

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
OF OREGON**

UM 2405

In the Matter of

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF  
OREGON,

Investigation Into HB 3179  
Implementation.

ORDER

**DISPOSITION: CASE CERTIFICATION REQUEST GRANTED; PROPOSED  
BUDGET APPROVED**

On March 24, 2026, Community Energy Project (CEP) filed a notice of intent to request Justice Funding Case Fund Grant consistent with Order No. 25-409<sup>1</sup> and OAR 860-001-0800 through OAR 860-001-0900. CEP's notice of intent included a proposed budget, as permitted under OAR 860-001-0860(5), and presented a proposed allocation of budget between requested Case Funds. On April 2, 2026, CEP filed a supplement to its filing.

To be eligible for a Case Fund grant, an organization's notice of intent must:

- a. demonstrate that it represents the interests of low-income residential customers or Environmental Justice Communities, and participation in proceedings will be primarily directed at public utility issues affecting those interests, 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;
- b. indicate the particular Environmental Justice Community or low-income customers it represents and demonstrate that it is able to effectively represent them;
- c. demonstrate that it is able to effectively represent or develop advocacy positions benefitting or informed by the Environmental Justice Community or low-income customers, in the service area of each utility for which funding is sought and

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<sup>1</sup> *In the Public Utility Commission of Oregon, House Bill 2475, Environmental Justice Communities Funding Agreement*, Docket No. UM 2389, Order No. 25-409 (Oct. 15, 2025).

- demonstrates how it will identify the issues or advocacy positions that are important to them;
- d. where applicable, indicate where in past Commission matters the organization demonstrated the ability to substantively contribute to the record on behalf of such interests; and
  - e. the Participating Public Utility account or accounts from which the applicant seeks funds through its grant request.

An organization's Case Fund Grant budget proposal must include:

- a. a statement of work, estimated eligible expenses;
- b. a description of the areas or issues to be investigated and addressed by the organization;
- c. a detail of estimated eligible expenses, which may include support staff, operational support, and consultant and expert witness fees;
- d. a description of the low-income customers or Environmental Justice Communities that will benefit from the organization's participation; and
- e. a description of the Participating Public utility account(s) from which the organization seeks funds and how payments should be apportioned.

The Commission may, but is not obligated to consider any of the following factors:

- a. the breadth and complexity of the issues or the importance of community participation;
- b. the degree to which any policy issues affect the interests of low-income residential customers or the interests of residential customers that are members of Environmental Justice Communities;
- c. the proposed budget;
- d. whether the organization has significant ties to the Environmental Justice Community or low-income customers in the service area of each utility for which pre-certification or funding from a Case Fund is sought;
- e. the qualifications of the applicant and experience before the Commission; and
- f. the level of available funding available under the agreement.

In Order Nos. 25-409 and 25-529,<sup>2</sup> the Commission determined that CEP is an eligible organization for the Portland General Electric Company; PacifiCorp. dba Pacific Power; and Northwest Natural Gas Company funds under OAR 860-001-0840. In its request in this docket, CEP explained its prior engagement with communities in Eastern, Central and Southern Oregon, including its participation on Avista's Equity Advisory Group, engagement in Cascade Natural Gas Company's recent general rate case, and the Commission's finding regarding CEP's representation of customers in the Idaho Power

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<sup>2</sup> *Id.*, Order No. 25-529 (Dec. 24, 2025).

Company service territory as support for its request for monies from all six Case Fund accounts.

CEP states that it will direct its participation to highlight the interests of low-income communities and the effect of rate increases on front line communities, as well as issues of affordability and equity considerations resulting from multi-year rate plans, and performance standards for utilities. CEP explains it also will host virtual listening sessions to engage ratepayers from all across Oregon on issues including energy insecurity, and access to energy assistance programs, to inform its overall advocacy to the Commission.

As noted, CEP included a proposed budget for consideration. CEP requests case funding in the amount of \$32,280, spread equally across all six Case Fund accounts. CEP requests a progress payment of 50 percent of its total request. No party objected to CEP's notice of intent or proposed scope of work.

The Commission has the authority to accept, deny, or partially deny the request, and may place reasonable conditions on the grant, and may delegate this responsibility to the Chief Administrative Law Judge, consistent with Order No. 25-408.<sup>3</sup>

CEP's proposed budget includes the requisite information and reflects the anticipated activity in this docket. No party opposed the proposed budget. Considering the issues being addressed, the complexity of the issues and the significant policy decisions to be made, the proposed budget is reasonable and should be approved.

## ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Community Energy Project is certified to receive Case Funds in this docket.
2. Community Energy Project's proposed budget is approved.
3. A Justice Funding Case Fund Grant is approved for the Community Energy Project up to \$5,380 from the 2026 Idaho Power Company Case Fund for activity in docket UM 2405.

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<sup>3</sup> *In the Matter of Public Utility Commission of Oregon, The Delegation of Certain Duties and Powers of the Public Utility Commission of Oregon*, Docket No. CD 27, Order No. 25-408 (Oct. 15), 2025.

4. Idaho Power Company pay \$2,690 from the 2026 Idaho Power Case Fund to Community Energy Project within 30 days after receipt of this order, and the grant be assessed to Idaho Power Company's residential customers.
5. A Justice Funding Case Fund Grant is approved for the Community Energy Project up to \$5,380 from the 2026 Portland General Electric Company Case Fund for activity in docket UM 2405.
6. Portland General Electric Company pay \$2,690 from the 2026 Portland General Electric Company Case Fund to Community Energy Project within 30 days after receipt of this order, and the grant be assessed to Portland General Electric Company's residential customers.
7. A Justice Funding Case Fund Grant is approved for the Community Energy Project up to \$5,380 from the 2026 PacifiCorp Case Fund for activity in docket UM 2405.
8. PacifiCorp, dba Pacific Power, pay \$2,690 from the 2026 PacifiCorp Case Fund to Community Energy Project within 30 days after receipt of this order, and the grant be assessed to PacifiCorp, dba Pacific Power's residential customers.
9. A Justice Funding Case Fund Grant is approved for the Community Energy Project up to \$5,380 from the 2026 NW Natural Gas Company dba NW Natural Case Fund for activity in docket UM 2405.
10. NW Natural Gas Company pay \$2,690 from the 2026 NW Natural Gas Company dba NW Natural Case Fund to Community Energy Project within 30 days after receipt of this order, and the grant be assessed to NW Natural Gas Company dba NW Natural's residential customers.
11. A Justice Funding Case Fund Grant is approved for the Community Energy Project up to \$5,380 from the 2026 Avista Corporation dba Avista Utilities Case Fund for activity in docket UM 2405.
12. Avista Corporation dba Avista Utilities pay \$2,690 from the 2026 Avista Corporation dba Avista Utilities Case Fund to Community Energy Project within 30 days after receipt of this order, and the grant be assessed to Avista Corporation dba Avista Utilities' residential customers.

13. A Justice Funding Case Fund Grant is approved for the Community Energy Project up to \$5,380 from the 2026 Cascade Natural Gas Corporation Case Fund for activity in docket UM 2405.
14. Cascade Natural Gas Corporation pay \$2,690 from the 2026 Cascade Natural Gas Corporation Case Fund to Community Energy Project within 30 days after receipt of this order, and the grant be assessed to Cascade Natural Gas Corporation's residential customers.

Made, entered, and effective Apr 21, 2026.



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Alison Lackey  
Chief Administrative Law Judge

