

# Regional Refresh Fund

## Program update

Presentation to RWAC (March 17, 2022)

Cayla Pruett (she/her)



# Agenda

- RRF history of program and expansion efforts
- Program objectives & desired outcomes
- Program qualifications
- Funding history
- Data evaluation and next steps

# Program history

- **June 2021:** Soft roll out of “Clean Neighborhoods Sponsorship Program”
- **Sept. 2021:** Full time program coordinator hired to expand and run program
- **Oct. 2021:** Review committee established and name changed to Regional Refresh Fund

# Program history cont.

- **Nov 2021:** Objective and Desired Outcomes defined
- **Dec 2021:** Webpage, FAQ, simplified application, and Equity Focus Area lookup tool launched

## Regional Refresh Fund

Metro is offering funding to support community-led cleanup efforts in greater Portland.

Metro's Regional Refresh Fund supports community-led efforts to promote livability and improve service equity in the Metro region by providing flexible, low-barrier funding for immediate cleanup needs in underserved communities.

Nonprofits, public agencies, schools and business district associations are invited to apply. Applicants can request up to \$5,000 in funding per cleanup project or event.

**Before applying, review the following criteria:**

- Applicant must be a nonprofit, public agency, school or business district association
- Applicant must be leading an effort that serves an equity focus area, environmentally sensitive area, or other underserved group
- The project must take place outdoors on publicly accessible property [within the Metro boundary](#)
- The project must be scheduled for a future date

### How to request funds

Read the [frequently asked questions page](#) and complete the Regional Refresh Fund application. If the application is approved, Metro will issue a check directly to the agency or organization upon receipt of an invoice. All payments are processed 30 days from the date the invoice is received.

[Apply now](#)

### Need paint for your project?

Could your cleanup project benefit from quality recycled paint? Does your project meet the qualifications of the Regional Refresh Fund? If so, MetroPaint is currently donating paint to organizations that are removing graffiti or have places that need a fresh coat of paint.

Email [oliver.dickston@oregonmetro.gov](mailto:oliver.dickston@oregonmetro.gov) for more information

# Program history cont.

- **Jan 2022:** Marketing efforts increase and the post-project survey is launched
- **Feb. 2022:** All materials launched in Spanish
- **March 2022:** Awarded half original funding amount



# Objective of the fund

The Regional Refresh Fund exists to support community-led efforts that **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.



# Desired Outcomes

1. Enhance community relationships
2. Improve solid waste service equity in the region
3. Improve livability for vulnerable populations





# Who qualifies?

Any nonprofit, public agency, school or business district association leading a cleanup effort within the Metro boundary.

**Projects must either:** take place in an equity focus area, environmentally sensitive area, or benefit an underserved group.





# Applications received

- Regional Refresh Fund has received 36 applications and approved 25 totaling over \$158,000
- Currently average ~ 3 applications or \$15,000 a week in sponsored activities

# Types of projects funded

- 10 bulky waste collection events
- 8 neighborhood litter & debris cleanups
- 5 waste disposal assistance to unhoused with large scale camp cleanup
- 2 graffiti abatement/paint related projects

# Primary ways funds are being used

- Disposal fees at transfer station or recyclers
- Transportation costs to dispose of waste
- Collection equipment (dumpsters, sharps containers, bags)
- Supplies for volunteers
- Compensating partners or vendors helping with the event or project
- Promotional or educational materials


# Project photos



# What's next?

- Collect responses through Regional Refresh Fund Post-Project Survey after spring rush
- Evaluate post-project survey results
- Identify and implement program adjustments for phase two

Regional Refresh Fund - Post-project survey

 Metro

We are excited to hear about your organization's community cleanup event (or project) that was supported by Metro's Regional Refresh Fund. This survey should take about 10 minutes or less to complete.

Metro will use your responses to guide future funding of community cleanup efforts and projects that promote livability for underserved communities in the Metro region.

Ready? Tap "Next" to get started.

Next

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