From: Achilles, Stephen
To: Council Clerk – Testimony

Subject: Testimony Regarding PCEF Recommendations **Date:** Wednesday, July 13, 2022 10:52:44 AM

Attachments: <u>image001.png</u>

<u>image001.png</u> <u>doc04712920220713104621.pdf</u>

Hello,

Attached is my testimony and supporting documents to presented at the July 13, 2022, 2PM, City Council Meeting.

Thank you,



Stephen Achilles

Chief Executive Officer

Office: 503-652-9036

5285 SE Mallard Way Milwaukie, OR 97222

www.exceedoregon.com

Portland City Council

Testimony of Stephen Achilles at meeting on July 13, 2002 at 2pm.

My name is Stephen Achilles, and I am the CEO of the nonprofit Exceed Enterprises. We are Oregon's largest provider of employment and community services to people of diverse abilities; a diagnosis of an intellectual or development disability.

Everything that I will say today I have said to Sam and Cady.

I am here to support the recommendations of the PCEF Committee this year. However, if the PCEF Committee does not address and resolve significant issues with the disability community this should be the last year you approve their recommendations.

We are the largest Priority Population. OHSU Report states. One in four Oregonians has a disability and one in eight Oregonians has an intellectual or development disability. Less than one-third have a job. 18% have a household income of under \$15k vs 5.5% for the general population.

To date only one proposal from the disability community has been approved and it was the smallest grant this year. \$69,478 to Community Vision. This is not acceptable.

We see three major issues that need to be addressed. People with disabilities as a priority population. However, they have been virtually excluded from the program. So far.

- 1. There is no representation of the disability community on the committee or staff. There has been little to no outreach to the community. Promised efforts did not happen. I actually recruited organizations to the one outreach meeting of which I am aware.
- 2. In my opinion, the current rules place organizations that serve people with disabilities at a 15-20% disadvantage. I have shared an email with PCEF outlining the specific areas where the rules. I would be happy to share examples today.
- 3. Lack of followup. Commitments for outreach and consideration of our concerns have simply not been kept.

Our management and board bring over 30 years of senior level experience energy and energy efficiency.

Exceed is supportive of promise of PCEF. But for the disability community PCEF is falling far short. I am asking you direct the PCEF Committee and Staff to address these issues of representation, which should lead to a level playing field which means that people with disabilities will no longer be excluded from the PCEF program.

The days of ignoring people with disabilities has passed. The days of separate classes and Fairview have passed. I am asking you to direct the PCEF committee to support the disability community so everyone can participate in the Portland Clean Energy Fund.

• Funding is less than 0.0004

Achilles, Stephen

From:

Achilles, Stephen

Sent:

Monday, February 21, 2022 10:51 AM

To:

Sam Baraso (sam.baraso@portlandoregon.gov)

Cc:

Lister, Cadv

Subject:

Thoughts from Exceed Enterprises

Hello,

Congratulations on generating such a large number of project proposals from so many organizations this year. Your team has a lot of good work ahead.

As I had told Cady in December, Exceed choose not to participate in this round of funding. Our strategic plan calls for growth and improved community engagement so this program should be natural for us. Simply put, we believe that the scoring system puts our proposal at such a significant disadvantage it is not worth our effort to participate. The scoring system, as I documented earlier, leaves people with disabilities behind.

There is a lack of representation and lived experience for people with disabilities. Also, if we did win the challenges for people with disabilities that rely on social security limit the ability to create meaningful learning opportunities.

I appreciate the communication and changes that have been made and want to work with PCEF to make the program more inclusive. I have shared some of the specific concerns previously. It is my opinion that some of the challenges that you face are structural. After speaking with members of our Board of Directors we do intend to testify at City Council in 2022. It is not our position to object to this year's process. However, it appears that change needs to come from outside PCEF and we intend to push for greater representation in this program for people with disabilities.

When the time is right for PCEF, I look forward to continuing the conversation.

Thank you and best wishes,





Stephen Achilles Chief Executive Officer

Office: 503-652-9036 Direct: 971.925.7254

5285 SE Mallard Way Milwaukie, OR 97222

www.exceedoregon.com

Memo to: Sam Baraso, Program Manager PCEF and Cady Lister, PCEF Deputy Program Manager

From: Stephen Achilles, CEO of Exceed Enterprises

Date: August 4, 2021

RE: Thoughts on PCEF and People with Disabilities

Exceed Enterprises greatly appreciates the work of the Portland Clean Energy Fund. This is an exciting opportunity to make a positive difference in the lives of Portlanders who have and continue to face significant challenges in America's whitest city. The PCEF projects that were approved will have a positive impact for everyone in our community.

As you begin the next round of funding, I wanted to take a moment to discuss our continuing concern about the PCEF's ability to engage with and support people with disabilities. In writing this email I also recognize that there maybe changes of which I am not aware.

Our first concern has to do with the lack of representation.

- 1. To our knowledge there are no evaluators or staff members with a disability and specifically with an intellectual or developmental disability.
- To the best of our knowledge there has been little to no outreach to the disability community.
 Last fall PCEF staff acknowledged the lack of outreach, but it does not appear to have improved.

 We stand ready to help PCEF reach into the disability community.

Here is some information that I hope will encourage you to meet PCEF goals by reaching out to our community. The following information is from annual studies completed by the Oregon Office on Disability and Health and Oregon Health Sciences University, the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. The information below clearly shows the intersection of people with disabilities and all of the groups that PCEF is supporting. You will see in this data the intersection of race, income and disability.

