

Environmental Justice Council

Date: July 25, 2024

To: Environmental Justice Council Members

From: Rowena Pineda, Manager, Environmental Justice and Interagency Workgroup Section

Subject: Update on Environmental Justice Grants

Thank you for allowing me to share with you an update on the Environmental Justice Grants. I've organized this in the following way to hopefully make it easier to navigate the material.

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PART 1: Background

During the January 26, 2023 meeting, the Environmental Justice Council approved CCA Funding and Budget priorities that included:

- Setting aside funds to develop a community participatory budgeting process that centers racial, social, and economic equity. Furthermore, the request allocates additional funds to: a) build community capacity for participation in planning and budgeting, b) adequately resource the development and administration of a participatory budgeting process, and c) ensure the participatory process includes resources that minimize barriers to participation.
- Setting aside funds for community and worker climate resilience which include providing worker climate health protections such as: 1) protective/safety clothing and equipment for climate health threats to impacted community members

including, but not limited to, farmworkers, food system workers, forest firefighters, and construction workers and 2) payroll replacement to support worker lost wages due to climate health threats like heat, smoke, and rising waters.

As a result of the Council's recommendations, the Department of Health (DOH) was appropriated funds from the Climate Commitment Account for the following:

1. **HEAL Capacity Grants:** These one-time funds total \$26,355,000 for capacity grants to Tribes and Tribal organizations and overburdened community and vulnerable populations to provide guidance and input:
 - To agencies and to the Council on implementation of HEAL.
 - To the Department of Health on updated to the Environmental Health Disparities (EHD) map.

At least 50 percent of the total amount distributed for capacity grants must be reserved for grants to Tribes and Tribal organizations. Funding may be used by Tribes and Tribal organizations to hire staff or to contract with consultants to engage in updating the EHD map or to implement the HEAL Act. Please note that DOH may use a reasonable amount of funding to administer the grants.

2. **Community Informed Budgeting Grant:** These one-time funds total \$38,600,000 to develop a grant program to fund projects that benefit overburdened communities as defined in RCW 70A.02.010(11). Of the amount provided:
 - \$6,000,000 is allocated to DOH and the Council to engage in a participatory budgeting process with at least five overburdened communities including developing a process to select and fund projects that mitigate the disproportional impacts of climate change on overburdened communities.
 - \$32,600,000 is allocated to provide grants to the selected projects. It is important to note that the identified projects will have to be approved by the legislature before funds can be obligated.

3. **Workplace Safety and Climate Change:** These ongoing funds total \$10,000,000 per biennium and support the administration of a workplace health and safety program for workers who are affected by climate impacts, including but not limited to, extreme heat and cold, wildfire smoke, drought, and flooding. This program will focus on workplace health and safety for farmworkers, construction workers, and other workers facing the most risk from climate-related impacts. Funding can be provided for:

- Pass through grants to community-based organizations, Tribal governments, and Tribal organizations to support workplace health and safety for workers who are burdened by the intersection of their work and climate impacts.
- Procurement and distribution of equipment and resources for workers who are burdened by the intersection of their work and climate impacts.
- Evaluation of mechanisms to provide workers with financial assistance to cover lost wages or other financial hardships caused by extreme weather events and climate threats.

PART 2: Tribal Consultation

Tribal Consultation: Capacity Grants

DOH hosted a Listening Session in August and two Roundtables in September on the three grants named above. Two Consultations with Tribes and Tribal organizations were held in September and October that focused on the HEAL Capacity Grants. Per the Consultations, DOH structured the Tribal Capacity grants as follows:

Amount of funding available: \$11.7 million

Estimated Funding Range: Base award up to \$403,450. Additional funds will be redistributed based on availability. Tribal organizations will be eligible for funding, not to exceed 15% of \$11.7 million.

Amount of matching funds required: None

Indirect costs allowable: Yes

Eligibility: Any Federally Recognized Indian Tribe with HEAL Act impacts to rights and interests in their tribal lands (RCW [70A.02.010](#)).

