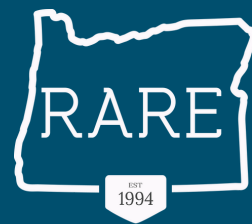


Resource Assistance for Rural Environments (RARE) AmeriCorps Program



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 placed-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.



THE RARE EXPERIENCE

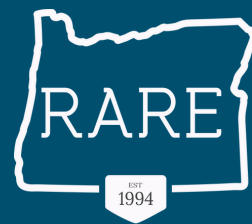
RARE members live in rural communities for 11 months and support cities, counties, non-governmental organizations, or state agencies to improve economic and environmental conditions in rural Oregon. Each participating host organization provides a \$26,000 cash match of the \$50,000 needed to place, train, 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 trainings for member and supervisor in Community Development, Grant Writing, Communication, Land Use, Economic Development, Facilitation, Leadership, Etc.
- 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.



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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.