

Apply to join our Board!

The new term begins March 2026.

[Submit your application here.](#)

About Us

The [Oregon Community Food Systems Network](#) (OCFSN) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit made up of 33 Oregon-based nonprofit organizations and public agency partners dedicated to strengthening local and regional food systems to deliver better economic, social, health, and environmental outcomes across the state. We focus our work in two formats: [convenings](#) and [working groups](#).

OCFSN is led by a Leadership Team (LT) and a Board of Directors and supported by two state-wide organizations. OCFSN currently has two full-time staff.

- The Leadership Team is made up of 9-13 members who represent organizations that are members of OCFSN and whose purpose is to guide the overall direction of the organization with input from the network and working groups.
- The Board of Directors is made up of 5-7 members to ensure OCFSN is meeting our legal obligations as a non-profit organization while providing support to the LT.

Leadership Team

- **Rhianna Simes**, LT Chair - Cultivate Oregon & Verdant Phoenix Farm (Southern Oregon)
- **Natalie Danielson** - Friends of Family Farmers (Statewide)
- **Alison Hensley-Sexauer** - Rogue Valley Food Systems Network (Southern Oregon)
- **Jason Skipton** - Growing Gardens (Portland)
- **Lauren Gwin** - *OSU Center for Small Farms and Community Food Systems (Corvallis)
- **Lindsay Grosvenor** - Oregon Food Bank - Southeast Oregon Services (Ontario)
- **Delaney Ryde** - Klamath Grown (Southern Oregon)
- **Penny Feltner** - Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council (Southern Willamette Valley)

Board of Directors

- **Sara Miller**, President - Northeast Oregon Economic Development District
- **Gabriel Baron**, Secretary - Video Producer
- **Lisa Nishimura**, Treasurer - Growing Gardens

- Carolina Negron - Oregon Food Bank
- Trang Ho - Masafresh

Applying to be on the Board

Our Commitment to You

We will do our best to help you get acquainted with OCFSN and being a Board member. Our goal is to be in partnership with you and learn from your knowledge and experience, while also providing you with training to meet your goals for skills development. Being on the OCFSN Board may be different than serving on other non-profit Boards because we have some shared responsibilities with the Leadership Team. The goal of OCFSN's structure is to share power and leadership with a wider range of people while still having board oversight for compliance with our legal obligations as a charitable non-profit organization.

Board Eligibility

A minimum of one board seats must be filled by an elected Leadership Team representative and two board seats filled by individuals from [member organizations](#). Additional board seats can be made up of other individuals with community or issue representation, or legal, accounting, public relations, or other skills and experience deemed beneficial to achieving the OCFSN vision, mission and equity statement.

We are currently looking to fill 1-2 spots on our Board.

Skills and geographic representation we are seeking

We welcome a range of experience and backgrounds on our Board and do not require you to have experience or expertise in food systems. We are specifically seeking board members with experience in human resources, business development, professional development, legal background, non-profit management, and development/fundraising. We are also seeking members that are located outside of the Portland Metro area - specifically Central Oregon and the Coast.

Being on the Board

Board members work together to exercise responsibility for the care and management of OCFSN's mission, purpose and obligations as a non-profit public benefit organization. Board members participate in meetings; and with the support of staff and Leadership Team, seek out, receive and discuss information on OCFSN's programs, finances, human resources, policies and guiding documents. This active participation helps the board make informed decisions together to fulfill the requirements of a non-profit organization. While the month to month activities of the board vary, examples of many of the topics the board considers include:

- Mission, vision, values

- Receiving and making decisions regarding recommendations from the Leadership Team
- Strategic planning and implementation
- Legal and ethical integrity, including conflicts of interest
- Taxes, State Registration, Department of Justice - Charitable Division annual report, other filings and regulatory requirements
- Accountability, including complying with reporting and accounting requirements, oversight of bookkeeping and tax service providers,
- Key risks and mitigation strategies, including insurances and internal financial controls
- Annual budget approval, review of financial indicators, making budget adjustments and sharing financial information with the Leadership Team
- Securing funding to meet operational and program needs
- Hiring financial auditing and/or legal services when needed
- Approving Investment policies (when applicable)
- Development, review and compliance with board-approved policies and reporting requirements
- Approving personnel policies and reviewing salary information and staff performance

Want to connect with a current Board Member?

