



AGENDA

GOVERNANCE GROUP

Special Meeting

April 7th 4:30 – 5:30 pm

Call-in: 206-263-8114 #4512039

<u>Time</u>	<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Facilitator</u>
4:30	Welcome	Michael Brown, Marguerite Ro
4:35	Proposal for Funding of Systems & Policy COVID-19 Response	Dionne Foster
4:55	Funding Allocation 2020-2021	Andréa Akita
5:05	Discussion & Decision	Michael, Marguerite

Next Meeting: April 17, 2020

Governance Group Members

*Lydia Assefa-Dawson
Michael Brown
Vazaskia Crockrell
Deanna Dawson
Kacey Guin*

*Ubax Gardheere
Matelita Jackson
Paola Maranan
Jenn Ramirez Robson
Yordanos Teferi*

*Marguerite Ro
Sili Savusa
Tony To
AJ McClure*



COMMUNITIES OF OPPORTUNITY GOVERNANCE GROUNDING

RESULTS STATEMENT

Create greater health, social, economic and racial equity in King County so that all people thrive and prosper, regardless of race or place.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Consistently demonstrate the values of equity, respect and partnership.
- Ensure low-income communities and communities of color affected by inequities develop and own the solutions.
- Advocate for and change institutional policies and processes to support equity goals.
- Encourage investments (both funding and in-kind resources) in long-term community capacity building and in systems, policy and practice changes that lead to greater racial and economic equity throughout King County.
- Catalyze alignment of funding streams and partner across issues and sectors to seek preventive strategies that address root causes of today's inequities.
- Be transparent and show how data and community expertise inform initiative strategies.
- Continuously learn, improve and share work publicly.
- Focus on geographic communities with the greatest needs, while simultaneously sharing lessons learned and building relationships across King County – *We are one King County*.

VALUES

We commit to guide Communities of Opportunity using these values:

Equity: work intentionally to eliminate racial, ethnic, socio-economic and geographic disparities in health and well-being

Process Equity: an inclusive, fair and open process

Community Engagement: authentic community engagement that involves listening to and understanding the unique histories of communities

Driven by quantitative and qualitative data: Data will track and report progress, as well as support given for promising and evidence-based practices

Innovation: Recognize that change involves risk and value an adaptive approach that views failure as an important part of the learning process

Communities of Opportunity Governance Group

Special Meeting: April 7, 2020

Proposed Action: Funding Allocation

The Communities of Opportunity (COO) Governance Group is asked to take action to **commit the remaining 2020 King County budgeted funding and the projected revenue for 2021 program funding for:**

- **Systems and policy change** grants in response to the COVID-19 pandemic: up to \$1,750,000;
- **Original, place-based partnerships** (Rainier Valley, SeaTac-Tukwila, and White Center) contract extensions through December 31, 2021 to continue projects/programs through December 31, 2021; and for organizational development/partnership infrastructure, community outreach/engagement, advocacy, and other emergent needs as a result of COVID-19 disruption: up to \$2,760,374 total;
- **Place-based & cultural community partnerships** (*Snoqualmie Valley, Seattle Central District, Kent, Seattle Urban Native Nonprofits, Comunidad Latinx de Vashon, Transgender Economic Empowerment Coalition*) resources for continuity of service/projects, organizational development/partnership infrastructure, community outreach/engagement, advocacy, and other emergent needs as a result of COVID-19 disruption: up to \$325,000 total.
- **Learning Community** activities through December 31, 2021, including capacity building, technical assistance, forums and convenings, and learning circles: up to \$2,191,000.
- **Commercial Affordability Pilot**, increase to contract award for activities to combat financial and new environmental pressures that small businesses face, up to \$300,000

In addition, we recommend that the Governance Group **authorize staff to implement any funding processes, develop program plans, negotiate service agreement/contract amendments, and other action necessary to make these funds available to existing COO partners/partnerships.** In the case of the Learning Community, staff will revise its plans and timeline for activities for the 2020 and 2021. Staff will provide update(s) and reports to GG on funding, performance, challenges and successes.

Where is the funding for the proposal coming from? The funding under consideration comes from King County budgeted funds for 2020 and anticipated revenue in 2021 (Best Starts for Kids Levy). There is approximately \$7.3 million remaining to be allocated across COO strategy areas in 2020 and 2021. This includes at least \$2.3 million reserved for contract renewal for the Original Place-Based Partnerships sites (Rainier Valley, SeaTac-Tukwila, and White Center) after contracts expire at the end of this year.

Strategy Area or Program	Prior to COVID-19 Not allocated or In Planning Phase	PROPOSAL Allocate up to:	Notes
Learning Community	Up to \$ 5,026,062 Jan 2020 – Dec 2021	Reduce to: \$ 2,191,000	Re-direct: \$ 2,835,062
Systems & Policy COVID-19 Response/Advocacy		\$ 1,750,000	New grant awards, based on program proposal.
Original Place-Based Partnerships	\$ 2,300,312 Jan-Dec 2021	\$ 2,300,312 plus \$ 460,062	Extend contract baseline: pro-rated, annual contract amount plus 20% increase
Place-Based & Cultural Community Partnerships		plus \$ 325,000	10% increase to contract extensions in progress
Commercial Affordability Pilot		plus \$ 300,000	20% increase to current funding award
	\$ 7,326,374	\$ 7,326,374	

Proposed Funding Action
04-07-20

What's the context for this recommendation?

