



Diversity grants by Prosper Portland offer funding for local employers to inspire creative, equity-related best practices around workforce, marketing and communications.

Grants Promote Business Diversity

Eleven local businesses will receive grants from Prosper Portland to promote diversity, equity and inclusion, the city's economic development agency recently announced. Ten of the recipient businesses are either BIPOC- or women-owned.

Prosper Portland's Inspiring Diversity Grant, now in its fourth year, is intended to encourage private employers to incorporate creative, equity-related best practices around workforce, marketing and communications.

Prosper Portland's business and industry strategy is focused on helping leading companies in targeted industries become more inclusive, recognizing that the fundamental equity challenge for these companies is improving access to good jobs.

Prosper Portland executive director Kimberly Branam said, "Our efforts to support local businesses, both large and small, focus on the importance of inclusion and a strong racial equity lens. The Inspiring Diversity grants build a learning

community that helps the recipients and their peer companies become more competitive by incorporating diversity and inclusion best practices."

The agency received more than 60 applications for the grant, which prioritizes companies that sell many of their products and services to people and businesses outside the Portland region, nationally and globally.

The average grant size was \$8,400. In addition, De La Salle High School will

partner with local businesses to provide internship opportunities for underrepresented youth.

David Fee of Castelli/Sportful, a past recipient of the grant, said, "The IDG program made it possible for us to increase the diversity within our team and have a greater impact on our community. Without the funds and support of the program, we could not have achieved the goals that our Diversity, Inclusion & Community Committee set for this year."