- 1. One in four Oregonians has a disability. Below is the disability by type:
 - a. 12.9% mobility
 - b. 12.5% cognitive
 - c. 7.6% independent living
 - d. 7.1% hearing
 - e. 4.4% visual
 - f. 3.8% self-care
- 2. 29% of women have a disability and 26% of men have a disability
- 3. Disabilities have a significant impact on the BIPOC community.
 - a. 28% non-Hispanic white
 - b. 24% non-Hispanic black
 - c. 23% Hispanic
 - d. 29% non-Hispanic all others
- 4. People with disabilities have a very limited employment opportunities. Only 33% of Oregonians with disabilities are employed.
- 5. Sixty one percent of Oregonians with disabilities have an income of less than \$25,000 per year.

6. Oregonians with disabilities are three times more likely to have diabetes than those without disabilities.

People with disabilities are a significant part of all PCEF priority groups.

When I gave testimony last November, I said that I thought the proposed evaluation system would have a negative impact for people with disabilities. Based on what we saw with our applications we saw this in two ways. First, lack of representation. It appears that only one organization focused on disability participated. Second, the evaluation system inadvertently created barriers.

Here are specific concerns about the current evaluation system.

PGEF Small Grants: It appears to Exceed that the following items appear to place people with disabilities at a 12-15% disadvantage in the current scoring system.

- 1. Criteria #3: Staff (including leadership) and board of the organization reflect the community their proposed project is intended to benefit.
 - Issue: An intellectual or developmental diagnosis is based, in part, on IQ. As a result, it is difficult for this population to take on certain roles, despite being great workers.
 - Possible Solution: Give full credit for organizations whose staff and Board who have a disability or have a family member with a disability.
- 2. Criteria #12: Project reduces cost for people with low income and/communities of color. Issue: There are two issues here. First, why are people with disabilities being excluded? There is nothing in the original initiative to justify this exclusion. Second, due to the high level of poverty among people with disabilities and the fact that most people receiving state supports for intellectual or developmental opportunities live in group and foster homes this appears to exclude people with disabilities.
 - Possible Solution: We suggest two revisions. First, include people with disabilities which is the original intent of the legislation. Second, equate disability and low-income in the scoring.
- 3. Criteria #13: Project provides health benefits to PCEF priority populations. Issue: This population has significantly lower lifespan and greater health issues than other PCEF priority communities. However, because our population lives almost exclusively in group and foster homes, we can only do this indirectly.
 - Possible Solution: Give full credit to enhancements for group and foster homes for people with disabilities.
- 4. Criteria #14: Project improves resiliency by 1) addressing the harm to frontline communities caused by climate change, and/or 2) improving ability to withstand and adapt to existing and future climate impacts.

Issue: Again, our clients generally do not have employment and almost exclusively reside in group and foster homes.

Possible Solution: Give full credit for improvements changes at group and foster homes and places of employment.

PCEF Planning Grants: It appears to Exceed that these items place people with disabilities at a 10-15% disadvantage in the current scoring system.

1. Staff (including leadorshin)

1. Staff (including leadership) and board of the organization reflect the community their proposed project is intended to benefit.

Page 2 of 4

Issue: In intellectual or developmental diagnosis is based, in part, on IQ. As a result, it is difficult for this population to take on certain roles, despite being great workers.

Possible Solution: Give full credit for organizations whose staff and Board who have a disability or have a family member with a disability.

- 2. Criteria #6: Applicant is a small or emerging organization.
 - Issue: We support this in concept but again this results In a bias against people with disabilities. To our knowledge there is no agency serving the Portland area that provides full employment services that meets this requirement. The state requirements to provide services are such that we must have staff, greater than the existing requirement, to meet the contractual requirements of the state of Oregon.
 - Possible Solution: Wave the size requirement and keep the emerging business requirement for people with disabilities.
- 3. Criteria #8: Scope of process is clear manageable and likely to succeed. Issue: When working with people with cognitive disabilities there are a variety of regulations that impact our clients that lead to unusual items in the scope of work. People may have limited hours they can work, unique learning requirements and must have unique support they need to be successful. We are not able in the application to explain all these supports that we provide making the scope of work unusual and less clear than a traditional scope of work. Possible Solution: Have disability representation in the selection process. As other groups are represented, we should have people who understand the lived experience of our clients.

Another option would be to provide people with cognitive disabilities 6-10 extra points as has been done with other select disadvantaged groups.

We also have two general concerns.

- In speaking with PCEF staff following the first round of funding I expressed concern about the lack of energy expertise in the evaluations. The Exceed proposal brought two of the leading west coast energy industry experts of color to the proposal. One of them led the most successful energy job development program on the west coast. There appeared to be no recognition of this unique expertise. The PCEF evaluation team may benefit from having individuals with greater energy expertise to accurately evaluate the likelihood of success of projects.
- 2. Compensation is a major issue for the thousands of individuals with disabilities who rely on SSDI for income and healthcare. SSDI limits not only the amount of money an individual can earn but also their total assets. If a person crosses those lines, they are subject to significant fines and the loss of the health care. Most of our clients believe that it could take years to get SSDI reinstated if they leave the program due to excess earnings. Given that the majority of individuals with cognitive disabilities have significant physical issues this is a HUGE ASK for our clients and others. We recognize that this is a challenging issue given how the initiative was written. However, this issue is a major barrier for people with disabilities. Please work with the disability community to address these concerns.

