

AHSC Round 8 Narrative Prompts and Required Materials

This document lists out the prompts for Narrative Based Policy Scoring for the Round 8 Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Program. The document is organized in four parts: 1) General Context, 2) Pre-AHSC Conditions, 3) AHSC Project Process, 4) Post-AHSC Implementation and Outcomes. Applicants should submit their responses to the prompts in a single document (applicants should input responses below the respective prompts) and upload it as an attachment named “Narrative” along with the other Application files using the Application Portal.

The required materials for each section should be uploaded separately under the respective name for each upload. **Applicants can find the description of required and optional materials at the end of the document.**

Word Limits for each question are provided and any text beyond the limit will not be considered. When considering length of answers, focus on quality; respondents will not be penalized for shorter answers so long as they are responsive to the prompt and rubric. When crafting your answers, assume the interagency Narrative Reviewer team will only review this document and narrative-related attachments.

For context on how Narrative Scoring will be evaluated, please see the Narrative Rubric. The Rubric will be scored using the four categories outlined in the AHSC Round 8 Final Guidelines Section 107 “Narrative-Based Policy Scoring (18 points)” Both of these files are available on the [AHSC Guidelines page](#).

- Community Benefit & Engagement (6 points)
- Climate Adaptation & Community Resiliency (5 points)
- Collaboration & Planning (4 points)
- Equity & Transformation (3 points)

Defined terms are bolded throughout the document. Refer to Appendix A in AHSC Round 8 Guidelines for complete definitions. More information on the AHSC program, along with other application materials, can be found at: <https://sgc.ca.gov/programs/ahsc/>.

General Context

Information provided in this section will help reviewers better understand the overall project. It is applicable to all Narrative Based Scoring sections.

1. Please provide a summary of your AHSC **Project**. Be sure to highlight components that are unique to the project or required significant collaboration. Please see past [award summaries](#) for examples. This content will provide necessary context for all reviewers and will be published alongside Award Recommendations if your project is selected for funding. *1,400 character limit.*
2. List the following designations for the address of the **AHD site**
 - a. [TCAC Opportunity Resource](#) Designation: _____
 - b. [Healthy Places Index \(HPI\) tool](#) percentile: _____
 - c. [CalEnviroScreen](#) Percentile: _____
 - d. [Priority Population](#), Disadvantaged Community (Yes/No): _____

- e. [Priority Population](#), Low-Income Community (Yes/No): _____
 - f. [Priority Population](#), Buffer Low-Income Communities (Yes/No): _____
 - g. Unincorporated Area (Yes/No): _____
 - h. Tribal Land (Yes/No): _____
3. Beyond affordability, does the AHD include a specialized focus on an underserved population (tribal, family/family-style, senior, people with disabilities, formerly homeless, veterans, etc.)? If yes, please describe which population, and provide a brief list of the specific project features, amenities, or services designed to serve that group. *700 character limit.*
4. Is your **Affordable Housing Development (AHD)** project subject to by-right approval? If yes, please cite the applicable Regulation/Legislation. *350 character limit.*
5. Was the **AHD** subject to CEQA streamlining or an exemption? If yes, please cite the applicable Regulation/Legislation. Include any planning document the **AHD** relies on for streamlining consistency in the “Local Plans” document. *350 character limit.*
6. Is there currently, or has there been, a need for environmental remediation of the AHD site? If so, please provide a brief description of how it was (or will be) remediated. *350 character limit.*

Pre-AHSC Conditions

Community Vision, Connection, and Leadership

Information provided in this section will inform scoring for “Community Benefits & Engagement” (Section 107 Narrative (a)).

Please describe the community connections, relationships, and efforts that contributed to the conception and advancement of the AHSC **Project** prior to the creation of an AHSC application. Consider the applicant team’s existing relationship(s) with the community members and community representatives. Elaborate on any prior community visioning, organizing, or deep engagement efforts within the project community directly relevant to the AHD or AHSC-funded project components.

We recognize that some projects may be approved by-right or are being proposed in communities that may not be supportive of affordable housing or sustainable transportation projects; if this is relevant to your project, please elaborate why engagement was limited, plans for future engagement, and focus on how those alternatives will work as an equivalent approach. *3,500 character limit.*

Local Planning Efforts

Information provided in this section will inform scoring for “Collaboration and Planning” (Section 107 Narrative (c)). Applicants are required to provide a response to the first plan listed (“Analysis of fair housing in housing element”). Applicants should include additional plans, as well, with a focus on more localized/specific plans when possible. Required Attachment: “Local Plans”

If applicable to “Community Vision, Connection, and Leadership,” applicants can use this space to describe specific/significant planning-related local regulations, legislation, or policy changes, outside formal planning documents, that helped make the project possible. *700 character limit.*

Table 1. Description of Local Plans

Type of Plan	Describe how the plan informs the AHSC project's components (bullet points or paragraph)	Name of plan and relevant page numbers referenced
<i>REQUIRED:</i> Housing Element: Analysis of Fair Housing		
Health and Environmental Justice Plan(s)		
Land Use Plan (beyond housing element)		
Transportation Plan(s) or Circulation Plan(s)		
Specific Plan or Community Plan		
Climate Action Plan		
Climate Adaptation Plan		
Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)		
Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA)		
Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) or Alternative Planning Strategy (APS)		
CEQA Streamlining / Exemption: Planning Document relied upon for consistency		
Other (plans not listed above that influenced the project or engagement)		

AHSC (Proposal Development) Process

Collaboration with Project Partners

Information provided in this section will inform scoring for “Community Benefits and Engagement” (Section 107 Narrative (a)) and “Collaboration and Planning” (Section 107 Narrative (c)).

