

# Resource Assistance for Rural Environments (RARE) AmeriCorps Program

*A RARE opportunity for economic, social, and environmental capacity building*



## WHO ARE WE

Serving rural Oregon since 1994, the University of Oregon's RARE AmeriCorps Program matches change-makers with communities across the state to take on meaningful and impactful place-based projects, chosen by the communities themselves.

We offer a unique opportunity to connect the personal and professional development aspirations of the next generation with the community and economic development needs of rural Oregon. Using a proven model for engagement, we provide an unparalleled service-learning experience while delivering resources, expertise, and critical capacity to rural Oregon. Our goal is to ensure a win-win scenario for our RARE AmeriCorps members and the communities we serve, making it a mutually beneficial experience.



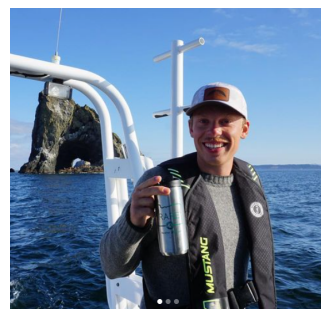
"This program provides additional capacity to rural organizations, creates an opportunity for the RARE member to grow professionally and personally and increases community member awareness of available resources. The host site is provided an enthusiastic member who quickly engages with the community and increases capacity by providing an extra set of hands and a new perspective to the work of the organization." -Christina Zamora, Klamath & Lake County Action Services

## THE RARE EXPERIENCE

RARE members live in rural communities for 11 months and support cities, counties, non-governmental organizations, or state agencies to improve economic and environmental conditions in rural Oregon. Each participating host organization provides a \$26,000 cash match of the \$50,000 needed to place, train, and support a full-time RARE member. Now in its 30th year, the RARE AmeriCorps Program has placed over 680 volunteers and served every Oregon County. Placement focus areas include: Community & Economic Development, Environmental & Sustainability Planning, and Food Systems.

### Benefits:

- 11 months/1700 hours of service from a graduate-level RARE member
- Quarterly member trainings/resources in Community Development, Grant Writing, Communication, Land Use, Economic Development, Facilitation, Leadership, Etc. to bring back to their host organizations
- Tools, resources, and expertise available to all members via the University of Oregon
- Member and Host Organization support from RARE staff
- Project support and topically focused expertise from the Institute for Policy Research and Engagement
- Member and Host Organization support from our statewide partners: Oregon Food Bank, Travel Oregon, Energy Trust of Oregon, The Ford Family Foundation, and more.



# Resource Assistance for Rural Environments (RARE) AmeriCorps Program



*A RARE opportunity for economic, social, and environmental capacity building*

## IS YOUR ORGANIZATION RARE READY?

When selecting RARE host organizations, we're looking for impactful projects and strong service-learning opportunities. We know the key to a successful RARE placement is a strong support system in the community. We've created the following guide for rural community organizations to determine eligibility and assess whether your organization is ready to apply for a RARE placement.



## TIMELINE

**April 1: Host Org Applications Due**

**Late April-Early May:** Host Org Interviews

**Mid-May:** Invitation to Participate in the Program for the 2024-25 Service Year

**May 29:** Position Descriptions Due

**June 24-28:** Members Interview with Host Orgs

**Early July:** Final Placement Decisions

**August 15:** Supervisor Orientation

**September 4-6:** Member Orientation

**September 9:** 1st Day of Service for Member

**End of July:** Last day of service

## READINESS ASSESSMENT

- ✓ Are you affiliated with a local government, special district, or non-profit?
- ✗ If not, find/partner with an eligible organization in your community
- ✓ Does your organization have a clear goal(s) to improve the social, economic, or environmental well-being of your rural community?
- ✗ If not, contact RARE for guidance
- ✓ Would the support of a motivated professional at your organization for 11 months help you reach those goals?
- ✗ If not, connect with UO's Institute for Policy Research & Engagement for other opportunities
- ✓ Is someone at your organization who would be dedicated to supervise and mentor a RARE member?
- ✗ If not, consider applying next year
- ✓ Will your organization be ready to host a RARE member in September?
- ✗ If not, consider applying next year
- ✓ Is it feasible to have tangible results from your organizations projects in 11 months?
- ✗ If not, contact RARE for guidance
- ✓ Can your organization secure funding for the required \$26,000 by July 1?
- ✗ If not, contact RARE for guidance

**You're RARE'n to go!**

When it doubt, don't hesitate to reach out the RARE team for guidance.