Expected Period of Performance: March 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

Tribal Consultation: Workplace Safety and Community Informed Budgeting Grants

DOH hosted two Roundtables in late June/early July for the Workplace Safety and Community Informed Budgeting grants. This was followed by a Tribal Consultation on July 10th. Below are proposals we are incorporating:

Workplace Safety and Climate Change

- Set aside 20% of the \$10,000,000 for Tribes (\$2 million)
- Grants are to be distributed equally among the Federally Recognized Tribes

Community Informed Budgeting

- Set aside 10% of the \$32,600,000 for Tribes (approximately \$3.2 million)
- Grants are to be distributed equally among the Federally Recognized Tribes

PART 3: Community Advisory Committees

The team managing the environmental justice grants convened three (3) Community Advisory Committees.

- **Group 1:** Developed a Request for Application (RFA) for capacity grants to go out to communities and decide how applications should be scored. This group met for 12 hours from February 27 to March 29, 2024. **We want to recognize Tyrone Giesen, Sherronda Jamerson, Manuel Hernandez, Victor Loo, Khamla Martin, and Cheri Peterson for their contributions to make the fund accessible to communities most impacted by environmental harms.**
- **Group 2:** Reviewed the RFAs submitted and recommended which organizations were funded. This group over the course of 8 weeks from April 15 to May 29 to ensure that grantees were notified by May 31. In addition to meetings, members of the group spent several hours reviewing applications. **We want to recognize Grace Chai, Keyana Buckner, James Williams, Yalda Mohmand, Phung Le, Tyrone Giesen, Sherronda Jamerson, and Victor Loo for their thoughtfulness, insights, and passion. Their high standards kept the EJ grants team accountable.**
- **Group 3:** Identified and recommended at least five geographically diverse overburdened communities for the Community Informed Budgeting grants. This group met for 15 hours between February 27 and April 22. Meetings were bilingual, Spanish and English. **We want to recognize Brian Tracey, Gloria Ramirez Santiago, Jose Guerrero, Ulises Navarro, and Prince Agol for engaging in a challenging assignment that required doing homework and working with the environmental health disparities map. They navigated difficult conversations with grace.**

PART 4: Update on HEAL Capacity Grants

HEAL Tribal Capacity Grants

- Tribal Capacity Grants opened on December 15, 2023. DOH will continue to accept applications through October 31, 2024 with funds distributed on a rolling monthly basis. After the priority application period Tribal organizations will be eligible to apply for funding, not to exceed 15% of the overall funds reserved for Tribes. Tribes receiving an initial award may also request additional project funding using unspent funds.
- Six (6) Tribes have received capacity grants thus far a total of \$2,564,695.54. *Please see below for the list of Tribes, amounts awarded, and project descriptions.*

TRIBE	AMOUNT	PROJECT DESCRIPTION
Yakama Nation (still in progress, agreement not signed yet)	\$750,000	The Yakama Nation's project is focused on first foods. They will be holding community gatherings to educate about their first foods and the impact of climate change on these first foods. They will also be engaging with state agencies and the Environmental Justice Council to increase capacity and engagement with the HEAL Act.
Samish	\$350,000	The Samish Tribe will be using the HEAL Tribal Capacity funds to hire an Environmental Policy Analyst to engage with state agencies about the HEAL Act and make environmental policy recommendations to the Samish Tribe.
Suquamish	\$403,450	The Suquamish Tribe will be using the HEAL Tribal Capacity grant funds to increase capacity and provide input to the Environmental Justice Council, hold community meetings to increase understanding and knowledge of the HEAL Act and conduct an environmental health and justice assessment.
Snoqualmie	\$638,495	The Snoqualmie Tribes will be increasing capacity related to the HEAL Act by hiring Environmental Health staff, engaging with the Environmental Justice Council, and assessing the impact of the HEAL Act and engage with the Tribal community regarding environmental health issues. They will be conducting an assessment of contaminants in Fish in the Snoqualmie River and engage with state agencies that are involved in this work.
Swinomish	\$347,240.39	The Swinomish Tribe will be using the HEAL Tribal Capacity funds to update an existing Community Health Assessment they completed. Their project includes doing community engagement, workshops, and interviews with the community to update their CHA.
Squaxin Island Museum	\$75,510.15	The Squaxin Island Museum, in partnership with the Squaxin Island Tribe and the Deschutes Estuary Restoration Team (DERT), will be using the HEAL Tribal Capacity Grant funds to hold the Festival of the Steh Chass. The festival will honor Squaxin and Coast Salish

		culture and history, educate the community on indigenous ecological knowledge and environmental science, and advocate for the health of waterways.
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HEAL Community Capacity Grants

