



City of Bellevue Choose Your Way Bellevue Employer/Property Manager Mini-Grant Program November 2020 Relaunch

June 12, 2021

Would you like to reduce drive-alone commute trips to your worksite or building as workers return to the office post-COVID-19?

If you answered "Yes!" you may be able to receive up to \$10,000 from Choose Your Way Bellevue to help!

OVERVIEW

Choose Your Way Bellevue has a new round of mini-grant funding available that will be distributed through a scored application process to help support employers and property managers improve commute programs to reduce drive-alone commuting at their Bellevue worksites, during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mini-grant funds can be used for one-time activities to implement or enhance commuter parking and trip reduction programs through supporting parking management changes, infrastructure, resources or a promotional campaign. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis starting on November 13, 2020. Applications that meet the scoring threshold will be awarded funding within per-grant monetary limits, on a first-come, first-served while funding lasts.

Employers and property managers are encouraged to take advantage of this funding to help make adjustments to their worksite commute programs, parking management structures including daily parking, worksite amenities and/or site infrastructure to help avoid or mitigate increased drive-alone commuting associated with employees returning to the office following COVID-19.

ELIGIBILITY

Applicable Project Types:

Funds are intended to provide support or enhancement toward activities already under way, or to make activities possible that organizations cannot normally offer. Although there is no minimum size/employee count requirement, evaluation criteria are designed to emphasize sites that will reach the most people or have the most impact. Grant projects may take the form of:

- Support for changing parking management practices to encourage non-drive-alone commuting



- Supporting infrastructure for non-drive-alone commuting (such as bike racks, carpool/vanpool parking signage or other onsite improvements)
- A campaign/promotional activity to raise awareness of non-drive-alone commuting resources already offered by your organization

Program Limitations and Project Requirements:

- Available to worksites in Bellevue.
- Per-project grant amount limits:
 - Daily commuter parking pricing projects: To accommodate structural and cultural shifts associated with shifts to daily parking pricing, up to **\$10,000** per worksite; to be eligible, must meet parameters in item 1 below
 - Other project types: up to **\$8,000** per worksite
- Only one application per worksite per five-year period, based on application submittal date.
- Funds must be used solely for projects that increase viability or awareness of non-drive-alone commuting at Bellevue worksites.
- Only projects that provide a public benefit by reducing drive-alone commuting to the worksite will be selected for funding. Businesses may not profit monetarily from the mini-grant funds.
- Mini-grant funds will be provided on a reimbursement basis: Employers/property managers selected for mini-grants are required to complete and submit a project evaluation form and receipts/documentation of expenses at the completion of the mini-grant in order to be eligible for reimbursement.
- Funding amount will be based on project cost estimates and scope set forth in a funding agreement to be executed between the city and the employer/property manager following notice of mini-grant award. Reimbursement may not exceed the approved grant allocation.
- The City of Bellevue does not guarantee that a project application will be funded and reserves the right to determine which applications are funded and to what degree.
- Limit one grant application per worksite. Applications may include multiple components (such as new bicycle amenities plus a promotional campaign to market the new amenities to employees and/or encourage/incentivize their use).
- Funding through this program may not be used to offset costs of activities required by existing agreements or regulation, including those identified in a building Transportation Management Program agreement or employer Commute Trip Reduction program required by state law or city ordinance.
- Funds are intended to support activities, programs or resources that employers or property managers are not already providing, or to enhance current activities to reduce drive-alone commuting.



- Funds may not be used for direct ongoing non-drive-alone commute subsidies for employees, with a potential exception granted if such subsidies are demonstrated to be necessary to the success of a limited-time daily parking pricing pilot.

