



Board of Commissioners

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AGENDA

(Chair May Alter the Agenda)

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS SPECIAL MEETING

Monday, November 18, 2024, 12 PM

This meeting will be conducted virtually only.

Attend the meeting using this [Microsoft Teams link](#).

Teams Meeting ID: 253 416 122 703 | Teams Passcode: YiTC9m

1. Opening

- 1.1 Call to Order
- 1.2 Introductions
- 1.3 Announcements

2. Review and Approve Agenda

3. New Business

- 3.1 15 minutes – Notice of Intent to Apply for an Environmental Protection Agency Community Change Grant, Benton County Resiliency Hub Network – Bryan Lee, Sheriff's Office

4. Other

ORS 192.640(1) "...notice shall include a list of the principal subjects anticipated to be considered at the meeting, but this requirement shall not limit the ability of a governing body to consider additional subjects."

5. Executive Session ORS 192.660(2)(d)

The Board will convene into Executive Session under ORS 192.660[2][d] regarding labor negotiations.

NEW BUSINESS



Board of Commissioners Agenda Item

Agenda Placement and Contacts

Suggested Agenda Date 11/18/24

Suggested Placement * BOC Tuesday Meeting

Department * Sheriff's Office

Contact Name * Bryan Lee

Phone Extension * 6114

Meeting Attendee Name * Bryan Lee

Agenda Item Details ⬆

Item Title * Notice of Intent - Environmental Protection Agency Community Change Grant, Benton County Resiliency Hub Network

- Item Involves *** Check all that apply
- Appointments
 - Budget
 - Contract/Agreement
 - Discussion and Action
 - Discussion Only
 - Document Recording
 - Employment
 - Notice of Intent
 - Order/Resolution
 - Ordinance/Public Hearing 1st Reading
 - Ordinance/Public Hearing 2nd Reading
 - Proclamation
 - Project/Committee Update
 - Public Comment
 - Special Report
 - Other

Estimated Time * 15 minutes

Board/Committee Involvement * Yes No

Advertisement * Yes No

Issues and Fiscal Impact

Item Issues and Description

Identified Salient Issues *

The Inflation Reduction Act provided \$2.8 billion to award grants to help disadvantaged communities address a wide range of environmental and climate justice issues. The requested funding would support the creation of three Resiliency Hubs to existing facilities in Monroe, Philomath, and Alsea. These Resiliency Hubs will support/protect residents, distribute resources, and reduce carbon emissions before, during, and after natural hazard events. Benton County has dealt with a variety of natural hazard events, including ice storms and wildfires, and these hubs will increase each community's resilience to those hazards.

Options *

Approve or Not Approve

Fiscal Impact *

- Yes
- No

Fiscal Impact Description *

This competitive grant would provide funding for the creation of three Resiliency Hubs to existing facilities owned by South Benton Food Pantry, Alsea Charter School, and the Philomath Youth Activities Club and bring a total of \$19,990,702. There is no match component to this grant, other than the staff time necessary to help coordinate the project alongside the Statutory Partner, United Way of Linn, Benton and Lincoln Counties.

2040 Thriving Communities Initiative

Mandated Service? * Yes
 No

2040 Thriving Communities Initiative

Describe how this agenda checklist advances the core values or focus areas of 2040, or supports a strategy of a departmental goal.

To review the initiative, visit the website [HERE](#).

Values and Focus Areas

Check boxes that reflect each applicable value or focus area and explain how they will be advanced.

Core Values *

Select all that apply.

- Vibrant, Livable Communities
- Supportive People Resources
- High Quality Environment and Access
- Diverse Economy that Fits
- Community Resilience
- Equity for Everyone
- Health in All Actions
- N/A

Explain Core Values Selections *

This grant funding would be used to increase community resilience in three communities that currently lack the funding and facilities to shelter people, distribute resources, and support residents both before and during a natural disaster event, such as a wildfire or ice storm. It will also be used to reduce carbon pollution by installing solar panels, upgrading to more efficient HVAC systems, installation of new window and insulation to improve energy efficiency, and more to support the environmental health for the community. These projects also include renovations for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible spaces in each resiliency hub location to ensure services in each hub are fair and accessible for all.

Focus Areas and Vision *

Select all that apply.

- Community Safety
- Emergency Preparedness
- Outdoor Recreation
- Prosperous Economy
- Environment and Natural Resources
- Mobility and Transportation
- Housing and Growth
- Arts, Entertainment, Culture, and History
- Food and Agriculture
- Lifelong Learning and Education
- N/A

Explain Focus Areas and Vision Selection*

This project is directly related to Emergency Preparedness in that it builds community resilience and better prepares communities if a natural disaster event of any kind were to occur. Each Resiliency Hub site will include extra storage for emergency food, backup generators and batteries, solar power, seismic retrofit, and more. They will also include extra office space for emergency command. These hubs are a space for residents to shelter in during an emergency and ensures the safety of the community. Additionally, some of the projects such as the installation of solar panels, upgrades to efficient HVAC systems, and replacing windows and building insulation will benefit the environment through the decrease of carbon emissions.

Attachments, Comments, and Submission

Item Comments and Attachments

Attachments

Upload any attachments to be included in the agenda, preferably as PDF files. If more than one attachment / exhibit, please indicate "1", "2", "3" or "A", "B", "C" on the documents.

