



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.

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	Months in 2021						
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Develop a Call for Applications	Light Green	Light Green					
Host Call for Application information sessions			Light Green				
Accept and review applications on an ongoing basis			Light Green				
Fund applications			Dark Green	Dark Green			
Provide technical assistance upon request when possible			Dark Green	Dark Green	Dark Green	Dark Green	
Develop Community Feedback Framework	Light Green	Light Green	Light Green				
Redevelop 10 Priorities Guide to reflect EHF and Eastern Washington			Light Green	Light Green	Light Green	Light Green	Light Green
Collect project stories to add to the 10 Priorities Guide					Light Green	Light Green	Light Green
Year-end closeout and story collection						Dark Green	Dark Green
2022 re-engagement plan							Dark Green

Outcomes

Community-determined sense of health and vitality
 ROI (new resources/investment)
 Income building
 Wealth building

Criteria

Fast-Cycle learning/equitable frameworks
 Investment/new resources to the region
 New resources to priority populations
 Number served
 Number of acres purchased
 Number of facilities purchased
 Number of homes purchased

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 effort to build the capacity of large, mainstream organizations and businesses that already have access to resources.
An opportunity for the communities to identify their own needs, taking ownership of their development process.	A process in which EHF, consultants, or other external actors will determine the framework to guide future action.
A process that places leaders and organizations representing under-resourced communities at the center of design and implementation.	A centering of the same institutions, organizations, and communities predominantly at the center of contemporary work.
An opportunity for advisors, consultants, groups, and organizations to have the means to serve community members together.	An individualistic process benefiting a determined organization, business, or person whose focus is not on the community.
An opportunity for groups and organizations to identify new areas of work that address unique challenges associated with a post-pandemic world.	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.

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.

What resources are available?

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.

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.

What types of work will be funded?

We will prioritize projects that serve communities that have been under-supported by systems in our region and have been subject to persistent health inequities.

Priorities that make sense with what we know right now

- 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.

Total Funds Available: \$200,000
Request Project Range: \$2,000-\$20,000

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: Onoing
Project Start: August-September 2021
Project End: December 2021

Application Format: Survey
Application Questions: See below

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.