

Print

Community and Economic Development Grant Application FY2025-26 - Submission #2626

Date Submitted: 11/24/2025

Name of Applicant Organization*

KYAQ Community Radio

Mailing Address*

P.O. Box 1664

City*

Newport

State*

Oregon

Zip Code*

97365

Person Completing the Application

Name*

Patti S. Murphy

Email Address*

atty4people@yahoo.com

Phone Number*

5414441202

Name of Your Project*

KYAQ Emergency Broadcasting Outreach-Phase I

Total Project Budget*

\$15,000

This includes all anticipated sources of funding

Amount Requested from this Program*

\$15,000

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

Location of Project Activities*

County-Wide with emphasis on Rural and Unincorporated Areas underserved by internet and cell phone technology

Where in Lincoln County is your project happening?

Pool of Funds Applying to*

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

Project Description*

Since January, 2014, KYAQ Radio 91.7 FM has been the only local non-profit Community Radio outreach serving Lincoln County's listening public, both residents and visitors, from Newport to Lincoln City to Burnt Woods to Yachats to marine areas within its range. As a 501(c) 3 organization, KYAQ serves the common good, focusing on the news, informational/educational and unmet needs of our unique coastal region. Additionally, KYAQ enhances the Economic Development of Lincoln County by directly reaching out to tourists, visitors, workers from out of the area, and others traveling through, as well as promoting our welcoming and inclusion of folks from all walks of life.

Today, Lincoln County faces a crisis in Emergency Communications. Our current Emergency Systems designed to immediately ALERT our community and TEACH what to do in the event of disasters such as Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquakes, tsunamis, landslides, wildfires, flooding, severe winds and weather, hazardous waste spills, etc. are overly dependent on electrical energy, cell-phone towers and technology, and internet systems such as VOIP/WIFI/SMART-PHONE networks (with many rural areas Dead-Zones for such signals). Reports indicate the EAS system in Lincoln County has apparently failed to conduct its required monthly tests since last spring. This summer the Russian tsunami alert, as well as dangerous riptide and sneaker wave alerts, failed to reach many Lincoln County resident subscribers, while tourists, campers, fishermen, children, elders, people with disabilities, homeless people, and other vulnerable populations were ignored entirely. Similar EAS mistakes resulted in mass casualties in Texas less than a month earlier.

Additionally, Lincoln County is facing the decommissioning of its Coast Guard Station and Rescue Helicopter, loss of Real-Time Tsunami Alerts, and massive changes, if not loss entirely, of FEMA support for emergency planning and management.

KYAQ must harden its infrastructure to continue to broadcast News, Emergency Alerts, Warnings, Evacuation Instructions, and Essential Public Communications live and effectively, in multiple languages, even through possibly months long power outages. This requires purchasing, installing, and activating Emergency Generators at the studio and antenna locations as a first step, for which BOC funding is being sought. KYAQ is requesting the full \$ 15,000 Economic Development funding; any funds remaining after such generators are operational, applied toward installation costs for Satellite Internet technology which can continue independent of local power systems or cell towers. Additional grant funding will be applied for through the Oregon Office of Emergency Management, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, a newly-created Leadership Lincoln 2026 collaborative Community Project and other sources to benefit ALL who spend time in Lincoln County.

Guaranteeing Easy, User-Friendly and Inexpensive (radio + batteries as low as \$10 or less/ only on-off switch needed) KYAQ Radio Outreach for Lincoln County's Emergency Alert System is essential to Public Safety for EVERYONE who lives, works, visits or travels here.

FEELING SAFE is essential for our TOURISM! For our Educational Partnerships (OSU, OMSI)! For our Scientific Community (NOAA, OSU, Hatfield)! For our Businesses, Cultural and Recreational Endeavors! Most of all for Lincoln County's Public Safety and Peace of Mind!

