

Metro Enhancement Grant Eligibility Criteria

Name of Organization: Hannah Grace Family

Name of Project:	Ascend Music (Year 4)
Address:	PO Box 403, Oregon City (Near Jimmy O's Pizza)
Total amount requested (A):	\$27,680
Match cash (B):	\$20,560
Match in-kind (C):	\$21,216

The applicant organization must meet ALL of the following criteria to apply for a Metro Enhancement grant. Check to confirm that each condition is met.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>1) The applicant organization must be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a charitable organization – such as a 501 c 3 certified organization or other tax-exempt nonprofit that engages in charitable work • a neighborhood association in the Oregon City • a department of the City of Oregon City
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>2) Application must be in good standing and have a current registration with the State of Oregon.</p>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>3) The project must meet at least <u>one</u> of the 10 Metro project criteria:</p> <p>____ 1) Result in significant improvement in the cleanliness of the City.</p> <p>____ 2) Increase reuse and recycling efforts or provide a reduction in solid waste.</p> <p>___?___ 3) Increase the attractiveness or market value of residential, commercial or industrial areas.</p> <p>____ 4) Result in rehabilitation or upgrade of real or personal property owned or operated by a nonprofit organization having 501(c)(3) status under the Internal Revenue Code.</p> <p>____ 5) Enhance new or existing wildlife, riparian zones, wetlands, forest lands or marine areas, and/or improve the public awareness and the opportunities to enjoy them.</p> <p>____ 6) Preserve or increase recreational areas and programs within the City.</p> <p>____ 7) Improve safety within the City.</p> <p>____ 8) Increase employment or economic opportunities for City residents.</p> <p>___X___ 9) Provide work, training opportunities, or other benefit to youth, seniors and low- income persons or underserved population.</p> <p>___X___ 10) Enhance art and culture within the City.</p>

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>4) The services provided as a result of the grant must be provided within Oregon City and/or be for the benefit of Oregon City residents.</p> <p>City will request confirmation of student residence.</p>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>5) The proposed project must meet the required project match.</p> <p>The total project cost is in column D. Match required for this size project (M): <u>Application stated 40%</u></p> <p>Is $(B + C) / D \geq M$</p> <p>$(20,560+21,216)/69,456=60\%$</p>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>6) The proposed project must be completed by June 30, 2025.</p>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>7) Letter of support from the entity as described below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A letter of support from affected parties within the geographical boundary of the grant project (e.g., a neighborhood association; business association; or government entity). • A letter of acknowledgement from each City Department that could be affected by the project. • If there is a project partner organization, a letter of support from the project partner should be included. • Written acknowledgment from applicable City Departments that the project meets requirements set forth by the City. Documentation should be included in the application packet.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>8) Funds must not be used to replace any other public funds - federal, state or local funds.</p>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>9) Is the application signed by an appropriate person?</p>

Does the proposed project meet the grant eligibility criteria?

☒ Yes ☐ No



**OREGON
CITY**



Metro

Community Enhancement Grant 2024-2025 Application

Thank you for your interest in the Metro Enhancement Grant Program. Before filling out the application, please read the Enhancement Grant 2024-25 Program Guidelines for complete instructions and to be sure that your proposal qualifies for funding. Applications received after the deadline will not be accepted. Kindly limit your answers to the space provided.

Please note that your organization may need to apply for city building permits and/or liability insurance coverage to implement your proposed project. *You may be able apply grant funds toward these costs.*

If you have questions, please contact Ann Griffin at agriffin@orccity.org or 503-974-5517.

Title of Project Ascend Music (Year 4)

Applicant Organization Hannah Grace Family

Is this a Non-Profit Organization? Yes ☒ No ☐

Non-Profit Federal tax-exempt ID Number 82-2945261

Address P.O. Box 403

City, State, Zip Oregon City, Oregon 97045


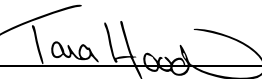
Project Manager responsible for the Enhancement Grant project

Jason Hood

Phone (503) 891-0158 Email hannahgracefamily@yahoo.com

Chairperson of Governing Board (If Applicable) Tara Hood, President

Phone (503) 891-0158 Email hannahgracefamily@yahoo.com

Signature  and 

(The person authorized to represent the organization must sign the application with a digital signature or actual signature on a hard copy.)

