

Community Outreach Dinner Cole Fund Grant Application

Specific Grant Request

The Community Outreach Dinner Committee requests a grant of \$1200 from the Cole Fund.

The dinner will be funded by a variety of organizations with the 46th District Democrats listed as lead sponsor.

Briefly summarize the project, why it is important at this time, and any other key information.

We are applying for this grant to fund a community dinner focused on engaging the citizens of the 46th District—labor community, small business, progressive minded people not yet involved in the democratic process, young people, and community members. The purpose of this event is to energize 46th District constituents around one or more actionable, achievable projects.

The dinner will be held at Fare Start, on Guest Chef Night (Thursday), in the banquet room. Fifty people, seated at 6 tables, will discuss and debate their ideas for a community-based project. Seating will be arranged so that the diversity of the 46th District will be represented at each table. Carefully selected table moderators will facilitate the table conversation, and local Democratic officials will act as servers.

An emcee will lead participants through the event.

In the post-Obama campaign era, it is critical to recapture the excitement and energy associated with broad-based community action. Building face-to-face infrastructure and deep community involvement is necessary to grow the 46th District as a whole, and the 46th District Democrats as a part of the whole.

How is this project consistent with the values of Raymond Cole (46th District Dems, Education, Ethics)?

This type of community organizing facilitates a more robust democratic process within the population of the 46th District. It encourages participation from those not traditionally involved in community action, and educates local leaders about what the grassroots can do when engaged.

How is this project consistent with the values, vision, and platform of the 46th District Democrats?

Historically, the 46th District Democrats have been committed to the ideals of equity, democracy, and community-based action. The Community Outreach Dinner demonstrates these values through a practical, achievable process.

What specific needs/problems will be addressed by this grant?

All people need to feel connected to their community. This dinner offers the opportunity for those who feel their voices have not been heard to clearly share their ideas for actionable items within their neighborhoods. It also enhances the ability of local party officials to hear what issues, projects, and values are important to the 46th District.

How will this project result in improvement in people's lives and/or their communities?

Fostering cooperation between neighbors, and amongst 46th District members will enhance a deep sense of community and purpose. All people need to be connected to the larger world around them, and offering individuals a place to brainstorm, share, and commit to action increases connectivity and a sense of belonging.

How will this project benefit the 46th District Democrats, such as in reputation, membership, volunteers, building leadership, new allies, empowerment, activism, etc.?

As lead sponsor, the 46th District Democrats will benefit from increased exposure, a broadening of membership base, and most importantly, stand as an organization committed to ACTION within the community. Through the Community Outreach Dinner, the 46th District Democrats will provide opportunities for neighbors to step out of their comfort zones, and to engage in community-based action items.

If this project offers benefits beyond the 46th District Democrats, such as to other Districts, WA State, the U.S., please describe those benefits.

Because of the unique nature of this dinner, the 46th District Democrats have the opportunity to demonstrate the power of grassroots action. The Community Outreach Dinner is a model for other districts and organizations to follow.

Describe the specific goals of this project.

- 1.) To broaden the base of the district party to include more grassroots perspectives, including labor, small business, young people, recent immigrants, and those not traditionally involved in the party.
- 2.) To surface up to six actionable items within the 46th District, and to create leadership teams to move those actions forward.
- 3.) To empower and enrich the lives of 46th District citizens, and to connect them more deeply to party infrastructure.
- 4.) To create a welcoming atmosphere which acknowledges and values individual input and ideas.

How will you specifically measure the success of this project?

- 1.) By meeting turnout goals, surfacing new ideas, developing further involvement, and facilitating community action.
- 2.) By quantifying the number of new members joining the 46th District Democrats because of their participation in the event.
- 3.) By analyzing the increased interest in, and creation of, new committees within the 46th District Democrats.
- 4.) By monitoring the energy developed around specific actionable items, and following the process through which these items are implemented.
- 5.) By cultivating the leadership skills of young 46th District members.

What challenges will you face in achieving these goals?

- 1.) Fundraising.
- 2.) Connecting with different constituency groups.
- 3.) Developing leadership from the participant group.
- 4.) Facilitating the creation of infrastructure to move the action items forward.
- 5.) Ensuring that all participants feel comfortable sharing ideas and input.

6.) Mentoring new members into the party structure.

Describe how you will go about completing the project including steps along the way.

The committee will grow by another three or four members if the grant is secured.

The Community Outreach Dinner Committee will meet on a monthly basis to work on logistics through November. The committee will then meet twice a month up to the event date in mid January.

What is the timeframe for each segment of the work on the project, the final implementation, and the utility of the project into the future?

August-November

Committee work includes outreach, securing sponsorships from organizations, printing invitations and table tents, fostering relationships with interested parties, and securing commitments from elected officials to serve at the event.

October-December

Members of the committee will be responsible for face-to-face ticket sales as well as media outreach, and table moderator and server identification.

January

Committee work includes final event planning, reservation and RSVP confirmation, and table moderator training.

The committee will meet the week after the dinner to evaluate the event itself, to quantify surfaced energy and involvement, and to plan for the mentoring of the leadership teams that stepped forward.

Describe the team of people who will work on the project including qualifications, or experience which will enable them to contribute to the success of the project.

- Dusty Hoerler—A long-time community and labor volunteer organizer, Dusty has extensive experience involving labor members in political activity.

- April Osborne—Chair of the Board of Directors of SustainableWorks, an Obama State Delegate, and an active community member, April brings organizational leadership skills to the project.
- Tom Veatch—An active PCO in the 46th District, Tom is committed to building a grassroots community organizing infrastructure. He brings great passion, insight, and commitment to the project along with new media skills.
- Kathryn Lewis—Kathryn brings her understanding of the 46th District, its future growth, and her networking talents to the project.
- Peter Shapiro—Dedicated to membership development and outreach, Peter offers a comprehensive organizing vision.
- More committee members will be added as the project moves forward.

If there are other partners (people or organizations) on the project, who are they and what are their roles?

At the time of this application, the Washington State Labor Council has made a firm verbal commitment to match any monies received from the Cole Fund up to \$600.

Local 32 Plumbers and Pipefitters, Teamsters Local 117, University Unitarian Church, Real Change and Fare Start have committed to surfacing members (from the 46th District) who would be interested in attending the dinner.

If there are similar existing projects, explain how your proposal differs and what effort will be made to work cooperatively?

At the time of this application, we know of no similar projects.

Budget

Banquet cost— 65 persons at 24.00 per person	1560.00
Gratuity.....	312.00
Printing cost for invitations and table tents.....	800.00
General supplies	200.00
Additional food costs (hors d’oeuvres and wine).....	800.00
 Total budget estimate.....	 3672.00

Revenue

55 Tickets sold at \$15.00 per ticket.....825.00

Footnote: The discrepancy of 10 in the number of tickets is a set aside for low-income participants.

List amounts requested of other funding sources to which this proposal has been submitted.

- Washington State Labor Council—\$600.
- We are also pursuing in-kind donations such as printed materials, flowers, wine, etc.

The Community Dinner Committee will approach the following organizations if the grant from the Cole Fund is received.

Lake City Chamber of Commerce.....600.00

Washington State Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters.....600.00

Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 32, Seattle.....600.00

Teamsters Local 117.....600.00

In the event that we are unable to meet your full request, please indicate priority items in the proposed grant budget.

Without full funding from the Cole Committee, we do not feel we have the ability to pursue the project at this time.

References:

Kathryn Lewis
Peter Shapiro
Other references available as needed.