



Andy Parks &lt;aparks@geloregon.com&gt;

**Central Electric US Dept. of Energy grant letter of support**

2 messages

**Will VanVector** <Will.VanVector@crookcountyor.gov>

Tue, Mar 5, 2024 at 2:54 PM

To: Andy Parks &lt;aparks@geloregon.com&gt;, Kelsey Lucas &lt;kelsey@edcoinfo.com&gt;

Cc: Sarah Puermer &lt;Sarah.Puermer@crookcountyor.gov&gt;

Hi Kelsey and Andy,

CEC is asking for a letter of support to submit with a grant request from the US Department of Energy. CEC provided a letter template, but I don't know how to fill in the some of the blanks based on what they are asking for.

I have copied and pasted below (in italics) the note from CEC regarding the nature of the request. I've also attached the draft letter of support. As you will see, I'm unsure how to fill in the blanks regarding workforce development programs, etc.

If you have any thoughts on how those portions of the letter might be completed, please let me know. Thanks!

*The County Court would be ideal if it can be approved and submitted to CEC by around March 12; if not, then staff. I have attached the community partner letter template provided by our grant consultants.*

*For background, Central Electric is pursuing U.S. Department of Energy grant funding through its Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships Program (GRIP). Our approximate \$18.2 million project would benefit communities in Crook County by constructing a new substation (Millican), four miles of new transmission, upgrading 16.3 miles of transmission line, initially built in 1963, with new conductors, metal poles replacing wooden poles, and static wire. The upgrades to the electric infrastructure will also be more resilient to wildfire threats.*

*The upgrades will increase capacity in the Prineville area to make economic development possible and give CEC access to unavailable renewable energy sources. Once completed, the project will also provide a redundant point of delivery—greater reliability—for nine existing substations and the one proposed substation for communities between Redmond and Prineville, including Justice40 communities.*

*The grant application includes a Community Benefits Plan detailing how CEC can partner with community organizations, and we would greatly appreciate a letter from the County Court expressing its support for the project and desire to be an active partner with CEC.*

*The letter can briefly highlight the need for the project due to the loss of numerous economic development opportunities because of the current limited capacity, the benefits the project could bring to the City, and how the City is committed to partnering with CEC to bring awareness of the project to the area and to help solicit community input and support.*

*PEDCO, the City of Prineville, BPA have agreed to submit letters. We are also pursuing community organizations, and creating paid internships for prospective students at COCC and OSU-Cascades. Any suggestions you may have would be appreciated.*

*Please let us know if you have any questions, or need additional information.*

**Will Van Vector, Director**

Crook County Community Development

Phone 541.447.3211

Email [will.vanvector@crookcountyor.gov](mailto:will.vanvector@crookcountyor.gov)300 NE 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Prineville, Oregon  
97754



Andy Parks <aparks@geloregon.com>

### Central Electric US Dept. of Energy grant letter of support

**Kelsey Lucas** <kelsey@edcoinfo.com>

Tue, Mar 5, 2024 at 4:34 PM

To: Will VanVactor <Will.VanVactor@crookcountyor.gov>, Andy Parks <aparks@geloregon.com>

Cc: Sarah Puerner <Sarah.Puerner@crookcountyor.gov>

Hi Will,

Brent from CEC asked our EDCO program to do one of these for Crook County as well, so I can share that when it's done in the next couple of days. I'm not super clear on it yet either, but here is the original letter template he sent to use and then sent the updated one that you shared and said to limit letters of support to one page due by Friday.

I will say that in their territory we have lost quite a few state lead site tours, because their upgrades were projected to take five years and cost ~\$30ish million dollars to upgrade substations which pretty quickly took us out of the running for large manufacturing, food production, high technology type of projects.

I'll keep you posted.

Thanks!

