WHAT NOW? | NCIF

Immediate and High-Impact Actions

Ensure that your state and/or local government officials in Energy, Environment, Housing, and Transportation are aware of the GGRF. Determine what their strategy is to maximize GGRF investment in their jurisdictions.

Identify which existing state/local programs could complement GGRF financing and which steps can be taken to streamline/improve these programs to ultimately improve compatibility with the GGRF.

Key Targets
- Look into utility energy efficiency programs. These might be able to be stacked/braided with GGRF financing.
- Look to bundle programs via consolidated applications. For example, DC does this for its affordable housing programs.

Long-Term and Ongoing Actions

Ensure that proposed GGRF projects in your community are designed to maximize equity and environmental justice benefits. Read more about best practices for equitable GGRF implementation here.

Identify enabling policies that can and should be enacted by state or local governments to facilitate increased deployment of GGRF-supported projects.

Key Targets
- Policies that speed development such as streamlined permitting and utility reform (interconnection, PUC oversight)
- Enabling policies in GGRF sectors such as community solar or net zero energy codes. (Read more about these policies here)
Immediate and High-Impact Actions

- Confirm that your proposed project(s) align with the GGRF’s minimum requirements (see slide 7). Market and talk about your project through these requirements when interacting with GGRF lenders.
- Plan to attend listening/training sessions that NCIF recipients will be hosting. All NCIF recipients will be hosting sessions in the coming months (and Power Forward Communities and Climate United are committed to compensating attendees)

Long-Term and Ongoing Actions

- Be prepared to participate in apprenticeship programs. All NCIF recipients will be financially supporting existing/new apprenticeship programs or will be launching new certification programs.
- Speak to recipients about being a vendor if you own a small business. All NCIF recipients are seeking contractors, especially those that are minority or women owned.
Immediate and High-Impact Actions

Convene key stakeholders in the GGRF ecosystem - including to streamline deployment of GGRF funding and ensure long-term viability of GGRF-supported projects.

Identify priorities, resources, and project pipelines for GGRF funding as well as development goals that your government has set that align with GGRF’s objectives. Determine how you can market that information to GGRF lenders, as well as CBOs and project developers.

Identify the full suite of local, state, and federal funding programs that may complement GGRF financing as well as steps that must be taken to streamline/improve coordination between these programs.

Key Targets
• Key stakeholders include community lenders, appropriate government agencies, CBOs, developers, philanthropy and others

Specific Questions
• How can you incorporate these potential resources into your climate plans and begin operationalizing them in capital planning processes?
• What publicly-owned sites could be leveraged for GGRF-related projects?
• How can you market that information to GGRF lenders, as well as CBOs and project developers?

Possible Action Targets
• Consolidating funding applications across program streams. Ex: DC affordable housing
• Working with NCIF and community financing incentives
• Leveraging strong credit ratings to create complementary financial products and credit enhancements for GGRF-related projects
Long-Term and Ongoing Actions

Identify complementary programs that can leverage GGRF funding to boost local economic development, such as workforce and small business programs.

Identify policy and planning gaps that could facilitate increase project development.

Possible Programs
- Looking into solar or building contractor apprenticeship programs. All NCIF recipients have committed to support these programs

Possible Policies
- Implementing streamlined permitting processes
- Reforming utility policies such as interconnection standards (read more about those policies [here])

Possible Programs
- Identifying and combining federal and state resources for selected projects
- Identifying and combining local resources for selected projects

Possible Policies
- Implementing streamlining permitting processes
- Reforming utility policies such as interconnection standards

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Invest in predevelopment funding, capacity-building, and coordinated technical assistance for community groups from and working in LIDAC to develop a pipeline of financeable projects in conjunction with GGRF awardees.

Invest in workforce and WMBE programs to build a diverse local business and workforce ecosystem that can deliver projects GGRF capital wants to finance. Support the coordination of those programs in partnership with CBOs and developers pursuing GGRF-financed projects.

Direct philanthropic capital to efforts that facilitate collaboration and cooperation among awardees, including in efforts to create a suite of shared services (e.g. building hubs; workforce development; etc.) and standards that all GGRF ecosystem players align with and can benefit from.

Invest in state and local advocates and communities to advocate for enabling policies and regulation at the state/local level that can improve the speed, scale, and efficiency of GGRF capital that flows into those localities. (Read more about these policies here).