- The RFA for HEAL Community Capacity Grants opened on April 8, 2024 and closed on May 5, 2024. We received 48 applications for a total request of \$24,180,425.
- The Community Advisory Committee selected 28 projects. The total amount of grants going out is \$11,468,845.10. *Please see below for a list of grantees, amounts awarded, and project descriptions.*

• ORGANIZATION	AMOUNT	FUNDING TYPE (project/pass-through)	PROJECT DESCRIPTION
African Community Housing & Development (ACHD)	\$448,567.53	Project	ACHD will host 10 Community Café Conversations across Pierce, King, and Snohomish Counties for African Diaspora immigrant and refugee communities and invite representatives from the HEAL agencies, and 8 multilingual workshops to increase knowledge about environmental health issues and build skills around engaging with decision-making systems. In addition, ACHD will be enrolling a cohort of 10 African Diaspora high school students to build their knowledge, skills, and confidence around community organizing and advocacy.
Alimentando al Pueblo (AAP)	\$204,100	Project	AAP will create Embajadores de Justicia Alimentaria (Food Justice Ambassadors). The Ambassadors academy will develop collective knowledge concerning environmental racism and its relationship to food systems. The Ambassadors will co-create and implement a project or event for the community.
Asians for Collective Liberation (ACL) in Spokane	\$269,540	Project	ACL will use the funds to build its capacity to engage in EJ work, build relationships with new partners, and attend EJ Council meetings with community members. ACL will work primarily with young people in developing and implementing programs to engage community members on visioning what a healthy environment looks like. ACL will host workshops and create a Community Solutions Zine.
Asia Pacific Cultural Center (APCC)	\$650,000	Passthrough	APCC's Community HEAL Fund Project will use an adapted Community Participatory Budgeting

			<p>Process that will grant pass-through funding to “by and for community-based organizations” working on social determinants of health for frontline AANHPI communities who also live in areas disproportionately affected or exposed to environmental hazards and unhealthy land uses. Funds will be used to provide resources to CBOs to collaborate with state agencies on climate and environmental health decisions. The targeted counties and cities are: 1) King County (Seattle, Kent, Renton); 2) Snohomish County (Everett, Marysville, Lynnwood); 3) Pierce County (Tacoma, Lakewood, Puyallup); 4) Clark County (Vancouver); and, 5) Thurston County (Lacey, Olympia, Tumwater).</p>
Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition/TAG DBA Duwamish River Community Coalition (DRCC)	\$198,250	Project	<p>DRCC will develop EJ and HEAL curriculum for its Duwamish Valley Youth Corps (DVYC), a youth engagement program focusing on environmental justice and job skills. DVYC will train and engage youth in environmental justice; community health; and climate change, resilience, and justice projects with hands-on activities, science-based learning, and teaching through lessons.</p>
ECOSS (formerly known as Environmental Coalition of South Seattle)	\$410,381.91	Project	<p>ECOSS will build capacity within immigrant/refugee communities to advocate for accountability in HEAL Act implementation. This will be accomplished through recruitment of an EJ Cohort of Immigrants and refugees. Members of the cohort will: 1) increase their understanding of the HEAL Act and its goals; 2) define shared language for environmental justice and community benefits; 3) discuss needs and priorities through Learning Circles around different environmental themes – Clean Water, Clean Energy, Solid Waste Management & Reduction, and Outdoor Access & Environmental Stewardship; and, 4) generate agreements and accountability strategies for implementing the HEAL Act equitably, ensuring that immigrant/refugee voices are not left out.</p>
Empowering Latina Leadership and Action (ELLA)	\$499,200	Project	<p>ELLA will educate and engage Lower Yakima Valley communities – Sunnyside, Mabton, Grandview, and Granger – about environmental justice, the HEAL Act, and the Climate Commitment Act. It will also educate communities about existing environmental issues affecting them now, such as ongoing water contamination and air pollution issues, and how they are tied to the pervasive public health disparities in rates of asthma, heart disease, obesity, and diabetes. ELLA will</p>

