

BEFORE THE  
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON

UM 2276

In the Matter of

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF  
OREGON,

Approval of Justice Funding  
Precertification.

NOTICE TO REQUEST HB 2475  
INTERVENOR FUNDING  
PRE-CERTIFICATION OF OREGON  
JUST TRANSITION ALLIANCE

Oregon Just Transition Alliance, a fiscally sponsored project of [Community Initiatives](#), hereby submits its Notice to Request HB 2475 Intervenor Funding Pre-Certification.

**Oregon Just Transition Alliance (OJTA)** is a movement of communities facing environmental racism, climate change, and economic exploitation – the frontlines of injustice and the frontlines of change. We bring together organizations committed to base-building in frontline communities. We gather to create ownership over our collective future and move Oregon toward an economy that is rooted in our shared values, [the principles of a Just Transition](#). Our Steering Committee includes Rogue Climate, Verde, Piñeros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste (PCUN), Beyond Toxics, Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO), and OPAL Environmental Justice.

OJTA was founded in 2017 by frontline environmental justice leaders across Oregon to help build a powerful statewide movement for a just transition. In 2019, members of OJTA came together to put forth a draft platform for an Oregon Green New Deal. In 2020, we launched the Frontline Organizers Rising cohort, who led the statewide Oregon Green New Deal Listening Tour, hosting virtual listening sessions across the state to inform the next iteration of the Oregon Green New Deal. In the fall of 2020, OJTA and frontline base-building organizations from across the state came together for energy justice, launching our first-ever joint legislative campaign, Oregon Clean Energy Opportunity, and Energy Justice Leadership Institute, a statewide leadership program for frontline community members.

In July 2021, in collaboration with the Energy Democracy Coalition, we won the Oregon Clean Energy Opportunity campaign, successfully passing into law three groundbreaking bills: **HB 2475, to reduce energy bills**, HB 2842, to support home upgrades to help keep families healthy, and HB 2021, to create good jobs in clean energy projects and require our utilities to reach 100% clean energy by 2040.

Since the passage of HB 2021 and HB 2475, OJTA has been participating in the HB 2021 Energy Advocates group. Recognizing a need to have further direct community engagement and education, OJTA co-launched the HB 2021 Community Advocates program in October 2022, in collaboration with Rogue Climate, Coalition of Communities of Color, Verde, Northwest Energy Council, and Multnomah County Office of Sustainability.

All of our advocacy at the local, state, agency, and federal levels has been with and on behalf of frontline communities or environmental justice communities, prioritizing the needs of people of color, low-income families, people with disabilities, and people in rural areas, those most impacted by the climate crisis. We bring together community-based, base building organizations from across the state who are led by and serve frontline communities. In addition to our Steering Committee organizations listed above, our member organizations include Adelante Mujeres, Unite Oregon, Oregon Rural Action, Portland Harbor Community Coalition, and Imagine Black.

OJTA's continued engagement in HB 2021 and HB 2475 proceedings would center energy burdened and environmental justice communities, acting as a convenor and spokesperson of our member organizations' concerns and priorities, and directly engaging community members on the ground. We will continue to advocate for accessibility in utility resource planning, working to reduce barriers for engagement for those most impacted by public utility decisions.

Justice funding would help OJTA build the infrastructure to achieve the above by hiring a full-time staff member to lead this work, engage in several dockets as outlined below, represent OJTA as part of the HB 2021 Energy Advocates, and lead community engagement efforts. It would pass through funding to two member organizations interested in engaging in this work, especially in underrepresented communities who have not previously participated in energy justice, including in rural Oregon and Latinx communities (e.g., Oregon Rural Action and Adelante Mujeres).

OJTA anticipates several dockets that have not yet been released which we may have involvement in, as they relate to public utility issues affecting the interests of low-income residential customers or environmental justice communities, including but not limited to interests in utility rates and terms and conditions of service, interests in the cost of access and impact from the delivery of services, interest in utility programs, and interest in utility resource planning. This could include: issues that arise from IRP and rate cases, decarbonization/electrification, grid equity, equity metrics, disconnections, and resilience.

In addition, OJTA plans to be involved in the following dockets:

UM 2211 - Implementation of HB 2475 (ADV 1365, ADV 1390, ADV 1412):

UM 2211 is a non-contested docket that addresses the implementation of HB 2475 (Energy Affordability Act). This docket impacts energy burdened households across Oregon, as utilities

are tasked to consider feedback from stakeholders, such as OJTA, to create programs to address energy burden for low-income and underserved customers.

OJTA intends to participate in the following dockets for each utility program that fall within UM 2211: PGE Advice Income Qualified Bill Discount (ADV 1365), NWN's Advice Residential Low-Income Bill Discount Program (ADV 1390), and PacifiCorp Low-Income Bill Discount Program (ADV 1412). In these proceedings, the applicant plans to inform our alliance and provide feedback on program eligibility, enrollment, verification, level of relief, outreach, engagement, and timeline to ensure that these programs adequately address the energy burden faced by low-income and underserved communities.

