King County
Department of Local Services
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2026 Participatory Budgeting: Uplift White Center Community Fund

AMENDED SEPTEMBER 18, 2026

This document provides guidance for people applying for the Uplift White Center 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 Uplift White Center - 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.

Key dates

We are accepting applications for the Uplift White Center 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.
- Must benefit the unincorporated area of North Highline / White Center.

Grant overview

The Uplift White Center Community Fund, co-designed by the White Center – North Highline Community Advisory Board, will distribute approximately $1.1 million in 2026–2027 public funds to support community-driven investments in the unincorporated area of North Highline / White Center.

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 and Objectives

The Community Advisory Board's vision includes investing in a community-guided, need-based future for White Center by uplifting, encouraging, and supporting people and businesses of all backgrounds through inclusive and diverse funding that creates opportunities to thrive and grow together. The Board envisions a more unified White Center where community-first investment fosters opportunity and belonging for all ages, while public spaces reflect our diversity, pride, and creativity building a stronger future together, step by step.

Our Community Advisory Board process objectives 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

Grantmaking values and what this means for proposal raters

Racial Equity: Consider whether the proposal helps address racial inequities and barriers experienced by communities that have been historically underserved or harmed by racism.

Needs-Based Investment: Consider whether the proposal responds to a real and important community need and whether the investment is directed where it can make a meaningful difference.

Community Empowerment: Look for ways community members have a voice in shaping, leading, or carrying out the proposed work.

Community Engagement: Consider whether the applicant has meaningfully listened to and engaged the people who will be affected by the project.

Building Community: Consider whether the proposal strengthens relationships, leadership, connection, skills, or community capacity.

Accountability: Consider whether the applicant clearly explains what it will do, who it will serve, and how it will follow through on its commitments.

Transparency: Consider whether the proposal clearly explains its activities, expected results, partnerships, and use of funding.

Inclusion: Consider whether the proposal removes barriers and creates opportunities for people with different backgrounds, abilities, languages, ages, and experiences to participate.

Eight priority areas

The following lists the eight community priority areas with examples of eligible activities:

Youth & Senior Programs: After-school programs, summer and enrichment programs, senior enrichment, early childhood education, and programs supporting neurodivergent children and youth.

Beautification & Restoration: Community and cultural art projects, streetscaping, soft scaping, neighborhood beautification, and restoration activities.

Community Events: Block parties, movie nights, community gatherings, and similar events that bring residents together.

Public Safety: Youth-focused gun prevention education, immigrant resources, legal clinics, and other community-based public safety initiatives.

Health & Wellness: Food justice and access to healthy food, community gardens, food banks, farmers' market support, and other health and wellness initiatives.

Economic Development: Programs that strengthen household and community economic stability, including rental assistance programs that provide direct assistance to community members experiencing housing cost burdens.

Workforce Development: Apprenticeships, hands-on job training, teen internship resources, career readiness, and other employment preparation programs.

Sustainability & Environment: Recycling programs, waste reduction efforts, recycling education and courses, environmental education, and other sustainability initiatives.

Funding available by priority area

The **Uplift White Center Community Fund** will provide approximately **$1.1 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 12/31/2027.

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	RFP Fund Amount
Youth/Senior Programs	$25,000	Up to $100,000	$238,333
Beautification/Restoration	$50,000	Up to $100,000	$165,000
Community Events	$50,000	Up to $137,500	$137,000
Public Safety	$35,000	Up to $128,333	$128,333
Health and Wellness	$25,000	Up to $80,000	$119,167
Economic Development	$50,000	Up to $119,167	$119,167
Workforce Development	$50,000	Up to $119,167	$119,167
Sustainability and Environment	$25,000	Up to 73,333	$73,333

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 and 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 and 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 Uplift White Center - 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 North Highline-White Center?

Tell us briefly about your organization, group, or business and your connection to the North Highline-White Center community.