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*

CURRENT FUNDING APPLICATION----

KYAQ is requesting:

PROPOSED BUDGET:

FUNDING FOR TWO EMERGENCY GENERATORS \$2,198

HIGH CAPACITY STORAGE/OFF-GRID POWER STATIONS \$5,000

FUNDING FOR TWO ZOMBIE BOX WEATHERPROOF ENCLOSURES FOR GENERATORS \$3098

FUNDING FOR ELECTRICIAN CONTRACT TO PATCH GENERATOR INTO BREAKER BOX AT STUDIO AND ASSIST/APPROVE CONNECTIONS AT ANTENNA \$3,000

FUNDING FOR OVERALL CONTRACTUAL PROJECT MANAGEMENT \$1,704

TOTAL GRANT REQUEST \$ 15,000

PAST ATTEMPTS TO SECURE FUNDING:

KYAQ applied for 2024 and 2025 Community Resilience Grant through OREM and Oregon Governor's Office without success so far. I have detailed the grants we are hoping to apply to in the future, under the collaboration section, because we have no prospective funding expected at this time and the immediate need for EAS services is reaching crisis levels. We are an All Volunteer public radio station without access to professional grant-writers or fund-raisers to expedite our efforts. KYAQ is also especially concerned that publicity about this unmet public safety need could create more concern and fear among the folks it serves. For all these reasons, KYAQ is applying now for Phase I only as the Power Generators necessary to run the Station during emergencies are the most crucial element of the plan, and NOT ALL types of emergencies would involve any signal-from-studio-to-antenna problems. On-Air Hours can then be adjusted to the secure power necessary and available. Satellite Internet may be able to substitute for the WIFI or Microwave alternatives which substantially increased the prior grant requests. Other less expensive alternatives may exist to secure WIFI/Internet signals due to technological advances, boosting or relaying transmission from studio to antenna may be possible, obtaining the funding for Microwave equipment from other sources may solve the budgeting issues. The Budget request made for the Resilience Grant in 2024, was for the Full Total for the entire Project \$36,258 including Tower to Studio Microwave system (which was 22,962 alone), not just the Phase I portion for Power Generation as explained here (\$13,296 estimated at that time + roughly one third of the Project Manager contract estimate of \$5,000 total, which was not funded, possibly as it may have exceeded funding limitations of that grant.

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*

KYAQ has been actively collaborating with the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office Emergency Services Division for many years. A letter from recently retired Sheriff Curtis Landers (37 years law enforcement/8 years Lincoln County Sheriff 2016-2025) confirming this and supporting prior attempts to secure grant funding is attached to this application. Additionally, KYAQ works with Conexión Fenix to support Spanish and Mam speakers, as well as other multi-lingual and/or marginalized community members. Their letter at this end of this narrative describes KYAQ as already an essential community resilience hub for their social network and details how KYAQ can and will work together with them in collaboration for the greater good of all Lincoln County. KYAQ is seeking help from the Board of Commissions to secure funding for the Phase I infrastructure necessary to move forward now to build and protect its Emergency Broadcasting capacity now so that their vision of Collaborative Public-Private Partnerships can begin to become reality. KYAQ is currently coordinating its development efforts for future Phases of this Project with a new Leadership Lincoln 2026 Community Project which plans to seek additional grants, funding and in-kind support from OEM, OREM, Community Resilience partners through the Oregon Governor's Office, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz and Grande Ronde Indians, and social service and local community grant programs administered by businesses and non-profits serving our region. KYAQ plans also to pursue cooperative and collaborative relationships with Oregon Coast Community College and the various City Chambers of Commerce of Lincoln County, as well as with Oregon State University and its Lincoln County Extension here.

4/26/2024

Oregon Department of Human Services
Resilience Hubs and Networks Grant

To Whom It May Concern:

We of Conexión Fénix are delighted to write this letter in support of the Resilience Hubs and Networks Grant application submitted by KYAQ Radio. KYAQ is already an essential hub in our social network. They are the only community based radio station in Lincoln County. Their programming is vital in keeping our residents connected, particularly with the Jan 2024 closure of five for-profit radio stations in our area. Beyond basic music, news, and community connection, they are the voice of many marginalized communities, amplifying our diverse voices.

However, they have more work to do to ensure that all of our communities can respond effectively in times of natural disaster and community crisis. Our Latinx community is particularly vulnerable. With this grant, KYAQ can provide vital outreach. We know how much these multilingual communication services are needed because of our own history. Our organization, Conexión Fénix, grew out of the ashes of the 2020 Echo Mountain Wildfire. We lived through this fire, so we understand the dangers of disasters, particularly for our under-resourced Latinx families. During this fire, our families didn't get reliable, timely warnings about the fire's devastation, how to respond, or how to get services. Emergency alerts were not reliably translated or distributed.

