

Building Equitable Economies Fund

*Advancing Health Equity in the Pacific Northwest
Through the American Rescue Plan Act Initiative*

Call for Applications

What is this initiative?

Through the Building Equitable Economies Fund, Empire Health Foundation (EHF) is engaging a diverse set of community-based organizations and small businesses from across our region to develop the capacity to access American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars. Specifically, we are interested in making catalytic investments to support community-identified strategies that show promise in attracting ARPA resources.

This initiative will fund efforts to:

- Facilitate community conversations to determine catalytic investments
- Develop grants, plans, and studies to attract resources to the hardest-hit BIPOC, LGBTQ+, and rural underserved communities
- Support the acquisition of real estate and other capital assets in Eastern Washington in and by these same hardest hit communities
- Support policy and advocacy activity to advance health equity and build an equitable economy that affords vitality and prosperity across communities

Why now?

The COVID Pandemic, the murder of George Floyd, and the social justice protests across the country and throughout our region have all acted like external forces shifting the landscape upon which we stand. As we come out of the Pandemic, organizations and communities alike are beginning to radically re-imagine the future we want to be a part of. EHF believes every community should have the opportunity to engage in this re-imagining, create paths that make this future visible, and enlist others to support the effort to make it a reality.

This fund is intended to influence recovery resources to stabilize the hardest-hit workers and businesses by the COVID-19 Pandemic in Eastern Washington. We will make targeted, catalytic investments to advance health equity and build an equitable economy in which historically disadvantaged people have good jobs, dignified and rising standards of living, fair access to health, and equal opportunity for voice, power, and ownership.



Last updated: August 6, 2021 - Page 1

How do you see this happening?

Equitable Economies is fast, complicated work and we still have a lot to learn. To get us started, we have drafted the following milestones, deliverables, and metrics. These are subject to change.

Milestone

Develop a Call for Applications

Host Call for Application information sessions

Accept and review applications on an ongoing basis

Fund applications

Provide technical assistance upon request when possible

Develop Community Feedback Framework

Redevelop [10 Priorities Guide](#) to reflect EHF and Eastern

Washington Collect project stories to add to the 10

Priorities Guide Year-end closeout and story collection

2022 re-engagement plan

Months in 2021						
6	7	8	9	10	11	12

Outcomes Criteria

Community-determined sense of health and vitality

ROI (new

resources/investment) Income

building

Wealth building

to the region New resources to priority
populations Number served
Number of acres purchased
Number of facilities purchased
Number of homes purchased

Fast-Cycle learning/equitable
frameworks Investment/new resources



Last updated: August 6, 2021 - Page 2

What are the hopes?

These hopes are an attempt to communicate our interests and values in approaching this initiative and serve as a guide for us to implement this project and work together with our communities.

What this is: What this isn't:

An opportunity to attract resources to historically disadvantaged communities.

An opportunity for the communities to identify their own needs, taking ownership of their development process.

A process that places leaders and organizations representing under-resourced communities at the center of design and implementation.

An opportunity for advisors, consultants, groups, and organizations to have the means to serve community members together.

An opportunity for groups and organizations to identify new areas of work that address unique challenges associated with a post-pandemic world.

An effort to build the capacity of large, mainstream organizations and businesses that already have access to resources.

A process in which EHF, consultants, or other external actors will determine the framework to guide future action.

A centering of the same institutions, organizations, and communities predominantly at the center of contemporary work.

An individualistic process benefiting a determined organization, business, or person whose focus is not on the community.

A cookie-cutter approach to addressing challenges in a uniform way.

Who should submit an application?

For-profit, non-profit, public organizations, groups, and individuals who are prepared to work on behalf of communities that have not been afforded the same opportunities to incorporate ARPA resources into developing their visions. We will invite technical assistance from groups or organizations that identify with a defined community. If you have questions regarding eligibility for this project, please contact Shivon Brite or Rocio Wofford, as listed on page 6.