EXAMPLES OF ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

- **Costs associated with implementing daily commuter parking pricing – to be eligible, the project and project expenses must meet the following parameters:**
 - Expenses associated with offering commuters a daily choice to pay for parking, instead of spending a “sunk” monthly rate that covers parking cost for the entire month. The mini-grant project may take the form of a “pilot” to test a daily parking pricing concept at the worksite, to aid your organization in determining whether daily parking pricing is viable at your worksite. So that there is relative parity between daily and monthly parking pricing, the daily parking price must be no more than 20% higher than monthly cost when all days of the month are totaled. Applications must include full in-and-out privileges must be provided for daily parkers for the project, OR include a valid explanation as to why in-and-out privileges are not feasible. Daily parking pricing mini-grant projects may or may not include item 2 below, “enhanced parking or commute options software/hardware,” depending on the conditions/needs of the worksite.
 - **Enhanced parking or commute options software/hardware** – Expenses associated with implementing specialized software/hardware at your worksite to manage your parking supply, commute incentives, etc. This allows your organization to provide incentives and track commute mode data and/or encourage non-drive-alone commuting through incentives, parking access for high-occupancy vehicles, daily parking pricing, etc.
- **Real-time transit Information** provided to employees via a lobby information screen or mobile software tool that indicates real-time transit arrival data, real-time or location data for other non-drive-alone options, service alerts, etc.
- Expenses for conducting a **commute program event/campaign** to raise awareness and/or encourage employees to try non-drive-alone modes. Note: Food and gift card incentives are not eligible for funding due to the program funding source.
- **Capital improvements** such as full or partial funding of new or upgraded showers/lockers, secure bike parking, wayfinding/signage for users of non-drive-alone modes, HOV parking signage, bike fleets, etc.

Do you have another idea?

We're excited to hear about it! Email or call Choose Your Way Bellevue staff at info@CYWB.org or 425-283-1356 to discuss your proposal.



EXAMPLES OF NON-ELIGIBLE PROJECTS/EXPENSES

- Projects that solely entail commute mode subsidies for employees
- Projects that entail activities that the company is already doing
- Expenses that have broad application to areas other than employee commute options (such as software that is not commute-specific)
- Telework hardware/software acquisition or other expenses. However, note that employers in King County can receive free expert consulting assistance with starting a telework program through King County's WorkSmart program (<https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/transportation/metro/employer-programs/telework/worksmart.aspx>).
- Campaign rewards in the form of cash or gift cards are not eligible (although one-time incentive rewards may include small transportation safety items or monetary contribution toward commuting expenses).
- Food and beverages are not eligible.

HOW DO I APPLY?

Step 1 (optional but recommended): Talk with a Choose Your Way Bellevue representative about your project idea. Send an email to info@CYWB.org or call 425-283-1357. Representatives are available to help you develop a project.

Step 2: Obtain necessary approvals from your organization's management to participate in the mini-grant program.

Note: The program requires your organization to expend the funds first and then submit an itemized invoice with original receipts, together with a project evaluation, for reimbursement.

Step 3: Submit a completed grant application to info@CYWB.org, or mail to the address on the [application form](#).

ONCE I APPLY, THEN WHAT?

For applicants and projects that meet requirements stated above, Choose Your Way Bellevue will evaluate applications against the following criteria:

General Project Criteria – All Projects



1. Number of persons (employees/tenants) who will participate in or benefit from project, in proportion to requested funding amount (if fewer than 20, unlikely to receive any points) **(34 points)**
2. Extent to which the project overcomes an initial barrier, fills a gap and/or creates a new opportunity in your organization's program for reducing commute trips **(20 points)**
3. Extent to which the project will reduce drive-alone commute trips, both near- and long-term, including the robustness of the basis for assessing or measuring this impact **(20 points)**
4. Likelihood that project will continue to have a positive impact on commute trip reduction beyond the activity **(10 points)**
5. Is the project fully developed, including a plan for administering and completing the project? Are adequate details about the project's development, promotion, and expected performance provided? **(10 points)**
6. Quality and completeness of application **(6 points)**

Total possible points for General Project Criteria: 100

Specialized Criteria for Daily Parking Pricing Projects – All "General Parking Criteria" above, plus the following as demonstrated in the application form:

