Request for Proposals
Communities of Opportunity Systems and Policy Change RFP Launched
Governance Group approved the proposed changes to the RFP at the July meeting, these changes were deeply informed by the recommendations from the Policy Cohort COO convened in 2018-2019. The new funding opportunity is two-year, will prioritize efforts aligned with community policy priorities, and allows organizations to apply for $100,000 while coalitions may apply for up to $200,000. The RFP closes on September 16, please share the announcement with your networks.

Commercial Affordability Pilot RFP Release Date: August 20th
The Commercial Affordability Pilot seeks to identify and develop models, tools and services that increase community ownership as part of an anti-displacement and equitable development strategy and slow the displacement of businesses within the Communities of Opportunities region. The RFP will be announced through the Best Starts for Kids blog and on our website: COOpartnerships.org. The RFP document will be posted on the King County Solicitations website. The RFP closes on September 26th.

Place-based & Cultural Community Partnerships
Original Place-Based Partnerships – 2018 Outcomes Report (Budget Proviso): COO attended the King County Health, Housing, and Human Services (HHHS) Committee to provide a summary of the 2018 outcomes report on COO’s original place-based sites.

We were joined by several community partners and COO leaders at meeting, who provided public comment, made short presentations, or were in the audience for support. Governance Group members A.J. McClure, Sili Savusa, Yordanos Teferi, Tony To, and Marguerite Ro and partners from FEEST (Becca Meredith and Sierra Flanagan), Puget Sound Sage/South CORE (Giulia Pasciuto), RBAC (Gregory Davis), HomeSight (Meron Kasahun, Faduma Ahmed), Somali Youth & Family Club (Asha Mohamed), and staff from King County and Seattle Foundation attended the July 30th meeting.

The Committee did not take action at that meeting, so staff will return to the August 20th Committee meeting to address questions related to outcomes and specifically whether we have seen a reduction in poverty in these sites. Council set a specific goal in the BSK Implementation Plan for a 10% improvement in headline indicators, over a 10 year period. COO’s outcomes report indicates a trend in improvement across all three sites for poverty, employment/economic opportunity, housing cost burden, and physical activity indicators.
Updates/Highlights from a few of place-based/cultural community partnerships:

- **SeaTac/Tukwila.** The SeaTac/Tukwila Partnership that includes Congolese Integration Network, Food Innovation Network, Global to Local, Lutheran Community Services Northwest, Partner in Employment, Somali Health Board, and the Somali Youth and Family Club held a Community Café on June 21, 2019 where over 40 residents and leaders attended. At the gathering, partnership members shared information about the goal of the collaborative and asked attendees about their understanding of and vision for equity in health, housing, and economic opportunities. In addition, participants worked on and provided feedback on proposed strategies. The partnership is also disseminating a [newsletter](#) in order to share news with community about their COO partnership projects, as well as information on individual organizations. Their plan is to send out a newsletter monthly.

Global to Local (G2L) continues its work with consultant, Patty Julio, to engage with small businesses and microenterprises that are being displaced by the SeaTac Center redevelopment. Patty will focus her efforts on subtenants through a contract with G2L. Patty will spend about four months on this project and her final deliverable will include a 3-5 page report that includes a draft vision of how G2L and the SeaTac/Tukwila partners want to grow and engage in the ideal small business “ecosystem” and identify up to 4 capacity building needs. The report will also inform the SeaTac/Tukwila partnership in developing its 2020 COO scope of work. The consultant will also provide a brief outline of ways in which the Partnership can influence a “refreshed” Highline StartZone program.

- **Comunidad Latinx de Vashon.** The cultural community focusing on the Latinx community on Vashon Island in partnership with Latino Community Fund and other groups was awarded a 2.5 years $800,000 Best Starts Kids Stopping School to Prison Pipeline grant. Comunidad values the leadership and voice of youth so the Latino youth on Vashon developed the concept and helped write the proposal. Comunidad’s current budget for its COO project is $450,000. The focus of the Comunidad project is to support the needs and strengths of the Vashon Latino community by collaborating with regional Latino organizations in order to develop talented Latino leaders who can advocate for equity in economic opportunity, health and housing. The current partners are Puentes, Entre Hermanos, Alianza, Latinos in Tech, and Washington Immigration Solidarity Network (WAISN).

