



**COMMISSION**  
**AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

**Item No.** 10a

**ACTION ITEM**

**Date of Meeting** July 27, 2021

**DATE:** Friday July 9, 2021

**TO:** Stephen P. Metruck, Executive Director

**FROM:** Bookda Gheisar, Senior Director, Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion  
Alison Beason, Senior Policy Data Analyst, Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

**SUBJECT:** **2021 Program Authorization Request for the South King County Fund**

**Amount of this request:** \$2million

**ACTION REQUESTED**

Request Commission authorization for the Executive Director to execute contract agreements and implement the 2021 South King County Fund program in an amount not-to-exceed \$2 million.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The South King County Fund (SKCF) program was created in November 2018 to provide \$10 million in resources to near-airport communities. The statutory authority in which the fund was rooted in (RCW 35.21.278) is the same one that dictates the parameters of the (sunsetting) Airport Community Ecology (ACE) program, which was newly minted as the SKCF Environmental Grants Program.

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 \$250,000 for Environmental programs. It resulted in awarding 29 contracts between all three programs.

For 2021 staff is requesting the Commission authorize funding not-to-exceed \$2 million to implement the SKCF program. This represents a \$500,000 increase from the first cycle. The second cycle will support \$250,000 for WMBE small business development, \$1.5 million for Economic Recovery Program, and \$250,000 for Environmental Grants.

According to the Statement of Support for Order No. 2019-10: Adopting principles to guide outreach and development of the South King County Fund policy:

“...the Commission intends to retain review and approval authority for proposed projects and to retain the authority to approve funding of projects recommended by Port staff, as well as projects recommended through community input.”

Meeting Date: July 27, 2021

For the first round of awards in 2020 the Commission met this intent when Commissioners received a briefing in advance of the final awards in public session and voted to approve the final set of projects. This authorization will continue to meet the spirit of Order No. 2019-10 through a passive approval process. The Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (OEDI) and External Relations staff will select the awardees for 2021 funding. Commissioners will receive an email 14 days before the final execution of contracts and can notify the team if the any Commissioner has questions or concerns about the awardees. After contracts are finalized and programs are in place, Commissioners will receive a lessons learned briefing and another request for 2022 funding, likely in July or August 2022.

**2020 YEAR IN REVIEW: RECOVERY EFFORTS**

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.

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 is timely and critical.

For the last year 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

Meeting Date: July 27, 2021

- Ideation, Network building, Development of New, Innovative Economic Recovery Strategies
- \$250,000 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.

### **PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION**

There is much to celebrate after the first year of the SKCF. A new program was designed and launched in a matter of months to support economic recovery efforts in a region economically devastated by the Covid-19 pandemic. Port leadership, interdepartmental collaborations and committed, hard-working staff all contributed to getting this new program off the ground.

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 will help to effectively fulfill the vision of being an equity-driven, community-centered program for the community.

This authorization removes some of the time delays and barriers that occurred during the first cycle of the SKCF. The co-managers will keep the Commission abreast on all contracts recommended for funding but present to the Commission an update on the proposals after awarded.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

#### ***Annual Budget Status and Source of Funds***

The Port of Seattle South King County Fund program 2021 budget will be \$2 million to support the three departments, Economic Development, External Relations, and OEDI. The funding source is tax levy.

#### ***Future Revenues and Expenses (Total cost of ownership)***

The program is anticipated for five years for \$10 million in resources for near-airport communities. It will likely cost between \$1 million to \$2.5 million per year unless the Port of Seattle Commission changes or eliminates the program.

### **ATTACHMENTS TO THIS REQUEST**

- (1) Presentation slides

### **PREVIOUS COMMISSION ACTIONS OR BRIEFINGS**

April 28, 2020 | **Motion 2020-10**

Meeting Date: July 27, 2021

The Commission to add economic development to the permissible uses for the South King County Fund, in support of local recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

June 25, 2019 | **Motion 2019-10**

The Commission adopting principals to guide outreach and development of the South King County policy.

November 27, 2018 | **Motion 2018-14**