



California Strategic Growth Council



2015-2016 AHSC Funding Workshops NOFA & Concept Proposal

February 2 | Fresno

February 8 | Riverside

February 3 | Sacramento

February 9 | Los Angeles

February 4 | Oakland

February 17 | San Diego

Agenda

- AHSC Program Overview
 - Definitions & Acronyms
 - Key Program Thresholds
 - Timeline
 - Metropolitan Planning Organization Coordination & Role
- Required Components of Concept Proposal
- Demonstration of the Online Concept Proposal Submittal System (FAAST)
- Upcoming: Considerations for Full Application
- Q&A

AHSC Program Overview

AHSC Program Overview

To fund projects that result in:

- the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and
- Increased accessibility of housing, employment centers and key destinations

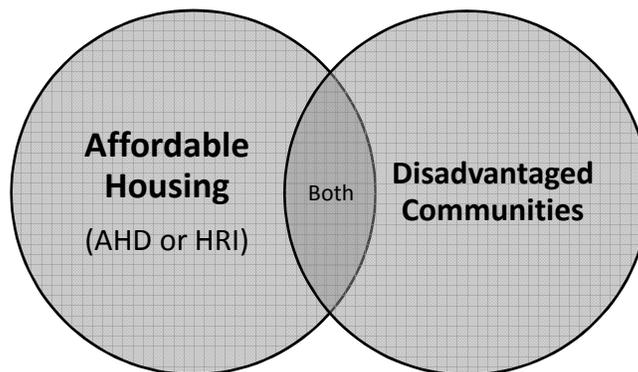
through low-carbon transportation options such as walking, biking and transit.

Statutory Thresholds

- GHG Reduction
- Supports implementation of a Sustainable Community Strategy*
- Consistent with State Planning Priorities

**SB 862: "If a Sustainable Communities Strategy is not required for a region by law, a regional plan that includes policies and programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions" will meet this requirement.*

AHSC Program Minimum Set-Asides



Multiple set-aside objectives can be met in some of the same applications. Ex: **TOD project with required **Affordable Housing Development** in a **Disadvantaged Community**.*

Definitions & Acronyms

Definitions & Acronyms

- Qualifying Transit (QT)
- High Quality Transit (HQT)
- Affordable Housing Development (AHD)
- Housing-Related Infrastructure (HRI)
- Sustainable Transportation Infrastructure (STI)
- Transportation-Related Amenities (TRA)

Qualifying Transit (QT) is defined as:

A Transit line serving the public that is operated by the following:

- (1) Directly operated by a public entity;
- (2) Operated by a public entity via a contract for purchased transportation service with a private or non-profit provider; or
- (3) Operated by a private or non-profit entity as a grant Recipient or sub-recipient from a public entity.

Qualifying Transit includes various forms of:

- Fixed Transit Service (Rail Service and Bus Service)
- Flexible Transit Service (Vanpool or Shuttle Service that operated with two or more passengers)

A Qualifying Transit line requires service that departs two (2) or more times during Peak Hours as defined by the transit operator. Flexible Transit service is exempt from these Peak Hours frequency requirements.

High Quality Transit (HQT) is defined as...

Qualifying Transit (QT) line with:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peak Period headway frequency of every 15 minutes or less <p style="text-align: center;"><u>and</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service seven days a week 	-AND-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operation on a railway <p style="text-align: center;"><u>or</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) service that either fully or partially operates on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - dedicated bus-only lane - uses High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) - High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes
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High-Quality Transit (HQT)

HQT Typically employs any combination of the following characteristics:

- center of road alignment, mixed traffic prohibitive intersection treatments
- use of more limited-stop service including express service and skip-stopping
- application of Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) technology such as signal priority, automatic vehicle location systems, system security, and customer information
- platform level boarding and off-board fare collection.

Affordable Housing Development (AHD)

- Capital Project that is a Housing Development in which at least 20 percent of the total units are Affordable Units
 - Minimum Densities must be achieved
 - Must be located within ½ mile of Transit Station/Stop
- Can be new construction, acquisition and substantial rehabilitation or conversion from non-residential to residential.

Housing-Related Infrastructure (HRI)

- Capital infrastructure improvement required as a condition of approval of an affordable housing development by a Locality, transit agency or special district
- Examples include sewer, water or utility system upgrades, streets, drainage basins, etc. as noted in a development agreement, specific or area plan, etc.

