

Midwest Building Decarbonization Coalition: Participation Stipend Guidance

The Midwest Building Decarbonization Coalition recognizes that in order to build power it is necessary to build the capacity of base-building, BIPOC-led local organizations to actively participate in the work. To support full participation, the Coalition is offering participation stipends, ***specifically to organizations that due to financial constraints, would not otherwise be able to fully participate.***

In the 8-state region, we seek to secure increasing leadership from a diverse range of organizations with a mix of some that focus on environmental justice, others that focus on general issues of racial equity and economic justice, and others that are actively involved in equitable decarbonization.



At the present time, there are 200 Organizations engaged in the Coalition across the 8-state region, but too little engagement so far from Iowa, Missouri, and Indiana. It is important to organize collaborators from these states before the end of 2021, to ensure that as we launch the 501 c 3 we have full participation from all 8 states.

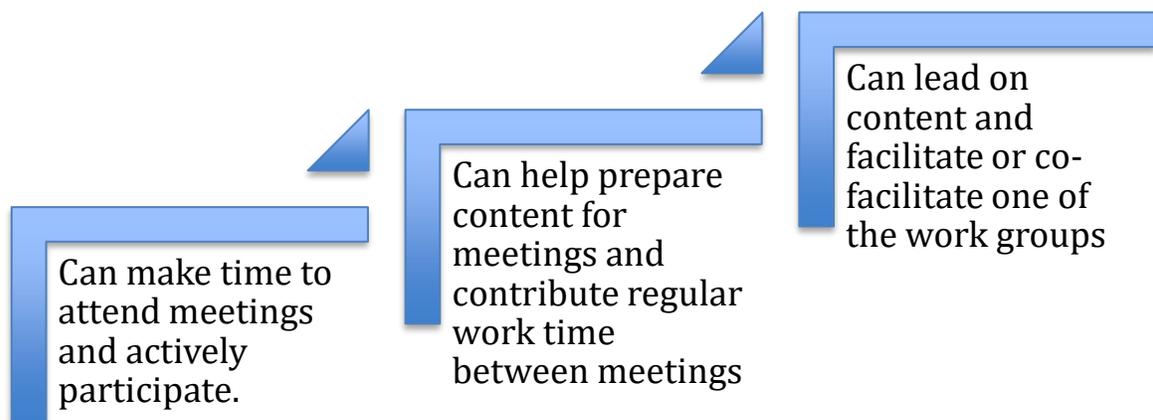
The Coalition has 4 work groups and intends to organize so that at least one co-facilitator of each work-group comes from an organization receiving a participation stipend of \$8,000. The remainder of the participation stipends will be divided amongst the other two levels based on capacity. The Coalition has \$188,000 for participation stipends. Groups that apply for a participation stipend are also eligible to apply for Empowerment Grants in the range of \$35,000 to \$50,000.

Stipend Types	\$ of stipends allocated	Budget allocation range
Co-Leadership (\$8,000/)	4 to 8 stipends	\$32,000 to \$64,000
Active Engagement (\$5,000/)	10 to 20 stipends	\$50,000 to \$100,000
Participation (\$3,000/)	10 to 20 stipends	\$30,000 to \$60,000

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We understand that the capacity to participate varies from group to group, and we have defined a ladder of participation with different levels of support. An organization that supports the active consistent representation of a person to engage in full coalition meetings and one work group receives a stipend of \$3,000. An organization with a representative that agrees to regularly contribute content to meetings regarding the evolution of equitable decarbonization in their state will receive a \$5,000 annual stipend. An organization with a representative that meets this criteria and also commits to co-lead one of our work groups will receive a participation stipend of \$8,000.

Ladder of Participation



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Criteria	Description	Expectations
Local	An organization works in the 8-state region at the local level (state level down to neighborhood level), and works on broad social justice and equity issues and/or works specifically in the building sector	Regular participation in monthly meetings.
Financial Need	The organization has a budget of less than \$500,000 OR, even if above this level, is not in a position to directly compensate staff for their time contributions to the Coalition.	Budget of organization that prohibits use of existing organization funds to cover cost of full participation.
Capabilities	The organization's representative brings needed capabilities to support the work of the Coalition as a whole.	Participants receiving stipends are leaders and are encouraged to utilize their knowledge base and skills to help build the power of the coalition.
Level of Involvement	There are three levels of engagement: Participant, Actively Engaged Content Contributor, and Co-Leader	Participants attend all meetings and contribute what they can; Actively Engaged Content Contributors deliver formal presentations to the Coalition; Co-Leaders co-facilitate one of the work groups.

- Participation Funding:** The Midwest Building Decarbonization Coalition recognizes that to build power in the equitable decarbonization movement, it is necessary to support important groups in the coalition who are less able to fully engage due to lack of support for the participation of lead staff or volunteers. It is estimated that participation will not generally exceed 10 hours per month at the Co-Leadership Level, and is 3 to 5 hours per month at the Engaged and Participation levels.

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- ***Geographic Representation.*** The Coalition strives for equitable participation from each of the organizing regions contributing to the work. Therefore, it is important to support two or more base-building organizations in each of the eight states represented in the coalition: at least one specialized – with intent to build BIPOC capacity in one or more domains of building decarbonization, and one generalist organization whose objectives center on broader concerns of justice, equity, diversity and inclusion.
- ***Participation Agreement:*** Each organization will be expected to appoint one representative who will serve as a member of the Midwest Building Decarbonization Coalition. Full, active, and sustained participation is an expectation. If the selected representative becomes unable to fully participate the participation stipend will be withdrawn, unless and until a replacement representative is in place.
- ***Knowledge & Practice Sharing:*** Participating organizations will commit to sharing knowledge, experience, practices, and data focused on facilitating full-scale equitable decarbonization of the building sector in the 8-state region. The contributions made by each partnering organization are critical to the success of the coalition. Participation means actively contributing data about your own work and what you learn in the field between meetings, not just showing up for meetings.
- ***Support for Innovation:*** In addition to the participation stipend, we recommend that Coalition members consider applying for an Empowerment Grant to support the design and development of a project related to one of the initiative’s key results planned in our theory of change.
- ***Evaluation:*** Each organization that receives a stipend is asked to define what they intend to contribute to the success of the coalition and what they hope to gain from the coalition to build their capacity as an agent of equitable building decarbonization. An evaluation form is completed at the beginning of the participation agreement, documented by a signed MOU, and then supplemented with quarterly updates and a final report each year.

SUBMIT PROPOSAL BY 5PM EASTERN TO jackson@fresh-energy.org and fowler@fresh-energy.org on October 15, 2021.