

Workforce Ready Grant, ROUND 1: Capacity-Building Recipients (2022) with Brief Description, County, Priority Populations, Industry Sector, and Award (Document updated July 2023.)

Applicants Awarded					
Organization	Description	County	Priority Populations	Industry Sectors	Amount Awarded
Advocates for Life Skills and Opportunities - ALSO	Three key initiatives identified will increase the capacity to expand workforce programs for people with disabilities in the manufacturing, technology, and healthcare industries, nurturing the intersection of job seekers, employers, service providers, community, and stakeholders. 1. Assess, attract, and engage stakeholders in the manufacturing, technology, and healthcare industries within urban, rural, and frontier Oregon communities. 2. Address the needs of job seekers through workforce discovery groups, financial literacy, and assistive technology. 3. Build internal capacity through person-centeredness training, DEI training, and succession planning.	Multnomah, Clackamas, Washington, Umatilla, Deschutes, Klamath, Harney, Jackson, and Josephine Counties	Persons with disabilities, Low-income communities, rural and frontier	Healthcare Technology Manufacturing (General)	\$299,612.50
AntFarm, Inc.	AntFarm is a grassroots organization in rural Clackamas County with 16 programs that support local youth and families, with local partners representing schools, churches, businesses, and families. These funds will expand training in businesses of Technology, Manufacturing, and Healthcare.	Rural Clackamas County	Communities of color, Low-income communities, Persons with disabilities, Tribes, Rural and frontier	Healthcare Technology Manufacturing	\$300,000.00
Baker Technical Institute	BTI will create short-term training sessions to teach key skills and characteristics necessary to be successful in the manufacturing industry. The manufacturing academy training sessions will focus on welding and fabrication, forklift certification, First Aid/CPR, and Hazardous Waste First Responder certification. BTI will increase capacity around regional demand for a mobile platform that brings trainings to communities.	Baker County	Women, Low-income communities, Incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals, Tribes	Manufacturing	\$89,500.00
Bay Area Enterprises	This funding will expand a program that enables persons with disabilities to access employment opportunities within the medical sector via development of an EVS (Environmental Services) program. This program will allow for advanced training, ultimately leading to the development of transferable skills that allow individuals the ability to be self-sufficient and self-reliant.	Curry, Coos, Lincoln, Lane, Douglas Counties	Low-income communities, Persons with disabilities, Rural and frontier	Healthcare	\$424,500.00

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Central Oregon Community College	Central Oregon Community College (COCC) will purchase needed equipment for the future health career programs being developed as part of the COCC Madras campus expansion, and will fund the planning and design of a redesign/retrofit of the COCC Manufacturing and Applied Technology Center (MATC) in Redmond.	Deschutes County	Communities of color, Low-income communities, Rural and frontier, Tribes	Healthcare Manufacturing	\$399,980.00
Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council	The Future Ready Oregon grant will add staffing to strengthen outreach, extend and expand services to more youth, ages 16-24 and all adults 18 and older. It will also add a mobile WorkSource unit to provide employment services to rural and frontier communities.	Crook, Deschutes, Jefferson Counties	Communities of color, Women, Low-income communities, Rural and frontier, Veterans, Persons with disabilities, Incarcerated, Tribes, Age Discrimination, LGBTQ+, (plus Homeless/Houseless, High School Dropouts)	Healthcare Technology Manufacturing (General)	\$295,316.00
Centro Cultural de Washington County	Centro's Workforce Capacity Building leverages the existing Prosperidad program and connections with both Washington County's Latino community and local employers, jurisdictions, and workforce boards. Their program will connect people with emerging opportunities in advanced manufacturing and healthcare. A portion of the funding will be used for facility improvements to centralize operations of the expanding team.	Multnomah, Clackamas, and Washington counties	Communities of color, Low-income communities	Healthcare, Manufacturing	\$300,000.00
Chemeketa Community College	Chemeketa Community College, a Hispanic Serving Institution with campuses and centers in Yamhill, Marion, and Polk Counties, will increase the capacity to place and support individuals from target populations in jobs in manufacturing, healthcare, and technology industries by building and strengthening employer connections to create an aligned pathway from education to employment, assuring individuals receive the pre and concurrent training that leads to higher-wage careers. Employers will be offered tuition-free DEI classes, leading to a Cultural Competency Certification to ensure workplaces are ready to inclusively welcome and retain new employees.	Marion, Polk, Yamhill counties	Communities of color; Women; Low-income communities; Rural; and frontier; Persons with disabilities; Tribes LGBTQ+; (disengaged youth)	Healthcare Technology Manufacturing	\$299,992.00

