



RARE AmeriCorps Program:

Increasing Capacity in Rural Communities Across the State of Oregon



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Resource Assistance for
Rural Environments (RARE)





Who We Are

The mission of the Resource Assistance for Rural Environments (RARE) Program is to **increase the capacity of rural communities** to improve their economic, social, and environmental conditions, through the assistance of **trained graduate-level participants** who **live and work in communities for 11 months**.



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Who We Are

The RARE AmeriCorps Program has been empowering rural Oregon leaders since 1994 and has placed more than 600 members in every county in the state.

Where We Live

- AmeriCorps
- University of Oregon
 - School of Planning, Public Policy, and Management
 - Institute for Policy Research and Engagement

People

- Titus Tomlinson, Program Director
- Liz Gronert, Program Coordinator
- Ken Ward, Program Assistant
- Julie Foster, Grants Administrator



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Leveraging Resources for Rural Oregon

The RARE AmeriCorps Program strives to link, leverage, and align resources to achieve success!

University of Oregon

- Library, Software, Staff, and Faculty

Statewide Partners

- Energy Trust of Oregon, GEOS Institute, Humble Beginnings, Lake County Resources Initiative, Oregon Food Bank, Oregon Main Street, Oregon Office of Emergency Management, Sustainable NW, The Ford Family Foundation, Travel Oregon

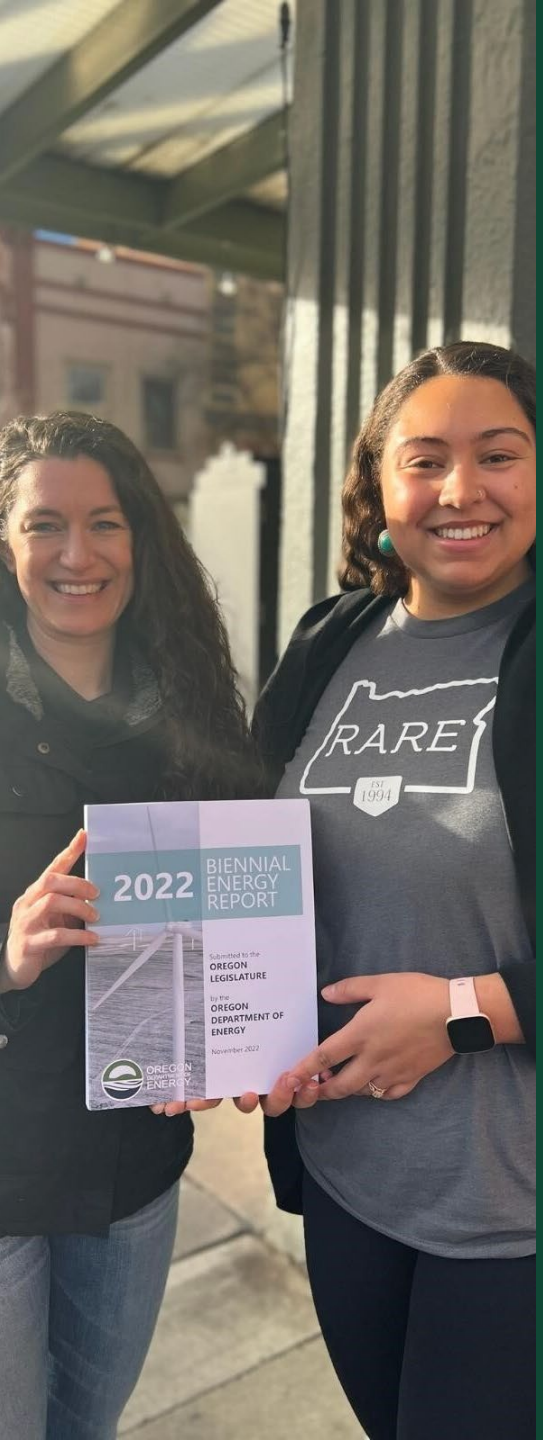
RARE Network



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What We Do

We match change-makers with communities across the state to take on meaningful and impactful placed-based projects, chosen by the communities themselves.

