Systems and Policy Change RFP Cover Sheet

SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND RACIAL EQUITY

Social, economic and racial equity is foundational to the work of Communities of Opportunity. For many in our region, King County is a great place to live, learn, work and play. Yet we have deep and persistent inequities - especially by race and place - that in many cases are getting worse and threaten our collective prosperity.

COO's approach recognizes that the region's overall high quality of life is masking profound differences by place and race. COO investments are directed to communities where there are the greatest inequities. COO uses a racial equity and social justice lens in developing strategies to impact community connections, economic opportunity, health and housing. We seek to support and invest in partnerships that are reflective of and embedded in the communities they serve, and draw on the strengths and assets of these communities to achieve the long-term goal of reducing and eliminating inequities.

COO strategies and priorities have been designed and developed through a partnership with leaders from community-based organizations, government and philanthropy. Together, we create priorities and collaborative solutions in communities; engage multiple organizations in institutional, systems and policy change; and foster innovations in equity, through leadership and capacity building in a regional learning community.
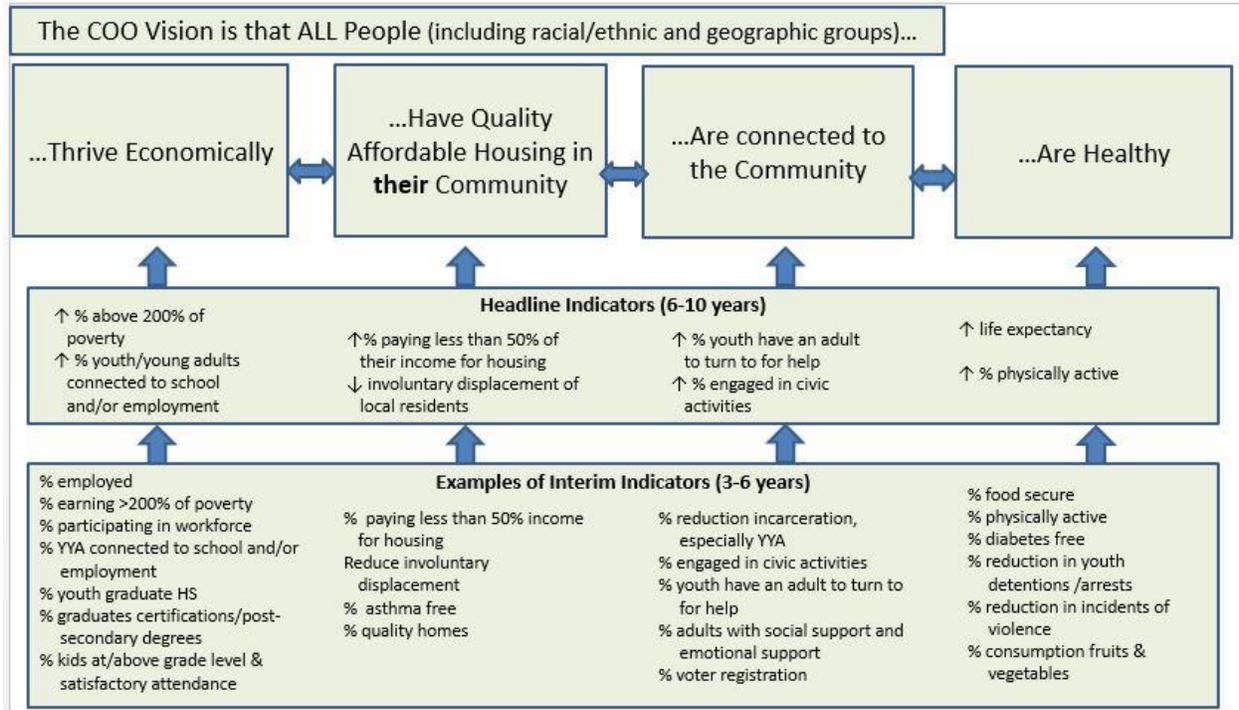
SYSTEMS AND POLICY CHANGE

For this RFP, **policy change** refers to changes in written laws, regulations, and budget commitments designed to influence both public and private organizations. Policy refers to formal guidelines governing the way everyday life is conducted. Usually, policies have widespread application, change less frequently and help answer the question about "what" things are being done. Policy includes everything from policies at a neighborhood or organizational level, such as school policies, to formal state-wide legislation.

