

IMPACT STATEMENT

Legislation title: *Authorize grant agreement with the McKenzie River Gathering Foundation for the Disability Leadership grant program in amount \$112,752 (Ordinance)

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Purpose of proposed legislation and background information:

The *Disability Leadership Sponsorship & Grant Opportunity* supports work that offers concrete ways for people with disabilities, especially disabled people who experience oppression related to additional intersecting identities, to engage in local government and their communities. This funding allocation is a response to community feedback from our 2017 & 2018 disability leadership cohorts who, alongside fellow community members, called for the City to resource organizations and grassroots groups to continue capacity-building efforts among people with disabilities.

In recognition of both Citywide equity goals and long-standing disparities in the access to resources between white-led and BIPOC-led disability efforts, Civic Life's Disability Program intentionally engaged BIPOC and immigrant & refugee disability communities throughout this process. Through these grants and sponsorships, we aim to continue Civic Life Disability Program's efforts to build disability communities' capacity with a focus on advancing race and disability equity.

Civic Life led an inclusive and thorough RFP and selection process. The selection committee is recommending 10 nonprofits receive grants of up to \$10,000 each. To distribute the grants, Civic Life is partnering with the McKenzie River Gathering (MRG) Foundation. The MRG Foundation is an Oregon-based 501 c3 nonprofit organization with decades long history and track record of grant making to small, social justice focused and community-led organizations. They have the staff capacity, grant making experience, technical knowledge, and community trust necessary to serve as fiscal agent of this grant program.

Financial and budgetary impacts:

A total of \$68,000 in General Funds is allocated in Civic Life's Fiscal Year 2020-2021 adopted budget for Disability Leadership grant awards. An additional \$44,752 from Civic Life's Fiscal Year 2020-2021 adopted budget, from additional savings due to unspent external materials and services due to COVID 19, is being re-directed to the Disability grant program for a total of \$112,752.

Community impacts and community involvement:

As shared above, this funding opportunity is a direct result of community members’ feedback on previous Disability Program efforts.

Additionally, before this funding opportunity was released to the public, Civic Life staff held two listening sessions on August 28, 2020 and September 23, 2020. At these sessions, we reviewed the opportunity’s history, purpose, scope, funding, and timeline and solicited feedback about specific aspects as well as whether this opportunity was useful and necessary, especially in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and racial justice uprisings. After each session, we provided responses to participants’ feedback.

More than 40 people were invited to attend each session, representing Black and indigenous-led organizations, immigrant and refugee organizations, Houseless, LGBTQIA+ and a mix of disability-specific and cross disability organizations. Approximately 25 people attended the first session and 20 attended the second, including people who identified as BIPOC, LGBTQIA, immigrants or refugees, and members of the houseless community. Our attendees were also cross-generational and represented many different organizations.

We received valuable feedback at these sessions. In addition to revising the application to enhance clarity and extending our original timeline for both applications and workplans, we raised the maximum funding amount and Civic Life allocated significant additional funding to this effort. The additional funding and increased maximum were our effort to respond to community concerns that adequately providing for access needs in program activities would require a larger budget, something that we plan to consider in future efforts as well.

After this application was released, we hosted two information sessions, shared information in our newsletters and on social media, and continued personal outreach to identified underrepresented communities. We believe the cohort of awardees more closely reflects the diversity of Portlanders with disabilities as a result.

100% Renewable Goal:

N/A

Budgetary Impact Worksheet

Does this action change appropriations?

- YES: Please complete the information below.
- NO: Skip this section

Fund	Fund Center	Commitment Item	Functional Area	Funded Program	Grant	Sponsored Program	Amount