

Lobbying Policy of the Partnership for the Bay's Future

The Partnership for the Bay's Future's (PBF) grant programs work to advance housing policy and systems changes that protect residents and improve affordability. To further this goal, PBF offers policy and lobbying support to our grantees working on equitable housing policies.

The process for when PBF may lobby in support of its priorities are laid out in this document.

Resource: [Bolder](#)

[Advocacy](#) hosts trainings and events that can help organizations better understand what constitutes lobbying, record keeping requirements and other lobbying considerations.

What qualifies as lobbying?

Lobbying is communicating with decision makers (elected officials and staff; voters on ballot measures), about existing or potential legislation, and urging a vote for or against. All three components of this definition are required: decision makers, actual legislation, AND asking for a vote. More information on what qualifies as lobbying is available here or through [Bolder Advocacy](#).

Which policies can PBF support?

Policies that are eligible for lobbying support are those that are agreed-upon priorities of PBF grant programs, currently the Challenge Grants and Breakthrough Grants. Note that even after a grant program has ended, we encourage our grantee teams to reach out to us about policy progress and make requests for continued support as needed.

To request that PBF take a stance on a policy opportunity, please notify the PBF team of any lobbying action you'd like the team to take with ideally 2 weeks lead time.

What does PBF lobbying look like?

PBF grantees can request that PBF take a stance on policy advocacy opportunities such as local or state legislation, budget decisions, or administrative actions. PBF may support policy in the following ways:

- **Provide letters of support** – PBF can submit letters of support.
- **Activate our networks** – PBF and our partners (such as the Great Communities Collaborative) can share alerts and calls to action on our platforms as well as present to our working groups and Advisory Boards to gather support and attention.
- **Provide testimonials** – PBF team members can attend committee hearings and events to provide support statements.
- **Promote through communications channels** – PBF can share information via our newsletters, social media, and communications efforts.
- **Provide grants that may be used, in part, for lobbying** – see below.

What information should grantees be sharing with PBF?

For lobbying support, PBF grantees are expected to proactively share key policy information with the PBF team, such as

- Draft policy language
- Shifts to the policy you are supporting, such as a key provision being deleted or altered
- Hearing dates and anticipated vote counts
- Elected champions
- Policy talking points
- Notable opposition
- Press coverage
- Changes to your proposed policy package, such as seeking to add or remove a policy priority from your work plan

Requests and updates should be shared with apamukcu@sff.org and echavez@sff.org.

Lobbying grants available upon request

PBF grantees can request that a portion of their grant funding be designated as lobbying dollars. Grant dollars that are not designated for lobbying cannot be spent on lobbying activities. If a portion of your grant is designated for lobbying, you can spend up to that amount of your total grant on lobbying. These grants support lobbying around policy and systems change. These funds may not be used for electioneering activities (for the election of any candidate for office).

Tracking and compliance

Grantees should be aware PBF has certain limitations on the amount of lobbying dollars we can grant as well as the amount of staff time we can dedicate to lobbying. All lobbying activities are tracked and compliant with IRS regulations under the Substantial Part Test, which includes tracking resources spent on lobbying.

For questions or further guidance on lobbying, please reach out to the PBF team at echavez@sff.org.