase capacity of underserved and rural communities to allow full, more equitable participation in competitive public and federal resources.
- Strengthen avenues for collaboration across the public, philanthropic, and nonprofit sectors.

This initiative builds system- and community-strengthening - extending far beyond this historic moment of largesse.

THE WHY
OVERVIEWTHE WHAT
REQUIREMENTSTHE HOW
LOGISTICSTHE WHOO HOO
GETTING STARTED

FEDERAL LEVERAGE FUND

THE HOW

This coordinated fund will leverage strategic, near-term investments from participating Funding Partners to unlock millions in federal funds.

- Funding Partners come together and commit to reviewing requests through a singular, shared application centered on four focus areas. Any Funding Partner interested in a request, commits full or partial funding to qualifying nonprofits and jurisdictions.
- Funding Partners make these commitments on their own terms and this is coordinated by a third party Fund Manager and Liaison Team: Kelley Nonprofit Consulting.
- In addition to this main funding, each grantee receives one-on-one support to help them navigate existing technical assistance providers and programs, as well as other subject matter experts and resources - from a local accountant with expertise in Single Audits, to the national 10,000 Communities project. This is supplemented by a modest supplemental award earmarked for technical support.

Grants are made to address barriers that will unlock high-value federal funds, but prioritize organizations and projects sitting at strategic inflection points, and for which sizeable funding would be transformational and lasting. Requests meet one of four focus areas:

1. Financial Leverage. Supports entities with early-phase “first-in” funds, pre-development, and related costs to increase the number of “shovel-ready” projects. This also includes cost share or matches, cash flow needs and bridge support.
2. Incentivizing & Increasing Collaboration. Supports entities poised to lead collaborative efforts, and/or formal or informal coalitions to put forth more competitive federal applications. This helps cover the tangible costs of collaboration and contributes to stronger, more inclusive requests.
3. Increasing Coordination Between Public Sector and CBOs. Supports coordination between jurisdictions and nonprofits to ensure representatives remain “at the table” and giving a deeper understanding to each about the needs, projects and available partnership opportunities for federal funding to the other.
4. Broad, Complementary Technical Assistance. Supports broader technical assistance initiatives reaching many and for systems-level change. This includes pre-qualification programs for capital, peer-led and group skill building, community-wide planning, advocacy and more to build capacity within community nonprofits and jurisdictions.

THE WHY
OVERVIEWTHE WHAT
REQUIREMENTSTHE HOW
LOGISTICSTHE WHOO HOO
GETTING STARTED

FEDERAL LEVERAGE FUND

WHOO HOO!

1 STEP ONE - Celebrate! You are a big piece of the puzzle and part of a program developed in response to dozens of conversations with the entities across Oregon who would benefit most directly and dramatically from this model.

2 STEP TWO - Read the FAQ in the "Initiative Details and Design" document to learn about how you maintain full control over your funds, timing, how potential applications learn about this Fund and more. Email with any questions!

3 STEP THREE - Determine at what level you would like to engage - as a Founding Partner or Community Partner. Each has separate suggested Award Ranges (the approximate total set aside or tracked funding to be used towards these requests, which can fit into your existing grantmaking parameters). They also have different suggested Annual Fund Management & Liaison Fees (used towards management, reporting, coordination and more).

4 STEP FOUR - Complete a friendly Memorandum of Understanding which also allows us to also gather your preferences, priority populations and geographic areas, and details about your specific parameters and commitment. This helps us build a program that reflects back some of each partner - whether as narrative copy on the website, or parameters for which applicants are invited to apply.

5 Get Ready - Meet your fellow Funding Partners at an upcoming Quarterly Meeting, a monthly Requests communication, or through some shared cloud-based tools - on which you will be able to find more information about each request (your review is optional), peer comments, insights from referral partners, and more.