

Official Announcement
October 2021

OEA Choice Trust to Distribute Three Million Dollars to Support Oregon Educator Health and Well-being

Education employees are facing unprecedented challenges due to the ongoing impact of COVID-19, while carrying the emotional toll of navigating their roles amid rising racial and political tensions. In response, OEA Choice Trust, the leader in workplace wellness for Oregon school employees, is making available three million dollars for school districts, education service districts (ESDs) and community colleges to use to support the health and well-being of their educators, administrators and staff.

This rapid response funding, which is not a grant and does not have to be repaid, will be dispersed soon after a request form is received. The form is available on the OEA Choice website with monthly deadlines beginning November 18. Funding awards will range from \$7,000 to \$25,000, depending on the size of the organization.

“Even before the pandemic, educators faced extremely difficult situations that have led to burnout, compassion fatigue, and chronic stress, so addressing their emotional, social and mental well-being is more important than ever,” said Debbie Brudevold, OEA Choice Trust Board Chair. “This is a critical time to strengthen and build on the remarkable resilience that already exists individually, and collectively, in education.”

Oregon public school districts, ESDs and community colleges are eligible to submit one funding request each. OEA Choice Trust encourages administrators, educators and staff to work collaboratively to request funding since requests must come from the leadership within their organization. Funds may be used in a wide variety of ways as long as they support the health and well-being of educators and staff. Ideas include community care events, the creation of calm spaces, rejuvenation activities, and gratitude/appreciation efforts. A menu of ideas and resources can be found at oechoice.com.

OEA Choice Trust is grateful for the work of Oregon educators and staff who consistently show up for their students, families, and communities. Like many aspects of life right now, education is in a place of ongoing disruption. Investing in the health and well-being of educators will help ensure that when the current crises pass, they will have the strength and resilience to continue creating positive and healthy environments for teaching and learning throughout the state.

OEA Choice Trust is the only organization dedicated solely to workplace wellness for Oregon public school employees. We believe that all school employees should have the support they need to be physically, mentally and emotionally well. Healthy worksites reduce employees' stress, boost energy and morale, and promote better balance in life – a win for educators, staff, administrators and students.

For additional information and resources go to oechoice.com or contact Inge Aldersebaes, Associate Director, at inge@oechoice.com.