

Portland Clean Energy Community Benefits Fund (PCEF) Grants Committee

March 2nd, 2022, 5:30 to 6:30 pm

Committee members present: Michael Edden Hill, Megan Horst, Shanice Brittany Clarke, Faith Graham, Ranfis Villatoro, Jeffrey Moreland Jr.

Committee members excused: Maria Sipin, Robin Wang

Staff present: Sam Baraso, Cady Lister, Jaimes Valdez, Christine Llobregat

Decisions made:

1. Megan Horst approved as new co-chair.
2. Shanice Clarke and Jeffrey Moreland Jr. approved to serve on new Committee member nomination committee.
3. Ranfis Villatoro approved to serve on Bylaws subcommittee.
4. Approval of new committee member recruitment plan.

Committee discussion of member roles: co-chair, nomination subcommittee, bylaws subcommittee

- Co-chair role - Maria is stepping out of this role due to schedule changes.
 - Megan – hoping for additional support for communications needs of co-chairs.
 - Sam –now have a direct liaison for communications needs, Christine Llobregat interim PCEF Communications Manager (15 years on BPS communications team). Also Magan Reed, recently joined as BPS Comms Manager, a position that was vacant for over a year.
- Megan is interested in the co-chair role, Jeffrey and Shanice interested in the nomination committee, and Ranfis in the by-laws committee.
 - Michael proposes to make Megan Horst co-chair for 1 (and up to 3) year term. Agreed by all.
 - Faith proposes that to approve Jeffrey and Shanice to serve on the nomination committee, and to approve Ranfis to serve on the bylaws subcommittee. Agreed by all.

Grant review audit panel

Committee identified a desire to support staff in the evaluating when and how to request modifications from grant applicants for RFP 2. Robin Wang offered to be available for one-hour weekly meetings with staff, for a few weeks, to hear some of the ways that we are communicating and suggesting changes to applications to address concerns and potential risk. Megan Horst offered to join Robin in this task.

Committee recruitment, conflict of interest and stipend discussion

Staff updates

- Current open recruitment outlined in memo includes two positions: one that can bring knowledge of Indigenous community and perspective to committee and one that can bring knowledge and perspective of contractors of color working in Portland area to the committee.
- There is a willingness to be less strict in excluding potential committee members who may have a relationship to an organization or person that could benefit from PCEF funding, depending on the nature of the conflict. We would like to shift to being clear about asking about conflicts and ensuring that

members are not participating in decisions that could benefit them or a family member but still being allowed to participate in other committee decisions.

- Stipends - You all are entitled to stipends of up to \$500 per year. There are conversations in the city and other regional governments about allowing bigger stipends, but it's not going to be resolved for our current recruitment. We can, however, promote the \$500 stipend.

Committee discussion

- Megan – enthusiastic support of promoting the stipend.
- Ranfis – it's great that we're exploring disclosed conflicts of interest. We can't do justice work related to the community without community involvement. Can't make this a truly inclusive committee without exploring further stipends to help with potential barriers.
- Faith – I propose to approve the plan detailed in the memo, with the addition of what we've talked about tonight \$500 stipend and other supports, and including a question regarding conflicts of interest. Seconded by Ranfis. Agreed by all.
 - Megan – note that we should make it clear that we're asking about conflicts, but that it doesn't automatically eliminate people. Sam – yes, we will be clear in the communications.

Heat Response Community Distribution Partner (CDP) proposal overview

Staff provided a high-level overview of 11 applications received to be community distribution partners. Two applications were found ineligible and one is not recommended. Eight remaining applications are recommended and include four affordable housing providers and four non-housing community-based organizations. Together applicants have capacity to install 9,200 units, leaving gap of 6,000 units over the five-year program period. To meet the capacity gap, near-term to seek participation of additional affordable housing providers.

Committee discussion

- Faith – most important to me to learn why some didn't qualify (not names). It's surprising that we got so few applications, especially on the housing provider side. It seems like such a straightforward, easy ask. I like the idea of not knowing the specific partners for the decision, just the criteria that is used to select.
- Megan – would like to know the types of groups and geographies will be useful. Understand what gaps are for future coverage. Would like to hear insight about why two of the orgs had such high original costs. How are selected organizations serving the most impacted groups, priority populations?
- Michael – going forward, will there be time to think about some alternative distribution options? Just talked to an SEIU organizer, learned that California has distribution going through home health-care providers serving Medicaid/Medicare, low-income folks. Those providers are being trained to put them in, also boosting income for low-paid skilled workers. As a topic for later, if in two years we have the gap, before moving forward with for-profit partners.
- Ranfis – it might be helpful to get the names of the CDPs, hear from someone from the review panel, or review applications or panel notes. In the event that we make the determination and approve, would all the applications be posted?
 - Sam - We can go through why some didn't qualify. We are required to post all the applications. We don't want to put Committee in a place of re-evaluating the work that the panel already did, but can share the scores and notes.

6:30

Meeting close