Regional Climate Collaboratives Program
Frequently Asked Questions
June 21, 2022

General

Q: How do we attend Office Hours? Do we need to make an appointment?

A: Applicants do not need to make an appointment for office hours. Applicants can join the Zoom link during the 11am - 12pm window on Wednesdays: https://governorca.zoom.us/j/83580332416?pwd=L212VlEyVzNyRzFDc2dOZ2hMNTc0Zz09

One tap mobile:

+16699009128,,83580332416# US (San Jose)

Q: Were the workshops recorded and available to view?

A: The General Audience webinar was recorded and here is the link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jlqpww6gZGw

Q: Will SGC be able to provide a platform for applicants to network with other interested stakeholders in their region?

A: SGC recently created a LinkedIn Regional Climate Collaboratives Program Networking Hub that prospective applicants can join and use to connect with potential partners. The California Energy Commission's Empower Innovation platform also provides an opportunity for partners interested in various grant programs (including RCC) to connect with one another.

Q: What do you mean by capacity building?

A: For the purposes of this program, capacity building refers to the process of strengthening local coordination, leadership, knowledge, skills, expertise, and access to resources in under-resourced communities with the goal of helping to develop or increase the ability of that community to independently compete for grants and implement projects in the future. Capacity building activities include identifying and planning for needed climate change mitigation and adaptation projects in a given region and identifying the tools and resources needed to successfully access, apply for, and receive grant funding.

Q: Are there specific implementation grants that SGC would like RCC grantees to apply for?

A: No, SGC does not expect that RCC grantees will apply for any specific funding sources and will aim to share a broad range of funding opportunities with future grantees. Grantees will be encouraged to apply for implementation grants across funding sources, including state programs or other programs from federal or foundation source.

Q: What are the main differences between RCC and the Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) Program?

A: The TCC program funds community-led development and infrastructure projects that achieve major environmental, health, and economic benefits in California's most disadvantaged communities. TCC Implementation Grants fund neighborhood-level proposals that include

multiple, coordinated projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and achieve other community benefits. TCC also offers planning grants (unlike RCC), which fund planning activities to prepare disadvantaged communities for future funding opportunities in programs that align with the TCC Program's objectives.

RCC is a capacity-building grant program that enables community-rooted and cross-sectoral partners to deepen their relationships and develop the processes, plans, and projects that will drive and sustain climate action. RCC does not fund infrastructure. Instead, RCC program objectives focus on strengthening local coordination, leadership, knowledge, and skills to increase access to funding and implement multi-benefit projects.

Q: Can we submit applications for both RCC and TCC?

A: Applying to TCC does not preclude applicants from applying to RCC. However, TCC and RCC are distinct programs that fund different types of projects, so it would be important to apply to the RCC program with a different project than the project submitted for the TCC implementation grant. A key difference between the TCC Implementation grant and RCC is that the RCC program does not fund any infrastructure or construction costs. Also, while TCC project eligibility is focused on the neighborhood level, RCC project eligibility is focused on the regional level, with specific communities of focus selected for place-based projects within the region.

Q: Will there be additional rounds of RCC funding?
A: Yes, SGC does anticipate receiving funding for at least one additional round of the Regional Climate Collaboratives Program. SGC plans to release the Notice of Funding Availability for Round 2 of RCC in 2023.

Q: How similar will Round 2 of RCC be to Round 1?
A: The second round will be very similar to first round. The guidelines will look similar and will incorporate lessons learned through this first round. The RCC program is meant to help set communities up to access greater funding opportunities for implementation of their projects.

Q: How many grants will be awarded?
A: The range of possible award amounts is $500,000 to $1.75 million and SGC has a total of $8.35 million to award. Therefore, the number of awards could range from four to sixteen grants depending on the amount requested by the selected grantees.

Q: When will you make awards?
A: Award recommendations will be adopted by SGC's Council on December 15, 2022.