If this grant is funded, KYAQ Radio and Conexión Fénix will work together to reach our Spanish and Mam speaking community members to reduce their vulnerability. Together, we can educate our community about how to effectively respond in an emergency, practice disaster preparedness, and communicate effectively if a disaster does strike. According to recent research from Pew Research Center, Hispanics are highly concerned about climate change, and engaged in local activism to make a difference in this area (2019). We look forward to promoting activities which impact the unique ways our coastal communities build networks of resilience through effective communication.

If you have any additional questions about this vital community strengthening partnership, please feel free to reach out to us. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on this very important opportunity.

Respectfully,

Maria Eliosa
Executive Director
Conexión Fénix

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

Viability*

The SUCCESS of this project will be measured in actual and potential LIVES SAVED by establishing a EMERGENCY BROADCASTING SYSTEM in Lincoln County which can operate independent of power outages during times of crisis. The timeline to accomplish the infrastructure improvement should be relatively short as soon as the funds are released to buy the equipment and contract with appropriate Project Manager and Electrician. Actual installation will take place as soon as the purchases are delivered and the contractors can schedule, ideally before Spring Break in March 2026.

The best way to measure the success of the project will be to focus on its value in perceived public safety to our community as a tourism and employment destination, as well as for its residents. KYAQ can promote its Community News and Emergency Radio while interfacing with motels, restaurants, attractions and other businesses in Lincoln County to provide outreach beyond local residents, providing emergency preparedness and coastal risks education while doing so, while collaborating with Chambers of Commerce and other community organizations to conduct and analyze Surveys to reveal the effects of KYAQ outreach on public opinion of Lincoln County as a place to visit, work or live. Such surveys can easily be conducted online and/or through printed questionnaires distributed through local businesses, including motels, restaurants, attractions, etc. Print media, Social media, Internet Outreach, and Newspaper coverage can also spread the word that our County is Safer Now! Reduction of Fear and greater Business growth will be important indicators of success and KYAQ's positive impact on economic development and community building inclusive of Everyone! can become a model for other communities as well.

Phase I of this project should require no ongoing funding but additional support will be sought as needed from diverse sources for Phase II studio to antenna and future Phase III promotion and programming components and Phase IV signal boosting and/or relocation of antenna tower to Cape Foulweather to insure better signal reception in Lincoln City/North County areas.

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*

12/1/2026

Desired End Date*

12/31/2026

Budget Documents*

KYAQ EMERGENCY BROADCASTING OUTREACH—Phase 1.pdf

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

Letter(s) of Support

Sheriff Letter of Support.pdf

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

Name of Chief Executive*

Amy Greer

Title*

Secretary and Treasurer

Chief Executive Email*

amygreer@peak.org

Tax ID Number*

93-1298303

Type of Applicant Organization*

501(c)(3) Nonprofit

KYAQ EMERGENCY BROADCASTING OUTREACH—Phase 1

PROPOSED BUDGET

FUNDING FOR TWO EMERGENCY GENERATORS	\$2,198
HIGH CAPACITY STORAGE/OFF-GRID POWER STATIONS	\$5,000
FUNDING FOR TWO ZOMBIE BOX WEATHERPROOF ENCLOSURES FOR GENERATORS	\$3,098
FUNDING FOR ELECTRICIAN CONTRACT TO PATCH GENERATOR INTO BREAKER BOX AT STUDIO AND ASSIST/APPROVE CONNECTIONS AT ANTENNA	\$3,000
FUNDING FOR OVERALL CONTRACTUAL PROJECT MANAGEMENT	\$1,704
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TOTAL GRANT REQUEST	\$ 15,000

April 29, 2024

Edwin Flick, OREM Director
Office of Resilience and Emergency Management
Oregon Department of Human Services
5406 Cherry Ave NE
Salem, Oregon 97303

Dear Director:

We are writing in support of KYAQ, Lincoln County's non-profit community radio station, which has applied for a Network Resilience grant through OREM.

The communities of Lincoln County are at particular risk of isolation as a result of earthquakes, tsunamis, or other natural disasters. KYAQ is seeking generators, Studio-to-Tower transmission equipment, and a Spanish interpreter that will allow them to stay on the air to provide essential information to the public during a major power and internet outage. This would be a significant addition to existing emergency communications capability.

KYAQ has been broadcasting in Lincoln County for over 10 years and has the strong support of the community. The station is locally operated by a staff of volunteers and can mobilize quickly to broadcast emergency information. We look forward to working with KYAQ to expand our emergency communications capability.

Sincerely,

Curtis Landers, Sheriff
Lincoln County Sheriff's Office
225 W Olive Street
Room 203
Newport, OR 97365