King County
Department of Local Services
We're here for you.

2026 Participatory Budgeting: Elevate Skyway Community Fund

AMENDED September 18, 2026

This document provides guidance for people applying for the Elevate Skyway Community Fund. It includes information about the grant as well as the application questions.

This is not the grant application. Applicants are asked to apply online at Elevate Skyway Community Fund 2026 - Request for Proposal (Application) - Airtable. Please note the online application will not save your answers so you should have all your answers and materials ready before you start the online process.

To request another format for submitting a grant application, please email UKCPB@kingcounty.gov.

Table of Contents

Key dates 3
Eligibility 3
Grant overview 3
Vision for this opportunity 4
Eight priority areas 4
1. Youth & Family Services 4
2. Career Advancement & Workforce Development 4
3. Food Sovereignty Initiatives 4
4. Community Empowerment Initiatives 4
5. Community Events 4
6. Community Art / Cultural Projects 4
7. Health & Wellness 4
8. Harm Reduction / Public Safety Initiatives 4
Funding available by priority area 4
Additional Funding Consideration 5
Contingency Funding 5
How Funding Decisions Will Work 5
Partial Funding & Project Scope 6
Important Note for Applicants 6
Proposal Review & Scoring 6
Application questions 6
APPLICANT INFORMATION 6
SECTION 1 — ABOUT YOUR ORGANIZATION 7
SECTION 2 — YOUR PROJECT 7
SECTION 3 — COMMUNITY NEED 8
SECTION 4 — COMMUNITY IMPACT 9
SECTION 5 — COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP, EMPOWERMENT, & ENGAGEMENT 9

SECTION 6 — COLLABORATION & COMMUNITY BUILDING 9
SECTION 7 — PROJECT PLAN & FEASIBILITY 10
SECTION 8 — BUDGET & STEWARDSHIP 10
SECTION 9 — SUCCESS & ACCOUNTABILITY 11
SECTION 10 — ELIGIBILITY & CERTIFICATION 11
Optional Supporting Materials 12
Proposal Rating Guidance 12

Key dates

We are accepting applications for the Elevate Skyway Community Fund until **Sunday, October 11, at 11:59 p.m.**

Eligibility

The 2026 funding cycle uses a community-led Participatory Grantmaking approach, building on lessons and community input from previous county Participatory Budgeting cycles.

To be eligible to apply, applicants must:

- Have an active Washington State business license and Federal Tax ID number/Employer Identification Number (EIN) and be in good standing prior to submission.
- Not be prohibited from receiving government funding or entering into contracts with government agencies.
- Benefit the unincorporated area of Skyway/West Hill.

Grant overview

The Elevate Skyway Community Fund, co-designed by the Skyway Community Advisory Board, will distribute approximately $1.7 million in 2026–2027 public funds to support community-driven investments in the unincorporated area of Skyway-West Hill.

The 2026 funding cycle uses a community-led Participatory Grantmaking approach, building on lessons and community input from King County's previous Participatory Budgeting cycles. The process centers community voice, leadership, equity, and shared decision-making by engaging community members in shaping funding priorities, grantmaking processes, outreach, and proposal review.

Unlike traditional Participatory Budgeting, the 2026 process will not include a community-wide vote. Instead, eligible organizations will apply through a competitive grant process, with trained community members participating in the review, selection, and recommendation of proposals. The goal is to ensure public investments reflect community-identified priorities and needs while strengthening transparency, trust, and community power.

Vision for this opportunity

Skyway's Participatory Grantmaking Community Advisory Board envisions a community where residents have meaningful power and influence in determining how public funds are invested in their neighborhoods. This process seeks to create equitable, thriving, and connected communities by ensuring that those most impacted by community challenges are directly involved in shaping solutions. We are committed to uplifting and centering the voices of Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) communities in this process.

The objectives for this funding opportunity include:

- Addressing racial disparities
- Advancing educational equity
- Building social infrastructure
- Creating safe and inclusive spaces
- Cultural expression
- Empowering youth and future generations
- Enhancing environmental justice
- Fostering health and wellness
- Increasing access to resources
- Promoting economic empowerment

Eight priority areas

Funding available by priority area

The **Elevate Skyway Community Fund** will provide approximately **$1.7 million** in grant funding across eight community priority areas. Applicants may request funding within the minimum and maximum award ranges shown below.

Funds must be spent by December 31, 2027.

Amounts shown in the following table represent the funding available for each priority area and are not guaranteed allocations. Actual awards will depend on the number and quality of eligible proposals received, available funding, and the number of proposals recommended for funding. Funds may be shifted between priority areas through the Contingency Funding process.