Q: Where can applicants direct questions about the program?
A: Please send all questions to ta@sgc.ca.gov. SGC staff regularly monitor and respond to this email inbox.

Application
Q: Are the Pre-Proposal application answers limited to a maximum number of characters?

A: There is not a maximum number of characters. However, SGC did provide a recommendation on the maximum number of words for each response on the Pre-Proposal Application.

Q: Do you have a Word document of the Pre-Proposal questions so that we can work through those as a group before submitting?

A: Yes, we have recently posted a Word document with the Pre-Proposal application questions for drafting purposes. Applicants should still submit their final responses to each question through the Pre-Proposal form.

Q: Is the signed Partnership Agreement for the Collaborative needed for the Pre-Proposal application or is this only due for the final application?

A: The signed Partnership Agreement only needs to be included in the final application. The Pre-Proposal is an opportunity for applicants to draft their ideas, including possible Partners and a Managing Stakeholder. These can be different from what is eventually submitted in the full application.

Q: Are letters of commitment needed from stakeholders in the Pre-Proposal application?

A: Letters of commitment are not needed at the Pre-Proposal stage but will be required as part of the final application.

Q: For the scoring component "Project Need and Region", can you describe what factors you use to evaluate the "region"?

A: The "region" scoring is looking for justification as to why a collaborative selected that region and communities of focus. Reviewers will be looking at whether the 51% of communities of focus requirement was just met or goes above and beyond. SGC will be looking for a strong explanation that applicants have put thought into the boundaries of the region and communities of focus.

Q: On the Pre-Proposal, how much detail should be provided on the budget estimates for proposed activities?

A: Applicants should include as much detail as possible, but won't be held to numbers in the Pre-Proposal if those shift before the final application. The Pre-Proposal isn't taken into account in the final application evaluation.

Q: Once Pre-Proposals are submitted and reviewed, will SGC issue formal invitations to apply to the grant by October 7th?

A: SGC will not send a formal invitation to apply. The Pre-Proposal phase is a chance to provide feedback to applicants. There will be very clear instructions released once the full application is available.

Q: Does the project need to be part of an existing climate action plan?

A: The project does not need to be a part of an established climate action plan. However, if a project that a collaborative plans to work on is in an existing climate action plan, it would be good to indicate that in the application.

Eligible Activities

Q: The mandatory activities section of the Guidelines suggests that all of the listed activities need to be addressed in the workplan unless the SGC determines, in consultation with a Collaborative, that an activity is unnecessary. Should applicants do their best to address everything either way, or would an application still be accepted without all of the activities addressed?

> A: Applicants should ideally aim to fulfill all the required activities for the program. However, if the applicant has a compelling reason for why a specific required activity would not be beneficial or appropriate, SGC recommends that the applicant include a note in their Pre-Proposal application explaining the reasons why their Collaborative should not be required to fulfill that activity and SGC will consider such requests on a case-by-case basis.

Q: Do grantees need to solicit additional funding to implement the plans/projects developed through the RCC grant?

> A: Yes, the RCC program funds the technical assistance and capacity building activities needed to plan for and implement projects and plans, but does not fund any infrastructure. Some of the mandatory activities for the problem that relate to soliciting grant funding include: conducting outreach and building awareness of competitive grant programs; providing policy, program, and technical assistance expertise to develop and align multi-benefit projects with potential funding supports; offering assistance and training for grant application development, project management, implementation, and monitoring; and serving as an intermediary between stakeholders and technical experts from State agencies and other organizations. Applicants must specify how they plan to address these and all other mandatory activities in their work plan. The mandatory activities for the RCC program can be found on page 4 of the Guidelines.

Q: Can RCC fund relationship building events and activities to build community and resiliency at the same time? For example, could it fund a garden work day that brings together folks from around the community to connect, collaborate, and build resiliency?

> A: The RCC program can fund a wide variety of relationship-building activities. As long as the project components meet the requirements in the program guidelines, there is an opportunity to be creative.