**Kelsey Lucas**

Prineville/Crook County Director

[kelsey@edcoinfo.com](mailto:kelsey@edcoinfo.com)

(541) 213-3169



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**From:** Will VanVactor <Will.VanVactor@crookcountyor.gov>

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 5, 2024 2:54 PM

**To:** Andy Parks <aparks@geloregon.com>; Kelsey Lucas <kelsey@edcoinfo.com>

**Cc:** Sarah Puerner <Sarah.Puerner@crookcountyor.gov>

**Subject:** Central Electric US Dept. of Energy grant letter of support

[Quoted text hidden]

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 **GRIP Letter of Commitment Template\_DRAFT 2024.02.12.docx**  
32K

Please remove header below and place on organization's letterhead (no page limit).  
U.S. Department of Energy Grid Resilience and Innovative Partnership (GRIP)  
Central Electric Cooperative Letter of Commitment Template  
Content

[DATE]

U.S. Department of Energy  
Grid Resilience and Innovative Partnership Program  
1000 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, DC 20585

**RE: Central Electric Cooperative Letter of Commitment**

Dear U.S. Department of Energy,

I am a representative of [ORGANIZATION], a/an [ORGANIZATION TYPE] that [OVERVIEW OF SERVICES]. We commit to working with Central Electric Cooperative (CEC) on the Crook County Loop, Hardening, and Reconductoring project.

If CEC is awarded GRIP funding, [ORGANIZATION NAME] commits to being an active project partner. CEC's plan to provide increased electrical capacity and reliability aligns with [ORGANIZATION NAME]'s initiatives, including [1-2 EXAMPLES OF LOCAL INITIATIVES].

[ORGANIZATION NAME] commits to the following activities: [Please select all that apply, edit, and add additional activities.]

1. Participating in project launch planning activities;
2. Serving on an advisory board for the Community Benefits Plan;
3. Promoting the Crook County Loop, Hardening, and Reconductoring project at events, via social media, and other marketing channels within eligible communities located in [LIST COUNTIES, AND/OR MUNICIPALITIES];
4. Providing outreach and education to [TARGET AUDIENCE]
5. Using approved project materials to engage with [TARGET AUDIENCE] who will benefit from this project via [OUTCOMES] and,
6. Participating in ongoing periodic meeting throughout the duration of the project.

[ORGANIZATION NAME] proposes to provide [DOLLAR AMOUNT] as a [CASH or IN-KIND] contribution to implement the above activities.

We look forward to supporting this effort that will provide immediate and long-term benefits to position our communities for future success by having an electrical system that is resilient to multi-hazards and facilitates access to clean, renewable energy resulting in decarbonization and healthier air quality.

Sincerely,

[Name, Title, Organization]

March 6, 2024

U.S. Department of Energy  
Grid Resilience and Innovative Partnership Program  
1000 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, DC 20585

**RE: Central Electric Cooperative Community Partnership Documentation**

Dear U.S. Department of Energy,

The Crook County Court is committed to working with Central Electric Cooperative (CEC) on the Crook County Loop, Hardening, and Reconductoring project. If CEC is awarded GRIP funding, Crook County commits to being an active project partner in support of the Community Benefits Plan.

CEC's plan to provide increased electrical capacity and reliability aligns with Crook County's goals, including sustainable economic development opportunities and a resilient power grid serving our communities.

[ORGANIZATION NAME] has [EXISTING] partnership including:

1. [SPECIFY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM(S)] such as:
2. [NAME OF] Labor Union(s)
3. [NAME(S) OF TRIBAL ORGANIZATION(S)]
4. [COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATION(S)] that work with [SPECIFY TYPE] community-based organization(s)

[ORGANIZATION NAME] has [PLANNED] partnerships including:

1. [SPECIFY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM(S)] such as:
2. [NAME OF] Labor Union(s)
3. [NAME(S) OF TRIBAL ORGANIZATION(S)]
4. [COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATION(S)] that work with [SPECIFY TYPE] community-based organization(s)

We look forward to supporting this effort that will provide immediate and long term benefits to position our communities for future success by having an electrical system that is resilient to multi-hazards and facilitates access to clean, renewable energy resulting in decarbonization and healthier air quality.

Sincerely,

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Judge Seth Crawford

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Commissioner Susan Hermreck

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Commissioner Brian Barney