

*Discretionary Grant Application, March 2022*  
*Project: Sisters Country Vision Implementation*  
*Applicant: City of Sisters*

**1. Describe the applicant organization, including its purpose, leadership structure, and activities.**

The City of Sisters is a municipal government within Deschutes County.

**2. Describe the proposed project or activity.**

In 2018, the Sisters Country Vision project engaged the people of Sisters Country in a lively conversation about their future. The City of Sisters, along with Deschutes County, The Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council (COIC) and Citizens 4 Community (C4C) served on a project management team that provided oversight and guidance to NXT Consulting, who was selected to lead the vision project and the creation of a Vision Action Plan. The Sisters Country Vision engaged local residents far beyond the City of Sisters, and many projects in the Vision Action Plan require close collaboration with County partners to accomplish, including rural trails initiatives, fire preparedness, and affordable housing. Following adoption of the Vision Action Plan in early 2019 and the end of NXT's contract, the City of Sisters contracted with COIC to serve as the Vision Coordinator and facilitate the creation of a Vision Implementation Team (VIT). Commissioner Adair has served on the Vision Implementation Team since its inception in 2019. Nick Lelack, Deschutes County Administrator, served on the team from 2019-2021. Peter Gutowsky joined the team in 2021. COIC has continued to serve as the VIT Facilitator/Vision Coordinator from 2019-2022.

During this same time period, C4C has successfully expanded their organizational capacity and hired paid staff. In recognition of this growth in local capacity, COIC and C4C have worked together with the Vision Implementation Team to transition facilitation and coordination duties from COIC to C4C, starting summer of 2022. Since 2018, the City of Sisters has been the primary financial supporter of vision implementation, along with some supplemental grant funds provided by The Ford Family Foundation via a regional grant to COIC and a multi-year grant to C4C. We are now requesting support for ongoing facilitation of implementation activities from key community partners, to demonstrate buy-in and support from a broad base of participating organizations, which will in turn support any future grant requests. The City of Sisters will administer these funds, and C4C will utilize this funding for the following activities:

- Project Management: Provide overall project management support for the Sisters Country Vision, supporting vision projects, managing the Momentum Grants program, and producing annual progress reports.
- Meeting Facilitation: Facilitate quarterly meetings of the Vision Implementation Team (VIT) and monthly meetings of the Community Builders group, supporting an active connection between the Community Builders group and the Vision Implementation Team. Manage internal communications with team members, coordinate meeting logistics, and create meeting agendas and materials.
- Communications and Outreach Coordination: Serve as the first point of contact for general inquiries about vision implementation, community members working on vision

projects, and community members interested in starting a new vision project. As requested, help with public outreach and engagement for vision projects. Publish monthly “vision spotlights” on the community website social media channels, and coordinate with other organizations to publish periodic vision updates in The Nugget or other local media publications.

- Event Coordination: Coordinate a celebratory vision event annually, and/or collaborate with the organizers of existing community events to increase public visibility of the Sisters Country Vision.

**3. Provide a timeline for completing the proposed project or activity.**

Although the Sisters Country Vision is an open-ended project, we are requesting financial support for just one fiscal year (2022-23). We have a goal of securing a minimum of \$10,000 from our community partners to support ongoing Vision facilitation and implementation this fiscal year.

**4. Explain how the proposed project or activity will positively impact the community.**

The Sisters Country Vision is a valuable community planning and coordination tool. Although the VIT provides guidance and helps track progress, the Sisters Country Vision is community-led, meaning that no single leader or entity is solely responsible for making progress on the strategies in the Vision Action Plan. Instead, there is community-wide collaboration between dozens of partners, including local government, local agencies and special districts, non-profit organizations, businesses, and individual community members. The Vision can be a very useful tool for both organizations and community members:

- For organizations, the Vision is an important tool in work plan priority-setting and provides valuable data for grant applications, clearly demonstrating community support and alignment for local projects.
- For community members, the Vision is a tool for focusing and directing momentum to be responsive to community needs and allocating resources to help meet those needs effectively. The Vision provides a helpful framework that channels community energy into clear, achievable goals.