Exceed Enterprises is very supportive of the PCEF program and recognize the positive impact the program is having on individuals and our city of Portland. It is helping to address major historical issues and a system that has been damaging to our BIPOC community. The history for people with disability is

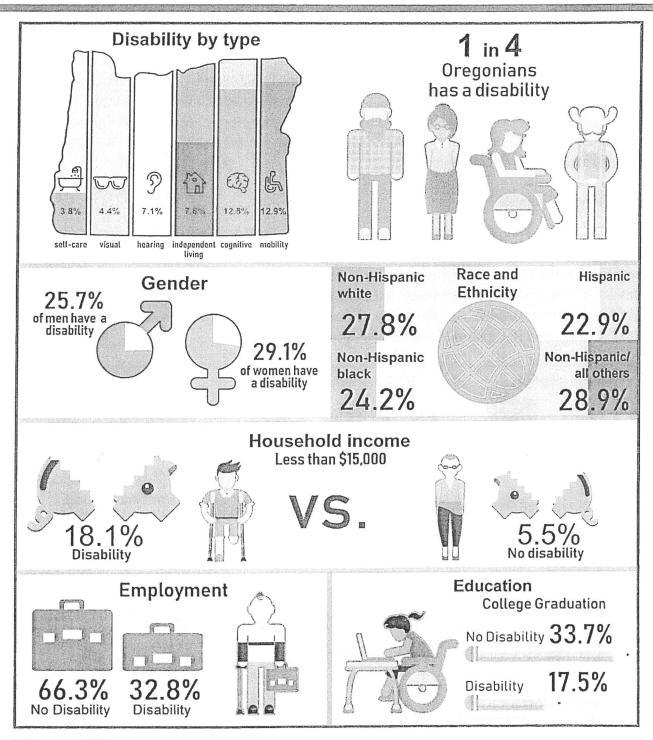
the same and different. In many cases disability victims cannot testify making them targets of predators. More commonly people with disability are simply ignored, treated like children and placed in housing with little community access.

We ask that PCEF not follow this historical pattern of ignoring people with disabilities. Please engage with our community and together let's help PCEF meet its goals for all populations. People with disabilities need to be a part of the PCEF team.

Oregon

Oregon Office on Disability and Health





Data Source: Oregon Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) 2018.







About OODH:

The Oregon Office on Disability and Health (OODH) is a public health entity under the Institute on Development and Disability at Oregon Health & Science University. OODH has been funded since 1994 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Our mission is to promote the health and wellness of people with disabilities in Oregon. We envision a future where entire communities are accessible, welcoming and inclusive of all Oregonians.

About disability data analysis:

OODH analyzes data to educate and inform key community, county and state partners and policy makers on the importance of inclusive policies, systems and environments such as affordable and accessible health promotion and health care, and accessible outdoor recreation opportunities for Oregonians with disabilities. By comparing information gathered by the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) on Oregonians, we can determine current gaps in social determinants of health among adults with disabilities in comparison to those without disabilities.

Veteran status

170 of those with disabilities served in the Armed Forces Relationship status

34% less likely

to be married or be in a couple than those without a disability

Home ownership

17% less likely

to own a home than those without a disability

Data Source: Oregon Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) 2018.

This project was supported by Cooperative Agreement Number NU27DD000014 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of CDC. This brief was prepared by Cesar Higgins Tejera, MPH; Larissa Yoshino, MPH; West Livaudais, MPH; Amy Jeon; and Willi Horner-Johnson, PhD in the Oregon Office on Disability and Health (OODH).

COPYRIGHT INFORMATION

This report may be reproduced or copied without permission, and we encourage you to share it. Use of the following citation is appreciated:

Oregon Office on Disability and Health. Demographics of Oregonians with Disabilities 2018. Portland, OR: Oregon Health & Science University; 2020. Available from http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/research/centers-institutes/oregon-office-on-disability-and-health/data-statistics/





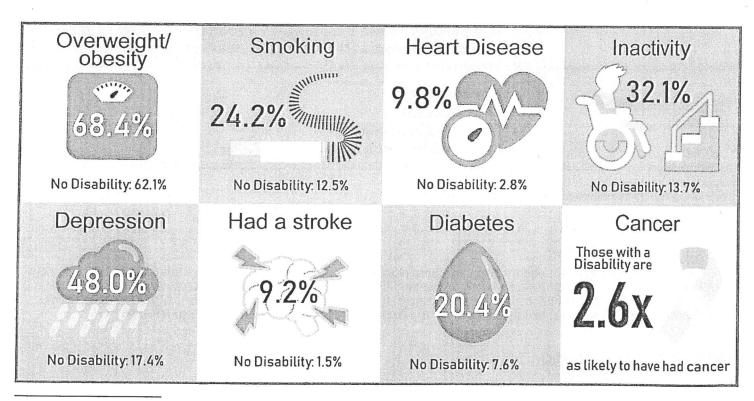
About OODH:

The Oregon Office on Disability and Health (OODH) is a public health entity under the Institute on Development and Disability at Oregon Health & Science University. OODH has been funded since 1994 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Our mission is to promote the health and wellness of people with disabilities in Oregon. We envision a future where entire communities are accessible, welcoming and inclusive of all Oregonians.

About disability data analysis:

OODH analyzes data to educate and inform key community, county and state partners and policy makers on the importance of inclusive policies, systems and environments such as affordable and accessible health promotion and health care, and accessible outdoor recreation opportunities for Oregonians with disabilities.