- **A Supportive Community for All (SCFA).** A community needs assessment to identify needs, assets, gaps and capacity of Snoqualmie Valley was conducted by Berk Consulting. Community input was collected via 11 in-person community events, one meeting with over 20 service providers and an online survey. Over 530 residents were able to provide input over a three month span (Jan-March 2019).
On August 12 2019, SCFA partners held a Leadership Summit and shared the findings from the assessment, received input from the community and discussed next steps. The assessment is a significant milestone, as it represents the first time that Snoqualmie Valley nonprofits and residents will have access to data on the specific needs and assets of their community.

**Systems & Policy Change**

**2019 COO Systems and Policy Change Mid-Year Check-ins Underway**
Seattle Foundation will be meeting with the existing 27 grantees to check-in on progress and challenges in their work during August and September. Seattle Foundation will provide King County a summary of these check-in meetings via a report in mid-September.

**Learning Community UPDATE**

The emphasis of the Learning Community in Q1 2019 was to develop contracts and on-board the consultants selected to the 2018 Learning Community RFA. Contracting was delayed due to the snow in February and the simultaneous renewal of the OGPB contracts, all contracts were executed within one month of the original anticipated date in the RFA. In Q2 staff worked with consultants on co-design of the projects, this included a 4-hour session with all 4 consultants to develop relationship and shared understanding of the role that each consultant group within the larger structure of the Learning Community activities. Q3 activities have started to emerge and gain traction. Communities Count joined the Learning Community and began providing evaluation and data support through workshops and technical assistance. Current Activities include:

**Learning Circles**

- **Commercial Real Estate Stewardship Team (CREST) Learning Circle**: Puget Sound Sage held the first Learning Circle was held on July 20th. Twenty organizations are currently participating, with a broad representation of organizations and groups that are accountable to communities actively experiencing displacement. Groups are positioned to develop or are currently engaged in a development project. Six COO partner organizations -- MCC, White Center CDA, Global to Local and Ingersoll -- are participating in the first cohort. The curriculum will include topics ranging from “Models of Community Ownership and Stewardship,” “How development happens,” and “Conflict Resolution.” Community networking events are also planned to initiate conversations between community-based partners and developers. The group will meet nine times throughout ending in late-winter 2020.
• **Economic Development Now!** African Community Housing and Development (ACHD) and TEN consultants are refining the plans for the Learning Circle they are facilitating. The focus for the Circle will be *economic development strategies to impact the black community*. Recruitment will prioritize organizations that have an impact on the black community, the group hopes to have a broad range of participants including those working in community based organizations, institutions, and community leaders. COO staff are working with the group to identify key strategies and stakeholders in the community to highlight. The anticipated start date is September 2019.

**Capacity Building**

• Sarah Tran of Wayfind is assisting us to identify needs and develop a plan for addressing capacity building needs of COO grantees and aligned partners. She has met with Governance Group and interviewed key stakeholders and will compile results from on-line assessment of partners. We anticipate that capacity building will identify specific skills/capacity building for organizational development/capacity building and coalition building activities. Offerings will be available beginning in the fall. Later this year, we'll also create group(s) of advisors who will help shape and guide capacity building activities.

**Data/Evaluation**

• Through a new partnership with Communities Count (CC), COO is able to provide workshops and technical assistance (TA) related to data and evaluation to our partners. We hope to expand offerings/trainings that will extend beyond our current grantees. The COO Evaluation Advisory Group (EAG), made up of representatives from our place-based and cultural community partnerships and from systems & policy grantees, identified relevant topics for workshops and training. The first workshop, Evaluation Planning, was held on August 1st and 12 partners. A second training on Process Evaluation has held on August 12th.

Partners can also request TA or consultation from CC on survey design, evaluation, data collection, and using data for storytelling and education/advocacy.

**Emerging Needs and Learning Opportunities**

• This month, we made funding available to funded partnerships, coalitions and organizations to respond to emerging needs of their partnership. We have reserved $150,000 (up to $10,000 available for a partnership) to support effectives and health of their partnership.

In addition, we have reserved $100,000 for registration requests for conferences or workshops; and for sponsorship requests for COO to support a conference, workshop, training, webinar or convening to support their current COO funded projects.
Information on these learning community funds are can be found here.

Partner Convenings

- A COO Partner Meeting & Strategic Framework Workshop is planned for October 18. COO stakeholders, partners and governance group members will be invited to celebrate successes, hear an update from COO, and build on the vision/strategic framework that we have been developing over the last five months.

- Communications Jam. We are planning a multi-day workshop/communications jam that builds on strategic communications workshops held last year. The multi-day session will provide organizations an opportunity to work with creatives from the community to design and develop communication tools, strategies and products that they’ll be able to use at the end of the session.

