**November 4, 2019**

# NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY
**Transformative Climate Communities Program**
**FY 2019-2020 FUNDING ROUND**

TO:        **All Potential Applicants**

FROM:      TCC Program Staff, Strategic Growth Council

SUBJECT:   **NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABLITY – A TOTAL OF APPROXIMATELY $56.4 MILLION FOR TWO IMPLEMENTATION GRANT AWARDS AND A TOTAL OF APPROXIMATELY $600,000 FOR THREE PLANNING GRANT AWARDS FOR ROUND 3 OF THE TRANSFORMATIVE CLIMATE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM**

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The Strategic Growth Council (SGC) along with its partner agency, the Department of Conservation (DOC), is pleased to announce the availability of funding for Round 3 of the Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) Program through this Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA). SGC anticipates that approximately $56.4 million in Implementation Grant funding and approximately $600,000 in Planning Grant funding will be available for competitive awards in Round 3. The TCC Program furthers the purposes of AB 32 (Nunez, Chapter 488, Statutes of 2006) and AB 2722 (Burke, Chapter 371, Statutes of 2016) by funding projects that reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through the development and implementation of neighborhood-level transformative climate community plans that include multiple coordinated GHG emissions reduction projects that provide local economic, environmental, and health benefits to disadvantaged communities. Funding for the TCC Program is provided by the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF), an account established to receive Cap-and-Trade auction proceeds.

Implementation Grants Applications must be submitted no later than **5:00 p.m. PST on February 28, 2020** according to the terms of this NOFA**.**

Planning Grant Applications must be submitted no later than **5:00 p.m. PST on February 28, 2020** according to the terms of this NOFA**.**

To be considered for awards, applicants must fill out an application survey and indicate their interest in applying for a TCC Implementation Grant by November 18, 2019, or a TCC Planning Grant by January 15, 2020.

After receiving the survey responses, TCC Program staff will provide Implementation Grant and Planning Grant Applicants with a link to a Box account where the application materials can be accessed and uploaded once they are completed.  TCC Program staff will also connect all Implementation Grant Applicants to the SGC-selected technical assistance provider to assist with the completion of application materials. Applicants that are unable to access an online application via a Box folder may contact SGC for assistance. Information about the TCC Program, including the Program Guidelines, application technical assistance, and other resources can be found at the SGC website: http://sgc.ca.gov/programs/tcc/resources/. Questions may be directed to the TCC Program by email at tccpubliccomments@SGC.CA.GOV, or to Alexandra Gallo at (916) 322-7279.

## PROGRAM SUMMARY

The TCC Program is a California Climate Investment (CCI) program administered by SGC and implemented by DOC, along with other partnering State agencies. SGC staff and partnering State agencies have worked collaboratively to develop and administer the TCC Program, including developing program guidelines and application materials, preparing agreements and program templates, and coordinating technical assistance for potential applicants.

## IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS

### Eligible Applicants and Project Types

Eligible applicants for Implementation Grants may include but are not limited to: community-based organizations, local governments, nonprofit organizations, philanthropic organizations and foundations, faith-based organizations, coalitions or associations of nonprofit organizations, community development finance institutions, community development corporations, joint powers authorities, and/or tribal governments.

Eligible applicants must form a Collaborative Stakeholder Structure to develop and submit one application based upon a shared vision. The Collaborative Stakeholder Structure shall be charged with overseeing implementation of the TCC Proposal, including each of the requirements outlined in Section II.E, "Transformative Elements", of the TCC Guidelines, and led by one Lead Applicant. The Collaborative Stakeholder Structure must include at least one of the required Project Leads for each of the proposed Projects and Transformative Plans included in the TCC Proposal. The acceptable Project Leads are listed in Appendix B, "TCC Implementation Grant Funded Projects, Eligibility, and Requirements by Strategy," and Appendix C, "Transformative Elements," of the TCC Guidelines.

