



# 2021 K-12 Summer Learning

February 2022

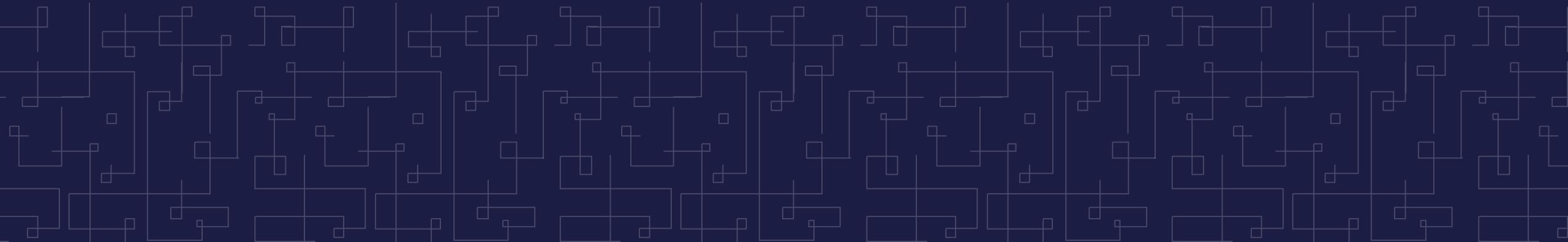
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In 2021, the Oregon State Legislature committed \$40 million for community-based organizations to help mitigate isolation due to the COVID-19 pandemic and support student readiness for the 2021-2022 school year. These grants, administered through Oregon Community Foundation (OCF), complemented additional dollars made available to school districts.

## Timeline

- Mid-March State announces summer learning funding
- April OCF opens applications
- May - July OCF team processed 650 applications, dispersing 513 grants to 497 organizations
- Oct - Jan Programs participate in OCF evaluation

# Grantmaking Overview



# Grants reached students statewide

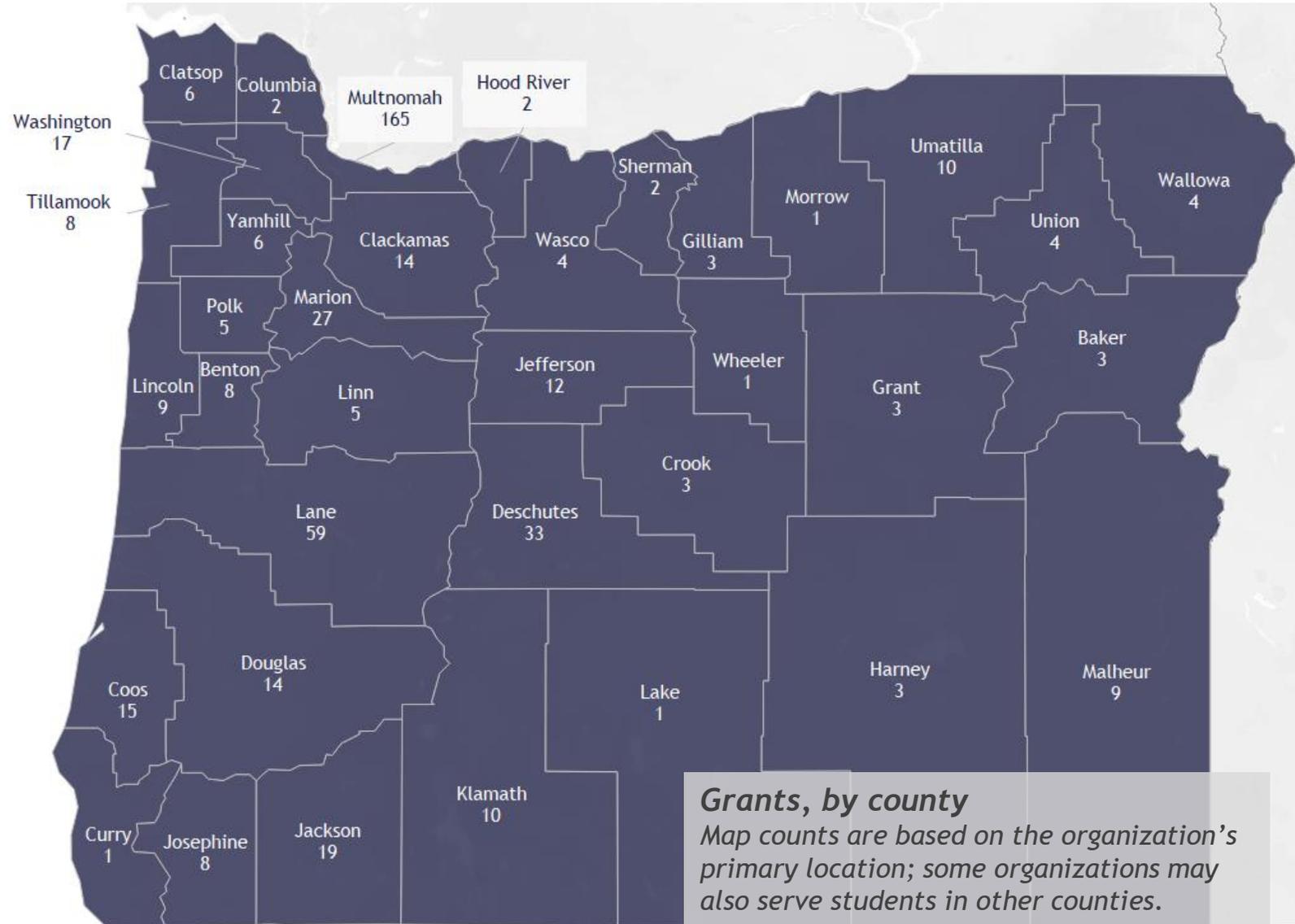
17 grants went to organizations operating statewide.