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City of Hillsboro	With grant resources, Hillsboro Advanced Manufacturing Workforce Partnership (HAMWP) capacity will increase access and expand accessible training opportunities that are pathways to direct employment, create culturally and linguistically relevant career mapping, and launch a manufacturing campaign in the advanced manufacturing sector. They will build consortium capacity through investments that support a strong workforce ecosystem. Elements of this ecosystem include an aligned talent pipeline, holistic access and engagement to support priority populations, and advocacy and awareness of the manufacturing sector.	Multnomah, Clackamas, and Washington counties	Communities of color; Women; Low-income communities	Manufacturing	\$300,000.00
Daisy Chain	With this grant, Daisy C.H.A.I.N. (DC) will hire two doula mentors to support their capacity to mentor incoming doulas. They will provide paid mentorship for three DC volunteers who attended doula training in June 2022. These mentees will be paid for up to six months of on-the-job learning, shadowing at least one prenatal, one birth, and one postpartum visit. This project will increase DC's capacity to sustain this specialized workforce development in a healthcare field in which people of color and other priority populations are underrepresented due to systemic racism and oppression.	Lane County	Communities of color; Women; Low-income communities; Rural and frontier; Persons with disabilities; LGBTQ+	Healthcare	\$232,695.60
Diversability Inc.	Funding allows Diversability Inc. to increase wages for their Employment Professionals who provide the direct service that is critical to the success of the individuals we support. HECC funding also allows Diversability Inc. to partner with Central Oregon healthcare, technology and manufacturing businesses, promoting individuals with diversabilities as a capable and highly under-utilized workforce.	Central Oregon; Deschutes County	Women; Low-income communities; Persons with disabilities; LGBTQ+	Healthcare; Technology; Manufacturing	\$50,000.00
EncodeXP	Funding will enable EncodeXP to integrate career pathway mapping and student mentorship, to begin designing and building a tech aptitude assessment, and to increase outreach and support for communities of color; women; rural and frontier regions; individuals who identify as LGBTQ+; low-income, at-risk, justice-involved youth; and other young people who may not see themselves in the tech field. A large part of their project is expanding partnerships in K-20 education, out-of-school training programs, workforce providers, and community service organizations.	Jackson and Josephine counties	Communities of color; Women; Low-income communities; Rural and frontier; Veterans; Persons with disabilities; Incarcerated; Tribes; Age Discrimination; LGBTQ+	Technology; Manufacturing	\$252,270.00

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Eugene-Springfield NAACP Unit #1119	The NAACP Health Committee will plan and implement "Health Care Career Boost," a workforce development and mentoring program for people of color in Lane County, recruiting and mentoring middle school and high school students of color to complete a high school Health Sciences Career and Technical Education (CTE) career pathways program and subsequently enroll in the local community college or other higher education options, with the goal of obtaining employment in the health care or behavioral health care workforce.	Lane County	Communities of Color	Healthcare	\$225,953.00
Golden Rule ReEntry	Golden Rule Reentry will create a workforce development plan focused on essential employability skills that includes partnerships with local workforce development agencies in manufacturing and healthcare, as well as nonprofits, agencies, businesses, and volunteers to deliver Life Skills training for formerly incarcerated individuals. They will develop a Drop-In Center for program participants, graduates, and other formerly incarcerated people who need case management support.	Jackson and Josephine counties	Incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals	Manufacturing	\$300,000.00
Hacienda CDC	Providing a comprehensive digital literacy curriculum and exposure to emerging technology is the goal for this program to create family-wage jobs in the manufacturing and technology sectors. Through this work, they intend to bridge the gap between noncomputer users and well-paying, highly regarded technology and manufacturing careers. In addition, a Spanish Language Digital Literacy course and create a technical skill learning path will be offered.	Multnomah, Clackamas, and Washington counties	Communities of color; Women; Low-income communities	Technology; Manufacturing	\$299,177.96
Horizon Project Inc. (HPI)	The Future Ready capacity-building grant will allow HPI to enhance and expand their current workforce development offerings by creating new partnerships with employers in the health care and manufacturing fields, by launching an internship / apprenticeship program, and by incorporating person-centered curricula that include tactile learning both on the job site and in the classroom. HPI will develop its apprenticeship program in partnership with Hermiston High School and Hermiston-based employers, focusing on the health care and manufacturing industries.	Umatilla County	Persons with disabilities	Healthcare; Manufacturing	\$143,780.00

