



2025 EWEB Greenpower Grant Application

Contact Information:

Plaza de Nuestra Comunidad
NAME OF ORGANIZATION

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Healthy Environments, HVAC Modernization
PROPOSAL TITLE

\$50,000
GRANT AMOUNT REQUESTED


SIGNATURE

3/25/2025
DATE

Email completed application and proposal to:

Cheryl Froehlich
Cheryl.Froehlich@eweb.org

1. Background:

- Mission of the organization
- The needs your organization addresses
- The population your organization serves
- A brief description of your current programs and operating budget

2. Project Description:

- Statement of the primary purpose of the project and its relationship to EWEB's mission
- The population you plan to serve and how they will benefit from the project
- Strategies you will employ to implement the project

3. Project Evaluation

- Your criteria for a successful project
- The results you hope to achieve by the end of the funding period
- The method by which you will measure effectiveness

4. Budget and Timeline

- A budget for the project for which funds are requested, **including any additional funding which has been secured at the time of application.**
- Timeline of the project

5. Attachments

- Proof of nonprofit status (copy of IRS letter)*
- List of board of directors*
- One-paragraph resumes of key staff working on the project
- Amount and source of any other funding support previously received from EWEB (if applicable)
- Proof of ownership or authority to install equipment at or otherwise modify building, if request for facility construction project

*Optional or not needed for public and academic institutions.

Application deadline: Must be submitted no later than March 26, 2025



Plaza De Nuestra Comunidad

EWEB Greenpower Grant Application 2025

Organization Background:

Plaza de Nuestra Comunidad serves as a vital hub in Lane County, dedicated to empowering and supporting the lives of Latinx and immigrant community members. Our mission is to cultivate a safe, welcoming space that actively fosters leadership, education, holistic wellness, and crucial community connection. We achieve this by addressing a wide spectrum of critical needs through key programmatic areas: ranging from essential social services navigation and culturally-specific recovery treatment, to fostering economic opportunity via small business development, promoting lifelong learning through adult education and family literacy, supporting youth success, providing vital mental health services, and building community leadership capacity. Currently we are serving over 1,000 families annually, and we anticipate significant growth as awareness of our services and the needs within the community continue to rise.

To effectively meet this growing demand and ensure our participants have the supportive environment they deserve, expansion and enhancement of our physical facilities are essential. Our current spaces are operating at capacity, limiting our ability to fully serve everyone seeking support. Recognizing this critical need, we have acquired buildings in both Springfield and Eugene. We are now actively engaged in adapting these properties into more functional, welcoming, and efficient centers for our community programs, collaborating closely with BDA Architecture and Planning, P.C. for design and McKenzie Commercial for construction management.

We have successfully secured \$1 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds dedicated to this vital project. Aligned with our commitment to responsible stewardship and the long-term well-being of both our community and the environment, we aspire to achieve Green Certified Business status. This renovation presents a critical opportunity to embed sustainability into our operations. We are prioritizing this shift through strategic infrastructure upgrades, including a comprehensive transition to energy-efficient LED lighting and significant improvements to our Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems, ensuring our facilities are not only functional but also healthier and more environmentally sound for years to come.

Project Description:

Our ongoing facility renovation project, significantly funded by secured ARPA grants, has already achieved major milestones in enhancing energy efficiency and indoor air quality. We recently completed the installation of energy-efficient electric mini-split system heat pumps and Energy Recovery Ventilators (ERVs), along with thorough ductwork cleaning. These initial upgrades represent a substantial commitment to environmental stewardship and creating a healthier space for the vulnerable Latinx and immigrant communities we serve.

Building upon this progress, the critical next step is replacing four obsolete 5-ton rooftop HVAC units. These end-of-life systems are inefficient, consume excessive energy, and lag far behind modern environmental standards. Securing funding through the EWEB Greenpower Grant Program for these replacements is the specific focus of this request. This upgrade is essential to fully realize our energy-

saving potential and complete the modernization of our building's climate control systems. Replacing these outdated units with modern, high-efficiency models will significantly reduce our energy consumption and associated carbon footprint, directly supporting EWEB's mission to promote environmental stewardship and a more stable, efficient energy grid in Eugene. While a precise estimate requires post-installation analysis, replacing units of this age and type typically yields substantial energy savings.

This project directly benefits the over 1,000 Latinx and immigrant families we serve annually within Lane County, a number expected to grow. Completing the HVAC overhaul by replacing these unreliable rooftop units ensures consistent, comfortable temperatures and maintains high indoor air quality throughout our facility. This creates a more conducive and welcoming environment for our essential programs (education, wellness, social services, and community gatherings). Furthermore, the anticipated reduction in energy costs translates directly into operational savings, allowing Plaza de Nuestra Comunidad to allocate more vital resources toward direct services for these underserved populations, including low-income families, seniors, and individuals facing unique barriers.