At the time of application, most programs intended to reach between 5 & 22,500 students.

All together, we estimate that programs potentially served up to

**340,000 students.\***

*\*figure may be an overestimate due to potential duplication of students across programs*



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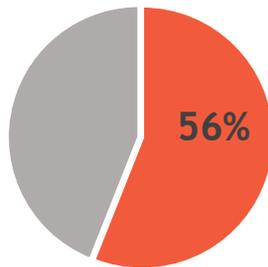
# Programs aimed to serve students with greatest need

**55%** of programs estimated that at least three-quarters of students served would be from low-income families

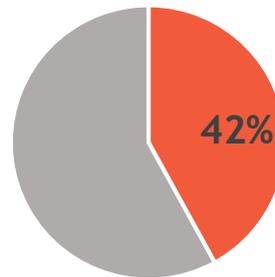
**45%** of programs estimated that at least half of students served would be students of color

## Proportion of grants intending to serve students in groups of interest

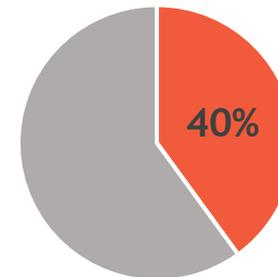
Students from rural communities



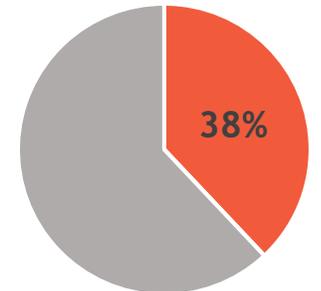
Immigrant/refugee students



Students with disabilities



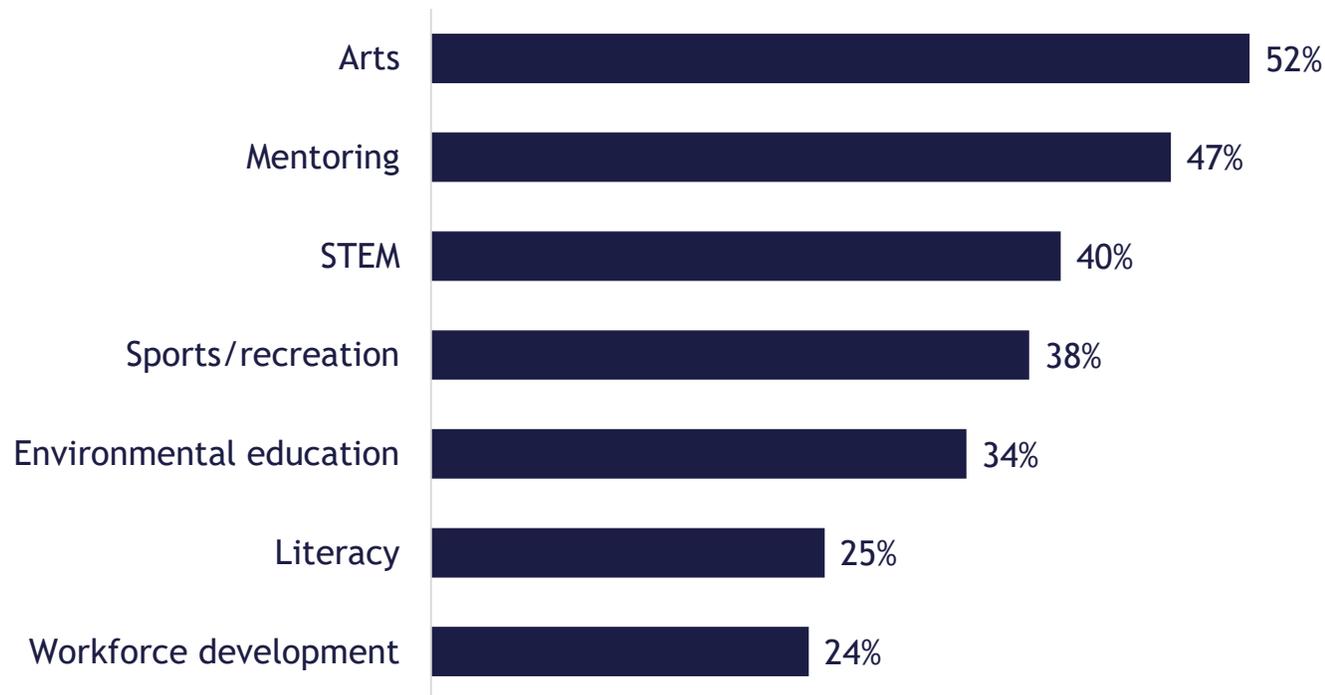
LGBTQIA+ students



# A wide range of programs were funded

## Most common focus areas

In addition to general summer programming, funded programs focused on:



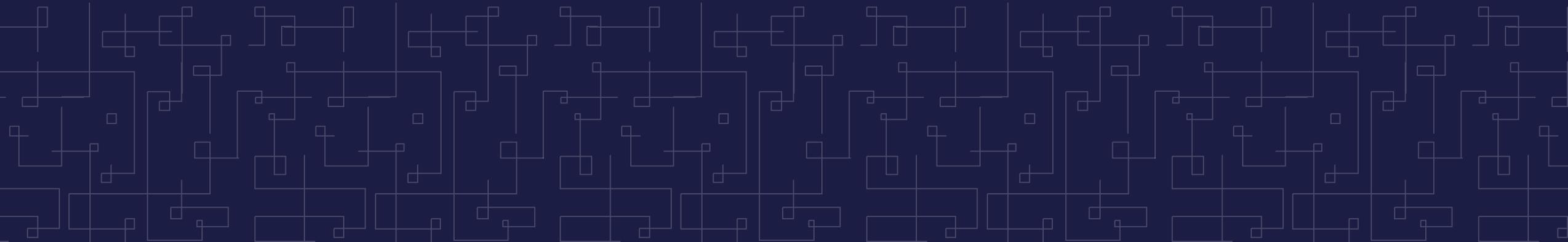
## Funding reached both small and large programs

Most grants ranged in size from \$2,500 to \$373,000.

The typical grant award was about \$50,000.

