

Aquatic Facilities Grant Program

Implementation Guidelines for Project Criteria, Eligibility, Project Selection Process, and Administration of Grants

August 23, 2020

Background

In 2019, as part of the King County parks, recreation, trails and open space levy, voters approved up to \$44 million in Parks Levy fund proceeds to create the Aquatic Facilities Grant Program to provide moneys for a broad range of improvements to public aquatics facilities located in King County. These projects include feasibility studies, design, permitting, and construction of new or improvement of existing capital facilities. The opportunity to learn how to swim as well as providing continued access for recreational swimmers is a regional priority.

For more than 50 years, King County communities have built public pools and aquatic centers to improve access for residents to recreation, competition and education opportunities. The majority of aquatic facilities owned by public entities in King County were constructed in the 1970s and their useful life has been extended through constant update and repair. Ensuring that the public has continued access to these facilities as well as the ability to access levy proceeds for assistance in constructing new aquatic centers is a priority of King County. This grant program is intended to assist communities as our region grows and existing facilities become obsolete or reach capacity.

Eligibility Criteria

Eligible Project Types

Projects relating to public aquatic facilities, including:

1. Planning or feasibility studies
2. Land purchase
3. Pre-construction
4. Design
5. Construction
6. Renovation
7. Repair
8. Expansion
9. Other capital costs associated with the construction or continued function of an aquatic center.

All projects must allow public access and be geographically located within King County.

36 Eligible Entities

37 The following entities are eligible to be recipients of the Aquatic Facilities Grant:

- 38 1. King County cities and towns
- 39 2. Metropolitan Park Districts geographically located in King County
- 40 3. School Districts
- 41 4. Other public entities that own public aquatic facilities

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43 **Advisory Committee**

44 Nomination Process

- 45 1. The King County Executive will seek input from King County Councilmembers on advisory
46 committee recommendations and provide notification to the King County Council 30 days
47 prior to appointment.
- 48 2. The King County Executive will appoint committee members who reflect the diverse needs
49 and populations within King County.
- 50 3. The committee will make recommendations for both the Parks Capital and Open Space Grant
51 Program and the Aquatic Facilities Grant Program.

52 Committee Makeup

53 The committee will be staffed by The King County Parks and Recreation Division and composed
54 of up to 17 people appointed by the King County Executive based on the composition below, and
55 will make recommendations for both the Parks Capital and Open Space grant program and the
56 Aquatic Facilities grant program.

57 The following composition shall make up the Aquatic Facilities Grant and Parks Capital and
58 Open Space Grant Advisory Committee:

- 59 1. City/park district representatives – up to nine members of the committee shall be elected or
60 employed officials of cities or park districts in King County. Cities or park districts in each
61 of the nine County Council districts should be represented.
- 62 2. School districts – up to four members shall be elected or employed officials of school
63 districts actively engaged in aquatics recreation and/or implementation of the
64 recommendations in the State of Play Report.
- 65 3. Non-profit organizations – up to four members shall represent organizations with a strong
66 history of championing public access to recreation to include active, passive, and aquatics
67 recreation in King County.

68 Upon formation, the Advisory Committee will work closely with Parks and Recreation Division
69 staff to further develop and refine the application, review, and recommendation process to ensure
70 a streamlined process is in place for ease of use by applicants, the Advisory Committee, and
71 program administrators.

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73 **Project Selection and Reporting Process**

- 74 1. The King County Parks and Recreation Division staff will prepare and advertise a request for
75 proposals and receive applications on a biennial basis.
- 76 2. The Advisory Committee will review and rank proposals and will recommend projects and
77 award amounts. In accordance with Motion 15378, all awards in unincorporated areas should
78 be made in consultation with the Department of Local Services.
- 79 3. The committee will recommend a project for funding to the Department of Natural Resources
80 and Parks only if the proposal meets the eligibility criteria above. Additional criteria to weigh
81 the relative strength of applications include:
- 82 a. Addressing an unmet need for aquatics recreation and water safety
 - 83 b. Creating new or expanded programming opportunities
 - 84 c. Preserving, protecting, or enhancing the structural integrity of an existing facility
 - 85 d. The project will further established Countywide priorities, such as equity and social
86 justice, the Strategic Climate Action Plan, improving water quality and increasing
87 habitat, for example through green stormwater infrastructure, the Land Conservation
88 Initiative, or implementation of the recommendations in the State of Play Report;
 - 89 e. The project is supported through partnership and will be measured by resulting
90 community benefits, as well as the strength and diversity of partnership;
 - 91 f. The project has been identified in an adopted plan;
 - 92 g. The project is located in an underserved area or provides recreational access or benefit
93 where none currently exists;
 - 94 h. The project demonstrates certainty in success of delivery;
 - 95 i. The project demonstrates how successful implementation will be measured over time;
 - 96 j. The project identifies cost effectiveness and ability to leverage other funding or in-kind
97 donations.
- 98 4. The King County Executive will transmit to the King County Council a recommended list of
99 grant awardees, including a summary description of how each project meets the selection
100 criteria and the objectives of the Aquatics Facility Grant Program. The Executive will also
101 transmit an ordinance to approve grant allocations for each project.
- 102 5. The King County Parks and Recreation Division will administer the contracts for approved
103 projects. Any town or city receiving a grant award will be required to notify the King County
104 Council of any major milestones such as groundbreaking or ribbon cutting 30 days prior to the
105 event.
- 106 6. The King County Parks and Recreation Division will provide an annual report on the status of
107 the Aquatic Facilities Grant Program. Information on the number of proposals received,
108 projects awarded in that year, and a summary of completion of past projects shall be included
109 in the report.

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111 **Program Staffing**

112 The King County Parks and Recreation Division shall be responsible for administering and
113 staffing the program, utilizing a percentage of program moneys to pay for this administration.

114 The percentage of moneys for program administration shall be consistent with other grant
115 programs managed by County agencies.

116 Administration shall include development of the process, application materials,
117 announcements, review process, contract development and administration, project tracking,
118 financial accounting, project reporting, and audit function.