CCG Narrative 11.5.24.pdf	373.35KB
EPAbudget.pdf	120.59KB
Notice of Intent to Apply EPA Grant.doc	36.5KB

Comments (optional) If you have any questions, please call ext.6800

Department Approver JEFRI VANARSDALL

Recommendations and Motions

Item Recommendations and Motions

Staff

Recommendations*

The Board of Commissioners approve the Notice of Intent to Apply for an Environmental Protection Agency Community Change Grant for the Benton County Resiliency Hub Network.

Meeting Motions*

I move to ...
...approve the Notice of Intent to Apply for an Environmental Protection Agency Community Change Grant for the Benton County Resiliency Hub Network.

MOTION: I MOVE TO APPROVE THE NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPLY FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY COMMUNITY CHANGE GRANT FOR THE BENTON COUNTY RESILIENCY HUB NETWORK.

NOTICE OF INTENT

BENTON COUNTY

DATE: 11/05/2024
DEPARTMENT: BCSO
CONTACT: Bryan Lee
PHONE: 541-231-0224
TYPE OF NOTICE New Grant
 Supplement
 Renewal

STATEMENT OF POLICY:

The County Board of Commissioners must approve, prior to submission, all new, or renewals of all loans or grants sought from any public or private source. For further statement of policy see the grant administration policies in the current edition of the Budget Manual.

Board of Commissioner review will ensure objectives of proposed grant funded programs are consistent with county policies and those financial obligations, if any, imposed by the grant, now or in the future are accounted for in county financial planning.

If available, a complete copy of the grant application shall be attached to this form

GRANT DUE DATE: 11/21/2024
PROJECT TITLE: EPA Community Change Grant
GRANT DURATION: Not to exceed 3 years once awarded

GRANT SUMMARY/ABSTRACT:

The Inflation Reduction Act created the Environmental and Climate Justice Program, to which the Environmental Protection Agency was provided \$2.8 billion to award grants to help disadvantaged communities address a wide range of environmental and climate justice issues. Benton County intends to apply for Track I of this grant, which is focused on community-driven investments for change.

The project proposed is focused on the development of Resiliency Hubs within Benton County, where renovation projects on three existing community facilities in Monroe, Philomath, and Alsea will take place to turn them into Resiliency Hubs. These hubs will be community-serving facilities augmented to support residents, distribute resources, and reduce carbon pollution before, during, and after natural disaster events. Benton County will act as the Lead Applicant, and United Way of Linn, Benton and Lincoln Counties will be the Statutory Partner (as defined by the Notice of Funding Opportunity). Other Collaborating Entities include the Alsea Charter School, South Benton Food Pantry, and the Philomath Youth Activities Club. United Way of Linn, Benton and Lincoln Counties will be responsible for the community outreach and engagement of all resilience hubs, and Benton County will be responsible for overseeing the financial management, project management, and grant reporting.

COUNTY COMMITMENTS

STAFFING: NO YES

If yes, Permanent Limited Duration
 Using existing staff

FINANCIAL: NO YES If yes, amount: _____

The match is requested from general funds.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY*

FEDERAL SOURCES \$19,990,702

STATE SOURCES \$0

COUNTY SOURCES \$0

TOTAL REVENUE \$19,990,702

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS:

 Jef Van Arsdall, Sheriff Date

BUDGET OFFICE REVIEW & COMMENTS:

 Budget Officer Signature

 Date

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

Status: Approved without additional review
 Approved with additional information required by: Date: ____/____/____
 Disapproved

COMMENTS:

Signature _____ Date _____
Chair, Board of Commissioners

A final copy of the grant application must be submitted to the Board of Commissioners Office.

Section A. Executive Summary

Application Title: Benton County Resilience Hub Network

Lead Applicant: Benton County

Statutory Partner to the Lead Applicant: United Way of Linn, Benton and Lincoln Counties (UWLBL)

Contact Information:

Benton County Government: Bryan Lee, Emergency Manager

541-231-0224, Bryan.Lee@bentoncountyor.gov

United Way of Linn, Benton and Lincoln Counties Kevin Manske, President & CEO

541-619-7275, Kevin@uwlbl.org

Eligibility: This application involves two statutory partners: UWLBL is a Non-profit Organization as defined by this grant. Benton County, Oregon is a local government organization.

Climate Action Strategy: This application is focused on Climate Reduction Strategy 5, Community Resilience Hubs.

Pollution Reduction Strategy: This application is focused on Pollution Reduction Strategy 1, Indoor Air Quality and Community Health Improvements.

Grant Award Period and Completion: The estimated grant award period is February 1st, 2025, to January 31st, 2028. Both Benton County and the UWLBL are ready to begin working on this grant immediately upon receiving funding and have worked closely with partners to identify projects that can be completed within three years.

Amount of EPA Funding Requested: \$19,990,702

Target Investment Area: Alsea, Oregon meets the Target Investment Area D criteria: Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities. They are in the 97th percentile for expected building loss rate, 98th percentile in expected population loss rate, and 90th percentile in projected flood risk.

Disadvantaged Communities to Benefit from Project: The Project Area is Benton County, which includes 24 census tracts identified as disadvantaged by this NOFO. The primary benefit will be to three census tracts identified as disadvantaged: census tracts 104 (41003010400), 103 (41003010300), and 108 (41003010800).

