

# ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

The AGC Workforce Development Grant program serves to provide funding for projects that address a demonstrated need in the construction industry. Projects will seek to:

- Encourage, attract, and retain competent and diverse people to a career in construction.
- Make an effective use of volunteers and/or matching funds.
- Create a positive impact on construction workforce issues in Oregon and Southwest Washington (Clark, Cowlitz, Klickitat, Skamania, and Wahkiakum counties).

## Priority Projects

AGC Oregon-Columbia recognizes the value in all construction programming, however certain types of projects are more likely to have a substantial impact on the construction industry. To this end, AGC has identified two project categories which will be prioritized for funding. Applicants are still invited to apply for funds that meet the minimum criteria outlined below, however Priority Projects have a higher likelihood of being funded.

1. **Direct Pathways** – These are projects that seek to provide direct pathways into construction careers. Upon completion of the project, grant applicants can demonstrate that a critical threshold of project participants are employed in the construction sector. This includes being accepted by a training agent in a registered apprenticeship program. Examples of direct pathway projects include (but are not limited to):
  - a. Pre-apprenticeship and workforce training programs that result in employment or entry into a registered apprenticeship program.
  - b. Linkage programs that connect unemployed qualified individuals with careers in construction.
  - c. Youth programs that teach viable construction skills AND result in entry into an apprenticeship program or the workforce.
2. **Root Cause** – In addition to more people entering into construction careers, the industry needs to see an increase in highly-skilled, qualified individuals applying for open positions. Many applicants do not have the minimum requirements to be successful in an apprenticeship or workforce training program. Math competency for high school graduates in Oregon is lagging behind the industry standard. To remedy this, innovative projects supporting these crucial foundational competencies are a priority focus for 2023. Examples of root cause projects include (but are not limited to):
  - a. Applied learning in math, literacy, science, and other foundational skills. Projects seeking to do this will be engaging and hands-on while providing the subject competencies necessary to help participants advance themselves in a construction career.
  - b. Opportunities to practice crucial skills such as leadership, dependability, adaptability and conscientiousness. Too often youth are given a list of desirable skills/attributes and then not given opportunities to practice and develop these in real-world settings.
  - c. Opportunities to learn skills to advance a nascent construction career. Many people enter into the construction field with very basic skills that are not sufficient to advance

the worker into a higher paying position. Projects that are designed to address the root cause of this by increasing the skill set of workers already employed will be considered.

**Minimum Eligibility for Proposed Projects**

- Promotion of academic, technical training, or professional development achievement in construction
- Community based non-profit organizations addressing construction industry workforce development issues and needs
- AGC student chapter activities
- Technology, equipment, and materials enhancements for construction educational programs (please see the section below addressing consumables)

**Consumable Materials**

A maximum award of \$1,500 will be given for any applicant seeking funding for consumable materials. Consumable materials are anything that cannot be used multiple times. Supplies like lumber, nails/screws/hardware, glues, other building materials, or items to be gifted are all considered consumable materials. Requests for consumable materials can be combined into other projects but should not exceed \$1,500 of the award.

**Eligibility and Application**

Eligible applicants must be qualified tax-exempt organizations, public schools, or institutions located within the AGC Oregon-Columbia Chapter geographic boundaries of Oregon and SW Washington and offering programs of study in construction related fields such as: construction management, civil and engineering studies, construction technology, construction-related career technical education, construction trades preparation, or other construction-related careers.

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS MARCH 31, 2023**

**Fine Print**

- The application period opens February 13, 2023
- Funding announcements will be made June 16, 2023
- Please send applications and questions to [amberk@agc-oregon.org](mailto:amberk@agc-oregon.org) (please identify subject line with: AGC GRANTS)
- Funded projects average \$5,000.
- Checks to funded projects are mailed in August of 2023