Q: What is the breadth of environmental and climate related topics that should be covered in a Collaborative? Is there a target number of sectors that each should propose to address (greening, transportation, water, air quality, etc.)?

> A: There is no target number of sectors that a collaborative should propose to address. It would be good to avoid focusing all the RCC activities narrowly on one climate-related issue, but it's really up to proposers to determine which climate-related issues to focus on and how many of them to address.
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> It may be helpful to look at the scoring criteria in Section XI of the Program Guidelines. It is important for the applicant to ensure that the proposed project addresses priority climate issues experienced by communities within the region and that the organizations within the

Collaborative Stakeholder Structure have the subject matter expertise to carry out the work plan.

Q: What can grant funds be used for?

A: For a full list of eligible costs, please see pages 8-9 of the RCC Program Guidelines. For a list of ineligible costs, please see page 10.

Q: How specific can the strategies be?

A: The strategies can be specific or broad depending on the way the applicant chooses to organize their work plan, but the overall workplan should demonstrate that the collaborative is across a range of climate-related issues. However, Collaboratives are not required to focus on every climate-related issue and should develop the scope of their RCC work plan based on the needs of the communities they will serve and the expertise of the organizations that are a part of the Collaborative Stakeholder Structure.

Q: Can you specify what you mean by "lobbying" as an ineligible cost? Would a regional campaign on local development standards be eligible? What about a "commissioners training" program?

A: RCC cannot fund any direct lobbying efforts related to any proposed legislation at the federal, state, regional, or local levels. However, RCC could potentially fund a training program for local commissioners focused on climate resiliency/adaption efforts. The applicant team must demonstrate how this program would align with the overall vision of the collaborative.

Eligibility

Q: Can poorly executed local process or gaps identified by these processes be a justification for project need?

A: Lack of capacity and gaps identified by local processes can certainly be a component of an applicant's justification for project need. The project need section should be specific and clearly outline the climate, environmental, and socio-economic, and community-wide factors that necessitate capacity building at the various scales proposed by the Collaborative. Project need should build on the vision statement and inform the scope of work. There is more information about considerations related to project need on page 27 of the Guidelines.

Q: How do you define academic institutions? Would public school districts qualify?

A: Yes. It will be important to demonstrate how the school district plays a key community-based outreach and/or technical assistance role within the region. If the school district plans to be a Managing Stakeholder, it will need to demonstrate the management and financial capacity to be accountable for the grant.

Q: Are fiscally sponsored nonprofits eligible to apply?

A: Yes, non-profits with fiscal sponsors are eligible to apply as project Partners, but SGC recommends that they not apply as Managing Stakeholders if they do not have the financial and administrative capacity to fulfill that role. In some cases, the fiscal sponsor could apply as a

Managing Stakeholder for the Collaborative, particularly if the fiscal sponsor plays a trusted role in the communities the proposed Collaborative will serve. See SGC's recommendations for the key attributes of a Managing Stakeholder on page 15 of the Guidelines for more considerations applicants may want to take into account when selecting a Managing Stakeholder.

Q: Are UCs eligible applicants?

A: UCs are eligible Applicants; they would have to partner with other organizations to compose a collaborative stakeholder structure. They wouldn't be able to receive funding on their own for this program.

Q: Would a Collaborative composed entirely of Tribal Governments be eligible for the program or would a local agency have to be included in the Collaborative Stakeholder Structure?

A: Tribes are eligible to be either a Managing Stakeholder or project Partner and there is no requirement for a local agency to be included in a Collaborative. However, the enabling legislation for the program (SB 1072) does emphasize diverse partnerships and the scoring criteria for RCC includes a consideration of the diversity of organizations within a Collaborative. If all of the project Partners are the same type of organization, applicants may want to consider reaching out to other types of organizations that could contribute meaningfully to the activities of their proposed Collaborative.

Q: Are you looking for organizations within the same county or from several counties?

