

PUGET SOUND EQUITY SUMMIT – COMMUNITY CONVENINGS

The Regional Equity Network and partners are organizing a Puget Sound Equity Summit in November 2013. This is an action-oriented Summit to promote equitable development and healthy communities. The Summit will bring together communities, policy makers, funders, and other partners to identify shared issues and key equity strategies to build upon and advance.

Puget Sound Equity Summit goals:

1. Identify shared issue areas and further develop key strategies to achieve healthy communities, building upon community organizing and work underway.
2. Create a structure for community, policy makers, philanthropy to jointly identify key issues and problem solve.
3. Connect various efforts and people in the region focused on equity/ equitable development and create a platform for community leadership.

A summary of the Summit concept is available at www.pugetsoundequity.org.

A key component of the Summit is to ensure it reflects community priorities and elevates effective community-driven efforts underway. Community convenings leading up to the Summit will shape the agenda and help frame a broader conversation with policymakers, philanthropy, and other community stakeholders about what equity means for this region. The Summit will provide support for community convenings with funding through the Growing Transit Communities Equity Grant Program.

Community-based organizations can apply for up to \$1,200 to convene their community and articulate key priorities and opportunities they wish to move forward and/or highlight at the Summit. Communities have flexibility to decide the format for these conversations within the template outlined below, and they may build upon forums or community events already happening or being planned. Several communities have had success adapting a Conversation Café, or a facilitated discussion format. The funding can support expenses related to convening the community, including staff time to organize and outreach, meeting space, food, translation, and childcare. Please note, the Growing Transit Communities Equity Grant Program is supported by federal funding (Sustainable Communities Initiative) so these will be reimbursement grants and all expenses must be documented.

Each community will be asked to do the following:

1. Prepare answers to the following questions, to inform the Summit agenda. These will be shared with the Summit Planning Committee (a report template will be provided).
 - What are people doing in your community to make it more equitable? Review [Principles of Equitable Development](#) and get reaction.
 - What are the resources and/or supports you need? What are the opportunities and/or barriers to equitable development in your community?
 - What are the 3 key things you want to move forward and/ or highlight at the Summit? How could you support others doing similar work?
2. Share about your community and priorities at the Summit
 - Develop a community presentation, poster, or table for a “Marketplace” Friday night (further details will be provided).

July 8, 2013

- Participate in a video project capturing some of the community organizing leading up to the Summit, e.g. short interviews, footage of community meetings (if appropriate). The video will be a vehicle to help highlight community voices and priorities from across the region. All participating communities will receive copies of the video for their own use.

This information will be used to (1) Inform the agenda for the Equity Summit, specifically, the Issue Area/ Strategy breakout sessions on Saturday morning, and (2) Share information with peer communities across the region, policy makers, and funders about your community and identify shared strategies to build upon.

To apply for funding to support a convening in your community, please answer the questions on the following page and complete the budget template. The Equity Grant Program prioritizes low-income communities, communities of color and other historically underrepresented groups organizing in Central Puget Sound. Note the following guidelines:

- Applications will be accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis. We encourage organizations to apply by August 31, 2013. There are limited funds available.
- You must be a 501c3 organization, or have a fiscal sponsor that is a 501c3 organization. Funding is part of a larger federal grant so organizations must be able to manage a reimbursement grant.
- We anticipate the majority of this work will happen in summer and early fall (by late September) so it can inform the Summit agenda.
- Applications will be accepted based on the ability of the organization to convene and represent their community. Similar to the Equity Grant Program, applications will be reviewed with the following criteria.
 - Applicants should have a mission and track record of working with diverse constituencies;
 - Process will directly engage local community members;
 - Project responds to community need;
 - Project will have an impact within the framework of the Equity Summit.
- Some technical assistance is available through planning partners.

The Summit planning partners recognize not every community will be able to organize themselves and host a convening at this time. Participating in the Summit itself, or even organizing a small group from your community to participate, is a great way to learn and build relationships. There will be no cost to participate in the Summit and some transportation, translation, and childcare support will be made available to ensure participation of all our communities.

For further information or if you have any questions, please contact Heidi Hall, Equity Network Manager at (206) 658-2619 or heidi@impactcapital.org.

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For communities interested to host a convening, please answer the following questions. Please submit the completed application to heidi@impactcapital.org.

A complete application includes the following:

- Grant questions & budget (question 6)
- IRS 501(c)(3) letter for your organization (or fiscal sponsor)

1. Name and address of organization requesting the grant.

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. Short description of your community (one paragraph). For this process, “community” can refer to a geographic community (neighborhood, city) or a cultural community.

5. Provide a few sentences describing how you plan to convene your community and what you will accomplish.

6. Provide details for the funding you are requesting (maximum \$1,200). This funding must be used for direct costs related to convening your community. These are reimbursement grants so all expenses must be documented. Note, not all line items listed will apply to every request.

Staff (<i>x hours at x rate</i>)	\$
Meeting space	\$
Supplies	\$
Translation	\$
Childcare	\$
Food	\$
TOTAL REQUEST:	\$

7. Please list 2-3 partners that you work with closely in your community.

Puget Sound Regional Equity Network: Principles of Equitable Development



Social Equity means all people can attain the resources and opportunities that improve their quality of life and enable them to reach their full potential. Addressing the history of inequities in the systems we work in and their on-going impacts in our communities is a shared responsibility. Social equity also means that those affected by poverty, communities of color, and historically marginalized communities have leadership and influence in decision making processes, planning, and policy-making. Together we can leverage our collective resources to create communities of opportunity.

Principles of Equitable Development and Planning

- **Advance economic opportunity.** Promote local economic development and entrepreneur opportunities, enhance community-serving establishments, and increase quality living wage jobs for people in all neighborhoods.
- **Prevent displacement.** Develop policies and programs that allow anyone who wants to live in the community to do so, especially current residents, and discourage displacement of viable small businesses that serve community needs.
- **Preserve and expand affordable housing options.** Create healthy, safe and affordable housing for all family sizes and incomes in all neighborhoods.
- **Understand and respond to local context.** Respect local community character, cultural diversity, and values. Preserve and strengthen intact neighborhoods, building upon their local assets and resources.
- **Promote broader mobility and connectivity.** Prioritize an effective and affordable public transportation network that supports transit-dependent communities and provides equitable access to core services and amenities, including employment, education, and health and social services.
- **Practice meaningful community engagement.** Require local community participation and leadership in decision-making to reflect a diversity of voices, including targeted strategies to engage historically marginalized communities. Build cultural competence and responsiveness among all stakeholders, and structure planning processes to be clear, accessible and engaging.
- **Develop healthy and safe communities.** Create built environments that enhance community health through public amenities (schools, parks, open spaces, complete streets, health care and other services), access to affordable healthy food, improved air quality, and safe and inviting environments.
- **Promote environmental justice.** Eliminate disproportionate environmental burdens and ensure an equitable share of environmental benefits for existing communities. Secure resources to mitigate and reverse the effects of environmental hazards past and present.
- **Achieve full accessibility.** Ensure any development that results from investments in the built environment is accessible and welcoming to people regardless of age, physical condition, or language.

For more information please visit: impactcapital.org or psrc.org

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