

Print

Community and Economic Development Grant Application FY2025-26 - Submission #2619

Date Submitted: 11/23/2025

Name of Applicant Organization*

Lincoln County Specialty Court Alumni Association

Mailing Address*

PO Box 1747

City*

Newport

State*

OR

Zip Code*

97365

Person Completing the Application

Name*

Connie Absher

Email Address*

lcalumniassoc@gmail.com

Phone Number*

541-270-4474

Name of Your Project*

Support of cuurent and past participants

Total Project Budget*

2470.38

This includes all anticipated sources of funding

Amount Requested from this Program*

2470.38

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

Location of Project Activities*

Newport

Where in Lincoln County is your project happening?

Pool of Funds Applying to*

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

Project Description*

The Lincoln County Specialty Court Alumni Association (Alumni Association) is a volunteer organization that supports graduates, current participants of the Lincoln County Specialty Courts (Specialty Courts), and the broader recovery community. Specialty Courts are problem-solving court programs for adults with criminal or child welfare cases who have alcohol or drug dependency problems or mental health disorders, focusing on rehabilitation rather than punishment. In Lincoln County, we are lucky to have three of these outstanding programs that focus on substance use disorders, mental illness, and families that directly serve up to 80 individuals who reside in Lincoln County. The Alumni Association fosters an encouraging community where graduates can continue to thrive and inspire positive change by hosting fun, drug- and alcohol-free events and activities, providing support to participants, and offering community education.

The Alumni Association requests \$2,470.38 in funding to create essential connections and directly provide resources to graduates, current participants, and the recovery community. This funding will specifically enable us to host four annual events and provide employment assistance from April 1, 2026, to March 31, 2027.

Specialty Courts are funded through a grant administered by the Criminal Justice Commission and Oregon Department of Corrections funding, which does not cover entertainment, food, or social activities. Providing pro-social, sober activities is essential for long-term recovery. Due to budget cuts, the funding for the three local specialty court programs was recently reduced by 5–10% of their current funding level, translating to an approximate shortfall of \$39,000 over a two year period. This reduction directly impacts services offered to participants, including employment services, such as clothing and footwear for employment. The Alumni Association would like to supplement these gaps for current participants and their families with direct support for finding and maintaining employment, that the treatment court grant is unable to provide.

Supporting individuals in achieving long-term positive change significantly benefits our local community. Specialty courts provide addiction and mental health services, creating opportunities for lasting transformation and reducing overall community costs. Family reunification, higher employment, and increased educational attainment help lower the demand for social services. Reductions in criminal activity and recidivism also decrease crime rates. According to the Addiction Group, treatment court participants are up to 26% less likely to be re-arrested than those who did not participate in a specialty court. Every dollar invested in drug courts yields \$2 to \$4 in direct taxpayer savings, with broader social benefits sometimes reaching \$27 per dollar when considering intangible costs such as victimization, foster care, and healthcare. That money all stays here in Lincoln County. Studies also show a 200-400% return on investment through reduced incarceration, fewer arrests, and lower court expenses.

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*

The Alumni Association is requesting \$2,470.38 in total. We are requesting \$1,905.38 to host four family-friendly events for current participants, alumni, and the recovery community: a spring 2026 Bingo party, a summer 2026 BBQ, a New Year's Day football party on January 1, 2027, and a winter 2027 bowling night. These events are free for all participants and potentially (based on whether there are other resources available) their families and alumni. Each event will be environmentally friendly by recycling and using repurposed items whenever possible.

The Alumni Association requests \$565.00 in funding to assist current participants in gaining or maintaining employment through certifications, interview services, tools, supplies, or clothing. Participants in the specialty courts must be employed or enrolled in job training or educational programs before graduating. This job retention requirement has resulted in approximately a 75% increase in employment or educational engagement from entry to completion. The Alumni Association also requests funding to help current participants gain or maintain employment, improve vocational skills, or achieve higher education for greater stability. Support may include employment certifications, interview or resume services, job-specific tools, supplies, clothing, or footwear.

The attached budget sheet has a detailed and direct financial breakdown and information.

The Alumni Association relies solely on donations, requests, and fundraisers. Since beginning in 2024, they have hosted a carwash, two Bingo events, two barbecues, and a raffle. Plates and utensils once donated by the Treatment Court are no longer available

We requested and received \$1,500 from Lincoln County Health and Human Services community funds.

The Alumni Association applied for \$3,000 through the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians Charitable Contribution Fund to support the community Specialty Court Thanksgiving breakfast and Christmas giving activities. We were not chosen for funding at that time, with no reason listed, but we will reapply in the near future.

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*

The Alumni Association actively partners with the Lincoln County Circuit Court, specifically the Lincoln County Specialty Courts. An Alumni Association member attends all Treatment Court graduations and serves on both the Lincoln County Specialty Court Advisory Committee and the Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion team. The group also collaborates with various community agencies, including Reconnections Counseling, Phoenix Wellness Center, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, and Lincoln County Behavioral Health.

