

2021 South LA Decides – Community-Based Grant Making Summit

FAQ's

SOUTH LA DECIDES COMMUNITY BASED GRANT MAKING

What is South LA Decides?

South LA Decides is how Best Start Region 2 will expand grant making decisions to the residents of South LA and Compton. Despite the challenges COVID posed, we successfully launched South LA Decides Community Based Grant Making Initiative to further distribute power to community members. Between Feb. 25 – March 4, residents voted on what issues they want to prioritize for 2021.

Where does the funding for South LA Decides grant-making come from?

The funds are being distributed by Community Health Councils in partnership with First 5 LA.

What was the community-based grant making summit and why was it conducted?

This Community-Based Grant Making initiative builds on the successful work that each Best Start community in Region 2 has achieved. This initiative will ensure that residents of Region 2 are able to participate in the decision-making process to distribute funding to organizations working to increase the health and well-being of children aged 0 – 5 living in South LA and Compton.

What issues were included in the vote between Feb. 25 – March 4?

The Regional Task Force reviewed all the research and data collected through the Best Start Region 2 Local Councils as well as City and County data to determine which issues were included.

Additionally, over the last decade, community-based efforts across the Best Start communities of South LA have yielded numerous ideas for projects. Some of these include building the capacity of parents to prepare their children aged 0-5 for Kindergarten, surveying parents on their needs and providing resources such as school supplies, snacks and recreational gatherings like snow days and movies in the park.

Also, as we continue to build capacity with our members on how policy and systems change work translates to long-term systems change, residents and community-based organizations are working to grasp how to impact policy and systems change while still addressing urgent basic needs of housing, food, and employment for families across South LA. One idea offered by one of our Regional Task Force members was to co-design a South LA pipeline of employment and training placements by offering to subsidize employee training for employers. These are the types of innovative solutions that residents need. Everyone appreciates the efforts of local

work source centers but there is plenty of room and opportunity for other good ideas and investments stewarded by community leaders.

How much money is going overall towards the South LA Decides voted upon priorities?

\$800,000 will be allocated towards Employment and Fair Wages, Early Childhood Education and Food Insecurity that 555 South LA residents prioritized.

Who decides how the money is spent for those priorities?

The eight Regional Task Force members will determine the allocation of the \$800,000.

How much money will be distributed?

The Regional Task Force will determine the amount of funds available by March 5th.

REGIONAL TASK FORCE

Who is the Regional Task Force?

The Regional Task Force is comprised of 8 elected residents and 4 elected alternates from across South LA and Compton.

Who elected the Regional Task Force members?

The current Regional Task Force Members were elected by residents of South LA who attend Best Start Local Council meetings in West Athens, Compton/E. Compton, Broadway Manchester and Watts/Willowbrook in November and December of 2020.

What is the role of the Regional Task Force?

The Regional Task Force role is to elevate local issues affecting all of Region 2 by developing recommendations to increase systems-change impact and stewarding community-based grant making.

REGIONAL GRANT AWARDS

What will happen to current applicants who have submitted request for proposal applications already?

The five applicants who submitted responses to the original Request for Proposals (RFP) will be invited to join the South LA Decides Incubator and Accelerator by prior June 30th.

How many requests for proposal applications were submitted for each top community priority issue?

We received **3 applications** for Early Childhood Education and **2 applications** for Food Insecurity. We received **0 applications** for employment and fair wages. Regional Task Force members will work collaboratively to develop an action plan to deploy funding to address Employment and Fair Wages. The action plan will be shared in July, 2021.

