

Vibrant Democracy - Partnership Mobilization

BACKGROUND

Seattle Foundation created the Center for Community Partnerships to advance collaborative, systemic change to achieve greater economic and racial equity in the region. We are now launching the Vibrant Democracy Initiative with the goal of strengthening the **voice and participation** of underrepresented communities to promote more equitable systems change. The Vibrant Democracy Initiative was developed alongside our two other initiatives, Neighbor to Neighbor (N2N) and Communities of Opportunity (COO). It invests in increasing participation and amplifying the voices of communities of color and low-income communities to bridge the grassroots capacity building of N2N and the place-based and policy change efforts of COO to create an integrated approach to community engaged systems change.

One of the ways we are supporting these efforts is through the **Partnership Mobilization** program. Understanding that there are cultural, organizational, and financial barriers for underrepresented communities to come together effectively, **Seattle Foundation invites proposals from nonprofit groups working in partnership to increase the engagement, representation, and power of underrepresented communities in civic and public processes.** Through the Partnership Mobilization program, nonprofit partnerships can apply for up to a total of \$30,000 to fund partnerships for civic voice and participation of underrepresented communities. Grants will range from \$2,000-\$10,000 per organization.

These grants are catalytic one-time investments to existing and emerging partnerships and coalitions that enable groups to develop or strengthen organizational relationships and reduce capacity challenges to collaboration. Groups can self-define the nature of their partnerships (e.g., ethnicity, geography, service area, issue, etc.).

Grant dollars can support planning, coordination, staff time, facilitation, and other costs associated with building partnerships.

Announcement Date: October 7, 2016

Deadline: Applications accepted on a rolling basis and will be reviewed quarterly. The deadline for each quarter is: December 2, 2016, February 24, May 19, and August 25, 2017.

Total Funds Available: Total funding available for the Partnership Mobilization grant is \$200,000 with rolling grants made throughout the year.

Grant Amount: Nonprofit partnerships can apply for a one-time grant up to a total of \$30,000 (\$2,000-\$10,000 per organization).

Description: One-time grants to fund partnership activities among organizations that seek to increase the civic voice and participation of underrepresented communities.

Eligibility: 501c3 organizations (or with a fiscal sponsorship) working in King County, Washington.

Contact Info: Please contact Bao-Tram Do (206- 515-2133 or b.do@seattlefoundation.org) for more information.

FUNDING PRIORITIES

A significant need among nonprofit organizations working to amplify underrepresented voices in policy and systems change is the resources to establish strategic partnerships with other nonprofit organizations and institutions. Authentic and effective partnerships allow groups to leverage limited resources, reduce duplication, and build collective power.

We seek to fund:

- Partnerships with an intent to explore efforts to build community influence such as policy and systems change, advocacy, community organizing, leadership development, voter registration, voter education.
- Partnerships of organizations with limited staff and financial capacity to partner with other nonprofits or institutions such as school districts or government agencies.
- Unfunded but essential partnerships that enable groups to accomplish collective efforts that they would not be able to do alone.

ELIGIBILITY AND CRITERIA

Eligibility is restricted to:

- Each organizations receiving funding must have 501c3 status or are fiscally sponsored by a 501c3 organization. 501c4 activities are not eligible for funding.
- Submitting applicant is limited to applying on behalf of one Partnership Mobilization grant per year. Submitting applicant and organizations in the partnership can be included in other Partnership Mobilization grant proposals.

Applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Total grant request not to exceed \$30,000. Grant per organization ranges from \$2,000-\$10,000 depending on scope of work, activities, and role in partnership.
- Partnership must include at least two organizations with no limit on the total number of organizations.
- Organizations in partnership are aware of the grant proposal being submitted and consent to working together.
- Partnerships awarded a grant are required to submit a final report, sharing learnings and outcomes on the partnership.

Funding examples:

Below are a few examples of potential partnership requests for support. Your partnership can determine the scope of funding and is not limited to these examples.

Total partnership amount will be determined in part by the number of organizations participating.

- \$30,000 is the maximum total partnership grant amount. Grants in this range will be rare and made only to large partnerships to support several organizations engaging in intensive coordination of large scale planning efforts to increase community influence.
- Grants in the \$10,000 to \$15,000 range are likely to support the staffing costs of a few organizations coming together to build relationships, and plan collaborative approaches on civic activities, etc.
- Grants in the \$2,000 to \$5,000 range can be made to support the staffing costs of one or two organizations joining an existing coalition, one organization partnering with a larger institution, two organizations exploring a partnership to increase civic voice of their constituents, etc.

