



Economic Development Grant Program FAQ

1. What is the purpose of the CRPUD Economic Development Grant Program?

The purpose of this program is to promote investment in long-term economic development and growth of business and industry within CRPUD territory for the benefit of the Customers and the local community.

2. What authority does CRPUD have for providing public funds for economic development? What does that have to do with providing electricity?

CRPUD is a public utility district in Oregon that provides cost-based, not-for-profit electricity to residents in Columbia County and a small portion of northern Multnomah County. CRPUD is a public body that is authorized by the Oregon Constitution and is defined by ORS chapter 261.

The philosophy of CRPUD is to efficiently and effectively provide electricity in a manner that benefits the local community and that is responsive to its Customers, keeping in mind at all times that CRPUD is a public body that is owned by the public and is a steward of public resources. Accordingly, the core mission of CRPUD is to provide quality services to its Customers at the lowest practical cost. CRPUD strives to reflect the high moral and ethical standards of the community in all of its operations; to treat its Customers, employees, and the public with dignity and respect; and to contribute and give back to the community that it serves.

Because CRPUD is a steward of public resources, and because part of its core mission is to contribute and give back to the community that it serves, CRPUD has enacted an Economic Development Grant Program under ORS 261.305(12). CRPUD believes that it is in the best interests of its Customers that a small portion of its resources be dedicated to funding projects that benefit the local community and grow the local economy.

3. Who can apply for an Economic Development Grant?

Economic development grants are available only to nonprofit corporations. Nonprofit corporations are ineligible if any CRPUD board member or employee, or any immediate family member of any CRPUD board member or employee, is a member, director, officer, or employee of the corporation who receives remuneration from the corporation. For the purposes of this program, "immediate family members" are parents, stepparents, siblings, spouses, children, and stepchildren.

4. Can an unincorporated nonprofit group receive an Economic Development Grant?

No. Unfortunately, the state statute that allows CRPUD to provide these grants does not allow for grants to be provided to unincorporated groups and associations. To be eligible for consideration, nonprofits must be properly incorporated.

5. Can individuals receive an Economic Development Grant?

No. Unfortunately, the state statute that allows CRPUD to provide these grants does not allow for grants to be provided to individuals.

6. Is it necessary that I identify how the grant would result in the growth of business and industry within CRPUD territory?

Yes. The state statute that allows CRPUD to provide these grants requires that grant funds be used for the purpose of promoting economic growth and the expansion or addition of business and industry within CRPUD territory.

7. Can an organization receive an Economic Development Grant without the proposal becoming publicly available information?

No. Because public funds are being used for the grants, grant applications will be public records and the CRPUD Board of Directors must approve grants in a public board meeting before funds can be awarded. If you need to keep your grant proposal secret, then you may want to consider private funding for your proposal.

8. Can a grant proposal be considered and accepted on an expedited or emergency basis?

CRPUD may consider applications on an expedited basis but makes no promises and has no obligation to do so. Applicants should allow at least three months for consideration of grant proposals.

9. Where can I obtain an application?

Applications are available at www.crpud.net/grant or at the CRPUD office.

10. Where should I submit my application?

Submit applications to:

Columbia River PUD
Attn: Economic Development Grant Committee
PO Box 1193
St. Helens, OR 97051
grants@crpud.org

11. When can I submit my application? Is there a deadline?

Applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis. There is no deadline for applying; however, applications will only be considered while there are funds remaining for any given year.

12. Who should I contact if I have questions?

For questions, contact our Community & Public Relations Department:

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