This data brief contains information on major health risk factors and chronic conditions among Oregonians. We highlight how adults with disabilities are disproportionally affected by many of these health-related conditions.



Data Source: Oregon Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) 2018.







The following table shows important disparities in health indicators among Oregonians living with disabilities:

Strongs; edding (bektschis	Bredia Dielenaria en
Healthcare Access	 More likely to avoid seeing a doctor due to cost Less likely to visit a dentist
Health Behaviors	 More likely to describe health as fair/poor Higher BMI More likely to smoke, and smoke more cigarettes per day Less likely to engage in physical activities More likely to develop stress due to food and rent insecurity
Prevention and Screening	 More likely to have falls, and injuries due to falls Less likely to have a mammogram to screen for breast cancer Less likely to have a PAP test to screen for cervical cancer
Social Determinants of Health	 Less education Lower income Lower employment Less likely to own a home

Data Source: Oregon Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) 2018.

This project was supported by Cooperative Agreement Number NU27DD000014 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of CDC. This brief was prepared by Cesar Higgins Tejera, MPH; Larissa Yoshino, MPH; West Livaudais, MPH; Amy Jeon; and Willi Horner-Johnson, PhD in the Oregon Office on Disability and Health (OODH).

COPYRIGHT INFORMATION

This report may be reproduced or copied without permission, and we encourage you to share it. Use of the following citation is appreciated:

Oregon Office on Disability and Health. Major Behavior Risk Factors and Chronic Conditions Among Oregonians with Disabilities 2018. Portland, OR: Oregon Health & Science University; 2020. Available from http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/research/centers-institutes/oregon-office-on-disability-and-health/data-statistics/

Portland City Council

Testimony of Stephen Achilles at meeting on July 13, 2002 at 2pm.

My name is Stephen Achilles, and I am the CEO of the nonprofit Exceed Enterprises. We are Oregon's largest provider of employment and community services to people of diverse abilities; a diagnosis of an intellectual or development disability.

Everything that I will say today I have said to Sam and Cady.

I am here to support the recommendations of the PCEF Committee this year. However, if the PCEF Committee does not address and resolve significant issues with the disability community this should be the last year you approve their recommendations.

We are the largest Priority Population. OHSU Report states. One in four Oregonians has a disability and one in eight Oregonians has an intellectual or development disability. Less than one-third have a job. 18% have a household income of under \$15k vs 5.5% for the general population.

To date only one proposal from the disability community has been approved and it was the smallest grant this year. \$69,478 to Community Vision. This is not acceptable.

We see three major issues that need to be addressed. People with disabilities as a priority population. However, they have been virtually excluded from the program. So far.

- 1. There is no representation of the disability community on the committee or staff. There has been little to no outreach to the community. Promised efforts did not happen. I actually recruited organizations to the one outreach meeting of which I am aware.
- 2. In my opinion, the current rules place organizations that serve people with disabilities at a 15-20% disadvantage. I have shared an email with PCEF outlining the specific areas where the rules. I would be happy to share examples today.
- 3. Lack of followup. Commitments for outreach and consideration of our concerns have simply not been kept.

Our management and board bring over 30 years of senior level experience energy and energy efficiency.

Exceed is supportive of promise of PCEF. But for the disability community PCEF is falling far short. I am asking you direct the PCEF Committee and Staff to address these issues of representation, which should lead to a level playing field which means that people with disabilities will no longer be excluded from the PCEF program.

The days of ignoring people with disabilities has passed. The days of separate classes and Fairview have passed. I am asking you to direct the PCEF committee to support the disability community so everyone can participate in the Portland Clean Energy Fund.

• Funding is less than 0.0004

Achilles, Stephen

From:

Achilles, Stephen

Sent:

Monday, February 21, 2022 10:51 AM

To:

Sam Baraso (sam.baraso@portlandoregon.gov)

Cc:

Lister, Cady

Subject:

Thoughts from Exceed Enterprises

Hello,

Congratulations on generating such a large number of project proposals from so many organizations this year. Your team has a lot of good work ahead.

As I had told Cady in December, Exceed choose not to participate in this round of funding. Our strategic plan calls for growth and improved community engagement so this program should be natural for us. Simply put, we believe that the scoring system puts our proposal at such a significant disadvantage it is not worth our effort to participate. The scoring system, as I documented earlier, leaves people with disabilities behind.

There is a lack of representation and lived experience for people with disabilities. Also, if we did win the challenges for people with disabilities that rely on social security limit the ability to create meaningful learning opportunities.

I appreciate the communication and changes that have been made and want to work with PCEF to make the program more inclusive. I have shared some of the specific concerns previously. It is my opinion that some of the challenges that you face are structural. After speaking with members of our Board of Directors we do intend to testify at City Council in 2022. It is not our position to object to this year's process. However, it appears that change needs to come from outside PCEF and we intend to push for greater representation in this program for people with disabilities.

When the time is right for PCEF, I look forward to continuing the conversation.

Thank you and best wishes,





Stephen Achilles Chief Executive Officer

Office: 503-652-9036 Direct: 971.925.7254

5285 SE Mallard Way Milwaukie, OR 97222

www.exceedoregon.com

Memo to: Sam Baraso, Program Manager PCEF and Cady Lister, PCEF Deputy Program Manager

From: Stephen Achilles, CEO of Exceed Enterprises

Date: August 4, 2021

RE: Thoughts on PCEF and People with Disabilities

Exceed Enterprises greatly appreciates the work of the Portland Clean Energy Fund. This is an exciting opportunity to make a positive difference in the lives of Portlanders who have and continue to face significant challenges in America's whitest city. The PCEF projects that were approved will have a positive impact for everyone in our community.

