

**Council of Community Housing Organizations
San Francisco Bay Area Regional Prosperity Plan
Sub-grantee Final Report**

A. Project Profile (1 page maximum)

Project Name: CCHO Community Capacity building

Lead and Partner Organizations: Council of Community Housing Organizations

Primary Contact Person: Peter Cohen, CCHO, ccho@sfc-409.org, 325 Clementina Street, San Francisco 94103

Sub-Grant Program: Equity Collaborative

Project Type: Capacity Building

Total Grant Amount: \$20,000

Total Match (if any): N/A

Geographic Coverage of Project: San Francisco and Bay Area Region

Brief Description (150 words maximum):

Continuation of CCHO's active role in shaping the "sustainable communities" agenda for Bay Area local implementation, through knowledge-sharing, technical assistance and coalition-building with CCHO's 20 member organizations and a broad network of housing and social equity organizations. CCHO is focused at the San Francisco city/county scale where there is a rich patchwork of CBOs and base-building groups, but also is very engaged in coalition efforts around regional smart growth/SCS issues with advocacy organizations across several Bay Area communities.

B/C/D. Project Description, Challenges and Outcomes

Our RPP sub-grant was designed to support the continuation of CCHO's active role in shaping the "sustainable communities" agenda for Bay Area local implementation, through knowledge-sharing, technical assistance and coalition-building with a broad network of housing and social equity organizations.

The workplan spanned three areas of activity:

1. Active involvement in the implementation process for the regional HUD grant. Over the year grant period we regularly and actively participated in Regional Prosperity Plan working group meetings, provided input and advice for working group co-chairs, the joint project team and MTC/ABAG staff. On the Affordable Housing Funding Gap & Strategies Analysis and the Fair Housing and Equity Assessment projects, which were done in-house by agencies staff, we provided feedback on the scope and the drafting of the analyses and the work products. Similarly, we worked closely with staff and the HWG co-chairs in crafting the scope of the Development Dashboard project which is currently underway. In addition, as an active member of the consortium's Equity Collaborative and Housing workgroups since the beginning of the RPP process, CCHO has had a serious interest in helping to build a longer term "infrastructure" to support collaborative work beyond the relatively short-term 3 year grant period. We have seen this process as an opportunity to create a functional collaboration around the regional equitable development agenda that connects local CBOs, regional NGOs, local governments and the regional agencies.

We also focused significantly on helping to scope and launch the Regional Early Warning System project with the REWS team and UC Berkeley and the grant-funded CBOs to the project, and continue to be actively engaged in that ongoing work currently. An extension of the original REWS scope was to set up a peer exchange program with counterparts in the Los Angeles region, including UCLA researchers, local CBOs and regional agency reps. Those peer exchanges have added a valuable layer of knowledge-sharing and analytical insights to the Regional Early Warning System project.

Finally, we have provided ongoing feedback and strategic advice for various sub-grantees as their projects proceeded, including the Small Sites Acquisition and Stabilization project, the Development Without Displacement study, the Land Value Recapture study, and the Leadership Academy project.

2. Serve as a technical and advisory resource for community based organizations in the region on regional issues including affordable housing, displacement, transportation and economic development, not only housing and service-provider organizations but also base-building and advocacy organizations across the spectrum of housing, tenants rights and economic development “sectors”. CCHO has been a leader in framing the relevance and importance of smart growth/SCS issues for the broad advocacy movement, and helping to create points of access and constructive interventions for community-based activists at both the local and regional levels.

Through the grant period we engaged with a wide variety of organizations connecting with the RPP and other regional processes, as well as participated in presentations and popular education through various venues with activists, local agency staffers, and students.

3. Beyond the RPP consortium process, continue CCHO’s role in coalition building around a regional equitable development agenda through the 6 Wins for Equity network, a collaboration of advocacy organizations and policy advocates from across the region. CCHO contributed significantly in developing the "Housing Agenda for SCS" and the "Agenda for Investment without Displacement" which guided much of the advocacy work through the Sustainable Communities Strategy and One Bay Area block-grant processes.

We have actively participated in coalition-building and program development for the regional network, providing input on organizational infrastructure and the future policy agenda. CCHO also took on the role of co-chairing the Investment Without Displacement sub-group, where monthly meetings bring together many of the housing and social justice advocates from around the region.

D. Replicability and Dissemination

The application of much of the Regional Prosperity Plan outcomes will be through advocacy by community-based organizations working in low income and communities of color across the region – what MTC and ABAG refer to as “communities of concern.”

As awareness is growing and knowledge is being honed through the RPP process, we hope that these projects will have even greater impact. This past year has also seen the 6 Wins for Equity network successfully move through a next-steps process to retain capacity for continuing impact in regional policy work, including exploring opportunities for resource development to sustain the regional network infrastructure. This will be of key importance to sustaining some of the collaborative efforts of the Regional Prosperity Plan process.

In general we have continued to play an active role in the region through efforts at coordination, coalition-building and sharpening capacity of CBOs to continue engagement in FOCUS and Plan Bay Area implementation. This in-between period while the next update to PBA is on the horizon for 2016 has presented a key opportunity to prepare the analytical and tactical capacity for the next update process.

E. Recommendations and Next Steps

Through our sustained role in the Regional Prosperity Plan implementation work over nearly three years, CCHO has helped open the process for many other community based organizations to participate and develop leadership around the issues. The demonstrated leadership and practical value CCHO has brought to the broader regional movement around sustainable communities and equitable development was important to maintain, and this sub-grant allowed us to continue contributing to that effort.

Our recommendations going forward are that 1) the “consortium” environment be maintained in some fashion—coordinated stakeholder and institutional relationships for constructive engagement around regional sustainable communities policy issues, and 2) the community-based organizations and stakeholders be supported and resourced to maintain direct involvement and shared leadership in that regional policy work.