



SSDN Community Collaboration Catalyst Micro Grants

2021-2022

SSDN Member's Equity Statement & SSDN's Equity Commitments

SSDN members know that inequities in our systems and policies limit positive outcomes and quality of life for all of us. Members are committed to establishing and advancing equitable communities for all, regardless of ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, ability, economic status or any other status. Additionally, SSDN members recognize that those who contribute the least to climate change are those that are most vulnerable to the threats caused by a changing climate. Members also know that race and ethnicity are the primary predictors of a person's outcomes across all social indicators and societal systems.

Therefore, the network prioritizes racial and ethnic equity to dismantle the policies and systems that have created and sustained these inequities. When we achieve racial and ethnic equity, we believe that all people in the region will benefit.

SSDN members believe rooting sustainability work in equity is essential to seeing success in both solving the climate crisis and dismantling inequity. Our members approach addressing climate change by centering people and their experiences, and promote equal opportunity in the benefits from climate action. SSDN members see a unique responsibility in their roles to address climate equity, which involves addressing:

- Responsibilities for greenhouse gas emissions contributions and generators;
- Disproportionate distribution of climate change burdens and vulnerability to climate impacts; and
- Just distribution of the benefits of climate protection efforts.

As a network, SSDN commits to:

1. Creating a safe space for members to learn about equity and the intersection with sustainability and resilience practices. Peer learning will provide a space where members can be open and candid as they center on equity and the intersection of sustainability, climate, equity, environmental justice and resilience work
2. Supporting our members' individual equity work. SSDN will develop the network's programs and direction with the goal of providing members with knowledge and context about the historic and current inequitable systems that exploit both people and the environment.
3. SSDN members and leaders commit to reinforcing the intersectionality of equity and sustainability work, and acknowledging the power structures rooted in inequities, by offering examples of best practices happening in local communities.

4. SSDN leadership commits to creating growth and leadership opportunities for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) practitioners within the network and across the region by supporting, highlighting, and developing the leadership of SSDN's BIPOC members and communities.
5. Structuring SSDN's decisions, resources, and partnerships to support our equity statement, principles, and core values. SSDN will use its equity commitments to inform staffing, programming, and budget decisions for both the organization and the funds it makes available to members. The network will promote and build partnerships that support members' understanding and growth of equity principles. We support and encourage members in their journeys to build relationships outside of the network with diverse groups of stakeholders.
6. Accelerating adoption of equity values and commitments in our field of practice. SSDN will use our organizational structure to set an example of equity work for our community of practice through peer learning.
7. Creating an inclusive culture. SSDN will create spaces where members, staff, and partners feel welcome to participate fully with their identities, experiences, and positions. SSDN will continue to invest in the growth of SSDN's leadership's knowledge and skills around addressing the intersections of structural inequalities and environmental degradation.
8. Being accountable to our principles. SSDN will evaluate and report on how we are living up to our explicitly stated equity principles and our opportunities to do better. We will regularly assess SSDN's messaging, recruitment tactics, decision-making structure, internal practices and culture to ensure our network operations reflect our core values.

Program goals, awards, and project overview

SSDN's Community Collaboration Catalyst Micro Grant Program supports members and their frontline community partners in their collaborative efforts to jointly find equitable approaches to sustainability and resilience. This program provides small pots of funding to members and their partners to allow them to innovate or overcome barriers to systemic inequities that prevent community-led and equitable approaches from local governments. The program supports community leadership in local government sustainability and/or resilience projects, and allows local government and frontline community partnerships to test new solutions for collaboration.

The CCC Micro Grant Program seeks to support the following outcomes:

- 1) Best practices pertaining to centering equity in sustainability and resilience work are established, to catalyze more community-driven, climate engagement efforts region-wide;
- 2) Strengthened relationships between local governments and community members;
- 3) Deeper community engagement efforts and power building with local governments and frontline communities;

4) Community engagement efforts centered in the planning, policy, and program development efforts from local governments.

Awards

SSDN will award \$30,000 to: 1) *fund up to 6-8 community partnerships*, up to \$5,000 each, for work that is to be implemented between December 1, 2021 and May 31, 2022.

Projects that these grant funds might support include, but are not limited to, the following (examples below):

- Providing stipends to community members for participation in public processes; or to pay community members to conduct door to door outreach efforts;
- Paying for coaching on public processes for community members who need to build their capacity and develop a readiness to participate and lead in engagement spaces;
- Paying for translation services and/or providing coaching in multiple languages;
- Paying for community meeting costs, facilitation, food, childcare, and/or other needs to support community engagement;
- Payments to community based organizations to facilitate and/or organize meetings;
- Pay for equity coaching or community engagement training for local government staff; or
- Supporting local frontline organizations and community based groups to engage in local government conversations about federal funding proposals.

Community Collaboration Catalyst Micro Grants Program Requirements

Proposal Requirements

- Lead applicant may be an SSDN member or a community based partner located within an SSDN member jurisdiction. If the community based partner organization is the lead applicant, they must include an SSDN member as a supporting applicant. An SSDN member does not need to have a community partner co-apply, but the purpose of the funds must go toward community engagement and collaboration.
- Activities included in the proposal must include at least one SSDN member (local government) and one community partner and/or community members.
- Project / activities must pertain to local government sustainability and / or resilience plans, policies, and/or programs.
- Partnering/neighboring non-SSDN members are permitted to participate.
- Take place (in person or virtually) before May 31, 2022.
- Participants must all commit to submitting a one-page report before May 31, 2022 summarizing the activities, outcomes and anticipated next steps.

Eligible Budget Items: Travel expenses (flight, rideshare, mileage, taxi, public transit, etc.), facilitator expenses, food / meals during the CCC activity only, meeting expenses; participant stipends, childcare, consultant expenses, training activities, coaching, etc.

Funding Cycle

- Funding Application Cycle - September 1, 2021 - December 15, 2021
- Funding Implementation Cycle - December 1, 2021 - May 31, 2022

Application Timeline and Key Deadlines:

- RFP Cycle: August 1 - September 7, 2021
 - RFP Opens on August 1, 2021
 - Applications due by 6pm ET on September 7, 2021
- Application review and selection process: September 8 - October 19, 2021
- Awards Announced: Oct. 20, 2021
- October 21, - December 1, 2021: Contracting with USDN (SSDN's Fiscal Sponsor)
- Implementation Timeline: December 1, 2021 - May 31, 2022.