As you begin the next round of funding, I wanted to take a moment to discuss our continuing concern about the PCEF's ability to engage with and support people with disabilities. In writing this email I also recognize that there maybe changes of which I am not aware.

Our first concern has to do with the lack of representation.

- 1. To our knowledge there are no evaluators or staff members with a disability and specifically with an intellectual or developmental disability.
- To the best of our knowledge there has been little to no outreach to the disability community.
 Last fall PCEF staff acknowledged the lack of outreach, but it does not appear to have improved.

 We stand ready to help PCEF reach into the disability community.

Here is some information that I hope will encourage you to meet PCEF goals by reaching out to our community. The following information is from annual studies completed by the Oregon Office on Disability and Health and Oregon Health Sciences University, the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. The information below clearly shows the intersection of people with disabilities and all of the groups that PCEF is supporting. You will see in this data the intersection of race, income and disability.

- 1. One in four Oregonians has a disability. Below is the disability by type:
 - a. 12.9% mobility
 - b. 12.5% cognitive
 - c. 7.6% independent living
 - d. 7.1% hearing
 - e. 4.4% visual
 - f. 3.8% self-care
- 2. 29% of women have a disability and 26% of men have a disability
- 3. Disabilities have a significant impact on the BIPOC community.
 - a. 28% non-Hispanic white
 - b. 24% non-Hispanic black
 - c. 23% Hispanic
 - d. 29% non-Hispanic all others
- 4. People with disabilities have a very limited employment opportunities. Only 33% of Oregonians with disabilities are employed.
- 5. Sixty one percent of Oregonians with disabilities have an income of less than \$25,000 per year.

6. Oregonians with disabilities are three times more likely to have diabetes than those without disabilities.

People with disabilities are a significant part of all PCEF priority groups.

When I gave testimony last November, I said that I thought the proposed evaluation system would have a negative impact for people with disabilities. Based on what we saw with our applications we saw this in two ways. First, lack of representation. It appears that only one organization focused on disability participated. Second, the evaluation system inadvertently created barriers.

Here are specific concerns about the current evaluation system.

PSEE Small Grants: It appears to Exceed that the following items appear to place people with disabilities at a 12-15% disadvantage in the current scoring system.

- 1. Criteria #3: Staff (including leadership) and board of the organization reflect the community their proposed project is intended to benefit.
 - Issue: An intellectual or developmental diagnosis is based, in part, on IQ. As a result, it is difficult for this population to take on certain roles, despite being great workers.
 - Possible Solution: Give full credit for organizations whose staff and Board who have a disability or have a family member with a disability.
- 2. Criteria #12: Project reduces cost for people with low income and/communities of color. Issue: There are two issues here. First, why are people with disabilities being excluded? There is nothing in the original initiative to justify this exclusion. Second, due to the high level of poverty among people with disabilities and the fact that most people receiving state supports for intellectual or developmental opportunities live in group and foster homes this appears to exclude people with disabilities.
 - Possible Solution: We suggest two revisions. First, include people with disabilities which is the original intent of the legislation. Second, equate disability and low-income in the scoring.
- Criteria #13: Project provides health benefits to PCEF priority populations.
 Issue: This population has significantly lower lifespan and greater health issues than other PCEF priority communities. However, because our population lives almost exclusively in group and foster homes, we can only do this indirectly.
 - Possible Solution: Give full credit to enhancements for group and foster homes for people with disabilities.
- 4. Criteria #14: Project improves resiliency by 1) addressing the harm to frontline communities caused by climate change, and/or 2) improving ability to withstand and adapt to existing and future climate impacts.

Issue: Again, our clients generally do not have employment and almost exclusively reside in group and foster homes.

Possible Solution: Give full credit for improvements changes at group and foster homes and places of employment.

PCEF Planning Grants: It appears to Exceed that these items place people with disabilities at a 10-15% disadvantage in the current scoring system.

1. Staff (including leadership) and board of the organization reflect the community their proposed project is intended to benefit.

Issue: In intellectual or developmental diagnosis is based, in part, on IQ. As a result, it is difficult for this population to take on certain roles, despite being great workers.

Possible Solution: Give full credit for organizations whose staff and Board who have a disability or have a family member with a disability.

- 2. Criteria #6: Applicant is a small or emerging organization.
 - Issue: We support this in concept but again this results In a bias against people with disabilities. To our knowledge there is no agency serving the Portland area that provides full employment services that meets this requirement. The state requirements to provide services are such that we must have staff, greater than the existing requirement, to meet the contractual requirements of the state of Oregon.
 - Possible Solution: Wave the size requirement and keep the emerging business requirement for people with disabilities.
- 3. Criteria #8: Scope of process is clear manageable and likely to succeed. Issue: When working with people with cognitive disabilities there are a variety of regulations that impact our clients that lead to unusual items in the scope of work. People may have limited hours they can work, unique learning requirements and must have unique support they need to be successful. We are not able in the application to explain all these supports that we provide making the scope of work unusual and less clear than a traditional scope of work. Possible Solution: Have disability representation in the selection process. As other groups are represented, we should have people who understand the lived experience of our clients.