Sustainable Transportation Infrastructure (STI)

- Capital project(s) that result in the improvement or addition of infrastructure that encourages mode-shift from single occupancy vehicles by enhancing:
 - 1) public transit service,
 - 2) pedestrian networks, or
 - 3) bicycle networks (includes public bike-share programs)
- Must be within defined Project Area

Transportation-Related Amenities (TRA)

- Capital improvements that are publicly accessible and provide supportive amenities to pedestrians, cyclists and transit riders
- Examples include bike parking, bus shelters, benches, street trees, etc.
- Must be within defined Project Area

Key Program Thresholds & Goals

Eligible Costs

Eligible Capital Projects

- Affordable Housing Development
- Housing-Related Infrastructure
- Sustainable Transportation Infrastructure
- Transportation-Related Amenities

Eligible Program Costs

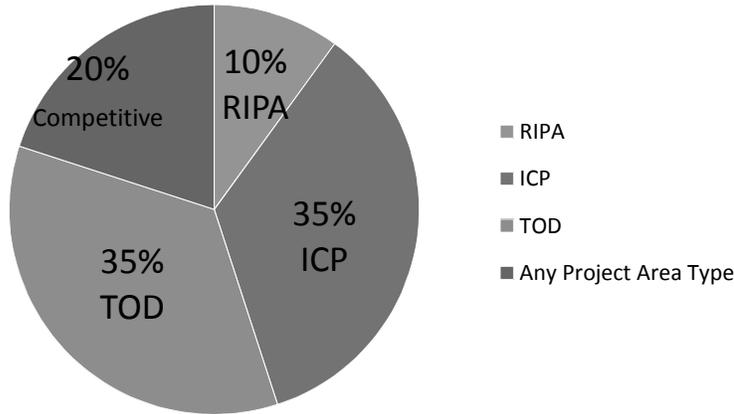
- Active Transportation Programs
- Transit Ridership Programs
- Criteria Air Pollutant Reduction Programs

Eligible Project Area Types

- Transit-Oriented Development (TOD)
- Integrated Connectivity Project (ICP)
- Rural Innovation Project Area (RIPA)*

* "Rural" projects, as defined by Health & Safety Code Section 50199.21. All projects that meet this definition of "Rural" must compete as RIPA.

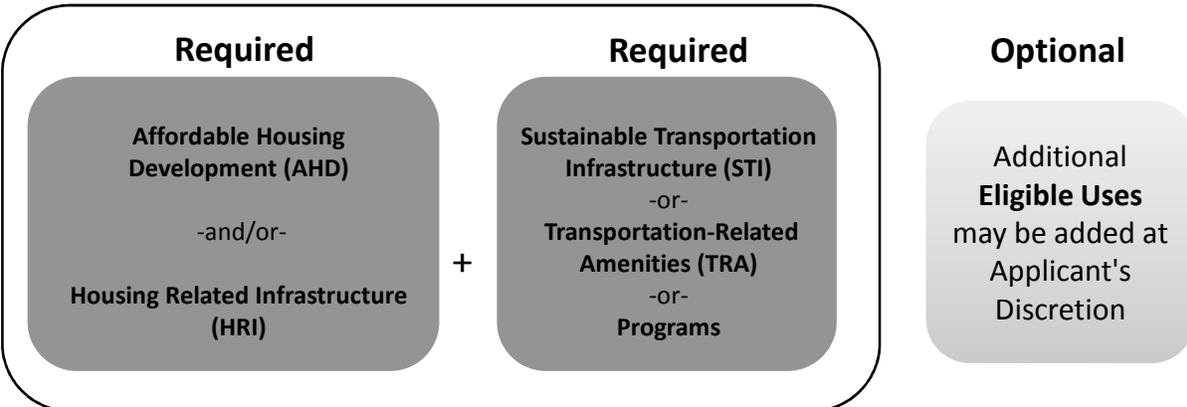
AHSC Funding Targets



*Only applications which meet all Threshold Requirements will be eligible and considered for funding. If insufficient eligible applications are received in any Project Area Type (TOD, ICP or RIPA) funds targeted to that Project Area Type will roll over to fund additional applications in other Project Area Types.