You can reach out to existing Board members (listed below) if you would like to connect with a current board member.

- **Sara Miller**, President - Northeast Oregon Economic Development District, saramiller@neoedd.org
- **Gabriel Baron**, Secretary - Video Producer gcbaron@gmail.com

Compensation

OCFSN recognizes your value and offers an honorarium at \$2,000, for you or your organization, unless you choose to opt out. Please reach out for more information or if you have other barriers to participation. If needed, travel will be reimbursed.

Term and Time Commitment

Individuals elected to the Board commit to serving a 3-year term, with a maximum of two terms. If they are interested in a second term, they will need to be re-elected. An exception is the LT representative from each official backbone organization does not have term-limits. Backbone organizations include OSU Extension Service and Oregon Food Bank.

The total time averages 1-5 hours/month. This varies based on the officer position, committee, and travel time to events and/or meetings. Meetings and events typically include the following:

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|---------------------|---|
| • Every other month | Board meetings: 1.5 hrs |
| • Varies | Committee meetings or special assignments (1-5 hours) |
| • Fall/Winter | Leadership and Board retreat 6-8 hrs/year |

- Varies Annual full network convening (6 hours)

Application and Voting Process

Once a person submits their application it is sent to the Executive Director and reviewed for completeness. If additional information is needed for clarification, or an applicant would rather apply in an interview, a meeting will be scheduled by the Executive Director (shin@ocfsn.org). The OCFSN representative will provide interview notes to the applicant after the meeting to ensure information is accurate prior to submitting for approval by the Board.

The application and/or any additional materials will be provided to our Leadership Team who will vote on new Board members.

Nominate a Person

If you know of a person that would be a good fit to serve on the Board, you are encouraged to nominate them. A representative from the current Board will make contact with those individuals and personally invite them to [submit an application](#). Please provide the following information to shin@ocfsn.org:

- Nominee(s) name, email, and phone
- Brief statement on why you believe this individual should be invited to serve

OCFSN BOARD APPLICATION

The OCFSN Board Application can be completed online or in a 60 minute phone interview. Below is a preview of the questions. Please [submit your application online](#) by January 31, 2026 or email Shin at shin@ocfsn.org to schedule a phone or zoom interview.

Contact Information

1. Name & Pronouns:
2. Organization:
3. Email & phone number:
4. What geographic region(s) does your Organization represent (choose any that apply)?:
 - a. Statewide
 - b. Portland Metro
 - c. North Coast
 - d. Eastern Oregon
 - e. Southern Oregon

- f. Central Oregon
- g. Columbia Gorge
- h. Other

Serving on the Board

We recognize that serving on the Board will take time and energy. The following questions help us to understand your capacity and ability to serve on the Board.

1. Provide a brief statement on why you are interested and what your goals would be as a member of the Board.
2. What skill sets and background would you be bringing/offering as a Board member?
3. Are there any accommodations that would be helpful for you to participate on the Board? *Examples could include: transportation or financial limitations, accessibility accommodations, and/or limited time or ability to participate. If you feel that you are fully able to participate, please indicate this.*

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

OCFSN is committed to diversity, equity and inclusion by breaking down barriers to participation and elevating the voices of people who have been historically underrepresented and/or marginalized. The following questions are personal in nature and are intended to provide OCFSN with an opportunity to diversify our perspectives and include more folks at the table. If you are uncomfortable answering any of the questions in writing you may leave it blank. Also, a phone interview can be scheduled in lieu of a written application, please reach out to shin@ocfsn.org to schedule this.

1. In what ways are you and/or your organization advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion?
2. What lived and organizational experience or perspectives would you bring as a member of the Board?
3. How has your background and experience prepared you to hold Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice as core to OCFSN's mission and values?
4. How does your identity influence and potentially bias your understanding and interaction within white supremacy culture (reference to [Tema Okun's characteristics of white supremacy culture](#))?
5. What training and experience in DEI, trauma-informed, racial equity, and/or social justice do you have that would support this Network's work?

Thank you for your time and energy in this process.

Please reach out to shin@ocfsn.org if you have any questions.