

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS: RESILIENT COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

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Total Funds Available: \$200,000  
Grant Award Range: \$50,000 - \$100,000

**Submission due date:** April 15, 2016  
Grant award notification: June 3, 2016

The Sustainable Communities Funders (SCF) – a collaboration of the Bullitt Foundation, Loom Foundation, Seattle Foundation and Social Venture Partners—are deeply committed to addressing issues at the intersection of environmental sustainability, equitable inclusion and economic opportunity. SCF recognizes that systemic urban problems are far too complex to solve alone. Together SCF partners seek to better understand our shared landscape and jointly support innovative solutions to pressing social, environmental and economic challenges. While each of the fund partners has individual giving programs committed to supporting healthier and vibrant communities, we are eager to jointly fund initiatives through this opportunity that have the potential to magnify impact. We can achieve more together than by working alone.



It is with great enthusiasm that SCF announces this one-time initiative for nonprofit organizations serving King County working to identify and solve environmental and economic challenges, while ensuring the voices at the table are representative of the community served. Total funding available is \$200,000 with grant amounts in the range of \$50,000-100,000. **A key priority of this funding opportunity is to support non-traditional partnerships working to solve difficult problems in new ways.**

## FUND CRITERIA

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Priorities for this RFP include:

1. Foster the practice of partnership and collaboration among organizations not traditionally aligned in advancing three pillars of a vibrant community: environmental sustainability, equitable inclusion, and economic opportunity, and;
2. Through partnership, test creative or innovative ideas. Explore a novel solution to a social problem that is more effective, efficient, sustainable, or just than current solutions.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Graduate School of Stanford Business, [Center for Social Innovation: Defining Social Innovation](#)

**Funding decisions** will be based upon the degree to which the proposal meets the following criteria:

- A focus in communities within King County that are experiencing significant social, racial and/or economic inequities.
- A clear definition of the problem or challenge(s) and the approach for solving for it.
- A working partnership that is representative of the communities impacted and a clear articulation of shared goals to affect change.
- Model/approach has the potential for expansion or replication.
- Clearly articulates the desired outcomes or changes to a specific policy or system in connection to long term impact in advancing environmental sustainability, equitable inclusion and economic opportunity.
- Project goal creates equitable outcomes in relation to environmental sustainability and economic opportunity.

## APPROACH

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SCF partners believe that tough social problems can be addressed successfully when diverse partners come together and embrace new ways of working together. True collaboration can be complex and challenging, but is often the place where the best ideas and most creative solutions to community problems have surfaced. The Resilient Community Partnerships RFP aims to invest in collaborative approaches to problem-solving, specifically with organizations across sectors who are deeply committed to working at the intersection of equity inclusion, economic opportunities, and environmental sustainability.

This RFP asks for community organizations to provide a short proposal—much like a letter of intent--about the problem they are working to address, the idea(s) they wish to test and the organizations they will partner with to make it happen. Applicants are asked to address the six (6) questions in the Guidelines section below.

The intent at this first stage is for applicants to develop the “idea” and assemble the best partnership to carry out the proposed plan. At the next stage, a subset of applicants will be asked to submit a more detailed budget and additional information about partner roles, detailed timelines and implementation. Based on proposal quality and alignment to funding criteria, SCF will invite a number of applicants to engage in a conversation with the SCF team in late-April.

### Timeline

- Submission due date: April 15, 2016
- Additional requests: During the review period (late-April), applicants may be asked to submit additional information or meet with SCF funders to discuss proposals.
- Notification date: SCF will notify applicants of funding decision no later than June 3rd.

# GUIDELINES

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Each partnership will designate a lead partner to submit the application (including the “Idea” section below), and the other partner organizations should submit a partner profile (one page) as outlined below.

## Idea

*Sections I and II completed by lead applicant, not to exceed five pages in total.*

### I. About the Partnership (one page)

- 1) Brief narrative about the partnership, including whether there has been history of working together on other efforts, and the extent of the pre-work involved in shaping this proposal. What attributes of this partnership will influence this project’s success?
- 2) List and briefly describe other internal and/or external resources each partner organization will commit toward this effort.

### II. About the Project (three pages)

- 1) Proposal amount requested for partnership (\$\_\_\_\_) and estimated project budget total (\$\_\_\_\_).
- 2) Describe the challenge(s) or problem this project aims to address. What populations, communities, or neighborhoods are affected by the challenge or opportunity you will address?
- 3) Describe your proposed solution. Include how this project connects to the three pillars that help to build community resilience: equitable inclusion, environmental sustainability, *and* economic opportunity. Please share or refer to one or two data points that influenced the partnership to identify the proposed project.
- 4) Identify the key lever(s) or issue(s) the partnership will address to impact the change you are seeking. Provide any relevant information that led the partner organizations to select this issue(s). What external factors or drivers makes this an opportune time to propose this new or innovative strategy?
- 5) What is the proposed approach and approximate timeline? What will success look like, how do you intend to gauge progress, and what steps or benchmarks do you need in order to get there?
- 6) List and briefly describe the assumed risks in this approach and examples of how you will mitigate those risks.

## Partner Profiles

*Each partner organization is asked to complete Section III.*

### III. About Partner Organizations (not to exceed one page)

- 1) Organization Leadership and Mission: In 3-4 sentences, describe your organization’s work, the community it serves, and relevant historical context (if applicable). How will your participation in this effort further your organization’s mission?
- 2) Core Programs: Provide a succinct, bulleted list of your organization’s core programs and 1-2 sentences describing each, OR include relevant links to your website.
- 3) Organization Role: What is your organization’s role in this project, including planning for this proposal? Who will represent your organization in this partnership? How will your organization define success after participating as a key partner in this effort?
- 4) Budget Resources: Describe the budget your organization needs to participate in this project.

# SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS AND TIMELINE

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## Submission Instructions

Proposal narrative should not exceed seven pages, single-spaced.

For additional questions, please e-mail Leslie Silverman at [LSilverman@philanthropyNW.org](mailto:LSilverman@philanthropyNW.org)

Submit proposals by email to: [SCF@philanthropyNW.org](mailto:SCF@philanthropyNW.org)

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