Community Priority Area	Minimum Award	Maximum Award	Funding Available
Youth & Family Services / Programs	$25,000	$150,000	$300,000
Career Advancement / Workforce Development	$25,000	$150,000	$300,000
Food Sovereignty Initiatives	$25,000	$150,000	$300.000
Harm Reduction / Public Safety Initiatives	$25,000	$150,000	$150,000
Community Events	$25,000	$150,000	$150,000
Community Empowerment Initiatives	$25,000	$150,000	$150,000
Community Arts / Cultural Projects	$25,000	$75,000	$150,000
Health / Wellness	$25,000	$75,000	$150,000

Additional Funding Consideration

The funding amounts listed for each Community Priority Area represent planned funding pools, not guaranteed allocations. The final amount awarded within each priority area will depend on the number of eligible applications received, the strength of proposals, and available funding. To maximize the use of available funds, the County may shift unused funds to other priority areas through the Contingency Funding process.

Contingency Funding

If funds remain after initial awards are made, unused funds will be moved into a Contingency Fund. These funds may be used to provide additional awards to eligible projects in funding areas where requests exceed the available funding, helping to ensure all available grant funds are awarded.

How Funding Decisions Will Work

- The final number of awards will depend on the proposals received, their funding needs, the review process, and available funds.

- If funds remain unused in one priority area, the CAB may recommend reallocating those funds to another priority area, consistent with the approved funding framework and applicable County requirements.
- Applicants should request the amount needed to successfully complete the proposed project, based on the cost of implementing (actual or estimated) rather than requesting a strategic number in the hopes of being selected.

Partial Funding & Project Scope

If sufficient funding is not available to fully fund a proposed project, King County Local Services Contracting Team may work with the applicant to adjust or reduce the project scope and budget so the project can be implemented within the available funding. Any changes will be discussed and agreed upon with the applicant before an award is finalized.

Important Note for Applicants

Funding is competitive. Meeting the minimum or maximum award range does not guarantee funding. Final award amounts will be based on the proposal review and scoring process, the strength and feasibility of the proposed project, community need and impact, alignment with the funding priorities, and available funding.

Proposal Review & Scoring

Proposals will be reviewed and scored using consistent criteria focused on community need, community benefit, racial equity and inclusion, proposal quality, budget appropriateness, community voice and leadership, community trust. Rating criteria can be found in the RFP Application.

Application questions

The following shows the application questions you are expected to answer online at **Elevate Skyway - Community Fund 2026 - Request for Proposal (Application) - Airtable**.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

- First Name
- Last Name
- Organization, Group or Business
- Contact Phone Number

- Contact Email

SECTION 1 — ABOUT YOUR ORGANIZATION

1. Who are you and how are you connected to Skyway?

Tell us briefly about your organization, group, or business and your connection to the Skyway-West Hill community.

- Please describe
- what you do
- who you serve
- your connection to Skyway-West Hill,
- how your organization, leadership, staff, or members reflect or understand the community you serve.

Suggested response limit: 300 words

SECTION 2 — YOUR PROJECT

2. What are you proposing?

Tell us about the project for which you are requesting funding.

Please briefly describe:

- what you want to do
- who will participate or benefit
- where the project will take place
- the main activities or services
- what you hope to accomplish.

Suggested response limit: 1000 words

Select Your primary priority area

Select one:

- Youth / Family Services
- Career Advancement / Workforce Development
- Food Sovereignty Initiatives
- Harm Reduction / Public Safety Initiatives

- Community Events
- Community Empowerment Initiatives
- Community Art / Cultural Projects
- Health / Wellness

Optional secondary priority area

Select any (one) additional priority area that this project could also support.

- Youth / Family Services
- Career Advancement / Workforce Development
- Food Sovereignty Initiatives
- Harm Reduction / Public Safety Initiatives
- Community Events
- Community Empowerment Initiatives
- Community Art / Cultural Projects
- Health / Wellness

SECTION 3 — COMMUNITY NEED

3. What community need(s) are you addressing?

What community need, challenge, or opportunity is your proposal addressing in Skyway-West Hill? State how your project will create meaningful, measurable benefits for residents of the designated urban unincorporated area, in alignment with community priorities identified through this funding process.

You do not need formal research or extensive statistics. You can use your own knowledge and experience in the community.

Suggested response limit: 500 words

SECTION 4 — COMMUNITY IMPACT

4. What difference will this project make?

- Who will benefit from your project?
- What positive change do you expect it to create?
- How will this project promote racial equity in unincorporated Skyway – West Hill?

Please describe:

- who will benefit,
- what will be improved for participants or the community,
- how the project addresses barriers or inequities, and
- why this investment is important for the people you intend to serve.

Suggested response limit: 350 words

SECTION 5 — COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP, EMPOWERMENT, & ENGAGEMENT

5 How does the project give community members meaningful leadership, decision-making power, or ownership in the project?

Examples may include:

- Resident leadership
- Advisory groups
- Community-led planning
- Participant feedback
- Volunteers, partnerships
- Cultural and lived-experience leadership

Community involvement does not need to look the same for every organization.