Applicants must develop a Vision Statement for their proposal that aligns with TCC Program Objectives and identify multiple Strategies and Projects that align with their vision and meaningfully address important community needs within the Project Area.

### Grant and Loan Amounts

Funds available include a FY 2019-2020 budget appropriation of $60 million. From this appropriation, $3 million will be used for State agencies' grant administration, program evaluation, and monitoring costs. Remaining funds will be awarded through a competitive grant process.

In Round 1 of the TCC Program, SGC awarded three Implementation Grants – one grant for $66.50 million and two grants for $33.25 million. Ten Planning Grants were also awarded at approximately $170,000 each.

In Round 2 of the TCC Program, SGC awarded two Implementation Grants for $23 million each, and five Planning Grants at $200,000 each.

The Round 3 funds will be allocated competitively among eligible disadvantaged community areas. Jurisdictions can determine whether they meet the Project Area requirements by using the TCC Mapping Tool for Eligible Project Areas and Planning Areas. The grant term will be approximately five years, with an additional two years for evaluation and reporting.

For Affordable Housing Development Projects, grant funds will reimburse a loan to develop an Affordable Housing Development generally pursuant to the same underwriting requirements and loan terms as the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Program.

### Prevailing Wage Requirements

TCC-funded projects may be subject to State Prevailing Wage Requirements pursuant to Division 2, Part 7, Chapter 1 of the California Labor Code (commencing with Section 1720). The California Labor Code requires payment of locally prevailing wages to workers and laborers on state government contracts in

excess of $1,000 for public works projects. A "public work" is the construction, alteration, demolition, installation, repair or maintenance work done under contract and paid for in whole or in part out of public funds. The definition applies to private contracts when certain conditions exist. Applicants/Grantees can identify additional stipulations and exceptions under Cal. Labor Code § 1720 et seq.

1. Applicant/Grantee must ensure the following for all "public work" activities under this Grant Agreement:
   a. Prevailing wages are paid;
   b. The project budget and invoices for labor reflects these prevailing wage requirements, or if exempt, provide the applicable exemption to SGC with the project budget; and
   c. The project complies with all other requirements of prevailing wage law including, but not limited to keeping accurate payroll records and complying with all working hour requirements and apprenticeship obligations.
2. Applicant/Grantee shall ensure that its Partners and Subcontractors, if any, also comply with prevailing wage requirements. Grantee shall ensure that all agreements with its Partners and Subcontractors to perform work related to this Project contain the above terms regarding payment of prevailing wages on public works projects.
3. The Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) is the primary resource for consultation on the requirements of California prevailing wage law.
   a. Applicant/Grantee can identify the rates for prevailing wage on the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) website. Applicant/Grantee may contact DIR for a list of covered trades and the applicable prevailing wage.
   b. If Applicant/Grantee is unsure whether the TCC Project or individual projects receiving this award is a "public work" as defined in the California Labor Code, it may wish to seek a timely determination from the DIR or an appropriate court.
   c. If Applicant/Grantee has questions about this contractual requirement, recordkeeping, apprenticeship or other significant requirements of California prevailing wage law, it is recommended the Applicant/Grantee consult DIR and/or a qualified labor attorney.

## Application Process

All Implementation Grant Applicants must submit application materials using their assigned TCC Box Account, a web-based application by **5:00 pm PST on February 28, 2020.** No late applications or application revisions will be accepted after the application submittal deadline. No hard copies, facsimiles, electronic transmissions via email, hand-delivered copies, or any other method of submitting complete applications will be accepted.

All applications will be reviewed by TCC Program Staff to ensure that all required documentation is submitted and the application is complete. Applicants that may be missing application information will be notified by TCC Program Staff. If applicants are contacted because of missing information, the application will be deemed incomplete if the applicant does not provide the missing information within two (2) business days.