			train/engage community members, including youth, on how to advocate for their communities and be active participants in resolving the ongoing environmental contamination issues with public officials.
For the People (FTP)	\$650,000	Passthrough	At the center of FTP’s project is a pass-through grant program to amplify the voices of harder to reach communities across Washington State. FTP’s understanding of issues around water pollution and access to clean and safe drinking water, and issues around stormwater management issues, and the need for working to ensure the Salish Sea is protected and restored will guide its decision making around which communities to reach out to and serve.
Front & Centered	\$400,000	Project	F&C will create a HEAL Community Center to serve as a statewide hybrid resource that is both virtual and place-based. The Center will be a resource for regenerative assistance – moving beyond one-time technical assistance to one that sustains capacity. It will integrate policy analysis, strategic advising, coordination, community user experience centered on co-learning and co-creation of the innovation and incubation of insights and ideas. The Center will promote co-governance through community convenings; build capacity through consultations; and, build community connections and innovation through HEAL workshops, story maps, and a community digest of HEAL Community Opportunities and Civic Engagement.
Front & Centered	\$650,000	Passthrough	F&C will build upon its community infrastructure and especially the systems developed, and community relationships and impact achieved through the HEAL Community! Fund (2023-2024). F&C’s grantmaking program includes three primary elements: 1) Community of Practice where CBOs participate in workshops and convenings for input; 2) Community Outreach, Grant Review Committee, Staffed by F&C Capacity Building Team; and, 3) Community Grant Administrative and Fiscal Infrastructure.
Khmer Community of Seattle King County (KCSKC)	\$175,000	Project	KCSKC will utilize hands-on and in-the-field workshops, Khmer culture and language, and intergenerational interactions to engage with and educate its community about environmental justice and the HEAL Act.
Latino Community Fund of Washington	\$650,000	Passthrough	The Latino Community Fund’s goal is to regrant these funds to HEAL Act activities and to invest in the capacity of community leaders to seek

			further funds and build organizational capacity. Its approach is rooted in an assets-based approach, which will be carried out through the following: 1) listening sessions and direct outreach; 2) technical assistance including use of the EHD map to identify overburdened communities to equitably distribute resources; 3) grantmaking through a grants committee; and, 4) youth grant committee to engage youth as leaders.
Latinos en Spokane	\$306,328	Project	Latinos en Spokane's project has a dual purpose of supporting workers' rights and safety, along with establishing affordable housing and homeownership through the Valle Housing Cooperative. The project promotes environmental justice by addressing systemic inequities in access to safe and affordable housing and ensuring the well-being of workers in high-risk occupations.
Mother Africa	\$500,000	Project	Mother Africa will hire Environmental Justice Promoters to increase its capacity to serve diverse communities. They will also: 1) host community education sessions to increase understanding of the HEAL Act; 2) host community workshops to increase awareness of lead, mold, and toxics exposure, their health impacts, and prevention strategies; 3) host community listening sessions to determine current and emerging environmental justice concerns and priorities; 4) engage with HEAL agencies and the Environmental Justice Council.
Na'ah Illahee Fund (NIF)	\$1,000,000	Passthrough	The pass-through funding will enable NIF to strengthen its organizational capacity as an intermediary and incubator for the dozens of frontline organizations who are poised to help build Native-led, HEAL solutions across the state. NIF will: 1) Center Urban and Rural Native Communities; 2) Protect Traditional Ecological Knowledge; 3) Engage in collaborative grantmaking; and 4) Monitor progress through ongoing consultation with subgrantees.
New American Alliance for Policy and Research	\$500,000	Project	New American Alliance for Policy and Research will establish a Policy Council comprising of leaders from immigrant/refugee groups. During its monthly convening, the Council will discuss topics such as toxic chemicals and products, public health disparities, existing systems, HEAL Act objectives, and relevant state laws and programs. The discussion will culminate in a Policy Agenda and action plan centered on HEAL Act implementation and community-state agency collaboration.

