

Regional Development Authority
Policy on Anchor Organization Status
February 2022 - DRAFT

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, however, instances where ongoing grants to an agency are warranted. This policy defines a set of criteria that can support repeated awards cycle by cycle or year by year. While there are no definite qualifications or disqualifications, each instance can be presented on its own merits. The following criteria may be brought to bear on any application in support of repeated awards:

1. The agency provides 'backbone' services or regional leadership that impacts a wide scope of the community and/or supports a collaborative network of nonprofit organizations and/or
2. The agency's request aligns with RDA's current priorities and continues to score relatively high on the merits of the request and/or
3. *The request leverages ongoing matching funds at least 2-to-1 (e.g., a \$10,000 RDA grant would bring in an additional \$20,000 or more).*

An "Anchor Organization" status can be recorded in the grant application file, including the rationales (1-3 above). Each grant request is considered for its "Anchor" purpose. Organizations don't automatically retain "Anchor" status, each application is assessed for the rationale. Applications that are awarded repeatedly are asked to report the outcomes/impact that relate to the three rationales listed above.

At this time, this policy does not automate consideration for multi-cycle awards in Anchor Organization status. The benefit of a multi-cycle award relates to assured funding and less time spent on application work. A key organizational value is an equality of access to the funds, and so agencies that meet the criteria of 'Anchor Organization' are asked to complete grant applications for each grant cycle they wish to be considered. The Anchor Organization criteria are meant to provide a base for equitable decision-making around instances of repeated awards.