**5. Identify the specific communities or groups that will benefit.**

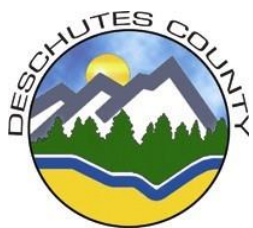
The Sisters Country Vision benefits all residents of Sisters Country. The Vision Implementation Team (VIT) creates an important opportunity for regular collaboration and accountability between local leaders, while the annual Vision progress reports create transparency and accountability to community members. It is difficult, if not impossible, to pinpoint specific groups that will benefit from this funding most directly. However, with 4 focus areas, 20 key strategies, and more than 40 active community projects, the Sisters Country Vision is a far-reaching tool for many community members to work together toward shared goals and mutual benefit. You can find more information about specific projects and the community partners working on them at: <https://sisterscommunity.org/sisters-country-vision/>

**6. Describe how grant funds will be used and include the source and amounts of matching funds or in-kind contributions, if any. Itemize anticipated expenditures\*.**

<b>Revenue</b>		
<b>Source</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Deschutes County Request	\$2,500	
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
City of Sisters Match	\$5,000	Secured
COIC Match	\$2,500	Secured
C4C In-Kind Match	\$2,500	In-kind match, via C4C staff support
Sisters Park and Recreation District (SPRD) Match		*pending, amount not yet specified
Sisters School District Match		*pending, amount not yet specified
Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire District Match		*pending, amount not yet specified
<b>Anticipated Expenditures</b>		
<b>Source</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Notes</b>
C4C Personnel and Contractors	\$10,000	C4C will invoice the City of Sisters monthly. The City will provide a detailed report of total billable hours at the conclusion of the grant period.

**7. If the grant will support an ongoing activity, explain how it will be funded in the future.**

Although the City of Sisters will continue to provide some financial support to ongoing implementation of the Vision, we are hoping to continue the more disbursed funding model we are proposing this fiscal year into the future. The funding provided by the City, County, and other key community partners will hopefully be used to leverage additional grant funding, by demonstrating broad-based financial buy-in for the Vision Plan and community-led projects.



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## DESCHUTES COUNTY DISCRETIONARY GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION

<b>Today's Date:</b>	3/30/2022	<b>Project Name:</b>	Sisters Country Vision: Implementation Support
<b>Project Beginning Date:</b>	1/2018 (Vision Project Launch)	<b>Project End Date:</b>	7/1/2023(end of Implementation year)
<b>Amount Requested:</b>	\$2,500	<b>Date Funds Needed:</b>	7/1/2022
<b>Name of Applicant Organization:</b>	City of Sisters		
<b>Address:</b>	520 E Cascade (Physical) / PO Box 39		
<b>City &amp; Zip Code:</b>	Sisters, OR 97759	<b>Tax ID #:</b>	93-6002257
<b>Contact Name(s):</b>	Cory Misley	<b>Telephone #:</b>	(541) 323-5205
<b>Fax #:</b>		<b>Email Address:</b>	cmisley@ci.sisters.or.us

**On a separate sheet(s), please briefly answer the following questions:**

1. Describe the applicant organization, including its purpose, leadership structure, and activities.
2. Describe the proposed project or activity.
3. Provide a timeline for completing the proposed project or activity.
4. Explain how the proposed project or activity will positively impact the community.
5. Identify the specific communities or groups that will benefit.
6. Describe how grant funds will be used and include the source and amounts of matching funds or in-kind contributions, if any. Itemize anticipated expenditures\*.
7. If the grant will support an ongoing activity, explain how it will be funded in the future.

**Attach:**

Proof of the applicant organization's non-profit status.

\* Applicant may be contacted during the review process and asked to provide a complete line item budget.