A: The makeup of the Collaborative is dependent on how applicants choose to define the boundaries of their region, which can be between one and eight contiguous counties. It is important to ensure that the organizations within the Collaborative have a history of working within the selected region and communities of focus.

Q: What types of entities are eligible Co-Applicants?

A: Eligible co-applicants for a Collaborative include, but are not necessarily limited to: California Native American Tribes, community-based organizations, joint powers authorities, local government agencies, small businesses, and other organizations with a history of providing community-based outreach or technical assistance. (See page 14 of the Guidelines for a full list).

Q: What is the difference between "under-resourced" and "disadvantaged" communities?

A: The "under-resourced" terminology comes out of SB 1072, which refers back to "disadvantaged communities" under the Department of Water Resources' DAC and "disadvantaged" or "low-income" communities under the California Air Resources Board's Priority Populations. If communities qualify as disadvantaged or low income according to these resources, they would qualify for the RCC program.

Q: Can we work with communities that are not under-resourced?

A: Applicants can work with communities that are not under-resourced and still meet the program requirements as long as they meet the 51% of census tracts requirement.

Q: Are small businesses eligible applicants?

A: Eligible applicants for the RCC Program are listed on page 14 of the Program Guidelines and include small businesses and "other organizations with a history of providing community-based outreach or technical assistance." If the business meets either of those criteria it would be an eligible applicant for the program.

Q: Can small/informal organizations apply as Managing Stakeholder?

A: Managing Stakeholders must Applicants must provide sufficient information to demonstrate their management and financial capacity to enter into a grant agreement with SGC and adhere to the reimbursement processes of the RCC Program and defined by the Grant Agreement, ensuring prompt payment to Partners, and meeting reporting timelines. See pages 15 and 16 for additional information about the key attributes for Collaboratives to consider when deciding which organization within the Collaborative Stakeholder Structure will serve as the Managing Stakeholder.

Project Area

Q: How does the RCC Program define region?

A: The selected region must:
- At minimum, include two under-resourced census tracts that the proposed activities will focus on (these do not need to be contiguous)
- Cover a geographic area of between one and eight (1 – 8) contiguous counties

Q: Would SGC fund two or more applications from the same region if they have entirely different strategies? Or would you suggest that these applicants collaborate instead?

A: In the event that SGC receives multiple Pre-Proposals from the same region, SGC's technical assistance providers may connect the different applicants to see if they are interested in partnering on a joint proposal. At the full application stage, SGC does not preclude itself from funding more than one Collaborative in the same region as long as (1) the Collaboratives are focused on distinct activities and issue areas and (2) there is a demonstrated need for more than one Collaborative in that region.

Q: Do you intend to award only 1 proposal for each region?

A: This program does not include a regional allocation. Grantees will be selected based on the scoring criteria provided in the Guidelines. While geographic diversity will be taken into account in the selection process, there is no guarantee that SGC will fund an RCC in every region.

Q: There are many different regional definitions in the State of California. Can applicants utilize regional boundaries that are already established?

A: Outside of the 1-8 contiguous counties and two under-resourced census tracts requirements (See page 10 of the Guidelines for more information), the definition of region for this program is adaptable and meant to be responsive to local context. As long as the program's threshold definition for region is met, using a pre-established region is fine.

Q: Would a smaller group of Under-Resourced Communities within one county be more competitive in this program than a Collaborative that covers multiple counties?

> A: SGC does not have a preference for broader regional collaboratives versus a single county and is instead interested in funding a wide range of collaboratives that work at different scales. In the Full Application, Applicants will be required to make a clear case for their definition of the region and communities of focus proposed with an explanation of why the selected under-resourced communities within the region were selected. In scoring applications, reviewers will consider both the proportion of under-resourced communities served above threshold requirements and the proportion of under-resourced communities within the overall region, but not the size of the region.

Q: Must the Collaborative reach/serve an entire county at a minimum? For example, if the Collaborative has a focus on connecting communities within the city of Los Angeles, is this a wide enough reach?

