

# FUND FOR INCLUSIVE RECOVERY

## Phase 1: Community Power and Base Building Investments

### TIMELINE

- LOI Announced: October 12, 2021
- Info Sessions: November 5 and 9, 2021
- LOI Deadline: November 19, 2021
- Full Proposal Invitations: December 15, 2021
- Full Application Deadline and Interviews: February 2022
- Funding Decision Notifications: March 2022

*Please note, the timeline is intentionally designed to acknowledge year end/early year commitments and holidays.*

### OVERVIEW OF THE FUND FOR INCLUSIVE RECOVERY

The [Fund for Inclusive Recovery](#) is a pooled fund that has come together to meet the evolving needs and opportunities facing communities most impacted by the pandemic. This effort is an evolution of the region's COVID-19 Response Fund, hosted by Seattle Foundation. Launched in early 2020, the COVID-19 Response Fund helped meet acute, direct needs, infusing hundreds of organizations with critical resources. It brought together over 70 foundations, businesses, and government partners alongside thousands of individual donors in a coordinated and streamlined process. Our new Fund for Inclusive Recovery builds on important lessons learned from previous investments during the pandemic and ongoing advice from community leaders in co-designing the path forward. The past few years has made plain the harsh realities that Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities experience as a result of centuries of systemic racism and discrimination. Now we aim to change the systems that created and intensified these racialized disparities in the first place.

Guided by a [Community Advisory Group](#), the Fund for Inclusive Recovery will deploy \$50 million over five years through phases of investment timed with emerging opportunities for action. In partnership with public sector decision-makers and philanthropic supporters, organizations rooted in communities of color are most effectively positioned to help transform racist systems and design innovative solutions. The Fund will drive investments to Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC)-led and rooted nonprofit organizations, movements, and coalitions, creating a pathway for Greater Seattle's inclusive recovery. We hope to strengthen the voice and power of communities to shape the various systems and institutions that impact their communities. As our region works to

build back our economy, centering BIPOC communities ensures solutions go beyond pandemic recovery and contribute to a future that is healthy, thriving and prosperous for all.

Over the course of the next five years, the Fund and its Community Advisory Group will host phases of investments timed with needs in community and opportunities for alignment across sectors as we move through the current crisis to a reimagined, more equitable future.

### **COMMUNITY POWER AND BASE BUILDING APPROACHES**

In this first phase of investment, the Fund for Inclusive Recovery will support Community Power and Base Building approaches that create the necessary foundation for meaningful systems and policy change. We seek to fund BIPOC-led and rooted strategies for transforming racist systems that perpetuate inequities. Building on past learnings and leadership from community partners, we trust organizations to focus on areas of greatest importance and relevance to their communities in their approach. This could include a focus on housing and homelessness, education, mental health, food security, or criminal justice as examples. Fund for Inclusive Recovery resources are flexible to support the necessary time, organizing, and staffing needed for base building efforts. We recognize the success of this work requires assessing the landscape, building partnerships, as well as engaging community and systems decision makers. The Fund and its fund partners do not want to be prescriptive in the necessary approach to take but we also want to provide some context to help applicants be successful in applying.

To provide context on what an organization, movement, and/or coalition's work could focus on as they build their power and base, please consider the following approaches. These approaches are not one-time events nor are they necessarily linear. An applicant may engage in more than one, over the course of the next three to five years.

- **Preparing for Transformation-** No one organization or sector (private, public, or nonprofit) has all the answers to, or ownership of, systemic problems. Coordination and collaboration are essential to achieving impact. We will consider support for efforts that are uplifting diverse voices, assessing where the system is headed, analyzing what has been tried before to help build on past success, or retrying ideas that were launched before their time. Activities could include (but are not limited to): bringing together stakeholders and partners around an area of focus, evaluating capacity, coordinating activities, and identifying additional resources needed to support organizing strategies.

- **Building Knowledge and Public Will-** Well informed dialogues that educate and build public will are critical to advancing racial and economic equity. Activities could include (but are not limited to): policy research and analysis, community participatory research, narrative change efforts through content campaigns, or engaging in community gatherings to generate momentum towards policy solutions among the public and key stakeholders.
- **Advancing Policy and Systems Change-** Community members most impacted by inequitable policies and systems are closest to the solutions required to rectify them. Resources are required to ensure that community voices are at the table when policy is being developed. Organizations championing change need resources to elevate these voices and solutions with decisionmakers as well. Activities could include (but are not limited to): utilizing culturally and linguistically rooted advocacy strategies, developing policy approaches guided by community, or holding decisionmakers accountable.

