



TVEDM Community Capacity Fund Guidelines

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TVEDM Background/Purpose:

Months before the COVID-19 pandemic hit U.S. shores, organizations and community groups in the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) footprint came together to address what we view as a crisis of our public energy system. Lack of democratic, public control over major energy decisions has resulted in displacement of communities, degraded public and environmental health, unaffordable electric bills, and injustice towards energy workers in the Tennessee Valley. In spite of the global climate crisis, our public power system fails to provide adequate access to clean energy alternatives even as residents call for these critical resources. Time and again, TVA's public input mechanisms have disempowered residents who have taken the time and energy to engage. To establish a true energy democracy, our public power system needs to be transformed by and for the people.

In 2019, the Tennessee Valley Energy Democracy Tour collected input from 13 communities with the goal of creating a "people's vision" for the energy future of the region served by the Tennessee Valley Authority, a federally owned power producer serving Tennessee and parts of six surrounding states.

This vision calls for an energy system that:

- Protects workers and provides high quality, good-paying jobs;
- Prioritizes health over wealth, for communities and the environment;
- Generates electricity with clean, safe, renewable energy;
- Makes bills affordable and ensures everyone has power;
- Provides equitable access to energy efficiency and solar power;
- Generates energy locally; and
- Is democratically controlled by the public/ builds power from the bottom up.

Community Capacity Fund Guidelines

In order to achieve the shared objectives guided by these values, the TVEDM Community Capacity Fund (The TVEDM Fund) is intended to build and strengthen the capacity of participating organizations and individuals. We rely on frontline, community-based organizations for leadership and partnership to advance our collective goals and objectives. Therefore, we must resource these teachers, valued peers and mentors fairly and equitably.

- The TVEDM Fund can be used to increase leadership training, community organizing skills, staffing, fundraising development, and/or internal organizational infrastructure development. The fund can also be used for grassroots campaign expenses or stipended participation in TVEDM's "Train the Trainers" series.
- TVEDM's 2020 funding from The Mosaic Movement Infrastructure Fund is seeding The TVEDM Fund. 2021 funding awards range from \$200 min. to \$2,000 max.

Criteria Organizations eligible for the TVEDM Community Capacity Fund must:

1. Demonstrate commitment to racial equity and the goals of the "[People's Vision](#)" that was collected during the Tennessee Valley Energy Democracy Tour, as well as a commitment to TVEDM's mission to bring democracy, equity, and safe, renewable power to the Tennessee Valley energy system (including TVA's Local Power Companies) by transforming it from the bottom up.
2. Directly engage with low-wealth and/or Black and Brown communities, or other frontline communities to prepare and activate them as advocates for utility democratization and reform. Funded activities must include amplifying community voices and/or cultivating community leadership.
3. Either be active participants in TVEDM quarterly calls, working group calls, or other projects, or provide a referral from a currently active TVEDM participant.
4. Provide a reference who can attest to community trust in the applicant, and their track record of engaging with the target community respectfully.
5. Be willing to participate in a lessons learned/project sharing call in 2022.
6. Have a willing 501(c)3 fiscal sponsor.