



## 2025 Partners in Conservation Grant Review Committee Meeting Group 3

Friday, February 28, 2025

8:30am to 1:00pm

**In-person meeting** - 5211 N. Williams Ave., Portland, Oregon

### MEETING GOALS

- 1) To ensure a thorough and fair review process that considers a diverse range of perspectives, expertise, and backgrounds.
- 2) To identify important questions/concerns requiring further research or follow-up
- 3) To rank applications in order of merit to help guide the EMSWCD Board of Directors' 2025 Partners in Conservation (PIC) funding decisions.

### Agenda

<b>8:15 am</b>	<b>Come early – snacks provided by EMSWCD</b>
8:30 am	Welcome, introductions
8:45 am	Review of the process, objectives, and current applicant pool; conflict/potential bias disclosures
9:30 am	Review scores – identify key applications needing discussion Discuss strengths and weaknesses of applications, feedback to applicants
<b>10:30 am</b>	<b>Break (15 min)</b>
10:45 am	Discuss strengths and weaknesses of applications, feedback to applicants Review and rank
<b>12 pm</b>	<b>Break (15 min)</b>
12:15 pm	Final rankings, process check and feedback
<b>1 pm</b>	<b>Adjourn</b>

## 2025 Partners in Conservation Grant Application Projects and Descriptions (All Applications)

Grant Number	Organization Name	Project Title	Short Description	Amount Requested
PIC-25-001	1000 Friends of Oregon	Land Use Leadership Initiative 2025	This grant will support the 2025 Land Use Leadership Initiative (LULI) in the Portland Metro region. LULI broadens and diversifies support for and participation in land use decisions that shape our cities, our natural working lands, and our community resilience. LULI focuses on a specific geographic area and brings together 20-25 community leaders for 9 sessions over 5 months to gain technical knowledge about land use decisions, learn about the most pressing land conservation and development issues in their community, and equip participants with resources and relationships to leverage as they engage in land use issues that matter to them. A major goal of the program is to build power among a diverse, grassroots network of advocates who continue working together after the cohort has ended.	\$20,320
PIC-25-002	Adventist Health Portland	Adventist Health Portland Community Garden	Adventist Community Garden partners with Outgrowing Hunger to provide a 40,000-square-foot garden located in outer Southeast Portland serving low-income families who are primarily Nepali and African refugees. The project will expand the garden, increase visibility, and make upgrades that support long-term sustainability.	\$30,000
PIC-25-003	Black Oregon Land Trust	Sacred Waters, Restoring Riparian Habitat	This project focuses on restoring and conserving riparian areas on Bolt's 10-acre property, with future connectivity to an adjacent 19+ acres feeding into Gordon Creek and the Sandy River watershed. The project will restore riparian habitats through native plantings, erosion control, and invasive species removal. It will improve water quality by addressing past contamination, removing waste, and enhancing natural water	\$68,528

			filtration processes. It will also build ecological connectivity to support fish, wildlife, and biodiversity. The community is engaged through accessible trails, environmental education, and hands-on restoration activities that empower marginalized communities as stewards of land and water.	
PIC-25-004	City of Wood Village	Wood Village Community Garden	Over the last few years, there has been renewed community interest in creating a community garden. The City Council and Parks Commission both approved creating a new community garden located behind the Wood Village City Hall and Civic Center. The new garden will begin with 12 raised beds with opportunities for growth based on community interest. The City is exploring community garden management options through external organizations equipped with the expertise and staff to do so with the hope of building a culturally responsive community garden with opportunities for not only growing food but also for building community connections.	\$12,000
PIC-25-005	Columbia Land Trust	Reducing Barriers and Engaging Under-resourced Communities in East Multnomah County	Backyard Habitat Certification Program has a multi-pronged approach to engaging community members in regreening landscapes where they live and gather, such as partnering with culturally specific groups on ongoing, long-term projects. With partner Verde, the program will enroll and install free raingardens or naturescapes for low-income households in North, Northeast, and East Portland neighborhoods. Site visits, site-based guidance, and ongoing support are provided for people stewarding the land where they live and gather, prioritizing low-income, BIPOC, immigrant, and disability community members. The program will also provide enhanced support to equity-focused community sites for their on-the-ground restoration efforts. Engagement with community liaisons will help incorporate feedback and determine needs and future ideas for new projects.	\$50,000

