

# Innovation Fund

**Overview:** The Oregon Department of Human Services Office of Aging and People with Disabilities (APD) created an Innovation Fund to support new community projects that improve services for older adults and people with disabilities. Funding for these new projects will last through June 30, 2023. APD has a total of \$3 million to support innovative projects, with at least \$2 million for projects focused on equity. Equity focused projects may include those that are serving communities and groups that have experienced barriers in accessing services and supports for older adults and people with physical disabilities based on their identity or protected class. Successful projects will be funded after a competitive process that will include a call for proposals and evaluation of all proposals submitted.

**Project proposals and potential applicant organizations:** APD encourages organizations to submit proposals for projects that are innovative and have the potential to be long-lasting and, if applicable, expanded to other communities and groups across the state. For innovative projects focused on equity-related initiatives, APD encourages culturally specific organizations to submit proposals. Culturally specific organizations have the following qualities:

- Serve a particular cultural community and are primarily staffed and led by members of that community;
- Demonstrate personal knowledge of lived experience of the community including, but not limited to, the impact of structural and individual racism or discrimination on the community;
- Have knowledge of specific barriers faced in the community and how that influences the structure of their program or service; and
- Can describe the community's cultural practices, health and safety beliefs/practices, positive cultural identity/pride/resilience, immigration dynamics, religious beliefs, or other traditions, and how their services have been adapted to honor those traditions.

**What's next:** The request for proposals will begin sometime in February 2022.

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