

Exhibit D

Award Nature in Neighborhoods Capital Grants

In this local program area, Metro will provide up to \$40 million for grants funding community-led projects, with an emphasis on benefitting historically marginalized communities. These projects will protect and improve water quality and fish and wildlife habitat, support climate resiliency and/or increase people's experience of nature at the community scale.

This grant program will engage community groups, nonprofit organizations, schools, park providers, soil and water conservation districts and others in neighborhood projects that benefit people and nature. This program is designed to allow communities to meet local needs and new opportunities that may come to light during implementation of Metro's bond program. All projects must satisfy required bond program community engagement, racial equity and climate resilience criteria described in Exhibit A, as well as the requirements set forth below.

Program activities

- Competitive capital grant program for community-led public/private partnership projects
- Technical assistance to grantees
- Pilot a new "Participatory Grantmaking" approach within this program area

Program criteria

Program investments must satisfy at least one of the following criteria.

- Improve human mental and physical health, particularly in communities of color, Indigenous communities, low-income communities and other historically marginalized communities.
- Build wealth in communities of color, Indigenous communities, low-income and other historically marginalized communities through contracting and jobs.
- Demonstrate that people of color influenced the project identification, selection, design and implementation.
- Nurture a relationship with land and create educational opportunities (including Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math [STEAM] opportunities) and promote careers in the environmental and agricultural sector, especially for people and youth of color.
- Partner with and empower Indigenous people.
- Ensure accessibility for people experiencing disabilities.
- Create easy access to nature from transit and for people walking or biking.
- Consider and approach the issue of houselessness in a sensitive and humanizing way.

REQUIREMENTS AND ELIGIBILITY

Who can apply

Capital grants are intended to support community-driven initiatives; therefore, partnerships are key to a successful proposal. Tribal governments, public schools, non-profits, community-based organizations, local governments and special districts can apply for grants.

Minimum program requirements

- Expenses must be associated with capital projects only. Funds cannot be used for general operating expenses.
- Projects that involve the acquisition of properties or easements must be negotiated with willing sellers.
- To maximize the impact of investments, projects must demonstrate strong partnerships between community-based organizations and public (non-federal) agencies.
- The program will allow for flexible match requirements to maximize racial equity outcomes. The program will also encourage projects that leverage additional government and private funding to increase the overall program impacts. Match may be cash, in-kind donations of goods or services, staff time or volunteer hours from sources other than Metro.
- Metro may award funds to a project with conditions of approval, including the need to meet matching requirements. Grantees will have up to two years to address these conditions of approval before entering into a grant agreement with Metro. Upon entering into a grant agreement with Metro, the grantee will have up to three years to complete the project. Metro's Chief Operating Officer may approve extensions up to a maximum five-year term if a project encounters unforeseeable delays.
- Grant funds must be expended within the Urban Growth Boundary and/or the Metro jurisdictional boundary or as approved by the Metro Council.
- Projects must be clearly achievable given the knowledge, skills and resources available among project partners.
- Applicants must demonstrate that there are long-term designated funds available to maintain the project for its intended purpose.
- Grant funds are typically provided on a reimbursement basis.
- No more than 10 percent of grant funds will be used for staff time directly related to a project; projects that address racial equity may exceed 10 percent as approved by the Metro Council. Overhead and/or indirect costs are not reimbursable, but can be used to meet matching requirements.
- Land or other assets acquired or created with Metro bond funds must be owned by the public and capitalized by a non-federal public entity.
- Grantees will be required to evaluate their projects.

GRANT APPLICATION REVIEW AND AWARDS

Grants will be solicited and awarded at least once per year. More than one process for selecting projects may be created to respond to project size, scope and complexity. The Metro Council will make all grant awards.

A review committee, staffed by Metro, will be established to:

- 1) Review all projects and make funding recommendations to the Metro Council.
- 2) Evaluate the effectiveness of the program.

The review committee will be comprised of no fewer than seven and no more than 11 community members and will reflect the racial, ethnic and economic diversity of the region.

Committee members will be committed to Metro's parks and nature mission and to supporting opportunities for communities of color and other historically marginalized communities to design and build access to nature for their communities.

Expertise will be sought in the following fields:

- Water quality and habitat restoration
- Landscape architecture
- Real estate
- Community development
- Workforce development, job training and apprenticeship programs
- Climate adaptation and resilience policies and practices
- Sustainable development techniques, such as green infrastructure, sustainable agriculture and carbon sequestration.

The grant review committee will:

- Review application materials and processes to reduce barriers for communities of color and other historically marginalized communities to apply with strong proposals.
- Evaluate applications for funding to determine whether they meet the Nature in Neighborhoods capital grants program criteria and whether the applicants and their partners have the capacity to implement their project as described and fiscal accountability.
- Offer suggestions to strengthen applications.
- Adopt a methodology to evaluate, track and report on the program's effectiveness.

Grant review committee members may be provided a stipend for time and expertise provided to the Nature in Neighborhoods capital grant program.

Metro staff will:

- Identify and implement innovative methods, through project development and capacity building, to support communities of color and other historically marginalized communities to prepare and submit applications.
- Create selection criteria and program materials that respond to community feedback and the Nature in Neighborhoods capital grants program objectives.
- Consult with experts from a wide variety of backgrounds including those with academic, professional and lived experience on best practices related to water quality, habitat restoration, and traditional ecological knowledge in order to offer technical assistance to applicants and the review committee on creating the greatest benefits for people, plants and wildlife.
- Provide trainings, resources and technical assistance to support applicants with lower capacity and applicants from communities of color through project development and capacity-building.
- Provide assistance to grantees in resolving unexpected situations during project development, permitting, contracting and construction that could influence the project's success.

Nature in Neighborhoods capital grants projects funded by the 2019 bond measure must be maintained for their intended purpose established in the grant application, such as natural area, wildlife habitat, water quality, trail or recreation purpose. After five years, the Metro Council may reallocate unspent and unobligated funds to other program areas, up to any maximum program funding amount(s). Agreements for any public interest in land must be negotiated with willing sellers. Local governments may not exercise their powers of eminent domain in the implementation of this measure.