

Named Community Investment Fund

Avista's Named Community Investment Fund (NCIF), approved by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC), will annually invest up to \$5 million in projects, programs, and initiatives approved by WUTC, aimed at directly benefiting Avista's Washington electric customers who reside in historically disadvantaged and vulnerable communities.

NCIF awards are determined through a competitive grant application process which is continuously open. Project funding decisions are typically provided within 45 days of an application being submitted. Avista gives priority consideration to applications submitted by 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations that serve Avista's electric customers residing within a "Named Community."

Successful NCIF grant applications must demonstrate benefit to "Named Community" populations as well as positively contribute to "Customer Benefit Indicators," both as defined by the Washington-state Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA).

Legislative Background

CETA was enacted into law by the Washington-state legislature in 2019. It requires the state's electricity supply to be greenhouse gas neutral by 2030 and 100% renewable or generated from zero-carbon resources by 2045. These directives align with Avista's goals. In fact, more than half of Avista's current generating potential is already clean hydropower, biomass, wind, and solar.

To demonstrate progress toward CETA's clean energy targets, Avista developed its Clean Energy Implementation Plan—a roadmap of specific actions to be completed over four years (2022-2025). Available for viewing at www.myavista.com/CETA, this clean energy plan explains how customers benefit from the transition to clean energy through:

- The equitable distribution of energy and non-energy benefits and reduction of burdens to Named Communities (i.e., communities who are either socially or economically disadvantaged or sensitive to health effects)
- Long-term and short-term public health and environmental benefits
- Energy security and resiliency

Community Benefit Indicators

Proposed grant projects must positively impact at least one Customer Benefit Indicator within a Named Community to be eligible for NCIF funding (see appendix A).

CETA Named Community Definition:

CETA defines the populations of Named Communities as follows:

- **Highly Impacted Community:** A community designated by the Washington Department of Health based on cumulative impact analyses in section 24 of this act or a community located in census tracts that are fully or partially on "Indian country" as defined in 18 U.S.C. Sec. 1151.12.
- **Vulnerable Populations:** Communities that face a disproportionate cumulative risk from environmental burdens due to:
 - **Adverse socioeconomic factors:** Including unemployment, high housing and transportation costs (relative to income), limited access to food and health care, and linguistic isolation; and
 - **Sensitivity factors:** Such as low birth weight and higher rates of hospitalization.

Of the 142 census tracts in Avista's Washington service territory, approximately 36 meet the criteria of Named Communities per the Environmental Health Disparities Map developed by the Washington State Department of Health (available online).

12 of these 142 census tracts also scored nine or higher for either socioeconomic or sensitive populations indicators. Since Avista elected to use this methodology, these tracts were included as Named Communities based on meeting the criteria of CETA's definition of "Vulnerable Populations."

Named Communities Area Maps

Maps of Named Communities are featured in appendixes B, C, and D of this document. The green-shaded areas on the four maps indicate the Named Communities. Projects must benefit populations living within the green shaded areas to be eligible for NCIF grant funding.

NCIF Application Form

PROJECT TITLE: _____

REQUESTED CASH AMOUNT: \$ _____ TOTAL PROJECT COST: \$ _____

PROJECT START DATE: __/__/20__ PROJECT END DATE: __/__/20__ DATE FUNDS NEEDED: __/__/20__

PLEASE ANSWER EACH OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ON A SEPARATE ATTACHMENT.

1. Provide an overview of your proposed project.
2. Who will be served by this grant?
3. How many individuals will the project serve?
4. How will equity play a role in the implementation of this project?
5. How will your Named Community benefit from this project?
6. What are the specific outcomes your organization hopes to achieve with this grant?
7. How will you measure these outcomes?
8. What is your organization's mission statement and purpose?
9. How will your organization let the community know that Avista Named Community Investment Fund supported your grant request?
10. Please itemize your complete project budget. For energy-efficiency projects, include 3 competitive bids with itemization for materials and labor (attachment required). If unable to obtain three bids, please provide a written overview of the requests that were made.
11. Organization Balance Sheet
12. List other businesses/organizations/individuals providing support for this project (if any).
13. You may provide additional documentation that you deem important (e.g. program flyer, promotional brochure, maps, pictures or diagrams).