Suggested response limit: 300 words

SECTION 6 — COLLABORATION & COMMUNITY BUILDING

6. Will you work with other community organizations? Who will you work with?

- Will you work with other organizations, businesses, residents, community leaders, or other partners to complete this project?

    - If yes, describe who you will work with and how the partnership will strengthen the project or benefit the community.
    - If not, explain how your organization will build community connections or capacity through the project.
- Do you have an existing partnership agreement? If not, it will be required upon contracting.
- Do you have an existing partnership agreement?

Suggested response limit: 300 words

SECTION 7 — PROJECT PLAN & FEASIBILITY

7. How will you make the project happen?

Provide a project outline you will use to complete your project by **December 31, 2027**. Please provide a simple timeline and briefly tell us what steps you will take to successfully implement the project in Skyway-West Hill?

- Project Name
- Scope of work
- Timeline - Estimated start date & summary of project phases
- Partnerships
- Outreach plan

Suggested response limit: 500 words

SECTION 8 — BUDGET & STEWARDSHIP

8. How much are you requesting and how will you use the funds?

- List your funding request:
    - **Minimum:** $25,000
    - **Maximum:** Up to $150,000 subject to applicable funding limits.
    - Briefly explain how the requested funds will support the activities you described.
- Are you able to cover up front costs to be reimbursed? If yes, how much are you able to cover?
- Will you need an advance disbursement of these funds before beginning project work to cover initial costs? If yes, how much would you need to cover?
- Funding is a resource in service of people, purpose, and impact:

    - How will you steward or safeguard these funds, engage those most impacted, and remain accountable and adaptable as the work unfolds?
    - Please complete the full budget template, which is a separate spreadsheet, that will accompany your application.

Please note that if your proposal is selected for a contract, you will be expected to invoice using a spreadsheet, bill, submit backup documentation (receipts) and engage with the County's fiscal team. Consider including costs for administrative or fiscal support if you don't currently have that capacity or skill.

Suggested response limit: 250 words

SECTION 9 — SUCCESS & ACCOUNTABILITY

9. How will you know your project made a difference?

- What are 2 to 4 things you will measure or evaluate to determine whether your project was successful? Examples include but are not limited to:
    - Number of people served,
    - Youth participating
    - Program completions
    - Resources distributed
    - Events held
    - Participant feedback
    - Community connections
    - Skills gained through job and training opportunities
    - Other meaningful outcomes
- How will you track the project measures mentioned above? (Example: Sign in sheet, testimonials, program report, media, etc.)
- How will you share information about the project's progress or results with the community? (Examples: Published program report, social media, website article, etc.)

Suggested response limit: 350 words

SECTION 10 — ELIGIBILITY & CERTIFICATION

The following are eligibility requirements (you will answer either yes or no on the application):

- My organization has an active Washington State business license or applicable registration.
- My organization has a Federal Tax ID/EIN.
- My organization is eligible to receive government funding.
- My organization understands that the funds awarded must be spent by December 31, 2027.
- The information provided in this application is accurate to the best of my knowledge.
- If awarded, my organization agrees to applicable King County contracting, financial, insurance, reporting, and compliance requirements.

Optional Supporting Materials

Applicants may provide optional materials that help explain their project, such as:

- Photos
- Flyers
- Videos
- Program materials
- Community testimonials
- Letters of support
- Website or social media links
- Other relevant information

Proposal Rating Guidance

Rating Category	Weight	Guiding Questions
1. Community Need	20	Question 3 —What community need are you addressing? How does your project fulfill a meaningful community need, challenge, or opportunity in Skyway-West Hill, and why is this project important to the community?
2. Community Impact	20	Question 4 — What difference will this project make? Who will benefit, what positive changes are expected, and how meaningful are the benefits to the community?
3. Racial Equity & Inclusion	15	Question 4 — What difference will this project make? How does your project reduce disparities and intentionally serve communities experiencing the greatest inequities? What barriers or inequities does this project address? How does it promote racial equity and inclusion?

4. Community Leadership & Empowerment	10	Question 5 — How does the project give community members meaningful leadership, decision-making power, or ownership in the project? To what extent have community members meaningfully shaped the project or had opportunities to lead and influence decisions?
5. Community Engagement	5	Question 5 — How has the community shaped your project? To what extent have community members meaningfully shaped the project or had opportunities to lead and influence decisions?
6. Collaboration & Community Building	5	Question 6 —Will you work with other community organizations? How will partnerships or community connections strengthen the project or build community capacity?
7. Project Plan & Feasibility	10	Question 7 — How will you make the project happen? Is your project clear, realistic, and achievable?
8. Budget & Stewardship	10	Question 8 — How much are you requesting and how will you use the funds? Is your proposed budget reasonable and does it align with stated project activities and outcomes?
9. Success and Accountability	5	Question 9 — How will you know your project made a difference? What meaningful outcomes have you included? How will your progress be tracked and demonstrate accountability to the community?

Total: 100