



**COMMISSION**  
**AGENDA MEMORANDUM**  
**ACTION ITEM**

<b>Item No.</b>	8m
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	November 9, 2021

**DATE:** November 1, 2021  
**TO:** Stephen P. Metruck, Executive Director  
**FROM:** Bookda Gheisar, Senior Director, Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion  
Pearse Edwards, Senior Director, External Relations  
**SUBJECT: Multi-Year Program Authorization Increase Request for the South King County Fund**

**Amount of this request:** \$2.0 million  
**Total requested authorization:** \$4.0 million

**ACTION REQUESTED**

Request Commission to delegate authority to the Executive Director to execute agreements for the South King County Fund Environmental Grants Program and Economic Recovery procurements in an amount not-to-exceed \$4.0 million, a \$2.0 million increase from the prior authorization on July 27, 2021.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The South King County Fund (SKCF) program was created in November 2018 to provide \$10 million in resources to near-airport communities. A successful first cycle of the SKCF was launched in the summer of 2020 awarding \$250,000 in support for Women and Minority Business Enterprise (WMBE) small business development; \$981,881 for Economic Recovery Programs; and \$217,000 for Environmental programs. It resulted in awarding 29 contracts between all three programs.

In 2021, staff received Commission authorization for funding not-to-exceed \$2.0 million to implement the SKCF program. However, due to the high quality of applicants for this year's funding cycle, and due to the addition of multi-year funding, staff believe that there is the opportunity to not only increase the impact of the SKCF, but also provide longer-term certainty for contracting organizations as well as reduce future administrative burdens on both staff and applicants. These outcomes would be achieved by committing to multi-year contracts with awardees, adding approximately \$2.0 million over the life of the contracts.

**JUSTIFICATION**

In 2020, after conducting community engagement with several multicultural stakeholders in South King County, it was clear that economic development was a priority for these communities. Hearing this community feedback and in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and ensuing economic crisis, in April 2020, the Commission added "Economic Development" as an approved use of the fund.

Meeting Date: November 9, 2021

South King County is one of the most diverse areas in King County, with over 95 languages spoken by families in the Highline school district alone. These communities, however, are vulnerable because of a myriad of existing structural and social inequities that disproportionately impact many populations across this area: people of color, women, immigrants, and people with low incomes. These community members have long dealt with issues that challenge their well-being, from poorer health outcomes to lack of access to educational attainment and, consequently, higher-paying jobs.

The global health and economic crisis that has risen from the spread of the coronavirus has hit vulnerable communities like these the hardest. The Commission's decision to use the South King County Fund to also address economic recovery has been timely and critical.

For the last few years, staff have been working in a collaborative and interdisciplinary team, led by External Relations and OEDI, which has included representatives from Legal, Central Procurement Office, Finance and Budget, Commission Staff, as well as outside consultants hired for their expertise in multicultural engagement and developing equity-based grant making processes.

In 2020, the fund awarded over a \$1 million within the following three programs:

- \$981,881 for the new Economic Recovery program with funds supporting non-profit organizations conducting projects in the following four categories:
  - Small Business Assistance
  - Workforce Development
  - Job Creation
  - Ideation, Network building, Development of New, Innovative Economic Recovery Strategies
- \$217,000 for a new Environmental Grants Program built from the ACE model which services Burien, Des Moines, Federal Way, Normandy Park, SeaTac, and Tukwila.
- \$250,000 for Port Gen (program of Diversity in Contracting). The Port expanded existing contracts with organizations that support WMBE businesses in South King County as part of the overall Economic Recovery Strategy.

In April 2021, the staff presented to the Commission several recommendations and insights into the program. After multiple meetings with the inter-departmental team, it was recommended to get authorization from the Commission to execute the contracts prior to advertising all requests for proposals. Getting authorization allows staff to effectively fulfill the vision of being an equity-driven, community-centered program for the community – removing some of the time delays and barriers that occurred during the first cycle of the SKCF. That authorization was approved in July, and the Port of Seattle launched the second cycle of the South King County Fund Economic Recovery Grants in September with an October 25 deadline for applications.

Thanks to a combination of increased need due to the COVID-19 pandemic and enhanced outreach over the last two years, especially through the Port's community liaisons, the Port saw

Meeting Date: November 9, 2021

a significant increase in the number of organizations applying, with several of them requesting multi-year funding for a number of multi-phased and thoughtful projects. The projects are wide ranging, with a significant number of applications from South King County communities of color that are leaning into this opportunity to engage their community and emphasize environmental stewardship. Below is a table demonstrating the total project budgets forecast for 2022-2024 for Environmental Grant and Economic Recovery requests received in this round:

<b>Environmental Grants</b>			
<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Total</b>
\$343,000	\$190,000	\$195,000	\$728,000

<b>Economic Recovery Grants</b>			
<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Total</b>
\$1,500,000	\$750,000	\$ 750,000	\$ 2,500,000

If the Commission approves this increased authorization, the Port will be able to fund many of the eligible projects. In addition, because multi-year commitments now mean a reduction in need for those organizations to apply in the future, this approach has administrative and logistical benefits both to the applicants as well as the Port staff who administer the program. CPO notes that funding additional contracts may add time to the procurement.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Port of Seattle South King County Fund program funding source is tax levy. The program is still anticipated for five years for \$10 million in resources for near-airport communities, and this increased authorization does not increase the total budget for the program; rather, it simply allows staff to commit multi-year resources to deserving applicants.

**ATTACHMENTS TO THIS REQUEST**

- 1) Presentation Slides

**PREVIOUS COMMISSION ACTIONS OR BRIEFINGS**

- 1) July 27, 2021 – The Commission authorized \$2 million for the South King County Fund for 2021.
- 2) April 28, 2020 – The Commission approved Motion 2020-10 to add economic development to the permissible uses for the South King County Fund, in support of local recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Meeting Date: November 9, 2021

- 3) June 25, 2019 – The Commission approved Motion 2019-10, adopting principals to guide outreach and development of the South King County policy.
- 4) November 27, 2018 – The Commission approved Motion 2018-14, establishing the South King County Fund.