

# Portland Clean Energy Community Benefits Fund (PCEF) Roundtable

## Key Takeaways

### Single Family Meetings #1 & #2

January 26, 2023, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

February 9, 2023, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

### Key Takeaways

- Some existing contractors and CBOs face capacity constraints. Need to factor in time to allow organization to scale up.
- There needs to be a direct pipeline between students and contractors.
- Consider where moderate income homeowners fit into the mix and how there may be the opportunity to support residents that are in this funding gap. .
- Consider a pathway to accessing these funds through contractors or a pathway that is less reliant on CBOs.
- Priority should be to use non-profits and if you use for-profits, they should be a local company.
- Create better connection points between CBOs and vetted contractors.
- Need to educate more people about what PCEF is and the resources it provides.
- Need to educate people about how to use their newly upgraded homes and equipment.
- One of the largest obstacles is deferred maintenance.
- Need to include increased funding for deferred maintenance.
- You can't do deep energy retrofits with a funding cap.
- Flexible funding and simple procedural requirements are key..
- It's better to spend more, go deeper and do more upfront to take care of the worst situations and most vulnerable first rather than partially serving more people.

### Existing Conditions

- Consider including duplexes, triplexes and quads in this initiative.
- CBO's do not have existing capacity to fill the need, will need to scale up.
- As a contractor, scalability is usually the biggest challenge. Finding the labor force and providing training programs is a challenge.
- It's not renters, but landlords that will benefit the most if they receive energy efficiency upgrades
- There's an increased risk for displacement
- PCEF priority populations are mostly renters.
- High cost of deferred maintenance leave some households ineligible to receive PCEF upgrades.

## Desired State

- More coordination and opportunities for connection between those involved – contractors, CBOs, workforce, clients, etc.
- A centralized navigator role to improve channels of communication and help parties navigate multiple funding streams.
- More education. PCEF is in a good position to educate the consumer.
- Streamlined reporting.
- Desire for ability to access funds through non-CBOs.
- Preference to have a collaboration between non-profits and for-profits. CBOs should not be in the role of community engagement only. They need bigger roles that provide predictable revenue streams. PCEF provides a great opportunity to test out a new model of working together
- Don't want another hub.
- What we really want is a flexible pot that I can draw from to get the job done. Remove as many barriers to the pot as possible, set the qualification and let us get the job done without jumping through hoops. More community awareness of what PCEF is, what it can do, and how people can tap into it.
- No one is left behind because they have too much deferred maintenance in their home.

## Key opportunities

- Define the scope of work - what will be covered within a house, what will contractor do, what will CBOs do?
  - Basic assessment definition/standards
  - Common requirements
- Create a contractor network that can deliver projects and aligns with workforce development objectives
- Recognize that setting a cap for projects may be limiting as there will be varying levels of costs depending on the condition of the home.
- Establish agreements with landlords to avoid displacements.
- . The need is higher than the amount of funding available, consider increasing the allocation
- Let CBOs and for-profit contractors leverage a portion of the money directly through banks and have PCEF focus on what they're good at
- Create synergies and centralized resources that can help everyone access the funds.
- Could there be a segment of the pie that's different for for-profits? Continue non-profit focus but also find a way for private sector to join in..
- Workforce development is a key aspect of this whole thing. Align student training, with contractor and CBO capacity building and jobs.
- Technical support for non-profits and contractors on how to do the basics.
- Centralized hub but one that isn't mandatory.