1. How long is the funding cycle
   a. With a goal of distributing funds in Oct. 2024 and the end of the project in mid-Sept. 2025, projects have almost a full year to complete activities and spend down funds.
2. What type of projects get funded?
   a. The website provides a list of the previously funded projects. Funding for this project is meant to be low barrier and to support social connectedness activities that are specific to the community. Social connection means different things to different communities and there is no requirement for projects to be evidence-based. We encourage creative projects and do not require the programs to be evidenced-based. One of the initial intentions of the funding is to be an incubator of new or existing projects that build culturally-specific social connection programming.
3. How do we define older adults?
   a. We define older adult as 55 and over.
4. How do you define rural?
   a. Per the RFP, we use the definition of rural set by the Oregon Office of Rural Health, which defines rural is any geographic area in Oregon ten or more miles from the centroid of a population center of 40,000 people or more. Remote (a term used as a placeholder for frontier), is any county with six or fewer people per square mile. To review a map of rural or remote communities in Oregon, see these two maps ([static map](), [zoom map]()).
5. Can you fund a current project? Is the expectation that funds will be used to establish a program? Or can it be a one-off event? Similar is whether this grant can be used as springboard funding?
   a. Yes, you can fund a current project but you will want to explain how this will add to the current program. Funding could be used to support a project that is losing funding and has an important impact. Projects that tend to get funded include multiple activities to build social connection.
6. I work in an urban place but we serve folks in rural communities. Can we apply?
   a. You can apply as long as the community you are serving is rural or remote. One question on the application asks about current partnerships. If you are in an urban area, it would be helpful to show how your work connects to rural/remote communities, especially if there is a local presence.
7. What kind evaluation is required for this project?
   a. The project is specifically developed to be low barrier so there is an end of project reporting form that includes reporting on each activity, the number of attendees, and any partners developed during the planning and implementation. Optional evaluation is available to track mood, feelings of loneliness, and other metrics. Technical assistance through Portland State University will be available as well.
8. Can the funds be used for data collecting or focus groups?

a. Funds can be used for understanding the needs of a community but the bulk of funds should go towards providing social connection between community members. Focus groups can not be used for research purposes.

9. Will there be a follow-up meetings?
    a. Yes, the folks awarded will have monthly meetings throughout the process to hear about progress, connect awardees, learn about and discuss related topics (older adult social isolation), and share any successes, lessons learned, and results after the funds are spent down.

10. Would it be a stronger proposal to have the direct activities occur during the time period compared to supporting trainings for trainers or development. Impact may be later?
    a. It would be stronger to have at least some type of activities during the grant period.

11. Will groups that receive funding this round be eligible to apply in the fall for the next round?
    a. Yes, groups who were previously funded can apply for this round. One important note is that there is not a way to give extra points for existing or new projects but if you are an existing program, it would be important to note how funds will be used to expand or maintain the program.

12. Will you discuss any limitations on the use of funds- May they be applied across the board - staffing, materials, contract instructors, administrative, etc.
    a. Funds can be used for staffing, lodging, food, materials, contract instructors and up to 10% of administrative costs.
    b. The main limitation is that we cannot fund capital investments. For example, we were able to fund new bingo equipment but we couldn't fund new chairs for a site. If you have specific examples, please email me and I can pass them by our funders. The thought process before has been, if it seems like something the site should be providing as a base level of support (i.e. chairs) then we cannot fund it.
    c. Could we fund the purchase or lease of a vehicle?
        i. Funds cannot be used to purchase or lease a vehicle but it could be used for rental of car, bus, or van. Funds could also be used to pay for gas gift cards for participants or volunteers.
    d. Could we fund public chat benches
        i. No, this is more of infrastructure rather than an activity to build social connection.
    e. Could we fund internet access and related equipment (i.e. TV, soundbar, etc.)
        i. Both would not be funded.
    f. Would we be able to purchase a kiln for our clay projects with older adults?
        i. Rental of kiln space from a local organization would be approved but not the purchase of a kiln.
    g. We send out newsletters every month to let our Seniors know what is happening at the center. We are hoping to get a couple of laptops and printers.
        i. Laptops and printers cannot be approved but you can fund printing or laptop rentals through the duration of the project.
    h. Do events such as sporting events, theater, and other similar social group events that require tickets qualify?

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        i. Yes, our goal is to fund projects that increase social connection in communities and that might look different to the various communities. If you can explain how those events are impactful and can raise social connection, they would be allowable.

13. Does it have to be a formal organization or can it be a work group whose focus is suicide prevention for LGBTQ+ individuals?
    a. There needs to be an official organization to send funds to. So, if the work group is not a 501c3 non-profit, it would be important to find a local organization who is who could be the financial sponsor (i.e. church, county, mental health organization, etc.). For example, we had a county serve as a fiscal sponsor for a project where they distributed funds to a number of other counties and organizations to host a variety of events in different communities.

14. Could funds go through a university to fund the program?
    a. Yes, we have been able to send funds through a university.

15. Is the project more interested in seeing high numbers of participation or large impact on smaller communities?
    a. While numbers are being tracked and is a main evaluation point due it being simple, there is no way for our review and decision process that takes into account the actual or perceived number of people impacted. We are more interested in whether the projects seem to be appropriate for the populations outlined in the proposal and whether the proposal can show they have a history or ability to connect with those populations.

16. Our project focuses on older adults, but middle age & younger folks can access services. Will we need to make sure grant funds are not used for the few individual participants who are not "older" as long as the majority impact is with older residents?
    a. The program can have younger people in it provided that their participation helps to provide connection among older adults living in rural areas. For example, if the younger participants are matched with the older adults.

17. Are there any regulations about subcontracting funding from a 501c3 that is our fiscal sponsor? Also, what are the regulations for tracking spending of the grant funds for OHA?
    a. There are no regulations about subcontracting from the 501c3.