- Community & Economic Development
- Sustainability & Environmental Planning
- Food Systems



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Sarah Akbari
Local Food
Resources
Coordinator

***Klamath Grown &
OSU Extension***



Megan Tuck
Rural Resources
Coordinator

***Central Oregon
Intergovernmental
Council***



**Alex Alonso-
Gudiño**
Energy Impact
Specialist

***NeighborWorks
Umpqua***

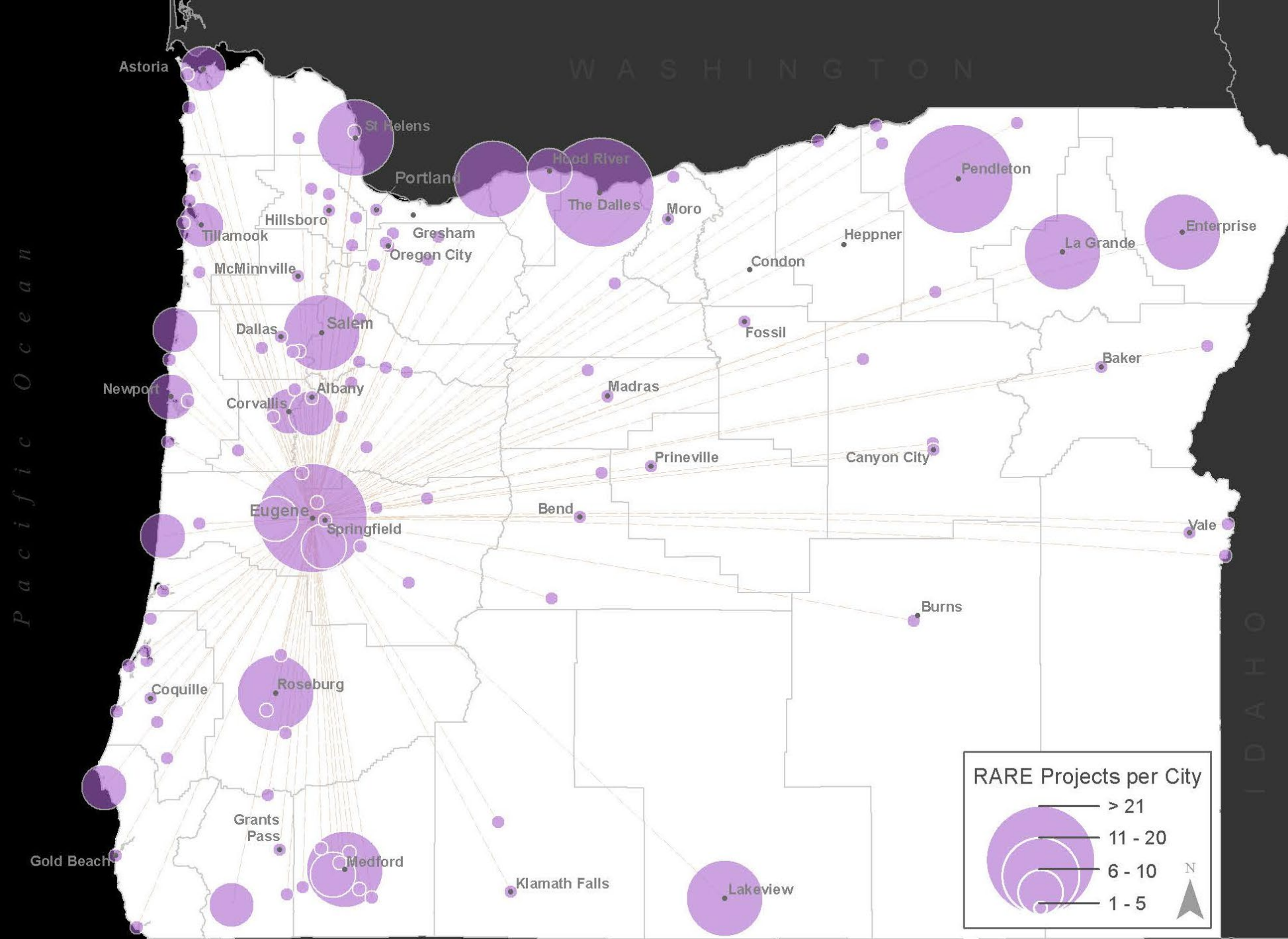


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RARE Impact



Benefits to Your Community

- 11 months/1700 hours of service from a RARE member
- Quarterly trainings for members in Community Development, Grant Writing, Communication, Economic Development, Facilitation, Leadership, Etc.
- Tools, resources, and expertise available to all members via the University of Oregon and our statewide partners
- Member and host organization support from RARE staff
- Project support and topically focused expertise from the Institute for Policy Research and Engagement
- Cross-placement collaboration
- Reduced administrative burden



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Are You RARE'n to Go?

