# Community Project Funding Request Form

## General Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Business Name</th>
<th>Ozarks Technical Community College</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Street Address</td>
<td>1001 E Chestnut Expressway,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Including City, State, and ZIP Code</td>
<td>Springfield, MO 65802</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Point of Contact</td>
<td>Matthew Simpson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone</td>
<td>417.447.2648</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fax</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web Site</td>
<td><a href="http://www.otc.edu">www.otc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cell Phone</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Please provide your cell number in case we need to reach you for an emergency.*

## Community Project Funding Request Information

- **Appropriations**
  - Agriculture (Accounts: Agricultural Research Service, Buildings and Facilities; Rural Development, Rural Community Development Grants; Rural Utilities Service, ReConnect Grants)
  - DoD (Accounts: Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation Army; Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation Navy; Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation Air Force; Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation Space Force; Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation Defense-Wide).
  - E&W (Accounts: Corps of Engineers – Investigations; Construction; MS River and Tributaries; Operation and Maintenance. Bureau of Reclamation – Water and Related Resources).
  - FSCG (Accounts: Small Business Administration; Small Business Initiatives).
  - Interior (Accounts: Federal land acquisitions through the Land and Water Conservation Fund; EPA State and Tribal Assistance Grants for certain water infrastructure projects; Certain State and Private Forestry projects within the U.S. Forest Service).
  - MilCon-VA (Accounts: Army; Navy and Marine Corps; Air Force; Defense-Wide; Army National Guard; Air National Guard; Army Reserve; Navy Reserve; Air Force Reserve).
  - T-HUD: (Accounts: Dept. of Transportation – Local Transportation Priorities; Dept. of Transportation – Airport Improvement Program (AIP); HUD – Economic Development Initiative (EDI)).

**Department or agency:**

- Department of Health and Human Services
- Department of Labor

**Account**

- SAMHSA; Employment and Training Administration, etc.

**Department of Agriculture**

- Rural Utilities Service/Rural Community Development Grants
Are you aware of another Member making a request for the same project?

☐ Yes
☐ No

Request

Your request should be no more than five or six sentences in length and correspond to the format below. It should include a description of the purpose as well as a justification for why it is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds.

Name of Program (Name of Agency): AMOUNT for the PROGRAM, which [DESCRIPTION IN FIVE OR SIX SENTENCES]

Example: SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION - MENTAL HEALTH (Department of Health and Human Services): Provide $500,000 for a substance abuse treatment program in City, State, which will ...

Ozarks Technical Community College (OTC) is requesting $500,000 in funding for equipment and other capital expenses to begin offering Electrical Distribution Systems (Lineworker) career training at the Richwood Valley Campus. Rural utilities across the state are facing shortages of skilled lineworkers and this program would help meet those needs by doubling the college’s annual graduates for the program. According to occupational projections from the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC), the state of Missouri will have 271 annual openings for electrical lineworkers with an average salary of $69,400 and 312 annual openings for telecommunications lineworkers with an average salary of $50,950. With capital support from the federal government to start the program, OTC can provide sustainable operational funding through tuition revenue and local support. That will allow this initial investment to meet the needs of rural utilities and their customers for the future, while preparing rural students for quality careers.

Disclosures

Do you or your organization have any financial, business, or other relationship with Congressman Long, members of his family, or any member of his congressional or campaign staff?

☐ Yes
☐ No

If yes, please provide details on the nature of the relationship.

Name: Matthew Edward Simpson

Name of the Person Submitting This Form

Date: 04 05 21

MM DD YY
Matt Norman  
Manager-Electric Line Operations  
City Utilities of Springfield, MO  
301 East Central Street  
Springfield, MO 65801  

February 11, 2021

Mr. Dinwiddie,

On behalf of the Electric Line Operations Department at City Utilities of Springfield, MO I would like to express our support for another Electric Distribution System (EDS) program which will be offered at the Richwood Valley Campus in Nixa, MO.

Opening a second Electric Distribution System program will provide educational benefits as well as quality job opportunities to local students in Nixa, Springfield, and other surrounding areas. There is currently a high demand for well-trained and highly-skilled linemen across the country. The EDS program OTC offers will help fill this need benefitting both local utilities and neighboring communities.

The Electric Distribution System program located at the Lebanon Campus has proven to be successful and considering current demand from the industry and I see no reason why another program at the Richwood Valley Campus will not be equally successful. As the Manager of Electric Line Operations for City Utilities I would like to offer both my professional and technical support for the Richwood Valley EDS program. I look forward to working with OTC faculty and staff to help achieve the college’s goals of quality education while at the same time helping to fill future needs in the electric utility industry.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Matt Norman  
Manager-Electric Line Operations
April 6, 2021

Dr. Cliff Davis
President, Richwood Valley Campus
Ozarks Technical Community College
Nixa, MO 65714

Dear Dr. Davis:

Increased education and training in energy-related fields is critical to the economic development of rural Missouri communities. The state of Missouri is home to 47 electric distribution cooperatives responsible for providing power to residents and businesses throughout the state. A third of those cooperatives are located in the southwest portion of the state.