PIC-25-006	Columbia Riverkeeper	Columbia River Education and Monitoring Project	The grant will fund projects in two of Columbia Riverkeeper's program areas: Stopping Pollution (environmental justice at the Bradford Island and surrounding waters Superfund site) and Engaging Communities (job training and water quality monitoring). Together, Columbia Riverkeeper will work with Yakama Nation to engage diverse communities fishing near Bradford Island and surrounding waters; monitor harmful algal blooms and E. coli at nine popular beaches (sharing results in English and Spanish) and offer job-skills training to paid interns. The two projects tap into their experience working with Tribal Nations, public engagement, toxic pollution, applying DEI practices in recruitment, hiring and training, and water sampling.	\$70,000
PIC-25-007	Confluence Environmental Center	Environmental Justice and Green Job Training for Confluence Program Members	Confluence Environmental Center (CEC) will support diverse employment and leadership in the field of green jobs through our Leadership Development Program (LDP). There are not only barriers to entering the workforce in an environmental career. Even after hiring, a lack of professional training or contacts to navigate upward mobility can prevent professionals with diverse backgrounds from staying or moving into leadership positions. This leadership program will help develop networking opportunities for 18 AmeriCorps members with trainers and CEC alumni with varied lived experiences members over 11 months. The program provides deep discussions around racial, social, and environmental justice and individual skill development opportunities.	\$58,706
PIC-25-008	Division Midway Alliance	Growing Together: DMA Community Garden Project at Mill Park	The Growing Together: Community Garden Project at Mill Park, led by Division Midway Alliance (DMA) in partnership with Portland Parks and Recreation, will create a vibrant and sustainable community garden in East Portland to foster food security, cultural preservation, and community connection. Serving East Portland's immigrant and refugee communities, this	\$63,524

			project will provide access to gardening plots, culturally appropriate crops, and workshops on sustainable gardening practices. The project will promote equitable access to outdoor education for BIPOC immigrant and refugee communities, fostering hands-on learning. By addressing disparities in environmental health and access, the project will empower historically marginalized communities and cultivate a sense of belonging.	
PIC-25-009	Ecology in Classrooms and Outdoors	Aves Compartidas: Engaging Latinx Students in Habitat Conservation	The Aves Compartidas program engages approximately 270 students from two dual-language schools: Lent and Alder Elementary. Building on our proven success, we will refine lessons using new insights and reintroduce off-site field experiences to local natural areas in partnership with local organizations, providing students with real-world experience in ecology and restoration. In addition, we will integrate engagement opportunities with environmental professionals such as arborists, hydrologists, and biologists, enriching learning and inspiring students to envision future green careers. By refining lessons and forging stronger partnerships, this program enhances student learning and stewardship while strengthening ECO's capacity to implement large-scale restoration projects in the future.	\$34,012
PIC-25-010	Ecotrust	Green Workforce Academy: Building Environmental Justice in Portland's Green Sector	This funding will support the Green Workforce Academy, a 5-week paid training program designed to increase Native and Black participation in green industry jobs in Portland. Offered two to three times a year, each session engages up to 12 Black, Indigenous, or other participants of color in 120+ hours of learning experiences in the classroom and in the field. Class days focus on culturally specific environmental education developed and taught by educators who are Black and/or Native. The classroom sessions are paired with hands-on experience	\$70,000