Implementation Grant applications will be reviewed and evaluated by SGC staff, along with an interagency review panel of partnering State agencies, according to the requirements stated in Section II.A-H of the TCC Guidelines. Eligible applications will be scored based on the threshold and scoring criteria in Section II.G. Following the initial application review, members of the review panel will conduct site visits with each of the applicants. Based on the interagency review of the applications and site visits, TCC Program Staff will finalize and prepare award recommendations to present to the SGC Council Members for consideration

of final approval. The SGC staff will contact applicants recommended for funding. Staff recommendations will be posted for public review ten (10) days prior to the SGC public meeting.

Application resources are available on [SGC's website](#) including how to access and submit an application via the Box account. The anticipated date of announcement for the selection of Implementation Grant recommendations is April 2020. The ultimate awarding of Implementation Grant Program funds is subject to the approval of the Council. The Council decision is final.

Applications must meet all eligibility requirements upon submission. Applications having material inconsistencies will not be rated and ranked. Modification of the application by the applicant after submission is prohibited.

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the application is clear, complete, and accurate. After the application deadline, staff from SGC, DOC, or other partnering state agencies may request clarifying information or inquire as to where the application-specific information is located provided that such information does not affect the competitive rating of the application. No information, whether written or oral, will be solicited or accepted if this information would result in a competitive advantage to an applicant or a competitive disadvantage to other applicants. No applicant may appeal the evaluation of another applicant's application.

## Application Scoring

Applications will be evaluated according to the process and scoring criteria set forth in Section II.G of the [TCC Guidelines](#). The two top scoring Applicants will be recommended to the Strategic Growth Council to receive TCC Implementation Grants. Applications will be evaluated based on the scoring criteria.

## PLANNING GRANTS

### Eligible Applicants and Planning Activities

Eligible applicants for Planning Grants include but are not limited to: community-based organizations, local governments, nonprofit organizations, philanthropic organizations and foundations, faith-based organizations, coalitions or associations of nonprofit organizations, community development finance institutions, community development corporations, joint powers authorities, and/or tribal governments. SGC strongly encourages submittal of proposals comprised of meaningful, actionable internal and external collaboration that demonstrates a commitment to the proposal from multiple organizations.

There must be a minimum of one (1) Co-Applicant in addition to the Lead Applicant. More than one (1) Co-Applicant is strongly encouraged. Priority in scoring will be given to applicants that are able to demonstrate strong and diverse partnerships, including with community-based organizations and other stakeholder groups.

Planning Grants are intended to help communities increase their potential to successfully apply for and to implement future Transformative Climate Communities Implementation Grant awards or other California Climate Investment programs. Planning activities should focus on responding to planning issues or priorities that directly benefit vulnerable communities and that are defined either within an existing regional or local plan, or further the development of an area to be eligible to apply for a future TCC Implementation Grant.

### Grant Amounts

The Strategic Growth Council will award Planning Grants for up to three (3) communities totaling approximately $600,000. Individual Planning Grants awards will be approximately $200,000 and the grant term will be approximately two years.

**Application Process**

All Planning Grant Applicants must submit an application using the Box system, a web-based application by **5:00 pm PST on February 28, 2020**. No late applications or application revisions will be accepted after the application submittal deadline. No hard copies, facsimiles, electronic transmissions via email, hand-delivered copies, or any other method of submitting complete applications will be accepted.

All applications will be reviewed by TCC Program Staff to ensure that all required documentation is submitted and applications complete. Applicants that may be missing application information will be notified by TCC Program Staff. If applicants are contacted because of missing information, the application will be deemed incomplete if they applicant does not provide the missing information within two (2) business days.

Planning Grant applications will be reviewed and evaluated by staff from SGC, DOC, and an interagency review panel of partnering State agencies, according to the requirements stated in Section III, "Planning Grant Program Requirements", of the TCC Guidelines. Based on the interagency review of the applications, TCC Program Staff will finalize and prepare award recommendations to present to the SGC Council Members for consideration of final approval.

