



The Best of Oregon

CITY of BEAVERTON

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COMMUNITY GROUPS INVITED TO APPLY FOR BEAVERTON IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION PROJECT GRANTS

BEAVERTON, Ore. – Community groups are invited to apply for the City of Beaverton’s first ever immigrant integration mini-grants. The grants are designed for small, community-driven projects that aim to welcome immigrants into the city. The goals are to increase opportunities for cross-cultural exchange, support welcoming and connected neighborhoods, build relationships and understanding to unite residents, and foster pride in Beaverton’s diverse community. The maximum grant size is \$500 and applications are due **Friday, May 20 at 5 p.m.** Funds must be used for activities occurring in 2016.

Examples of eligible projects include sharing culture through food, art projects celebrating neighborhood diversity, business tours, film screenings, athletic activities, or educational workshops and advocacy events.

The immigrant integration mini-grants are part of the larger Welcoming Beaverton initiative, which recognizes, welcomes, and supports the successful integration of our local immigrant community. The City of Beaverton is a proud member of the national Welcoming Cities and Counties initiative, a network of municipalities across the country working to create more welcoming, immigrant-friendly environments that maximize opportunities for economic growth and cultural vitality for all.

Beaverton became a Welcoming City in April 2015 and hosted its first Welcoming Week in September 2015. Welcoming Week is a series of events that brings together immigrants and U.S.-born residents in a spirit of unity. Last year, the city celebrated with the launch of the Beaverton Night Market, a naturalization ceremony, and Citizenship Corner opening at the library, among other events.

Applicants are asked to consider hosting their grant-funded activities during Welcoming Week 2016, which will be celebrated from Sept. 16 to 25. If the funded activity does not occur that week, grantees are required to participate in another way.

The grant application is available online in English and Spanish at www.BeavertonOregon.gov/WelcomingWeek. For more information, contact the City of Beaverton’s Cultural Inclusion Program at equity@BeavertonOregon.gov.

ABOUT BEAVERTON

Beaverton is a welcoming and responsible city that enjoys one of the most diverse populations in Oregon. In 2015, Beaverton was recognized as one of the **safest cities** in the Pacific Northwest (according to CQ Press with cities more than 75,000). Recently, the city's award-winning finance department received the **Distinguished Budget Presentation Award** as well as the **Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting**. In 2012, the city was awarded the **Mayors' Climate Protection Award** from the U.S. Conference of Mayors. It was named one of the **best places to raise kids** by *BusinessWeek* magazine. The city was named **one of the top 25 Suburbs for Retirement** by *Forbes.com* and **one of the 100 Best Walking Cities in America** by *Prevention* magazine. The city also received the **Recycler of the Year** award from the Association of Oregon Recyclers, named a **Tree City USA** by the Arbor Day Foundation, received a **Silver Award Bicycle Friendly Community** designation by the League of American Bicyclists, and recognized as one of the Environmental Protection Agency's **Green Power Communities**. Lastly, the city's nationally acclaimed visioning program was named **Public Involvement Project of the Year—Best Planning Project** by the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) Cascade Chapter and also received the prestigious **3CMA Award of Excellence**.

For more information, reminders and community news, visit www.BeavertonOregon.gov. Also follow Beaverton on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CityofBeaverton, or Twitter at www.twitter.com/CityofBeaverton.

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