White River Valley Electric, in partnership with Ozarks Technical Community College (OTC), supports the further expansion of these opportunities at the college’s Richwood Valley Campus. Through this expansion of the line worker training program at OTC Richwood Valley, critical workforce training needs will be met.

The utility industry in Missouri and surrounding states, are currently experiencing a shortage of qualified technicians and adequate training opportunities. The college hopes to address these needs through the expansion of OTC’s line worker program. White River Valley Electric values the education and training provided by OTC. We believe this project will be critical in addressing current and future workforce needs. White River Valley Electric specifically commits to furthering this partnership through:

- consideration of hiring graduates from the expanded line worker program at the OTC Richwood Valley Campus.
- continued involvement in curriculum development and serving on program advisory boards.

White River Valley Electric supports the educational and employment opportunities the line worker program will provide graduates in rural Missouri, as well as OTC’s application for grant funding.

Sincerely,

Cassie Cunningham, CCC
Manager of Communications & Member Engagement
February 8, 2021
RE: Lineman Program for OTC

To Whom it May Concern,

As the President/CEO of the region’s third largest chamber and the largest in Christian County, I cannot express to you how lucky we are to have the OTC Richwood Valley Campus. Their contributions over the years to our students and career programs has been impactful in many ways. Just recently, they completed the new agricultural center which once again shows their commitment to the education of their students.

A Lineman Program (Electrical Distribution System) at the OTC Richwood Valley Campus would benefit our community in many ways. Not only with providing the training necessary for local students to learn a very in demand career, but it would also benefit the many utility companies we have in the area that have a high need for skilled workforce including our own Nixa Utility Department.

OTC has proven over the years when they receive grants or gifts, they always good stewards of those opportunities. Members of their organization also is quick to give back to our community as well, such as serving on leadership boards and committees. It is extremely rewarding to have their involvement in our community and showing great leadership.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Chris Russell
President/CEO
Nixa Chamber of Commerce
(417) 725-1545
chrisrussell@nixachamber.com
February 17, 2021

Dr. Cliff Davis
President & System Vice Chancellor
OTC Richwood Valley Campus
Ozarks Technical Community College
3369 W. Jackson St.
Nixa, MO 65714

Dear Dr. Davis:

My name is Earl Wilson, and I am writing a letter of support for the OTC Richwood Valley Campus to start a Lineman Program. I have been in the electric industry for 41 years and currently am the Operations Manager at Ozark Electric Cooperative located in Mt. Vernon, Missouri.

Currently there is a need for lineman in our area, who after graduation from a Lineman Program will remain in our area. In the past, we have hired lineman from the Kansas area schools when there were not schools here locally. Some of the lineman stayed and some left to get closer back to home. We want to hire students that are local and want to remain local.

I currently sit on the board for State Technical College of Missouri located in Linn, Missouri. Many of the graduating students take jobs traveling or are from the St. Louis area. We also have a District Supervisor of Operations here at Ozark Electric, named Steve Swearingen, who is on the advisory committee at OTC Lebanon campus. We hired a young man last August that graduated from the Lebanon campus and want to continue our role at OTC Richwood Valley Campus.

We want to be involved with the training requirements of the program to ensure that when students graduate, they will be safe in their work and can hit the ground running for employers. We have also donated equipment to the Lebanon campus such as a pole trailer along with smaller items. We would be willing to make donations if asked for the OTC Richwood Lineman Program.

In closing, I support the start of a Lineman Program at the OTC Richwood Valley Campus and believe it would be an asset not only to Ozark Electric but other utilities in Southwest Missouri.

Sincerely,

Earl Wilson
Operations Manager
Dr. Cliff Davis  
Ozarks Technical Community College - Richwood Valley  
3369 W Jackson  
Nixa, MO 65714

Re: Lineman training program at OTC Richwood Valley

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to support OTC - Richwood Valley’s grant application to help establish a lineman training program. As clearly evidenced by ongoing severe weather conditions and energy challenges across Missouri, reliable electrical distribution systems and skilled line techs are vital to our citizens, our infrastructure, and our economy.

OTC - Richwood Valley is a trusted institution with the ability, leadership, and long-term vision to execute a lineman training program with excellence. I have full faith in OTC to provide its students with the knowledge and experience needed to maintain and expand crucial utility service to our communities.