			with green industry partners. This combination of classroom and fieldwork provides a comprehensive view not only of green job pathways but also connects students with potential employers, internships, and continuing education opportunities.	
PIC-25-011	El Programa Hispano Catolico	Cultivating Roots: A Community Food and Garden Education Initiative	El Programa Hispano Catolico's Youth Gardening Workshop series expands its Food Justice Program to empower Latine youth in the Portland Metro Area, with a strong focus on East Multnomah County. Addressing food insecurity through culturally specific education, the initiative teaches sustainable gardening practices, such as growing food in apartments, through bi-weekly workshops and monthly sessions at Thimbleberry Farm. Youth learn gardening, canning, and food preservation while reconnecting with traditional foodways. This complements EPHC's work providing nutritious food to nearly 25,000 individuals to date through pantries and markets, fostering resilience, promoting health, and advancing equitable food access rooted in racial equity and social justice.	\$69,977
PIC-25-012	ELSO Inc.	ELSO Inc: Tappin' Roots Program Expansion	Created in 2019, Tappin' Roots is a collaborative internship program that provides 15 Black and Brown high school youth in Oregon with paid work experience, mentoring from Black and Brown experts, and a 7-part Symposium series and training week to build leadership skills, job connections, and hands-on experience with STEAMED concepts. Tappin' Roots exit interviews in 2023 revealed that more than 85% of participants developed an increased desire to pursue STEM majors and/or career paths because of participating in this program. A grant from EMSWCD will allow ELSO to expand our current program partnerships, improve our Culmination event, and provide additional resources to better engage our interns in outdoor education.	\$63,633

PIC-25-013	Friends of Trees	Friends of Trees Bridging the Gap Apprenticeship Pilot Project	This project bridges the gap between existing paid internship programs - with Friends of Trees, Connecting Canopies/Blueprint, and Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center - and full-time green sector jobs. Our programs currently offer hands-on learning in urban forestry and natural area restoration for BIPOC and minority youth/adults. While we've seen success and increased interest, a gap remains in paid opportunities dedicated to building the administrative and logistical skills necessary for many green sector jobs. This pilot apprenticeship program will offer at least two participants 6-8 months of part-time employment with FOT, as they gain key skills for full-time green sector jobs. It's a critical next step to achieve our workforce development program goals.	\$69,690
PIC-25-014	Friends of Zenger Farm	School and Community programs, Farm internship program	Zenger Farm seeks to increase the number of diverse farmers by training the next generation of local food producers and by providing accessible educational programming for youth and families to build pathways for future BIPOC, women, and non-binary farmers in the Portland Metropolitan area. Across programs, our curriculum will provide a comprehensive, culturally responsive, climate action-focused learning environment for four (4) beginning farmers apprentices, six (6) farm interns, 600 David Douglas School District 5th graders, and 1,200 folks participating in our family programming.	\$70,000
PIC-25-015	Green Lents	Maintaining and Cultivating Resilience in Lents and Outer Southeast Portland	The funding will enable Green Lents to bring on a Program/Volunteer Coordinator staff member who will sustain operations and engagement of two long-time programs that promote pollinator habitats, urban agriculture, and community resilience focused on the Malden Court Community Orchard and the Green Lents Community Tool Library. With a staff person, we will be able to provide more educational events, more community listening, and better volunteer support.	\$20,000

PIC-25-016	Human Access Project	Ross Island Lagoon Juvenile Salmon Survey	A harmful cyanobacteria bloom (HCB) in Ross Island Lagoon (Lagoon) on the Willamette River in Portland threatens environmental and human health. In addition to resolving the HCB, a key argument for installing a flushing channel is increased access to the shallow water habitat of the Lagoon for juvenile salmon. This grant would provide funding for a fish study to determine the current use by juveniles of the Lagoon. It is a key data point regulators are seeking to move this critical project forward. Since 2017, HAP has partnered with Oregon State University to identify a feasible and effective solution for suppressing HCB. Constructing a flushing channel has emerged as the most promising and sustainable solution. Work is underway on the 30% design of a flushing channel, anticipated to be completed in May 2026.	\$39,000
PIC-25-017	Indigenous Peoples Power Project, Inc.	IP3 Landback Project	The Farm at Coyote Crossing is a 4.7-acre farmland property in the heart of Chinook Territory, so-called Portland, OR, and is the culmination of years of activism and advocacy work by Indigenous Peoples Power Project, our Board of Directors, Staff, and Network of Indigenous Trainers and Organizers. Purchased in January of 2024 as the first stage of the IP3 Landback Project, we took possession of the property in February of 2024 and are working towards a return to Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Indigenous land practices to support our mission of providing nonviolent direct-action training, campaign support, and community organizing tools to support Indigenous communities taking action in defense of our homelands.	\$70,000
PIC-25-018	Kindness Farm	Kindness Farm: Environmental Stewardship and Education for Youth,	This program works to address health and wellness disparities in youth, adults, and seniors from underrepresented communities by providing: ongoing, experiential environmental education of regenerative, holistic practices (including understanding of the interconnectedness between our actions, the environment's	\$49,500