Transit Oriented Development (TOD)

- Must include **High Quality Transit (HQT)**



TOD Project Examples

Affordable
Housing
Development

AND/OR

Housing-Related
Infrastructure

+

At least one additional Eligible Use such as...

Transportation-Related Amenities,
including bus stop benches or shelters

OR

An Active Transportation Program that educates residents
about bike and pedestrian safety

OR

Sustainable Transportation Infrastructure,
such as the addition of a bike lane.



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Integrated Connectivity Projects (ICP)

- Must have **Qualifying Transit (QT)**
- Cannot have **High Quality Transit (HQT)**

Required

Sustainable
Transportation
Infrastructure (STI)

+

Required

Affordable Housing
Development (AHD)
-or-
Housing-Related
Infrastructure (HRI)
-or-
Transportation-Related
Amenities (TRA)
-or-
Sustainable Transportation
Infrastructure (STI)
-or-
Programs

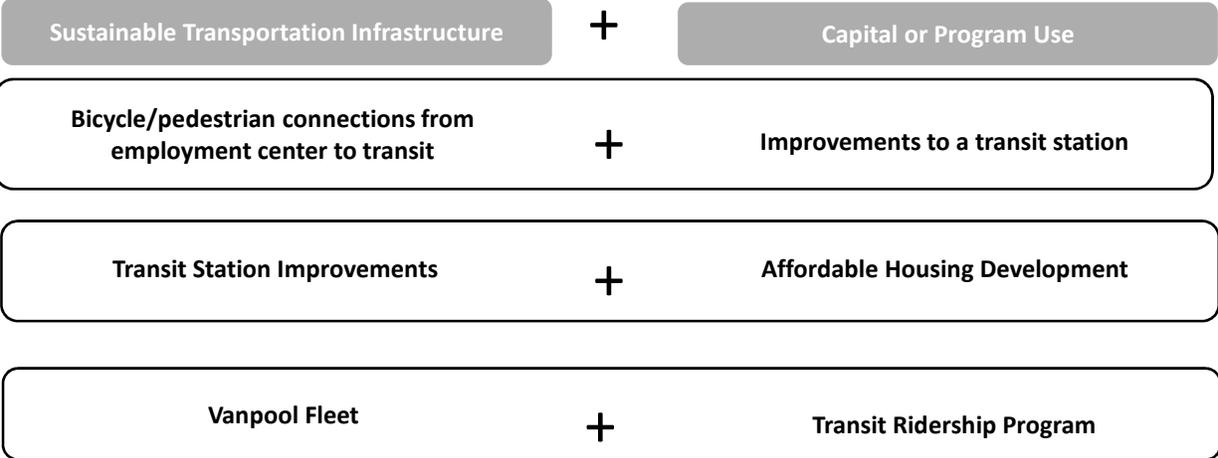
Optional

Additional **Eligible
Uses** may be added
at Applicant's
Discretion.



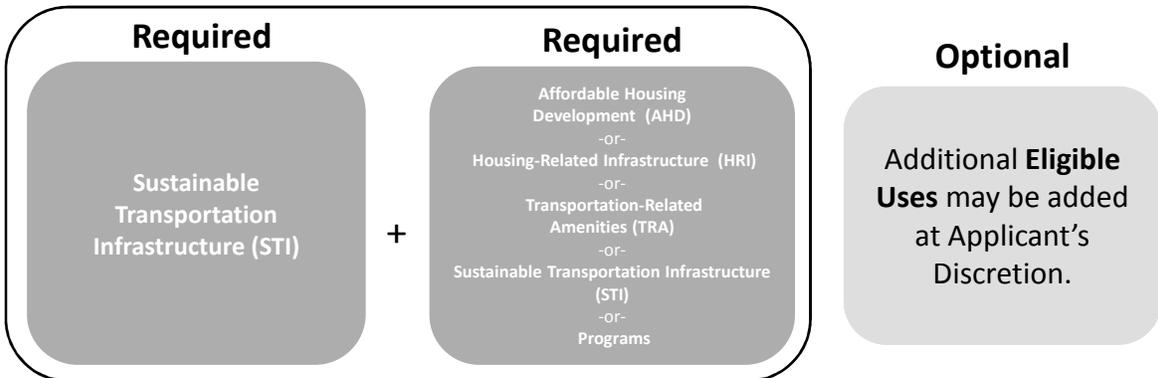
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ICP Project Examples



