

# Intervenor Funding

## House Committee on Energy and Environment

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# Intervenor Funding

- ORS 757.072 (2003) allows energy utilities to enter into agreements to provide financial assistance to organizations participating in PUC proceedings
- The organizations must “represent broad customer interests” and PUC must approve the agreements before financial assistance is provided
- The negotiated agreements—not ORS 757.072—govern the terms and conditions of the intervenor funding assistance



# Purpose

- To help defray the costs of intervenors' participation in PUC proceedings
  - “Intervenors” used to describe parties other than utilities and PUC Staff
  - “Proceedings” generally refer to quasi-judicial cases and quasi-legislative rulemakings
- Participation requires resources to appear and present evidence and argument on disputed factual, technical, policy, and legal issues
- Provide PUC with more robust evidentiary records and information to support decision-making



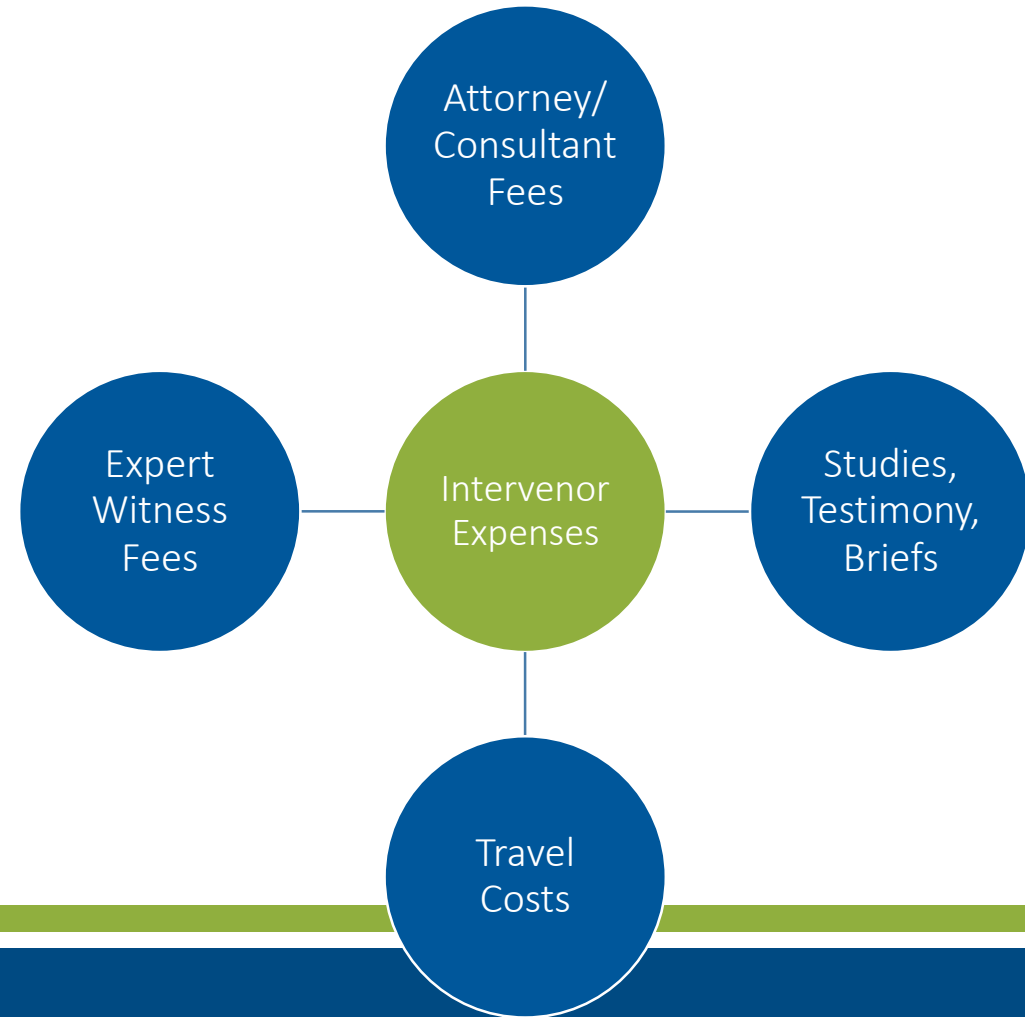
# Existing Agreements

- Under ORS 757.072, Oregon's investor-owned energy utilities have agreements with the two non-profit ratepayer organizations
  - Citizens' Utility Board – CUB (residential ratepayers)
  - Alliance of Western Energy Users – AWEC (industrial electric and gas customers)
- Organizations were created as ratepayer advocates, and had a history of advocating on behalf of residential and industrial customers in PUC proceedings



# Eligible Expenses

Intervenor funds may only be used to defray expenses directly attributable to participation in PUC proceedings



