



# Participatory Budgeting Grant

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# Funding for Participatory Budgeting

- Director of Transportation and Sustainability and Office of Civil Rights Equity and Inclusion
- \$650k to conduct participatory budgeting to select a project
- March 2026-March 2027
- A participatory, community-driven process must be used to identify projects that **mitigate the disproportional impacts of climate change** on overburdened communities.
- \$1,600,500 selected capital project by March 2027
  - Commerce plans to request unspent funds to be reappropriated to the 27-29 biennium
  - Decarbonization or Climate Resilience or both

# Participatory Budgeting

- Innovative way to increase meaningful community involvement in public processes.
- Gives community members decision making authority about how to use funds, changing power dynamics
- Creates community leadership and problem solving.
- Allows community to prioritize ideas and decide where funds are spent.



# Boston's Participatory Budgeting Initiative



# What does PB do for local government?



## Improves internal processes

Often, governments processes are barriers to work with community members and grassroots groups.

The PB process offers opportunities to improve government processes to better engage with community members.



## Improves trust

There is a lot mistrust between government and community members, especially by those most impacted by inequities.

PB strengthens trust by increasing transparency in government spending, creating opportunities for government officials to work alongside community members.



## Improves quality of investments

The PB process produces rich qualitative data about issues people care about.

Investments tend to be more aligned with what people need.

# Funding conditions

The proviso states that:

- Funds must be used for projects that promote either decarbonization, resiliency, or both.
- A participatory, community-driven process must be used to identify projects that **mitigate the disproportional impacts of climate change** on overburdened communities.
- The process must allow for full community engagement.



# Resources

- [Home - Participatory Budgeting Project.](#)
- [Participatory budgeting in Unincorporated King County - King County, Washington](#)
- [About The People's Money.](#) There are a couple of videos about their PB project here: [CEC in The News](#)
- [Participatory Budgeting | Boston.gov.](#) Here's a video: [Ideas in Action: Boston's Participatory Budgeting Initiative](#)
- [Democracy Innovation Hub.](#)



# Questions?

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