Other Sources of Funding:

Benton County is seeking funding under this NOFO because of its close alignment with Benton County's climate and resilience goals identified by local communities. We have not sought funding for these projects from other IJA or IRA programs. The Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) recently released the Resilience Hubs and Networks Grant. However, only \$10,000,000 is available statewide for this effort and our needs far exceed what is available. We are not seeking funding for the same work from other funding sources.

Resubmission Status: N/A

Section B. Project Workplan

Part 1. Community-Driven Investments for Change

1.1 Community Vision Description

Community Description

The Project Area for this initiative is Benton County, Oregon, covering approximately 669 square miles of diverse geography, topography, and climate. The western portion of the county, characterized by the Coast Range, is more rural, with forested areas and steep slopes, while the eastern section, located in the Willamette Valley, is home to the majority of the county's population, including the City of Corvallis, which houses Oregon State University and several critical assets and large employers such as Hewlett-Packard and Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center. Good Samaritan is the largest hospital in Linn, Benton and Lincoln counties and it offers dozens of medical specialties. It is also one of only four 'Level II' trauma centers in the state.

The 2020 U.S. Census reported a total county population of 95,184. Corvallis accounts for just under two-thirds of the county's population, another 20% live in unincorporated areas, while the remaining 15% is spread among the remaining three incorporated cities.

Benton County is actively working to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Benton County's adopted goal is to reduce emissions from County operations to 50% of 2010 levels by the year 2030, and to be net-zero by 2050. In July of 2023, Benton and Lincoln Counties completed a Climate and Health Adaptation Plan. A total of 16 strategies were identified to build upon Oregon's Climate and Health goals. Three main strategies include emergency preparedness and response, community partnership development, and leadership and organizational competencies actions, all of which align with this project proposal.

Recent natural disasters in Benton County have threatened and impacted communities. As a result of the 2024 ice storm, the need for resilience hubs within the impacted communities were identified. The project team identified three targeted areas that are located within the EPA disadvantaged communities map and vulnerable to isolation during a disaster. The project team worked with community partners to identify community-owned buildings that are already providing community services and have elements of resilience hubs. Further detail describing the project area selection is under the Strategy Overview and Climate Action Strategy sections.

Partnering with UWLBL and other local organizations, this project will develop three resilience hubs in these areas to serve as safe, resource-equipped shelters during emergencies. The hubs will be located at the Philomath Youth Activities Club, South Benton Food Pantry, and Alsea Charter School. These facilities were selected based on their central locations, existing infrastructure, and community support. The resilience hubs will provide essential services such as shelter, food, water, and communication systems, while also fostering long-term community resilience through capacity-building and public health initiatives.

Community Challenges

Benton County is subject to increasing natural hazards as a result from climate change, including riverine flooding, landslides, winter storms, heat waves, and smoke, wildfire. Evacuations and sheltering needs are increasing as a result of these hazards. In January of 2024, a 12-day period of winter storms impacted Benton County's rural infrastructure systems, leaving the majority of residents without power off-and-on for days, and in some cases, weeks. Public daytime warming centers and shelters were shut down due to their own power outages and staffing issues due to road conditions. Rural residents, those with access and functional needs, low-income communities and unhoused individuals were significantly impacted and in need of emergency shelter.

Although Benton County was not directly affected by the 2020 Labor Day Fires, it shared some of the worst air quality in the world with the rest of the Willamette Valley. According to a report from the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute (OCCRI), the smoke intensity is expected to increase by 80% in Benton County. Exposure to smoke, especially when outside for long periods of time, is considered hazardous and can cause long-term health impacts.

Heat waves throughout Benton County also present themselves as a major public health concern for vulnerable communities. The number of days per year with temperatures 90°F or higher is projected to increase by an average of 18 by the 2050s, according to OCCRI. Projected demographic changes in Benton County, such increases in the unhoused, low-income, and older adult populations will also increase the number of people vulnerable to extreme heat.

Communities within the County face various barriers such as language, income, and race, often preventing community members from accessing essential emergency resources and preparing their homes to face these hazards.

Community Vision

The overarching vision for this grant is to create a resilient and sustainable Benton County, where disadvantaged communities are equipped to face the growing challenges of climate change, pollution, and economic disparity. This project seeks to build a future in which the residents of Benton County, particularly those from marginalized and vulnerable populations, benefit from targeted investments that reduce environmental risks, increase climate resilience, and provide long-term social and economic opportunities.

The Benton County Resilience Hub Network proposes to build three community-serving facilities that offer emergency shelter and resources before, during, and after a disaster strikes. The network includes four partnerships between Benton County, South Benton Food Pantry, Philomath Youth Activities Club, and the Alsea Charter School.

Each community serves different needs and proposes different projects to their facilities. Benton County Government will support each project by assisting with project and fiscal management during the grant period and beyond. Upon completion of the grant, each resilience hub will be able to activate during an emergency to provide secure shelter and

resource distribution to community members. Benton County, specifically the Emergency Management and Public Health Department, are already engaged with each organization and have been working on emergency preparedness and public health initiatives for years. Expanded funding will help to build our limited resources and staffing capacity beyond what currently exists and strengthens our partnership with these organizations and communities.

Near-Term Impact: In the immediate future, this grant will enable the construction and enhancement of three resilience hubs in key disadvantaged areas across Benton County. These hubs will serve as community-focused facilities that offer critical services during times of crisis, such as emergency shelter, access to food and water, and safe spaces during extreme weather events. By providing clean, energy-efficient shelters with improved air quality through advanced HVAC systems, solar energy, and backup power, the project will significantly reduce residents' exposure to pollution, especially from wildfire smoke and other air-borne pollutants.

