

# Vibrant Democracy Initiative - Partnership Mobilization

## BACKGROUND

Through the Partnership Mobilization program, part of Seattle Foundation's **Vibrant Democracy Initiative**, nonprofit partnerships can apply for a total of up to \$30,000 to fund partnerships that strengthen the civic voice and participation of underrepresented communities towards increased racial and economic equity. Grants will range from \$2,000 - \$10,000 per organization.

These grants are flexible, one-time investments to existing and emerging partnerships and coalitions to develop or strengthen organizational relationships and collaboration. Groups may self-define the nature of their partnerships (e.g., ethnicity, geography, service area, issue, etc.). Grant dollars will support planning, coordination, staff time, facilitation and other costs associated with building partnerships.

## 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, coordinate efforts, and build collective power.

### We seek to fund:

- Partnerships that are working towards strengthening the civic voice and participation of underrepresented communities towards increased racial and economic equity.
- Partnerships that build community influence in areas including but not limited to: policy and systems change, advocacy, community organizing, leadership development, voter registration, voter education, and census.
- Partnerships of organizations with limited staff and financial capacity collaborating with other nonprofits or institutions such as school districts or government agencies.
- Partnerships that enable groups to accomplish collective efforts they would not be able to achieve alone.

**Description:** One-time grants to fund partnership activities among organizations that seek to strengthen the civic voice and participation of underrepresented communities towards increased racial and economic equity.

**Deadline:** Partnership Mobilization grant proposals are accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis. Applicants will be notified of funding decision within 60 days of submitting a proposal.

**Total Funds Available:** Total funding available for the Partnership Mobilization grant is \$200,000 a 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).

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

**Application Link:**  
[seattlefoundation.smapply.org/prog/VDI\\_Partnership\\_Mobilization](http://seattlefoundation.smapply.org/prog/VDI_Partnership_Mobilization)

**Contact Info:** Bao-Tram Do at [b.do@seattlefoundation.org](mailto:b.do@seattlefoundation.org) or (206) 515-2133.

## 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.
- Organizations are limited to applying to one Partnership Mobilization grant per year.

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 consent to working together towards shared goals and priorities.
- Partnerships awarded 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. 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 coalitions 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 coordination 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 convening 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:**

<b>Partnership/Community Served</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partners represent historically underrepresented communities.</li> <li>• Partners represent communities experiencing significant racial and economic inequities.</li> <li>• Rationale that bring this group coming together are clear.</li> <li>• Roles between partners are clear.</li> </ul>
<b>Purpose and Activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partners articulate a desire and clear intent to come together, build relationships and begin planning.</li> <li>• Purpose of this partnership and intent to increase the participation and civic voice of underrepresented communities is clearly articulated.</li> <li>• Partnership demonstrates need for funding to foster and strengthen relationships between organizations and develop shared approaches.</li> <li>• Funds will be distributed equitably among the partners based on role and financial need.</li> <li>• Proposed approach has the necessary leadership, facilitation, and other capacity to allow for successful planning and relationship building.</li> </ul>
<b>Anticipated Results</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Desired results of partnership building activities are clear and have the potential to increase the participation and civic voice of underrepresented communities.</li> <li>• Partners articulate potential roles of individual organizations and how collective planning and relationship building could strengthen their activities and collective outcomes.</li> <li>• Partners are able to track information and evaluate progress and/or success.</li> </ul>

**HOW TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL**

**Step One:**

Identify partners for Partnership Mobilization grant and determine shared priorities, goals, activities. **Contact Bao-Tram Do at [b.do@seattlefoundation.org](mailto:b.do@seattlefoundation.org) or (206) 515-2133** if you have questions about the application or if your partnership is a good fit for this program.

**Step Two:**

Apply online at [seattlefoundation.smapply.org/prog/VDI\\_Partnership\\_Mobilization](http://seattlefoundation.smapply.org/prog/VDI_Partnership_Mobilization). We are available to answer criteria and technology questions about your application; however, we are not able to review drafts of your proposal.

### Step Three:

Submit your online application. A completed application packet will consist of the following:

1. Narrative responses describing the partnership's background, purpose, activities, goals, anticipated results, and completed partnership table.
2. Attachments including annual operating budgets for all organizations and fiscal sponsorship letters for any organizations that are fiscally sponsored.

### Step Four:

Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis. Seattle Foundation staff may follow up to request additional information or a site visit. Applicants will be notified of funding decision within 60 days of submitting a proposal.

## APPLICATION MATERIALS

### RFP Narrative Questions

Please respond in the online application to these following narrative questions. There is a 300 word limit for each question.

- 1. Partnership Background**
  - o What is the history between the groups applying for this grant?
  - o How does this group define its partnership?
  - o What are the current circumstances that bring this group together?
- 2. Partnership Purpose and Activities**
  - o What is the purpose of coming together?
  - o How does this partnership strengthen the participation and civic voice of underrepresented communities towards increased racial and economic equity?
  - o What will funding for this partnership allow groups to do that they could not otherwise?
- 3. Partnership Goals and Anticipated Results**
  - o What is this partnership hoping to accomplish?
  - o What are one or two collective outcomes?
  - o What are your current plans to track information and evaluate progress and/or success?

### Partnership Table

Complete Partnership Table for each organization indicating name, grant request, role, and activities.

### Attachments:

Annual operating budgets for each organization and fiscal sponsorship letters/agreements for organizations that are fiscally sponsored.