

## **Cover Page**

**Project Title:** East Portland ESL Driver Education Program

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**Municipal partner organization:** City of Portland Police Bureau

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**List additional partner organizations:** Oregon Department of Transportation, Portland Bureau of Transportation, Oregon Impact and EPAP co-sponsors

### **Action Plan Strategic Priorities:**

**F.** Engage ethnic communities in neighborhood activities; provide translation/language services to remove barriers and improve messaging and invitation. (CB.1.2);

**J.** Foster Equity in transportation decisions and services (T.7.3); and

**K.** Connect East Portland residents to family-wage employment outside of the area by identifying and removing barriers, such as limited transportation options (EC.4.5).

**Requested Amount:** \$35,000

**Preface:**

Through a gracious grant through the East Portland Action Plan (2105), more than 300 immigrants, refugees, new Portlanders (hereinafter IRNPs) in East Portland received driver education training and safety during the 2015/2016 fiscal year. Training was conducted at Portland Police Bureau's 10 acre Training Facility. Training included rudimentary cone courses, backing, parking and braking cognates. The last day concluded with a graduation ceremony where family members and community groups were invited to attend. This vision had brought community partners together to provide skills to underserved communities. Our hope is that we will once again be able to obtain funding in order provide these opportunities to who otherwise will not have access to this needed training.

**Purpose:**

Traffic Division officers and Oregon Driver Education Center (ODEC) instructors provided classroom training to more than 300 students to preface our first the English Language Learners (ELL) driver education/safety course. More than 110 students, from East Portland participated/attended our first ELL Driver Training Education and Safety courses, which was a grass roots program sponsored by East Portland Action Plan. Mount Hood Community College (MHCC) will continue to participate and has requested to provide some financial support. Students who attended the class were from 23 countries and spoke 22 languages.

Oregon Driver Education Center (ODEC), the largest driver education company in the state has provided 10 instructors with vehicles who patiently built rapport with students. Students walked away from the training with confidence and lasting relationships with members of the Portland Police Bureau. After our first class more than 12 students were sponsored, who went on to obtain their driver's license.

**Funding:**

We are currently seeking federal funds in order to find permanent financial support and bring about permanent/legislative changes, however, these are uncertain. State Farm and Oregon Impact have verbally agreed to provide financial support. ODEC has charged us half of their normal fees and will continue to provide training.

**Demand:**

All classes from the first grant were full to capacity and there continues to be an overwhelming demand for this to continue in East Portland communities. MHCC ESL program (English as a Second Language) has requested that this course continue to sponsor East Portland students; over 1300 ESL students at MHCC would qualify. Students from Portland Community College programs will be invited to participate in upcoming courses.

Additionally, this program has received great support from community leaders from Russian Speaking Network, Latino Learning Community, African Youth and Community Organization, Bhutanese Organization of USA, Slavic Council, and IRCO. Once again EPAP Partners will be encouraged to attend debriefs and actively partner in the long-term vision of the program.

**Issue at hand:**

Portland Police Patrol is currently responding to a large volume of crashes involving IRNPs who have been self-taught drivers and are not familiar with local laws. People whose 1st language is

other than English and IRNPs are not aware of what to expect on our public streets, have not been properly equipped to drive, and have pre-dispositions/ambivalence regarding police, based on their cultural contexts.

Traffic crashes involving people whose 1st language is other than English are growing rapidly. Additionally, it is estimated that 15% of hit and run suspects in Portland are IRNPs who flee the scene out of fear of what police may do and/or fear of deportation.

In 2013 alone, Multnomah County Courts had over 8106 requests for court interpreter services in 17 languages. According to Oregon Judicial Department and statistics from a 2012 U.S. Census Bureau study, 14 - 24% of people in counties in the Portland Metropolitan area speak a foreign language in their home and as many as 17% were foreign born. In addition to officer time, interpreters must be provided to ensure a fair hearing. Further, the majority of court related safety classes available to IRNPs are in English.

ODOT statistics support that young drivers under 26 are two times overrepresented in crashes. Portland youth drivers (<26 years old, driver of striking vehicle) fatal and serious injury crashes have been increasing steadily from 31 in 2008 to 56 in 2012, *which are on the rise in East Portland*. From experience, we extrapolate that young IRNPs do not have the financial means or language access to learn traffic safety, and thus, often create a greater risk for others. ODOT subsidy for a driver's education course only applies to students under the age of 18, which is taught in English. In order for there to be a shift-change, young IRNPs over the age of 18 need to be provided with the opportunity to learn traffic safety and equipped with accessible training.

