



## Program Information

July marks the soft launch phase of the GRO program! The following is high-level information on what to expect over the next few months.

The **first GRO cohort** consists of the Independence, Florence, Klamath Falls and John Day communities. We look forward to the peer learning that will happen via quarterly gatherings (virtual and in-person) and the natural outreach and sharing of information amongst the communities.

The **GRO Core Team** will be working together to support the cohort and its community coaches. The Team includes:

- The Ford Family Foundation - Kathleen Flanagan, Community Economic Development and Katie Jameson, Ford Institute for Community Building. Rozalyn Mock will be with us until July 29 at which time she is leaving the Foundation to attend graduate school.
- Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council (COIC) – Scott Aycock and Janel Ruehl, Community and Economic Development
- E2 Entrepreneurial Ecosystems – Don Macke
- NetWork Kansas – Steve Radley
- Program and Policy Insight – Kendra Lodewick, Kirsten Smith, and Kari Parsons

We held off on hiring the **community coach(es)** until we knew the geographic location of the cohort communities. COIC has released an RFP for the community coach(es) and we expect to select 1 or 2 coaches to serve the four communities by the end of August. As a reminder, the community coach will help with broad community engagement, moving the work forward, and making connections to existing resources. The Foundation's community building approach will be woven into the GRO program with the assistance and guidance of staff from our Ford Institute for Community Building.

Program and Policy Insight (PPI) has begun working on a framework for program evaluation that can adapt to a dynamic contextual environment and/or lessons learned from early program implementation. Although the GRO program is likely to develop overarching shared goals across the effort, the implementation, activities, and measures of progress are likely to vary across communities. Additionally, PPI will develop community vignettes as an effective means of communicating each grantee's unique community context. It also is an opportunity to collect baseline data on your entrepreneurial ecosystem, conditions, and enablers at the start of the GRO program to facilitate tracking changes in the community's infrastructure over time.

**e2 Entrepreneurial Ecosystems** will conduct Development Opportunity Profiles and Market Opportunity Profiles for each community, which will provide data that informs your entrepreneurial ecosystem building strategy. Early work with your community coach and e2 will focus on geographically defining your ecosystem.

As mentioned in the cohort selection email, COIC is starting to play an active role in the management of the GRO program and the Foundation will be play more of a supporting role. You can expect COIC to facilitate the scheduling of meetings with PPI and e2 until the community coach(es) are assigned. It is our way of trying to minimize redundancy in collection of data and scheduling of meetings. If we fail to do so, please hold us accountable.

Your immediate **next step** is to submit a grant application as detailed in the email. If you have any challenges with the application process, please contact Rozalyn. Questions about the information in this document can be directed to Kathleen Flanagan at [kflanagan@tfff.org](mailto:kflanagan@tfff.org) or by calling 541-957-2562.