Another option would be to provide people with cognitive disabilities 6-10 extra points as has been done with other select disadvantaged groups.

We also have two general concerns.

- 1. In speaking with PCEF staff following the first round of funding I expressed concern about the lack of energy expertise in the evaluations. The Exceed proposal brought two of the leading west coast energy industry experts of color to the proposal. One of them led the most successful energy job development program on the west coast. There appeared to be no recognition of this unique expertise. The PCEF evaluation team may benefit from having individuals with greater energy expertise to accurately evaluate the likelihood of success of projects.
- 2. Compensation is a major issue for the thousands of individuals with disabilities who rely on SSDI for income and healthcare. SSDI limits not only the amount of money an individual can earn but also their total assets. If a person crosses those lines, they are subject to significant fines and the loss of the health care. Most of our clients believe that it could take years to get SSDI reinstated if they leave the program due to excess earnings. Given that the majority of individuals with cognitive disabilities have significant physical issues this is a HUGE ASK for our clients and others. We recognize that this is a challenging issue given how the initiative was written. However, this issue is a major barrier for people with disabilities. Please work with the disability community to address these concerns.

Exceed Enterprises is very supportive of the PCEF program and recognize the positive impact the program is having on individuals and our city of Portland. It is helping to address major historical issues and a system that has been damaging to our BIPOC community. The history for people with disability is

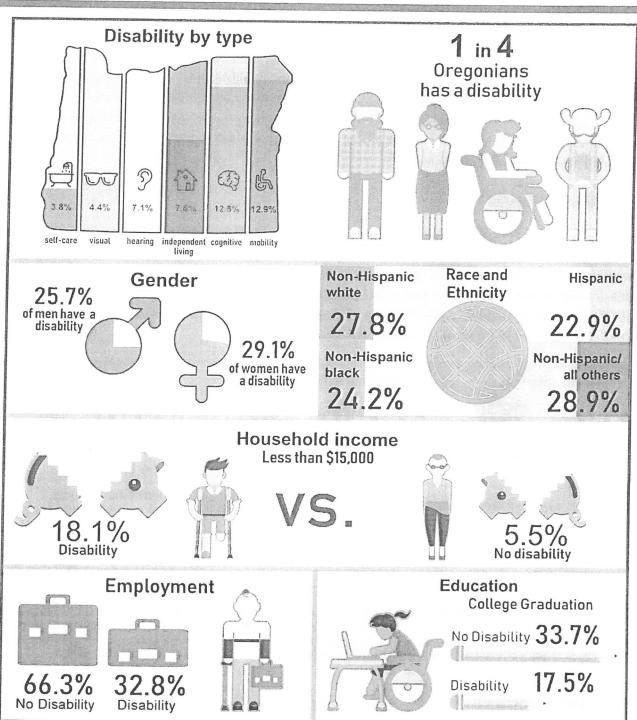
the same and different. In many cases disability victims cannot testify making them targets of predators. More commonly people with disability are simply ignored, treated like children and placed in housing with little community access.

We ask that PCEF not follow this historical pattern of ignoring people with disabilities. Please engage with our community and together let's help PCEF meet its goals for all populations. People with disabilities need to be a part of the PCEF team.

Oregon

Oregon Office on Disability and Health





Data Source: Oregon Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) 2018.







About OODH:

The Oregon Office on Disability and Health (OODH) is a public health entity under the Institute on Development and Disability at Oregon Health & Science University. OODH has been funded since 1994 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Our mission is to promote the health and wellness of people with disabilities in Oregon. We envision a future where entire communities are accessible, welcoming and inclusive of all Oregonians.

About disability data analysis:

OODH analyzes data to educate and inform key community, county and state partners and policy makers on the importance of inclusive policies, systems and environments such as affordable and accessible health promotion and health care, and accessible outdoor recreation opportunities for Oregonians with disabilities. By comparing information gathered by the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) on Oregonians, we can determine current gaps in social determinants of health among adults with disabilities in comparison to those without disabilities.

Veteran status

170/0 of those with disabilities served in the Armed Forces

Relationship status

34% less likely

to be married or be in a couple than those without a disability

Home ownership

17% less likely

to own a home than those without a disability

Data Source: Oregon Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) 2018.

This project was supported by Cooperative Agreement Number NU27DD000014 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of CDC. This brief was prepared by Cesar Higgins Tejera, MPH; Larissa Yoshino, MPH; West Livaudais, MPH; Amy Jeon; and Willi Horner-Johnson, PhD in the Oregon Office on Disability and Health (OODH).

COPYRIGHT INFORMATION

This report may be reproduced or copied without permission, and we encourage you to share it. Use of the following citation is appreciated:

Oregon Office on Disability and Health. Demographics of Oregonians with Disabilities 2018. Portland, OR: Oregon Health & Science University; 2020. Available from http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/research/centers-institutes/oregon-office-on-disability-and-health/data-statistics/





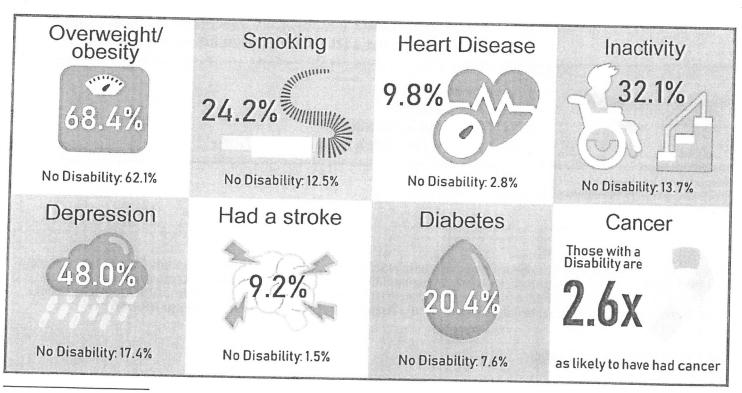
About OODH:

The Oregon Office on Disability and Health (OODH) is a public health entity under the Institute on Development and Disability at Oregon Health & Science University. OODH has been funded since 1994 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Our mission is to promote the health and wellness of people with disabilities in Oregon. We envision a future where entire communities are accessible, welcoming and inclusive of all Oregonians.

