

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

OF OREGON

UM 2276

In the Matter of

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF
OREGON,

Approval of Justice Funding
Precertification.

COALITION OF COMMUNITY OF
COLOR'S
REQUEST FOR HB 2475 INTERVENOR
FUNDING
PRE-CERTIFICATION - RESPONSE TO
MEMORANDUM AND BUDGET
AMENDMENT

In a memo dated May 2, 2023, Chief Administrative Law Judge Nolan Moser filed a memo inviting precertification grant applicants to answer clarifying questions. Coalition of Communities of Color (CCC) hereby submits the following supplemental information in response to this request, and also submits an update to our original budget request.

Coalition of Communities of Color (CCC) is an alliance of culturally-specific community based organizations that work directly with Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) community members on issues such as housing, education, environmental justice, and economic justice. CCC is requesting precertification funding to host 3 total community workshops with 3 member organizations, Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO), the Urban League of Portland, and Latino Network, and we believe all 3 of these organizations would qualify independently for this precertification funding.

Founded in 1910, the National Urban League is a historic civil rights organization dedicated to economic empowerment in order to elevate the standard of living in historic Black communities. The Urban League of Portland launched in 1945 and is one of the oldest civil rights and service organizations in the Portland area. Their mission is to empower

African-Americans and others to achieve equality in education, employment, health, economic security and quality of life. Today, the organization leads many programs and provides direct services to youth and elderly community members. The Urban League organizes communities to engage in legislative and policy advocacy, provides community health education and resource navigation services, housing assistance, and job readiness programs. The organization works directly with Black Portlanders and low-income community members across all the issue areas that impact them, and for the purposes of this funding request, CCC will be partnering with the Advocacy and Public Policy team to host a community meeting around energy and climate justice. The decisions made by the PUC directly affect the Urban League of Portland's community partners, many of whom are receiving energy assistance as residential customers, experiencing energy cost burden and health inequities, and are directly impacted by extreme weather events.

APANO was founded in 1996 and has worked to advance social and environmental justice for Asian and Pacific Islander (API) communities statewide and in Multnomah County. APANO unites Asians and Pacific Islanders to build power, develop leaders, and advance equity through organizing, advocacy, community development, and cultural work. The organization has led environmental justice policy campaigns locally and statewide, and directly organizes community members through workshops, meetings, and leadership development trainings. CCC will be working with APANO's Community Development program to host this PUC-related community meeting. APANO partners with community members who are also directly impacted by issues within PUC's authority, including low-income bill discounts, access to clean energy and jobs in this sector, and climate justice and community resilience.

Latino Network is a Latino-led education organization, grounded in culturally-specific practices and services. The organization was founded in 1996 by community leaders and has since grown to encompass transformational programs aimed at educating and empowering Latinos in Multnomah County through parent involvement, academic support, leadership development, and the promotion of early literacy. Latino Network's Economic Justice team supports low-income clients in need of energy assistance to pay their utility bills, and work with folks living in PGE, Pacific Power, and NW Natural's service territories, as does APANO and Urban League of Portland. The community members that Latino Network partners with,

including parents of students of Schools Uniting Neighborhoods (SUN) Community Schools and clients seeking energy assistance services, are directly impacted by utility programs and residential bill discounts, and climate change and community resilience.

While we believe all 3 organizations to be independently eligible to receive pre-certification funding, CCC believes that this intervenor funding availability presents an opportunity to hear from community partners about their experiences and better connect these experiences with the energy justice policy advocacy work CCC does at the PUC and with utilities. CCC has also directly been involved in conversations with other advocates and PUC staff regarding intervenor funding specifically, and as the application timeline was relatively short and the process difficult to navigate without background and context, CCC took this opportunity to take lead on an application that included interested member organizations. We feel that the findings we collect from these 3 community meetings will be beneficial for other energy justice advocates currently involved in PUC advocacy, and will be important information to be incorporated into PUC policies and utility programs.

CCC is aiming to work closely with the staff at the 3 organizations to shape the workshops to fit the needs and interests of their community partners, and this has not yet been decided upon. But we expect these workshops to potentially focus on any of the following topics:

- Available resources for low-income households (such as the utility income-qualified rate discount programs through HB 2475) and any feedback community members may have on these programs based on their experiences with them (Dockets UM 2211, ADV 1365, ADV 1390, and ADV 1412)
- Building electrification
- Indoor air quality
- Community resilience and greenhouse gas reductions (related dockets include UM 2273, LC 80, AR 655, and LC 92)
- Community engagement with utilities and PUC/government agencies (this is relevant to all PUC dockets)
- Utility disconnections
- Other priorities that community members raise

As noted by Chief ALJ Moser, CCC has not intervened in UE 416. This is largely due to capacity constraints and the lack of resources and staff generally required to intervene in such cases. However, given the relevance of the docket to community partners, we plan to monitor any public filings and will communicate with other advocates who are intervening to stay updated and share findings from our community meetings.

Amended Budget

In CCC's April 21, 2023 filing, we requested funding for a total of \$65,500. We budgeted for about \$5,500 of this amount to be directed towards meeting logistics across the 3 meetings. After discussing with our member organizations, we see a need to increase this budget for logistical costs, which include stipends, translation, food, materials needed, childcare, etc. We hereby request a \$500 increase to this initial budget, for a total request of **\$66,000**. The proposed amended budget breakdown is included in Attachment A, and the amended budget by utility is included in Attachment B.

Dated this 9th day of May 2023.

Respectfully submitted,



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ATTACHMENT A
Coalition of Communities of Color (CCC) Proposed Budget

| CCC Internal Expenses | Rate | Hours | Cost |
|--|-------------|--------------|-----------------|
| <i>Staff</i> | | | |
| Nikita Daryanani, Climate and Energy Policy Manager | \$150 | 200 | \$30,000 |
| Subtotal: | | | \$30,000 |

| Organizational Pass-Throughs and Community Engagement | Cost |
|---|-----------------|
| Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO) | \$10,000 |
| Latino Network | \$10,000 |
| Urban League of Portland | \$10,000 |
| | |
| Community meeting logistics for 3 meetings | \$6,000 |
| <i>I.e. Participant stipends, venue, food, childcare, translation, etc.</i> | |
| Subtotal: | \$36,000 |

Total: \$66,000

ATTACHMENT B

Coalition of Communities of Color (CCC) Proposed Budget By Utility

| | PacifiCorp | PGE | NW Natural | Total |
|---|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Organizational Pass-Throughs and Community Engagement | \$12,000 | \$12,000 | \$12,000 | \$36,000 |
| CCC staff time | \$13,500 | \$13,500 | \$3,000 | \$30,000 |
| Total | \$25,500 | \$25,500 | \$15,000 | \$66,000 |