- Local government, special district, or non-profit
- Clear goal(s) to improve social, economic, or environmental well-being for rural Oregon
 - A RARE at your organization for 11 months will help you reach those goals
 - Tangible results from your organization's projects
- Supervision and mentorship
- Able to provide tools to do the work
- September – July Timeframe
- Match: \$26,000 | Financial Support Available



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Placement Timeline

April 1 - Community Applications Due

Mid/Late April – Host Organization Interview Calls with RARE Staff

Early May - Invitation to Participate

May 29 - Position Descriptions due

June 24-28 – Placement Interviews with Members

Early July - RARE Plays Matchmaker

August 15 – Supervisor Orientation

September 9 - Member Begins Service



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Matchmaking Process



Win-win for member and host organization



Member preferences for geography, topic area



Long process – but that’s how the magic happens!

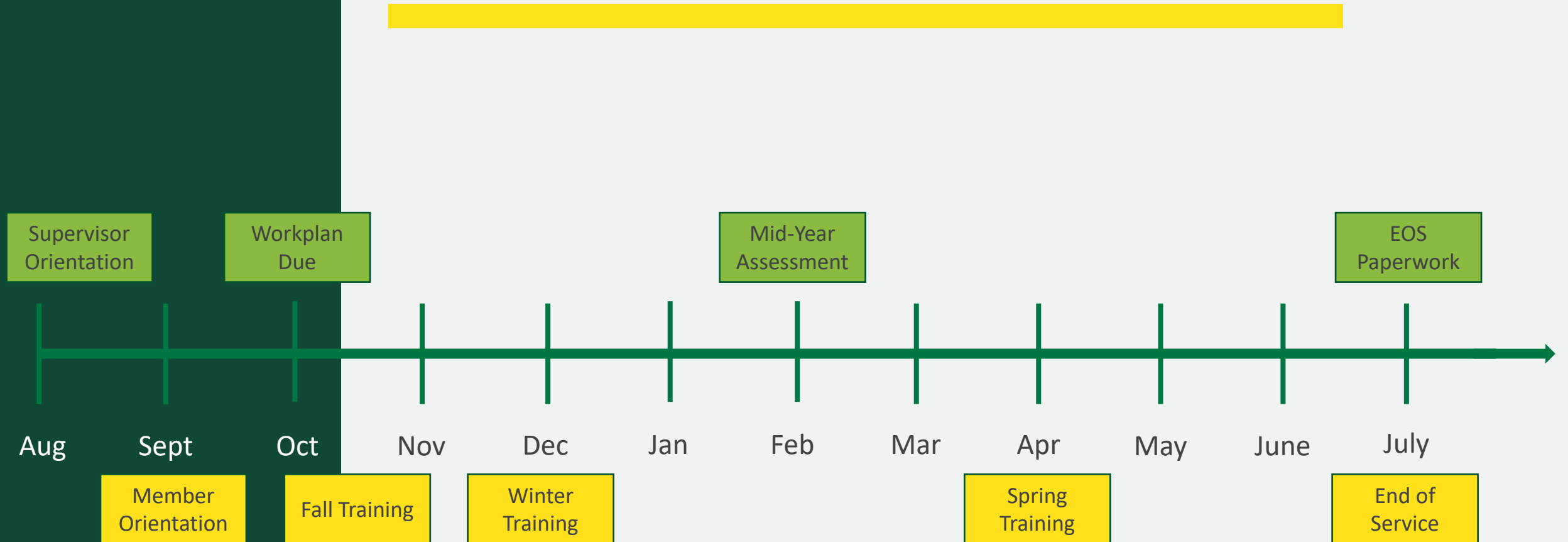


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Service Year Timeline



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What Makes a Good Application?

When selecting RARE communities, we're looking for **impactful projects and strong service-learning opportunities.**

- Project Quality – 3-5 appropriately-scaled projects
 - Outreach & Engagement
 - Sustainability
- Supervisor Readiness – supervision and mentorship
- Community Support & Capacity
- Commitment to Social Justice
- Safe spaces and places
- Rural
- Ability to match



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The RARE AmeriCorps Program

Getting Things Done for Rural Oregon!

Contact us at 541-513-9989 or rare@uoregon.edu



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