- Equitable Development Summit. COO is partnering with the City of Seattle's Equitable Development Initiative (EDI) to co-sponsor an equitable development summit in November. The convening will bring together partners and communities across Seattle/King County that are engaged in work to mitigate displacement and encourage community-driven solutions.

NEWS

City of Seattle recently announced a plan for using proceeds from its sale of city-owned properties on Mercer Street to provide investments in housing, jobs, public space, and transportation. Seattle Times reported on the $143.5 million sale. The Mayor’s proposed plan includes $57.2 million to address displacement and create opportunities for equitable transit-oriented development through a strategic property acquisition fund and revolving Equitable Development Initiative (EDI) acquisition loan fund.
We Belong Here
We welcomed Frank Nam, who manages the *We Belong Here* project, convening multi-sector representatives to enhance belonging and civic muscle in order to co-create solutions that tackle the root causes of inequity. *We Belong Here*, part of Seattle Foundation's *Civic Commons* initiative, works to strengthen the region by strengthening relationships. "Our hypothesis is that we have taken belonging for granted," Frank says. "We've stopped doing the things that created and nurtured a sense of connection."

You can read more here: [The Value of Belonging](#)

Systems and Policy Change RFP
Dionne reviewed a set of proposed changes for the next cycle for systems and policy change award. A working group that included Ubax, Paola, and Marty have provided direction for the RFP that will be released in early August. Proposed changes are in response to feedback from partners though the policy agenda cohort and from grantee reports.

Changes include:
- Increasing the funding cycle to two years, with potential to extend awards for an additional year, pending availability of funding.
- Removing funding tracks and allowing all applicants to apply for the same amount of funding. (Awardees previously applied for different tracks - ‘capacity building’ or ‘implementation grant.’)
- Allowing place-based partnerships or organizations to apply for funding.
- Using Policy cohort priorities to focus investments
- Adding a diversity and relationship screen to help organizations demonstrate they are led by the communities they serve.

The Governance Group asked about support of smaller grassroots organizations, the potential for funding fewer grantees, and ensuring there were clear limitations to direct services. They were pleased with the RFP's focus on funding organizations that have are clearly invested and trusted partners within community, not merely transactional partners.

**Action:** A motion to approve the proposed approach and changes for the Systems and Policy RFP was moved by Ubax Gardheere, seconded by Lydia Assefa-Dawson. The motion was unanimously approved.

Community Partnerships: Place Based and Cultural Communities Funding Discussion
In April 2020, contracts with the six Place Based and Cultural Community partnership in Kent, Seattle Central Area, Snoqualmie Valley, and through the Transgender Economic Empowerment Coalition, Comunidad Latina de Vashon, and Seattle Urban Native Nonprofits will expire. Staff provided a briefing on proposed process to extend contracts with existing partnerships, with additional funds through December 31, 2021. Blishda provided information on how COO could determine contract extension awards. She envisions that we would use a process similar to Systems and Policy 2019 gap funding. The proposed criteria for funding is:

- Grantee is in good standing
  - Partnership lead/grantee meets regularly with project lead
  - Partnership has been meeting regularly
  - Completes all required reporting
  - Currently meeting all milestones
  - Will be able to meet current deliverables outlined in the scope of work

- The proposed project uses an equity lens, focuses on policy, system and environment changes and builds on what the partnership is currently working on. Projects focusing on direct service will not be funded.

- The proposed project is feasible and can be completed during the extension period and with amount funded. Partnership has described how will complete the work and how will document progress.

- The proposed work will impact at least three of the following COO Result Areas (community connections [must be included], economic opportunity, health, housing)

- The proposed project is led by the impacted community (ies), has an engaged partnership working to implement, and a clear process for evaluating the work and strengthening the partnership.

There have been some challenges with the first year of funding around; developing trust and strengthening partnerships, aligning the work the partners, overcoming obstacles with limited resources.

Some successes have been creating surveys/assessment tools to conduct data collection and analysis, and an increased focus on policy, systems, and/or environmental change strategies.

COO has a clear responsibility to ensure the success of these partnerships. A suggestion was to conduct non-punitive performance reviews with a timeframe to work on the challenges. Members of the Governance Group volunteered to be mentors as well. The plan is support the partnerships in being successful and COO staff are providing resources to strengthen partnerships. For example, COO has provided resources for partnerships to work together with a facilitator/consultant. The Governance Group was very interested in continued solutions to help groups firmly establish partnerships. Andrea also mentioned that the Emerging Issues funding along with other Learning Community activities will be used to continue to support the partnerships.

In September, GG members will be asked to vote on the process and funding allocation to make contract extensions for place-based and cultural community partnerships.

Regular Session ends 4:06