PROJECT DEMOGRAPHICS

(Please share race demographics with percentage of representation)

___% White ___% Asian ___% Black/African American ___% Hispanic/Latino
___% Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander ___% Two or More Races ___% Other

DEMOGRAPHIC MAKEUP OF THIS PROGRAM'S CLIENTS (Please share client race demographics with percentage of representation)

___% White ___% Asian ___% Black/African American ___% Hispanic/Latino
___% Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander ___% Two or More Races ___% Other

ADDITIONAL PROGRAM CLIENT DEMOGRAPHICS (Check all that apply):

- ☐ Disabled ☐ LGBTQ+ ☐ Low-Income household (the greater of 80% area median income or 200% federal poverty level) ☐ Not-Native English Speakers
☐ Seniors (age 60+ years) ☐ Veterans

Please email completed applications and questions to: AvistaCETANCIF@avistacorp.com or mail to: **Avista Named Communities Investment Fund, Scott Morris Center MSCR-71, 1411 E. Mission, Spokane WA 99202.**

Submitted proposals will receive application notice within 45 days of receipt by Avista.

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Appendix A

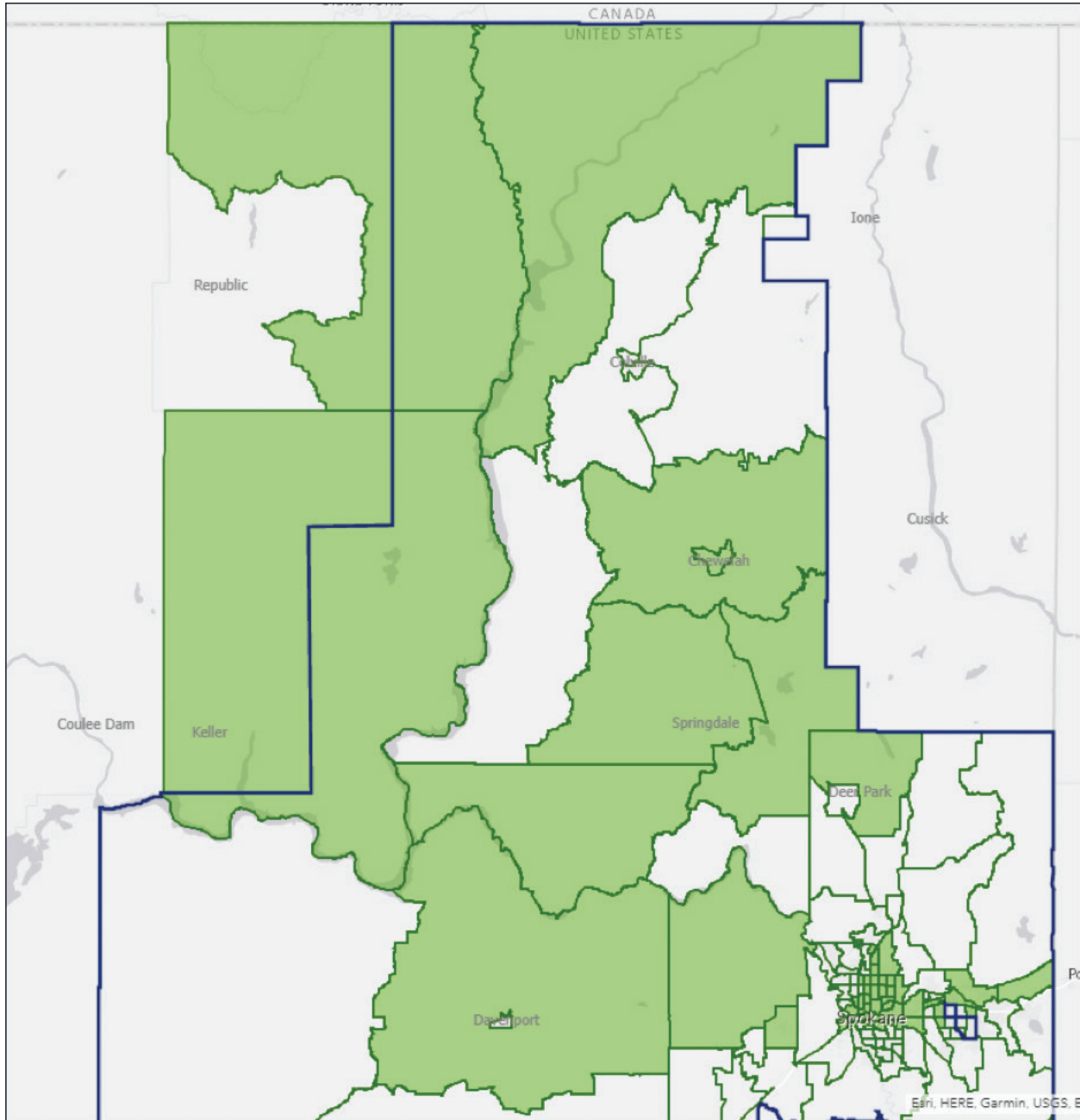
Customer Benefit Indicators

Benefit Area	Customer Benefit Indicator
Affordability	Participation in company programs Number of households with a high energy burden (>6%)
Accessibility	Availability of methods/modes of outreach and communication Transportation electrification Named Community clean energy Investments in Named Communities
Energy Resiliency	Energy availability
Energy Security	Energy generation location Residential arrearages and disconnections for nonpayment
Environmental	Outdoor air quality Greenhouse gas emissions
Public Health	Employee diversity Supplier diversity Indoor air quality

Appendix B

Avista's Washington Named Community Maps

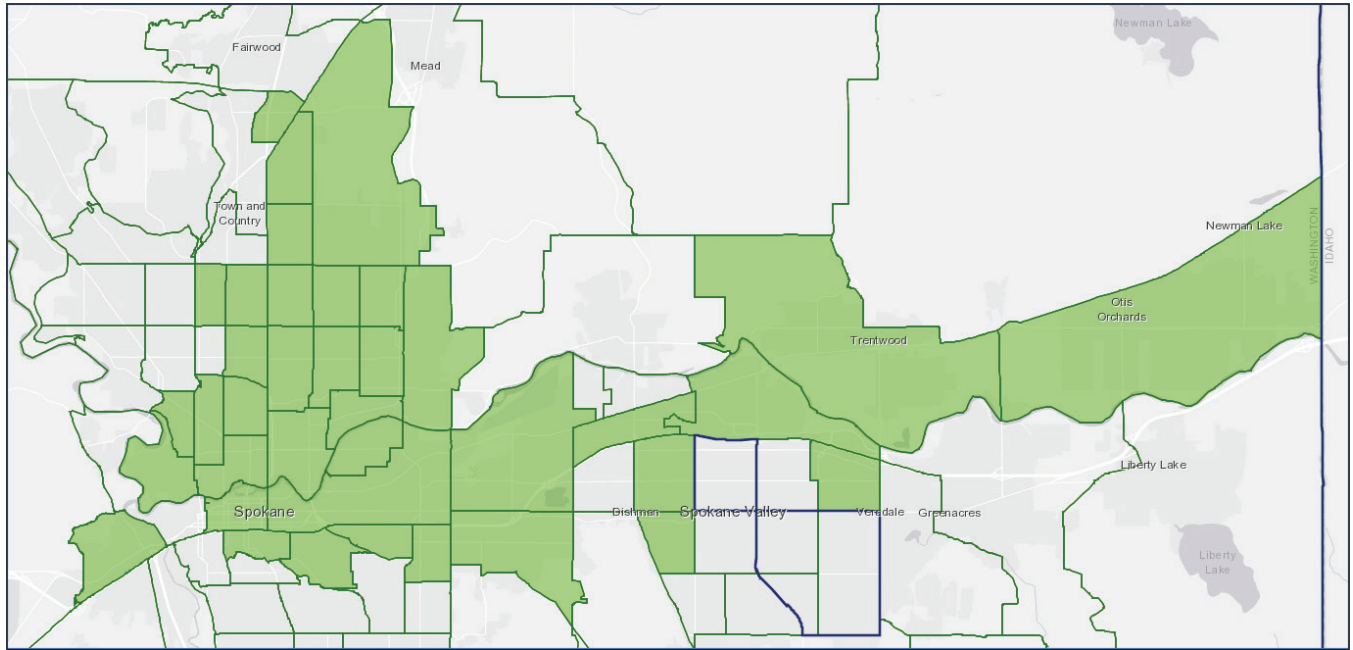
Eastern Washington Named Communities Areas



