

Portland Clean Energy Community Benefits Fund (PCEF) Grants Committee

April 7th, 6:00 to 8:00 pm

Minutes

Committee members present : Michael Edden Hill, Megan Horst, Jeff Moreland Jr., Maria Sipin, Ranfis Villatoro, Robin Wang, Shanice Brittany Clarke

Committee members absent: Faith Graham

Staff present: Sam Baraso, Cady Lister, Jaimes Valdez

Public comment: Ashley Henry from Business for Better Portland provided public comment supporting the work of the PCEF program, staff and Committee.

Decisions made

- Committee made decision to recommend funding the mini grant program at \$200,000 level for FY 2022-2023. Decision was affirmed by all Committee members who were present.
 - Ranfis made the proposal
 - Maria seconded proposal
 - Jeffrey, Robin, Shanice, Michael and Megan affirmed
- Committee made decision to recommend \$6,325,000 funding Community Distribution Partners as laid out in the memo but without constraints of any dates listed in the memo.
 - Michael made the proposal
 - Ranfis made a friendly amendment to remove constraints of dates listed in the memo and seconded proposal
- Affirmed by: Shanice, Jeffrey, Megan, Robin and Maria

Heat response, community distribution partner (CDP) decision

Staff provided overview of applications received and other information provided to the Committee and posted online in the heat response memo. CDP role is to installation which includes coordination, transportation, logistics, storage, etc. Affordable housing providers who responded to act as CDPs have lower cost overall and easier logistics since they have direct access to multi-family buildings including building specific technical specifications. This reflected in lower prices relative to community based organization (CBO) partners who applied to be CDPs.

Other updates related to heat response – 1) Earth Advantage, purchasing partner, has placed orders for 3,007 units, first will arrive late April early May, 2) Oregon public utility commission approved a low-income qualified discount program which creates an opportunity to reduce energy cost throughout year and is well-timed to potentially reduce risk that folks who get our units aren't saddled with increased bills.

Discussion

- Megan – for future would like to define cost per unit in RFP. Also wondering why did more affordable housing providers not apply?
 - Jaimes-have heard due to same due date as primary RFP, uncertainty about staffing capacity
- Ranfis – are other govt dollars going into cooling, state/other. Also what is there a process for verification?

- Jaimes – state leg this year passed bills related to heat response that created a right to cooling. Rules are still being developed for these programs, unlikely these will be in place by this cooling season. Verification – working with Earth Advantage on photo verification of installation
- Ranfis – hope PCEF staff continue to be in those spaces on new state programs to learn from them and them learn from us.
- Megan – appreciate focus on elderly, glad to hear about attention to ongoing monitoring and education of recipients. Will look forward to hearing what EA learns as we go. Any lessons learned on additional review?
 - Jaimes – review process gave us opportunity to have more back and forth with applicants.
- Michael – hoping for workforce report, pay and demographics of who is doing the installations.
 - Jaimes – yes we will collect, note that housing providers might use their existing maintenance team
- Jeffrey – we have goal of 15K over five years, when are we going to get the next round of CDPs?
 - Jaimes – Planning for 3K this year, ramp up to more than that next year. We want to get through this summer to understand what it takes before we go out for more CDPs.
- Jefferey – how much room are we leaving current CDPs to be able to expand and grow?
 - Jaimes – there is flexibility built into the program.
- Robin – can you comment on why 7 of 8 applicants were recommended and how you drew the line.
 - Jaimes – scoring panel had questions about smaller org that didn't have experience working in people's homes so they had concern about the proposal and the applicants ability to do the work.
 - Sam – recommendation not to fund, panel did not believe that org as proposed could not deliver.
- Robin – why #2, they also scored low, was there a different feeling about that one.
 - Jaimes – #2 was housing provider which were scored a little differently and though they scored lower for diversity of the organization they did appear to have capacity.
- Robin – would like to revisit scoring for CDPs. Bothers me that there is subjectivity being introduced by others not on this committee.
- Ranfis – appreciate Robin comments and note performance is hard piece to score. Hope there are opportunities for folks not funded to apply again. Right now better to be extra cautious with our dollars.
- Megan – in future need to remember to reallocate points for staff hiring for orgs that already have staff. Also need to always collect info about and honor all priority populations in the code.
- Michael – proposal to recommend \$6,325,000 funding Community Distribution Partners as laid out in the memo.
- Ranfis – friendly amendment to remove constraints of dates listed in the memo.
- Affirmed by: Shanice, Jeffrey, Megan, Robin and Maria

Program structure review workplan

Sam provided a summary presentation of a workplan to: 1) outline changes to enable accelerated funding of carbon reduction projects in alignment with ballot measure 2) draw clearer and more relevant connections between PCEF and the City's carbon reduction goals, 3) Address staff and committee identified needs, and 4) address audit recommendations.

We have made a number of commitments in response to the audit, and we seek to bring these changes to Council in late fall, early winter. Staff next steps are gathering more information from our partners within and outside the City

to better define opportunities and challenges. We want to keep Committee informed via monthly small group meetings so you are well prepared for full Committee discussion.

Discussion

- Maria – curious how ODOT, PBOT and metro are stepping up in this conversation about transportation emissions reduction for BIPOC and low-income communities. There is a lot of federal funding for this already and wonder where PCEF fits, am interested in being a part of this conversation.
- Ranfis – awesome, this is a critical year for us, this is a priority for me, hope we are all committed to do this. Also hope the table is big and we are inviting others to the conversation.
- Shanice – confirm value of having added capacity with more folks at the table, also interested in seeing how other agencies and orgs are impacting priority populations. Looking to positive impact of finding new ways to be in relationship with other agencies and community.

Committee member comments

Megan – Feels nice to be focused on these next step, and make decisions that are putting funds in communities that need it most. Spring and PCEF are at an exciting time

Meeting close