

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAY 19, 2025

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Oregon Community Foundation Partners with Portland Literacy Council to Improve Lives through Literacy

Portland, Ore. – Portland Literacy Council (PLC) announced today that it has been awarded a \$10,000 grant from Oregon Community Foundation to support its critical work preparing volunteer tutors for English language learning and adult basic education work.

According to the Adult Education Program Fact Sheet, nearly 250,000 working-age adults in Oregon lack high school-level credentials. This includes more than 70,000 individuals who are navigating life in Oregon while building English language skills. Volunteer literacy tutors play a vital role in supporting these groups as they pursue their goals.

PLC is the central resource in Northwest Oregon for high-quality, low-cost volunteer tutor training programs online and in-person to prepare volunteer tutors for English language learning and adult basic education work. “This grant strengthens our capacity to train and support volunteers who are changing lives through literacy,” said Lorie Wigle, PLC’s Executive Director. “With these funds, we’ll be able to grow our outreach, improve our tutor training curriculum, and deepen our partnerships with adult education providers across the region.”

The funding includes support from the William Swindells, Sr. Memorial Fund of Oregon Community Foundation.

Portland Literacy Council trains more than 200 volunteer literacy tutors each year, hosts an annual volunteer literacy tutor conference, and supports adults seeking to complete a GED®--all in active partnership with other programs in our region. PLC’s contact database of adult literacy tutors and advocates is an asset that the entire ecosystem uses to place volunteers in high-value roles. Through training and connecting tutors with literacy programs, PLC helps tutors best serve adult literacy learners, supporting the development of the essential English language and literacy skills needed to thrive.

About Portland Literacy Council

Portland Literacy Council is a nonprofit organization that supports adult literacy programs, tutors, and students in the Pacific Northwest.

Founded in 1994, PLC activities include delivering online and in-person tutor training workshops, supporting Pacific Northwest literacy programs, providing GED test vouchers to low-income students, sponsoring an annual volunteer tutor conference, and publishing an online newsletter and announcements of interest to the adult literacy community.

For more information about PLC, please visit www.portlandliteracy.org.

About Oregon Community Foundation

Oregon Community Foundation (OCF) was founded in 1973 with a big mission: to improve the lives of all Oregonians through the power of philanthropy. In partnership with donors and volunteers, OCF works to strengthen communities in every county in Oregon through research, grantmaking and scholarships. In 2022, OCF distributed more than \$180 million, supporting 3,500 grantees and awarding more than 3,000 scholarships. With OCF, individuals, families, businesses, and organizations create charitable funds that meet the needs of diverse communities statewide. 2023 marked OCF's 50th anniversary. Since its founding, OCF has distributed more than \$2.2 billion in community investments, including grants to 10,850 nonprofits and 53,375 scholarships to students. Individuals, families, businesses and organizations can work with OCF to create charitable funds to support causes important to them.

For more information about OCF, please visit: oregoncf.org



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