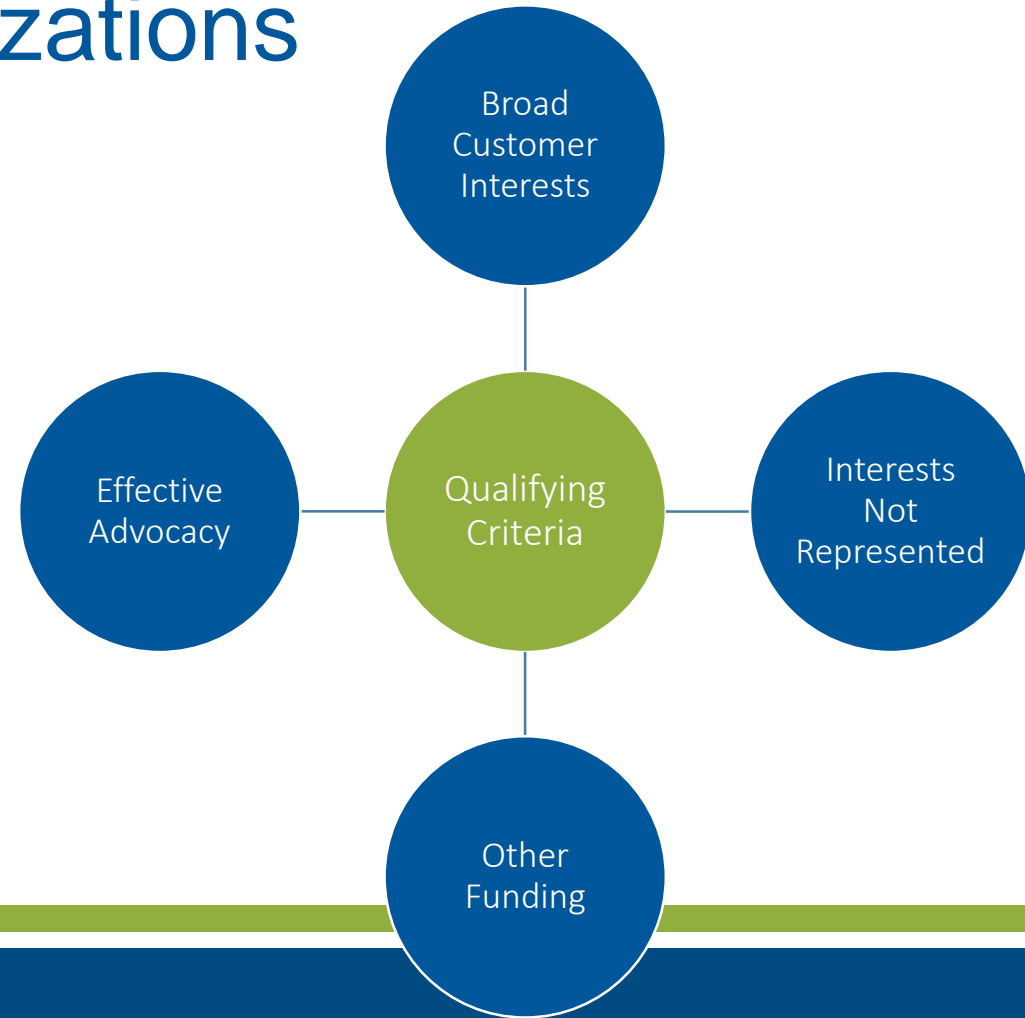
# Annual Funding Amounts

	PGE	PacifiCorp	NW Natural	Avista	Cascade	Total
CUB Fund	\$101,125	\$101,125	\$101,125	\$44,000	\$39,500	\$386,875
Matching (AWEC)	\$79,480	\$79,480	\$79,480	\$40,260	\$41,470	\$320,170
Issue Fund	\$143,750	\$143,750	\$143,750	\$70,000	\$34,500	\$535,750



# Funding for Other Organizations

Other non-profit organizations may qualify for grants from the Issues Fund on a case-by-case basis



# Scope of PUC Activities - Upcoming

## Evaluate Utility Costs and Performance

- General Rate Cases
- Annual Power Cost and Purchased Gas Cases
- Renewable Adjustment Clause (RAC) Cases
- Depreciation Cases
- Multistate Cost Allocation – PacifiCorp
- Miscellaneous Deferral and Property Filings
- Performance-Based Regulation

## Reduce Energy Burden

- COVID-19 Stipulation implementation
- Energy Burden Study with OHCS (EO 20-04)
- Energy Trust cost effectiveness tests
- Rate Design
- PUC Processes - participation enhancement
- DEI, EJ and Low-income

## Utility Safety Reliability and Resiliency

- Wildfire
  - Rulemaking & Oregon Wildfire Electric Collaborative
  - Cost-recovery / incentives in ratemaking
- Cybersecurity
- Seismic resiliency

## Competitive Providers and New Technologies

- PURPA Implementation
  - Adjudicate Complaints
  - Reform Contracts
  - Avoided Cost Pricing Review
  - Network vs Energy Interconnection
  - General Interconnection investigation
- Storage & Microgrid Pilots



# Scope of PUC Activities - Upcoming continued

## Utility Resource Planning and Acquisition

- **Generic Investigations & Processes**
  - RPS Rulemakings
  - GHG Analysis in Planning & Procurement
  - Natural Gas + Decarbonization Study
  - Resource Adequacy
  - 2021 – PGE (Flexible Load, RFPs Colstrip)