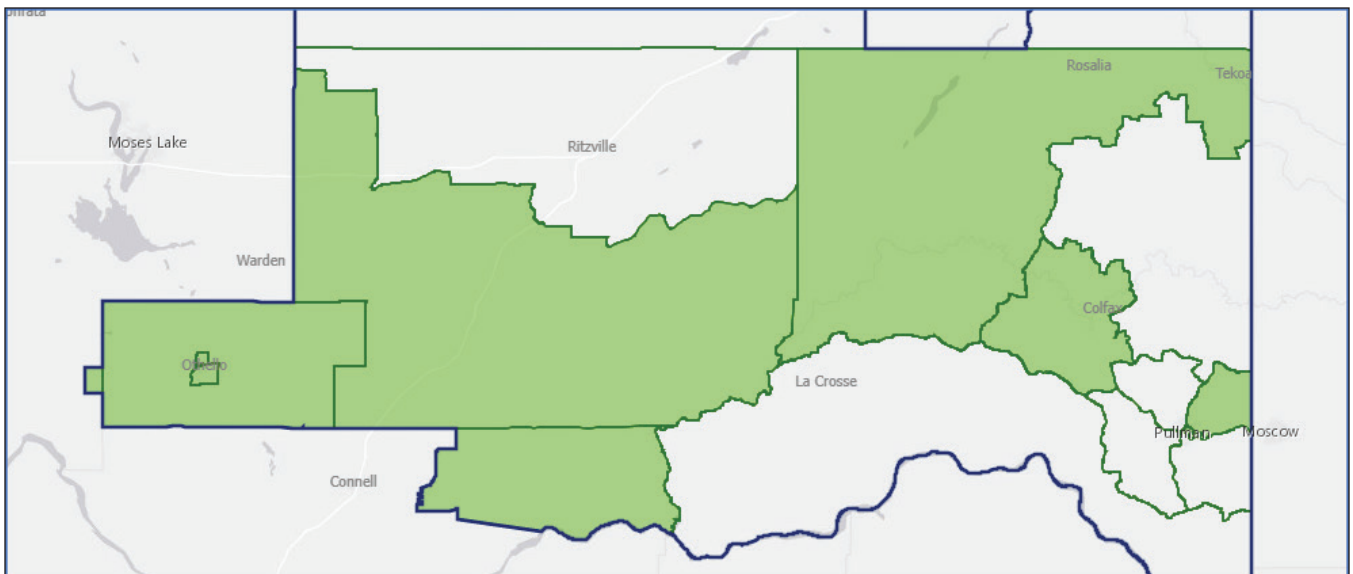
Appendix C

Avista's Washington Named Community Maps

Spokane Urban Region



Central Region



Appendix D

Avista's Washington Named Community Maps

South Region

