

# Portland Clean Energy Community Benefits Fund (PCEF) Roundtable

## Key Takeaways

### **CBO Capacity Building Meetings #1 & #2**

January 12, 2023, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

January 26, 2023, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

### Key Takeaways

- Requiring detailed reporting metrics places a strain on CBOs. Although reporting metrics are required, it's best that they are not overly complicated and are known up front.
- CBOs are concerned about the timeline of the grant application process and beginning the work; they need time to ramp up capacity especially the smaller the organization is.
- CBOs always struggle with sustainable funding. PCEF should do what they can to ease this burden. Suggested ideas included creating a regrant process to continue funding successful projects and multi-year agreements.
- Program ideas / opportunities for this funding area that surfaced in the discussion:
  - Cohort program
  - Strategic opportunities for grantees to connect
  - Business coaching, general operating procedures assistance and networking opportunities
  - Researching services, gathering contractor quotes and facilitating technical assistance would be beneficial

### Existing Conditions

- Many CBOs pivoted away from their missions to help their communities during the pandemic with the help of COVID relief funds. The end of this fiscal year will mean a transition away from that work and back to the organization's main functions.
- Often CBOs need to build capacity for upcoming work but then can't sustain staff if there are funding delays.

### Desired State

- CBOs have funding to support more employees to focus on areas of work, rather than overworked employees filling multiple roles.
- CBOs have resources for administrative tasks from PCEF and are supported by a network of other organizations doing similar tasks.
- CBOs can rely on PCEF funding to be accountable to the program's values including in grant agreement terms, regardless of who administers the funding.

## Key performance indicators

The following suggestions for measures of success for a capacity building program:

- Quantity of program deliverables (AC units in PCEF Heat Response example).
- Ability to sustain community engagement.
- Number of participants x dollars received.
- The number of organizations partnered to do the work.
- The number of leaders in the area ready to take on the work.
- The ability to convert volunteers to full time employees.
- The ability to shrink employees' work so that they are able to focus only on their program and not juggling many additional roles.
- Non-profits that are still operating are a measure of success.
- Ability to collaborate with other organizations.