

# 2022 Seattle City Council Statement of Legislative Intent

Council Budget Action: Agenda

Tab	Action	Option	Version
OED	011	A	001

**Budget Action Title:** Request that OED, OH, and OPCD develop a plan to coordinate community investments

Ongoing: No Has Attachment: No

Primary Sponsor: Tammy Morales

Council Members:

Staff Analyst: Yolanda Ho

Date		Total	LH	TM	KS	AP	DJ	DS	AL	BC	LG
	Yes	0									
	No	0									
	Abstain	0									
	Absent	0									

## Statement of Legislative Intent:

This Statement of Legislative Intent would request that the Office of Economic Development (OED), Office of Housing (OH), and the Office of Planning and Community Development (OPCD), and other departments as appropriate, create a plan to coordinate their strategies for investing in community projects.

Currently, OH provides funding for affordable housing projects throughout Seattle, and OPCD, through its Equitable Development Initiative (EDI), funds projects that address displacement and lack of access to opportunity for historically marginalized communities in Seattle. Both OH and EDI focus on high displacement risk neighborhoods, though EDI funds a wider range of projects, including commercial spaces, mixed-use affordable housing developments, education centers, and community spaces.

OED's 2022 Proposed Budget would create a new Small Business Ownership Fund, supported by \$7,600,000 GF. This is intended to help small businesses acquire affordable ground floor commercial space in affordable housing developments located in key commercial corridors. The stated goals of this program are to support the City's anti-displacement efforts and increase access to financial resources for Black, Indigenous, and people of color-owned small businesses, who often face barriers to financing.

While OED, OH, and OPCD have been coordinating on an ad hoc basis to support their respective bodies of work, they have not established a formal structure for coordination. With the introduction of the Small Business Ownership Fund, which intersects with the efforts of OH and EDI, the departments could benefit from a more clearly defined structure, such as an interdepartmental team, to ensure that the City's investments are strategically aligned.

OED, OH, and OPCD should develop a plan to coordinate their approach to funding community projects, which could include a charter to clarify the goals, structure, and responsibilities of the different departments involved. The plan should also consider how to ensure that organizations applying for City funding can have a seamless experience, regardless of which department holds the appropriate funding for the project.

OED, OH, and OPCD should submit the plan to the Community Economic Development Committee, or successor committee, and the Central Staff Director by June 3, 2022.

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**Responsible Council Committee(s):**

Community Economic Development

**Date Due to Council:**

June 3, 2022