These resilience hubs will also act as educational and engagement centers for the community, offering resources for emergency preparedness, climate adaptation, and public health education. They will provide a reliable infrastructure that enhances the social fabric of the community, strengthening ties between residents and local organizations like the South Benton Food Pantry, which has long served as a vital resource for food security and social support.

Long-Term Impact: In the long term, this project aims to build resilience to climate change and mitigate future risks by creating a county-wide network of connected resilience hubs that can rapidly mobilize in response to extreme weather events, natural disasters, and other emergencies. As climate risks increase, Benton County will be better prepared to handle floods, heatwaves, and other challenges. The focus on energy efficiency and renewable energy will also help reduce the county's carbon footprint, contributing to larger efforts to mitigate climate change.

Furthermore, this grant will create and sustain high-quality jobs through the construction, operation, and maintenance of these hubs. Local residents will benefit from job creation in fields like construction, renewable energy, HVAC installation, and emergency management.

Economic and Social Resilience: The project will bolster the economic strength of Benton County by creating opportunities for small businesses and contractors to participate in the renovation and construction of the resilience hubs. The long-term benefits of this project include financial savings for residents, especially through energy-efficient infrastructure, and expanded economic opportunities as local businesses are engaged in the ongoing management of the resilience hubs. The hubs will also reduce the need for residents to travel long distances during emergencies, keeping economic activity more localized and minimizing the carbon footprint of disaster responses.

Generational Impact: This project is designed with future generations in mind. The resilience hubs and associated infrastructure improvements will serve as long-term assets that continue to benefit the community for decades to come. By addressing immediate environmental risks

and building adaptive capacity, this initiative will ensure that the residents of Benton County's disadvantaged communities are not only safeguarded against current climate threats but are also better positioned to thrive in the face of future challenges. These hubs will become a cornerstone for community strength, offering continued educational and economic opportunities, and ensuring that the residents are not displaced by climate-driven investments but rather are empowered to build on them for their own prosperity and that of future generations.

1.2 Selected Strategies

Strategy Overview

The primary Climate Action Strategy selected for this project is the development of Community Resilience Hubs across Benton County. These hubs will provide critical resources and services during climate-related disasters such as wildfires, floods, extreme heat, and winter storms. The three hubs will be established at the Philomath Youth Activities Club, South Benton Food Pantry, and Alsea Charter School. These facilities will be equipped with backup power generators, solar panels, and energy-efficient HVAC systems, ensuring clean air, emergency shelter, food, and water during emergencies. In addition to disaster response, these hubs will function year-round as community centers offering educational programs, public health services, and workforce development initiatives aimed at increasing local climate resilience.

The implementation of these projects will take place over the three-year grant period. Year one will focus on the design and planning phase, including obtaining the necessary permits and engaging contractors. Years two and three will involve the construction, renovation, and installation of critical systems at each hub. Regular community engagement and feedback will be part of the process to ensure the facilities meet the needs of the disadvantaged communities they serve.

While this proposal is focused on the development of Resilience Hubs, we also incorporate elements of Strategy 2 (Mobility and Transportation Options for Preventing Air Pollution and improving Public Health and Climate Resilience) and Strategy 3 (Energy-Efficient, Health, and Resilient Housing and Buildings).

The development of the Benton County Resilience Hub Network includes five complimentary projects: 1) Renovate three existing community facilities to turn them into Resilience Hubs; 2) Engage local communities to inform the development of each Hub and surrounding resilience ecosystem, 3) Build the capacity of local organizations to participate in planning and better serve their community through targeted grants and technical assistance, 4) Support a diverse network of community members prepared to respond in a disaster and build resilience of their community year-round, 5) Improve emergency response by enhancing communication, coordination and cultural responsiveness.

The selected Pollution Reduction Strategy focuses on Indoor Air Quality and Community Health Improvements. The resilience hubs will feature advanced HVAC systems to improve indoor air quality, especially during wildfire season when smoke severely impacts Benton County

residents. The inclusion of solar panels and renewable energy systems will further reduce carbon emissions, contributing to the community's long-term health by cutting down on local air pollutants.

Implementation will occur in tandem with the resilience hub renovations. The new HVAC systems and energy-efficient upgrades will be integrated into the hub infrastructure, ensuring that the community can benefit from clean indoor air, especially in times of poor outdoor air quality due to wildfires. These improvements will also contribute to reducing energy costs and carbon emissions year-round.

The Community Resilience Hubs and Indoor Air Quality Improvements are designed to complement each other and provide comprehensive benefits to the disadvantaged communities in Benton County. The hubs will not only serve as safe spaces during climate disasters but also improve year-round living conditions through energy efficiency and air quality improvements. For example, during wildfire events, the hubs will offer safe indoor environments with clean air, protecting residents from hazardous air pollution. Similarly, during extreme heat, the hubs will provide cooling centers with reliable power, ensuring vulnerable populations are protected.

The integration of these strategies ensures that the project addresses multiple climate-related risks (wildfire smoke, extreme heat, and power outages) while simultaneously providing ongoing social and economic benefits through community engagement and workforce development. The scale of the Project Area was intentionally concentrated on specific disadvantaged census tracts to maximize the impact of these interventions, allowing for deep, targeted investments rather than dispersed, less effective projects.

