

EDI 2021 RFP Frequently Asked Questions

Given that the EDI Fund isn't large enough to fund all the projects that need money, how does the EDI team work to identify other funding opportunities and coordinate with other grants within the City and other funders?

We hosted a funder convening as an initial place to make connections between EDI grantees and established funders who are interested in contributing to capital projects. We also use the EDI website as an additional tool for marketing and increasing the visibility of EDI grantee's projects. Having the City's investment can often help create space for partnerships with other potential funders finding the project credible.

When would awarded projects start to receive funding?

Capacity Building – contracts could start to be developed once the awards are announced. Those can be set up relatively quickly.

Capital – often are more complicated and take longer to set up and implement, but the EDI team will work with you to develop a timeline that meets your project's needs.

Do funds have to be spent by a certain time?

Capacity Building – we try to have those completed in one year, but can provide extensions.

Capital – We will hold the award for two years to give projects time to get started. As long as there's a reasonable path forward and project sponsors are trying to move things along, we'll allow more time. The two years is really for projects that are stuck and there isn't a way for them to proceed, in which case we want to be able to return that money to the fund so someone else can have access to it.

Do applications for capital funding need to submit a Purchase and Sale Agreement if we do not already own property?

No, they are not required, in part due to the associated costs. We don't want organizations making earnest money payments just to be eligible for EDI funding. If there is a specific property you intend to purchase with the capital funding, it would be really helpful for you to describe the property and process to acquire it in your application. EDI staff recommend talking through this with us prior to your application.

Can capital funding be used to remodel existing buildings?

Yes. In your application, describe how renovations will help your organization better serve community. Please keep in mind, that as a public funder, the EDI grant will require your project to pay [prevailing wage](#).

Can capital funding be used for earnest money for acquiring sites?

Generally, the EDI fund policy is to not use earnest money. We can make exceptions in limited circumstances, for example when it is really clear that EDI grant is the only funding available in the timeframe that's needed to acquire the site.

Are grantees required to submit reports or other records of the project's progress?

Using public money requires that we can demonstrate public benefits as required by Washington State's constitution.

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- **Capacity Building** The EDI team will work closely with you on developing language in the contract so that deliverables align very closely with your existing goals to minimize the need for additional reports.
- **Capital** typically requires covenants or other language that will require the property to provide services, as defined by the public benefits you plan to create for your community.

How is the EDI funding program working to minimize conflict and competition among community groups when funding is limited?

Frankly, we don't have really great answers. While the competitive processes are not ideal, it does meet City and State requirements for the use of public funds. Staff are trying to work with community in planning projects further upstream so that there is more collaborative processes involved in designing and prioritizing projects. We're also trying to leverage other funding sources through private developers and philanthropic organizations to expand the resources available.

What technical assistance is available?

During the application process: If you have specific questions or would like a member of the EDI team discuss your project with you, we'd be glad to make time to talk with you.

Once you have received a grant: The EDI team member assigned to your project will help along the way. We have peer convenings where grantees can come together and learn from each other.