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Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization	Understanding the many barriers to gainful employment, this capacity grant will engage job seekers from targeted immigrant and refugee communities living and working in the greater Portland metro area via focus groups to help identify and understand barriers to entering manufacturing, technology, and healthcare industry sectors. With both job seeker and employer input, they will develop a new program modeling culturally and linguistically specific appropriate services that identifies barriers, needs, and career opportunities for priority populations.	Multnomah, Washington, Clackamas Counties	Communities of color; Women; Low-income communities; Rural and frontier; Veterans; Persons with disabilities; Incarcerated; Tribes; Age Discrimination; LGBTQ+; (Plus immigrants and refugees)	Healthcare; Technology; Manufacturing	\$72,890.00
Klamath Community College (KCC)	The KCC Apprenticeship Center, an approximately \$11.5 million, 30,000-square-foot instructional facility for BOLI registered apprenticeships (in construction and related trades), manufacturing, technology, allied “hands-on” skills education, and Emergency Response Operations (ERO) training, is now under construction. This Workforce Ready project will focus predominantly on migrant and seasonal farmworker households/ students associated with KCC’s Highschool Equivalency Program (HEP), which predominantly works with individuals in the Latino/Hispanic community. The college will build on and enhance established relationships while continuing to seek out new mutually beneficial collaborations.	Klamath and Lake County	Communities of color; Women; Low-income communities; Rural and frontier; Veterans; Persons with disabilities; Incarcerated; Tribes; Age Discrimination; LGBTQ+	Technology; Manufacturing	\$300,000.00
Klamath Works	Klamath Works will provide supported work and actual work experience opportunities for any individual in the Basin who is interested in pursuing a career in manufacturing. The grantee will provide training, supports and compensation to participants on its manufacturing training crews. Klamath Works will also use Grant Funds to secure equipment needs that will provide hands-on training and vehicle transportation for participants.	Klamath County	Low-income communities; Rural and frontier; Incarcerated; (young adults 18+)	Manufacturing	\$200,000.00
Latino Network	The project focuses on updating Latino Network’s culturally specific and Spanish language Community Health Worker (CHW) curriculum and obtaining OHA’s certification so that they can continue to offer CHW training to their community. They will also continue planning for future work to ensure that CHWs have access to continuing education classes, particularly in the area of mental and behavioral health, as well as externships that lead to a secure job placement through a partnership with Raices de Bienestar and Centro Cultural of Washington County’s Centro de Prosperidad.	Multnomah, Washington Counties	Communities of color; Low-income communities; LGBTQ+	Healthcare	\$118,531.00

