

Regional Development Authority
Policy on Repeated Funding Requests
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RDA's policy discourages granting repeat agency funding requests for projects appearing to have the same purpose as in preceding years. This policy stems from a set of values, including: 1) preference for distributing dollars fairly to many organizations; 2) maintaining a consistent practice to promote equity; 3) avoiding the development of a sense of entitlement or dependency from any particular agency; and 4) encourage innovation.

There are two ways in which an agency may receive multiple awards in sequential grant cycles: 1) multi-cycle awards and 2) "anchor organization" status (see policies set for each).

Multi-cycle awards are given for different reasons: 1) to divide payments for larger capital campaign grants; 2) to support a transition 'bridge' for various capacity building and operational needs; and 3) to address opportunities tied to future funding commitments (e.g., QC Orchestra and Yo-Yo Ma). RDA has also provided multi-cycle commitments to organizations for known and specific operational challenges (e.g., during pandemic recovery) and during a long building project. *Multi-cycle awards for capacity building purposes will be structured as a graduated distribution, with the amount of the grant decreasing each year, in order to facilitate independence for the new capacity. For example, an award agreement might be to fund \$50,000 in the first year, \$30,000 in the second year, and \$15,000 in the third and final year.*

Repeated requests that don't fill one of the above criteria or the criteria specified in the "Anchor Organization" policy are discouraged. One reason is that our revenues stream can be vulnerable (e.g., pandemic casino closure) to fluxuations gaming revenue. A heavy future commitment load can put RDA at risk. Another reason is to maintain the value of equal access, where all agencies compete for funds every six months based on the needs of the time and the revenue available. The multi-cycle future commitments load is managed to maintain equal access and to limit future risk.

In summary, there needs to be a compelling reason for multiple consecutive cycles of funding going to a single agency. Our stated policy is that without a compelling reason (as described above), an agency is eligible to receive funding for up to three consecutive cycles or years in a row. When that threshold is reached, the agency is contacted to explore the situation. This policy is highlighted in the grant instructions and in the grant guidelines. After three consecutive awards, while there is no formal policy about how long the agency is ineligible, the principles outlined in this policy will apply. If there are other agencies that have not reached that threshold in the pool of applicants, awards to those agencies will take precedence. This policy operates as a way to prioritize funding decisions.