This collaborative approach not only strengthens community ties but also fosters a supportive environment for individuals seeking recovery and family reunification. By sharing their experiences and insights, alumni serve as powerful role models, inspiring others to pursue their paths to healing and success.

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

Viability*

The success of this funding will be judged by the engagement of current and past Specialty Court participants in alcohol- and drug-free activities hosted by the Alumni Association. Each event will be advertised in the Court, on multiple Facebook pages, and throughout the recovery community with flyers and word of mouth. Project success will be measured by the attendance of current participants and alumni at the four events. The goal is for each event to have at least 30% of current participants (about 24 individuals) and 10% of past graduates from the last three years (about 15 individuals). These targets are based on previous event patterns, and setting slightly higher goals creates a reasonable and ambitious path for growth, in line with best-practice benchmarks in recovery programming.

Individuals in the programs now complete quarterly assessments of the treatment court program, which let them identify areas of need, suggest ways to strengthen the program, and provide feedback. Participants consistently state that fun, alcohol- and drug-free activities are what they want and need to create long-term change for themselves and their families. This is another reason the Alumni Association wants to provide these events.

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*

4/1/2026

Desired End Date*

3/31/2027

Budget Documents*

Budgets.docx

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

Letter(s) of Support

Letter from Judge Bachart.pdf

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

Name of Chief Executive*

Connie Absher

Title*

Secretary

Chief Executive Email*

lcalumniassoc.@gmail.com

Tax ID Number*

99-4833120

Type of Applicant Organization*

501(c)(3) Nonprofit

Current Participant Employment Support Breakdown of Costs

Estimated to support 20 current participants of the Lincoln County Specialty Courts in gaining or maintaining employment, improving vocational skills, or achieving higher education for greater stability. This would include employment certificates, interview or resume services, job-specific tools, clothing, and footwear. Costs are calculated using current November 2025 prices at Walmart, Oregon DMV, Perfect Look Salon, and State Food Safety.

Work-specific clothing (\$30 average for each article of clothing x 3)	\$90.00
Rain gear (\$75 each set x 2)	\$150.00
Work-specific footwear (\$65 average for nonslip shoes, rain boots, or construction boots x 3)	\$195.00
Oregon Food Handlers Card (\$10 x 2)	\$20.00
Oregon Identification Card (\$40 each x 2)	\$80.00
Haircut for job interview (\$30 each)	\$30.00

TOTAL COST **\$565**

Spring Bingo Event Breakdown of Costs

Estimated to serve 75 people and play 20 games of Bingo. Costs are used to calculate the average price of the item as of November 2025 at Fred Meyer and the Chef Store.

Direct Expenses:

Food- Taco Bar

Chips (\$9.09 for 4 pounds x 3 bags)	\$27.27
Meat: Ground beef and chicken (\$6.99 per pound x 7 pounds)	\$48.93
Refried Beans (\$10.59 for 6 pounds)	\$10.59
Toppings:	
Shredded Cheese (\$13.99 for 5 pounds)	\$13.99
Nacho Cheese sauce (\$12.39 for 6 pounds)	\$12.39
Shredded Lettuce (\$3.99 for 16 ounces x 2)	\$7.98
Salsa (\$10.79 for 64 ounces)	\$10.49
Sour Cream (\$7.49 for 5 pounds)	\$7.49
Onions (\$0.99 each x 3)	\$2.97
Olives (\$2.59 for 6 ounces x 3 cans)	\$7.77
Pickled Jalapenos (\$2.29 for 15.5 oz x 2)	\$4.58
Chili (\$26.99 for 6.5 pounds x 2 cans)	\$53.98
Cookies (\$4.29 per dozen x 7 dozen)	\$30.03

Drinks

Bottled Water (\$5.99 plus deposit for 40 x 3 cases)	\$29.97
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Prizes

Large Prize item: Donated by local businesses	\$0
King Size Candy Bar (\$3.29 x 15)	\$49.35
\$5 gift cards from the Dollar Tree (\$5 x 5)	\$25

Bingo set: already purchased	\$0
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Indirect Expenses:

Location rental fee, chairs, tables: Donated by Reconnections Counseling	\$0
Food preparation and cooking: Time donated by the Alumni Association	\$0
Hot Buffet for food storage: Donated by Lincoln County Specialty Courts	\$0
Table cloths, plates, utensils, napkins: Donated by the Alumni Association	\$0

TOTAL COST

\$342.78

Summer BBQ Event Breakdown of Costs

Estimated to serve 100 people. Costs are used to calculate the average price of the item as of November 2025 at Fred Meyer and the Chef Store.