Proposal Information

1. Is this your first grant application to the Community Enhancement Grant program?
Yes ☐ No ☒
2. If you answered "No" to Q1, have you received an Enhancement Grant in the last 3 years?
Yes ☒ No ☐

If yes, please describe the grant project(s) for which you received funding.

Ascend Music (Year 1) - 2021-2022, Ascend Music (Year 2) - 2022-2023

(see below)

3. Briefly describe the project for which you are requesting funds.

HGF proposes to hold a regular music program for children facing various forms of trauma, hardships, and instabilities; giving each student the opportunity to learn how to play either a digital piano keyboard or guitar. Using paid competent music instructors, classes for each instrument will be regularly held at HGF's Oregon City facility. The space not only provides lessons for students, but a growing community of people also invested in lives of every child and their families. The music program is an effective tool to specifically target the varying instabilities that exist with many of the children in our community. The program facilitates friendships and community, where students and families feel accepted and valued. The requested grant would allow us to expand our services from 29 students to 40 students for the upcoming school year. The outlined budget allows for the offsetting of costs for instructors and providing guitar and keyboard instruments for all new students. Our program serves disadvantaged children in the community who have experienced various trauma, hardships, or instabilities. Children who may meet this definition, but are not limited to, are children who have been or are in the foster care system, adoptive children, single parent households, death of a guardian, physical or mental health diagnoses, social disadvantages, economic disadvantages and more. The service provided by HGF, helps bring beauty to our city, even though these children and families often go unnoticed or even unknown. The program highlights the strengths of each child, despite their diverse backgrounds and trials.

The funding is used to offset costs of instruments and professional instructors for 40 underprivileged/underserved children to receive guitar and keyboard lessons. Upon completion of the academic year of lessons, each student will be gifted their practice instrument and accessories. Additional services rendered include academic assistance, weekly food while at practices, Christmas gifts, program t-shirts, awards, music accessories and customized support to each family.

The music program is currently active and runs year-round. The yearly schedule and graduation parallels the Oregon City School District calendar. On May 29th and 30th of 2024, we will have celebrated the graduation of our keyboard and guitar students, where each student was gifted with the instrument/accessories they had been using during the program. Although the calendar year has ended, the students are invited to continue their musical growth by attending summer lessons. The students that had received acceptance into the previous programs are invited to attend the upcoming program. We are so thankful for Oregon City Metro Community Enhancement Grant and their partnership in this endeavor.

4. The proposed project must meet one or more of the following 10 goals. Please indicate which of the following outcomes your project will achieve by marking an "X" or a check mark.

- ☐ 1. Result in significant improvement in the cleanliness of the City.
- ☐ 2. Increase reuse and recycling efforts or provide a reduction in solid waste.
- ☒ 3. Increase the attractiveness or market value of residential, commercial or industrial areas.
- ☐ 4. Results in rehabilitation or upgrade of real or personal property owned or operated by a nonprofit organization having 501(c)(3) status under the Internal Revenue Code.
- ☐ 5. Enhance new or existing wildlife, riparian zones, wetlands, forest lands or marine areas, and/or improve the public awareness and the opportunities to enjoy them.
- ☐ 6. Preserve or increase recreational areas and programs within the City.
- ☐ 7. Improve safety within the City.
- ☐ 8. Increase employment or economic opportunities for City residents.
- ☒ 9. Provide work, training opportunities, or other benefit to youth, seniors, and low income people or other under-served groups.
- ☒ 10. Enhance art and culture within Oregon City.

5. Describe how the proposed project will meet the selected goal(s).

As mentioned above, the selected project is rooted in HGF's and the Program directors, Jason and Tara Hood's experiences with providing meaningful services that support children (and their families) facing various forms of trauma, hardship, and instability. There are many government and private services which provide shelter, financial and medical services to children in the foster care system or those facing instability. But HGF, which invests in the families and children 24/7 strives for this program to be a way for families that may not otherwise be able to financially obtain extracurricular activities focusing on the arts, such as music lessons, tutoring and community support to have a window of opportunity to do so. The continuation/ expansion of the HGF music program not only provides musical training, but therapeutic relief for many children. In addition to the various hardships and instabilities these children come from, many of our students have also experienced involvement in the foster care system, the loss of a parent, diagnoses of ADHD, Autism Spectrum, behavioral health, mental health diagnoses and have been victims of various abuses. The service we provide not only enhances the lives of the students therapeutically, but creates an oasis of support for the families. The facility itself is now drawing people to the shopping center, which was once an unoccupied space. Although the music program may not be enhancing a physical structure in the community, it is physically devoting invaluable resources into precious members of our city. In addition to the children and families we serve, the music program has become a valuable volunteer opportunity for retired seniors. These individuals have the time to volunteer and creates added purpose in their lives. In return, these individuals get to pass on their wisdom and kindness to children and families in our program. We are so thankful for the the volunteer/training opportunities our music program provides to seniors in our community, a way to bring culture and the arts to vulnerable populations in our community and bring life back into a previously empty building.