- a. If a parking application entails solely adjusting parking pricing from monthly to daily—with parity of pricing, garage access, and in-and-out privileges—AND the parking program is open to all employees previously eligible for monthly parking—the proposal will receive a 10-point bonus.
- b. Parking program should accommodate in-and-out privileges for those choosing the daily parking pricing option; if this criterion cannot be met, the applicant is required to include an explanation of why it cannot be met.
- c. Parking program must be available to at least 70% of employees at the worksite who have the option of monthly parking.
- d. Parking program must consist of daily parking pricing for employees on par with monthly pricing; or daily parking must be no more costly than 20% higher than the monthly parking price. An equivalent daily price is calculated as $\text{monthly price} \times 12 / 235$ (assumed number of working days in a year). For example, if the existing monthly parking rate is \$100, the equivalent daily rate is $(\$100 \times 12) / 235 = \5.11 per day. In this example, the allowed daily rate can be no more than \$6.13.

Required number of points for grant award: 80, plus at least 50% of the points for each criterion (1-6)

Selection Process and Timeline:



Choose Your Way Bellevue staff will review applications as they are received based on the above criteria, awarding grants on a first-come, first-served basis, while funding lasts. Choose Your Way Bellevue will provide notice to applicants on whether or not they have been awarded a mini-grant within 60 days of their application submittal date.

Reimbursement Process and Timeline:

Deadline for completion of project implementation and submittal to City of Bellevue of itemized invoice, original receipts, and completed project evaluation form is October 31 of the year following application submittal, and no later than October 31, 2022, based on currently available funding as November 13, 2020. (It is anticipated that the mini-grant program may be extended in the future to accommodate a later project deadline.) Mini-grant funds to be provided 60 days following submittal of the above items to the satisfaction of the City of Bellevue.

For more information, please contact your CYWB representative:

Travis Lange at info@CYWB.org or 425-283-1357

Choose Your Way Bellevue looks forward to receiving your application!



**CHOOSE YOUR WAY BELLEVUE
EMPLOYER/ PROPERTY MANAGER MINI-GRANT APPLICATION FORM**

Application Section I: APPLICANT INFORMATION

Organization Name:
Street Address:
City, State and Zip:
Tax ID Number
City of Bellevue Business License Number (if known):*
Contact Person:
Title:
Phone Number:
Email
Project Lead (if different from contact person):
Title:
Phone Number:
Email:

*Business license required in order to receive mini-grant reimbursement

2. What is the primary business or activity at this location?

4. Does your organization currently have an employee transportation program, or bike parking and/or supporting facilities/amenities, at this worksite?

Yes No I don't know

4a. If yes, please check all activities involved in your program:

<input type="checkbox"/>	ORCA/vanpool subsidy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Preferential carpool/vanpool parking
<input type="checkbox"/>	Daily Parking	<input type="checkbox"/>	Incentives for cyclists
<input type="checkbox"/>	Incentives for non-drive alone transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Incentives for walkers
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bicycle parking	<input type="checkbox"/>	Employee showers/lockers
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:		

4b. Is the proposed mini-grant project a new employee transportation project/program, or an expansion of a current program element?



Application Section II: PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. **Project Title:**

2. **What is the purpose of implementing the project?** Provide background on why the project is important/beneficial or what need/gap it will fill. How will it boost participation in non-drive-alone commuting?

3. **Project Description:** Describe what will be implemented, including any parking management changes, campaigns, events, educational materials, incentives, and capital or project-specific software purchases. Capital purchase items may include items such as bike racks, way-finding signs for showers, lockers and bike facilities, carpool/vanpool program related items such as signage and hangtags and locker/shower facilities. Software may purchased if it is specifically for commute or parking management to reduce drive-alone commuting. Indicate whether the project is a component of a larger effort being undertaken by your organization for reducing drive-alone commute trips. ***If the project is a daily parking pricing project, describe here the detailed monthly and daily price comparison, in-and-out privileges (explanation required if not included), and which employees are eligible for daily parking, including count of those eligible. See page 4 for eligibility requirements for daily parking projects.***



4. How will this project impact drive-alone commuting at your worksite?

5. What is the project timeline or start/end date? (In order to receive reimbursement, all projects must be completed and an itemized invoice with original receipts, plus a project evaluation, must be submitted to the City of Bellevue by October 31 of the year following the year the application is submitted.)