Direct Expenses:

Food

Hamburger Patties (\$52.94 for 40 patties x 2)	\$105.88
Hotdogs (\$27.39 for 40 links x 2)	\$54.78
Hamburger Buns (\$4.49 for 24 buns x 2)	\$8.98
Hotdog Buns (\$4.39 for 24 buns x 2)	\$8.78
Sliced Cheese (\$14.97 for 50 slices)	\$14.97
Lettuce (\$2.79 each x 3)	\$8.37
Onions (\$0.99 each x 5)	\$4.95
Tomatoes (\$1.49 each x 5)	\$7.45
Condiments: Ketchup, Mustard, Mayonnaise, Relish (\$3.59 each x 7)	\$25.13
Potato Salad (\$23.39 per 8 pounds x 2)	\$46.78
Macaroni Salad (\$15.19 per 8 pounds x 2)	\$30.38
Individual bags of chips (\$22.99 per 42 bags x 2)	\$45.98
Cookies (\$4.29 per dozen x 9 dozen)	\$38.61

Drinks

Bottled Water (\$5.99 plus deposit for 40 x 2 cases)	\$19.98
Soda (\$10.99 plus deposit for each case of 12 x 5 cases)	\$60.95

Indirect Expenses:

Location rental: City of Newport Park	\$0
Chairs and tables: Donated by Reconnections and Phoenix Wellness Center	\$0
Food preparation and cooking: Time donated by the Alumni Association	\$0
BBQ: Donated by Reconnections Counseling	\$0
Table cloths, plates, utensils, napkins: Donated by the Alumni Association	\$0
Children's games (sidewalk chalk, bubbles, etc.)	\$30.00

TOTAL COST

\$511.97

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New Years Day Football Party Event Breakdown of Costs

Estimated to serve 75 people. Costs are used to calculate the average price of the item as of November 2025 at Fred Meyer's, The Chef Store, and Domino's Pizza.

Direct Expenses:

Food

Pizza (\$6.99 x 20 medium pizzas)	\$139.80
Chicken wings (\$13.99 for 4 pounds x 2)	\$27.98
Vegetable Tray (\$10.99 x 3)	\$32.97
Dips (\$4.39 x 3)	\$13.17
Cheese and Cracker Tray (\$18.99 x 2)	\$37.98
Chips (\$4.99 per bag x 4 bags)	\$19.96
Cookies (\$4.29 per dozen x 7 dozen)	\$30.03

Drinks

Bottled Water (\$5.99 plus deposit for 40 x 2 cases)	\$19.98
Soda (\$10.99 plus deposit for each case of 12 x 4 cases)	\$48.76

Indirect Expenses:

Location rental fee, chairs, tables: Donated by Reconnections Counseling	\$0
Food preparation and cooking: Time donated by the Alumni Association	\$0
Table cloths, plates, utensils, napkins: Donated by the Alumni Association	\$0

TOTAL COST

\$370.63

Winter Bowling Event Breakdown of Costs

Estimated to serve 40 people. Costs are used to calculate the average price of the item as of November 2025 at Mugglies Bowling.

Direct Expenses:

Bowling:

Sunday bowling is unlimited bowling for \$10 per person. (\$10 x 40 people)	\$400
Shoe rental (\$2.50 x 40 people)	\$100

Food:

Pizza: (\$20 per large pizza x 5)	\$100
Small Soft Drinks (\$2.00 each x 40)	\$80

Indirect Expenses:

Location rental fee, chairs, tables, bowling lane:	\$0
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TOTAL COST

\$680.00

**Judge Sheryl Bachart
Presiding Judge
Lincoln County Circuit Court
PO Box 100
Newport, OR 97365**



**phone: (541) 265-4236 ext 41021
fax: (541) 265-7561**

November 19, 2025

Lincoln County Board of Commissioners
225 W. Olive Street
Newport, OR 97365

RE: Grant Application for Lincoln County Specialty Court Alumni Association

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing this letter in support of Lincoln County Specialty Court Alumni Association's application for grant funding. As you know, our county has several specialty courts including Drug Court, Mental Health and Wellness Court and Family Support Court. We have expanded the referral process for participants to increase those we are screening for our programs and the number of our participants has grown significantly over the years. As our programs grew, and the number of graduates grew, the participants wanted a way to stay connected to their recovery community and support current participants. In 2024 the Alumni Association was formed to accomplish this goal.

The Alumni Association has been a much-needed presence in our recovery community. They have sponsored several gatherings, all of which have been very well attended by past and present participants. These gatherings are a way to form connections with others in recovery and provide our community with safe, sober social activities. They have assisted with financial supports for participants when funding through the program could not meet their needs. An example is they provided funding for a participant to travel to see his mother before she passed away. Community is the foundation for recovery and the Alumni Association provides that foundation for participants to maintain and sustain long-term recovery. They are present at each graduation to welcome new alumni into their group. I cannot overstate the importance of their presence in our specialty courts.

I fully support the Alumni Association's work in our community and their application for additional resources. Unfortunately, the needs of our participants are only going to grow with the reduction in grant resources. Therefore, the work of the Alumni Association will only become for vital. The savings to the community in investing in our participants has never been greater. By establishing these connections and supporting long-term sobriety, we are further reducing the risk of recidivism.

I understand you must receive several requests for funding, all of which I am sure are worthy recipients. I appreciate your consideration of the Lincoln County Specialty Court Alumni Association's application. Any investment you make in their group will go directly to support those in recovery.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sheryl Bachart". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sheryl Bachart
Presiding Judge
Lincoln County Circuit Court