## GRANT AMOUNTS

The Fund seeks to support 20 organizations, movements and/or coalitions for the next 3-5 years with grants of \$200,000 a year. Funds can be used to support project, program, or general operating costs necessary to support the applicant's community power and base building efforts. We see these resources as critical investments in building capacity and infrastructure for BIPOC-led and rooted organizations, movements, and coalitions to take on future policy work.

## ELIGIBILITY - WHO SHOULD APPLY

Please carefully consider eligibility before applying. Organizations, movements, or coalitions should apply if they:

- Are Black, Indigenous, and/or people of color led, rooted, and serving.
- Maintain strong relationships, trust, and an ability to mobilize their community.
- Seek to and/or have experience in advancing policy and/or systems change at the neighborhood, city, county, or state level.
- Have experience and comfort in convening, engaging in partnerships, and community organizing.
- Can demonstrate the community-defined impact of their work geographically in King County.
- Have operating budgets that are approximately between \$250,000 and \$5,000,000 annually.
- Have 501(c)(3) nonprofit status or have a fiscal sponsor that qualifies as a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization.

## SELECTION CRITERIA

Seattle Foundation and the [Community Advisory Group](#) will evaluate applications using the following criteria:

- Proposed work aligns with the Fund for Inclusive Recovery's community power and base building approaches.
- Systems issue or policy focus identified in the application represents a timely opportunity for reinvention.
- Applicant has the capacity and experience needed to achieve progress on their policy or systems change goals during the grant period.
- Applicant is recognized as a community leader or emerging leader on the policy issue they seek to address, or applicant represents a community negatively impacted by current policies.
- Applicant is deeply rooted in communities served. Proposed efforts reflect community priorities of policy issues and community is engaged in development of solutions.
- Neighborhood, city, county, and state-level policy ideas will be considered.

## HOW TO APPLY

The Fund anticipates a high volume of applications and is hosting a two-part Letter of Inquiry and full proposal process to support emerging ideas and decrease the burden on interested applicants. To apply, submit a Letter of Inquiry (LOI) through Seattle Foundation's [online application system](#), due by 11:59 PM PST on November 19, 2021. You will need to create an account to begin the application process. If you already have a Seattle Foundation account, you can use the same login information. Once logged in, click Apply at the top navigation bar and find the Fund for Inclusive Recovery form in the list of opportunities.

The LOI should answer the following questions in a combined total of 5,000 characters or less (about a page and a half):

- Describe the current policy or systems change opportunity you seek to address as it exists now. Include information about how the communities you are rooted in are impacted by the issue.
- How will your organization or coalition work to address the systems or policy issue? How does your plan align to the community power and base building approaches prioritized by the Fund for Inclusive Recovery?
- What resources, relationships, and influence do you and/or your partners bring to the table?
- How will Fund for Inclusive Recovery resources help you execute your plan?



1601 fifth avenue, suite 1900  
seattle, wa 98101-3615  
☎ 206.622.2294 📠 206.622.7673  
[seattlefoundation.org](http://seattlefoundation.org)

Completing Seattle Foundation's Org Profile Form is not required for your Letter of Inquiry to be considered, but will be required later as part of the next stage in the application process. We will invite organizations and coalitions whose LOI strongly aligns with the Fund's selection criteria and approaches to submit a full proposal. These applicants will be asked to submit additional written responses and participate in a virtual interview to share more about their systems change approach and proposed outcomes. An honorarium will be provided for completing this full proposal process, and guiding questions as well as scheduling requests for the meeting will be sent in advance with a minimum of four weeks notice. Please note, an invitation to submit a full proposal does not guarantee funding. Final funding decisions will be made in March of 2022.

Optional Information Sessions will be held November 5th, 11 AM-12 PM PST, and November 9th, 9 AM-10 AM PST on Zoom to answer questions about this funding opportunity. Email [FIR@SeattleFoundation.org](mailto:FIR@SeattleFoundation.org) to RSVP.

#### **CONTACT**

For technical questions about submitting your application, please contact our grants management staff at [GrantMaking@SeattleFoundation.org](mailto:GrantMaking@SeattleFoundation.org). For questions about the funding opportunity, please contact [FIR@SeattleFoundation.org](mailto:FIR@SeattleFoundation.org) and a member of our grantmaking team will respond.