Systems change refers to changes in the way organizations in different sectors interact with each other in an ongoing way (therefore changes within a single organization, e.g., one city

department or one school district, constitutes a policy or infrastructure change, not a systems change).

COO RESULTS FRAMEWORK

The COO Vision is that ALL People (including racial/ethnic and geographic groups)…

| …Thrive Economically | …Have Quality Affordable Housing in **their** Community | …Are connected to the Community | …Are Healthy |

Headline Indicators (6-10 years)

↑ % above 200% of poverty
↑ % youth/young adults connected to school and/or employment

↑% paying less than 50% of their income for housing
↓ involuntary displacement of local residents

↑ % youth have an adult to turn to for help
↑ % engaged in civic activities

↑ life expectancy
↑ % physically active

Examples of Interim Indicators (3-6 years)

% employed
% earning >200% of poverty
% participating in workforce
% YYA connected to school and/or employment
% youth graduate HS
% graduates certifications/post-secondary degrees
% kids at/above grade level & satisfactory attendance

% paying less than 50% income for housing
Reduce involuntary displacement
% asthma free
% quality homes

% reduction incarceration, especially YYA
% engaged in civic activities
% youth have an adult to turn to for help
% adults with social support and emotional support
% voter registration

% food secure
% physically active
% diabetes free
% reduction in youth detentions /arrests
% reduction in incidents of violence
% consumption fruits & vegetables

PAST GRANTEES

The work of past grantees most closely aligns with the planned 2017 Project Level awards. While efforts of the Project Level Grantees can include activities listed under Capacity Level examples as part of their overall project, they cannot be limited to those activities alone. Project Level requests need to lead to a larger, specific policy or systems change, in addition to their proposed activities. Capacity Level requests should be focused on efforts to build experience and engage their community, but are not expected to formally change policies or systems through their funding.

Past funding examples include but are not limited to:

- *Multi-faith-based advocacy project to address the affordable housing needs in South Seattle and South King County. Included in this approach is the conversion of faith-based organization-owned property into affordable housing.*

- *Integrating community participation in the development and implementation of interdepartmental teams recently created at both the County and at the City of Seattle to address the needs of workers and residents in the Duwamish Valley.*

- *Youth-led effort to reform food policy within Highline High Schools in order to adopt a youth-created menu and meals addressing the need for healthy and culturally appropriate foods.*

- *Launch of a King County Latino policy agenda with coordinated advocacy and civic engagement strategies addressing policy concerns.*

- *Organizing effort to connect the needs of the LGBTQ community, particularly youth vulnerable to homelessness, to policy efforts aimed at addressing affordable housing in Seattle.*

- *Multicultural organizing strategy among parents of children with disabilities to increase and ensure language access within schools.*

- *Anti-Displacement program addressing rent increases and displacement occurring throughout Rainier Valley and South King County. Development of a policy agenda tied to increasing renters' rights and built off best practices from other cities that have experienced gentrification.*

- *Development of an Ethiopian coalition to address the lack of services for the growing population of homeless immigrants arriving to the U.S. on diversity visas. Their approach combines aligning community assets and strengthening community partnerships with service providers.*

- *Technical assistance to community-led groups in the development of local advocacy efforts to address healthy food access, healthy living or tobacco prevention.*

- *Advocacy and policy change effort addressing affordable housing, specifically around the Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) and Preservation Tax Exemption (PTE).*

- *Further development of a community health promoter model to demonstrate results in advance of the State's Medicaid waiver application that could potential scale and replicate services.*

- *Community education and engagement process intended to improve housing conditions within refugee communities by connecting them to landlords and policymakers.*

- *Coordinated approach to promoting anti-displacement actions by the City of Seattle affecting Yesler Terrace, the International District, Capitol Hill and the Central District.*