

February 6, 2023

Oregon State University Extension Service

Cultivating resilient and healthy communities through positive youth development and community horticulture

Proposal for FY24 Multnomah County investment in OSU Extension Service

OSU Extension: Invested in helping Multnomah County thrive

OSU Extension links the resources and knowledge of Oregon State University with every county in Oregon to meet local needs. We work with counties and other community partners to enhance quality of life, promote lifelong learning, sustain natural resources and empower youth for life, college and workforce readiness. While many organizations provide educational services, OSU Extension is viewed as a trusted partner, collaborator and convener of communities.

Oregon State is Oregon's land grant university. Part of our responsibility is to offer accessible education to all people through a three-prong mission: research and discovery, teaching and learning, and outreach and engagement. OSU Extension began outreach efforts to the people of Oregon in 1911.

To receive the full benefits of Extension, the cooperative Extension model requires county, state and federal contributions.

Over the last 19 years, OSU Extension has worked to self-support its efforts in Multnomah County without any local county contribution. By honoring historic relationships and finding other funding streams, OSU Extension has worked with volunteers and partners to help build programming capacity in a variety of areas including a strong grant-funded nutrition education program, a 4-H youth development program and an active Master Gardener cohort supported by regional faculty.

Beginning in 2022, the university is investing over the next three years in a new program dedicated to supporting and guiding access to higher education, degree completion and career attainment for students and families of color in the Portland metro area. Through consistent engagement and culturally relevant, family-oriented programming — co-designed with families and communities — this program will create greater opportunity for students of color in the Oregon education system and support successful student transitions to higher education.

Multnomah County: Support greater impact with proven programs

We can do more for the prosperity of Portland and its people by providing greater access to OSU's unique capabilities in Oregon's urban center. With additional general fund support from Multnomah County for OSU Extension, we can enhance and expand the following activities:

- Youth development, engagement and leadership for underserved communities.
- Gardening-based outreach to increase community food production and sustainable landscapes for underserved communities.

OSU Extension seeks \$400,000 in funding from Multnomah County to invest in our capacity to provide positive youth development opportunities and gardening-based educational services to underserved communities. (See detailed budget, page 4.)



Invest in youth development, engagement and leadership for youth from underserved communities

We engage and train tomorrow's leaders through youth programming.

Innovation hub

The OSU Portland Center is poised to become a premier incubator site where middle and high school students work collaboratively with OSU faculty and staff for creating solutions in business, engineering and health and find real world solutions to today's local needs from a youth perspective.

Youth leadership

Portland youth are tomorrow's leaders. OSU Extension provides leadership training for urban youth in camp leadership, 4-H teens as Teachers and much more. Portland Public Schools has requested continued support for collaborating with OSU Extension to host youth leadership conferences.

Youth voice/youth action

Climate change, affordable housing, youth mental illness, emergency preparedness, and growing cultural diversity are all critical issues facing urban communities. While lawmakers, nonprofit organizations, think tanks, state organizations, and higher education debate the many issues and possible solutions to these problems, without the voice and action of youth these solutions will not be long term. OSU Extension can play a critical role for elevating youth voice/youth action by hosting youth forums, science cafes and conferences to help bring youth voice to the forefront. Currently 4-H is hosting a series of Teen Science Cafes but does not have adequate space for hosting these events. Moving the program to the OSU Portland Center will elevate this program to the wider community.

STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) workshops and camps

It is widely recognized that fields in STEAM will have high workforce demand. It is estimated that there are 27,000 unfilled jobs in engineering alone in the US. Preparing youth and, more importantly, introducing youth to these high demand jobs will require a strong investment in STEAM education and no other institution in Oregon is more prepared to make this investment. The OSU Portland Center has the potential to become the hub for youth workshops and summer camps in a wide variety of relevant STEAM topics.

Career and college readiness

Preparing youth for education beyond high school is a foremost goal of school districts in the Portland Metro area. This is especially true for urban youth from low-income and culturally diverse communities who are possibly the first in their family to attend higher education. OSU Extension 4-H is currently providing 4-hour career and college readiness workshops to local 10th grade students in Portland Public schools. Right now, the demand for this program exceeds the capacity of the limited staff at OSU Portland Center. Boys and Girls Clubs are interested in collaborating with OSU Extension for delivering their college readiness program for youth participating in their Force Academy, a Portland Timbers sponsored workforce readiness program that serves thousands of underserved high school youth in the Portland Metro area.

Invest in gardening-based outreach to increase community food production and sustainable landscapes for underserved communities

We train community educators focused on sustainable gardening and growing food in community settings.

The OSU Extension Master Gardener™ program helps Oregonians create and care for sustainable gardens and landscapes. We promote community food security and resilience, habitat for wildlife and pollinators and physical and mental well-being through gardening education and outreach. Our trained volunteers provide gardening advice and educational services for Oregon's growing community of gardeners.