The Community Profiles that follow include demographic information, key strengths and challenges of each area, information about existing services, the planned renovations, and the anticipated addition and renovation budgets.

HUB 1: Philomath Youth Activity Club



Resilience Hub Assets:

- Existing facility built in 2001 in good condition
- Central location in community
- Established reputation for community service
- Proximity to schools
- Proximity to local emergency services
- ADA accessible facility
- Multiple sheltering spaces
- Property for expansion is already owned
- Strong Board and community support for expansion

Planned Facility Improvements:

- 5,000 sf addition with gym to serve as large shelter
- Additional ADA accessible restrooms and showers
- Additional offices for emergency command
- HVAC in new facility and improvements to existing HVAC
- Improved kitchen facilities and food storage
- Emergency generator, solar panels with associated electrical

Sq. Ft. of Resilience Hub Space: 11,100 sf with planned addition

Cost of Improvements: \$5,190,000

HUB 2: South Benton Food Pantry



Resilience Hub Assets:

- Central location in community
- Close proximity to schools, emergency services & medical clinic
- Well known to local residents
- Two large existing rooms for shelter with numerous smaller rooms
- New commercial kitchen
- New HVAC in existing facility
- Outside covered seating & play yard
- Property for expansion is already owned
- Strong Board and community support for expansion

Planned Facility Improvements:

- 2,500 sf addition with large room for shelter, food prep, walk-in coolers, & food storage
- Additional ADA accessible restrooms and showers
- Additional office space for emergency command
- Seismic upgrade to existing facility
- Elevator/lift addition and other improvements for full ADA access to facilities
- New windows & insulation to improve energy efficiency of existing facility
- Emergency generator, solar panels, EV charging station with associated electrical

Sq. Ft. of Resilience Hub Space: 11,200 sf with planned addition

Cost of Improvements: \$5,550,000

HUB 3: Alsea Charter School



Resilience Hub Assets:

- Central location in community
- Established activity center for local residents
- Adjacent to local emergency services
- Large existing gym for shelter
- Seismic upgrade for gym already funded and in design
- New HVAC in gym and common areas
- Large available property for expansion
- Existing ADA access
- Large field area for additional emergency shelters and operations
- Strong Board and community support for addition and improvements

Planned Facility Improvements:

- 5,000 sf addition with large room for shelter, commercial kitchen, walk-in coolers and food storage
- Additional ADA accessible restrooms and showers
- Additional offices for emergency command
- HVAC in new facility
- Roof, window and insulation replacement to improve energy efficiency of existing facility
- Emergency generator & solar panels with associated electrical

Sq. Ft. of Resilience Hub Space: 37,000 sf with addition and existing gym, classrooms & offices

Cost of Improvements: \$4,899,000

Project 1: Facility Improvements

Benton County, as the Lead Applicant, will subaward funds to Collaborating Entities who are the owners of each Hub facility to make improvements described in the Profiles. Renovations and additions will make each facility accessible, improve structural resilience, add and improve

HVAC systems, enhance energy efficiency, add emergency power and fund solar panels. Benton County will contract with each Hub owner so the spaces can be quickly available and prioritized for daytime and overnight sheltering during a disaster including hazardous air and extreme temperature events. Each Hub already serves as a community gathering place providing services and social connection. These local Hubs will allow residents to shelter close to their homes, reducing the need for travel, which accommodates isolated communities due to road failure and reduces climate impacts.

Part 2. Program Management, Capability and Capacity

2.1 Performance Management Plan, Outputs and Outcomes

Contracts with the hubs and statutory partners will be finalized within 60 days of award receipt, while agreements with additional collaborating entities will be completed within 120 days. All funded partners will provide monthly reports detailing progress on construction, community engagement, partnerships, and impacts on emissions and air quality. At the conclusion of the grant period, we will compile a comprehensive report summarizing progress, lessons learned, and both short- and long-term community impacts, which will be made publicly accessible.

The Benton County Resilience Hub Network project will generate several tangible outputs that directly contribute to the goals of the Community Change Grants program. These outputs include:

1. Construction of Three Resilience Hubs:
 - a. Renovation and expansion of the Philomath Youth Activities Club, South Benton Food Pantry, and Alsea Elementary-Middle-High School to serve as fully functional resilience hubs, providing emergency shelter, clean air, food, water, and other critical resources during climate-related disasters.
 - b. Installation of energy-efficient HVAC systems, solar panels, and backup power generators in all three hubs to ensure clean air and reliable power during emergencies.
2. Improvement in Indoor Air Quality and Energy Efficiency:
 - a. New HVAC systems and energy-efficient upgrades (e.g., improved insulation, windows) will reduce indoor air pollution, especially during wildfire events, and lower energy consumption year-round.
3. Community Engagement and Education:
 - a. Engagement of local residents through emergency preparedness training, workshops, and educational outreach programs at each resilience hub. These activities will build long-term resilience by improving community knowledge and participation in disaster response planning.

