



Source: Young Women Empowered

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FUND

2020 Guidelines



Seattle
Office of Sustainability
& Environment

ABOUT THE FUND

The Environmental Justice Fund is a grant opportunity for community-led projects that improve environmental conditions, respond to impacts of climate change and get us closer to achieving environmental justice. Community members and Seattle City Council worked together to create the Environmental Justice Fund in 2017. Visit the [Equity & Environment Initiative](#) to learn about the community work that led to creation of this fund.

Seattle's [Environmental Justice Committee](#) plays a critical role in the oversight of the fund. The Committee's goal is to deepen the influence of communities of color in City environmental programs to ensure that the stories, experiences, and policy priorities of Black, Indigenous and People of Color shape Seattle's environmental work. The Committee is guided by the [Equity & Environment Agenda](#), a roadmap to advance race and social justice within Seattle's environmental work.

This year, **\$500,000** in funding are available for projects thanks to a \$250,000 match from Seattle's Office of Planning & Community Development (OPCD). Projects will be awarded no less than \$10,000 and no more than \$60,000 for an 18-month period beginning January 2021. We thank our colleagues at OPCD for their contribution to the Fund which aligns with the framework of the [Equitable Development Initiative](#).

The Fund is a program of the City of Seattle administered by the Bullitt Foundation.



WHAT WE FUND

Across the United States, race is the most significant predictor of a person living near contaminated air, water, or soil. It is for this reason that this Fund supports efforts that are led by and benefit the people most affected by environmental and climate issues: Black, Indigenous, People of Color, immigrants, refugees, people with low incomes, youth and elders.

COVID-19 is impacting our communities in ways that we are just beginning to understand. It is for this reason we seek to fund projects that address the impacts of COVID-19 to support community and environmental health.

Projects must:

- Occur within Seattle city limits
- Benefit people who live, learn, work, worship and play in Seattle

Funds can be used to support:

- capacity building
- ongoing visioning
- community education
- collaborations
- climate preparedness
- air quality projects
- food security projects
- green jobs

Documents must be included if the project involves changes to a physical building or a space

PROJECT EXAMPLES

An organization and a community group partner together to remove asphalt and install rain gardens at a local community center. Rain gardens will treat stormwater and provide heat island mitigation. The project includes raised bed gardens to raise awareness about stormwater, climate resilience and the health benefits of green infrastructure.

An organization or community group serving Indigenous communities launches a native food initiative. Native plants and vegetables are planted, grown, harvested, prepared, and delivered to urban Natives who are in quarantine or who are part of a sensitive population and isolating due to COVID-19. The project supports community, a sustainable local food system, and builds healthy soil.

A community group organizes a socially distanced walking tour that highlights environmental justice challenges in their neighborhood. It also creates a community-based participatory research program where community members from the neighborhood suggest solutions. These recommendations are collected and formally presented to elected officials and other decision-makers.

WHAT WE WILL NOT FUND

- Individuals are ineligible for funding
- Acquisition of real property or land
- Construction of buildings
- Maintenance of existing facilities and physical improvements to non-natural areas of parks or existing recreational facilities that do not have a clear environmental justice purpose. This includes things like park benches, shelters, and sidewalks.
- Projects that are not accessible by the public
- Scholarships

If you are seeking funding for any of the above, let us know and we will recommend grant opportunities that could fund them.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

Organizations or community groups who have 501(c)3 nonprofit status or have a fiscal sponsor with 501(c)3 nonprofit

If you do not have a fiscal sponsor, please contact us at equityenviro@seattle.gov as soon as possible.

Organizations or community groups whose work is led by or centers Black, Indigenous and People of Color, immigrants, refugees, people with low incomes, youth, and/or elders and have a deep understanding of their community's environmental justice issues.

Note: only one application per organization is allowed, except if the organization serves as a fiscal sponsor for multiple projects.



Source: Somali Health Board



Source: RVC

VIRTUAL INFORMATION SESSIONS & SUPPORT

Join a virtual information session to learn more about the Fund, qualities of a strong proposal, the application and review process, and ask questions!

[RSVP for an info session here](#)

 **equityenviro@seattle.gov**

 **206.615.0817**

Session 1:

Thursday, Sep. 10

11am-12 pm

Join online:

<https://bit.ly/2EmrzBG>

Join by phone:

206-207-1700 OR 408-418-9388

Access code: 146 085 5085

Session 2:

Monday, Sep. 14

5:30-6:30 pm

Join online:

<https://bit.ly/2Yy4287>

Join by phone:

