

Board of County Commissioners  
Clackamas County

Members of the Board:

Approval for Professional Services Contract for Research Justice Study for Communities of Color in Clackamas County with Coalition for Communities of Color

<b>Purpose/Outcomes</b>	To gain better understanding of the needs of population groups that continue to experience racial disparity in order to better address those needs and ensure that we the goals of our strategic plan are achieved for all people.
<b>Dollar Amount and Fiscal Impact</b>	\$300,000
<b>Funding Source</b>	\$150,000 General Funds, \$150,000 contributions from local governments and businesses
<b>Duration</b>	Effective upon execution through March 31, 2024
<b>Previous Board Action</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental Scan study with the Coalition of Communities of Color (CCC) authorized in May 2020 and report completed November 2020.</li> <li>• In July 2020, the Equity and Inclusion Office was established and continued work with CCC.</li> </ul>
<b>Strategic Plan Alignment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build Public Trust through Good Government</li> <li>• Ensure Safe, Healthy and Secure Communities</li> <li>• Grow a Vibrant Economy</li> </ul>
<b>Counsel Review</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Date of Counsel Review:</li> <li>2. Initials of County Counsel performing review:</li> </ol>
<b>Procurement Review</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Was the item process through Procurement? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>2. These contracts are a result of an RFP process</li> </ol>
<b>Contact Person</b>	Martine Coblentz, 971-325-5766
<b>Contract No.</b>	#4013

**BACKGROUND:**

Although Clackamas County is a predominantly white county, there are many communities of color living, working and raising their children within the county borders. As demonstrated in the Board of County Commissioner’s [Town Hall on Race Issues in Clackamas County](#) on August 19, 2020, people of color experience bias and discrimination in communities throughout the county. The narrative that Clackamas County is “White” has created an invisibility factor on communities of color. Historically and currently, communities that are not a part of the dominant group are negatively impacted by the decisions, policies and initiatives from government entities. Today, a disparity currently exists with the impacts of COVID 19 and people of color in the county.

In June 2020, the Board of County Commissioners passed a resolution [Resolution Condemning Violence and Racism](#) against Black/African American and all people of color in Clackamas County. The County Administrator also established in August of 2020, the County’s first Equity and Inclusion Office who is charged with leading the diversity, equity and inclusion efforts throughout the county. Additionally, the County hired the Coalition of Communities of Color (“CCC”) to conduct an environmental scan to:

1. Identify organizations and leaders in the County that represent and organize communities of color;
2. Recognize internal County and jurisdictional diversity, equity, and inclusion trends and occurrences;
3. Document external county factors such as demographics, politics and public policy, labor markets, housing, education, civic life, and other areas of interest that affect the quality of life for communities of color in Clackamas County;
4. Assess and analyze current CCC connections with Clackamas County including partners, constituents, and activities; and
5. Connect and help build relationships between the County Equity and Inclusion Officer and community-based organizations/leaders of communities of color in the County.

The Environmental Scan report is attached as **Attachment A**.

This scan report provides evidence of the need for Clackamas County to better serve communities of color. It also serves as a guide to highlight next steps. Clackamas County would like to more clearly understand all of the demographic groups within it, each group's distinct strengths, challenges and needs and begin to more meaningfully engage with those communities. It is critical that community partners, culturally specific organizations, cities, schools and other community based organizations, partner with communities of color so that everyone has an opportunity to thrive.

Over 15 local governments and businesses within Clackamas County supports the need of this effort by offering to contribute nearly a little more than half of the cost of this contract. This is a tremendous show of support from local stakeholders. Washington and Multnomah Counties have also done this work within the past 10 years and Clackamas County is now the final county in the Portland-metropolitan region to complete this work.

**PROCUREMENT PROCESS:**

This project was advertised in accordance with ORS and LCRB Rules on January 26, 2021. Proposals were opened on February 25, 2021. The evaluation committee comprised of 10 evaluators; 5 from Clackamas County and 5 from external agencies that have a stake in this project. The County received a total of 4 proposals from Coalition of Communities of Color, Keen Independent Research, Morant McLeod and Philliber Research Associates.

The Committee evaluated the proposals and made the recommendation that Coalition of Communities of Color be awarded the Contract.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approval the Contract with Coalition of Communities of Color.

Respectfully submitted,

Martine Coblentz  
Equity and Inclusion Officer

Placed on the \_\_\_\_\_ agenda by Procurement.