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Mercy Flights	The project allows Mercy Flights to build an Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Apprenticeship Program in Southern Oregon. Designed to expand the available pool of EMS professionals and address the current and forecasted EMS workforce crisis, the program is modeled after longstanding trade sector apprenticeship models, where students earn a livable wage while learning a profession.	Jackson, Josephine, Klamath, Douglas Counties	Communities of color; Women; Low-income communities; Rural and frontier; Veterans; Tribes; LGBTQ+	Healthcare	\$197,437.00
Mid-Willamette Valley Communication Action	This project provides the opportunity to meaningfully connect and engage with employers to build concrete, ongoing bridges to employment opportunities in the manufacturing and technology industries within Marion, Polk, and Yamhill counties. They will expand their current employment services, including acting as a liaison between the reentry community and manufacturing/technology employers.	Marion, Polk & Yamhill Counties	Communities of color; Low-income communities; Rural and frontier; Incarcerated	Technology; Manufacturing	\$168,630.00
Mt. Hood Community College	This project a) creates a mobile training/teaching lab to be used onsite at manufacturers' sites (for incumbent or existent workers); b) mentors current experts from the industry to become part-time faculty and provide the training (increasing sustainability and collaboration); c) provides workforce training opportunities for jobseekers with introductory mechatronics classes; and d) provides wraparound support for participants through student resource specialists, strengthening job attainment, retention, and promotion among participants.	Multnomah County	Communities of color; Women; Low-income communities; Rural and frontier; Veterans; Persons with disabilities; Incarcerated; Tribes; Age Discrimination; LGBTQ+	Technology; Manufacturing	\$300,000.00
Oregon Center for Nursing (OCN)	This project aims to support workforce programs in the healthcare sector through evidence-based research uncovering the barriers to workforce expansion and sustainability specific to low-income and rural communities. The information gleaned from this project will allow the local workforce development board to recommend, lead, coordinate, and conduct new initiatives to advance opportunities specifically designed to reduce resistance and eliminate barriers for low-income and rural community members, which in turn enhances their capacity to launch, expand, sustain, and offer continued support to the local nursing workforce.	Coos County	Low-income communities; Rural and frontier	Healthcare	\$115,640.00

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Oregon State University	The Ecampus grant project will serve Veteran students who are living in Oregon and using the post-9/11 GI Bill to pursue degrees in healthcare, technology, and manufacturing in online programs. Presently, the federal government reduces the housing allowance portion of the GI Bill for these students—simply because they are studying online. This grant funding will help make the housing allowance more equitable for veterans pursuing online degree programs in the targeted disciplines in the state of Oregon.	Statewide	Veterans	All	\$52,737.00
Oregon State University	Expands Community Health Worker (CHW) training to serve Oregon's Veterans. Grant activities include (a) recruiting two small cohorts of Veterans and training them to become entry-level CHWs who are certified for work by the Oregon Health Authority; (b) developing and launching a Continuing Education course for all CHWs regarding Veteran's healthcare needs; and (c) supporting Veteran's job placement as CHWs with professional networking opportunities.	Statewide	Veterans	Healthcare	\$278,141.00
Oregon Workforce Partnership (OWP)	In this capacity-building grant, OWP will lead the integration of WorkSource Oregon services in the 12 Oregon state prisons alongside the Department of Corrections. The emphasis of this program will focus on work readiness, education, training opportunities, and placement connections to high-wage, high-growth industries.	Statewide	Low-income communities; Incarcerated	Manufacturing	\$107,500.00
PODER Oregon's Latino Leadership Network	Due to the lack of culturally specific mental health providers and employers, PODER is working to support behavioral health by increasing the number of Latino bilingual and bicultural qualified mental health providers. This work is expected to establish a statewide Latino Health Council made up of diverse Latino healthcare professionals, healthcare research experts, and healthcare CBOs. The goals are to expand access to bilingual/bicultural services for Latino across the region and to strategically inform and guide healthcare policy and resources in the private, nonprofit, and public sectors in order to improve health outcomes and increase capacity for the communities served.	Marion County; Statewide	Communities of color; Low-income; communities; Rural and frontier	Healthcare	\$300,000.00