		Immigrants and Refugees, and Underserved Communities	health, and our health); access to a safe, inclusive natural space for communal gathering and for this learning to take place; access to the experience of growing food; and access to the tools needed to build food security and sovereignty. Through partnerships with schools and various immigrant and refugee groups, and experiential community learning days, we work with our community to build an equitable and resilient foundation that will serve all of us for years to come.	
PIC-25-019	Leach Garden Friends/Leach Botanical Garden	The Back 5 Habitat Enhancement Project	The Back 5 Community Habitat Enhancement Project is a collaborative project to restore a 5-acre portion of Leach adjacent to our main 12-acre campus. The Back 5 was acquired in 1999 as an educational/community science site. Planning began in 2017 and 2018, with active restoration and monitoring efforts beginning in 2019, partnering with organizations primarily serving underserved and BIPOC youth. With the first two acres opening to the public in Spring 2025, Leach seeks funding to support the ongoing development of Back 5 programming for participating organizations, youth, and the public.	\$50,050
PIC-25-020	Learning Gardens Laboratory	Learning Gardens Lab	This grant will support reinvigorating the Learning Gardens Lab (LGL) and its long-standing garden education programs for K5 and middle school students, fostering ecological literacy, food security, and climate resilience. This multifaceted program integrates experiential, holistic gardening and Next Generation Science Standards-based science education through after-school sessions, field trips for PPS students in the EMSWCD area, and student-led projects. By re-establishing this program, we will engage youth in ecological systems while building a sustainable and inclusive food system for the Portland community. The garden not only contributes to the development of sustainable food systems and closed-loop agricultural	\$70,000

			processes but also serves as an ecologically rich community site.	
PIC-25-021	Lloyd EcoDistrict	Lloyd's Urban Greening Initiative	Our Urban Greening Initiative will transform the Lloyd neighborhood by knitting various green projects into a cohesive, community-led sustainability model. We will convert underused spaces like apartment balconies, bike path infrastructure, and commercial planters into vibrant gardens and pollinator habitats based on a neighborhood-specific greening guide developed from local data. This project enhances pollinator habitat and nutrition and serves as a living lab for urban ecology, educating residents and commercial landscapers and promoting environmental stewardship. While it starts the work toward cooling our neighborhood, its primary aim is to create measurable improvements in Lloyd's biodiversity and develop a replicable playbook for data-driven, community-powered, holistic green spaces.	\$65,110
PIC-25-022	Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership	Mirror Lake Comprehensive Floodplain Reconnection Project	Rooster Rock State Park's floodplains provide 20% of accessible floodplain habitat in the lower Columbia Gorge and support spawning populations of coho salmon and lamprey. Chinook, coho, and steelhead from the interior Columbia River basin utilize the park's off-channel rearing during outmigration to the ocean. The park's habitat conditions are degraded by historic land uses, invasive species, and the construction of Interstate 84. The project team will use grant funding to develop the 30% design and engineering plans necessary to initiate permitting that would reconnect Latourell Creek to its floodplain, restore the park's boat basin to wetland/riparian habitat, remove an abandoned culvert, install large woody habitat structures, and plant native species. Project partners include OPRD, ODOT, BPA, and OWEB.	\$69,968