About disability data analysis:

OODH analyzes data to educate and inform key community, county and state partners and policy makers on the importance of inclusive policies, systems and environments such as affordable and accessible health promotion and health care, and accessible outdoor recreation opportunities for Oregonians with disabilities.

This data brief contains information on major health risk factors and chronic conditions among Oregonians. We highlight how adults with disabilities are disproportionally affected by many of these health-related conditions.



Data Source: Oregon Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) 2018.







The following table shows important disparities in health indicators among Oregonians living with disabilities:

H(condada bangga Ganol. 2	Executed Dispersiones Corregionaleurs will Discussiones durant			
Healthcare Access	 More likely to avoid seeing a doctor due to cost Less likely to visit a dentist 			
Health Behaviors	 More likely to describe health as fair/poor Higher BMI More likely to smoke, and smoke more cigarettes per day Less likely to engage in physical activities More likely to develop stress due to food and rent insecurity 			
Prevention and Screening	 More likely to have falls, and injuries due to falls Less likely to have a mammogram to screen for breast cancer Less likely to have a PAP test to screen for cervical cancer 			
Social Determinants of Health	 Less education Lower income Lower employment Less likely to own a home 			

Data Source: Oregon Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) 2018.

This project was supported by Cooperative Agreement Number NU27DD000014 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of CDC. This brief was prepared by Cesar Higgins Tejera, MPH; Larissa Yoshino, MPH; West Livaudais, MPH; Amy Jeon; and Willi Horner-Johnson, PhD in the Oregon Office on Disability and Health (OODH).

COPYRIGHT INFORMATION

This report may be reproduced or copied without permission, and we encourage you to share it. Use of the following citation is appreciated:

Oregon Office on Disability and Health. Major Behavior Risk Factors and Chronic Conditions Among Oregonians with Disabilities 2018. Portland, OR: Oregon Health & Science University; 2020. Available from http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/research/centers-institutes/oregon-office-on-disability-and-health/data-statistics/

From: <u>Eric Fruits</u>

To: Wheeler, Mayor; Commissioner Mapps; Commissioner Hardesty; Commissioner Rubio; Commissioner Ryan Office

Cc: <u>Clerk General</u>

Subject: Agenda Item 655 - VOTE NO to authorize grants from the Portland Clean Energy Community Benefits Fund

Date: Friday, July 15, 2022 3:02:35 PM **Attachments:** PCEF Grant Applicants 2022.pdf

ATT00001.htm

Mayor Wheeler and City Commissioners:

I urge you to <u>VOTE NO</u> to authorize grants from the Portland Clean Energy Community Benefits Fund (<u>Agenda Item 655</u>). You know it's the right thing to do, and it's OK to do the right thing once in a while. **It's OK to vote NO**.

Mayor Wheeler pointed out that \$118 million is a "substantial amount of taxpayer money." He's correct. That's about \$425 a year for the average Portland household. These **families are paying an extra \$425 dollars a year** in groceries, clothing, and school supplies to fund PCEF. Because PCEF taxes on sales, the PCEF tax is regressive, meaning poorer families pay a larger share of their incomes to PCEF than higher-income households.

Mayor Wheeler and Commissioner Hardesty raised important questions about accountability regarding whether taxpayer money will be spent "wisely." Projects accounting for about one-third of the proposed spending have no quantifiable metrics to measure the success or failure of the project (see attached spreadsheet). **That's \$36 million in projects with virtually no accountability** to the PCEF Committee, City Council, taxpayers, or voters.

For those projects that do provide metrics (e.g., housing units, individuals), it appears that only 1-2% of Portland residents will see any tangible benefits from this round of PCEF spending. There is something fundamentally inequitable about a program that taxes 100% of the population to line the pockets of a tiny minority.

Some of these projects have enormous price tags.

- PROUDGROUND's Net Zero Housing Units project (App ID 2606) proposes to build 15 homes for \$2.4 million, or about \$158,000 per home. The applicant claims the PCEF funds will cover 30% of the total cost. That means a **PROUDGROUND home will cost an average of \$527,000 each to build**. That is an extraordinary cost for houses that are supposed to be "affordable."
- Friends of Zenger Farm's Workforce Development Grant Application (App ID 2685) proposes to provide "12 Beginning Farming Apprenticeships in addition to more than 3,000 youth and family engagements" over two years. I don't know what counts as an "engagement." Assuming only half the funds are spent on the apprenticeships, that amounts to about \$42,000 per apprentice, or close to twice the tuition at the University of Oregon.
- Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians' Tribal Solar and Renewable Energy Training Program (App ID 2648) promises to provide 2-year associate degree or 1-year certificates to a total of 45 students, for **an average cost of about \$83,000 per student**. That is an eye-popping cost that should have been subjected to intense scrutiny by the PCEF Committee, especially because community college tuition is about \$5,000 a year.

