



ALIGNED FUNDERS

RAPID RESOURCE FUND GUIDELINES 2017-18

The Rapid Resource Fund invests in short-term opportunities that have the potential to spark or contribute toward system-level change in service of Road Map Project goals.

Fund Overview

The Road Map Aligned Funders Group is a group of regionally-based funders investing in the education success of children, young adults and families in South King County and South Seattle. Since its creation in 2013, the pooled fund aims to provide timely grants to spark new ideas and support discrete projects in the Road Map region. The fund's emphasis in 2017 is on system-level change that is necessary to advance racial equity and improve education outcomes from cradle through college and career. The **Rapid Resource Fund** will award approximately 8-10 grants, beginning in September 2017, ranging in amount from \$5,000 - \$20,000.

The Road Map Project System-Wide Racial Equity Essentials are foundational, cradle-through-college system-level efforts that, if strengthened, will help the region advance racial equity and support student success. This list was developed and has been refined by Road Map Project stakeholders. In the next phase of the Road Map Project, collective work will sharpen the focus on these system conditions so students of color are well supported and able to reach their full potential. Progress, both in the short-and long-term, on major systems change will take time but is necessary to attain and sustain regional improvement.

As previously emphasized, **proposals should align with a Road Map effort and have potential to improve system-level supports** extending beyond one or two organizations and benefitting a wider community or issue in the Road Map region. **The Rapid Resource Fund was created to support immediate, short-term requests having potential to spark or contribute to some system change.** While system-level change will typically require more time, capital or coordination than the proposed activities, this opportunity seeks efforts that *convey a connection* to long-term system change.

Funding priorities:

- Connection to or in support of a Road Map effort, strategic priority, or System-Wide Racial Equity Essential;
- Addresses/makes progress toward system change (e.g., the results of the activity have impact beyond the CBO-level, school-level, or individual-level);
- Clear, concise case can be made about rapid nature of the request and potential impact of proposed activities;
- Emphasis on one-time costs, as opposed to funding recurring costs/operational expenses;
- Preference for projects where the RRF grant provides a significant source of funding;
- Organizations demonstrating practices and policies that support diversity, equity and inclusion, and
- Request has not previously been funded by RRF.

See [website](#) for list of previously funded grants since 2014.

Applicant Eligibility

- Organizations, school districts and postsecondary education institutions with tax exempt status 501c3 or 170(b)(1), other government entities and/or tribes
- Organizations serving the Road Map region (South King County and South Seattle)

Application Contents

Proposal Narrative should not exceed 3 pages (single-spaced) and aim to include the following:

1. Applicant Information

- Organization legal name, primary contact, phone, and email (and if applicable, website)
- Brief background about your organization and its association with the Road Map Project
- Your organization's constituency and geographic region served
- An example of how your organization reflects and engages the community it serves
- List other key partner organizations and their role in supporting / implementing proposed request

2. Project Significance

- Briefly state the funding request (e.g. [ABC org] requests funding to support [XYZ project] to benefit [population] in [geographic area] by/on [timeframe]).
- Describe how the proposed request connects to the Road Map Project effort, strategic priority, or System-Wide Racial Equity Essential.
- Provide context for the identified issue and other efforts in place to address the issue.
- Describe ways in which the request has potential to inform or contribute to system-level change.
- Describe proposed activities and two to four achievable results by the end of one year (these can be expressed as outputs or outcomes) and how you will measure those results.

3. Implementation

- List and briefly describe the key actions and resources necessary to ensure success; include also an estimated timeline, and anticipated challenges.
- If other partner organizations play a pivotal role (financial or non-financial), briefly describe their purpose and commitment.

4. Budget

- Include a short budget narrative describing the allocation of requested funds by major expense categories.

SUBMISSION: Next Steps and Dates

Prospective applicants are asked to first reach out to RRF contact, [Leslie Silverman](#), prior to submitting a proposal so that we can better ensure proposed projects align with the fund guidelines. Submission dates for applications for the remainder of 2018 are: **February 28, May 9, and July 11**

The Rapid Resource Fund is managed by [Philanthropy Northwest](#) and fiscally administered by Seattle Foundation. Please submit final proposals to LSilverman@philanthropynw.org. Applicants are notified within 15 days of submission date, and awards are generally made within a month of notification. To discuss prospective ideas or questions about the fund, contact Leslie Silverman (LSilverman@philanthropynw.org) or 206-443-8468.