Nuestras Raices Centro Comunitario	\$406,164	Project	Nuestras Raices will raise awareness of and identify priority issues related to environmental justice to ensure its community has a voice in decisions that impact them. They will be working with 1) Hispanic/Latine people with low-incomes, food insecurity, or disabilities residing in urban or rural areas; 2) Hispanic/Latine youth and young adults whose families are from Eastern or Central WA; 3) Agricultural workers in Adams and Grant counties; 4) Trusted messengers from Okanagan, Chelan, Douglas, Franklin, and Whitman counties; and, 5) Community partners who operate or have outreach to Okanagan, Chelan, Douglas, and Franklin counties.
Pacific Islander Health Board of Washington (PIHBW)	\$267,406	Project	PIHBW plans to educate Pacific Islanders in different parts of the state about the environmental impacts they have been seeing and can expect in the future, then leverage that education into action. PIHBW's project includes community outreach and education, guided walking tours, regional in-person meetings, Elder Advisory Committee.
Puget Sound Sage	\$350,000	Project	Puget Sound Sage will conduct community outreach and engagement to elevate community-driven climate policy solutions to state agencies, particularly the Departments of Commerce, Ecology, and Natural Resources. Sage will 1) perform research and hold community conversations to understand the community's priorities, risks, needs, and vulnerabilities around climate change; 2) provide multilingual information among underserved communities regarding the HEAL Act, its purpose and goals, and ways to engage with state agencies, the EJ Council, and the EHD map; and 3) create ongoing opportunities for communities to bring environmental justice priorities to state agencies, the EJ Council, and the EHD map.
Seattle Parks Foundation (fiscal sponsor for Duwamish Valley Sustainability Association)	\$323,070	Project	DVSA will work with residents (prioritizing Latine, low-income, and immigrant residents) to identify environmental justice needs of the community and jointly propose solutions. DVSA will train youth and volunteers to collect community feedback. They will also develop educational materials on HEAL, CCA, and environmental justice including bilingual podcasts and educational videos.
Semillero de Ideas	\$248,400	Project	Semillero de Ideas will be reaching out and engaging with farmworkers in Eastern Washington to identify challenges and policy solutions to those challenges. The farmworkers

			will connect with appropriate decision makers to help realize their solutions.
Serve Ethiopians Washington	\$294,480	Project	SEW will build their capacity to influence government decisions and lift up the East African immigrant community's policy priorities. They will extend the reach of their environmental justice and sustainability organizing to additional parts of King County (e.g. SeaTac, Des Moines, Tukwila, Renton, Kent, and Auburn), Snohomish County (e.g. Lynwood), and Pierce County (e.g. Tacoma).
Southwest Washington Regional Health Alliance (DBA Southwest Washington Accountable Community of Health)	\$405,568.50	Passthrough	SWACH is receiving pass-through funding to support organizations in Southwest Washington that are committed to environmental justice.
Surge Reproductive Justice	\$300,000	Project	Surge Reproductive Justice will develop a reproductive leadership cohort. The cohort will lead a community directed process to provide recommendations on the Environmental Health Disparities Map that encompass the impact of environmental racism on reproductive health and justice.
Unkitawa	\$486,529.16	Project	Unkitawa seeks to conduct an Environmental Justice Community Needs Assessment focusing on First Foods. It will establish a First Foods & Medicine Pantry that will provide essential healthy food options as well as serve as a hub for workshops and demonstrations on preparing and cooking traditional foods. Unkitawa will also host a Traditional Ecological Knowledge Internships where interns will learn about Indigenous gathering practices and utilize traditional medicine teachings.
Villa Comunitaria	\$270,340	Project	Villa Comunitaria will engage, train, and support up to five Spanish language and bilingual Promotoras for HEAL and environmental justice community engagement and advocacy in the Duwamish Valley and South King County.
Wakulima USA	\$250,000	Project	Wakulima USA will work with East African immigrant Swahili speaking farmers to build their capacity to adopt sustainable farming practices that promote environmental health such as organic farming, crop rotation, and integrated pest management. Wakulima USA also seeks to foster community engagement and collaboration to create a network of environmentally conscious

			members committed to preserving the land for future generations.
Washington State Coalition of African Community Leaders (WSCACL)	\$650,000	Passthrough	WSCACL supports over 150 African-descent community organizations and individual members in the state. They will use these funds to provide pass through grants to educate their community about the interconnection of environmental justice issues here with environmental issues in Africa. WSCACL will be creating an environmental health assessment that they will roll out to their partners.

