



Trail Blazers Foundation Fund - LEARN Grant

The Trail Blazers are dedicated to positively impacting the lives of individuals from communities that have been historically underserved or marginalized, with a particular focus on youth where they live, learn, and play. Through the LEARN grant, the Trail Blazers Foundation Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation supports organizations throughout Oregon and SW Washington that are supporting youth in their journey to and through high school.

Please note: Organizations may only apply for one Trail Blazers Foundation Fund grant type (LIVE Greener, LEARN or PLAY) per year.

One of the ways the Trail Blazers Foundation invests in our region is by providing grants to organizations that fit our mission. When it comes to our LEARN focus area, these are organizations that are supporting youth to graduate from high school or ensure they hit the many academic benchmarks with proven methods to achieve this goal.

Organizations with a mission or major program aligned with the LEARN grant parameters are invited to apply for up to \$25,000 of annual funding. After an initial year of support, organizations may be selected to receive an additional year of funding, for a total of up to \$50,000 over two years.

Funding Priorities

TBFF prioritizes LEARN grants for organizations that:

- Serve populations disproportionately impacted by social, economic and/or racial injustices and inequities in Oregon (listed in alphabetical order):
 - Black, Indigenous, Latinx and people of color
 - Immigrants and/or refugees
 - People experiencing disabilities,
 - People living on low incomes
 - People living in under-resourced communities and/or communities lacking in critical infrastructure
 - People who are homeless/unsheltered
 - People who identify as LGBTQIA+
 - Survivors of domestic violence and/or child abuse
- Have proven connections to increased high school graduation rates, including organizations and/or programs that are shown to have a positive impact on key educational milestones throughout a student's journey that can be tied directly to an increase in graduation
- Represent geographic diversity throughout the state of Oregon and SW Washington
- Are able to show, quantitatively or qualitatively, that the existence of their program has made a difference in the lives of youth served



Guidelines

- Organizations with a mission aligned with the LEARN funding priorities may apply for general operating/unrestricted support; organizations with a major program aligned with the LEARN funding priorities may apply for funding to support that program
- Priority will go to programs serving predominantly children from underrepresented and marginalized communities
- Organizations may apply for up to \$25,000 in funding per year
- Organizations must be providing services in Oregon and SW Washington
- Organizations may request funds for travel/transportation provided that they are essential components of the organization or program in question
- If you represent a PTO, PTA, or school, please instead apply for a grant from TBF Take it to the Court for Education program in the Fall by visiting www.trailblazers.com/takeittothecourt to complete an application

Eligibility

Geographic Focus and Organizational Requirements

Because the Trail Blazers Foundation raises money from fans across the state, it is important for us to give back to communities throughout Oregon.

Applications are accepted from organizations that are a 501(c)(3) public charity; an IRC 7871 Federally-Recognized Indian Tribe; or a government entity (such as a City Parks & Recreation department).

Frequency of Application

- You may apply for one grant type (LIVE Greener, LEARN or PLAY) from Trail Blazers Foundation Fund per year
- You may receive only one grant from the Trail Blazers Foundation Fund per year. Nonprofits are still eligible to participate in the 5050 raffle via the Trail Blazers Foundation.
- Applying to Trail Blazers Foundation Fund does not preclude you from applying to other OCF grant programs
- This grant program will NOT be open to applications in 2025. Organizations that receive funding this year (2024) will receive a request for information in spring 2025. If they continue with programming, remain in good standing, and additional funding is available, they will be granted a second year of funding. **This means applications for *LIVE Greener*, *LEARN*, and *PLAY* grants will not be accepted again until spring 2026.**

Not Eligible for Funding

- Organizations which discriminate based on age, ethnicity/race, political affiliation, religion, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, physical or other disability, or national origin
- Individuals (including scholarships, stipends, fellowships, and personal assistance)
- Scholarship funding, unless it's the core purpose of your organization. *If you'd like to provide underserved youth access to your programming, please apply to the program expenses rather than a scholarship amount*
- Research or project planning activities
- Schools
- Endowments, memorials, budget deficits, or fundraising activities
- Religious organizations whose programs do not have a secular and community focus
- Lobbying, political, or fraternal activities
- Organizations that intend to regrant the funds awarded
- Projects and events that occur prior to a Trail Blazers Foundation Fund grant award



Application Process & Deadline

All applications should be submitted using the online grants system, [MyOCF](#) on **April 2, 2024 by 5:00pm**. Late applications will not be considered. Award decisions will be made and communicated by June 30. Organizations awarded a grant should expect to receive funds in early July.

Grantee Reporting and Renewal Opportunity

An impact report is due 9 months after a grant is awarded. It is submitted electronically and will serve as a request for a second year of support for your efforts. The opportunity for awarding renewal funding is at the discretion of Trail Blazers Foundation Fund staff and advisors: additional funding is not guaranteed.

Staff Assistance

If you have any questions after reviewing the information available on this page, please contact:

- Trail Blazers Foundation Staff trailblazersfoundation@trailblazers.com
- OCF Staff: ocf-trailblazersfund@oregoncf.org