The expected long-term outcomes of this project include:

1. **Increased Climate Resilience:** Benton County will be better prepared to respond to climate-related disasters such as wildfires, extreme heat, and floods. Vulnerable populations will have access to safe shelter and critical resources during emergencies, reducing the negative health impacts and social disruption caused by these events.
2. **Reduction in Carbon Emissions and Improved Air Quality:** The use of renewable energy (solar panels) and the installation of energy-efficient infrastructure will lead to a reduction in carbon emissions and improve both indoor and outdoor air quality across the Project Area. This is especially critical during wildfire season when air quality is severely impacted.
3. **Economic Empowerment and Job Creation:** The project will create high-quality jobs in construction, renewable energy, and emergency management. The focus on workforce development will ensure that disadvantaged community members are trained for sustainable employment opportunities, contributing to the long-term economic resilience of Benton County.
4. **Sustainable Community Resources:** The resilience hubs will serve as community gathering spaces year-round, providing ongoing resources, services, and social support. This will strengthen community cohesion and ensure that residents are continuously engaged in building local resilience to climate change.

To ensure that the project delivers these expected outputs and outcomes, Benton County will implement a Performance Measurement Plan with indicator tracking to monitor progress throughout the grant period. Construction progress will be monitored through regular milestones for each hub's renovation and installation projects, such as HVAC systems and solar panels. Additionally, energy efficiency and emission reductions will be tracked using utility bills and data from solar energy production. Air quality sensors will also be deployed to measure improvements during high-smoke events.

Community participation will be measured by recording the number of residents engaged in emergency preparedness workshops, training programs, and workforce development initiatives. Benton County will submit quarterly progress reports to the EPA, detailing construction status, community engagement, and initial performance indicators. Annual reports will provide a broader assessment of the project's impact, summarizing improvements in air quality, reductions in carbon emissions, and measures of community resilience achieved throughout the year.

A community feedback mechanism will be used to keep the project responsive and adaptive. Regular surveys and stakeholder meetings will gather feedback on the hubs' operations, ensuring they meet evolving community needs. Finally, a comprehensive evaluation will be conducted at the end of the grant term, analyzing the environmental, social, and economic impacts of the hubs. This final assessment will evaluate the effectiveness of air quality improvements, climate resilience initiatives, and job creation for disadvantaged communities.

2.2 Project Linkages to the EPA Strategic Plan

The Benton County Resilience Hub Network directly supports and advances several goals outlined in the EPA's Strategic Plan, specifically Goal 2 (Take Decisive Action to Advance Environmental Justice and Civil Rights) and Objective 2.1 (Promote Environmental Justice and Civil Rights at the Federal, Tribal, State, and Local Levels), while also addressing other strategic goals related to climate action, air quality, water safety, community revitalization, and chemical safety.

Goal 2: Take Decisive Action to Advance Environmental Justice and Civil Rights

Objective 2.1: Promote Environmental Justice and Civil Rights at the Federal, Tribal, State, and Local Levels

The proposed project centers around the development of three resilience hubs that serve disadvantaged communities in Benton County. These hubs will be located in areas identified as disadvantaged according to the EPA's mapping tool and are designed to promote environmental justice by providing critical resources to populations that are disproportionately impacted by climate-related hazards and pollution.

Key activities that support Goal 2:

- Access to emergency shelter and resources for marginalized populations, including low-income residents, unhoused individuals, and communities of color. These groups often face the greatest barriers during climate emergencies, and the hubs will provide them with safe, reliable shelter and resources during extreme weather events.
- Reduction of environmental and health disparities through improvements in indoor air quality and energy efficiency. By installing advanced HVAC systems and solar panels, the hubs will directly reduce exposure to hazardous air pollution, such as wildfire smoke, which disproportionately affects low-income and rural residents.
- Culturally responsive disaster response strategies will be implemented through community engagement and partnerships with local organizations like the South Benton Food Pantry. These efforts will ensure that diverse voices are included in decision-making and that disaster response plans are equitable and accessible to all.

Goal 1: Tackle the Climate Crisis

The resilience hubs will be instrumental in tackling the climate crisis by enhancing the community's capacity to respond to and mitigate the impacts of climate change. The hubs will utilize renewable energy sources, such as solar panels, to reduce carbon emissions while providing crucial services during climate emergencies like wildfires and extreme heat.

- Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions through energy-efficient upgrades and the use of solar energy, contributing to Benton County's broader climate goals of reducing emissions by 50% by 2030 and achieving net-zero by 2050.
- Increased community resilience to climate risks, including extreme heat, flooding, and wildfire smoke, through the provision of safe, resource-equipped shelters during disasters.

Goal 4: Ensure Clean and Healthy Air for All Communities

The project improves indoor air quality for communities that are disproportionately affected by wildfire smoke and other air pollutants. The installation of high-efficiency HVAC systems in all three resilience hubs will ensure that residents have access to clean air, particularly during wildfire season when outdoor air quality is hazardous. These HVAC systems, combined with energy-efficient upgrades, will help reduce indoor exposure to airborne toxins, improving public health outcomes for vulnerable populations like children, the elderly, and those with pre-existing health conditions.

Goal 5: Ensure Clean and Safe Water for All Communities

While the project is primarily focused on climate resilience and air quality, it also contributes to Goal 5 by ensuring that the resilience hubs provide safe and reliable access to clean water during emergencies. This includes the installation of backup power systems that will ensure continued access to water services during power outages and natural disasters.

Goal 6: Safeguard and Revitalize Communities

The Benton County Resilience Hub Network aims to safeguard and revitalize disadvantaged communities by providing them with infrastructure that increases their capacity to withstand climate-related threats. The hubs will also serve as year-round community centers, offering social services, workforce development programs, and educational resources that will improve the overall economic and social vitality of the county.