At the March 20 meeting, staff proposed ideas for Governance Group discussion, including using COO funding to (1) support nonprofit community-based organizations in responding to changes/disruptions from COVID-19; and (2) expanding COO's policy and systems change strategies related to COVID-19 impacts.

Staff recommendations are based on the feedback and direction provided by the Governance Group:

- Move forward with development of systems and policy change funding in response to COVID-19, based on feedback from GG (including process for grant awards).
 - Dionne Foster will present the approach/process for the systems & policy change proposed funding. A slide-deck is included in the Decision Package.
- Check-in with and rely on trusted community partners in determining needs in the wake of COVID-19. Build on the work we have started and the relationships that have been developed through COO's work with its community partners.
 - The proposed funding allocations support the existing partnerships in place. The needs of each partnership / place vary, so the response needs to be developed through conversations with partners. An increase of 10% to 20% for each contract partner allows them to tailor response, based on the needs of their organization/partnership to match the needs and resources within their community.
- Don't get bogged down by over-processing or by creating new programs.

How does this fit into COO's Work? In response to the unprecedented change and challenges that our existing community partners are experiencing, COO staff has looked for potential ways to shift resources for stabilization, resiliency, and recovery from impacts of the pandemic, particularly in communities where we know there are the greatest health and well-being disparities in King County.

Prior to the global novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, the King County region was already experiencing some of the greatest inequities among large U.S. metropolitan areas. Health and well-being indicators, such as life expectancy, frequent mental distress, income and poverty levels were showing stark, measurable differences across the County for Black, Indigenous, and people of color and those with low-incomes compared to others in King County, leaving them at greater risk during the seismic shifts caused by the pandemic.

COO's success is dependent upon the strength and stability of a network of community-based organizations, working in partnership with government and philanthropy. We believe that long term change results from solutions that are community-driven and thus responsive to the needs of those communities. We believe that change will be sustainable because it will be rooted in the community, will use community assets and will be developed through a process that builds capacity to sustain that change. And sustainable change will include institutional-level, systems-level and policy-level reforms.

COVID-19 could have a devastating impact on communities that have been under-resourced for decades, by rapidly depleting its social capital and unique assets. The COO-defined communities will need increased support as they face immediate needs and as they continue to move toward recovery. By making these funding allocations COO bolsters the nonprofit and grass roots organizations and the network of community leaders that play an integral part of the community's health, social and economic well-being.



COMMUNITIES OF OPPORTUNITY



COVID-19 ADVOCACY & RESILIENCY FUNDING
APRIL 7, 2020

Overview

- Recent Policy Response & Context
- Current Funding Response and Needs
- COO Role
- Funding Goals
- Funding Process
- Funding Timeline
- Potential Project Examples
- Summary

Recent Policy Response & Context

COVID-19 is having an immediate impact on community health and our economic infrastructure.

In response to our current public health crisis, local and state governments have started to pass short-term protections that only weeks ago seemed impossible:

- \$5M in grocery vouchers (Seattle)
- Extended period for healthcare open enrollment (Washington state)
- Temporary ban on residential evictions (Washington State)

Recovery and resilience from COVID-19 will transform our country, and investing in grassroots advocacy focused on racial equity in health, economic opportunity, housing, and community connection now will protect us in the long term.

Current Funding Response & Needs

Funders are coming together to provide immediate funds for nonprofits and communities to stabilize and get information into the community

Funders are providing flexibility for existing grantees to change grants from project-based to general operations

However, there is a gap in funding to cover policy and advocacy for COVID-19 response:

- Funding to support immediate advocacy response related to COVID-19 short-term response, health, housing, community and economic protections.
- Funding that allows communities to organize and advocate for the policies that will protect us during long-term economic recovery.
- Funding that ensures our existing powerful community based advocacy organizations can continue organizing on behalf of racial equity in the face of the coming recession.

King County/Washington, as one of the places with the first identified COVID-19 case is uniquely positioned to be the center for developing a racially equitable response.

COO Role

COO is well situated to step up and re-direct resources to support COVID 19 related advocacy and policy change.

COO Governance Group recently directed an enhanced focus on systems and policy action and impact for COO. Funding for COVID policy response is aligned with this direction and the strong history and experience from COO in systems and policy funding.

Funding to support COVID-19 related advocacy is aligned with our existing focus on policy and systems change and racial equity and can be implemented without creating a new permanent program.

Given our funding in this area, COO has existing knowledge of potential critical gaps in funding, and grassroots people of color led organizations engaging in COVID-19 related advocacy.

COO Advocacy & Resiliency Funding Goals

Support policies and community organizing designed to respond to the health, economic, housing, and community connection impacts of COVID-19 are designed, influenced, or led by communities of color and communities highly impacted by inequity.

