

Seeking Applicants for the Sweetened Beverage Tax Community Advisory Board

Influence decisions affecting Seattle's investments in food access and child development.

Overview

In 2018, the City of Seattle started taxing sugary beverage products distributed within the city ([Ord. 125324](#)). The Sweetened Beverage Tax (SBT) was designed to improve the health of Seattle residents by reducing the sales and consumption of sugary drinks, which are associated with adverse health conditions that disproportionately affect communities of color and low-income communities. Proceeds from the tax are used to support programs and services that expand access to healthy food and reduce disparities in social, developmental, and educational outcomes for children.

The legislation that created the SBT also established a Sweetened Beverage Tax Community Advisory Board (CAB). The role of the CAB is to advise and make recommendations to the Mayor and City Council on programs and services to fund with SBT revenue. CAB positions are appointed by the Mayor or City Council for a renewable, 4-year term. The CAB is made up of 11 members who live or work in Seattle and meet the following criteria:

- **Food Access Representatives** - Three members have experience implementing community-based programs dedicated to expanding healthy food access and food security;
- **Community Representatives** - Two members represent populations who are disproportionately impacted by diseases related to the consumption of sugary drinks, with preference given to a parent of a student in the Seattle School District or a child in a Seattle-based early learning program, or a youth representative aged 16-24;
- **Public Health Representatives** - Four members have expertise in public health and nutrition with experience managing, researching, or evaluating programs related to the health effects of consuming sugary beverages, particularly among children and their families;
- **Early Learning Representatives** - Two members have expertise in education and early learning, with an emphasis on learning from birth to age five.

The City of Seattle is now accepting applications for three positions on the Sweetened Beverage Tax Community Advisory Board—one **Community Representative** and **two Public Health Representatives**. We are seeking applicants who are passionate about racial equity, increasing access to healthy and culturally relevant food, supporting child health and development, and improving public health while centering communities most impacted by health and educational injustices.

Applicants must demonstrate a desire and ability to dedicate 3-6 hours per month, including attendance at monthly meetings, participation in CAB work, and communication with key stakeholders and department staff.



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Minimum Qualifications

- **[FOR PUBLIC HEALTH APPLICANTS]** Personal or professional experience and expertise in public health and nutrition with experience managing, researching, or evaluating programs related to the health effects of consuming sugary beverages, particularly among children and their families ([Ord. 125324](#)).
- **[FOR COMMUNITY APPLICANTS]** Representative of a community specifically targeted with junk food marketing resulting in disproportionate rates of nutrition related diseases (e.g. communities of color, low-income communities), with preference given to a parent of a student in the Seattle School District or a child in a Seattle-based early learning program, or a youth representative aged 16-24 ([Ord. 125324](#)).
- Experience with and/or understanding of health and education inequities.
- Understanding of how racism and race-based disparities impact communities of color and interest in working to eliminate these disparities and advance equity.
- Interested in collaborating with other community members to develop recommendations for food access and prenatal-to-five programs/services, while centering the communities most burdened by lack of access to healthy food, health, and education inequities.
- Demonstrated ability to develop collaborative, productive, and respectful relationships with people from diverse educational, social, cultural, and racial backgrounds.

Preferred Qualifications

- Lived experience utilizing food access programs in Seattle such as Fresh Bucks, food banks, meal programs or accessing early learning and child development programs such as childcare assistance and health and developmental supports for young children.
- Personal and/or professional expertise serving the following communities:
 - People of Color
 - People with low incomes
 - Immigrant and Refugee populations
 - People experiencing food insecurity, currently or in the past
 - Youth of color
 - Seniors
 - High-risk of displacement neighborhoods
 - Racial justice, food justice, and/or early education justice-based organizations
 - Underrepresented and under resourced human service providers and community-based organizations
- Ability to draw connections between food security, health, and education outcomes; racial equity; and access to healthy food, jobs, education, opportunities, and other social needs.
- Experienced in community collaboration and engagement and desire to build trust with government.



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- Affiliated with community-based organizations, coalitions or networks that work on issues related to food justice, health equity, and/or child health and education equity.
- Experience and comfort working on a team using anti-racist, pro-equity, collaborative decision-making approaches.
- Experienced in effective and equitable grantmaking processes.

Benefits of Serving on the CAB:

- Learn about and get involved with the City of Seattle's budget process.
- Opportunity to provide input on the City's investments in food access and early learning.
- Learn about and get to know major City departments.
- Build your personal and professional network.
- Leadership development and civic engagement opportunity.

Board Member Compensation:

This is a volunteer position. Per [Ord. 125324](#), members of the CAB must serve without pay.

How to Apply:

If you are interested in collaborating with a team of community members to influence decisions affecting the City's investments in food access and child health and development, **we encourage you to [APPLY HERE](#) by 11:59 pm on June 20, 2021.**

For more information, questions, or assistance with the application process please email Hannah Hill at Hannah.Hill@seattle.gov or call 206-256-5334.