PIC-25-023	Native American Youth and Family Center	Wapas Nah Nee Shaku (NAYA food sovereignty garden)	Wapas Nah Nee Shaku provides urban Native people a place to gather on land, deepening relationships to place by growing healthy traditional foods, traditional medicines, and land-based healing through ceremony. This grant will resource a Native Food Sovereignty Internship to equip aspiring Native farmers and land stewards with Indigenous Traditional Ecological Cultural literacy and farming skills. Interns will maintain three project areas: the First Foods, Medicine, and Organic Market gardens. Interns will receive training from experienced farmers, culture bearers, and green workforce staff. This experience will build the interns' skills in ecological food production, soil health, Indigenous Traditional Ecological and Cultural Knowledge, medicine tending, seed saving, and career pathways.	\$69,808
PIC-25-024	Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides	Water Stewards for the Latinx Landscaper Network	NCAP's Latinx Landscaper Network continues to grow. Its main objective: empower Latinx landscapers to adopt sustainable landscaping practices, enhance their professional skills, and build stronger connections within the industry. The program emphasizes pesticide reduction, pollution prevention, and habitat-friendly landscaping while addressing barriers such as language access, culturally appropriate resources, and networking barriers with the rest of the industry. In addition to this, we are incorporating climate crisis awareness language into our curriculum.	\$70,000
PIC-25-025	Northwest Youth Corps	NYC Inclusive Youth Stewardship Project	NYC Inclusive Youth Stewardship Project will engage 48 Portland teens and eight leaders, from diverse backgrounds during the summers of 2025 and 2026. Crews will carry out habitat restoration and conservation on nine acres of plants installed by Friends of Trees in East Portland neighborhoods; eradicate invasive species; install deer fencing; sheet mulch; help harvest and plant at the 2.5-acre Kindness Farm; and complete noxious weed removal and other activities on four acres at the Dharma	\$68,398

			Rain Zen Center. NYC is also exploring how crews can collaborate with Depave on a small project. After each workday, the crews earn academic credit through environmental education to understand that they play a role in protecting wild plant and animal species and their habitats.	
PIC-25-026	Nutrition Garden Rx (fiscal sponsor - YWCA of Greater Portland)	Optimizing Ecosystem Vitality	We are building a culturally relevant, ecologically aligned, and vibrantly healthy food system and learning lab to improve human-nature interconnectedness, awareness, curiosity, and balance. Our hub is at the CareOregon Boys and Girls Club at Rockwood. We engage and inspire youth and young adults to explore fresh, local, nutritious, food systems that help prevent costly, chronic health conditions and support environmental/human health. Via food topics, we explore the “12 Aspects of Well-Being” interconnected with human and environmental health, model sustainable lifestyles for optimal wellness aligning with other types of restoration and conservation efforts, share and implement these solutions with and for the community, and highlight and create bridges into climate just, "green" professional pathways.	\$69,999
PIC-25-027	Oregon State University (fiscal sponsor Oregon State University Foundation)	Portland Urban Coyote Project and Coyote-Palooza	Human population growth and increased development over the last century have increased the proximity and risks of conflict between humans and wildlife in the Pacific Northwest. Community outreach and education programs provide opportunities for evidence-based education and highlight the important role of community members in the proactive reduction of human-wildlife conflict. With the support of the EMSWCD, we propose to build on the community science efforts of the Portland Urban Coyote Project and human-wildlife coexistence in the Greater Portland Metro Area. We will summarize community observations and perceptions of coyotes, support ongoing education efforts, and create stable, long-term outreach	\$29,886

			programs to engage community members as stewards for human-wildlife coexistence.	
PIC-25-028	Our Village Garden	Building Food Resilience Through Community Garden and Growing Projects	This grant will support the impact and reach of Our Village Garden's Growing Projects, including the Seeds of Harmony Community Garden, Fruits of Diversity Community Orchard, and the Neighbor-to-Neighbor Veggie Share Box initiative. These programs build community resilience and provide access to green spaces and fresh, healthy, and culturally relevant food. This year's priorities of capacity building, enhancing growing spaces, and promoting culturally diverse practices are efforts that amplify growing projects and community organizing initiatives in Oregon's largest affordable housing neighborhood, New Columbia.	\$50,000
PIC-25-029	Outgrowing Hunger	Hand-Scale Farmer Mentoring and Support	This project will continue to increase sustainable agriculture skills and help achieve business viability for a cohort of 35-40 immigrant and refugee farming entrepreneurs. These growers come from Southeast Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe, and Central America bringing widely varying sophistication and practice, but all aspire to make their livelihoods through mixed-veg and small animal farming in the outskirts and forgotten corners of the Portland Metro Area. Grant funding will provide dedicated staff time for in-language mentoring, skill-building workshops, and on-farm demonstrations of techniques that increase soil health, build biodiversity, and reduce irrigation and fertilizer use while supporting an abundant harvest.	\$25,000
PIC-25-030	Peace Village, Inc.	Climate Justice and Community Resilience in School Gardens	In collaboration with Portland Public Schools, the Portland Placemaking Coalition will revitalize school gardens and native plantings to build climate resilience at three partner schools: Beach Elementary, Ockley Green M.S., and Franklin H.S. These enhancements will improve soil quality, sequester carbon, reduce stormwater runoff, and create pathways for climate	\$55,000