Part 5: Update on Workplace Safety and Climate Change

The EJ grants team prioritized procuring supplies through DOH and distributing them to community-based organizations working with farmworkers as the quickest means to provide benefit from this funding source this summer. Through meetings with CBOs working with farmworkers and other outdoor workers, we created a list of supplies for distribution which include but not limited to:

- Sun block spray
- 5 gallon drink dispensers
- Box fans
- Face masks
- High visibility camel backs
- High visibility neck gaiter for sun protection, cooling
- Eye safety goggles
- Heavy lifting back braces
- Long sleeve shirts that are cooling and sun protecting, in various sizes
- Insulated water bottles
- Cloth gloves, in various sizes
- Electrolyte drinks
- Sunglasses – low light friendly
- Visibility vests
- Sun hats in various sizes with wide brims or neck covering (all cooling and sun protective)
- Pop up canopies
- Air purifiers and replacement filters

To date we have purchased \$600,000 worth of supplies. We have fulfilled orders for:

- Community Co-Op Roofing (Bellingham)
- Latino Community Fund (Yakima)

Orders for the following organizations are in process of being fulfilled:

- Café Wenatchee (Wenatchee)

- Latinos En Spokane (Spokane)
- Latino Civic Alliance

We are waiting to receive orders from:

- Nuestras Raices de Comunitaria (Spokane, Grant and Adams Counties)
- Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission

We will purchase more supplies in July as some items in the initial order have run out.

In the fall, we plan to recruit for and convene a Community Advisory Committee for the Workplace Safety and Climate Change grants. This group will be tasked with developing a process to distribute grants to community-based organizations supporting workers that are most impacted by climate change. We will also be releasing a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a consultant to assist us in evaluating mechanisms to provide workers with financial assistance to cover lost wages or other financial hardships caused by extreme weather events and climate threats.

Part 6: Update on Community Informed Budgeting Grant Program

The timeline for this grant program is a challenge. DOH had to hire staff and build internal capacity to understand the participatory budgeting process. Prior to engaging in participatory budgeting, DOH was tasked with selecting at least five geographically diverse communities where participatory budgeting will take place. DOH convened a Community Advisory Committee to identify the priority communities. Communities identified include (not in priority order): *(A summary of how the community advisory committee reached its recommendations is at the end of this section.)*

Counties:

- Benton County
- Franklin County
- Yakima County

Specific areas/neighborhoods within counties

- Seattle (communities adjacent to Boeing including South Park and Georgetown)
- Spokane (East Central, Hillyard, agricultural areas)
- Tacoma

Proof of Concept

Based on conversations with the Participatory Budgeting Project (PBP), a national organization that consults with different cities and municipalities on participatory budgeting, as well as practitioners locally and in other states, the different steps involved in participatory budgeting can take up to a year or more. This timeline includes the creation of a steering committee for each identified community. The steering committee will lead the work to identify projects that will be funded for their community.

DOH determined that to be responsible, ethical and accountable, we need to size this project to scale based on the time we have left in the fiscal year. **We have decided to do a proof of concept using a participatory granting process designed by youth.** We will establish a youth steering committee to help guide and inform the process, design it, and, if

time permits, decide which projects to fund. Funding for the proof of concept will come from \$6 million set aside for administration and implementation of the project.

We want to make sure that if the process will be informed by youth, that the youth on the steering committee are extended the necessary tools to make informed decisions and offer recommendations. We want to pair their lived experience with additional skillsets with the support of DOH and selected contractor(s)/facilitator(s). The youth steering committee will attend a series of 10 (what we are calling) capacity building trainings. Each training will be for 2 hours. Topics to be covered include Participatory Budgeting 101; Environmental Justice and HEAL; Grantmaking and Project Design.

At this time, we are uncertain on how many youths we should engage for the committee, but we do know the age range will be 13-25. We plan to compensate the youth with approximately \$600 for their participation and offer to support them with nonmonetary support as well (i.e. letters of recommendations). A lingering question to answer with this process is if we need permission from guardians/caregivers for the 13–17-year-olds to participate in the project. This recruitment and commitment for engagement needs to be completed by end of August so that capacity building training can begin in August/September- Early November.