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Portland Community College (PCC)	This project is designed to support communities of color, women, low-income communities, formerly incarcerated individuals, and members of Oregon's nine federally recognized Indian tribes by improving awareness of and expanding access to culturally relevant, industry-aligned training that leads to high-demand, good paying jobs in manufacturing, with a particular focus on machine manufacturing technology (MTT). It will accomplish this by engaging community and industry partners in a comprehensive review of a student's journey, including initial engagement with PCC, career and college preparatory activities, technical training in MMT, and holistic student supports that can create and strengthen pathways to careers in machine manufacturing. PCC will also enhance its MTT laboratory equipment. This work will inform a future curriculum redesign that better meets the needs of priority populations as well as industry.	Multnomah, Washington, Yamhill, Clackamas, and Columbia Counties	Communities of color; Women; Low-income communities; Incarcerated; Tribes	Manufacturing	\$291,248.00
Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center Inc (POIC)	POIC's project will expand the Health Care career training pathway to serve approximately 50 new trainees and support them in ultimately entering living-wage careers. POIC and Rosemary Anderson High School (RAHS) are well-positioned to make a significant impact on the healthcare sector in the Portland Metropolitan Area. They have strong partnerships with hundreds of workforce partners across Portland and beyond who are in dire need of qualified, highly skilled, and diverse applicants. POIC+RAHS' programming is unique because participants have access to POIC+RAHS' array of other wraparound services, including access to a Career Coach and mentors (before and after their placement), financial education support, counseling, additional education, pro-social activities, and much more.	Multnomah County	Communities of color; Low-income communities; Incarcerated	Healthcare; Manufacturing	\$299,970.00

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Portland State University (PSU)	PSU's Vernier Science Center STEM Equity Hub will transform existing priority-population student support programs and physical space to ensure that STEM/health students can succeed in their disciplines and quickly enter fulfilling, well-paying careers. This capacity-building project will enable PSU's team to: 1) expand connections and build a common agenda with employers and other workforce partners in the health, manufacturing, and technology workforce; 2) develop foci on climate change mitigation/adaptation and connect partners' perspectives to the vision for the Center; 3) begin scaling existing programs in the Center that can immediately support student success and grow the workforce in priority sectors. The efforts are designed to 4) bring in new partners—particularly community-based organizations led by Black, Indigenous, and People of Color—to the workforce ecosystem.	Multnomah County	Communities of color; Women; Low-income communities; Rural and frontier; Veterans; Persons with disabilities; Incarcerated; Tribes; Age Discrimination; LGBTQ+; (plus undocumented/DACA and foster care experience)	Healthcare; Technology; Manufacturing	\$223,741.00
Rise Partnership	RISE Partnership provides workers in long-term care facilities with training, apprenticeship, and mentorship to help them thrive in their careers. Careworks created and operates Oregon's first and only competency-based and BOLI-certified Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) apprenticeship program. The Rural Equity Project will scope the cost and feasibility of mobile training units that can be training centers for rural communities who may benefit from targeted strategies to grow and retain a long-term care workforce. These mobile training units would be designed to serve as training facilities to mimic on-the-job training (e.g., hospital beds, vital equipment) and have computer training and broadband access. The funding will also support developing curriculum continuing education for long-term care facility workers, and developing a new, Oregon-specific CNA curriculum.	Statewide	Communities of color; Women; Low-income communities; Rural and frontier; Persons with disabilities; Incarcerated; Age Discrimination	Healthcare	\$300,000.00
Rockwood Community Development Corporation, East County Community Health (ECCH)	Rockwood Community Development will initiate this workforce initiative incrementally through three phases. Phase I of CHW community health capacity building initiative will strengthen current relationships while building new partnerships, developing robust programming, and being intentional with outreach into BIPOC communities for participants. Phase II will launch the CHW Community Health Workforce Training and Certification program for People of Color (POC) community members and students. Phase III will focus on securing additional funding sources for sustainability and expansion.	Multnomah County	Communities of color; Women; Low-income communities; Age Discrimination	Healthcare	\$181,985.33

