

Print

Community and Economic Development Grant Application FY2025-26 - Submission #2589

Date Submitted: 11/19/2025

Name of Applicant Organization*

Grow Lincoln County/The Grow Collective (name change in process)

Mailing Address*

1211 SE Bay Blvd

City*

Newport

State*

OR

Zip Code*

97365

Person Completing the Application

Name*

Renée Johnson

Email Address*

renee@growlincolncounty.org

Phone Number*

(971)235-5546

Name of Your Project*

Together at the Farm/Juntos en la Granja

Total Project Budget*

\$530,000

This includes all anticipated sources of funding

Amount Requested from this Program*

\$50,000

(max \$15k for STANDARD, \$50k for IMPACT)

Location of Project Activities*

TBD

Where in Lincoln County is your project happening?

Pool of Funds Applying to*

- STANDARD (\$15K Max)
- IMPACT (\$50K Max)

Project Description*

This project will establish a culturally centered farm space where Latinx and Indigenous Mesoamerican community members can grow traditional foods, strengthen food security, and build pathways to economic independence. By moving from a community garden model to a farm model, the project serves as a hub for health education, civic engagement, and cross-cultural community connection—strengthening community cohesion and well-being.

Although this project does not increase childcare placement slots, it is intentionally designed as a child-inclusive environment, allowing families to participate, learn, and contribute together without requiring time away from their children. This supports culturally rooted, traditional family-building practices and reduces a major barrier to participation for households with young children.

What tangible items or results will the project deliver?

The project will:

Secure or move toward securing land for a community-led farm with water access.

Develop a strategic action plan that guides farm operations, long-term sustainability, and revenue-generating activities.

Provide culturally relevant farming, nutrition, and business development workshops.

Establish foundational elements for a farm stand/market and future farm-to-table events connecting growers to the broader community.

Increase local production of culturally significant foods not currently available through the dominant market system.

Create a structured, safe, family-friendly environment where children can learn alongside adults, strengthening family bonds and cultural identity.

How will the success of this project be judged?

Success will be measured through:

Acquisition or significant progress toward acquiring farmland.

Number of participants—adults and children—engaged in workshops, planning sessions, and growing activities.

Completion of a community-driven strategic plan.

Demonstrated increases in grower readiness for business development, market participation, or income-producing activities.

Strengthened partnerships with public, nonprofit, and cultural organizations.

Evidence of community demand and ongoing engagement (e.g., participation in listening sessions, workshop attendance, continued involvement throughout the growing season).

Economic impact and job creation/retention

This project supports economic development by creating pathways for farm-based income, small business creation, and agricultural entrepreneurship for historically underserved families. As the farm develops, it will enable participants to sell produce if desired, host cultural food events, and explore additional micro-enterprise opportunities. The child-inclusive format increases access for families who typically cannot participate in training or economic programs due to childcare barriers—expanding the pool of future growers, business owners, and civic leaders.

The pilot also lays the groundwork for future paid roles such as farm managers, market coordinators, cultural educators, and agricultural microbusiness owners. By increasing local food production and expanding access to culturally relevant foods, the project strengthens the regional food economy and builds long-term economic resilience within the community.

What is the project and what will it do for community and/or economic development? What tangible items or results will the project deliver? How will the success of this project be judged? **IMPORTANT:** This fund is not intended for staff or operations. Please describe the economic impact of the project and how it creates or retains jobs in the community.

Funding*

We currently have a combined \$35,000 raised for this through Seeding Justice (\$15,000), Oregon Community Foundation's Latino Partnership (\$10,000), and Garden Futures(\$5000). We are engaging in a capital campaign to fundraise (\$5000 so far) and are awaiting notification from Oregon Community Foundation's Community Grants (\$40,000) and Thriving Communities (\$25,000) grant programs, as well as Weyerhaeuser (\$10,000) and National Fish and Wildlife (\$50,000 for People's Garden Initiative). The Rural Business Development grant we applied for (\$99,000) is uncertain about if it will be funded. We also intend to apply for funding through Collins Foundation, Meyer Memorial Trust, and any other unrestricted grants we can find. Finally, we are looking at the Healthy Fresh Foods Initiative for a grant and low interest loan to cover additional capital costs. Several notifications should be received in 2025 and we are happy to update you with information related to fundraising progress closer to the time of award notification if it will help with your decision making.