Describe how these groups helped determine, refine, and finalize the vision for the project components and programs overall. How did the applicant and partners work together to identify, address and balance the community’s needs and specific site needs? In Table 2, please list up to ten (10) organization(s), group(s), and agencies involved in outreach, engagement, and/or co-creating and scoping the project’s proposed components and programs. Please identify which components of the AHSC project (AHD, HRI, STI, TRA, PGM, Anti-Displacement) were influenced by the work of each organization. 3,500 character limit.

Table 2. Organizational Engagement

Organization Name	AHSC Component?	How did this organization help shape the proposed AHSC-funded components

Addressing Community Needs

Information provided in this section will inform scoring for “Community Benefits and Engagement” (Section 107 Narrative (a)). Required Attachments: “Community Engagement Tracker”; “Community Needs” Letter(s).

Summarize the most common themes expressed during community engagement, as identified in the Community Engagement Tracker. How did the applicant integrate any existing community visioning or planning efforts into the project?

Specifically, how does the **Project** address the needs as identified by the community, including climate adaptation and resiliency, public health, active transportation, transit, or other areas beyond the **AHD** component? Which, if any, changes were made to the project design, components, program activities, or implementation team, as a direct result of stakeholder feedback? *3,500 character limit.*

Mitigation Measures and Community Resiliency

Information provided in this section will inform scoring for “Climate Adaptation & Community Resiliency” (Section 107 Narrative (b)). Required Attachment: “Climate Adaptation Matrix”

The Climate Matrix is focused on assessing the impacts of climate and environmental hazards in the area around the **Affordable Housing Development** and how the **Applicant** factors these risks and impacts into project design. The Climate Matrix includes recommended data sources that forecast future climate impacts (heat, precipitation, wildfire, and sea-level rise) or document existing impacts (air pollution) that contribute to the vulnerability of the occupants of the development. Since these threats are often inter-related, applicants are encouraged to approach solutions in a holistic way.

Please elaborate why the selected adaptative measures were chosen for each of the applicable climate categories. Additionally, explain how the project meets the adaptation needs of the project site and the community. If applicable, note how each measure connects to other climate risk categories or health concerns faced by the community. *3,500 character limit.*

Post-AHSC Implementation and Outcomes

Future Benefits and Engagement

Information provided in this section will inform scoring for “Community Benefits and Engagement” (Section 107 Narrative (a)). Related Attachments: “Future Engagement.”

Describe any planned or continued engagement or services (outreach for marketing plan, resident selection process, coordination to support first-time buyer programs or housing mobility strategies, resident empowerment, or supportive services, etc.) in the **Project Area** related to AHSC-funded work if awarded. This engagement should be focused towards either future **AHD** residents and if applicable, **Priority Populations** in the **Project Area** or surrounding **Low-Income Communities**. *2,000 character limit.*

Opportunity, Mobility, and Access

Information provided in this section will inform scoring for “Collaboration and Planning” (Section 107 Narrative (c)).

Most AHSC projects fund transportation improvements near the **Affordable Housing Development (AHD)**. How do the project’s proposed STI and TRA components improve the accessibility, connectivity, and mobility of the future residents of the **AHD** and nearby low-income households, especially people with limited mobility or disabilities? Cite sources (i.e. planning documents) as needed. *2,000 character limit.*

General Outcomes

Health

Information provided in this section will inform scoring for “Climate Adaptation & Community Resiliency” (Section 107 Narrative (b)) and “Equity & Transformation” (Section 107 Narrative (d)).

Summarize overall health-related strategies across the project components, design elements, climate strategies, outreach and education components that focus on reducing potential health impacts of air pollution (Section 106(c)(6)), programs or services offered, or key destinations and co-location of health-related facilities or services. Reference how the project will improve the Community Conditions identified in the Healthy Places Index. *2,000 character limit.*

Equity Summary

Information provided in this section will inform scoring for “Equity & Transformation” (Section 107 Narrative (d)).

SGC is committed to achieving racial equity in its operations, investments, and policy initiatives and to achieving its vision that: All people in California live in healthy, thriving, and resilient communities regardless of race. Read more in the [SGC Racial Equity Action Plan](#).

Applicants are encouraged to embed equity throughout the narrative sections. Applicants may use this space to elaborate on and summarize the project’s approach to equity throughout the process of bringing the project to fruition. *2,000 character limit.*

Transformation

Information provided in this section will inform scoring for “Equity & Transformation” (Section 107 Narrative (d)).

The goal of the **AHSC Program** is to fund high-quality projects that catalyze transformative community change. Describe how your project goes beyond baseline AHSC requirements by piloting new or innovative approaches or policies, leveraging existing resources in a new way, or by shaping future projects in the nearby communities. *2,500 character limit.*

Supplemental Materials for Narrative:

The required materials for each section should be uploaded separately under the respective name for each upload. **Applicants can find templates for required and optional materials on the [AHSC Guidelines page](#).**

“Climate Adaptation Matrix”: Complete the Climate Adaptation Assessment Matrix with climate projections for the listed impacts and technical descriptions of adaptive measures to be employed. If the project is considering climate projections from a local data source (i.e. sources besides those listed in the Climate Matrix), state where the data is from.

“Community Engagement Tracker”: Provide additional information on events where community participation occurred in the Community Engagement Tracker template.

“Community Needs”: Letter(s) of support from local community-based, grassroots organization or Tribal health department/agency describing the community engagement process and how feedback from local residents was incorporated into the project.

“Future Engagement” (Optional): Submit supporting documentation to demonstrate future engagement with either a CBO or residents (i.e. any engagement plans, agreements, etc.).

“Local Plans”: A single pdf with the cover page of the plan and relevant pages of the plans referenced in the Local Planning Efforts Section. If applicable, also include the planning document the **AHD** relies on for consistency with streamlining. Please only include pages referenced in the narrative.