The program is dedicated to embedding diversity, equity and inclusion values into curriculum, recruitment and the volunteer experience. The Metro Regional Master Gardener Program (Multnomah, Washington, Clackamas) reports that 45% of its 2022 trainees, who were recruited in 2021, are from underrepresented groups.

We have over 250 existing volunteers plus 60 people in Multnomah County in our current cohort of trainees. We coordinate this volunteer force combined with volunteers from neighboring counties.

In 2021, the Metro Regional Master Gardener program reported:

- 211 Master Gardeners reported 15,053 hours of service valued at \$424,796
- 23,472 Oregonians reached through online and in-person educational events and 1:1 assistance
- 5,927 questions from the public answered through online "help desks" and Q&A systems
- 4 education gardens managed
- 12,163 pounds of produce donated

Over the past 11 years, a contract with Metro Regional Government has provided over \$1 million to support the regional Master Gardener program and other horticulture programming. Without Metro's generous support, we would not be able to operate the program in Multnomah and Washington Counties, where there is no local funding available.

Increased, dedicated staff support for volunteers in Multnomah County will enable Master Gardeners to thrive and have greater community impact in Oregon's most populous county.

Funding request

OSU Extension seeks \$400,000 in funding from Multnomah County to invest in our capacity to provide positive youth development opportunities and gardening-based educational services to underserved communities.

Funds would support two full-time Educational Program Assistants to perform youth programming and gardening-based outreach efforts in Multnomah County and related staff and program support. The positions will be housed at an OSU location in Portland.

Personnel services	Amount
Education Program Assistant II (1.0 FTE)	\$85,500
Education Program Assistant (1.0 FTE)	\$78,500
Fiscal Coordinator (.50 FTE)	\$55,000
Office Specialist II (1.0 FTE)	\$70,000
Total personnelservices	\$289,000
Materials and services	Amount
Office supplies andequipment	\$51,500
General operating supplies	\$18,500
Marketing	\$4,500
Total materials and services	\$74,500
Other expenditures	Amount
Office space	\$21,500
Travel expenses	\$12,500
Program participant scholarships	\$2,500
Total other expenditures	\$36,500
Total budget request	\$400,000

Primary responsibilities for the positions

General

- Collaborate with complementary OSU Extension educational programs including SNAP-Ed/Food Hero, culturally relevant nutrition and physical activity programs, food preservation, community food systems and farm to school, and 4-H positive youth development.
- Support and grow existing proven and successful OSUES programming and activities that can be held at the OSU Portland Center or other locations in the County.
- Provide the support and the platform for non-profit organizations and faith-based organizations that want to involve and inspire traditionally underrepresented cultural groups to participate in community work for building sustainability. Partners will include student resource centers and career services from OSU, Portland universities and community colleges.

Youth development

- Identify and recruit schools, libraries, SUN schools, community colleges and community centers to engage as partners who deliver OSU Extension 4-H STEM and career/college readiness programming by committing staff and facilities. Training and program updates for Extension partners will be delivered out of the OSU Portland Center.
- Master Volunteer Programs: Provide train the trainer programs (20- to 40-hour trainings) in 4-H Partner School Coordinators, 4-H Financial Literacy Educators, Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners and more.
- 4-H Teens as Teachers: Identify, recruit and train high school youth to lead downtown Portland elementary school field trips
- OSU Student Internships and Practicums: provide training, support and opportunities for OSU college students to teach middle school and high school enrichment programs in engineering, health and business (financial education and entrepreneurship).
- Convene for-profit, non-profit and government organizations to fund, define and deliver desired content for youth programming at the OSU Center in workforce prep and college readiness.

Garden-based educational services

- Recruit and support BIPOC participants in the Master Gardener program. For our 2022 training, we utilized a Racial Equity Advisory Group to update our promotion and registration materials to be more inclusive. Our cohort of trainees in Multnomah County comprises 30 of 60 people that identify as BIPOC in terms of race and/or Latinx in terms of Ethnicity. We hope to build on this effort in 2023 and beyond.
- Work closely with OSU's existing team of faculty and staff that coordinate the Master Gardener program for Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington Counties.
- Facilitate regular affinity groups for BIPOC students in the Master Gardener program to support their participation in the Master Gardener curriculum and volunteer program.
- Discover new outreach opportunities for OSU volunteers at community events that serve the BIPOC community. Coordinate volunteers to serve as gardening educators at events. For example, our volunteers could table at the Jade District Night Market to promote research-based gardening information to the Asian community.
- Perform a needs assessment to determine the gardening information and educational needs of underserved Multnomah County communities. For example, the Pacific Islander community has expressed interest in how to grow taro in the Pacific Northwest.
- Work with OSU experts to provide gardening-based educational services to meet the needs of underserved communities as discovered in the needs assessment. For example, develop a fact sheet with research-based information about growing taro in the Pacific Northwest.
- Provide an annual report including performance metrics (volunteers trained, events attended, and questions answered) and stories about how Multnomah County's underserved community groups have benefited from OSU's gardening-focused educational services.