*Notes: chart shows proportion of grants made, based on program applications. Programs could select more than one area. Additional areas of focus include service learning (18%), summer school (13%) and museum learning (6%).*

# Evaluation Findings



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# Summer programs are part of the learning ecosystem

Community-based programs complement and support in-school learning by:

- Offering relevant, experiential learning opportunities
- Providing academic supports (e.g., tutoring)
- Engaging students and families in ways that mitigate isolation and help with transition into the school year
- Otherwise supporting student and family needs, a vital prerequisite for learning



Neskowin Valley School

# Student benefits according to research

Oregon-specific and national research indicates that out-of-school time programs, including summer, benefit students:

**Academically**, such as by increasing motivation and engagement in learning and building foundational competencies

**Social-emotionally**, such as through development of social skills and sense of belonging.



**The Father's Group**

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# Benefits reported by 2021 summer programs

Students experienced a wide-range of relevant learning opportunities, including **subject-specific and experiential learning** as well as **culturally-specific and culturally-relevant programming**.

Students and families benefitted through **respite and recovery**, as well as **socialization and community building**.

Some youth also gained **important leadership and work experience**.



**Color Outside the Lines**

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# Funding made possible

Programs increased opportunity for students such as by reducing barriers for low-income families not typically able to access summer programs.

Programs stretched, adapted and expanded, focusing on meeting student needs and illustrating their strength in nimbly evolving.

Some programs launched or deepened collaborations with nonprofits and schools in their communities, often improving coordination of services.



Computing in Research

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# Challenges

- COVID illuminated and intensified student and family needs (e.g., housing insecurity)
- COVID required new safety protocols
- Staffing challenges were exacerbated by COVID
- Transportation was complicated in rural communities and due to COVID safety protocols
- Timing of funding limited ability to plan
- Oregon's out-of-school time & summer programs have few stable, long-term funding resources; there is ongoing need for investment to build organizational capacity to meet demand

*“There was a lot of anxiety about going back in person; a lot of safety protocols. It was really important that we were trying to align protocols with districts and school sites.”*

– Latino Network

*“It is hard to reflect on how impactful a summer it was and how intensely challenging it was to get staff to show up despite working to meet their needs, even having a therapist on site. But everyone did a great job, their own struggles didn't impact kids having fun.”*

- Camp Fire Wilani

*“We want to expand and we have a vision. We want to professionalize the work, to pay living wages and expand programming statewide, but we need sustainability of funding. We need long-term investment.”*

- Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center

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# Final reflections

- COVID illuminated many ways that community-based programs support students & provide an important bridge to the school year, including through academic supports, socialization and community building.
- Programs were able to focus on meeting student needs and adapt nimbly—a strength of community-based organizations.
- Community-based organizations provide important culturally-specific and relevant learning opportunities.
- The infusion of funding from 2021 will have lasting positive impacts for many programs & their partners, but out-of-school time programs in Oregon still need long-term, stable funding resources.

*“I’ve learned the importance of community and developing social skills between kids. Over the summer, I saw kids set aside the stresses of online learning and witnessed as they developed crucial social and communication skills through playing with others whose backgrounds were different than their own. This experience will stick with me when planning for academic programming throughout the school year.”*

- Family YMCA of Marion & Polk Counties

*“This funding opened up opportunity to a lot of families who wouldn’t normally have participated. It’s hard to express the impact that has, but ... it was really remarkable for me on a personal level. I’m grateful to have been on that end of the reaction from so many families.”*

- River Road Park & Recreation District

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# To learn more

Grantmaking and evaluation overview and a list of all funded programs:

[www.oregoncf.org/K12summerlearning2021](http://www.oregoncf.org/K12summerlearning2021)

More Oregon research and storytelling about summer learning:

- Oregon ASK summer learning [survey report](#).
- A [recent Foundations for a Better Oregon newsletter](#) featured several summer learning programs (additional reporting expected later this winter).

## Questions?

Contact Belle Cantor, Senior Program Officer for Education, Oregon Community Foundation  
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Coos Art Museum