



AGENDA

GOVERNANCE GROUP

May 1, 2020 10:00 – 10:45 a.m.

Call-in: 206-263-8114 #6923351

<u>Time</u>	<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Facilitator</u>
10:00	Welcome	Michael Brown
10:05	Consent Agenda Agenda, Notes from 4/17 Meeting	Michael
10:07	Recap/Update: Systems & Policy Change Proposed Allocation, Funding Process, Next Steps	Andréa Akita, Dionne Foster
10:15	Action: Funding Allocation Systems & Policy Change Discussion & Decision	Michael
10:25	Equity Moment	Marguerite, All

Next Meeting: May 15, 2020

Governance Group Members

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

Ubox Gardheere
Matelita Jackson
Paola Maranan
Jenn Ramirez Robson
Yordanos Teferi

Marguerite Ro
Sili Savusa
Tony To
AJ McClure



COMMUNITIES OF OPPORTUNITY GOVERNANCE FOUNDING

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

SPECIAL MEETING - MAY 1, 2020
COMMUNITIES OF OPPORTUNITY GOVERNANCE GROUP

PROPOSED ACTION

Communities of Opportunity (COO) Governance Group approves *allocation of up to \$2 million for Systems and policy funding in 2020-2021* to create a COO COVID-19 Advocacy & Resiliency fund from the following sources:

King County COO Best Starts for Kids:	up to \$1,750,000
Seattle Foundation COO:	up to \$ 250,000

The Governance Group **authorizes staff to implement funding processes, develop program plans, and negotiate service agreement/contract amendments to make these funds available to eligible organizations.**

Background: Program Funding

COO staff prepared [background information](#) (included in your packet) that we shared with the King County Council Members' chiefs of staff on April 23rd. The background provides context for COO Systems & Policy Change funding, information that clarifies the eligibility for funding process for making funding awards, and systems in place to ensure that public funds are not used for lobbying. A list of the [organizations that would be eligible](#) for funding was also shared with Council staff.

1. The need for Systems & Policy change funding -- prior to the novel corona virus (COVID-19), during the pandemic and during recovery.

Systems and Policy Change is a core component of Communities of Opportunity's theory of change.

As outlined in the BSK Implementation Plan, approved by County Council, the overall COO approach was designed to produce:

- Change that is **community-driven** and thus **responsive** to the needs and the desired solutions of those communities;
- 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 will include institutional-level, systems-level and policy-level reforms**; and
- Change that will be **replicable** by creating an environment in which successes and pitfalls of the processes for change will be shareable with others working on similar issues or with similar communities.

Prior to the pandemic, tremendous inequity already existed for low-income residents, residents of color and other marginalized communities. Efforts by COO to ensure these communities have a voice in response and recovery, can help to ensure that we do not go back to how things were, but design an approach that works for all communities.

This is consistent with **King County's Equity and Social Justice Strategic Plan** states that we instill our shared values of equity and social justice in all our work. We are RACIALLY JUST: *"We dismantle systems, policies and practices that perpetuate structural racism, inequities and different forms of discrimination based on power and privilege."* And we FOCUS UPSTREAM AND WHERE NEEDS ARE GREATEST.

"We also recognize that many of our government policies and practices have historically been designed to react to problems and crises in our communities after they arise. Using a "stream" metaphor, these problems are the downstream results of inequities that exist in social, physical and economic conditions in our community (also known as our "determinants of equity"). Moving upstream allows us to examine the root causes of these conditions and create solutions that operate at a systems and structural level, ultimately preventing crises and problems from occurring and leading to healthier, more equitable outcomes."

Community Identified Results Areas: Through a community-led planning process, COO defined four intersecting priority areas for our work: *quality affordable housing for all, the right to be healthy, increased economic opportunity, and strengthened connection to community*. To ensure COO funding can catalyze the movement for racial justice, our funding priorities are identified by people who live and work in the community.

Between 2018 and 2019, COO convened community stakeholders in a cohort to develop a policy agenda. These leaders represented over 50 community-based organizations across a wide spectrum of ethnic and geographic communities within King County. By sharing their experience and expertise, the stakeholder cohort identified a set of systems and policy recommendations to close racial and geographic disparities in areas of housing, economic opportunity, health, and community connection.

