



Regional Refresh Fund

Criteria for funding

*The Regional Refresh Fund exists to support community-led efforts to **promote livability and improve solid waste service equity** in the Metro region by providing flexible, low-barrier funding for **immediate cleanup needs in underserved communities**.*

Applicants may request up to \$5,000 in funding per unique project or event.

Criteria for funding

- Applicant must either be a nonprofit, public agency, school or business district association. Those who do not fit into one of these categories may apply with a fiscal sponsor
- Projects must occur within the Metro boundary and either:
 - Take place in an equity focus area¹
 - Service an environmentally sensitive area, or
 - Benefit an underserved group
- Applicants must apply for an event in the future (retroactive applications will not be considered)
- Projects must be in the planning phase and be able to demonstrate a plan for the funds requested
- Projects must take place outdoors on publicly accessible property
- Any request for funds to support a paint project must be for exterior projects that benefit the community

Funding details

- Applications may be for either a single event, or to support ongoing operations when known expenses can be estimated over a period of time
- Repeat project applications will be considered on a quarterly basis (for example, a second bulky waste collection event for the same multi-family housing complex)
- Applicants completing more than one project in unique service areas may submit one application per project for consideration (example: CDCs)

¹ Equity Focus Areas are intended to be used as a starting point for project evaluation. Just because a project takes place within a census tract designated as an EFA does not necessarily mean that it is serving an underserved group. Reviewers should keep this in mind as they review applications. Does the language used to describe the project in the application provide evidence that the project will serve an under resourced community? On the other hand, a project is not disqualified just because it operates outside a designated EFA.

coordinating bulky waste collection events at multiple, distinct living communities)

- Additional funding is contingent upon the completion of the Regional Refresh Fund – Post-project survey

How can funds be spent?

The goal of this fund is to provide flexibility to our community partners so that they are empowered to prioritize what really is important for their respective communities based on their subject matter expertise. Funds may directly support a cleanup effort through acquiring supplies for volunteers, covering disposal fees at a transfer station and the like. They may also be applied indirectly by covering the cost of printing promotional materials, paying fiscal sponsor fees, compensating volunteer coordinators, etc. Other unique or unexpected expense proposals will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Funds may *not* be used for **interior** rehabilitation or paint projects, or to support political committees or campaigns, lobbying or activities that promote a religious viewpoint.

Partnership with MetroPaint

MetroPaint is partnership with Regional Refresh Fund to donate quality recycled paint to applicants who meet the requirements for this fund. Regional Refresh funds may be used to cover expenses for painting or graffiti abatement or exterior rehabilitation of buildings. MetroPaint will donate any paint needed to complete the project.