			justice on campus. Given the history of abandoned school garden projects, we recognize the need to establish a culture of stewardship that reduces the burden on teachers and staff and engages the broader network of parents and community members. This culture of stewardship will re-instill a sense of belonging to place, and the garden will become a hub for art, culture, and community, centered around growing and sharing food.	
PIC-25-031	Play Grow Learn (fiscal sponsor Outgrowing Hunger)	Agricultural Mentoring Program 2025	Play Grow Learn is continuing previous environmental education, workforce development, and conservation-oriented agricultural and nature programming throughout east Multnomah County through paid youth stewardship, conservation, and restoration internships at Nadaka Park; organizing and hosting partner-led environmental and ag internships; operation of a farmers market, and outreach and engagement of low-income and communities of color to develop more self-sufficiency through agricultural skill building.	\$70,000
PIC-25-032	Portland All Nations Canoe Family	Restoring Rocks and Habitat	We propose to research and educate others about the historical and environmental connections between Johnson Creek and the Columbia Gorge. Portions of Johnson Creek are still constrained by a wall built in the 1930s by the Works Progress Administration. Per the City of Portland's Bureau of Environmental Services, much of the material used to build this wall was sourced from the Columbia River Gorge during excavations to prepare for building the Dalles Canal and Dam. To create a plan for the restoration of Salmon habitat, we will research the WPA archives; learn from BES about their success in removing the wall elsewhere; implement geological testing on the origin of the stones; study the use of low-impact machines alongside ITECK practices and BIPOC community engagement via education.	\$70,000

PIC-25-033	Portland Food Forest Initiative	Hughes Community Food Forest	This project will convert Hughes Memorial Church's 8000 sq ft lawn and neglected garden into a community food forest and native pollinator habitat. Stewarded by community members trained by PFFI, this site will function as an environmental educational site for Head Start students who are in school at the church as well as community members of all ages. Hughes is one of the oldest Black churches in Portland and many of its congregants have been displaced by gentrification. Beyond improving soil health, carbon sequestration, stormwater infiltration, native habitat, and food security, this project will revitalize the church's historic community and provide important opportunities for community members to get hands-on experience and technical training in regenerative urban agriculture.	\$37,944
PIC-25-034	Portland Fruit Tree Project	Continued Commitment to Community Orchards	This support will allow deep investment in several community and school orchards that serve to educate, engage, and provide food for neighborhoods impacted by these spaces. By engaging volunteers, the community, educators, and other interested parties, we will spread knowledge of orchard care as well as awareness about these resources. Our work will increase the health, harvestability, and fruit yield of the trees in our urban orchard through pruning, pest and disease management, harvesting, soil improvements, and - of course - community education and involvement. In addition to being impactful, this project will be a source of community joy and connection.	\$35,275
PIC-25-035	Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center, Inc.	Natural Resource Pathways: The Green Team Program	The POIC+RAHS Green Team is an environmental leadership program that works with a team of high school students on outdoor environmental projects throughout the summer. The program places youth in charge of projects including tree pruning, maintenance, surveying, and mapping tree health and mortality. It also supports student interest in pursuing living-	\$40,000