  - 2021 – PacifiCorp (IRP, RFP, MSP, Queue Reform, Klamath)
    - 2021 - Idaho Power (IRP, Transmission)
- **Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) Procurement, Implementation and Compliance Reporting**
- **Distribution System Planning**
- **Transportation Electrification Planning**
- **Transmission Planning**

## Requirements, Pricing, and Rate Design for Customer Programs

- **General Value Discovery**
  - Capacity Contribution
  - Resource Value of Solar (RVOS)
  - Cost-effectiveness analysis & co-benefits
    - Storage
    - Distributed Resources
    - Energy Efficiency
- **Community Solar Implementation**
- **Utility Green Tariffs**
- **Direct Access Review and Implementation**
- **Transportation Electrification**

# Funding Mechanics

- CUB and Matching (AWEC) Funds – upon request the PUC orders payment by utilities to intervenors
- Issue Fund – case by case process:
  - Submit proposed budgets
  - End of case request for payment
  - PUC review and order utility to pay
- Utilities ultimately collect amounts paid from ratepayers



# Collection from Ratepayers

- The agreements require that the grants be allocated to and paid by the customer class benefiting from the representation
  - CUB grants paid by residential customers
  - AWEC grants paid by the industrial customers
- Consistent with requirement that groups represent “broad ratepayer interests”
- Aligns with principle – no taxation without representation



# Future Considerations

- Types of qualifying organizations
- Amounts of financial assistance that may be provided
- Types of eligible expenses
- How the financial assistance will be distributed and recovered in rates
- Process to resolve disputes and administer the agreement

