

2016 Seattle City Council Statement of Legislative Intent

Approved

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20	1	A	1

Budget Action Title: Race and Social Justice Initiative analysis of DON grant programs

Councilmembers: Bagshaw; Harrell; O'Brien

Staff Analyst: Lish Whitson

Budget Committee Vote:

Date	Result	SB	BH	JO	TR	NL	TB	JG	MO	KS
11/16/2015	Pass 8- 1-Absent	Y	-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Statement of Legislative Intent:

The City Council requests that the Department of Neighborhoods (DON) report on opportunities to improve their grant-making processes, including, but not limited to, a Race and Social Justice analysis through the Racial Equity Toolkit. The report should review existing grant-making processes and delineate changes to increase the equity and accessibility of the Department and the City’s community grant programs. The Council requests a preliminary report outlining methods and approach to the RSJI analysis, and identifying opportunities to incorporate findings into the 2016 grant-making cycle, to be submitted no later than March 31, 2016. The Council requests the final report be submitted to the Council’s Seattle Public Utilities and Neighborhoods Committee, or most appropriate Council Committee, no later than July 1, 2016.

Background

Each year DON provides approximately \$2,500,000 to an average of 150 community-initiated projects through the Neighborhood Matching Fund (NMF) program. The NMF program has supported many successful projects across the City. However, some communities have found the application process onerous, and there may be opportunities to reduce barriers and increase access to grants and funds to communities of color and other groups with fewer resources and capacity. In addition to the NMF program, the Duwamish Opportunity Fund provides \$250,000 to support projects along the Duwamish River. Some communities have found the application process onerous and the grant awards inequitable. While the Participatory Budgeting Pilot has not yet been implemented, an equitability and accessibility analysis, including, but not limited to, an RSJI analysis at this early stage can help inform the pilot process. This Statement of Legislative Intent asks the department to review their processes in order to increase the equitable disbursement of funds.

Responsible Council Committee(s): Seattle Public Utilities and Neighborhoods

Date Due to Council: March 31, 2016

July 1, 2016