For us, community means a group with a shared sense of identity and belonging, and possibly history and culture. A community might be defined by geography, race, culture, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, or other shared lived experiences. Our priority will be communities that have been under supported by systems in our region and have been subject to persistent health inequities. We will ask you to describe how this is true for your community.



Last updated: August 6, 2021 - Page 3

What resources are available?

have been under-supported by systems in our region and have been subject to persistent health inequities.

Project services, contracts and grants, including scopes and budgets, will be funded on a rolling basis. Applicants can request any amount from \$2,000 to \$20,000. Based upon previous work, we anticipate that most projects will cost \$2,000-\$8,000.

Priorities that make sense with what we know right now
 Total Funds Available: \$200,000 Request Project Range: \$2,000-\$20,000

We know making space for this type of work requires money. We know that there are many other competing interests for your energy and leadership at this time. We want to provide the right amount of money to support each project, and we want to fund as many diverse and distinct communities as possible.

Types: Grants & Contracts
 Eligible: For-profit, non-profits, public organizations, fiscally sponsored group, & individuals
 Application Open: August 2, 2021 Information Sessions: August 5, at 9 am, and August 17, at 12 pm.
 Application Review: Ongoing
 Project Start: August-September 2021 Project End: December 2021

What types of work will be funded?

We will prioritize projects that serve communities that

Application Format: Survey
 Application Questions: See below

- Community identified strategies that show promise in attracting ARPA resources •

Collaboration within and between historically disadvantaged communities

- Wealth building approaches among BIPOC/LGBTQ+ through the acquisition of real estate

Questions we will be asking when reviewing qualifications include:

- Does this applicant have experience serving a grassroots effort that brings historically disadvantaged community members together to build a future they want for themselves?
- Does this project create space for the community to support their vision with ARPA resources?
- Is this project's leadership reflective of the community to be served?

Questions we will ask when selecting providers for the fund as a whole include:

- Does this fund elevate the visions of many distinct communities across the region?

We will use these questions as the criteria for selecting projects. We intend to engage as many diverse and distinct communities as possible, which may mean choosing between applicants who serve the same community. We anticipate that this will be a competitive process, and not all requests will be awarded.



Last updated: August 6, 2021 - Page 4

What is the qualification and review process?

The review cycle will run on an ongoing basis beginning August 2021 and continue until all designated resources have been allocated. Interested applicants will be asked to respond to a brief set of questions in an online survey. We anticipate work will begin as early as August 2021 and be completed by December 2021. We have allocated \$200,000 to be funded for this initiative.

We will prioritize applications from organizations and small businesses whose missions are to serve communities whose leadership and origin are reflective of the community. Local for-profit, non-profit organizations, and community coalitions/groups fiscally sponsored by non-profits operating in and representing story development within the Inland Northwest Region are eligible to apply. This process is subject to change.

Submit your intent to apply by emailing us by August 9, 2021.

If you plan to apply, please let us know by August 9, 2021, via economies@empirehealthfoundation.org with the email subject: Intent to Apply for Equitable Economies. We will prioritize the review of those providers that have submitted this notice.

Submit your application

To submit your application, please complete the *application form* through the link below. We are receiving applications during the month of August and until all resources have been allocated.

Apply here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/economies>

The application questions are previewed here:

1. Please enter your contact information
2. What is your EHF Equitable Economies funding request (\$2,000-20,000)?
3. What types of capacity building work will be completed - facilitation, writing, planning, policy? (select all that apply)
4. Do you have a preferred technical assistance provider? If yes, list contact information.
5. Describe your Executive Leadership, if applicable
6. Describe your Board Leadership, if applicable
7. What community do you represent? Describe the relationship between your organization and this community. Include a description of how your organizational leadership (Board and Staff) is reflective of this community.
8. What ARPA resources is your group interested in, and what support would be needed? What is your project's goal?
9. What experience do you have related to your proposed scope of work? Please provide at least three references; one should represent the group you hope to assist.



Last updated: August 6, 2021 - Page 5

Frequently Asked Questions

Question: My organization has a community-identified priority, but we do not know what ARPA resources are available or how to access them? Is this opportunity a good fit for where our community is right now?