			wage careers in the natural resources sector. The Green Team supports and offers guidance to low-income students and students of color to help them play an active role in their community's environmental health. This grant will support the Green Team over the summers of 2025 and 2026, expanding capacity by hiring a staff position to lead the program in place of the current volunteer position.	
PIC-25-036	Rhythm Seed Farm	McDaniel High School Garden Activation	In collaboration with McDaniel HS, Rhythm Seed Farm will help support the activation and development of an underutilized garden space and greenhouse on campus. Working alongside the Sustainable Agriculture CTE program, we will help to identify solutions and implement regenerative land-tending techniques to produce more abundant yields of food, medicine, and flowers. We will also support a summer student leadership program to support the garden through the summer months. These enhancements will improve soil quality, sequester carbon, reduce stormwater runoff, and create pathways for student climate justice on campus.	\$29,997
PIC-25-037	Rocky Butte Farmers Market	GROW with Rocky Butte Farmers Market	Our program uplifts small farmers and home gardeners, fostering a resilient, sustainable community through education, support, and accessible opportunities for growers of all levels. We help urban and local farms increase their stability and production, revitalize a community garden as a learning space for backyard growers, and provide tools to help them expand into urban farming. Additionally, we engage kids in hands-on learning to inspire the next generation of growers. This program enhances food security, supports local agriculture, and strengthens community resilience and environmental stewardship.	\$46,355
PIC-25-038	Serendipity Center, Inc.	Growing Minds Garden and	This grant would support Serendipity's Growing Minds Garden and Wellness Program, which provides learning and exposure to gardening, agriculture, and nutrition for young people who are	\$40,000



		Wellness Program	living with disability and trauma. The Growing Minds Garden (GMG) is located on a half-acre of land owned by the school. Vegetables are grown, harvested, processed, and enjoyed by students, staff, volunteers, and the wider community through local food pantries. Serendipity's Wellness Program includes the garden in our school meals and experiential nutrition programs. Students participate in preparing school meals that are primarily made from scratch, including a daily salad bar that incorporates fresh, organically grown produce from the school garden and small, local farms.	
PIC-25-039	Thimbleberry Collaborative Farm	Farm Education Programs	Thimbleberry Collaborative Farm prioritizes BIPOC and lower-income communities in East Multnomah County. A grant will help us expand education efforts to reach more people and deepen learning. From June 2025 through May 2026, TCF programs will introduce more East County learners to: small-scale urban gardening with regenerative methods; cooking with seasonal produce; environmental stewardship; and climate mitigation and resilience strategies. TCF will expand its K-12 offerings to reach 550+ local youth with gamified, hands-on, experiential learning during field trips and classroom visits. We will also grow our co-hosted workshop program for adults and families to engage 200+ residents. For both programs, we are focused on encouraging recurring participation to support a progressing curriculum that builds on past lessons.	\$50,000
PIC-25-040	Tucker Maxon School	Everyone Gardens!	Tucker Maxon School is seeking funds to hire a new part-time gardening teacher to resuscitate the garden program. The school had an organic gardening program as part of our science curriculum before COVID. Each class had their own raised garden bed in our back schoolyard amongst the resident goats. In 2018, a greenhouse was added, where students learned to propagate plants from seeds. Unfortunately, the garden program	\$5,050

			took a back seat during the pandemic. Focusing on our garden will allow students to learn the growing cycle, organic gardening, the satisfaction of growing your food, the role of pollinators, as well how to best manage stormwater onsite, as part of our science curriculum.	
PIC-25-041	Urban Gleaners	Farm Harvest Program Expansion	Grant funding will expand our Farm Harvest Program’s capacity for two years to harvest and distribute high-quality, culturally relevant produce that might otherwise be lost due to market-driven aesthetic requirements for crops, high labor costs, or unexpected climate events. With more seasonal positions and a greater purchasing budget, we will increase access to local produce for historically underrepresented communities in Multnomah and Washington Counties while also investing in farms whose growing practices align with our climate goals. By forging strategic cultural partnerships and collaborations with sustainable farms, we also address the expected seasonal hunger gap (Jan. through March), ensuring access to high-quality, culturally relevant food year-round for our community.	\$70,000
PIC-25-042	Verde	Verde's Bilingual Urban Habitat Program	This grant will support Verde's Urban Habitat Program, where we work alongside residents, youth, and young-adult interns to plan, install, and maintain naturescapes and rain gardens for low-income and/or BIPOC households in Portland. By creating green spaces, we enhance environmental sustainability and provide valuable workforce development opportunities for the next generation. Over the next two years, we will install 26 new naturescapes and rain gardens in North, Northeast, and outer East Portland. The new installations will create sustainable green spaces that capture rainwater and foster local biodiversity. Youth and young-adult interns will gain valuable skills in landscaping, environmental stewardship, and sustainable practices, helping to build future leaders in green industries.	\$70,000