If applicable, please describe the status of other funding sources you have applied for or intend to apply for, and indicate whether those funds have been awarded. Also, list any other funds for which you have applied but were not funded - how much did you ask for, from whom, and why was the application not funded?

Collaboration*

This program is run in collaboration with Arociris Cultural, a 501(c)(3) dedicated to supporting Latine and Mesoamerican indigenous community members. We have worked on program implementation together for 5 growing seasons- collectively fundraising, providing organic growing workshops, and site development for families to grow in community. The program was created together. OSU Extension is a third party collaborator who has been engaged throughout this program's existence and provides workshop instruction in Spanish- including basic gardening, organic pest management, food preservation, and cooking demonstrations. Education is a key component to this program as well.

If applicable, please list who you are collaborating with and why.

Viability*

Success will be evaluated through measurable progress toward establishing a community-led farm and building the conditions for long-term economic and cultural impact. Key success measures include:

Land acquisition or clear advancement toward securing suitable farmland with water access within the project period.

Completion of a community-driven strategic action plan outlining farm operations, sustainability, revenue pathways, and governance.

Consistent participation of adults and children in workshops, listening sessions, and growing activities, demonstrating continued community demand.

Increased grower readiness for business development, market participation, and/or agricultural microenterprise opportunities.

Development of foundational elements for a farm stand/market and farm-to-table events.

Strengthened partnerships with public agencies, nonprofits, and cultural organizations that will support long-term viability.

Timeline for assessing success:

Months 1–3: Listening sessions, outreach, strategic planning process initiated.

Months 4–9: Workshops delivered; engagement metrics tracked; land search and due diligence underway.

Months 10–12: Strategic plan finalized; progress assessed on land acquisition; partnership commitments secured; next-phase funding strategy finalized.

Long-term sustainability will rely on continued grant funding, donor partnerships, and earned-income opportunities developed through the farm (e.g., produce sales, cultural food events, workshops). The project team is already cultivating relationships with funders and will leverage the completed strategic plan to secure multi-year support. Additional funding pathways—such as Medicaid-billable wellness programming and collaborations with OSU Extension, Public Health, Olalla Center, and Arcoiris Cultural—will further stabilize operations. As the farm grows, revenue-generating activities will increasingly offset costs and support future job creation within the community.

How will the success of this project be judged? State success measures and timeline. Will this project need ongoing funding? How will this be secured?

Desired Start Date*

3/1/2026

Desired End Date*

2/28/2027

Budget Documents*

Budget.pdf

Please submit as a PDF file - project budget only (not organizational budget)

Letter(s) of Support

support letters.pdf

At least one letter of support is required for an IMPACT application.

Name of Chief Executive*

Renée Johnson

Title*

Executive Director

Chief Executive Email*

renee@growlincolncounty.org

Tax ID Number*

93-3317691

Type of Applicant Organization*

501(c)(3) Nonprofit

Project Funding:		
Please provide an overview of the top five funders for the project, including which amounts are pending v.		
Source of Funds	Amount Pending	Amount Secured
<i>Seeding Justice</i>		\$ 20,000.00
<i>Latino Partnerhsip</i>		\$ 10,000.00
<i>Garden Futures</i>		\$ 5,000.00
<i>OCF- North Coast participation</i>		\$ 250.00
<i>OCF Commujnity Grants`</i>	\$ 40,000.00	
<i>OCF Thriving Communities</i>	\$ 25,000.00	
<i>NFWF</i>	\$ 57,500.00	
<i>Weyerhauser</i>	\$ 10,000.00	
<i>EDALC</i>	\$ 50,000.00	
<i>Healthy Fresh Foods Initiative</i>	\$ 175,000.00	
<i>Individuals</i>	\$ 24,000.00	\$ 1,250.00
<i>Earned income</i>	\$ 10,000.00	
<i>In-kind support (personnel below)</i>		\$ 36,250.00
<i>Other funds- TBD</i>	\$ 138,500.00	
Total Amount: <i>(must exceed non-lobbying expenses amount for the project):</i>	\$ 530,000.00	\$ 72,750.00

