

# Portland Clean Energy Community Benefits Fund (PCEF) Roundtable

## Key Takeaways

### Community Resiliency Hub Meetings #1 & #2

February 15, 2023, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

March 1, 2023, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

### Key Takeaways

- Resilience has many definitions, including as community building efforts, not just reactive to a disaster or climate hazard.
- Resilience hub is a space that works to build individual and community resilience and supports community members before, during, and after crisis events. The hub provides in-person servicing resources, can serve as a gathering space for community members and organizations, and works to improve the long-term social and ecological wellbeing of its surrounding area.
- Can't have a community resiliency hub without a community first. Emphasis on the things that create community. Need to see upgrades on the outside to draw people in. Create the community first then focus on the physical space.
- Clearer definition needed of what is considered a community resilience hub and how PCEF funding will play a role in specific elements. PCEF may not be able to fill all community needs.

### Existing Conditions

- Learnings from participants:
- Some organizations are having a hard time finding free public meeting spaces, is there some corollary between emergency resilience hubs and community spaces that could be used for meetings?
- The people we serve are primarily wheelchair users and access to shelters is difficult.
- There's competition among people with disabilities for limited ADA accessible parking spots and restrooms.
- Some of the people we work with that have asset income restrictions such as Medicaid. Systemic restrictions like that lock people out of participation because they have to decide between health and employment.
- The population that we serve is primarily renters, how would a resident then take advantage of an upgrade? Could upgrades serve locations only for a specific rental property?
- Have seen unsheltered folks finding their own methods of staying warm rather than triggering themselves in a community space. How do we have safe spaces for women and trans-folks so that they're not in general population where they might have to see their perpetrator?

### Desired State

- An emphasis on connection and not just an emergency response center, it's hubs are a resource center for multiple uses.

- Interconnectedness between the outside of the building and the inside. Especially considering cooling events, need for shade structures, mobile hub to create a flow and provide services for folks who may not want to go inside.
- Mini resilience hub, mobile misting stations, food, trucks that you can spring up in a place quickly. Need physical buildings but also need to address the areas where there aren't any buildings
- Prolonged investment in building community
- Non-profits have autonomy in communities they serve, and can enable safe spaces for specific communities.

## Barriers

- Access to a climate related cooling center for people with disabilities
- Don't want to turn folks away but also need to create safe spaces
- Lack of staffing
- Navigating insurance
- Wayfinding various grant opportunities
- Historic shape of building or infrastructure nearby limiting accessibility
- Transportation access in emergencies

## Key opportunities

- Creating a coordinated emergency response system within varying entities
- Neighborhood level resilience hubs that could be year-round
  - One of the most underutilized public spaces are schools (separate conversations happening with school-based projects)
- Help folks shelter in place
- Proactive PCEF programming to increase ADA parking spots
- Need a central communication that knows what to do when an emergency occurs
- Ability to triage and direct people to the right services
- Technical planning grants needed to evaluate potential spaces for upgrades
- How-to guide on applications – reducing wayfinding
- PCEF created library of technical resources