Size of grant to each organization will be determined by the role and amount of work taken on by each partner.

- \$10,000 is the maximum grant amount to a single organization in a partnership. Grants in this range will be rare and made only to organizations playing a leadership role in the partnership taking on the facilitation, planning, food, meeting space and other related costs.
- Grants in the \$2,000 to \$5,000 range can be made to support the staffing costs of an organization participating in a partnership or joining an existing coalition, the level of funding will depend on the time dedicated to the partnership.

Funding will be awarded based upon the degree to which applicants meet the following criteria:

Partnership/Community Served

- Partners represent historically underrepresented communities.
- Partners represent communities experiencing significant social and economic inequities.
- Circumstances and rationale that bring this group coming together are clear.
- Roles between partners are clear.

Purpose and Activities

- Partners articulate a desire and clear intent to come together, build relationships and begin planning.
- Purpose of this partnership and intent to increase the participation and civic voice of underrepresented communities is clearly articulated.
- Partnership demonstrates need for funding to foster and strengthen relationships between organizations and develop collective approached.
- Funds will be distributed equitably among the partners based on role and financial need.
- Proposed approach has the necessary leadership, facilitation, and other

capacity to allow for successful planning and relationship building.

Anticipated Results

- Desired results of partnership building activities are clear and have the potential to increase the participation and civic voice of underrepresented communities.
- Partners articulate potential roles of individual organizations and how collective planning and relationship building could strengthen their activities and collective outcomes.
- Partners are able to track information and evaluate progress and/or success.

APPLICATION MATERIALS

RFP Narrative Questions

Write a narrative response to sections 1-3, answering each section relevantly and completely. Narrative not to exceed four pages. Required attachments do not count towards total pages.

1. Partnership Definition

- What is the history between the groups applying for this grant?
- How does this group define its partnership?
- What are the current circumstances that bring this group together?

2. Partnership Purpose and Activities

- What is the purpose of coming together?
- How does this partnership increase the participation and civic voice of underrepresented communities?
- What will funding for this partnership allow groups to do that they could not otherwise?
- What process did your partnership use to decide how funds will be distributed among the partners for this grant?

3. Partnership Anticipated Results

- What is this partnership hoping to accomplish?
- What are one or two collective outcomes?
- What are individual organizational roles in reaching those outcomes?
- What are your current plans to track information and evaluate progress and/or success?

Attachments:

- Cover Sheet** - Please fill out the cover sheet provided and include with your proposal.
- Partnership Table** - Please fill out the partnership table provided and include with your proposal.
- Board Lists** - Please provide board of directors/steering committee lists for all the organizations involved in the partnership. Board lists should include relevant information that demonstrates the representation of underrepresented communities being engaged (e.g., ethnicity, age, gender, etc.).



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- d. **Organizational Budgets** - Please provide a current operating budget with expense and revenue information for each organization in the partnership.

HOW TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION

The Partnership Mobilization grant proposals are intended to be flexible, accepted on a rolling basis and reviewed quarterly, to allow for organic development of collective efforts and to reduce the equity gap in building partnerships and relationships. Applications will be reviewed December 2, 2016, February 24, May 19, and August 25, 2017.

Application Instructions:

Step One: Nonprofit groups come together as a partnership to collaborate on shared civic activities. Identify an organization that will submit the grant proposal on behalf of the partnership. Contact Bao-Tram Do at b.do@seattlefoundation.org or (206) 515-2133 to ensure that you are a strong fit for the Partnership Mobilization program.

Step Two: If eligible, download and complete the VDI Partnership Mobilization grant application. Technical assistance is available to complete the application.

Step Three: Email a completed application packet by the review deadlines to b.do@seattlefoundation.org. A completed application packet will consist of the following:

1. Narrative Response
2. Attachments: (a) Cover Sheet (b) Partnership Table (c) Board Lists, and (d) Organizational Budgets
3. If relevant – fiscal sponsorship letters for each organization that is fiscally sponsored.

Step Four: Seattle Foundation staff may follow up to request additional information or site-visit.

Step Five: You will be notified of the funding decision a month after the review dates. Separate checks will be sent to each organization in the partnership.