SOUTH LA DECIDES INCUBATOR/ACCELERATOR - 2021 PROCESS AND TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Regional Grantees

1. **Application Readiness Assessment** (this is CHC's due diligence process to better assess the financial and strategic status of applicants, as well as the growth and development needs)
 1. Checklist completed by June 2nd
 2. Contracts/Grants team to notify Applicants by June 4th
 3. Applicants upload materials by June 11th
 4. CHC internal review by June 18th
 5. CHC presentation to RTF June 25th
 6. Intent to Award letters for qualified applicants distributed week of July 5th
2. **Incubator Start**
 1. Orientation week of July 5th
 2. Incubator Program July 12th to July 23rd
 3. Applicants submit deliverables (strategy, program goals, budget and finance plan, evaluation plan and metrics) by July 27th/week of July 26th
 4. Complete Review of materials by August 9th (week of August 9th)
 5. Applicants receive \$5000 stipend upon completion of deliverables
3. **Program/Grant Period Launch + Accelerator (TBD on length of accelerator programming but likely 2 weeks)**
 1. Include contract with 50% of grant paid upon signing - by August 20th

COMMUNITY CHANGE FUNDS

How much will each local community council will be awarded?

Local Councils were awarded \$200,000 per community for the 2020/2021 grant cycle.

Is any money for these priorities going to Four local Best Starts?

The 4 local Best Starts, referred to as Local Councils, have been allocated \$200,000 each by the Regional Task Force. These dollars (\$800,000 total) are separate from the \$800,000 allocated to the regional priorities of Employment and Fair Wages, Early Childhood Education and Food Insecurity. Each Local Council has historically selected their own priorities.

What will be the process to apply for these funds at the local councils?

At the local council level, each community is finalizing their selection of their funding priorities the week of May 24th during their local council meetings, which will lead us to issue Requests for Proposals otherwise known as RFPs, for each community and its priorities by June 4th.

- Eligible applicants may prepare proposals and submit their applications up until the deadline of June 18th at 5pm.
- There will be a bidder's conference, tentatively scheduled for now on June 11th. This will open an opportunity for potential bidders and organizations to submit questions and receive answers regarding the submission and review process. We ask that questions

be submitted to CHC by the day before (June 10th) to be included ahead of the bidder's conference.

- Once interested RFP applications have been submitted by the deadline of June 18th, review committees at each Local Council will have a week to review proposals until June 25th.
- After this time, CHC will review the applicants' readiness to carry out the grant work across their selected communities. Award announcements will be made shortly afterward.
- This timeline will enable us to get the money out the door and allocated to external sources by June 30th and making a change in our communities of South LA and Compton.

Were there any recent activities held in Region 2 to help inform this process?

CHC conducted the Bidders Conference Q & A session on Friday, March 12th and the South LA Decides Town Hall on Thursday, March 25th for community residents to learn more about the community-based grant making process. There will be a bidders conference on June 11th, 2021 for the RFP's from Local Councils.

Since the March 12th Q&A session, the March 25th South LA Decides Town Hall, and the April and May Regional Task Force meetings, what is the process and next steps for the distribution of the Regional and Local Council Community Change Funds (\$200,000 each)?

During April and May, 2021, The Regional Task Force voted to:

- To allow the following amendment to the eligibility criteria for applicant organizations:
 - "Applicants must be headquartered in Best Start Region 2, however, if recommended and needed, applicants can subcontract to organizations with the necessary expertise who are located outside of Best Start Region 2. However, expectations shall remain the same for all other eligibility criteria."
- Allocate \$800,000 in Regional funds evenly between all three priority areas (which amounts to about \$266,000 per priority area).
- Approve grant awards of no less than \$50,000 at both the Regional and Local levels.
- To include all of the above listed activities as part of the Scope of Work for organizations applying to the Regional Employment and Fair Wages priority area.

Who will be supporting the Local Councils through the RFP process?

From May into June 2021, CHC will be working with the Best Start Local Councils to release the RFPs and issue the grant awards for each of the four areas within Region 2.

Who do I talk to if I have more questions about this process?

For more questions about South LA Decides, please contact Alejandra Marroquin at amarroquin@chc-inc.org, or visit the Best Start Website www.beststartcommunities.com/south-la-decides.