206-207-1700 OR 408-418-9388

Access code: 146 240 7699

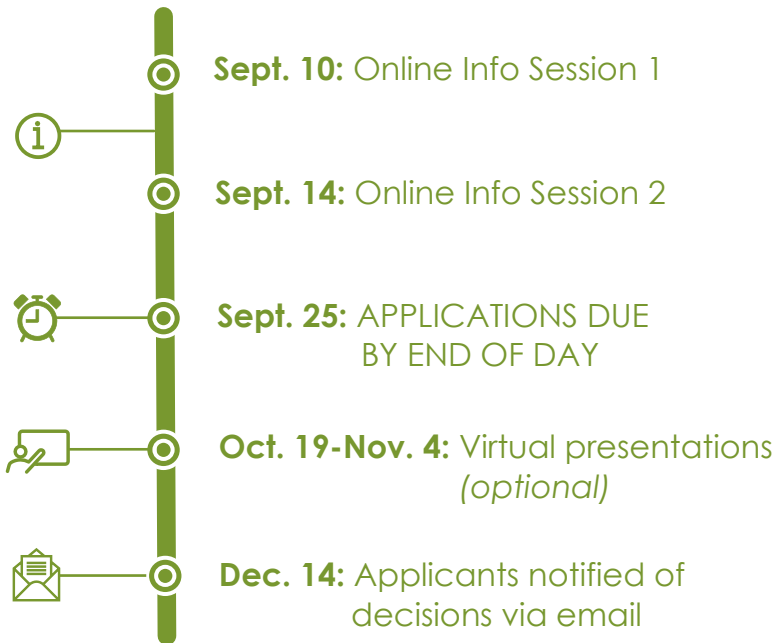
FUNDING DECISIONS & CRITERIA

The Grantmaking Committee, made up of Environmental Justice Committee and community members, will review proposals for project purpose and clarity, alignment with Equity & Environment Agenda priorities, community benefits, feasibility, and budget. The following criteria will be used:

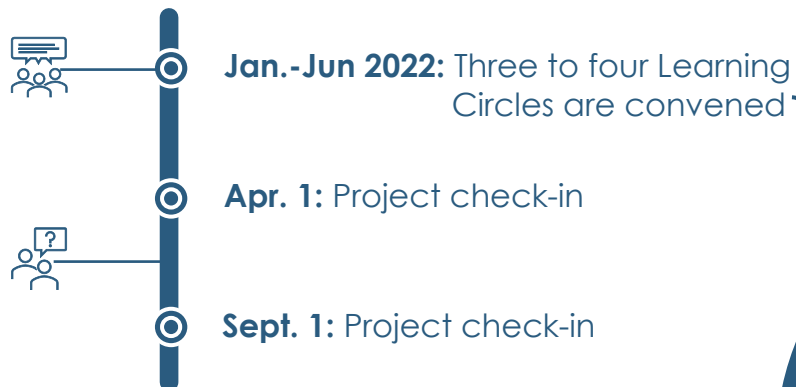
Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Does the project have environmental justice and/or climate justice outcomes?• Does it address COVID-19 impacts?• Is racial justice a lived organizational value?• Will the project increase the capacity of Black, Indigenous, People of Color, immigrants, refugees, people with low incomes, youth, and elders? – to design and implement activities that have beneficial environmental justice outcomes for their communities?• Does the project support communities of Black, Indigenous, People of Color, immigrants, refugees, people with low incomes, youth and elders to take the lead in this work?
Target audience	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Does the project benefit Black, Indigenous, People of Color, immigrants, refugees, people with low incomes, youth and elders?
Community engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Are community members meaningfully engaged in planning, leading, and implementing the project?• Does the project incorporate creative methods of engagement, whether virtual and/or maintaining social distancing guidance?• Will the project strengthen or deepen networks, relationships and/or partnerships within and among communities of Black, Indigenous, People of Color, immigrants, refugees, people with low incomes, youth and elders?
Organization/Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Does the applicant demonstrate its ties to the community?• Does organizational leadership come from and reflect the communities being served?• Does the project leadership have the skills needed to successfully implement the project?
Other considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Geographical diversity, historically underfunded communities or neighborhoods, innovative approaches, cultural diversity, and/or ethnic diversity.

TIMELINE

2020



2021



2022



Learning Circles are an opportunity for grantees to:

- gather and share their efforts
- problem-solve and share learnings
- build community

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What qualities are you looking for in the groups that apply?

Organizations or community groups should be able to demonstrate that their work is led by or centers Black, Indigenous, People of Color, immigrants, refugees, people with low incomes, youth, and/or elders **and** they have a deep understanding of their community's environmental justice issues.

If my organization received a grant from the Environmental Justice Fund in 2018 or 2019 can we submit a proposal in the 2020 grant cycle?

Yes, but being a past grantee does not guarantee repeat funding.

Can youth apply for funding?

Yes, if the group has 501(c)3 nonprofit status or has a fiscal sponsor with 501(c)3 nonprofit status.

My office is not in Seattle, but the community my group serves is based in Seattle. Can we apply?

Yes. If your office is located outside of Seattle, you can apply if your project takes place within Seattle city limits AND primarily benefits people who live, learn, work, worship and play in Seattle.

Can a collaborative submit a proposal?

Yes. But, one group in the collaborative must serve as the applicant group.

Do I have to participate in a virtual presentation?

This is optional but we strongly encourage all applicants to take advantage of this opportunity to talk in person with the Grantmaking Committee about their project. These virtual presentations are in addition to – and not in place of – written applications. If an applicant is interested in a virtual presentation, they must [sign-up for a slot](#). Presentation meetings will be in English and interpreters will be provided, if requested.

Can I submit more than one proposal?

Only one application per nonprofit organization is allowed, except if the nonprofit organization is serving as a fiscal sponsor for multiple projects.

Can I act as a fiscal sponsor for another organization and submit an application on behalf of my own organization?

Yes, you can be a fiscal sponsor for another group and submit an application on behalf of your own organization.

Are grants for general operating or for projects?

Funds can support general operating and projects as long as the activities in the proposal are directly focused on environmental or climate justice outcomes and/or address COVID-19 impacts.

Where can I find more information about the Equity & Environment Agenda?

Download the [Equity & Environment Agenda](#) which is available in [繁體中文 \(Chinese\)](#), [Soomaali \(Somali\)](#), [Español \(Spanish\)](#) and [Tiếng Việt \(Vietnamese\)](#).

If I have questions about the application, whom do I contact?

Please email us at equityenviro@seattle.gov or call **206.615.0817**. While we cannot help you write your proposal, we are happy to answer questions, provide feedback and help you understand the application and the application process.