Our funding prioritized proposals aligned with the **vision statements for policy change identified by community partners** through the 2018-19 process:

- *Housing: In order to sustainably, and with dignity, house the growing number of housing-insecure people in the region, we must build strategies for both the immediate need and the long-term needs to address the systems that created our current crisis.*
- *Economic Opportunity: Real changes in economic systems that prioritize the values of communities and imagine success as shared, must occur. We need solutions for tomorrow, as well as today, that open doors for good jobs at living wages and in healthy conditions that allow community members to work and thrive in the places they live.*
- *Health: Healthcare delivery systems and the social determinants of health are deeply impacted by racism and colonialism, creating conditions where race and place are predictive of health outcomes. Sustainable, holistic, and culturally relevant care - designed by and for those most impacted - is vital to addressing health disparities. Systems and policy work in health includes addressing social determinants of health, as well as changes to institutions, like hospitals or schools.*
- *Community Connections: Building the capacity for disparate communities, organizations and public institutions to understand distinct challenges and shared aspirations is difficult work. Moving forward in solidarity while acknowledging privilege and unequal relationships between partners remains crucial for true systems change. We need structures that simultaneously reinforce self-determination while developing deeper, accountable relationships between communities, government, and private partners.*

2. COO COVID-19 Advocacy & Resiliency Funding

Decisions that affect the health and well-being of low-income communities and communities of color are happening now. These decisions set the tone and direction for immediate response, as well as long-term recovery. It is critical that decisions are informed by communities of color and highly impacted communities, if we want decisions and outcomes to be more equitable, centered in racial equity, and accountable to low income communities and communities of color.

The proposed funding is designed specifically and solely for the purpose of funding organizations focused on racial equity to organize, educate, and advocate for equitable short-term response and long-term recovery from COVID-19.

COO proposes to allocate up to \$2 Million in 2020-21 for a COO Systems & Policy COVID-19 grant fund from the following sources:

King County Best Starts for Kids:	up to \$1,750,000
Seattle Foundation:	up to \$ 250,000

We are looking to fund a limited number of organizations with grants of up to \$150,000 for a period of 12 months. The COO COVID-19 Advocacy & Resiliency funding will be administered by Seattle Foundation, as part of the on-going COO Systems & Policy work. As the lead partner and program administrator for the

COO Systems & Policy work, Seattle Foundation has contributed close to half or 46% the \$12.1 M awards made by COO since 2015 for this strategy.

The COO/BSK resources for this fund are being redistributed from the COO Learning Community line item. Due to Washington state's Stay Home, Stay Healthy order which prohibits social gatherings. Learning Community activities are being restructured to adjust to social distancing by creating opportunities for virtual learning and networking, where possible.

The nature of the proposed COVID-19 Systems & Policy Grants is distinct from current projects/grants in place. It builds on the work of COO's system & policy change efforts.

COO made [awards to 17 systems and policy change grantees](#) in early 2020. These awards included a wide range of activities, including educating people about new local policies, increasing the representation of affected communities in decision making processes, supporting leadership developing, promoting meaningful communication between families and schools, building infrastructure/network between organizations, and creating more culturally attuned behavioral health systems. Yet, the demand for resources in the RFP far exceeded available resources. COO received 74 applications, with combined funding requests of close to \$19M.

COO has proposed to use a closed funding process that enables current systems and policy grantees, prior grantees, and applicants of the most recent RFP in fall 2019, to be considered for funding. (*See process described in Section #3.*) This will make funding immediately available to projects while taking advantage of recent review process as an indicator of commitment and capacity to effectively work within communities to advance policy change goals.

While current grantees are eligible for additional funding, we do not expect that all these grantees will be interested in these new grants. While conditions have forced all our grantees to adapt/adjust their work, they are not all in a position to shift their focus to COVID-19 policies or policy-related to impacts from extended Stay Home, Stay Healthy orders. Therefore, the proposed COO COVID Advocacy and Resiliency Funding extends eligibility for resources to recent grantees and applicants from the most recent RFP.