### **Local Relationships Built:**

In the past three years, members of the Portland Police Bureau have built relationships and presented safety discussions with English Second Language (ESL) programs in local colleges in the Portland Metropolitan area. These elocutionary presentations have included portions on traffic safety and driver responsibilities. A common issue brought up by ESL students, is that they do not have mentors/family members that are able to teach them to drive, nor are there other affordable or known avenues available for them to learn. Many conveyed ambivalence, stating they felt unprepared to drive on U.S. streets, but that they need to drive, because transportation options are severely limited in East Portland. Out of necessity for employment, many immigrants start driving in their early 20's - the majority unlicensed.

Students shared countless frustrations where either they or members of their culture have had poor interactions with police during traffic stops or crashes. Many conveyed ambivalence and animosity towards police because of what the uniform represents in their culture. Students propounded that the ominous threat of the uniform diminished quickly as we interacted and engaged with them in the classroom setting.

### **Vision / Objective:**

1. Although the vision is multi-faceted, the primary objective is for PPB police officers and instructors from Oregon Driver Education center to educate, train and empower IRNPs with classroom and hands-on driver's education training at the Portland police Bureau Training Facility, thus improving their awareness and traffic safety in our community. Our hope is that students who complete the course will take the training back to their families and communities and a ripple effect will occur within their culture.

2. Secondly, through our first courses we saw that the ominous presence of the police uniform was broken down and pre-dispositions removed between police and IRNPs. We built relationships with language and cultural-specific organizations in the Portland area in order to leverage connections and capitalize on effectiveness within varied communities.

**Training/Curriculum:**

Portland Police Bureau (PPB) will continue to work with other partnering agencies to present material for drivers and vulnerable road users. The classroom portion will be held at PPB's Training Facility and will entail a compressed version of ODOT driver's education curriculum and basic portions of PPB's patrol vehicle operations material.

- Officers from the Traffic Division will continue to advise students on common laws and cover portions of safety topics from high risk driver courses
- Members from Oregon Impact Panels, PBOT, ODOT will present supporting material.
- ODEC instructors will oversee the hands-on portion of driver's training at the Portland Police Training Facility.

A compressed version of ODOT's driver's education curriculum will be used and is being vetted with ODOT, PPB Trainers and Traffic Division. We are seeking funding for two (2) courses which will each include 60 students: Classroom training will consist of 2 x 7 hour days of classroom training; 2 x 7 hour days of low speed driving. Classroom material will be presented by members of the Portland Police Bureau at either Portland Police Bureau's Training Facility, which will leverage the City's benefit for East Portland residents.

It has been requested for driving to be conducted at Portland Police Bureau's 10 acre Training Facility; this will include rudimentary cone courses, backing, parking and braking cognates. The last day will conclude with a graduation ceremony where family members and community groups will be invited to attend.

Additionally, as there are currently 19 different languages spoken by members of the Portland Police Bureau, as was done in our first courses officers of diversity will be present during training in order to properly represent our Bureau, place students at greater ease, and deepen relationships within these communities. EPAP Partners will be encouraged to attend debriefs and actively partnering in the long-term vision of the program.

# Project Budget

## Financial Backing

- Future funding is being sought through State Farm, Costco Wholesale Corporation, and Oregon Impact who has ties with insurance groups and private entities.
- MHCC ESL has grants which will cover partial funding for their ESL staff members who will participate.

Item	Requested Funds	Leveraged Funds and/or Additional Grants*	Donated Services & Time defined as S**
<b>Personnel</b> (Direct project management, translation services, Oregon Driver Education Center, volunteer time**, etc.)	\$13,650 per course (x 2 courses) = \$27,300	\$10,000 (Oregon Impact/State Farm)  MHCC Grants for ESL Staff \$14,000	(Match PPB hours x 2 courses) \$10,500
<b>Materials/Printing</b> (Books and Course curriculum for students, Flyers, Advertisement, awards ...	\$20 x 120 students = \$2,400		
<b>Event Related Expenses</b> (Renting table/chairs, reserving space, food, paper cups, transportation for presenters, etc)	\$650 a course = \$1,300		64 hours x \$150 = \$9,600
<b>Participant Support</b> (Travel costs, stipends, etc)	\$750 per course = \$1,500		
<b>Project Material</b>	\$500 per course = \$1,000		
<b>Administration</b>	\$750 per course = \$1,500		\$2,000
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$35,000</b>	<b>\$24,000</b>	<b>\$22,100</b>