Application resources are available on SGC's website including how to access and submit an application via the Box account. The anticipated date of announcement for the selection of Planning Grant recommendations is April 2020. The ultimate awarding of TCC Planning Grant funds is subject to the approval of the Council. The Council decision is final.

Applications must meet all eligibility requirements upon submission. Applications having material inconsistencies will not be rated and ranked. Modification of the application by the applicant after submission is prohibited.

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the application is clear, complete, and accurate. After the application deadline, SGC and DOC staff may request clarifying information or inquire as to where the application-specific information is located provided that such information does not affect the competitive rating of the application. No information, whether written or oral, will be solicited or accepted if this information would result in a competitive advantage to an applicant or a competitive disadvantage to other applicants. No applicant may appeal the evaluation of another applicant's application.

**Applicant Scoring**

Applications will be evaluated base on scoring criteria set forth in Section III.D of the TCC Guidelines, including the extent to which the proposed planning activities will accomplish plan objectives, satisfy State planning priorities and increase the likelihood that Applicants will be competitive for future Implementation Grant funding or other California Climate Investment programs.

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

**Implementation Grant Applications**

All applicants to the TCC Implementation Grants are required to work with no-cost technical assistance, provided by SGC. This technical assistance is provided to support TCC applicants in the development of their project scope, calculation of greenhouse gas emissions, and developing a complete application.

The technical assistance provider will work with each TCC Implementation Grant applicant to create a work plan for the development of their TCC application. The technical assistance provider will be able to provide supportive services, including but not limited to:

- Review of application responses
- Application coordination
- Financial analysis and budget development
- Support for project integration
- Assessment of project readiness

All TCC Implementation Grant applicants will have greenhouse gas calculation services provided by the technical assistance provider. Applicants will be asked to submit data to the technical assistance provider to provide a comprehensive calculation of reductions. Leading up to this calculation, the technical assistance provider will work with applicants to understand the relative greenhouse gas reduction potential of projects and offer suggestions for increasing project reductions.

If you intend to apply for a TCC Implementation Grant, Lead Applicants must complete the following brief survey to get connected to the SGC-selected technical assistance providers. The [Implementation Application Technical Assistance Survey](#) is due by November 18, 2019. A webinar providing an overview of the Implementation Grants including program requirements, program framework, the application process, and grant administration will take place on November 14, 2019 from 10-11 a.m.  Please use the following link to access the webinar: [https://bluejeans.com/272041779/801801](https://bluejeans.com/272041779/801801).

**Planning Grant Applications**

Technical assistance is not available for applicants for TCC Planning Grants at this time. If you intend to apply for a TCC Planning Grant, Lead Applicants must complete the following brief survey to get access to the online application via a Box folder. The [Planning Application Survey](#) is due by January 15, 2020. A webinar providing an overview of the Planning Grants including program requirements, program framework, the application process, and grant administration will take place on November 14, 2019 from 10-11 a.m. The link is the same as above.

**Box Account**

Instructions on utilizing the TCC Application Box account will be explained in detail during the application webinar. Those unable to attend the webinar may request Box application information from TCC Program staff directly.

## DISCLOSURE OF APPLICATION INFORMATION

Information provided in the Implementation and Planning Grant applications will become a public record available for review pursuant to the Public Records Act. As such, any materials provided will be disclosable to any person making a public records request. Applicants should use discretion in providing information that is not specifically requested, including, but not limited to bank account numbers, personal phone numbers and home addresses. By providing this information in an application, the applicant waives any claim of confidentiality and consents to the public disclosure of all submitted material. Awarded applications will be posted on the SGC website.

## RESOURCES AND QUESTIONS

Information about the TCC Program, including the Program Guidelines, application resources, technical assistance, and other resources can be found at the following website: <[http://sgc.ca.gov/programs/tcc/](http://sgc.ca.gov/programs/tcc/). Questions may be directed to the TCC Program by email at [tccpubliccomments@sgc.ca.gov](mailto:tccpubliccomments@sgc.ca.gov) or to Alexandra Gallo at (916) 322-7279.