Answer: Yes, this fund is a good fit for organizations that understand community priority but are early learning about ARPA resources. EHF is working to improve access to ARPA policy guides and funding opportunities. This will come in the form of technical assistance with facilitators, grant writers, and policy analysts.

Question: May our non-profit organization or small business submit multiple applications for different projects?

Answer: Yes, there is no limit to the number of applications your non-profit or small business can submit. It is possible that some applicants will be funded for multiple projects. However, we intend to serve as many diverse and distinct communities as possible. We anticipate that this will be a competitive process, and not all requests will be funded.

Question: Given that the applications will be reviewed on an ongoing basis, when can I expect to hear back on the results of our request.

Answer: You can expect to hear back from us on the status of your request within four weeks from submission. Some responses will be sooner and others later in that four-week timeframe, given that applications will be reviewed on an ongoing basis.

Question: What types of projects are most likely to be funded.

Answer: Applications will be reviewed based upon the priorities outlined on page four of this Call for Applications.

Question: We are a large mainstream organization doing work on behalf of the BIPOC communities. Are we eligible to apply?

Answer: Technically, yes. There is no official limit to the size of eligible organizations. However, this fund is designed to attract resources to historically disadvantaged communities by building the capacity of grassroots efforts where leadership is reflective of the community served.

Question: As a technical assistance provider or consultant, may I apply for support for my business?

Answer: Technically, yes. Small businesses are eligible entities. However, the proposed project must align with the fund priorities as identified in this Call for Applications. This means that the work has to support a community-identified priority, be in partnership with the community, and work to attract ARPA resources to priority populations.

Contact these folks with questions:

Shivon Brite, EHF Executive Vice President Rocio Wofford, EHF Program Associate
shivon@empirehealthfoundation.org rocio@empirehealthfoundation.org (406) 239-4391
(817) 983-3490



Last updated: August 6, 2021 - Page 6

Definitions of Frequently Used Terms

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 – This is a \$1.9 trillion coronavirus rescue package designed to facilitate the United States’ recovery from the devastating economic and health effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic. The nearly \$2 trillion price tag makes this economic rescue legislation one of the most expensive in U.S. history. It is one part of President Biden’s Build Back Better plan, which also includes the American Jobs Plan and the American Families Plan.

Capacity Building - The process of developing and strengthening the skills, instincts, abilities, strategies, and resources that organizations and communities need to survive, adapt, and thrive in a fast-changing world.

Community – For this project, we would invite applications from a group or organization which identifies with a defined community. For us, community means a group with a shared sense of identity

and belonging, and possibly of history and culture. A community can be defined by geography, race, culture, religion, sexual orientation, gender conformity, or other shared lived experience. Our priority will be on communities that have been under-supported by systems in our region and have been subject to persistent health inequities.

Fiscal Sponsor – A non-profit organization that provides fiduciary oversight, financial management, and other administrative services to another entity to provide public benefit to a community. This sponsorship must be codified through a formalized agreement outlining the terms of the relationship and the services which will be provided.

Health equity – A state of being of a community or collection of communities that represent a self determined sense of health and vitality for all of its members. A mindset within these communities that we are better together, that we can build greater health by working together, and that health and power are expansive when held in relationship and collaboration. A system of equilibrium and balance between and amongst these communities that assures no one community falls through the cracks or is persistently less likely to have their needs met by the very systems that should be nurturing and supporting our continued health.

Health inequities – The presence of disparate health outcomes between a community and the predominant community in the region. To measure health inequity in our region, we typically use the average in the same region as a comparison or benchmark. Depending on what demographic you are focusing on - race, gender, religion, income, sexuality, urban/rural - you might choose a different comparison or benchmark based on the predominant community.

Historically Disadvantaged Community - Groups that have been socially, economically, or educationally underprivileged by past discriminatory laws or practices.

Inland Northwest – For this project, we define the Inland Northwest as the seven counties of Adams, Ferry, Grant, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, and Whitman, and the lands of the Colville Confederated, Kalispel, and Spokane Tribal Nations.

