

Request for Proposals for MP2H Community Grants Program

The City of Portland is seeking proposal(s) from community-based organizations to facilitate community outreach and participation, and to convey feedback on the issues identified and/or with the communities described in this solicitation. The funded activities support the Montgomery Park to Hollywood Transit and Land Use Development Strategy (MP2H).

Project info: <https://beta.portland.gov/mp2h>

Questions: barry.manning@portlandoregon.gov; 503-823-7700

Type of Award: Grant

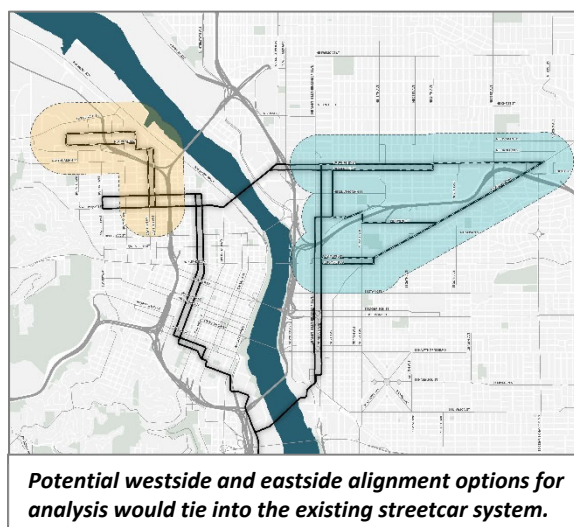
Amount Award and Grant Period: The available grant total is \$45,000. The minimum grant award is \$7,500. One or more grants may be awarded, up to the maximum amount, for up to 12 months of community engagement, organizing and information gathering and grantee participation in the project working groups. In their applications, grantees should be specific about which communities they intend to target for engagement, and the grant amount requested.

Timeline:

- Applications Due: March 1, 2020
- Award decisions: March 9, 2020
- Funding will be available: March 2020

Background:

The Montgomery Park to Hollywood Transit and Land Use Development Strategy (MP2H) will study opportunities to create an equitable development plan for transit-oriented districts in NW Portland and NE Portland. The MP2H study will identify land use and urban design, economic development, and opportunities for community benefits possible with a transit-oriented development scenario, including potential streetcar. The project will also consider how such opportunities could support the City's racial equity, climate justice, employment and housing goals. The work is funded in part by a Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant.



The project team will assess affordable housing, economic development and business stabilization opportunities associated with potential transit investments. They will evaluate existing and future transit service along a potential 6.1-mile transit corridor in two areas.

- **NW Portland:** explore extending the streetcar or other high-quality transit service to Montgomery Park, linking the system to an under-served area of Northwest Portland. Consider options for changes in land use and transportation to support a transit investment
- **NE Portland:** explore feasibility of different alignments to extend streetcar or a transit line to the Hollywood District. Select a preferred alignment for future study and more detailed planning.

Major transit investments are a land use tool that can be used to shape the future growth of the Central City and surrounding areas. The workplan will assess the ability of different transit and land use scenarios to support compact development along the corridor, with an emphasis on identifying tools to help advance equitable development.

Grant Purpose, Desired Outcomes, Timeframes:

The purpose of the grant opportunities is to engage historically underrepresented or marginalized communities – including low-income households, communities of color, and immigrant/refugee communities – in the planning process and to gather input from these communities about how the interest of these communities can be advanced in the planning process. Based on both a Preliminary Racial Equity Analysis, and Community Engagement Plan, the following target communities have been identified as the beneficiaries of such outreach:

- Renter households, low-income populations, immigrant/refugee populations and communities of color in or near the study areas;
- Workers in industrial districts or activities, particularly those in NW Portland;
- Small business-people on proposed alignments, particularly women and minority-owned businesses;
- Low income owners of single-dwelling properties within ¼ mile of proposed alignments.

Grant recipients are expected to conduct outreach to engage these identified groups on issues of concern related to the project, identify options that will advance equitable outcomes and summarize the work in a brief report. Key input from targeted communities is valued throughout the process, but early engagement during March-July 2020 is particularly valuable for development of staff proposals. In addition, the CBO grantees will participate on the MP2H Project Working Groups, which will meet periodically through approximately February 2021.

Funding Overview:

Granted activities should align with the following goals:

1. **Race and social equity considerations are integrated into the project**, from grantees' interactions with project groups, vetting of research and recommendations, and through direct engagement with the broader public and policy makers.
2. **Community engagement with low-income households, communities of color and other targeted communities**, to better understand and respond to their priorities and needs.
3. **Increased City capacity** to implement equitable development and engage community based organizations in planning and policy-making.