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Rogue Community College (RCC)	The scope of the grant-funded project is to increase RCC's capacity to launch, sustain, and support workforce training in healthcare within the Rogue Valley in response to the region's industry needs. Priority populations affected by this project include first-generation college students, as well as rural and economically disadvantaged residents of the Rogue Valley. Anticipated longer-term outcomes of this project include 1) providing pathways to high-demand, high-wage jobs in the Rogue Valley; 2) expanding the healthcare training portfolio in the region; 3) responding to urgent requests from healthcare partners; and 4) increasing the economic output in the region.	Jackson, Josephine Counties	Communities of color; Women; Low-income communities; Rural and frontier; Veterans; Age Discrimination	Healthcare; Technology; Manufacturing	\$299,999.65
South Coast Business	South Coast Business will use the funding to bridge the gap between Spanish-speaking populations and manufacturing employers throughout the western portion of the state through developing targeted recruitment practices and developing culturally competent employment opportunities.	Coos, Curry, and Douglas Counties	Communities of color; Women; Low-income communities; Rural and frontier	Manufacturing	\$188,550.00
The Contingent	This project aims to expand the Empowering Leaders Internship program to Southern Oregon and build the infrastructure needed to scale to multiple locations beyond the Portland Metro area. The expansion to Southern Oregon is in partnership with Project Youth +, a nonprofit working in Jackson and Josephine Counties to increase opportunities for youth to thrive in school, careers, and life. Funding will support recruitment of Southern Oregon companies to provide internships across sectors, with an emphasis on the technology sector as well as support roles in manufacturing and health care. Student recruitment will focus on enhancing opportunities for students from communities of color and/or lower-income rural backgrounds. Funding also supports Emerging Leaders Internship orientation and interns.	Jackson, Josephine Counties	Communities of color; Women; Low-income communities; Rural and frontier	Healthcare; Technology; Manufacturing (general)	\$313,599.70

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United We Heal Training	This project will utilize existing grassroots structures to establish and nurture long-term support structures for thousands of workers including primarily women and people of color to advance their careers in healthcare and in IT Help Desk roles. The project will 1) develop recruitment and selection materials and processes with engagement from BIPOC, female, rural, and gender non-binary individuals; 2) engage existing worker caucuses to build mentorship programs that are culturally relevant, union-associated, and worksite-based; 3) engage experienced adult educators to develop mentor training curriculum as well as recruit and train mentors; 4) recruit trainees; and 5) prepare for future workforce funding opportunities, including future rounds of Workforce Ready Grants to pay for tuition.	Statewide	Communities of color; Women; Low-income communities; Persons with disabilities; LGBTQ+	Healthcare; Technology	\$300,000.00
Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center (VGMHC)	The funding increases Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center's capacity to expand, strengthen and diversify workforce pipelines to healthcare careers through a partnership with Hillsboro School District (HSD) and Portland Community College (PCC). VGMHC and partners will work to create a pipeline for existing staff and community members to enter the fields of registered nurses and dental hygienists. All three partners serve priority populations, including people with low incomes, people of color, immigrants, and refugees.	Washington County	Communities of color; Women; Low-income communities	Healthcare	\$300,000.00
Vision Action Network (VAN)	Vision Action Network will support a collaborative cohort to focus on the behavioral health sector with Adelante Mujeres and Raíces de Bienestar, two community-based organizations located in Washington County. Together, they intend to build their capacity to provide culturally specific behavioral health services for the Latino/a/e/x communities in Washington County and rural areas in the Willamette Valley and Southern Oregon.	Washington, Clackamas, Marion, Polk, Jackson & Josephine Counties.	Communities of color; Women; Low-income communities; Rural and frontier	Healthcare	\$300,000.00
Warm Springs Community Action Team (WSCAT)	WSCAT will build the capacity of the workforce development program by conducting needs assessments and asset mapping, and by developing a vision and strategic plan around technology workforce training in Warm Springs. This includes a variety of technology sectors, including IT and solar. They will serve tribal members living on the Warm Springs Indian Reservation.	Jefferson County	Communities of color; Women; Low-income communities; Rural and frontier; Tribes	Technology	\$126,079.00

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Willamette Education Service District	With funding, they will obtain and install needed high-priced industry-standard equipment for the new Information Technology and Manufacturing Programs including a precision lathe, a CNC machine, downdraft tables, an ironworker, large scale printer, and water jet tools. They will also set up infrastructure for Career and Technical Student Organizations.	Marion, Polk & Yamhill Counties	Communities of color; Women; Low-income communities; Rural and frontier	Technology; Manufacturing	\$274,357.00