Repeal or prevention of procedures, rules and policies that restricted or limited access to relief funds/resources to communities of color and highly impacted communities.

Promotion, preservation, and expanded access to health, affordable safe, housing, economic for the most marginalized communities.

Strengthened capacity in local nonprofit advocacy community – helping to ensure solvency during expected economic recession.

COO Advocacy & Resiliency Funding Process

The process outlined below provides a description of our plans to date, given how quickly our environment is changing, staff may change this process in order to best adapt to these changes.

Eligibility:

Priority for current or previous COO Systems and Policy Grantees and recent COO Systems and Policy applicants.

Require projects remain focused in one of the 4 COO result areas

Require projects demonstrate responsiveness to impacts of COVID-19 and lead with equity

Direct service projects are ineligible

Identification:

Develop a review team of issue area experts who are responsible for identifying potential organizations who could receive funding. This review team will include Seattle Foundation and King County Staff. In order to ensure we are able to identify and get resources into the community quickly and because our recent RFP process provides a wealth of information on advocacy focused organizations, we will not do an open RFP for this funding.

Review team will develop a list of potential organizations based on their knowledge of organizations doing aligned work. Seattle Foundation will make determination about final proposal to COO Governance Group.

Decision Making:

Final recommendation decision making authority will remain with staff

Final approval authority will remain with Governance Group

Funding Timeline & Award Amounts

Phase 1 - **Changes focused on immediate actions during peak crisis**

- Funding released in April (or as soon as possible while meeting necessary due diligence and contracting processes)
- Individual grants of up to \$100,000 for individual organizations, up to \$150,000 for coalitions
- At least 60% of funding allocated for COVID policy and systems response will be allocated in Phase 1

Phase 2 - **Changes focused on long-term impacts and recovery**

- This funding would be released later in the year ~July/August
- Funding would coincide with reduced curve and timeline when more organizations are shifting back from rapid response to long-term planning
- Funding would also coincide with early fall when organizations are preparing for critical local and regional policy timelines.
- Individual grants of \$75,000 -100,000 for individual organization; \$100,000-150,000 for coalitions
- Remainder of funds, up to 40% will be allocated in Phase 2

Potential Project Examples

Note because the COVID response is rapidly changing as new policies are rolled out weekly, these responses are illustrative only, and final policy actions will vary based on when funds are released.

Phase 1 – Changes focused on immediate actions

- Administrative advocacy to remove requirement for folks on disability to attend periodic in-person doctors appointments in order to continue receiving disability payment
- Policy changes that restrict debt collection and wage garnishment
- Advocacy for emergency response funds for undocumented individuals who are unable to access federal relief funds
- Community organizing to expand the moratorium on evictions beyond the current 30 days (Ending April 17)

Phase 2 – Changes focused on long-term impacts and recovery

- Community organizing to advocate for permanent expansion of sick day benefits
- Organizing and informing the community to defend critical programs at risk of being cut due to reduced government budget in wake of COVID.
- Advocacy for progressive policies to forgive medical debt or restructure our health care delivery system

Summary

Funding dedicated to community organizing and policy advocacy in response to COVID

Require projects remain focused in one or more of the 4 COO result areas: housing, health, economic opportunity, and community connection

Require projects demonstrate responsiveness to impacts of COVID-19 and lead with equity

Direct service projects are ineligible

Local organizations focused on local, regional, state, or national organizing and advocacy.

Phase 1 - **Changes focused on immediate actions**

Phase 2 - **Changes focused on long-term impacts and recovery**



COMMUNITIES OF OPPORTUNITY



GOVERNANCE GROUP
APRIL 7, 2020

Proposed Action: Funding Allocations

The Governance Group is asked to commit funding (remaining balance of 2020 and projected funding for 2021), as follows for the following program strategies/projects:

- up to \$1,750,000 for Systems & Policy COVID-19 Advocacy/Resiliency grants;
- up to \$2,760,374 contract extensions through December 31, 2021 for the Original Place-Based Partnerships;
- up to \$2,191,000 for Learning Community activities;
- up to \$325,000 additional funding to Place-Based & Cultural Community Partnerships; and
- up to \$300,000 for Commercial Affordability Pilot.

Funding Allocation – detail by strategy area

	Prior to COVID-19 --- Not allocated or In planning phase --	PROPOSAL Allocate up to:	Notes
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Place-Based & Cultural Community Partnerships <i>Snoqualmie Valley, Seattle Central District, Kent, Seattle Urban Native Nonprofits, Comunidad Latinx de Vashon, Transgender Economic Empowerment Coalition</i>		plus \$ 325,000	10% increase to contract extensions in progress
Commercial Affordability Pilot		plus \$ 300,000	20% increase to current funding award
All amounts shown are Best Starts for Kids Levy, unless noted with by an asterisk for *Seattle Foundation	<u>\$ 7,326,374</u>	<u>\$ 7,326,374</u>	

Proposed Funding Allocation - Distribution Percentage of \$2.83 Million