> A: A Collaborative's regional scope must be between 1-8 continuous counties. Applicants are required to select Communities of Focus within their proposed region (51% of the selected census tracts for Communities of Focus must meet the definition of under-resourced and are not required to be contiguous). Applicants should seek to focus capacity building activities at multiple scales, given that plans and policies at various scales can work together to inform outcomes in neighborhoods.

Q: Should the RCC activities happening in the Communities of Focus tie into county level regional planning and or development/climate activities?

> A: Collaboratives should consider strategies that build capacity at various levels and with various beneficiaries within a region. For example, not all capacity building strategies should focus on increasing resident knowledge of climate change just as they should not all focus on addressing capacity gaps at the local or regional government level. Effective collaboratives will work to build capacity among residents and community organizations at the network scale, at the local government level, and within regional government efforts.

Q: How do we know if our census tracts qualify?

> A: In order to confirm eligibility, please refer to two mapping resources here:
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> - A 'disadvantaged' community according to the California Air Resources Board's Priority Populations Map: https://webmaps.arb.ca.gov/PriorityPopulations/ OR
> - A 'low income' community according to the California Air Resources Board's Priority Populations Map: https://webmaps.arb.ca.gov/PriorityPopulations/ OR
> - A 'disadvantaged' or 'severely disadvantaged' community according to the California Department of Water Resources' DAC Mapping Tool: https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/dacs/
>
> If the intended project covers a geographic area of between 1-8 contiguous counties and a minimum of 2 under-resourced census tracts, then the other piece to consider is whether 51% of the communities of focus under the project are under-resourced.
>
> SGC will soon be posting a guidance document to help applicants understand how to use these tools.

Q: Would 1 of 2 census tracts qualify?

A: No – if the project only covers 2 census tracts, then both would need to be under-resourced. 51% of the census tracts selected for the project must be under-resourced.

Q: Do cities qualify as regions?

A: A city does not qualify as a region under the RCC program. The region must comprise between 1 to 8 contiguous counties. The selected Communities of Focus, however, could be comprised of census tracts in a specific city.

Q: Does the 51% under-resourced requirement apply to regions?

A: The 51% under-resourced requirement applies to the census tracts that are selected as communities of focus and does not apply to the regional boundaries.

Collaborative Stakeholder Structure

Q: Can the Managing Stakeholder change between the Pre-Proposal and Full Application phase?

A: Yes. The Pre-Proposal phase is an opportunity for applicants to think through as many of the details of their Collaborative as possible and receive feedback from SGC staff and TA Providers. No one will be disqualified at the Pre-Proposal phase. However, it is advisable for applicants to select their Managing Stakeholder as soon as they can, since this is an important role in the Collaborative Stakeholder Structure. If it is possible that the Managing Stakeholder may change, please note that in the comment box on the Pre-Proposal form. It may also be helpful for the Technical Assistance team if you list some of the other potential Managing Stakeholders.

Q: Do you have templates and models to share with best practices for the Partnership Agreement and governance structure?

A: SGC has recently released a Collective Impact Resources document providing best practices and examples of collaborative efforts. We will also provide a template Partnership Agreement soon.

Q: In the Guidelines it states that the Managing Stakeholder must have "Experience and expertise in climate change mitigation, adaptation, and/or resilience, with a focus on the areas of intervention proposed within the workplan." Is that a requirement?

A: The list of key attributes of a Managing Stakeholder on page 15 of the Guidelines is meant to help guide applicants in determining who would be an ideal Managing Stakeholder for their Collaborative. Managing Stakeholders are not required to fulfill these attributes in order to be eligible for the program. They are only required to provide sufficient information to demonstrate their management and financial capacity to fulfill the role of Managing Stakeholder for the grant.

Q: Is there a limit to how many Partners can team in one submission?

