

COO Evaluation Mini-Grants

Request for Proposals Information Session

Agenda

- Refresher on Communities of Opportunity
- Review key elements of the Request for Proposals
- Criteria overview
- Question and answers

Communities of Opportunity's mission is to strategically invest in community power. COO brings together private and public funds in a community-led partnership model to advance equitable, anti-racist, and self-determined strategies.

COO is a growing network of residents, communities, decision makers, and funders who believe every community can be a healthy, thriving community—and that equity and racial justice are both necessary and achievable.



COO invests in community-led solutions so that *all people in King County...*

thrive economically

- Increase households earning a living wage
 - Increase youth/young adults who are either in school or working
-

have quality affordable housing

- Increase # of people paying less than 30% and 50% of the income for housing
 - Decrease involuntary displacement of local residents
-

are connected to community

- Increase youth who have an adult to turn to for help
 - Increase adults engaged in civic activities
-

are healthy

- Increase consumption of fruits and vegetables among youth
- Increase life expectancy

COO Performance Measures Progress Highlights



Systems & Policy Change partners (data from 2023-2024 reporting) †

- 3597 community engagement events/activities
- 324078 people engaged
- 944 capacity-building events
- 9125 people with capacities built
- 256 new relationships formed to further equity goals
- 344 new partnerships formed to further equity goals
- 2132 community leaders developed
- 37 policies changed
- 8 systems changed
- 4 environments changed

† *Seattle Foundation-funded SP partners*

Who is this RFP for?

This funding opportunity is open to currently funded COO Systems & Policy Change partners.

What is the purpose of the mini-grants? How does it connect to the larger Best Starts work?

- These mini-grants are intended to support COO partners' efforts to evaluate the success and impacts of their work. These grants aim to support short-term, discrete evaluation projects that contribute to understanding COO's impacts and outcomes.
- Proposed projects must include an outcome/impact evaluation plan and timeline to implement evaluation project activities within a 6 to-12 month period, and describe expected deliverables and products from the project
- These mini-grants will help COO understand the outcomes/impacts of the Systems & Policy change strategy and how SPC activities have contributed to building community power and equitable, structural change
- COO Evaluation has budgeted up to \$200,000 for this project. Applicants may request up to \$9,999 in their proposed budget to support evaluation activities focused on Communities of Opportunity (COO) outcomes and impacts.

Summary

Funding request limits: **\$9999** (we expect to make awards averaging at \$6000)

Application due date: **November 10, 2025**

Letter of Agreement period for SPC evaluation mini-grants,
Tentative start date: December 1, 2025

Overall funding available for mini-grants : **\$200,000**

Anticipated number of awards: **20 to 30 awards total for COO evaluation mini-grants, depending on award amounts**

Timeline

RFP release	October 17, 2025
Online info session #1	October 20, 2025, 11a-12:30p
Online info session #2	October 27, 2025, 1-2p
Deadline to request technical assistance	October 30, 2025
Deadline to contact King County with questions	November 5, 2025
Application due date	November 10, 2025, 5pm
Proposals rated and review	November 12-14, 2025
Notification of RFP Status	November 20, 2025
Letter Agreement Discussions	December 1-15, 2025 (tentative)
First Deliverable Due	December 19, 2025 (e.g., Workplan) (tentative)

Application Questions

Evaluation Plan

- Please describe your evaluation project.
 - In your description, please include your evaluation question(s).
 - What do you want to evaluate the impact/outcome of?
 - How do you plan to do this?
 - How does this project connect with your organization's and COO's goals?
 - What do you hope to gain by doing this evaluation project?

Staffing/Supports

- Please describe what expertise, staffing, resources are needed for your proposed evaluation project.
- Do you already have access to these, or do you plan to contract out or purchase necessary resources?

Project deliverables/End products

- What final products do you expect to result from your project? (e.g., final report or presentation, visuals/graphics to share with stakeholders)
- What are ways you intend to use the results and projects of your evaluation project?

Workplan/Timeline

- Please provide a workplan/timeline for your evaluation project.
- Note: evaluation projects are expected to be completed within a 6 to 12 month period

Budget

- Please describe how you plan to use this evaluation funding.
 - As part of your description, please include a budget for your evaluation project.
 - Describe the resources requested. Include the requested items and the amount of funds requested for each item. Your proposed budget must not exceed \$9,999.

Application and Budget Tips

- Make sure your proposal clearly states your evaluation question(s) and that your evaluation plan is intended to capture outcomes and/or impact.
- Is the timeline for your proposed project realistic?
- Does your budget account for contractors, stipends, software needs?
- Budgets should be developed for the length of the LOA term.

Examples of potential outcome/impact evaluation activities

Funded evaluation projects may include, but are not limited to:

- Ripple Effects Mapping session(s) to capture intended and unintended outcomes and connections. Deliverables would include the output of REM session(s),
- Focus Groups and/or Interviews of stakeholders (e.g., participants of organizing activities, community residents, staff at organizations where efforts towards internal systems changes have taken place) to identify examples and themes on outcomes/impacts of COO activities
- Photovoice and/or Digital Storytelling used to capture impact stories

RFP Rating & Review

- Carefully review the rating criteria.
- The review panel will closely follow this scoring rubric.
- All proposals submitted will go through a formal review process.

Rating Criteria	Max Score
Evaluation Plan	
Applicant clearly describes their evaluation plan, including the outcomes/impacts they are intending to evaluate, evaluation questions, and how they plan to answer these questions through their proposed project.	20
Applicant describes how this project connects with their organization's and COO's goals.	5
Applicant describes what they hope to gain from this project.	5
Staffing/Supports	
Applicant describes the expertise, staffing and resources needed to carry out their evaluation project.	10
Project deliverables/End products	
Applicant describes the end products and deliverables expected to result from their project.	10
Activities/Timeline	
Applicant has outlined a realistic set of activities and timeline for their project	15
Budget	
Applicant clearly describes how they plan to use funding	10
Proposed set of activities is feasible for the budget and aligns with the plan described in the Application Questions	5
TOTAL	80

Technical assistance

Free technical assistance (TA) is available to support applicants and eliminate barriers that might prevent you from seeking funding.

Deadline to request TA assistance is October 30, 2025.

TA providers can:

- Assist in determining appropriate fit between your program and the RFP;
- Provide guidance on how best to answer questions and where to find supportive data;
- Support application review, including editing and budget review. Note, technical assistance is **not** grant-writing.

If you would like TA support, please reach out to either of these Best Starts Evaluation TA providers:

- Dicentra, askdicentra@gmail.com
- Crux: douglas@cruxnw.com

Additional Resources & Contacts

- Next info session is October 27, 1-2pm
- Email questions to King County CPRES by November 5, 2025:
 - cpres-bsk@kingcounty.gov
- Please contact **Technical Assistance Providers** directly for support by October 30, 2025

Questions and Answers

Thank You

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