6. Project Period

Beginning Date: 09/01/24

Ending Date: 08/31/25

7. How will the community benefit from your project? What is the estimated number of people affected and anticipated outcome(s)?

The 2023-2024 program had 29 combined students and over 160 individuals in attendance for Guitar and Keyboard Graduations/ Recitals. With an expected increase to 40 combined students, we would expect that those affected would also proportionately increase. As a result, members of the community saw and felt the effects of the classes and recitals. Additionally, as the students became and will become more adept, their sharing of musical talents will reach many others, including schools, orchestras, churches, and other community gatherings where music is present. New graduating students are gifted with the instrument they trained with to use in new musical, community endeavors. The program was in high demand for both prospective students, parents, and the community, with over 80% of the students residing in Oregon City. As a result, HGF hopes to expand classes with future raised donations, volunteers, and additional teachers. The community is benefited by providing a space where we are educating some of our communities most vulnerable population in music and academic tutoring. These essential skills help boost the competence and esteem of students and help them to become more well-rounded individuals in our society. Not only does the music program change the trajectory of lives in our community, but HGF will provide over 1,000+ visitations for children in the foster care system during the 2024 calendar year. The effect within our community is felt not only in the lives of the children and families, but that of lawyers, judges, CASA's, fellow members of the Oregon City Chamber of Commerce, and ODHS workers who are involved with HGF and the Ascend Music Program.

8. Briefly describe your organization's prior experience managing similar projects.

This will be HGF's fourth program year. The OCEDC grant helped fund the first two program years under the oversight of Ann Griffin, who is abundantly familiar with the program and HGF's ability to manage it.

9. Describe the measurements you will use to assess the project's effectiveness? Be sure to describe project goals, changes and noticeable benefits that will come about as a result.

Each student has a workbook where every lesson is marked complete when a new benchmark is met, as well as weekly logs to track attendance. In addition to classroom milestones, there are recitals before Winter break and the end of Spring to demonstrate progress and proficiency to the students, teachers, and supportive parties in attendance. These recitals not only help measure the effect of the teaching and skill improvement, but as a source of pride/entertainment for those families responsible for the childrens' welfare, as well as the community. Providing these recitals enables goal-oriented learning and a sense of personal pride in these children. The expected upcoming school year calendar will include:

- HGF Music Program begins September of 2024
- Weekly music lessons will follow the OCSD calendar
- Recitals will be held in December of 2024 and May of 2025
- Graduations will be held the end of May 2025
- Classes continue to be available throughout the summer

Proposed Budget

Project Costs	(A) Grant Dollars Requested	(B) Matching Funds(Cash)	(C) In-Kind Matching Support	(D) Total
Personnel Services (salaries, administration)	19400	8831	21216	49447
Project Administration costs (clerical, advertising, graphics, printing, postage)	0	9089	0	9089
Materials	0	0	0	0
Equipment/Supplies	8280		0	8280
Construction Costs	0	0	0	0
Event Costs		2640		2640
Transportation Costs	0	0	0	0
Insurance Costs (if needed)	0	0	0	0
Consultants/trainers	0	0	0	0
Use the lines below to add any additional costs:	0		0	0
Totals	27680	20560	21216	69456

10. Proposed Budget. On the previous page, please describe the project's proposed budget. Please note that matching resources ARE REQUIRED. The total match amount required depends upon the total project cost. Matching funds may be either cash or in-kind. An in-kind match is a form of support for the project that does not need to be directly paid for. For example, the value of volunteer service is considered a match. Volunteer labor may be valued at an estimated rate of \$27.20 per hour.

Total Project Cost	Additional Funding Requirement
\$0 to \$9,999	10% of total project cost
\$10,000 to \$19,999	20% of total project cost
\$20,000 to \$39,999	30% of total project cost
\$40,000 to \$50,000	40% of total project cost

Using your proposed budget from the previous page, please list the Grant Amount Requested, the total Matching Funds (Cash) and total In-Kind Matching Support. The total project cost is the sum of these three amounts.