3. Proposed selection criteria and process to award grants?

COO, through its partnership with Seattle Foundation, has managed four grant cycles for systems & policy change funding since 2015. All these processes involved collaboration and oversight by the COO Governance Group and coordination with community review panels and advisory/work groups. The process outlined below for the proposed COVID Advocacy & Resiliency funds mirrors the existing funding practices that are in place:

Eligibility to receive a grant

- Current grantees, previous grantees (2019 recipients), or recent applicant to COO systems & policy change funding (2019 RFP).
- Community developed projects with a focus on one or more of the four COO result areas (housing, health, economic opportunity, community connection).
- Projects that demonstrate responsiveness to impacts of COVID-19.
- Projects that center racial equity in their work and approach.
- Direct service projects are not eligible for funding.

Criteria that will be used to make awards

- Working with/within communities experiencing significant social, racial, health and/or economic inequities. COO prioritizes racial equity-focused solutions.
- Problem directly relates to challenges described in COO Results areas and COVID-19 response.
- Demonstrates deep community listening and engagement.
- Displays understanding of organizational, community and political environment.
- Community directed principles are demonstrated wherever possible.
- Organization is a by and for organization demonstrated by Board and Staff demographics.
- Experience or demonstrated capacity to successfully advance proposed work.

Application process for funding? How will groups be identified and selected for funding?

- COO will use a closed application process to identify and select grantees for funding, given the time-sensitive nature of making grant awards.
- Eligible grantees will be informed about potential funding. They will be invited to complete a brief set of questions if they are interested in being considered for COO's COVID-19 Advocacy grant funding.
- Advisory Group will review interest surveys and make recommendations for funding, based on criteria. The group receives training for the funding process, including implicit bias.
- Staff will present recommendations to Governance Group for funding, based on approval.
- Following Governance Group approval of the funding slate, COO staff will work with selected organizations to develop grant agreements and process grant payments.

Roles/Responsibilities.

COO has established roles of the Governance Group, Review/Advisory Group and Staff in funding processes.

Governance Group - All voting members of the Governance Group

Roles and Actions:

- Approval of the goals and funding process for the Systems and Policy Change funding cycle
- Final approval of the docket of Policy and Systems Change grant recommendations.

Advisory Group includes representatives with experience and knowledge of community (e.g. subject matter expertise, policy/systems change, grassroots organizing, community history/needs).

Roles and actions:

- Execution of the Governance Group's vision for this funding process by conducting review and preparing recommendations for discussion with the Governance Group.
- Council members are invited to participate on all COO Review Committees. (see example: [here](#).)
- Staff identify and invite individuals to participate as Advisory Group members.

Staff: COO Seattle Foundation and King County

Roles and actions:

- Participate in the Grant Review Committee (Seattle Foundation/King County Staff)
- Facilitate the grant making process (Seattle Foundation COO Staff)

4. **Prohibition on use of public funds for lobbying**

COO's Systems and policy change strategy

COO funds community organizing, education, research and advocacy to advance racial equity in housing, economic opportunity, health and community connection. COO systems and policy grantees cover on a wide range of strategies to build power in their communities. Examples of the work COO Systems and Policy funding currently supports can be found [here](#). Systems and Policy Change is a key

strategy in COO's theory of change. COO has made grants to grassroots and nonprofit organizations through its partnership with Seattle Foundation since 2015.

COO has established protocols to ensure that public dollars are not used for lobbying

- COO is supported by a blending of philanthropic and public funds. COO systems and policy change grants. Seattle Foundation administers funding awards to projects, based on each grantee's proposed activities. In the grant award/contracting process COO staff carefully review the proposed work of grantees to determine if any of that work includes activities prohibited by BSK funding, including lobbying. COO grants can support limited lobbying using philanthropic dollars. Local government funds have specific restrictions on the use of funds to lobby legislators and the public.

If a grantee proposes lobbying in their workplan, the work is funded by Seattle Foundation (private funds). The grant award letter provides specific instruction on restricted dollars, as well as clearly defining contribution amounts from Seattle Foundation and King County. Grant agreements are signed by Seattle Foundation and the grant recipient.

