



**Seattle
Public
Utilities**

PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Seattle Water & Waste Innovation Funding Program

*Funds Support Mutual Aid Efforts Connected to Hand Hygiene & Waste Diversion
Applications Due April 23, 2021*

Seattle Public Utilities invites community members to apply for funding to help transform community-based mutual aid ideas into solutions to enhance Seattle's water and waste networks.

Overview

The COVID-19 pandemic has inspired communities to develop and implement solutions to some of the most pressing and urgent needs confronting Seattle's neighbors made vulnerable to hunger and hygiene. Much of this individual-to-individual support is provided by volunteer efforts through an informal, community-based system known as mutual aid. Seattle University professor Dean Spade defines mutual aid as, "A system of pooling together resources and providing supplies, food and organizing powers in response to a crisis."

The Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) Water and Waste Innovation (SWWI) funding program utilizes City general funding and, where there is nexus, Utility funding to amplify grass roots solutions and also seeks to evaluate and possibly transform effective community-based mutual aid ideas into longer-term solutions with measurable benefits to Seattle's water and waste networks.

This is a one-time funding program made available due to the ongoing needs presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. Up to \$150,000 is available in funding. \$100,000 of general fund dollars is initially intended to focus on hand hygiene related support for the unsheltered, with the remaining \$50,000 of SPU funding focused on food and materials rescue and other waste diversion activities. Depending upon the proposal, additional arts related project funding may be available for artwork collaboration through the City's 1% for Arts Program. We expect to offer two or three projects but will flexibly evaluate based upon responses.

Timeline and Budget

Up to \$150,000 is available in funding. Proposals will be accepted at various funding levels based on the innovation proposed, with a minimum amount of \$35,000. We expect to contract two or three proposals. After decisions are made, we will contract with the organization. The project period is expected to be June 1 – December 31, 2021. The funds will be paid on a reimbursement basis, based upon accomplishment of agreed upon milestones.

Eligible Water & Waste Projects

Specifically, the SWWI will fund projects in two Innovation areas:

- Innovation Area 1: Waste prevention solutions focused on food and other materials. Examples include sharing, reusing, repairing, and repurposing.
- Innovation Area 2: Water, waste, and hand hygiene access solutions, which may include options for accessing safe drinking water, for individuals experiencing homelessness.

SPU seeks proposals from community organizations to lead small-scale and rapid innovations delivered at diverse locations around Seattle. That is, we are looking for organizations to innovate and test out a solution in various settings. SPU expects successful applicants will partner with other organizations and individuals to maximize their innovation's impact. SPU will provide metrics and sample calculations for each innovation area to use for evaluation purposes. Although this investment effort is tied to COVID-19, we hope the discovered innovations will be used in the long-term or

the lessons learned from the process will assist with other work. See Table 1 for more information on the funding program.

Arts Collaboration

SPU encourages applicants to consider potential collaborations with the Arts community in their project descriptions. Collaborations may include either innovation area with the intent to beautify and identify available mutual aid to the community. An organization may select their own artist(s) or utilize the City's Office of Arts & Culture's public art roster to complete the work. Applicants should consider material costs in their overall budget.

Workforce Focus

SPU also encourages applicants to consider jobs and training opportunities in their applications, particularly for BIPOC communities and young people. If the project period is too short for such collaborations, please discuss future opportunities connected to your overall program design on your application under Long-Term Impacts.

Eligible Applicants

Community, non-profit organizations, and schools are all eligible to apply for the SWWI funding and may issue sub-contracts as part of their application. All applicants must be incorporated as a non-profit or, if an individual or unincorporated entity, have another mechanism for receiving funds (e.g., through fiscal sponsorship) and complying with insurance and liability requirements.

Technical Assistance with Application Process

SPU encourages all potential applicants to seek and utilize ongoing technical assistance for their LOI submissions, including:

- Attending the Information Session on **Tuesday, April 13, 2021** at 6:00pm – 7:30pm to learn more about the opportunity, ask questions, and get feedback on early proposal ideas. A recording will be made available after the session online.
 - **Meeting Link:**
 - <https://seattle.webex.com/webappng/sites/seattle/meeting/info/ce11f3e8d50445f9add548db82296a41?isPopupRegisterView=true>
- Submit questions to Catherine Morrison, Catherine.Morrison@seattle.gov.
- Review the online Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ), composed of questions from the information session and community members.

Application Process & Deadline

SPU's goal is to reduce the time spent on the application process in order to reduce burden to interested community organizations and to speed the overall process. Interested organizations should complete the funding opportunity form and submit to Catherine.morrison@seattle.gov by end of day on **Friday, April 23**.