Our implementation strategy leverages the partnerships established during our ongoing renovation. McKenzie Commercial and Comfort Flow Heating, having successfully installed the mini-splits and ERVs, are prepared to manage the expert installation of the new rooftop HVAC units, ensuring adherence to green building standards and seamless coordination. BDA Architecture and Planning, P.C. continues to provide oversight, ensuring the upgrades integrate effectively with the overall facility design. This targeted replacement strongly aligns with our organizational commitment to achieving Green Certified Business status, demonstrating best practices in energy efficiency and sustainability as we strive to better serve our community and protect our shared environment. This investment complements our previous upgrades and aligns perfectly with EWEB's mission and the goals of the Greenpower Grant Program.

Project Evaluation:

Success for this specific EWEB-funded project component, the replacement of four end-of-life rooftop HVAC units, will be measured through clear, quantifiable outcomes demonstrating improved energy efficiency and sustained facility health. Building upon the air quality improvements already achieved through the recent installation of mini-splits, ERVs, and ductwork cleaning, the key indicators for *this phase* include:

1. **Successful Installation and Operation:** Confirmation that all four new rooftop HVAC units are installed correctly, pass commissioning tests, and operate reliably according to manufacturer specifications by May 2025.
2. **Reduced Energy Consumption:** A measurable decrease in electricity usage attributable to the new, high-efficiency rooftop units. This will be tracked via comparative analysis of EWEB utility bills (comparing consumption patterns from before and after installation, adjusting for weather variations where possible) over a 12-month monitoring period. While the recently installed components contribute to overall savings, success for this EWEB-funded portion will focus on the significant reduction achieved by replacing these specific high-consumption, outdated rooftop units.
3. **Sustained Environmental Quality:** Maintaining healthy indoor air quality (confirming the benefits of the earlier ERV/duct cleaning work) and ensuring consistent, reliable thermal comfort throughout the zones served by the new rooftop units.

Achieving these measurable outcomes will confirm the project's effectiveness in significantly reducing our energy footprint, lowering operational costs, and ensuring a consistently healthy and comfortable environment. This directly supports both Plaza de Nuestra Comunidad's mission to serve the Latinx and immigrant communities and EWEB's commitment to environmental stewardship and energy efficiency in Eugene.

Budget and Timeline:

As part of a major facility renovation project, significantly supported by \$1 million in secured American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, we are undertaking critical upgrades to enhance energy efficiency and air quality for the underserved Latinx and immigrant community members we serve in Lane County. While the ARPA funds are enabling the purchase and installation of two electric mini-split heat pumps and two ERV systems (\$20,000) and essential ductwork cleaning (\$11,691 – completion March 2025), a crucial gap remains.

Four of our primary 5-ton rooftop HVAC systems have reached the end of their operational life. These outdated units are significantly less energy-efficient and environmentally friendly than modern equipment, contributing to higher operational costs and a larger carbon footprint. Replacing them is essential to fully realize the energy-saving and air quality goals of our renovation.

The total cost to replace these four critical rooftop units with modern, energy-efficient models is \$71,040. We are requesting \$50,000 through the EWEB Greenpower Grant Program to make this vital replacement possible. This EWEB investment would represent approximately 70% of the cost for these specific units. Leveraging our existing renovation project funds, Plaza de Nuestra Comunidad will cover the remaining \$21,040, demonstrating our commitment and ensuring project completion.

Funding Summary for Rooftop Unit Replacement:

- Total Cost: \$71,040
- Requested Funding from EWEB Greenpower: \$50,000
- Total Contribution from Organization (Renovation Funds): \$21,040

Our broader building project construction began in Fall of 2024. The timeline for the specific EWEB-funded component begins April 2025:

- Replacement of Four Rooftop Units (Pending EWEB Funding): April - May 2025
- Post-installation Air Quality Testing: May 2025
- Energy Consumption Monitoring: Ongoing for 12 months post-installation
- Final Report to EWEB: Within 12 months of grant distribution

This investment aligns directly with EWEB's commitment to energy conservation and renewable energy. By replacing outdated systems with high-efficiency units, we project significant reductions in energy consumption and associated greenhouse gas emissions. This project not only improves our facility's sustainability, furthering our goal of becoming a Green Certified Business, but also ensures a healthier, more comfortable environment for the vital community members we serve. We believe this project is a strong fit for the EWEB Greenpower Grant Program and appreciate your consideration.