Grant Amount Requested:	27680
+ Matching Funds (Cash):	20560
+ In-Kind Matching Funds	21216
= Total Cost of Project:	\$ 69,456

11. **Description of In-Kind Match.** List the sources of support for the project’s in-kind match (e.g., volunteer hours and donations). As described in the Enhancement Grant Program Information document, volunteer labor may be valued at an estimated rate of \$27.20 per hour.

Item	Source of Support	Estimated Value (\$)
Volunteers*	HGF	21216
*see 13 below		

12. List all grants applied for in support of this project and commitments confirmed to date.

This is the only grant request for this project.

13. Administrative costs are allowed as part of the project. What percentage of Enhancement Grants funds will be used for personnel services or administrative costs? 28%

One of the major enhancements to the program is that HGF currently has 6 volunteers each week for the program that are not compensated as employees or subcontractors. These volunteers provide in excess of 15 hours weekly for the music classes. Since many of our students have varying learning delays, mental health challenges or other disabilities, these volunteers are very key in our ability to provide adequate support for students to allow them to succeed in their music and other needs. The attached Excel spread sheet itemizes each amount to compare with the application numbers above. Total OCEDC grant for Admin = \$19,400. Total Matching and In-kind for Admin = \$41,775. OCEDC grant = 39% of Admin and 28% of total program expense.

14. Letter(s) of Support

Please include one or more letter(s) of support for the proposed project. Letters of support demonstrate that people who could be impacted by a project are aware of it and in support of it.

Required letters of support include:

- a) Active partner organization – If your organization is working in collaboration with a partner organization, please include a letter of support from that partner organization.
- b) Property owner - If the project will have an impact on private property or city-owned property, then a letter of support should be included from the property owner. For example, if the proposed project will take place in a city-owned park, then a letter of support should be included from the Oregon City Parks and Recreation Department.
- c) Neighborhood Association - Applicants should also include a letter of support from a relevant neighborhood association if there is an active neighborhood association where the proposed project will take place. We recognize that several neighborhoods do not have an active neighborhood association. To learn more about what neighborhood your project is in, go to the City of Oregon City website, and search “What Neighborhood Am I In?” (<https://www.orcity.org/404/What-Neighborhood-Am-I-In>)

Will my project impact the City?

Please contact the City of Oregon City if you think that your project will impact City operations or facilities, such as a park, sidewalk or public right of way. You should request written acknowledgement from the applicable City Department that the project meets applicable City requirements. Some proposals may require liability insurance.

Please contact Ann Griffin to discuss.

Hannah Grace Family

Hannahgracefamily@yahoo.com

Hannahgrace.org

(503) 891-0158

EIN: 82-2945261



Hannah
Grace Family

1678 S Beaver Creek Rd. Suite #F, Oregon City, OR 97045

Mailing: P.O. Box 403, Oregon City, OR 97045

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

We have included various letters of support from Oregon City community members, active partner organizations and/or members of such organizations.

It would appear that the Hillendale Neighborhood Association, which the HGF building resides within, is inactive. We spoke with Jude Thaddaeus, Assistant Planner at the Community Development for the city of Oregon City. Jude sent an email to us, with the contact information for the Hillendale Neighborhood association point of contact and the individual was also carbon copied on the email. We sent a subsequent email, phone call and text message to the individual listed with no response. We can only conclude that the Hillendale Neighborhood Association is inactive at this time.

I own Geeks & Games, a family board game store located near the Hannah Grace Family and their Ascend Music Program. I am a former foster parent and work a lot with troubled and disadvantaged youth.

I have had the fortunate experience of my two children being involved in Ascend's music program and seeing some of my customers benefit from it. I am continually amazed at how well the staff handles the children with love, and respect, and can bring out the inner talent they didn't know they possessed. This has given my children confidence and skills that will benefit them later in life.

Not only do they offer truly spectacular instruction in both keyboard and guitar free of charge, but the gift of the instrument at the end of the program shows their commitment to bettering children's lives.

Unfortunately, the gift of quality instruments can be costly and the needs of the children in our community are great. Local businesses, citizens, and entities must help grow the music culture in our youth.

I am writing this letter today to encourage your financial support of a program that will have a lasting positive impact on underprivileged youth both musically and emotionally.

