



TO: Prosperity Plan Project Steering Committee

DATE: September 6, 2013

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W.I.: 1611

RE: Common Barriers to Accessing Sub-Grants

On May 10, 2013, the Steering Committee requested the Joint Projects Team (JPT) to document common barriers that prevent community groups that are interested in the sub-grants program from applying. The Committee also requested the JPT to identify potential strategies to address these barriers.

On June 20, 2013, the JPT discussed barriers and potential solutions, as listed in the table below:

<i>Barrier</i>	<i>Potential Solutions</i>
<p><b>HUD Reporting Requirements</b></p> <p>CBOs and local jurisdictions that have worked with the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in the past have had to provide significant documentation as part of the agency’s reporting requirements. Many CBOs wrongly assumed that the same requirements would apply to the Prosperity Plan sub-grant program.</p>	<p>MTC, as the fiscal agent for the Prosperity Plan, has taken over the reporting requirements for the sub-grant program on behalf of the grantees. This information has been communicated through the Call for Projects (CFP) to all potential applicants. MTC and ABAG will continue to provide this information to potential applicants through the CFP document.</p>
<p><b>MTC’s Insurance Requirements</b></p> <p>All sub-grantees are required to carry liability coverage as per MTC’s contract guidelines. Many CBOs do not have the level of insurance coverage that meets MTC requirements.</p>	<p>Purchase of insurance coverage to meet MTC requirements is an eligible expense for the sub-grant program. Grantees may allocate sufficient funds in the project budget to purchase additional insurance coverage. This information will be included in future CFP documents.</p>
<p><b>Application Process</b></p> <p>CBOs may not have the staff time or the capacity to go through the application and evaluation process.</p>	<p>MTC/ABAG developed the CFP process in consultation with multiple stakeholders including grass-roots level organizations and foundations in the region. The JPT believes that the application form and process are simple and should not be a burden on even small organizations pursuing grant funds. Many small organizations have</p>

	<p>successfully applied for funding through the sub-grant process in the last two rounds of funding solicitations. The Equity Collaborative will provide technical assistance to potential applicants at the Equity Conference in October 2013 to address this issue.</p>
<p><b>Sub-Grant Program Requirements</b></p> <p>The sub-grant program was designed to fund pilot projects that may serve as a model and/or best practice for other communities in the region. CBOs that are seeking funding for general operations of the organization are therefore not well-positioned to compete.</p>	<p>The CFP process will continue to support community response and capacity-building sub-grants for CBOs, which will benefit small organizations in outlying areas of the region.</p>
<p><b>Lack of Information</b></p> <p>Many CBOs that are not already on the MTC/ABAG mailing lists did not hear about the sub-grant opportunities.</p>	<p>ABAG and MTC, along with members of the Joint Projects Team and the Steering Committee will conduct additional outreach to get the word out to more CBOs about the sub-grant program.</p>