Below is a proposed timeline:

Month	Tasks
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any data from the landscape scan recorded • Recruitment strategies begin to engage youth (determine cap) • Outreach to contractors and facilitators
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select steering committee members • Select contractors • Begin drafting curricula • Ensure paperwork and payment is properly prepared • DOH shares about the initiative to larger audiences to see if there is anyone we want to invite
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity Building Sessions Begin

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DOH shares about the initiative to larger audiences to see if there is anyone we want to invite
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity Sessions Ongoing • DOH shares about the initiative to larger audiences to see if there is anyone we want to invite
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steering Committee Recommendations (EARLY) and conclusion with final listening session/survey • DOH selects applicants to invite based on recommendations informed by youth steering committee • Applications accepted from end of November- Jan 9th
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applications Continue to be Accepted • We can field any questions we receive
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite Only Applications are due 1/9 • Grantees Selected
February	Funding Disbursed
Feb-June	Project Implementation, Invoices, Budget Reports
June	Final Interview/Survey/Report Team Assessment

Our goal is to adapt what we learn from the youth into designing the broader participatory budgeting process for the communities prioritized by the community advisory committee.

Recommended Priority Communities for Community Informed Budgeting

DOH worked with a six-member community advisory committee: Jose Guerrero, Gloria Santiago, Brian Tracy, Prince Agol, Ulises Navarro, and one more community member who wished to stay anonymous throughout March and April 2024 to identify at least five geographically diverse overburdened communities to participate in a participatory budgeting process. This community advisory committee focused on the Community Budgeting for Decarbonization and Resilience budget proviso which has \$32 million in funding to develop and prioritize projects that achieve the greatest gain for decarbonization and resilience. We held weekly meetings to decide on at least 5 communities to be engaged in a participatory budgeting process to determine projects focused on decarbonization and resilience.

Our early meetings consisted of providing background information on the Climate Commitment Act (CCA) and Healthy Environment for All (HEAL) Act, discussing key language in the proviso, and understanding the overall purpose of the group’s time together. Key language we discussed included decarbonization, resilience, overburdened communities and vulnerable populations.

The committee discussed vulnerabilities they would like to bring attention to throughout our process. Vulnerabilities were split into different categories including exposures, threats, sensitivities, social vulnerabilities, climate hazards, cities, and land mass focus. These categories were based off the Environmental Health Disparities (EHD) map. We spent time adding themes the group wanted to focus on and creating “umbrella themes”, which encompassed vulnerabilities across the different categories. For example, an umbrella theme suggested was, “Urban communities, including people of color and low-income groups, face disproportionate exposure to air and water pollution from industrial activities and traffic congestion creating negative health effects and exacerbating existing conditions.” During our discussions, the group emphasized including areas that have been continuously excluded from funding opportunities. The purpose of the vulnerabilities exercise was to get the group thinking about areas they would like to focus on.

Threats	Sensitivities	Social vulnerability	Climate Hazards	Cities	Land Mass Focus
Wastewater runoff, pesticide exposure, harvesting practices	Asthma	Migrant workers, Black communities, Immigrants, Indigenous communities, Invisible Indigenous (not part of 29 recognized tribes or federally recognized tribes), low socio-economic groups, education, Irresponsible urban development, food deserts, displaced communities due to green policies	Forest fires	Renton, Kennewick, Yakima, Everett, Pierce, White Center, Tacoma, Burien, South Park, Spokane, Tacoma tide flats	Rural, Urban, Unincorporated

Following our activity on identifying vulnerabilities, the committee did presentations on communities they would like to propose as one of the five. Members gave presentations proposing the following communities: Tacoma, Yakima, Spokane (specifically the East Central and Hillyard

area), Tacoma tide flats, Franklin County, South Park, Georgetown, Unincorporated areas including Skyway and White Center, and Benton County. Some committee members used data from the EHD map to inform their decisions, while others gave presentations based on their lived experience in these communities. Most members came to the group already knowing what areas they would like to propose as a community based on their lived experience.

After doing presentations, we narrowed down our choices to the following communities. Communities are not ranked in any order:

