

IDEAS FOR ONI Partner Retreats and subsequent BAC EQUITY DISCUSSION

August 5, 2014

Goal: Provide a framework for early caucus meetings in August and September for ONI CNIC partner grantees and program constituencies to reflect on values/why we do this work, program and budget needs, and what equity looks like to help inform and focus our collective deliberations at the ONI BAC meetings regarding equity funding over the next year.

Objectives of these early discussions:

- Establish a commonly understood vision of the long-term goals for this project, how they will be reached, and what will be used to measure progress along the way.
- Reaffirm the work ONI wants to see done in the community as originally informed and shaped by Community Connect, existing ONI goals and values; the communities ONI wants to involve, engage and serve; the types of activities ONI does and is willing to fund.
- Clarify what parts of this work each ONI partner organization currently performs, what parts of this work they would like to provide in addition to what they are doing now, and what levels of funding would be needed from ONI to do this work.

Potential activities and questions to consider:

- Reaffirm/review big picture vision/goals that guide ONI's work in the community:
 - Community Connect goals
 - ONI mission/goals
 - visionPDX goals (ask DCL partners to identify the visionPDX goals that are most important to them)
 - City of Portland Equity Framework from the Portland Plan
 - Community Connect – statement of what would be happening if Community Connect goals were implemented successfully
- Clarify the types of “work” that ONI funds:
 - Leadership training
 - Technical assistance
 - Policy work—participation in processes that develop City policies
 - Events/community gatherings
 - Community dialogues
 - Support to individual community members: information and referral, technical assistance, etc., long-term relationships/support
 - Support/partnering with other community organizations: technical assistance, communications funding/support, joint projects, etc.
 - Conflict resolution
 - Community organizing projects
 - Support for community advocacy efforts
 - Technical assistance to city bureaus on how to engage different communities
 - [What other types of services does ONI fund that advance the ONI mission and goals?]

- Clarify which communities ONI serves and wants to serve:
 - Neighborhood system
 - Communities of color
 - Immigrant and Refugee communities
 - Disability community
 - Elders
 - Youth
 - [identify other communities ONI may want to serve in the future]

- EACH PARTNER ORGANIZATION—CURRENT SERVICES/ACTIVITIES:
 - Each partner organizations (neigh coalitions, DCL, Disability, Elders, Youth, RNW) should clarify:
 - The community/communities they serve
 - The items on the “work-ONI-funds” list they provide
 - What does it minimally take to keep the doors open for our organization?
 - What does it take to do what is expected of our organization by ONI’s grant?

- EACH PARTNER ORGANIZATION—GROWTH OF SERVICES:
 - Each partner organization identifies:
 - How they would like to expand the delivery of the current services they provide
 - Additional services on the “work-ONI-funds” [or other similar services] they would like to provide (in addition to what they are doing now)
 - The level of additional funding would it take for them to provide these expanded services.

- HOW CAN ONI MORE EQUITABLY DISTRIBUTE RESOURCES?
 - Review/recognize past inequities in funding (:
 - Years each ONI partner organization has received ONI funding
 - Amount of ONI funding for each community partner
 - Percent of organization’s budget from ONI funding
 - Services each partner provides for the funding
 - Size of population served
 - Number of other community organizations supported/partnered with

 - DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:
 - Why are the funding numbers so different across the ONI partner organizations?
 - Should the number of years an organization has been a partner with ONI justify greater funding?
 - Should the number of years different communities have not been included in City decision making be factored in?
 - Why does ONI give the least amount of money to support community involvement by people of color and immigrant and refugee communities?
 - Should the DCL partner organizations continue to receive significantly less than the neighborhood coalitions? What would justify this policy/practice?
 - What does equitable funding across the system look like to everyone?
 - What should ONI expect from partner organizations to validate/justify ONI funding? How do we measure this?

- BASIC ASSUMPTIONS FOR MOVING AHEAD: What will help ONI and its community partners begin to move forward toward greater funding equity?
 - Some examples of possible basic assumptions individual ONI partners have suggested:
 - “No cuts to existing ONI partner organizations”
 - “All, or most, of any additional new funding goes to build the capacity of current DCL partner organizations.”
 - “New groups added to DCL program, only if new money becomes available.”
 - Etc.
- ACTIONS/PRODUCTS—DEVELOP BUDGET PROPOSALS/STRATEGY:
 - FY 14-15 Budget: Develop ONI FY 14-15 budget request based on equity strategy
 - 5-Year Strategy: Develop strategy for next five years of budget requests.