A: No, there is only a required minimum of 4 stakeholders (1 Managing Stakeholder and 3 project Partners). However, it is important to keep in mind that all project Partners should have a funded role in the RCC work plan and budget.

Q: Will teams be able to add Partners in the second stage (for example, to fill a gap or need identified after submission review)?

A: Yes, new Partners can be added to the Collaborative after the final application has been submitted. Up to 15% of the grant award can be reserved for new Partners who are added during the grant term.

Q: Should only partners be listed who would receive funding from the grant, or other organizations who will participate in the Collaborative but not need funding for their participation (e.g., a local utility or district)?

A: Only funded Partners should be named as part of the Collaborative Stakeholder Structure and included in the Partnership Agreement.

Q: What is the role of county governments and regional planning bodies in a collaborative? Can they participate as a partner without being an official co-applicant?

A: County governments are eligible applicants for an RCC Collaborative. They can apply as part of a Collaborative to receive a grant award.

County governments can also be Managing Stakeholders (the entity that executes the grant agreement with SGC and is the primary point of contact between the Collaborative and SGC) and must provide evidence of a passed formal resolution in the full application that includes an authorization to apply for and accept an RCC Grant, and authority to execute all related documents if awarded.

It is possible for the County to play a role without being a formal applicant. That role could be as involved as partner-level without being an official Collaborative partner. You may choose to include a letter of support to the Collaborative without being formally included in the budget.

Regional planning bodies can apply as a Partner with a formal function in an RCC if they have a history of providing community-based outreach or technical assistance. If not, a letter of support will suffice.

Q: Can my organization be a Managing Stakeholder and/or Partner on more than one RCC application?

A: Organizations may apply with multiple applications as either the Managing Stakeholder or a Partner, provided the projects are separate and distinct from one another, and that the organization in question can provide a justification that they have accounted for adequate staff time to engage in all grants they have applied to if awarded.

Q: Can a Managing Stakeholder invoice for Partners' overhead costs?

A: The overall overhead amount can be up to 30% of the overall budget. When the grantee invoices SGC, they will add a line item for overhead, which can include overhead for the

Managing Stakeholder or any project Partners. The Managing Stakeholder would oversee the invoicing process with Partners and will be responsible for distributing overhead payment among project partners.

Q: Do Tribal coalitions need to include non-Tribal partners?

A: A Tribal collaborative does not need to include non-Tribal partners. However, it is advisable for applicants to consider that the RCC scoring criteria includes points for whether a collaborative is diverse in types of organizations and approach. A diverse partnership could be defined broadly - this could include tribal-serving organizations, small businesses, school districts, etc. A public agency does not need to be a part of a collaborative. SGC and the RCC TA providers can work with applicants to think through the partnership agreement and how to protect Tribal sovereignty.

Q: What is "established trust" and how does one determine that?

A: The RCC program does not have a set definition for established trust, but we hope that this program will be a good opportunity for applicants to begin thinking about who the anchors in their community are. Engaging trusted partners in the Collaborative Stakeholder Structure as either a Managing Stakeholder or project Partner is critical to be able to effectively carry out the partnership development, convening, and community engagement activities associated with RCC. This established trust can also ensure that the relationships and capacity built during the grant term will sustain into the future.

Q: Is the Managing Stakeholder the only one in a Collaborative that needs the resolution from the governing board?

A: Yes, the Managing Stakeholder is the only member that needs the resolution from the governing board. All partners will need a letter of commitment to join the collaborative. These documents will need to be submitted as part of the final application.

Eligible Costs

Q: Can any of the time spent developing and planning for this application be written into the grant?

A: Unfortunately SGC is only able to fund activities that take place during the grant term, so we cannot cover the cost of filling out the application. However, staff is doing everything we can to make sure that the application is as simple as possible and offering application technical assistance to ease the burden of applying.

Q: Can Collaboratives hire a grant writer to draft applications for partners during the grant period?

A: Yes, the salary for a grant writer would be an eligible cost under the staff salary eligible cost category.