By engaging local contractors and businesses in the construction and operation of the hubs, the project will stimulate economic activity in the region while ensuring that local residents, particularly those from disadvantaged communities, benefit from the opportunities created.

2.3 CBO Experience and Commitment

United Way of Linn, Benton and Lincoln Counties, the statutory partner for this grant, has a rich history as a Community-Based Organization (CBO), providing vital services to the residents of Monroe and surrounding areas in Benton County, Oregon. SBFP's mission is to address food insecurity, serving over 100 families each week. Their commitment to the local community extends beyond food distribution through various social programs and partnerships that strengthen local resilience. SBFP has deep connections with disadvantaged communities, regularly collaborating with local residents, volunteers, and organizations to build a more resilient and supportive network.

SBFP's long-standing relationships with local farmers, businesses, and community members are a testament to their commitment to serving disadvantaged populations in Monroe and surrounding rural areas, including low-income families, seniors, and individuals experiencing food insecurity. These partnerships enable SBFP to provide comprehensive support, creating a safety net for vulnerable populations that face barriers to accessing essential resources. SBFP's role as a trusted CBO positions them to play a key role in advancing environmental justice and building community resilience, in alignment with the objectives of this grant.

2.4 Programmatic and Managerial Capability and Resources

Benton County, the Lead Applicant, has a long history of administering local, state, and federal funding to provide a wide range of services to residents throughout the County, either through County staff or through contracts with local non-profit organizations. Benton County is committed to equitably addressing the impacts of climate change, as discussed Climate Action Plan. Benton County Government and UWLBL both successfully comply with grant reporting requirements and demonstrate their ability to submit accurate and complete data within established timeframes. Key staff experience, qualifications, knowledge, and resources are included below.

Part 3. Feasibility, Sustainability, and Budget

3.1 Feasibility

All projects included in this proposal can be accomplished within the 3-year timeline of the grant. Design team qualification and selection will begin immediately after funding is available and design will be completed within 1 year. Construction contractors will be pre-qualified during design and qualified contractors will provide competitive bids as final design documents are submitted for permit. Construction at each Hub will be completed within two years allowing for procurement and construction around normal occupancy requirements.

3.2 Sustainability

The Benton County Resilience Hub Network is designed for long-term sustainability beyond the three-year grant period through strategic partnerships, diversified funding, and an effective operations and maintenance (O&M) plan. While the majority of the funding requested is for one-time capital investments and equipment, Benton County and its partners are actively pursuing and leveraging additional funding sources from local, state, and federal programs to support and sustain the hubs long-term.

Benton County and UWLBL commit to working together past the close of the grant to identify other funding to ensure the Hub Network will operate and grow into the future.

The O&M approach for each resilience hub includes a comprehensive plan involving public and private partners to manage and maintain the facilities. Grant funding will be used to hire a Project Manager. The Project Manager, along with Benton County and UWLBL, will take on the primary responsibility for the management and coordination of these hubs, utilizing the County's Emergency Management and Public Health departments. These departments have existing relationships with the community and will integrate the resilience hubs into their ongoing operational plans.

Commitments from UWLBL and other collaborating entities ensure shared responsibility for maintenance, operational activities, and community programming. Benton County will seek continuous funding through private, state, and federal programs dedicated to emergency preparedness and community development. The county's past success with securing and managing similar funds demonstrates its capability to support the resilience hubs beyond the grant term.

Additionally, each resilience hub will establish community advisory boards made up of local residents and stakeholders. These boards will oversee the implementation of revenue-generating activities such as event hosting and training programs, further enhancing the financial viability of the hubs. The hubs are also designed to incorporate energy-efficient technologies like solar panels, which reduce operational costs and contribute to their long-term sustainability.

Attachment A: Budget (10/25/2024)

Project Budget Summary

Category	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Personnel	\$150,000	\$175,000	\$185,000	\$510,000
Fringe Benefits				
Travel	\$14,340	\$14,340	\$14,340	\$43,020
Supplies	\$10,000	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$25,000
Contractual	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$12,000
Project Manager	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$1,500,000
Other				
Subaward: United Way of Linn, Lincoln, & Benton Counties	\$629,667	\$629,667	\$629,667	\$1,889,001
Subaward: Philomath Youth Activities Club	\$1,730,000	\$1,730,000	\$1,730,000	\$5,190,000
Subaward: South Benton Food Pantry	\$1,850,000	\$1,850,000	\$1,850,000	\$5,550,000
Subaward: Alsea Charter School	\$1,633,000	\$1,633,000	\$1,633,000	\$4,899,000
Total Direct Costs	\$6,521,007	\$6,543,507	\$6,553,507	\$19,618,021
<i>Indirect Costs</i>				
<i>Benton County</i>	\$70,000	\$70,000	\$70,000	\$210,000
<i>United Way of Linn, Lincoln, & Benton Counties</i>	\$54,227	\$54,227	54,227	\$162,281
Total Indirect Costs	\$124,227	\$124,227	\$124,227	\$372,681
Total Project Costs	\$6,645,234	\$6,667,734	\$6,677,734	\$19,990,702

The United Way of Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Counties (UWLBLC) can serve as a critical EPA statutory partnership to support Benton County's Resilience Hub Network project in several ways. The UWLBLC can help enhance Benton County's ability to execute the resilience hub project, fostering stronger community partnerships and a coordinated network of safe, resilient spaces across the county. Under the scope of the grant, the United Way will:

A. Lead Community Engagement Activities:

- Facilitate relationship building and resource mapping in each resilience hub area to ensure equitable and effective partnerships with local stakeholders.
- Mobilize volunteers and foster partnerships with community groups, service providers, and other organizations to enhance the resilience hub ecosystem.

