

## **Metro Civic Engagement Capacity Building Grants**

### *Program summary*

#### **Program vision**

Metro's *Strategic Plan to Advance Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion* envisions a region where Black, Indigenous and other communities of color shape the many decisions that impact their lives. As Metro's work to advance racial equity and livability continues to expand, this vision is more critical than ever. However, culturally-specific Community Based Organizations (CBOs), who have long played a critical role in making Metro's processes more inclusive and its decisions more equitable, are finding themselves at or beyond capacity. This program will help them scale their civic engagement efforts so they can support new generations of civic leaders, deepen civic participation in every corner of the region, and shape decisions towards more equitable outcomes.

#### **About the Civic engagement grant program**

The [Civic Engagement Capacity Building grant program](#) will fund community-based organizations working to increase civic engagement and community participation within greater Portland's Black, Indigenous and communities of color. The multi-year grant program's objectives are to:

- Help grantee organizations build capacity and scale their civic engagement efforts;
- Strategically invest in communities facing high barriers to civic participation, particularly in underserved areas of Clackamas, Washington and East Multnomah counties;
- Support equitable decision-making across the garbage and recycling system and Metro's other programmatic areas;
- Build long-term, trusted relationships with community-based organizations and the Black, Indigenous and other communities of color they serve;
- Bring more BIPOC leaders into Metro decision-making processes and committees.

#### **Program details**

- The program has a total annual budget of \$400,000.
- Five grantees will each receive approximately \$80,000 annually for three years.
- The selection will be made by an Advisory body made up of Metro and Council staff and community representatives.
- A focus will be on organizations building capacity in underserved areas (East Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington counties) and in BIPOC communities who have historically experienced barriers to civic engagement.

**Important Dates**

- February 16, 2021: Letters of interest open
- March 4, 2021 11:00a.m. – 12:00p.m.:  
Information session #1
- March 9, 2021 6:00p.m. – 7:00p.m.:  
Information session #2
- March 31, 2021: Letters of interest due
- April 9, 2021: Finalists announced
- May 7, 2021: Applications from finalists due
- May 21, 2021: Grantees notified

**Examples of eligible uses** for grant funds include, but are not limited to:

- hiring or retaining staff responsible for civic or community engagement;
- training or professional development for staff or community members;
- leadership development programming;
- recruiting and preparing members for participation in Metro processes;
- supporting general operations to advance an organization's civic engagement capabilities.

**How to apply**

Grants will be awarded using a two-step application process. Any eligible organization may apply by submitting a letter of interest, using the instructions provided on the [grant webpage](#), by March 31, 2021 at 11:59p.m.

**Program Contact**

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**Who should apply?**

Community-based organizations who primarily work with, advocate for and/or provide services to Black, Indigenous and other communities of color are eligible to apply. Applicants should have experience with civic or community engagement, leadership development or community organizing and advocacy.