Q: What's the difference between "participation compensation" (eligible) and "direct cash benefits or subsidies to participants" (ineligible)?

A: The RCC Guidelines include participant compensation as an eligible cost, which is an exchange of payment for services rendered in the development of community work products, and appropriately documented with deliverables such as sign in sheets or written surveys. Direct cash benefits or incentives are ineligible costs and would include paying someone to show up to a meeting without them contributing in a way that meaningfully contributes to work products. Compensation is defined as payment for work or services performed, whereas an incentive is something that persuades parties to engage in certain conduct. For example, a stack of gift cards to distribute to all attendees at an event does not count as an eligible cost.

Q: Does participant compensation need to be based in the IRS Volunteer Rate?

A: No, the RCC Program Guidelines do not require that participant compensation need to be based in the IRS Volunteer Rate. However, reviewers will take into account the extent to which the budget reflects overall project objectives and program goals with meaningful costs associated.

Q: Can participation compensation be in the form of a stipend?

A: The RCC Program Guidelines define participant compensation as payment for work or services performed. The program also allows for transportation stipends and provision of transportation services for community residents, such as a vanpool as an eligible cost.

Deliverables

Q: Will SGC provide templates for Annual Reporting?

A: Page 7 of the Guidelines outlines the information that SGC will expect for grantees to include in their Annual Reports. SGC will provide additional guidance and/or templates for Annual Reporting once RCC grants are underway.

Q: Are there examples of successful action plans and/or successful capacity building toolboxes that you can point to?

A: Since this is the first round of the program, SGC does not have examples of past action plans or capacity building toolboxes but staff recently released a Collective Impact Resource document that includes case studies of other collaborative efforts that might be helpful to applicants.

Grant Administration

Q: Could the whole grant award be received through advanced payment or would this need to be in combination with a reimbursement method?

A: Advance payments can be up to 25 percent of the total grant award, which can be provided in one payment or spread across a series of smaller installments and is to be determined in the Grant Agreement. All Collaboratives will be required to prioritize Partners that experience low cash flow to receive advances.

Q: How will SGC reimburse the Managing Stakeholder and project Partners?

A: The Managing Stakeholder will be the entity that executes the grant agreement with SGC and is the primary point of contact between the Collaborative and SGC. RCC grantees are eligible for advance payment of up to 25% of the total grant amount and the invoicing process between the Managing Stakeholder and SGC will be defined by the Grant Agreement once grantees have been selected. Per the Prompt Payment Act, SGC is required to pay properly submitted, undisputed invoices within 45 calendar days of the initial receipt.

Q: Is the award amount range of $500,000 - $1.75 million the yearly or total award amount?

A: The award range of $500,000 - $1.75 million is for the total grant award.

Q: Can you advise on start and end date of grant?

A: Our Council will make final award decisions at our Council Meeting on December 15th. After that we will work with grantees to get grant agreements in place. The grant term will end 3 years from the state date of the agreement.

Q: What is the reporting structure for the RCC Program?

A: All Collaborative members can expect to participate in regular touchpoint meetings with RCC Program staff. The Managing Stakeholder, as the liaison between SGC and the Partners, will participate in more frequent check-in meetings with SGC. Scheduling of the Grantee check-in meetings will align with the invoicing frequency. SGC will work with Grantees to determine the invoicing frequency (monthly, quarterly, etc.) that best works for them. Partners will participate in two full Collaborative check-ins each grant year. As part of the evaluation requirements, Collaboratives will be responsible for collecting data for annual reports and the implementation technical assistance providers for the program will help applicants gather any data needed for that evaluation process. Page 22 of the Guidelines provides more information about the type of information SGC will need grantees to include in the annual reports.

Q: Can fiscal sponsorship fees be covered by an RCC grant?

A: Yes, this can count as an indirect cost for the grant. The program caps the indirect cost rate at 30% of the grant amount.

