

Purpose

The purpose of this is to create relationships with local Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) to conduct community engagement in coordination with the Interstate Bridge Replacement program (IBR), that go beyond the program's existing reach.

Introduction

As part of the program's commitment to center equity, IBR has implemented strategies to partner with organizations of all sizes that work closely with communities of concern. These CBOs have deep connections to local communities and existing strong relationships that can be valuable in helping the program seek more meaningful and targeted feedback from those that have typically been excluded from the process on large infrastructure projects. We can increase the effectiveness of our engagement by providing compensation to CBOs for doing direct engagement with their membership that they may not have the capacity for. This program aims to conduct inclusive community engagement by ensuring that our efforts consider barriers that make it difficult for CBOs, and the communities they serve, to engage with the IBR program. A small grants program would provide needed resources to extend the program's reach and support meaningful engagement the program is seeking.

Definitions

Communities of Concern: are defined as those who experience and/or have experienced discrimination and exclusion based on identity, such as:

- BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color)
- People with disabilities
- Communities with limited English proficiency (LEP)
- Persons with lower income
- Houseless individuals and families
- Immigrants and refugees
- Young people
- Older adults

CBO: Community based organizations

Listening sessions: The Community Engagement Liaison Services (CELS) team will co-host language-specific listening sessions along with IBR program staff. Sessions will aim to have an average of twenty people participate.

Community forum: A forum will be hosted by IBR program staff to provide community members an overview on the program and its progress. Time for question and answers will be offered but the focus will be to educate attendees. These forums will aim to have at least 40 participants.

Implementation:

- A small-scale, low barrier grant program for CBOs will help center equity by building meaningful partnerships and communication pathways to/from communities of concern in and around the IBR program area.
- These grants will be structured as community engagement grants; meaning that funding will be provided to eligible CBOs in exchange for their work coordinating with the IBR program to conduct outreach and engagement activities to their respective communities, focused on the IBR program.
- CBOs will be given options for levels of participation with grants at three different tiers. The grants will range between \$2,000 and \$10,000.
- Two members of the IBR program, working on equity and community engagement teams, will check in with awardees no less than quarterly to ensure deliverables are being met and are completed by June 2022.

Timeline

July 29th 2021: Application for miniature grant program opens.

August 20th 2021: Close of application period.

August 27th 2021: All grant awardees will have been notified and contracts agreed upon

September 2021-June 2022: Grant recipients will co-host, promote, and participate in IBR related events, meetings, and forums.

To be eligible, CBOs must:

- serve or represent communities of concern, according to IBR's adopted definition of equity;
- have an office physically located in or members within the larger program area/region;
- have multiple modes of engagement with their member base (social media, email, phones, newsletters, etc.);
- history or experience in community organizing;
- be a legally incorporated nonprofit organization for at least one year at the time of applying.

Small Scale, Low Barrier Grant Application

A tiered model approach with clear expectations for each level of engagement will address these criteria.

Tier 1 Deliverables: (\$2,000)

- Distribute IBR related information on events and meetings in newsletters, e-blasts, and social media on a regular basis.

Tier 2 Deliverables: (\$5,000)

- Distribute IBR related information on events and meetings in newsletters, e-blasts, and social media on a regular basis.
- Post events on the CBO's websites with hyperlinks to IBR related information.
- Co-host a listening session in tandem with other Tier 2 partners.

Tier 3 Deliverables: (\$10,000)

- Distribute IBR related information on events and meetings in newsletters, e-blasts, and social media on a regular basis.
- Post events on the CBO's websites with hyperlinks to IBR related information.
- Co-host **two listening sessions** (at minimum 20 participants per event) with the program for their members only.
- Co-host **a larger community forum** (target of 25 participants) in tandem with other Tier 3 CBOs.
- Collect **post-event surveys** for each listening session and forum to track the number of participants and feedback.

Application and Contracting Process:

- The program will establish an evaluation team, comprised of two members of the IBR team, to assess applications and determine grant awardees.
- Grant recipients will be notified via email, with final signatures due no later than August 20, 2021
- The awardee pool will have CBOs from Oregon and Washington.
- Please reach out with questions to or submit completed application to Salomé Chimuku at salome.chimuku@interstatebridge.org.

Miniature Grant Application

Organization Information

Organization: _____

Address: _____
Street Address *Suite*

_____ State ZIP Code

City

State

ZIP Code

Phone: _____ Email _____

Contract Contact: _____ Title: _____

Which Tier are you applying for? (check one) Tier 1 Tier 2 Tier 3

Are you within Multnomah,
Washington, Clark, or Clackamas
County? YES NO

Have you or your organization
attended any meetings or events
hosted by IBR? YES NO

Has your organization been
incorporated as a nonprofit for at
least a year? YES NO

Date of
incorporation: _____

Does your organization serve a
community of concern? YES NO

If yes, which: _____

Disclaimer and Signature

I certify that my answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

If this application leads to being awarded a grant, I and the organization understand that there will be a contract agreeing that we will be providing services in exchange for funds awarded.

Signature: _____ Date: _____
 Contract contact

Signature: _____ Date: _____
 Executive Director