

KING COUNTY COVID-19 COMMUNITY RESPONSE FUND

On March 10, 2020, the King County Council approved a suite of emergency legislation proposed by King County Executive Dow Constantine to aid in the county's response to the [COVID-19 outbreak](#). The final package included \$1 million for the Office of Equity and Social Justice (OESJ) to provide flexible resources for engagement and outreach to populations on the frontlines of the coronavirus outbreak. A large portion of this funding will be invested in grants of up to \$25,000 to community based organizations and other stakeholders serving impacted communities. OESJ will prioritize funding to partners working with communities at the highest risk of immediate and long term negative health, social and economic impacts, with an emphasis on communities located near isolation, quarantine and recovery sites. In addition to grants that will be made by OESJ, the county has invested \$100,000 to the Seattle Foundation's COVID-19 response fund, a partnership between philanthropy, businesses, and local governments to provide an expansive set of supports to communities across our region.

OESJ Grant funding will focus on community engagement in these critical areas:

- language access,
- health literacy,
- cultural sensitivity,
- community and ethnic media outreach, and
- anti-bias and stigma resources.

The Community Response Fund expects to move an initial round of grants within the next few weeks with funds released on a rolling basis to move resources quickly and adapt to evolving needs.

OESJ will work with community based advisors, the King County Immigrant and Refugee Commission, and County Executive and County Council staff to ensure robust notification about this opportunity and ensure that investments align with our core mission of equity and social justice. Given the extraordinary circumstances of the outbreak and the need to invest resources as swiftly as possible to high risk communities, equity and racial justice considerations will be vigorously applied to decisions concerning grant awards.

The Community Response Fund will provide grassroots organizations and community based independent contractors with funding that prioritizes:

- Residents, Organizations, and Businesses that are, led by, and serve communities of color and low income communities;
- Residents, Organizations, and Business that are limited English speaking and that speak Indigenous languages;
- Residents, Organizations, and Businesses in unincorporated King County
Residents, Organizations, and Business located near isolation, quarantine and recovery sites

As part of the effort to protect our most vulnerable communities, some funded organizations will support development of community centered outreach and tracking of incidences of hate and bias related to COVID-19, with priority given to Asian Pacific Islander communities.

The Community Response Fund intends to:

- Provide information and answer questions about the outbreak in communities of color, Native communities, limited English speaking communities, and communities located near isolation, quarantine and recovery sites.
- Increase information sharing with limited English speaking communities including but not limited to: printed fliers, television, radio, audio recordings, YouTube or other video formats that can be shared using social media platforms. This should include American Sign Language (priority to TV, Radio and Video formats) + telephonic oral interpretation or robocalls.
- Increase information sharing through posters, graphic arts, and other visual mediums.
- Reduce stigma within the Asian Pacific Islander (API) and other communities
- Keep individuals, community based organizations, faith-based organizations and businesses informed during this public health emergency.

Rating Criteria:

- **Program Model includes ESJ Framework:** Proposal describes the applicant's program model and how they intend to provide the proposed information and resources. It is clear that the applicant is authentically embedded in the communities prioritized above, and articulates a deep understanding of the equity and social justice implications to the outbreak and its aftermath.
- **Language Access:** Proposal clearly indicates the ability to provide culturally and linguistically relevant information and/or resources to immigrant and refugee communities and limited English speaking populations. The proposal clearly outlines a language access plan to appropriately reach priority populations in specific language communities.

- **Population Specific:** Proposal identified specific populations or linguistic groups that the organization will serve and illustrates how information and resources methods will reach/benefit the selected populations.
- **Budget Overview:** Budget aligns with proposed activities and accounts for full scope of funding requested to support the proposed project.
- **Data and Evaluation:** While this is a short turnaround and an abbreviated scope of work, the application clearly defines outcomes for the project and interest in building the capacity to collect and interpret qualitative and quantitative data.