



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 ruralbased 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.







NPC supplemented this planning with their own experience as one of Oregon's longestserving 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:

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

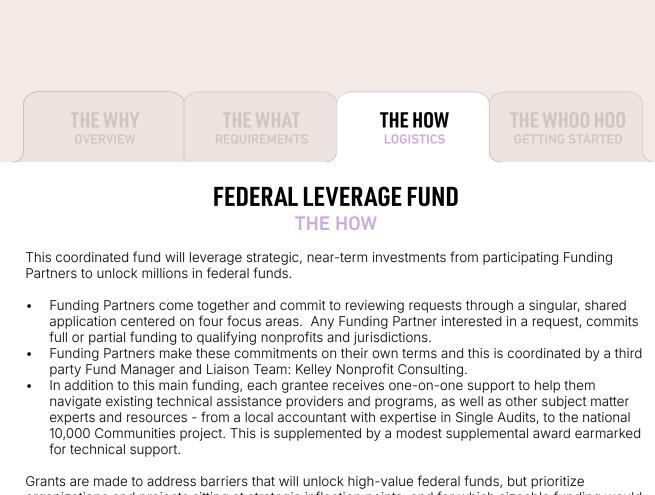
This initiative builds system- and community-strengthening - extending far beyond this historic moment of largesse.



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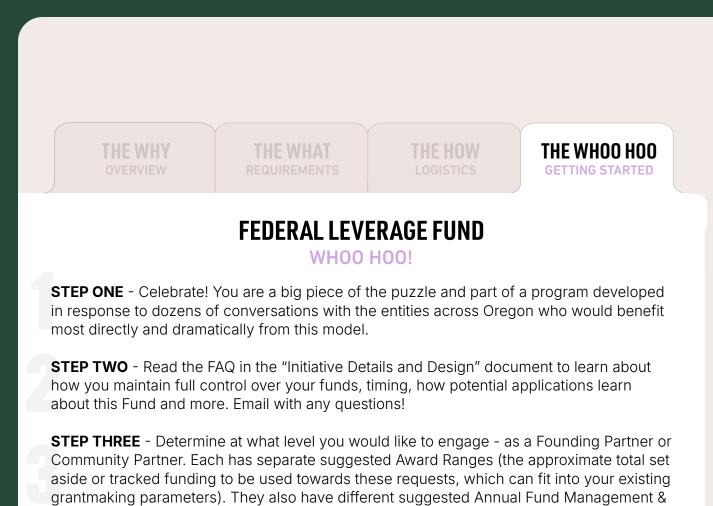
organizations and projects sitting at strategic inflection points, and for which sizeable funding would be transformational and lasting. Requests meet one of four focus areas:

- 1. <u>Financial Leverage.</u> 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. <u>Incentivizing & Increasing Collaboration</u>. 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. <u>Increasing Coordination Between Public Sector and CBOs.</u> 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. <u>Broad, Complementary Technical Assistance.</u> 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.



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**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.

Liaison Fees (used towards management, reporting, coordination and more).

**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.