6. How will you ensure delivery of the project? Who will perform the work required to administer the project? If this person is no longer available to facilitate the project, who will ensure the project is completed?



Application Section III: PROJECT BUDGET

Capital costs	
Incentives	
Marketing materials	
Other: (identify)	
Other: (identify)	
Other: (identify)	
Total project cost	
Total grant amount requested	
Please indicate any additional funds your organization will be contributing to this project	

Application Section IV: EXPECTED PROJECT OUTCOMES

1. How many employees are located at your worksite? Please describe types of employees and number in each category type (full-time, part-time, permanent, temporary, etc.)

2. How many employees do you anticipate participating in the project? Please explain their involvement.

3. How will you invite/involve employee participants?

4. Please estimate how many **new** non-drive-alone commuters, or commute trips per month, that you expect as a result of the project. Include a description of your method for estimating.



5. Why/how do you anticipate this project will increase the number of employees/tenants using a non-drive-alone commute mode?

6. Please estimate how many project participants are likely to continue using non-drive-alone commute modes once the project has ended. (Note: On the Project Evaluation form, you will be asked to identify/estimate the number of employees/tenants switching from drive-alone to each non-drive-alone commute mode.)

7. Will your organization be willing to continue to fund this project once mini-grant funding is fully expended? If not, what can you do to encourage the continuation of this project/program (if applicable)?



Application Section V: SIGNATURE

I understand this mini-grant operates on a reimbursement basis and that our organization will need to make expenditures and subsequently submit documentation to the City of Bellevue for reimbursement.

Signature of organization's Project Lead

Title

Date

Please submit to: [***info@CYWB.org***](mailto:info@CYWB.org)

Or mail to: ***Kate Johnson
City of Bellevue
P.O. Box 90012
Bellevue, WA 98009-9012***

For internal use only:

Received

Date



**CHOOSE YOUR WAY BELLEVUE
EMPLOYER/ PROPERTY MANAGER MINI-GRANT PROJECT EVALUATION FORM***

*Please submit with an itemized invoice and original receipts for grant reimbursement by October 31, 2022.

Project Information

Organization name:

Contact person:

Project lead (if different from contact person):

Email address:

Phone number:

Project title:

How did you implement the Chose Your Way Bellevue Employer/Property Manager mini-grant project?
Was it different from the original project described in the grant application?

What was the project timeline or start/end date? _____

What was the actual dollar amount spent to implement the project?

Capital costs:

Incentives:

Marketing materials:

Other (identify):

Other (identify):

Other (identify):

Total project cost:



Project Results

How many employees participated in the project? _____

What were the outcomes of the project? How did the project impact your worksite's drive-alone commute rate? Please include estimated numbers of people switching from driving alone to each of the following modes: transit, carpool, vanpool, walk, bike, telework, or compressed work week.

How well, and by what means, did the project meet the original goals described in the grant application?

Are the results of the project sustainable now that the project is over?

Mini-Grant Program Feedback

How did the Choose Your Way Bellevue Employer/Property Manager Mini-Grant program affect your decision to try a new commute project, program or activity? Please check one:

- Would have implemented the project anyway
- Was a small factor in deciding to implement the project
- Was a large factor in deciding to implement the project



___ Would not have implemented the project without Choose Your Way Bellevue funding or assistance

Additional comments:

How could the Employer/Property Manager Mini-Grant program be improved? Is there anything else you'd like to tell us?

Signature

Signature of organization's Project Lead

Title

Date

In order to be eligible for reimbursement, please submit this completed, signed form with an itemized invoice and original receipts by October 31 of the year following your original mini-grant application submittal date, and no later than October 31, 2022, to:

Kate Johnson
City of Bellevue Transportation Department
PO Box 90012
Bellevue WA 98009-9012
kmjohnson@bellevuewa.gov