

South King County Fund

BACKGROUND

The South King County Community Fund was created in November of 2018 to provide \$10 Million in resources to near-airport communities for projects that address airport noise, environmental health and sustainability. In June of 2019, Commission approved eight guiding principles to further shape the fund. In April of 2020, "Economic Development" was added as an approved use of the fund both in response to community input asking for economic investments, and in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and the current economic crisis.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

For the last several months staff has been working in a collaborative and interdisciplinary team, lead by External Relations and OEDI and including representatives from Legal, CPO, AV Environmental, Budget and Finance, and Commission Staff, as well as outside consultants hired for their expertise in multicultural engagement and developing equity-based grant making processes. The result of these countless hours of planning, vetting and program development is a South King County Community Fund set to go live in June of 2020 which is responsive to the needs of the most vulnerable communities in South King County, establishes new practices and norms within the Port for equity-based decision making, operates within the Port's statutory authority, and is poised to launch in the top eight spoken languages in the county.

The fund will award \$1.5 million to be divided into the following three programs for 2020:

- \$1M for a new Economic Recovery and Workforce Development Grants program to launch June 15. Projects must service one of the following Port related industries- Aviation, Maritime, Construction, or Green Jobs. Funds will support nonprofits in South King County that are conducting projects in the following four categories:
 - Small Business Assistance
 - Workforce Development
 - Job Creation
 - Ideation, Network building, Development of New, Innovative Economic Recovery Strategies
- \$250,000 for a new Environmental Grants Program built off the ACE model which services Burien, Des Moines, Federal Way, Normandy Park, SeaTac and Tukwila. The new program will increase the per project cap to \$20,000 and incorporate the equity principles of the South King County Community Fund, including utilizing the Equity Index to prioritize projects in most impacted and vulnerable communities. This will launch in the Summer of 2020.
- \$250,000 for Port Gen (program of Diversity in Contracting). Port will expand existing contracts with organizations that support WMBE businesses in South King County as part of the overall Economic Recovery Strategy. These dollars can go out the door quickly by expanding existing contracts.

SOUTH KING COUNTY FUND PROPOSAL PROCESS

TIMELINE:

Advertise: July 31

Oral Discussion: October

Commission Approval: December

Grants Executed: January 2021

PROPOSED SELECTION CRITERIA FOR SOUTH KING COUNTY FUND:

Funding decisions will be made based on the following criteria.

A. Organization	Projects will be evaluated based on their demonstrated ties to the community, their experience and history of work relevant to the project, and their project leadership to successfully implement the project.
B. Target Audience	Projects will be evaluated based on the communities being served, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People of color, Native people, immigrants and refugees, those with less English proficiency, veterans, seniors, youth and/or people with disabilities that live, work, play, study or worship in near-airport communities • Economically vulnerable communities whose members occupy the lowest tiers of pay, have little to no savings and/or have disproportionately greater financial challenges.
C. Project Scope and Impact	Projects will be evaluated based on their proposed outcomes related to economic recovery, the benefit to priority communities/populations? and equity-based program design
D. Project Implementation	Projects will be evaluated based on proposed activities and their relevance to proposed outcomes, whether activities address barriers faced by communities they serve, whether language access is provided (if relevant) and whether the project strengthens networks, relationships and partnerships (if relevant)
E. Benefits to Port	Projects will be evaluated based on their connection and/or benefits to Port related industries (aviation, maritime, construction trades and/or green careers)
F. Other considerations	Projects will be evaluated based on other considerations, including geographical diversity, historically underfunded communities or neighborhoods, innovative approaches, cultural diversity and/or ethnic diversity

EVALUATION RATING

Rating Criteria	Description
Outstanding	Indicates an exceptional approach and understanding of the requirements and contains multiple strengths that far outweigh any weaknesses. Risk of unsuccessful performance is low.
Good	Indicates a thorough approach and understanding of the requirements and contains at least one strength, and risk of unsuccessful performance is low.
Acceptable	Indicates an adequate project scope, impact, feasibility, implementation and/or sustainability. Meets requirements and risk of unsuccessful performance is no worse than moderate.
Marginal	Has not demonstrated an adequate approach and understanding of the requirements, and/or risk of unsuccessful performance is high.
Unacceptable	Does not meet requirements and therefore contains one or more significant weaknesses or deficiencies. Risk of unsuccessful performance is unacceptable.

EQUITY INDEX

The Equity Index map displays individual and composite environmental health and social indicators ranked 1-10. Communities with the least burden are ranked 1 (lightest color) while neighboring communities ranked 10 (darkest color) are the most burdened. The maps show the census tract ranks for each indicator, for each of the four indicator categories (Environmental Exposure and Effect, Sensitive Populations and Socioeconomic Status), and all indicators together as a composite.

The Port developed this Index because the Port recognizes the disproportionate impact of pollution, access to economic opportunity, and health, within the region, the Port has not had a method to visualize that variation and thus has not been able to direct resources towards the areas of greatest need.

The intended use of the Equity Map is to provide information to community, staff, and elected officials on these historical disparities within the King County area. The Office of Equity, Diversity & Inclusion will use the findings of the Index to support of The Port of Seattle to make data-driven decision on various programs, projects, and initiatives such as the South King County Fund (SKCF). The Index is intended to serve as an informational component for the review committee for the SKCF. The map will help educate the proposal committee on understanding the current conditions within the South King County Area. Having this information, helps committee members understand where resources are needed in which areas.