Serving Oregon Communities Through Applied Learning

SUSTAINABLE CITY YEAR PROGRAM (SCYP)

SCYP is a University of Oregon community-university partnership program that draws from multiple Oregon universities to help Oregon communities address household affordability, climate change, economic development, placemaking, and quality of life while also developing the next generation Oregon workforce.

SCYP CHALLENGE: SUPPORTING OREGON COMMUNITIES

SCYP has been partnering with cities across Oregon for over a decade, from Medford to La Pine to Salem to Hermiston and many in between. While the program provides tremendous capacity to community partners to meet their local goals, to become a partner, communities are expected to contribute real dollars to help support program management. This fee limits the possible community partners, both large and small. Through a short-term, current federal allocation directed by Senators Wyden and Merkley, SCYP is currently able to subsidize partnerships with some Oregon communities to help meet Climate Friendly and Equitable Communities (CFEC) statewide land use rules, but this support phases out during the 2025-26 fiscal year. SCYP seeks to follow up the expiring federal support with State support to help SCYP help the many communities that want to partner, including many of Oregon's smaller communities. And in addition to the capacity building aspects of the partnerships, an additional benefit of SCYP is exposing hundreds of undergraduate and graduate students per year to a range of Oregon communities as possible places for them to live and work after graduation.

UO SCYP REQUEST: SCYP is a very scalable, flexible, and nimble program, so we present the following three tiers of possible biennium support and what that would likely generate.

\$300k – would allow us to engage and coordinate 8+ courses, approximately 160 students in classes, and hire 9 student employees *per year* to work on a diverse set of community-defined projects

\$400k – would allow us to engage and coordinate 12+ courses, approximately 240 students in classes, and hire 13 student employees *per year* to work on a diverse set of community-defined projects **\$600k** – would allow us to engage and coordinate 16+ courses, approximately 320 students in classes, and hire 18 student employees *per year* to work on a diverse set of community-defined projects







HOUSE BILL

PROPOSAL

IMPACT OF STATE SUPPORT State support of SCYP would:

- Significantly reduce a partner city's financial contribution (SCYP would still expect some financial contribution as this increases the program impact and action);
- Allow SCYP to focus purposefully on smaller Oregon communities, bringing tremendous resources and expertise that easily integrates into existing community goals and workflows;
- Help smaller Oregon communities begin their CFEC thinking even if not required to;
 - Train the future Oregon workforce and directly connect them to wider range of Oregon communities; and
 - Continue to demonstrate international leadership in this innovative approach to university-community partnerships and the role of higher education in directly helping communities address pressing economic, social and environmental challenges.

For additional information, please contact Trent Lutz at talutz@uoregon.edu.



STUDENT PROFILE: Alex Nelson B.A. Planning, Public Policy, and Management

Alex Nelson is a native of Sandy, Oregon, and he participated in SCYP projects during two years of his undergraduate education. He regards SCYP as one of the most valuable components of his undergraduate education. Working with Albany and Tualatin gave him real experience, and helped Alex become workforceready, deepened his critical thinking skills, and helped him connect theory to practice. Following graduation, Alex joined the private sector as an assistant planner working with municipalities throughout Oregon.