Q: What happens if grantees do not end up spending the (optional) 15% set-aside in their budget for additional partners?

A: In this case, the grantee would be able to amend their budget to reallocate those funds to other activities in consultation with SGC.

Technical Assistance

Q: How do applicants request Technical Assistance?

A: Applicants simply need to submit the Pre-Proposal by July 15th to receive application technical assistance support.

Q: Can you share who the Pre-Proposal TA providers are? How can interested applicants get in touch with them?

> A: SGC is working with a team of third-party TA providers, including staff from Estolano Advisors, the California Coalition for Rural Housing, the Institute for Local Government, and Better World Group. The TA providers will mostly be helping with outreach in the Pre-Proposal phase. Once applicants have submitted a Pre-Proposal, SGC will review, provide feedback, and connect applicants to a TA provider to help support the development of a full application. Questions can be sent to SGC's TA email (ta@sgc.ca.gov).

Q: If a group has experience working with one of the TA providers, can that be taken into consideration during the TA assignment process?

> A: There is an opportunity in the Pre-Proposal to add additional comments, including TA provider requests. SGC will take these requests into consideration but cannot guarantee that applicants will be placed with their preferred TA provider.

Q: Would the TA providers consider introducing teams to each other if they see alignment in the Pre-Proposals, instead of teams competing against each other for similar visions/concepts?

> A: The TA team is trying to link people together as much as possible now, and they will continue to do so after the Pre-Proposals are submitted. Once we receive Pre-Proposals, the TA providers will lead that connection process more formally. Applicants can also connect with other applicants on the LinkedIn Hub, linked here: https://www.linkedin.com/groups/14092254/

Miscellaneous

Q: How does the RCC program interact with CERF?

> A: The CERF Solicitation calls for the High Road Transition Collaboratives (HRTCs) created through the CERF program to work directly with Regional Climate Collaboratives (RCC) Programs where applicable. The HRTCs will implement transparent and inclusive processes to advance long-term prosperity and equity and include balanced representation from labor, business, community, government, and other stakeholders. Together, these partners will form their respective regional HRTC to engage in strategic planning for economic resilience and equitable pathways to high road opportunities. HRTCs will work across industries, agencies, and communities to encourage engagement from all stakeholder groups, create inclusive and equitable economic plans, build capacity, break down silos to maximize the effectiveness of planning and implementation projects, and generate systemic changes to advance economic resilience. Through this process HRTCs will coordinate with RCCs in their region to ensure alignment and collaboration where applicable.

Q: Can public agencies join a collaborative later, for example, in the implementation round?

> A: Yes, public agencies can be added to the collaborative later. This could be done through the 15% set-aside for additional partners, or public agencies could join as informal, unfunded partners.

Q: How do social, environmental and economic impacts (like wildfires) factor in evaluating severely disadvantaged communities?

A: In terms of being evaluated as severely disadvantaged, the RCC program's threshold requires that at least 51% of the Communities of Focus meet the definition of under-resourced, which is based on the three measures included in the guidelines:

- A 'disadvantaged' community according to the California Air Resources Board's Priority Populations Map: https://webmaps.arb.ca.gov/PriorityPopulations/ OR
- A 'low income' community according to the California Air Resources Board's Priority Populations Map: https://webmaps.arb.ca.gov/PriorityPopulations/ OR
- A 'disadvantaged' or 'severely disadvantaged' community according to the California Department of Water Resources' DAC Mapping Tool: https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/dacs/

While mega-disasters such as wildfires are not considered in the "under-resourced communities" definition, applicants can speak to needs related to such disasters in their application and will be scored based on project need. The scoring table for the RCC program is in Section XI of the Program Guidelines.

Q: How can I find grants that pay for infrastructure?

A: Applicants can find information about grant opportunities on the State Grants Portal and the Collective Impact Resources document on SGC's website. Those resources can be found here:

- https://www.grants.ca.gov/
- https://sgc.ca.gov/programs/cace/resources/rcc/