

Front and Centered

Front and Centered supports the revised Public Participation Grants Rulemaking-Chapter 173-321 WAC. Front and Centered is a statewide coalition of organizations and groups rooted in communities of color and people with lower incomes on the frontlines of economic and environmental change (<http://frontandcentered.org/>). Of our sixty member organizations a few have received public participation grants, but most have not.

The revised rule better executes the original intent of the Model Toxics Control Act, approved by voters, for communities to directly engagement in toxic and waste prevention and clean-up. Specifically, the rule makes more explicit the issue of environmental justice and better provides for participation from communities disproportionately impacted by toxics and waste. In addition, the revised rule supports participation of communities that were not fully being engaged previously. The revised rule also provides for better accountability and transparency, and will reduce costs and burden on applicants and administrators.

Thank you for your work, we fully support implementation of the revised rule as soon possible, and recommend you do not delay these necessary grants any further than they have already been delayed due to budget cuts.