Personnel Expenses:			
Please provide an overview of the salary information for the staff working on the project, including what percentage of their time will be spent on the project. Add or delete rows as needed.			
Staff (Name / Title)	FTE Salary	% of Time on Project	Annual Project Salary Cost
<i>Renée Johnson, Executive Director</i>	\$ 75,000.00	25%	\$ 18,750.00
<i>Alex Llumiquinga, Executive Director</i>	\$ 70,000.00	25%	\$ 17,500.00
<i>Farm Manager</i>	\$ 30,000.00	100%	\$ 30,000.00
Total salary costs:	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	\$ 66,250.00

Property research	
https://www.zillow.com/homedetails/2468-Hidden-Valley-Rd-Toledo-OR-97391/64826840_zpid/	\$395,000
https://www.zillow.com/homedetails/3020-Yasek-Loop-Toledo-OR-97391/84126469_zpid/	\$514,000
https://www.zillow.com/homedetails/1083-NE-Newport-Heights-Dr-Newport-OR-97365/60370340_zpid/	\$395,000



Arcoiris Cultural
405 SE John Nye Rd, Newport, OR 97365
Office: (541) 961-3523
www.acultural.org

To Who it May Concern,

My name is Alex Llumiyinga Perez and I am the Executive Director at Arcoiris Cultural. I am happy to offer support for Grow Lincoln County with our new farm program in 2025.

Renée Johnson, Executive Director of Grow Lincoln County, and I created the Juntos en el Jardín program together in 2021. After a large Covid-19 outbreak at a seafood processor in Newport in 2019, it became apparent that critical health information was not being shared with our Mam and Spanish speaking community members. Lincoln County Public Health, OSU Extension in Lincoln County, Olalla Center, and community volunteers created Juntos en Colaboración to provide this needed support.

As we entered the build back better phase, Juntos en el Jardín was started at the request of community members with support from Juntos en Colaboración. Over the years community interest has grown, and families have expressed interest in something bigger- a farm.

Arcoiris Cultural and Grow Lincoln County will work together to make this program happen. Grow Lincoln County will work on project management, fundraising/development, and evaluation. Arcoiris will provide boots on the ground oversight, translation, and communications. With help from other community partners we will be able to offer more chances for families to build community, health, and celebrate their cultural traditions.

If I can provide any other information please contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alex Llumiyinga Perez', written in a cursive style.

Alex Llumiyinga Perez
Executive Director, Arcoiris Cultural
alexll@acultural.org



Oregon State University
Extension Service
Lincoln County

Extension Service Lincoln County

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11-15-2025

To EDALC grant review committee,

My name is Evie Smith and I am the Extension Horticulture Assistant Professor of Practice Faculty at OSU Extension in Lincoln County. The Small Farms program provides this letter to indicate our commitment to serve as a partner for Grow Lincoln County and Arcoiris Cultural in their Together at the Farm (Juntos en la Granja) project in Lincoln County, Oregon.

I came to work at OSU Extension in early 2022 and at the time I was the immediate supervisor to Renée Johnson, who is now the Executive Director of Grow Lincoln County. Grow Lincoln County has been the natural evolution of the programs Renée created while employed at OSU Extension. The Together in the Garden (Juntos en el Jardin) community garden program has just completed its fifth growing season and has been very successful thanks to the involvement of Grow Lincoln County.

I am committed to the project through the entire period of performance and I will be offering gardening workshops in Spanish that help families develop organic practices in the garden and the farm.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

Evie Smith

Assistant Professor (Practice)-

Horticulture Evie.smith@oregonstate.edu