PIC-25-043	VetREST	Victory Garden Nursery Betterment Project	VetREST is seeking support in launching a Victory Garden Nursery Betterment Project at the Bybee Lakes Hope Center. The project will create infrastructure to support a new nursery initiative that supplies plants to support local green infrastructure projects, such as bioswales and native habitat restorations, pollinator gardens, and crop production, with a particular focus on under-served veterans and priority populations. The initiative includes a large, dual-use greenhouse for both plant production as well as a gathering and educational space. The project combines ecological restoration with economic development by employing and training individuals, facilitating community events, and propagating and growing plants while promoting green jobs and climate resilience.	\$62,700
PIC-25-044	Voz Workers' Rights Education Project	Semillas de Justicia: Building Green Skills for the Future	This grant will expand Voz's sustainable agriculture and environmental education efforts to build economic resilience and environmental justice for day laborers and domestic workers. Through culturally grounded training, Voz members gain hands-on skills in sustainable gardening, irrigation systems, soil health, and climate resilience practices. Partnering with local organizations, we will establish community-centered workshops and workforce pathways that connect members to green job opportunities, while restoring cultural practices related to land stewardship. This project addresses the racial wealth gap and environmental disparities experienced by immigrant and BIPOC communities, empowering members to access livable wages and career pathways in natural resources and conservation fields.	\$70,000
PIC-25-045	Willamette Riverkeeper	Portland Harbor Superfund Habitat	The Portland Harbor Superfund Habitat Outreach Project will engage communities and landowners to support future habitat restoration in the Superfund area. This project will create a strategic outreach plan and educational materials, and initiate	\$26,744

		Outreach Program	conversations with property owners to build awareness and identify resources for future conservation efforts, such as access to nurseries and contractors. By incorporating community input and expertise, the project will provide valuable feedback to enhance the EPA's digital habitat mapping initiative and guide restoration planning. This collaborative effort aims to empower stakeholders and lay the groundwork for long-term ecological improvements in the Portland Harbor area.	
PIC-25-046	Wisdom of the Elders	Wisdom Workforce Development: Traditional Ecological Knowledge Environmental Internship	Wisdom Workforce Development's paid internship provides education and job skill training for the environmental and conservation sector. The curriculum focuses on Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge. Field classes are held for 12 weeks. Wisdom provides hands-on experience with Portland Metro-area partner organizations, cultural practitioners, and environmental scientists. Field classes take place at various locations while Wednesday classroom days are held at Wisdom's office. Topics include Traditional Ecological Knowledge, Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) concepts as well as Indigenous cultural arts, plant identification, uses, habitat restoration and conservation, biocultural restoration, and environmental career pathways.	\$70,000
PIC-25-047	World Salmon Council	Salmon Watch	The World Salmon Council offers Salmon Watch programming to underserved youth in greater Portland, providing hands-on science education about local salmon populations and ecosystems. Through the story of salmon, participants gain a deeper appreciation for this culturally significant species and the ecosystems that support them. Salmon Watch includes field trips, service-learning projects, classroom visits, an online curriculum, and outreach events at no cost to students. On field trips, students observe the spawning salmon lifecycle and learn about their critical role in ecosystems. Four interactive learning	\$20,000

			stations, now featuring invasive species content, provide hands-on activities in salmon biology, macroinvertebrates, water quality, and riparian ecosystems.	
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$2,436,174</b>