These types of matters are eligible proceedings because they involve the development and implementation of programs that affect the rights and needs of low-income and underserved communities in the energy sector. OJTA has a stake in ensuring that these programs are designed and implemented in a way that is fair, equitable, and effective.

#### UM 2225 - HB 2021 Implementation:

OJTA plans to participate in this docket by advocating for the implementation of HB 2021, which promotes equitable access to clean energy for all Oregonians. OJTA believes that this docket is eligible because it aligns with the organization's mission to promote community-based solutions to energy issues, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions and ensuring equitable access to clean energy. We will continue to support programming for the HB 2021 Community Advocates, which will run through October 2023. These 13 community members from across the state learn about energy justice, how to engage with the PUC and utilities, and how to comment and influence HB 2021 plans, including Integrated Resource Plans and Clean Energy Plans.

#### UM 2178 - Natural Gas Fact Finding:

OJTA plans to participate in this docket UM 2178 by providing feedback on how the natural gas fact-finding process can align with the organization's goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, ensuring the equitable distribution of costs, and promoting long-term planning. OJTA believes that this docket is eligible because it aligns with our alliance's mission to promote community-based solutions to energy issues, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions and ensuring equitable access to energy.

#### UG 435 - NWN Rate Revision Intervenor Case:

OJTA successfully advocated for expanding NW Natural's low-income energy assistance program by lifting up the voice of an Energy Justice Leadership Institute graduate. OJTA plans to continue its involvement in this case by advocating for more equitable rates for residential customers. OJTA believes that this docket is eligible because it affects low-income and

underserved communities, and OJTA’s participation helps ensure that the interests of these communities are represented in the rate revision process.

LC 79 NWN IRP Intervenor:

OJTA believes that this docket is eligible because it aligns with the organization's mission to promote community-based solutions to energy issues and to ensure that low-income and underserved communities are not disproportionately affected by the actions of utility companies.

LC 77 PAC IRP Intervenor:

OJTA believes that this docket is eligible because it is related to energy planning, which is an important aspect of OJTA’s mission to promote community-based solutions to a just transition, including energy issues.

AR 655 - Rulemaking Regarding Filing, Review, and Update of Clean Energy Plans:

OJTA plans to participate in this docket as a member of the Energy Advocates coalition, which is advocating for communities to be meaningfully involved in utility clean energy plans. OJTA believes that this docket is eligible because it aligns with our mission to promote community-based solutions to a just transition, including energy issues, ensuring that underserved communities are included in the clean energy planning process.

UM 2005 - Distribution System Planning:

The purpose of Docket UM 2005 is to establish a framework for distribution system planning, including how utilities should plan for and accommodate distributed energy resources (DERs) and ensure reliability and safety of the electric grid. OJTA intends to participate in this docket as it aligns with our mission to increase the use of renewable energy sources and expand access to energy for underserved communities. OJTA will advocate for the inclusion of community input in the planning process to ensure that low-income and environmental justice communities are not left behind in the transition to a more distributed, clean energy system.

**OJTA's PUC Intervenor Funding Budget - 2023**

	<u>Total Expense</u>	<u>Intervenor Funding Request</u>
<i>Staff time</i>		
Salary of 1 FTE	including benefits \$65,000	\$84,500 \$42,250
<i>Subgrants to Member organizations</i>		
Member organization of OJTA		\$30,000 \$30,000
Member organization of OJTA		\$20,000 \$10,000

*Community Stipends and Outreach*

Stipends for community participation (e.g., HB 2021 Community Advocates program, travel reimbursements, child care, access needs, community stipends for focus groups, educational events)

\$10,000 \$7,750

Spanish translation and interpretation

\$5,000

Outreach materials (e.g., website, printed materials, etc.)

\$5,000

*Overhead*

fiscal sponsorship fee

\$10,000 \$10,000

Total

\$164,500 **\$100,000**

**OJTA's PUC Intervenor**

**Funding by Utility**

	<u>PGE</u>	<u>Northwest Natural</u>	<u>PacifiCorp</u>	<u>Total</u>
<i>Staff time</i>				
Salary + benefits of .5 FTE	\$14,083	\$14,084	\$14,083	\$42,250
<i>Subgrants to Member organizations</i>				
Member organization of OJTA			\$30,000	\$30,000
Member organization of OJTA	\$5,000	\$5,000		\$10,000
<i>Community Stipends and Outreach</i>				
Stipends for community participation (e.g., HB 2021 Community Advocates program, travel reimbursements, child care, access needs, community stipends for focus groups, educational events)	\$2,583	\$2,583	\$2,583	\$7,750
Outreach materials	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Overhead</i>				
fiscal sponsorship fee	\$3,333	\$3,334	\$3,333	\$10,000