Rural Innovation Project Area (RIPA)

- Must be located in a **Rural Area**
- Must have **Qualifying Transit (QT)**
- Cannot have **High Quality Transit (HQT)**



Defining Rural

- Health & Safety Code Section 50199.21
- <http://www.treasurer.ca.gov/ctcac/2015/methodology.pdf>

RIPA Project Examples

Sustainable Transportation Infrastructure

+

Capital or Program Use

Bicycle/pedestrian connections from employment center to transit

+

Improvements to a transit station

Transit Station Improvements

+

Affordable Housing Development

Vanpool Fleet

+

Transit Ridership Program

Timeline

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Concept & Full Application Process

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graph TD; A[Concept Proposal] --> B[Approved Concepts Invited for Full Application]; B --> C[Full Application Submittal]; C --> D[Funding Recommendations to SGC];
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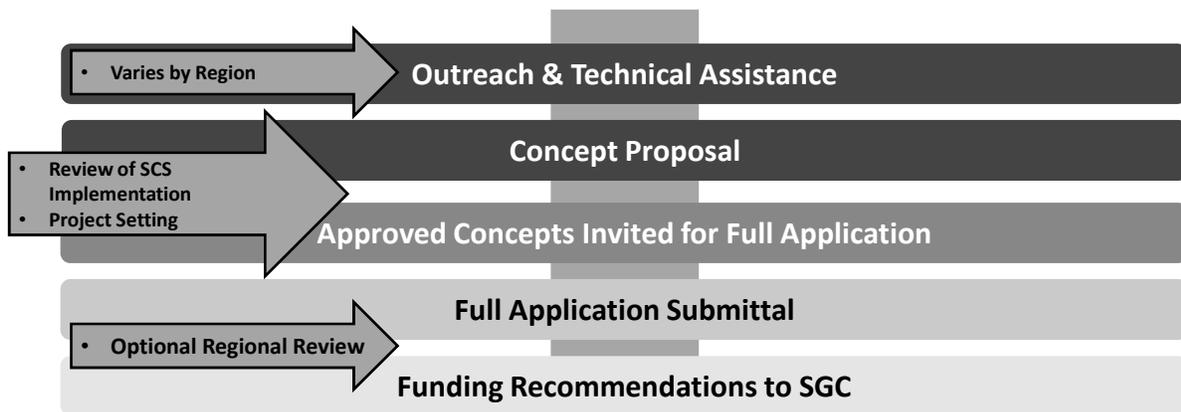
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Timeline & Deadlines

✓	December 7, 2015	Release Draft Final Guidelines
✓	December 17, 2015	Final Guidelines to Council for Approval
✓	FEBRUARY 2, 2016	Concept Proposal Available
	FEBRUARY 2-17, 2016	2016 AHSC Funding Workshops
	MARCH 16, 2016	Concepts Proposals Due
	WEEK OF APRIL 25, 2016	Selected Concepts Invited to Submit Full Application
	JUNE 20, 2016	Full Applications Due
	SEPTEMBER 2016	Awards Recommendations Announced

Regional Role During the AHSC Application Process



NOTE: Regional activity is based on each regions' discretion.

Required Components of Concept Proposal

Key Thresholds

(Must in secured or addressed by the full application deadline of June 20th, 2016)

- CEQA/NEPA clearance
- Entitlements
- Site Control
- No outstanding legal challenges to Project
- Construction has not started
- Climate adaptation
- No conversion of working or natural resource lands

Refer to the AHSC Readiness handout and AHSC Program Guidelines Section 106 for a complete listing of all Application Thresholds.

Required Components for Concept Proposal

Project Overview	Thresholds	Project Readiness
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TOD, ICP, or RIPA Project Type • Project Description • Map of Project Area • Eligibility for Set-Asides • Project Co-Benefits • Grant and/or Loan • Identify Joint Applicants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GHG Reduction Strategies (checklist) • Supports SCS Implementation • Alignment with State Planning Priorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enforceable Funding Commitments • Funds Leveraged • Site Control • Environmental Clearances • Discretionary Land Use Approvals • Consistency with local public works (infrastructure only) • Project Schedule • Construction has not commenced

Walkthrough of Concept Proposal

Demonstration of FFAST System:
<https://faast.waterboards.ca.gov/Login.aspx>

Tips for using FFAST

- Sign up for and explore the FFAST tool before beginning work on your application
- Prepare answers in an unformatted text document for editing. When answers are fully prepared, cut and paste information into the online application
- Save your work often! The FFAST tool starts a 90-minute timer each time a user logs into their account. The timer resets to 90 minutes each time a user saves their work to the system
- Use only basic formatting
- Don't wait until 4:45 on March 16th to submit your application!