As representatives of the Ozark business community, the Chamber of Commerce serves as a central liaison between our municipality, business owners, legislators, educational institutions, nonprofit organizations, citizens, and community leaders in various capacities. In service to these constituencies, the Ozark Chamber of Commerce stands in firm support of initiatives and programs that increase public safety, improve quality of life, and build a stronger Southwest Missouri region.

Ozarks Technical Community College has demonstrated success in cultivating partnerships to strategically deploy financial resources and address workforce needs. Therefore, the Ozark Chamber enthusiastically supports OTC - Richwood Valley’s application for funds and accompanying plans for future growth.

Sincerely,

Audrey Pauls
Interim Executive Director  
Ozark Chamber of Commerce  
Ozark, MO  
Audrey@ozarkchamber.com  
(417) 581-6139
April 5, 2021

Dr. Cliff Davis
OTC Richwood Valley Campus

RE: Support for the OTC Richwood Valley Campus Line Worker Program

To Whom it May Concern:

Show Me Christian County wishes to communicate and document commitment to the Ozarks Technical Community College Line Workers Training Program. We have faced many challenges in response to COVID-19 and this program will greatly benefit our region in recovery and resiliency efforts. This initiative would accelerate high quality workforce growth, create economic opportunities, and support local job growth. Skilled workforce development and innovation are critical to Southwest Missouri’s recovery efforts.

Show Me Christian County is committed to the continued support of this program in developing local business to create opportunities for OTC graduates, participate in advisory committees through our Christian County WORKS program, and assist in roles yet to be determined.

As a small organization, it is imperative to partner with others in our region. This initiative will allow us to equip local talent with the skills needed for the continued growth of our residential and business sectors.

Thank you for your full consideration of this initiative; we believe it will help our region not only recover from the devastating effects of COVID, but also rebuild as a stronger, more skilled and innovative community.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Andrea Sitzes
President & CEO
Springfield News-Leader

EDITORIALS | Opinion  This piece expresses the views of its author(s), separate from those of this publication.

A vote for OTC is a vote for better economic future in the Ozarks

News-Leader Editorial Board
Published 10:45 p.m. CT Mar. 31, 2018

It's remarkable what Ozarks Technical Community College has done over the past 20 years.

The school has grown from about teaching about 7,000 students per year to 20,000. They pump out well-trained graduates directly into a workforce that is in desperate need of talent. It's not a coincidence that OTC provides workers for industries that need it the most. School leaders are in regular discussion with local business leaders to find out just what kind of skills and training are needed.

They’ve done this with a smaller share of property tax income than any other community college in the state. OTC also doesn’t get its fair share of state funding, as we’ve written about previously.

Despite those financial challenges, OTC has become a shining example of how a community college should serve its community. And the folks at OTC want to do even more.

On Tuesday, voters can renew a 5-cent property tax and vote for an additional 5 cents. Even if both measures pass, OTC will still have the lowest property tax levy of any community college in the state.

Letter: Support Propositions A and B to increase OTC's impact in our community

Letter: Support OTC to create opportunities

With that revenue, OTC can create more educational opportunities for local folks, can provide more trained workers for local businesses and can build an educational infrastructure that could ultimately draw more business to the Ozarks.

That dream is potentially achieved through the marquee project the tax revenue would allow — a Center for Advanced Manufacturing and Technology. It would expand some of the
school's current popular programs and create a few new ones in areas such as stainless-steel production, precision manufacturing and 3-D printing.

In addition to creating more capacity for training, OTC can offer the use of space and equipment for local companies who need to train existing workers. The plan is designed based on similar centers that have proven successful, especially in the South.

**Editorial:** Missouri has processes to hold officials accountable. They just don’t work.

**Editorial:** Nobody remembered Milly Sawyers. We can change that.

It's something the local chamber of commerce has desired and that elected officials like state Sen. Jay Wasson have championed. OTC Chancellor Hal Higdon said he believes if OTC gets its center off the ground, it won't be long until communities around the state see the benefit such a resource provides and want one for themselves.

Higdon and other local leaders have seen these centers at work around the country. Build up the workforce to provide ready-made employees in industries that need skilled workers, and the manufacturers start rolling in. In Springfield, even if a center doesn't draw new businesses, it will certainly allow existing companies to grow.

Southwest Missouri can have all that for a relatively small investment from taxpayers. As stated above, the property tax levy would still be comparatively low. Also, that additional 5 cents on $100 of assessed value falls mostly on business that have a lot of property. They're happy to pay for what OTC provides.

Tuesday's ballot specifically asks if voters want to renew an existing property tax levy and add another. What it's really asking voters is if they want OTC to keep doing the good work it's been doing for two decades and give the school a chance to see if it can do even more for our community.

*This editorial is the view of the News-Leader Editorial Board.*

*Allen Jones, President*

*Cheryl Whitsitt, News Director*

*Stephen Herzog, Engagement Editor*