



## OFFICE OF EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

### COVID-19 COMMUNITY RESPONSE FUND

---

On May 5, the King County Council approved a second emergency supplemental budget proposed by Executive Dow Constantine to provide additional resources related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Included in the legislation is \$1 million for the Office of Equity and Social Justice (OESJ) to expand funding for the COVID-19 Community Response Fund. First launched in March 2020 in response to immediate effects of the local outbreak, the COVID-19 Community Response Fund invested \$800K in grant awards to community-based organizations providing health literacy and awareness, language access, anti-bias and stigma response, and outreach in communities located near isolation, quarantine, and recovery facilities.

As the pandemic has progressed, we understand more about its effects and the disproportionate impact it inflicts on communities of color. OESJ will continue to prioritize funding to partners working with communities at the highest risk of immediate and long-term negative health, social and economic impacts. Grants of up to \$25,000 will be awarded to organizations based on the priorities defined below.

#### **Grant funding will focus on investments in these critical areas:**

- Organizations providing direct service to individuals and families with economic, physical, or social needs.
- Organizations providing emergency assistance in the form of grants to communities for food security, housing security, and financial assistance.
- Organizations providing in-language technical assistance to the community (navigating unemployment, health and long-term services and support systems).
- Organizations supporting undocumented residents not eligible for state or federal benefits.
- Organizations supporting Black, Native, and residents of color that are LGBTQ, disabled, and unsheltered as those most impacted by the COVID-19 virus and mandatory isolation/social distancing.
- Outreach designed to raise awareness and increase utilization of local testing resources by communities of color and community-based data collection to record.  
Organizations that can engage in ongoing data collection efforts to inform comprehensive anti-hate and bias policy and programming at King County.

**Applications will be accepted from May 28 through June 9.** In keeping with the County's commitment to Equity and Social Justice (ESJ) – targeting investments where needs are greatest – organizations that received a previous COVID-19 Community Response Fund award are not eligible to apply to this second round, unless that application was submitted in collaboration with multiple organizations. Organizations interested in engaging in anti-hate and bias work must meet the following criteria, see criteria and separate application.

As with the first round of funding, OESJ will work with a review committee comprised of community-based advisors, County Executive and County Council staff.

### **Rating Criteria**

- *Program Model includes ESJ Framework.* Proposal describes the applicant's program model and how they intend to provide the proposed information and resources. It is clear that the applicant is authentically embedded in the communities prioritized above, and articulates a deep understanding of the equity and social justice implications to the pandemic and its aftermath.
- *Population Specific.* Proposal identified specific populations prioritized above and/or linguistic groups that the organization will serve and illustrates how its defined work and approach will effectively reach/benefit the selected populations.
- *Cultural Competence and Language Access.* Proposal clearly indicates the ability to provide culturally and linguistically relevant information and/or resources, including to immigrant and refugee communities and limited English speaking populations. The proposal clearly outlines a language access plan to appropriately reach priority populations in specific language communities.
- *Budget Overview.* Budget aligns with proposed activities and accounts for full scope of funding requested to support the proposed project.
- *Data and Evaluation.* While this is a short turnaround and an abbreviated scope of work, the application clearly defines outcomes for the project and interest in building the capacity to collect and interpret qualitative and quantitative data.

### **Funding Agreements:**

**Award recipients agree to join the existing Immigrant and Refugee COVID-19 Advisory Group, unless only receiving funds for Hate/Bias (see below).**

### **Agencies that receive funding for Hate/Bias agree to do the following:**

- Join the King County Coalition Against Hate and Bias (Coalition).
- Attend monthly 2-hour online/phone meetings through Oct 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020.
- Distribute Coalition anti-hate and bias messaging via social media and print.
- Designate a point person to complete outreach on hate and bias incidence within their designated populations/geographic community.
- Collect and report community incidences of hate and bias to OESJ via the Coalition's Survey and designated reporting platform.
- Participate in hate and bias trainings and technical assistance provided by OESJ.