B. Build the Capacity of Local Communities:

- Leverage UWLBLC's existing donor networks and expertise to attract additional funding and resources to augment support for each resilience hub area.
- Pass EPA funds through to local organizations to meet community-specific needs and promote long-term sustainability.
- Provide education and support to community members in collaboration with Benton County staff on topics such as disaster preparedness, volunteer management, and resource distribution.
- Share information about resilience hubs with community members to raise awareness and ensure full community engagement.

C. Communicate with the Broader Benton County Community:

- Share updates and information about resilience hub development and activities with the broader community to maintain transparency and encourage participation.
- Identify and seek additional funding sources to sustain mission-related work beyond the 3-year grant term, ensuring long-term resilience hub success.

D. Financial Support:

- UWLBLC shall receive not less than \$999,000 for the grant to support its internal organizational work.

Please see the budget breakdown for this project below:

Category	Details	Estimated Cost (Annual)
1. Personnel		
Salaries for Two Coordinators	Two full-time roles (2 FTE), each at \$80,000/year	\$160,000
Benefits (30% of total salaries)	Health, retirement, taxes, etc.	\$48,000
Subtotal (Personnel)		\$208,000
2. Office Operations		
Office Supplies	Computers, phones, software licenses, general supplies	\$6,000
Office Space/Utilities	Rent, utilities (if not remote work)	\$10,000
Communications	Phone, internet, etc.	\$4,000
Equipment (One-time cost spread)	Laptops, printers, etc. (amortized across several years)	\$3,000
Subtotal (Office Operations)		\$23,000
3. Marketing & Outreach		
Marketing Materials	Flyers, brochures, digital content creation	\$10,000
Advertising	Social media, radio, local news, online ads	\$12,000
Events & Outreach Campaigns	Community engagement, town halls, workshops	\$10,000
Website Maintenance & Updates	Maintenance and content creation	\$5,000
Subtotal (Marketing & Outreach)		\$37,000
4. Travel & Field Work		

Category	Details	Estimated Cost (Annual)
Local Travel	Site visits, meetings with partners (mileage, parking, etc.)	\$5,000
Conferences & Training	Professional development, networking	\$5,000
Subtotal (Travel & Field Work)		\$10,000
5. Program Support		
Workshops & Training for Partners	Resilience hub preparedness workshops and community training	\$20,000
Technical Assistance	External consultants, legal or grant writing support	\$10,000
Community Engagement Initiatives	Volunteer training and coordination, community outreach	\$5,000
Subtotal (Program Support)		\$35,000
6. Administrative Costs (12%)		
	Covers overhead costs (12% of total budget)	\$37,560
Total Annual Budget		\$350,560

- **Coordinator Salary and Benefits:** A competitive salary with full benefits to attract and retain skilled personnel.
- **Office Operations:** Includes necessary supplies and equipment to effectively run the program.
- **Marketing & Outreach:** Emphasizes community engagement, ensuring visibility for resilience hubs and outreach efforts.
- **Travel & Field Work:** Covers the cost of traveling to resilience hubs, meetings, and relevant training opportunities.
- **Program Support:** Ensures that the coordinator can run workshops and offer technical assistance to community partners.
- **Contingency:** Provides flexibility for unanticipated expenses.

UWLBLC's Role in Allocating Subawards to Local Organizations

These funds will support the development and operation of the resilience hubs and enhance the overall impact of the Benton County Resilience Hub Network.

As a trusted community partner with deep connections to local service providers and nonprofits, UWLBLC is well-positioned to manage the subaward process. UWLBLC has a proven track record of successfully managing and distributing grants to community-based organizations, ensuring that funds are allocated equitably and efficiently to meet the needs of vulnerable populations. Their expertise in grant administration, financial oversight, and programmatic support ensures that subawards will be used effectively to build capacity, promote disaster resilience, and strengthen community partnerships.

UWLBLC will engage in a competitive process to identify and select subaward recipients, prioritizing organizations that serve disadvantaged communities, such as rural, low-income, and unhoused populations. Additionally, the United Way will provide technical assistance and ongoing support to ensure that subawards meet project goals, maintain compliance with grant requirements, and effectively contribute to the resilience hub ecosystem.

Financial Support: The United Way of Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Counties (UWLBLC) will allocate \$1,000,000 over the life of the grant to provide subawards to local organizations.

Budget for Subawards Allocation

Category	Details	Amount (Life of Grant)
1. Subawards to Local Organizations	Direct funding to support local community organizations, resilience hub activities, and capacity building	\$950,000
2. Administrative Costs	Administrative rate to cover costs associated with managing and monitoring subawards, including reporting, compliance, and financial oversight	\$50,000
Total Allocation for Subawards		\$1,000,000

In this budget breakdown:

- **\$950,000** will be directly sub-awarded to local organizations to enhance resilience hub operations, provide disaster response services, and promote capacity building.
- **\$50,000** will be allocated to cover administrative costs associated with managing the subaward process, ensuring proper oversight and accountability. This includes staffing, financial reporting, monitoring compliance, and offering technical assistance to subaward recipients.

This budget ensures that local organizations receive the necessary financial support while maintaining UWLBLC's ability to effectively administer and oversee the funds.