**International Association
for Public Participation**
Cascade Chapter

08

**Fall**

A guide to who we are and the Community Capacity Micro-grant application process

**Application available on our website at** [**iap2usa.org/cascade**](https://iap2usa.org/cascade)

**Applications due to*****iap2cascade@gmail.com*****on November 12, 2020**

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# About IAP2

[IAP2 is a global non-profit](https://iap2usa.org/) membership organization working to advance ethics and best practices in the field of public participation. It is a home and community for people who believe good decisions can be made together and is made up of a wide range of practitioners that work to ethically gather community or stakeholder input and impact outcomes in different types of decision-making circumstances.

[IAP2 USA](https://iap2usa.org/) has over 2,200 members and the Cascade Chapter (which serves Oregon and Southwest Washington) is the largest chapter in the US. A particularly cool fact for the Cascade Chapter is that IAP2 was originally founded in Portland! That was in 1990, when the name was originally IAP3 -the International Association of Public Participation Professionals.

# What is public participation?

IAP2 views public participation as any process that involves the public in problem solving or decision making and uses public input to make decisions. Public participation includes all aspects of identifying problems and opportunities, developing alternatives and making decisions. It uses tools and techniques that are common to a number of dispute resolution and communications fields.

# IAP2 Core Values of Public Participation

1. Public participation is based on the belief that those who are affected by a decision have a right to be involved in the decision-making process.
2. Public participation includes the promise that the public’s contribution will influence the decision.
3. Public participation promotes sustainable decisions by recognizing and communicating the needs and interests of all participants, including decision makers.
4. Public participation seeks out and facilitates the involvement of those potentially affected by or interested in a decision.
5. Public participation seeks input from participants in designing how they participate.
6. Public participation provides participants with the information they need to participate in a meaningful way.
7. Public participation communicates to participants how their input affected the decision.

# IAP2 USA Vision Statement

We envision a country where public participation is deeply embedded and widely applied, and where equitable, efficient, and informed decision-making processes improve the quality of our democracy.

# IAP2 USA Mission Statement

IAP2 USA leads, advances, and advocates for best practices in public participation.

# Organizational Commitment to Equity

The Cascade Chapter of IAP2 USA is committed to advancing social and racial equity by supporting and elevating public involvement professionals and work that is equitable in processes and outcomes. To accomplish this, IAP2 Cascade applies an equity lens across its organizational functions and obliges to the following credos:

**Organizational Culture**

Our chapter will foster an organizational culture that positions equity at the core of all that it does.

**Organizational Capacity**

We will build our capacity to do this work by developing our shared knowledge and skills.

**Auditing our Practices**

We will evaluate our policies and practices through an equity lens.

**Collaborative Development**

We commit to working with the community and with our members to continue to elevate and advance this work.

**Diversifying Membership**

We will recruit, support, and promote the leadership of a diverse membership and practitioners.

# Introduction to our Community Capacity Micro-Grant

In 2019 IAP2 Cascade Chapter piloted a new program to commit small grants to organizations and agencies that advance the practice of public participation. In 2020, board members of IAP2 Cascade voted to extend the program, with some small adjustments.

## Changes to Application and Evaluation

Previously, applicants were required to be members of IAP2 Cascade or partnering with a member of IAP2 Cascade. Board members decided to remove this requirement in order to advance our goal of building new relationships with community-based organizations and agencies. We also shifted the questions to produce answers that speak to an organization’s values and actions that produce equitable outcomes. We also changed our process to be flexible to the needs of community-based organizations post-COVID. We removed the timeline and budget requirement and instead hope to generally learn that information from the other answers.

## Application amounts

There is a total $6000 available. Grants will be awarded in $500 increments, up to $2000 per applicant.

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## Who may apply

We encourage applications for projects that involve the leadership and meaningful participation of people of color, immigrants, elders, youth, those with disabilities, low-income residents, and other underrepresented groups.

## Qualifications

We will place preference on non-profit organizations (501c3), community-based organizations, and organizations that develop and enhance leadership in historically disadvantaged communities. We hope to support new and emerging organizations. Please describe how this could be “seed money” to help your organization grow, and how IAP2 Cascade can partner with you for your success. For profit agencies and industry experts may apply, but please consider the impact your application may have on organizations who do the same or similar work, but with fewer revenue and funding streams.

**Timeline:** Most projects should aim to be completed within 12 months. But let us know if you think it will take up to two years to complete.

## Location

* Projects must directly benefit Oregon, Southwest Washington or residents within it.
* Projects or programs involving private organizations must be able to show a clear public benefit.

## Application review and selection

The IAP2 Cascade Board of Directors will review grant requests and offer awards.

Priority will be based on:

* Clear connection to equity, diversity and inclusion.
* Specifically named communities (who exactly applicants mean when referencing “underserved” communities)
* Nonprofits, new organizations, and community-based organizations interested in partnering with IAP2 Cascade. Small, emerging, and recently overhauled organizations.
* Organizations and agencies led by and governed by boards that include large percentages of Black, Indigenous, people of color (BIPOC), people with disabilities, youth or elderly.
* Alignment with the [International Association for Public Participation values and spectrum of participation.](https://iap2usa.org/cvs)
* Applications that demonstrate ways they are innovating the field of community involvement. We accept being challenged and we want to learn from the wisdom of communities.
* Applications that generally discuss the budget.

## Award Event

In accepting this grant, you agree to return for an IAP2 Cascade award ceremony (December 2020). If social distancing recommendations are in place at the time of the ceremony, the event may take place over Zoom. You also agree to a Speaker's Panel (scheduled based on your availability), and you will compose an article for our newsletter to report back and remind our members of your work and organization. The intention behind these commitments are to provide you an opportunity for exposure, networking connections with IAP2 members and hopefully future grants.

## Grant Recipient Outcomes

Reflecting on how well the microgrants met their purpose and delivered on the intended outcomes will strengthen accountability with members and organizations in the Cascade Chapter’s region. We will follow up with you to learn:

* An understanding of the effectiveness of the project, program or grant.
* What stories can we tell about the project or program’s success?

We will seek this information through a mix of the above commitments as well as follow up calls/emails to check in on you and interview you on your success.

## Questions?

Contact us at iap2cascade@gmail.com

**Thank you for learning more about us and for considering applying!**

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