

MT. HOOD CABLE REGULATORY COMMISSION

Community Technology Grants

Review of Program Impacts: 2014 - 2018

41
Projects

The Mt. Hood Cable Regulatory Commission (MHCRC) has operated the Community Technology Grants program for over 20 years, with a mission of supporting Multnomah County organizations' use of **technology resources for public benefit**.

\$3.5
MILLION
Awarded

This review examined the effectiveness of the MHCRC Community Technology Grants program, focusing on the **41 grants awarded from 2014 to 2018**. Data included:

- Review of project documentation across all grants
- Grantee survey taken by representatives of 20 grantees
- Grantee focus groups and interviews with representatives of 17 grantees
- Internal interviews with 2 MHCRC staff + 3 MHCRC commissioners

\$13
MILLION
Matched

Guiding questions for the review balanced **exploration of grantee program impact** and **patterns in MHCRC's grantmaking process**. Results, detailed below and in a full report available from the MHCRC, showed ample evidence of the grant program's positive impact plus several opportunities for continued growth.

"Being able to offer [the community] really good professional equipment communicates to them immediately how much we respect the story they want to tell. I think that's really important because it is a marker of what we're investing in the people and how much we want to help them."

Focus Group Participant



COMMUNITY IMPACT

76.9%
Of grantees aimed to provide opportunities to gain experience with industry-standard equipment.

53.9% had goals to provide educational opportunities.

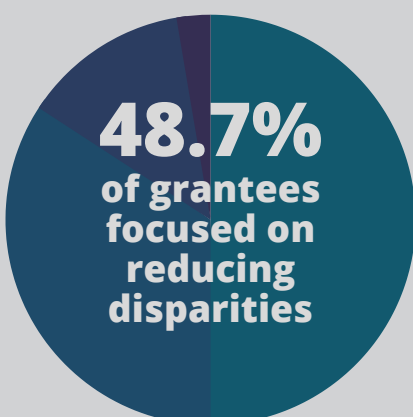
89.7%
Of grantees fully met stated project goals, indicating projects were successful.

10.3% of grantees partially met stated project goals.

92.3%
Of grantees identified at least one way their project would be sustained past the funded term.

75.0% said the technology is still used "to a great extent."

MHCRC AS A GRANTMAKER



- Grantees and MHCRC staff discussed how smaller applicant organizations may have less opportunity in the granting process. Staff are already working to address this challenge, and **MHCRC's focus on equity has grown**.
- **Grantees feel MHCRC is invested in them.** Though application and reporting processes can be complex, grantees who sought support said MHCRC is helpful, supportive, and responsive.
- Grantees agree that the **technology acquired allowed better service to communities**, though navigating use of new technology did present some challenges for grantees.
- MHCRC and grantees listed **staff capacity as a shared barrier** to implementation efforts, integrating technology, and fulfilling reporting requirements.
- Since the last review was conducted in 2003, there has been a **shift towards work to reduce disparities** and **continued support for a learning community** among grantees.

NEXT STEPS

- 1 Continue to enhance grantee support throughout the grant lifecycle.**
For example, continued review of the application and reporting process, involving input from current grantees. Enhance and reiterate limitations around use of funds and reporting requirements throughout the grant lifecycle.
- 2 Foster relationship-building across grantees to support communities served.**
For example, host a peer learning event for grantees to share successes, barriers, and resources with one another. Enhance visibility of available pre-application support to increase awareness of potential partnerships and resources.
- 3 Continue to evolve the Community Technology Grants program.**
Continue to seek out innovative opportunities and partnerships to keep this important, impactful work going. Consider inviting grantees into strategic planning efforts to involve input and adapt to meet community needs.