Yakima	In rural areas, the air quality is terrible for multiple reasons. The soil is damaged, the water is damaged, and the air is damaged. And these three factors impact the health of the community. There is great contamination due to the greenhouses, cow farms for meat and milk consumption, also the machinery used and pesticides that results from agriculture.
Tacoma	<p>Tacoma has an elevated rate of contamination in aerial, soil, water, air, and in rural areas. In such a manner that the individuals most affected are individuals with the least economic resources. Youth, children, and the elderly are even more vulnerable and impacted even more so directly. In such a manner that it would be important to create certain conditions to address these issues and create a conscious, so that individuals can take the proper precautions and measures to safeguard their wellbeing from things like asthma and lung damage that result from lead and arsenic exposures. For almost 100 years there was a mine operating in the region of Tacoma and as a result lots of contaminants accumulated in the soil exposing individuals that live in the surrounding areas. These areas are of low socio-economic standing and individuals impacted have a hard time finding resources and cannot afford to live somewhere else.</p> <p><u>Tacoma tide flats:</u> Tacoma tide flats is home to biodiversity which is essential to resilience to climate change. These areas purify water, helping prevent negative health effects, help with flood control, which is essential with rising sea levels, help regulate climate by absorbing carbon dioxide, absorbs heat which lowers the temperature of the already hot city, food source which affects native communities in the area. Puget Sound Energy's LNG terminal transports liquid natural gas which is at risk for spillage, greenhouse gas emissions, and noise and light pollution. This area is especially susceptible to pollution due to the existing industrial infrastructure and deep-water port. Pollution in this highly populated area created health disparities that are expensive to treat or prevent. Tacoma is 35.5% higher in poverty than the whole of Washington and has 2.5 times higher population of African Americans in Tacoma than in Washington as a whole (2019 Demographic report by the City of Tacoma).</p>
Communities adjacent to Boeing (South Park and Georgetown)	<p>In the city areas like Seattle and South Park the impacts are great due to airplanes, water, soil, these areas are filled with lead and other contaminants that result from industrial machinery, boats. The University of Washington is doing a study regarding the area with the most concentrated cases of asthma is Georgetown in Seattle and South Park. These areas are closest to the airport and where these cases are concentrated. This serves as direct evidence of the grave contamination we have in the areas. There is also no plan to address these health concerns or treat individuals, the state is overlooking these regions and not offering any form of support to help clear out contaminants. Moreover, in those cities there are no clinics designated to treating asthma.</p> <p>In fact, if we focus on South Park there is a region where they have localized a recycling and waste management plant and now there are large trailers passing through as well. Plats constantly pass by at a rate of one plane per 40 seconds. There is also a large Boeing plant.</p>

	<p>There are also interstates that contribute to air pollution. Thus, adding to the multitude of layers of pollution and little and rarely is this talked about.</p> <p>In these areas of high contamination and pollution, people of color are the majority, and the public is not made aware. People move to these regions not knowing.</p>
Spokane	<p><u>East Central/Hillyard</u>: New freeway is being built that will divide the community and create more pollution. Historically Interstate 90 was built in the 60s dividing Spokane and contributing to pollution through greenhouse gasses, light pollution, and noise pollution. This disrupted communities and added higher potential for adverse health effects. This will happen again with the new freeway. East Central and Hillyard are two of the poorest communities in Spokane with Hillyard being labeled as the poorest community in WA (2016 – 2018 SNAP report). The freeway will shorten commutes but damage communities and seems like a necessary evil, but things must be done to counterbalance the negative.</p> <p><u>Agricultural areas</u>: Similar to Yakima, agricultural areas in Spokane County were highlighted as an area to focus on due to poor air quality, water contamination, pesticide exposure, soil contamination, wastewater runoff from harvesting and agriculture practices.</p>
Franklin County	<p>Franklin County has the highest population of Black residents in non-urban, rural areas on the east side of the state. The majority of Black Washington residents live in Western Washington urban centers. While these areas have recorded environmental injustices, they also tend to receive more funding for remediation due to their location. We wanted the money to be dispersed to Black communities that may not get as much attention due to their size and locality. There is a large percentage of non-white and BIPOC groups in this county. According to the US census bureau, non-white groups comprise 61.1% of the county demographics (compared to about 28% for the entire state). The other dominant non-white or BIPOC group in Franklin County is the Hispanic (Spanish speaking) community. Outside of government, agriculture and manufacturing are the top industries, which means field work and the potential for various chemical exposures. The EHD map was used to determine what environmental exposure this county is experiencing which included point source pollution from the manufacturing industry resulting in toxic concentrations of PM2.5. There are high levels ozone which is linked to cardiovascular and respiratory mortality and this county has close proximity to Risk Management Plan (RMP) facilities, which release deadly chemicals to the surrounding environment and are directly linked to cancer and cardiovascular disease.</p>
Benton County	<p>In Benton County, there is a housing crisis with many people living unhoused. Additionally, it is an agricultural community with poor air, water, and soil quality from cow farms and the pesticides used for agriculture.</p>