Concept Review Process

Concept Proposal Review Process

- AHSC Program Staff reviews all Concept Proposals
 - Completeness of Application
 - Threshold Requirements
 - Readiness Requirements
 - Enforceable Funding Commitments

Invitation to Submit Full Application

Demonstration of Enforceable Funding Commitments:

$$\frac{\text{AHSC funds requested} + \text{EFCs} - \text{Deferred Costs}}{\text{Total Development Costs} - \text{Deferred Costs}}$$

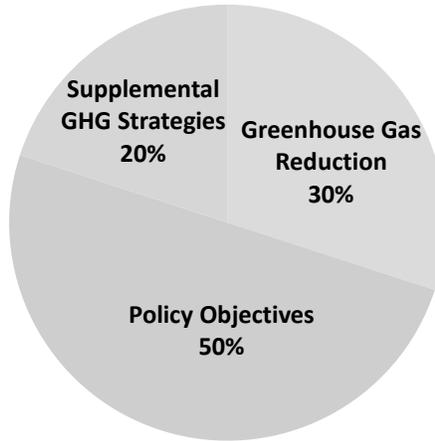
- Committed funds must have letter from funder (grant, loan award, Capital Improvement Plan allocation, etc.) to be verified as an Enforceable Funding Commitment
- If a secondary filter needed, a project located within a Disadvantaged Community will be prioritized based on greatest percentile rank.

Invitation to Submit Full Application

- If Concepts received exceed 150 percent of available funds for January 2016 NOFA (\$320 million), invites will be limited
 - Affordable Housing & Disadvantaged Communities Set-Asides: 150% of respective set-aside (\$240 million)
 - TOD/ICP/RIPA: 150% of targets (\$168 million, \$168 million, \$48 million)
 - At least one eligible application from each MPO will be invited to apply.
- Invite letters sent week of April 25, 2016
- Only Invited Applicants will have access to Full Application

Upcoming: Considerations for Full Application

Full Application Scoring Criteria



GHG Quantification Methodology (30%)

Scoring Element	Points
GHG Reduction	
GHG Quantification Methodology	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Estimated GHG Emissions Reductions (CalEEMod and TAC): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total Project GHG Reductions Cost Efficiency of Reductions (Total Project GHG Reductions/AHSC \$ Request) 	 15 15

- GHG Quantification Methodology Tools**
 - CalEEMod for land use development projects
 - Transportation and Connectivity (TAC) method for transportation projects
 - Appendix D of AHSC Guidelines

Supplemental GHG Reduction Strategies (20%)

Supplemental Strategies	
• Active Transportation Improvements	10
• Water, Energy, and Greening	10

- **Active Transportation Improvements**

- Strong projects will address both bicycle AND pedestrian access
- Transportation-Related Amenities NOT eligible for points

- **Water, Energy, and Greening**

- Reduction of GHGs through carbon sequestration, energy efficiency, renewable energy sources
- Addresses community benefits

Policy Objectives (50%)

Policy Objectives	
• Depth and Level of Housing Affordability	10
• Housing and Transportation Collaboration	10
• Community Benefit and Engagement	8
• Location Efficiency and Access to Destinations	8
• Funds Leveraged	5
• Anti-Displacement and Workforce Training Strategies	4
• Program Need and Readiness	3
• Implementation of Planning Efforts	2
POLICY OBJECTIVES CATEGORY SUBTOTAL	50

Contact Information

Program Guidelines & Requirements

Strategic Growth Council
ahsc@sgc.ca.gov

Concept Proposal & Full Application

Department of Housing & Community Development (HCD)
ahsc@hcd.ca.gov

GHG Quantification Methodology

Air Resources Board (ARB)
ggrfprograms@arb.ca.gov

Frequently Asked Questions

- FAQ document posted on AHSC website
 - Will be updated weekly with new questions & responses

Q&A

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