There seems to be universal concern among Council about the vetting and oversight process. In addition to the issues already raised, **Council needs to know whether any proposed projects are "double dipping"** across funding from federal, state, and local governments (e.g., getting paid twice by two different agencies for the same project). If there is any double dipping, then PCEF money is being wasted.

For example, Albina Vision Trust is requesting \$1.7 million from PCEF for its Albina One project (App ID 2704). But Albina Vision Trust is already lined up to receive \$13.6 million from Metro's Affordable Housing Bond. Is Albina Vision Trust double dipping? I don't know, I'll bet the PCEF Committee doesn't know, and I'm sure you don't know. We should know, and **if they are double dipping, then the PCEF funding should be rejected**.

I'm not singling out Albina Vision Trust. For example, there's a real possibility that the Native American Youth and Family Center's Tistilal Village Redevelopment project (App ID 2555) may also be double dipping. There's also a real possibility that PROUDGROUND's projects are double dipping on federal and state tax credit programs as well as Energy Trust of Oregon programs.

One reason we don't have answers to these questions is that the PCEF Committee is failing in its obligation to disclose applications to the public. PCC 7.07.050 mandates, "Requests for proposals as well as applications shall be posted on the Committee's website." But, despite my best efforts as a researcher, I can find only summaries of the applications, rather than the actual applications themselves. This is a failure in PCEF's promises to voters.

You are under no obligation to approve any of the proposed projects. PCC 7.07.050 is clear: The PCEF Committee makes a recommendation, and Council approves or rejects the recommendation. You are the last line of defense against what could be an \$118 million mistake. If you authorize these grants, be prepared for a steady drip, drip, drip of stories in the news about the latest PCEF scandal. With so much money handed out to so many organizations, there are bound to be several scandals.

Sure, if you vote no, you'll get some nastygrams and harumphing from those elite few who thought they'd get a financial windfall. But the vast majority of Portlanders will thank you for protecting their tax dollars.

Don't fall into the sunk cost fallacy that because the PCEF Committee and city staff put in countless hours to forward the recommendations to you, then you are obligated to approve them. Despite all these efforts, you have been given a set of recommendations that provide little useful information and raise <u>numerous red flags</u>.

I urge you to <u>VOTE NO</u> to authorize grants from the Portland Clean Energy Community Benefits Fund. This sends a clear message to the PCEF Committee that the voters and taxpayers of Portland demand transparency, accountability, and measurable results.

All the best.

Eric Fruits, Ph.D. Vice President of Research Cascade Policy Institute 503-928-6635 eric@cascadepolicy.org

Summary of grant applications recommended for funding

energy and electrification retrofits for frontline communities
Casa (My Energy Efficient Home)
Building Equity: Clean Energy Careers through Construction Pre-Apprenticeship Training
PCEF CCC Large Application 2021
Williams & Hussell CUC
Tribal Solar and Benewable Energy Training Program
NAYA Neerichokikoo Food Sovereignty Project
Green Energy and Mobility Project
Building United Futures Complex
MFS Climate Resilience Capacity Building Project
UL Green Careers Program
Worksystems Umbrella Application
Seeding Justice Grant Application
:
Portland All Nations Canoe Family
Rosewood Resiliency Through Regenerative Agriculture
Increasing access to Green Jobs for Black, Brown and Indigenous Portlanders
Tistilal Village Redevelonment
Comprehensive Repair and Retrofits with Power to the People PDX
Black Futures Farm Net Zero Community Demonstration Site
Alkino One Afferdable Henring
Si.
Bottling Blocks Helated Northwest
2
Bainhow Community Garden
Zongor Egymla Mortiforco Dougloomoot Great Application
Dobuilding Community Solor
Meals on wheels People Solar Project
Native American Workforce and Contractor Development
Acción Climática (Climate Action) Initiative - Pilot
Portland Green Janitor training program 2022-2025
Advancing Climate Action and Social Justice Through Increased Bicycle Bidership
0
Duration Hook Durang for Drivings Day Descriptions in Doubles
in the spanning in Following
NECIN King Facility Community Solar Program
Cascadia Residential Energy Efficiency and Regenerative Agriculture Project
Clean Energy for Roots and Beats Community Arts Center
Green Building Training for Portland's Latinx Contractors
Robingva and Somali home weatherization project
Our Village Gardens - Growing in Disce
Websited Control Control
roject
Evaluation of Badges Program for Home Retrofit Contractors
Immigrant and Refugee Green Construction Project
Clean energy/green construction apprenticeships, training. & career tracks for people of color & women
Nutrition Cordon Do Dobosiosal Hoolish
Iolai Healii
EPHC Green Workforce Program Development
r Net Zero Affordable Housing
5
Climate justice for Black childcare providers
Permacomputing: The Antithesis of Computer Waste
Control Control
Low Income Housing Sustainability Services
Community-Driven Solar-Powered On-Grid/Off-Grid Emergency Preparedness Hubs
Green London Mediferra Development Breath to combat Change and Breigh Injurie
Coming Open Highest
Growing workforce Training, Growing Opportunities
Green Johe for People with Disabilities
0000000
Free Bikes for Portlanders in need

City Council Meeting - Wednesday July 13, 2022 2:00 p.m.

Agenda No.	First Name	Last Name
628-01	Stephen	Achilles
628-02	Нао	Liao