Thank You,

La Donna Cox
Owner Geeks & Games
1656 Beavercreek Rd. Oregon City, OR
503-650-5008



May 23, 2024

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for Hannah Grace Family, a vital asset to our community that is seeking a grant from the city to further its impactful work. As a dedicated member of Oregon City, I have witnessed firsthand the positive influence and transformative effects that Hannah Grace Family has on the lives of our youth.

Hannah Grace Family serves an under-served segment of our community, offering essential support and guidance to children who often lack parental influence or face additional challenges due to mental health and learning disabilities. Through its programs and initiatives, they provide a safe and nurturing environment where children can thrive and develop essential life skills.

One of the most commendable aspects of Hannah Grace Family's mission is its commitment to promoting the love of arts and music among children. By offering music lessons and gifting instruments to kids in need, this organization not only enriches their lives but also opens up new avenues for self-expression and personal growth. The therapeutic benefits of music cannot be overstated, and Hannah Grace Family plays a crucial role in harnessing these benefits for the well-being of our community's youth.

Moreover, Hannah Grace Family provides a much-needed safe haven for children, where they can find love, respect, and support from caring adults and peers alike. In a world that can often feel chaotic and uncertain, their organization offers a sanctuary where children can feel valued, understood, and empowered to reach their full potential.

Hannah Grace Family's collaboration with PEX Realty Group and the reciprocal support that our organizations have provided each other has made a significant impact to our community. This partnership exemplifies the spirit of cooperation and mutual benefit that is essential for building a stronger and more resilient community.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly endorse Hannah Grace Family's grant application and urge the city to support its valuable work. By investing in this organization, we are investing in the future of our community and ensuring that every child has the opportunity to thrive and succeed.

Thank you for considering this request. Should you require any further information or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Peck
Real Estate Specialist/Owner
PEX Realty Group



Thora B. Gardiner Middle School

205 Williams Street | Oregon City, Oregon 97045 | (503) 785-8200 | www.gardinermiddleschool.org

To whom it may concern,

Gardiner Middle School would like to recommend Hannah Grace Family\Ascend music to you for your consideration for the City of Oregon City Metro Enhancement grant. Over the last three years, over a dozen current or former Gardiner Middle School students have received scholarshiped lessons and instruments at Hannah Grace Family. These students have come from various hardships to include learning disabilities, economic challenges, and areas of trauma and family hardship.

Additional areas of overlap and partnership include: volunteer tutoring at Hannah Grace Family from a Gardiner Middle School teacher, partnering in collecting teddy bears for the Lions Club teddy bear parade, and Hannah Grace Family partners with other community members and companies to receive donated instruments that they are able to repair and re-donate to Gardiner Middle School when they are applicable.

It is our belief that money entrusted to Hannah Grace Family is to the benefit of children throughout Oregon City, to include Gardiner Middle School and is a wise investment in the underserved amongst us.

Scott Eagles
6th Grade Math/Science Teacher
Gardiner Middle School

May 20, 2024

To Whom It May Concern;

This letter is written in support of Hannah Grace Family application to the Oregon City Metro Enhancement Grant.

Hannah Grace Family is a 501-c3 non-profit that provides several programs and services that benefit youth, low income, marginalized and underserved people in Oregon City and surrounding areas. They provide home-like visitation rooms for DHS to use, that helps strengthen children's bonds with foster or biological parents in difficult situations.

Their wonderful **Ascend Music Program** is like none other in Oregon City! It exposes youth, facing trauma and instability, to the world of music! This free music program offers free weekly lessons and gifts of new guitars and keyboards and supplies. This helps build a new skill for the youth and also builds their confidence and self-esteem. A win-win situation!

I have known **Jason and Tara Hood** for many years and have been very impressed with their kindness and big hearts! They fostered my great-granddaughter, as a baby, when my grandson was struggling. He now is doing great, as is my sweet great-granddaughter! They helped make a difference in MY life!

They are reaching out into the community to tell of their missions! **Hannah Grace Family** has joined the Oregon City Chamber of Commerce and held a Wednesday morning networking meeting. They have spoken to the Oregon City Optimists Club also. I believe that the more people who hear about Hannah Grace Family and Ascend Music will only be of greater impact to our city!

Hannah Grace Family does great work and they have made a difference in many young peoples' lives that have been in difficult situations. Please approve their grant application so that they can change many more young lives.

Sincerely;

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Claire Met', with a stylized, cursive script.

Claire Met
503-349-8102