

# Named Communities Investment Fund

## Equity Advisory Group Brainstormed Ideas (December 2022)

Major themes (**strategies**) included:

- **Increase electric vehicle charging infrastructure for and within named communities**
  - Increase EV charging in rural places
  - Ride share in rural communities in combination with EV
  - More EV charging in places without access
  - Multi-family charging infrastructure
  - Education for landlords on EV charging options
  - Find ways to encourage landlords to add charging
  - Address policy barriers to increasing charging infrastructure
- **Increase tree canopy and shade in named communities through “Community greening” projects**
  - Plant trees in named communities
  - Plant more trees
  - More native plants
  - Planting native shade trees (Gonzaga has data to help guide location – City of Spokane partnership in planting of the trees)
  - More plant diversity
  - Community gardens to increase greenspace and provide food
- **Increase access to energy efficient appliances and products for named communities**
  - Provide energy efficient light bulbs to named communities
  - Increase rebates for appliances – gave furnace example
  - Battery operated light bulbs
  - Electric blankets for elderly
  - E-Bike System in Communities
  - Solar, distributed solar, batteries for other locations in named communities
- **Focus efforts on improving energy efficiency for *community members without stable housing***
  - Solar, distributed solar, batteries for unhoused population
  - Get support via the city
  - Energy efficiency for homeless/warming shelters
  - Camp Hope – funding towards weatherization to hotel being utilized
  - Charging lockers for smart phones – phones being stolen – homeless example charging in libraries
- **Focus efforts on improving energy efficiency for *schools, community centers, and other places where named communities spend time***
  - Schools – infrastructure upgrades and education
  - Schools in NC through EE efforts
  - Appliances – community centers
  - Elder facilities
  - Solar, distributed solar, batteries for schools in named communities

- **Increase awareness of and engagement in energy efficiency programs while also meeting whole-household needs through community-based partnerships and referrals to services**
  - Tap into existing referral systems to include questions about energy efficiency needs (e.g., Spectrum’s system, Northeast Community Center’s intake forms, etc.) and connect people to energy efficiency programs
  - Ask named communities about their energy efficiency and other household needs and refer to outside services (such as rental assistance, peer support, etc., similar to Spectrum’s existing process)
  - Fairly compensate CBOs for their help
  - Partner with existing service providers, schools. Education on EE kits being handed out
- **Focus efforts on improving energy efficiency for *Spokane Tribe partners***
  - Work with Spokane Tribe on energy efficiency, fleet electrification, etc.
  - Spokane Tribe Housing Authority microgrid projects – have enough for 3 buildings but would like to include the senior housing buildings in the project
- **Improve energy efficiency in multi-family and mobile home communities**
  - Multiple Mobile Home Communities – weatherization
  - Work with large multifamily dwellings for EE regards to both heat and cold. Creates higher rent – hard to flex with.
- **Other**
  - How might we get residents that utilize oil switch over to electricity
  - Expanding My Clean Energy Program @ Avista.
- **“Data Agenda” – topics to investigate**
  - Look to strategy examples in other communities (e.g., expanding EV charging)
  - Can we raise the poverty level to capture more of the working poor
  - Seek grant funding to increase available funds