Desired characteristics of applicants:

1. **Active or anticipated presence in the MP2H project area** (NW and NE Portland).

2. **Community relationships and accountability** to low-income people, communities of color, immigrants and refugees, industrial workers and small business owners.
3. **Experience working with local governments** to incorporate considerations of race and social equity in planning, program development, and community engagement processes.
4. **Experience working with other community-based organizations** in a collaborative manner on a project that furthers issues of race and social equity.

Eligible activities:

1. **Community based research and engagement** of low-income residents, renters, people of color, immigrants and refugees, industrial workers, and small businesspeople to inform the strategy development process. This may include conducting focus groups, workshops or door-to-door surveys with targeted constituents; researching tools and policies to meet community needs; supporting diversity of participation in the project's broader outreach efforts (ex. public open houses); providing translation and interpretation services; engaging students and youth; tabling at community events; or conducting bus stop surveys.
2. **Community organizing** for public policy advocacy and engagement, training and leadership development to enhance knowledge and skills to voice local perspectives and shape equitable growth, and other activities designed to build capacity of those communities not historically empowered to participate in planning for growth.
3. **Participation in Project Working Groups**, composed of representatives of community groups and other project stakeholders and supported by staff from City of Portland. These groups will provide feedback and advice as project recommendations are developed and vetted. Grantees will each have one position on the advisory groups to bring relevant information gathered from their work back to the working group to inform staff proposals and working group deliberations.

In-kind City resources available to grantees:

1. **City staffing and in-house services.** City staff will provide grantees with access to City resources such as data collection and analysis, research on policy and programs, and research on financing and real estate development. The City can provide administrative support for project meetings. The City can also support community outreach and communication services, such as hosting public open houses, and assisting with communication materials, and documenting grantees' outcomes.
2. **Technical assistance.** If interested, the City can create learning opportunities and other knowledge-sharing opportunities with practitioners of equitable development. The City and its institutional partners can provide workshops on why planning is relevant, key concepts and jargon, how to get involved, and key points of influence in processes. Technical assistance and general support can also be provided to grantees seeking to leverage their grant with other funding sources such as from philanthropy or other governments.

Emphasis on Collaboration:

The proposal review process will be weighted to provide preference for collaborative efforts. For proposals that exceed \$25,000, preference will be given to lead organizations that partner with other

eligible organizations. A letter of support from those organizations and a narrative describing the partnership are required.

Proposal

For purposes of this response submission, the responder shall submit **one (1) e-copy by email to mp2h@portlandoregon.gov**. Include **“MP2H CBO Grant Proposal”** in the subject line.

Proposal Evaluation Criteria:

1. The applicant has a track record working effectively with underrepresented communities, e.g. low income communities, communities of color, limited English communities, and other communities identified in this RFP.
2. The proposal seems to be a strong fit for the organization and is in line with the organization’s larger mission.
3. The applicant has secured partnership agreements with other organizations (if appropriate).
4. The proposed use of funds will have an impact on the MP2H study.
5. The proposal is realistic and can be completed with the grant period (12 months).
6. There is a thoughtful work plan.
7. The proposed amount requested is in line with proposed scope of work.
8. The proposed project engages underrepresented communities in a culturally appropriate way.

Application:

1. Name and address of organization requesting the grant. List partners if applicable.
2. Name, title, phone number and email address of the contact person for this grant.
3. Mission and brief description of the organization requesting the grant (one paragraph).
4. Amount requested.
5. Summarize your proposed use of funds (2-3 sentences).
6. Please list 2-3 outcomes. How would you know you achieved these outcomes? (one paragraph). Quantify outcomes if possible (ex. # of people engaged, # of focus groups/survey responses, # of people communicated with via listserves/social media)
7. Describe your organization’s capacity to achieve your proposed work. Which staff will be working on this project? List their roles and responsibilities as they related to the project.
8. Briefly describe your work plan for reaching your outcomes. (less than one page)
 - a. What are the specific steps to reach those outcomes?
 - b. When will the steps be completed?
 - c. What methods do you propose to use to engage the targeted communities? (one paragraph)
9. Describe which (if any) City in-kind resources you want to access and for what purpose.
10. Describe any efforts your organization will make to leverage a grant to secure additional funds and for what purpose. (one paragraph)
11. Attach any letters of support and partnership agreements.