- Staff monitoring the use of funds:
 - + COO staff have developed Administrative/Contract Guidance related to public use of funds (found [here](#).) This guidance is included in ALL contracts for all COO program strategies.
 - + Training and technical assistance are provided to grantees to clarify allowed and prohibited use of public dollars. COO staff also regularly check-in with grantees to discuss progress on workplans, this provides another opportunity to engage grantees and verify work is progressing according to regulations.
- We report on the use of public and private resources that support systems & policy change:
 - + COO reports on systems & policy change grants, as part of the BSK annual report. With respect to the award source, if public funds are blended with any other fund source, then a break-down of the multiple sources and amounts is provided in the report. For any public funds used, COO denotes that each public fund award within this strategy area was not awarded to undertake a prohibited body of work (i.e. lobbying).
 - + Grantees provide reports on their use of funds. All 2020-2021 grantees will provide certification letters at the end of the grant year, indicating that no public dollars were used to support lobbying work or other prohibited activities. If they have participated in any lobbying (pre-approved use of the private funds/Seattle Foundation resources), they are required to track and report the time and expenditures associated with these activities.

2 – Communities of Opportunity – Governance Group Special Meeting

Friday, April 17, 2020 2:00 – 3:30 pm Phone/Video-Conference Call

Members Present: Lydia Assefa Dawson, Marguerite Ro, Jenn Ramirez Robson, Kacey Guin, Vazaskia Crockrell, Ubax Gardheere, Michael Brown, AJ McClure, Yordanos Teferi, Sili Savusa, Paola Maranan, Tony To

Staff: Andréa Akita, Cristina González, Blishda Lacet, Aaron Robertson, Dionne Foster, Kai Domingo

Community: Haregu Kidane, COO Rainier Valley Coordinator

Summary: The Communities of Opportunity Governance Group approved a funding allocation for:

- 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 Latina 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

The motion was approved with eight members voted in favor of the funding allocation.

The following members recused themselves from the vote: Tony To, Yordanos Teferi, AJ McClure, Sili Savusa.

Further direction to staff:

The governance group directed staff to meet with Councilmember(s) to provide information and receive feedback. Staff should include Governance Group members and community partners, as appropriate in the meetings with Councilmembers. Within 10 days, the staff is asked to have a proposal ready for Governance Group to vote on the Systems & Policy Change funding recommendation.

Discussion Notes

Andréa reviewed the proposed action and recommended that the Systems & Policy Change line be removed from the proposed action. The Systems & Policy Change funding line was removed for the time being, in order to allow staff to have more in-depth conversations with Council Members. She suggested that COO continue ahead with funding allocations proposed and work with urgency, allowing up to 30 days to engage Council, as part of a short-term and long-term strategy.

Discussion/Questions:

- Could there be a change in revenue that would affect the proposed dollar amounts proposed? The dollar amounts are based on projected allocation amounts for 2021. Staff will not know if there will be any changes to these amounts for several months, therefore, the Staff will apply a corresponding percentage to total allocation if there are any changes to the 2021 funding allocation.
- The Governance Group discussion centered around the impact of delaying a decision for funding for the Systems & Policy Change allocation, the ability for Governance Group to make a decision without consensus of all its members (Council as a member), and the appropriate amount of time needed to engage Council partners.

Governance Group acts as an advisory body to the Council on COO/BSK funding, which adds a layer of complexity to the decision making by Governance Group, especially as we look to the Levy Renewal.

The Council had not received enough time to review the proposal before the last meeting on April 7th. They have been receptive and appreciative of the information provided by COO in the past week. Andrea felt that COO would benefit by providing more context to COO's work in general and considering the many comments they are receiving at immediate needs.

Members described the urgency in making resources available. Many expressed concerns about putting off a vote for another month, urging faster action. An example of the limits of the CARES Act not providing for people who are the most at risk/marginalized.

Vazaskia suggested that there could be one meeting where all Councilmembers are invited to attend, which would help to expedite the process.