Character limit: 300 (250 words)

SECTION 2 — YOUR PROJECT

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

Please briefly describe what you want to do, who will participate or benefit, where the project will take place, the main activities or services, and what you hope to accomplish.

Character limit: 6,000 (1000 words)

Select Your Primary Priority Area

Choose one:

- Community Events
- Beautification & Restoration

- Youth & Senior Programs
- Public Safety
- Workforce Development
- Economic Development
- Health & Wellness
- Sustainability & Environment

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

SECTION 3 — COMMUNITY NEED

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

What community need or opportunity does your proposal address? 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.

Character limit: 3,000 (500 words)

SECTION 4 — COMMUNITY IMPACT & EQUITY

4. What difference will this project make?

Who will benefit from your project, and what positive change do you expect it to create? Please consider and state how your project aligns with the Participatory Grantmaking Values outlined in the Uplift White Center Community Fund Information Sheet.

How does your proposal promote racial equity, address the harms of racism, and center the voices, lived experiences, and leadership of communities most impacted by racism through their active involvement in planning, decision-making, and implementation?

Please provide information on how you have or will include community members, particularly those most impacted by the identified need, to help shape, lead, implement, or evaluate the project?

How will your project build or strengthen trust with the community it intends to serve?

Character limit: 2,100 (350 words)

SECTION 5 — PROJECT PLAN & FEASIBILITY

5. How will you make this project happen?

Describe the major steps you will take to complete your project outlined in Section 2 “Your Project” by December 31, 2027. Please provide a simple timeline and briefly tell us what experience, people, partnerships, or resources will help you successfully implement the project in North Highline-White Center. Do you have a partnership agreement with those you’ve listed?

Character limit: 3,000 (500 words)

SECTION 6 — BUDGET & STEWARDSHIP

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

Minimum: $25,000.

Maximum: Outlined in the Community Priority Area Funding section.

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 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.

Character limit: 250 words

Budget Attachments

Please complete the full budget template, which is a separate spreadsheet, and upload it as an attachment here.

SECTION 7 — ELIGIBILITY & CERTIFICATION

The following are eligibility requirements:

- My organization has an active Washington State business license or applicable registration. Yes or No
- My organization has a Federal Tax ID/EIN. Yes or No
- My organization is eligible to receive government funding. Yes or No
- My organization understands that the funds awarded must be spent by December 31, 2027. Yes or No
- The information provided in this application is accurate to the best of my knowledge. Yes or No
- If awarded, my organization agrees to applicable King County contracting, financial, insurance, reporting, and compliance requirements. Yes or No

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, or other relevant information.

Proposal Rating Criteria

Rating Category	Weight	Primary Application Question	Guiding question for proposal review
Community Need	18%	Question 3 — What community need(s) are you addressing?	How does your project identify and meaningfully address a community need or opportunity in North Highline–White Center?
Community Benefit	26%	Question 4 — What difference will this project make?	Who will benefit, what positive changes are expected, and how meaningful are the proposed benefits to the community? How does your project align with the Participatory Grantmaking Values?
Racial Equity & Inclusion	18%	Question 4 — What difference will this project make?	How does your project promote racial equity, address the harms of racism, and include communities most impacted by racism?
Community Voice & Leadership	10%	Question 4 — What difference will this project make?	To what extent are community members, particularly those most impacted by the identified need, meaningfully involved in shaping, leading, implementing, or evaluating the project?
Community Trust	9%	Question 4 — What difference will this project make?	How does your project demonstrate accountability, transparency, respect for community knowledge, and a commitment to building or strengthening trust with the community?
Proposal Quality	9%	Question 5 — How will you make the project happen?	Is your project clear, realistic, and achievable?

Proposal Rating Criteria (cont.)

Rating Category	Weight	Primary Application Question	Guiding question for proposal review
Budget Appropriateness	10%	Question 6 — How much are you requesting and how will you use the funds?	Is your proposed budget reasonable and appropriate for the project activities, intended outcomes, and requested funding amount?

Total: 100