Subject:	**Community Resilience Centers Program: Round 1 Planning, Project Development, and Implementation Grant Recommendations**
Reporting Period:	July 2023 – April 2024
Staff Lead:	Amar Cid, Deputy Director of Community Investments and Planning, SGC

Recommended Action

Community Resilience Centers (CRC) Staff recommend that the Council award $92,236,076 in funding from the FY 2022-23 General Fund for the Round 1 CRC Program to fund the four (4) top-scoring Project Development Grant proposals and nine (9) top-scoring Implementation Grant proposals, including one (1) top-scoring application from a California Native American Tribe. To maximize impact of dollars, staff also recommend reallocating $285,338.50 in remaining Project Development grant funds (total remaining $614,150) to reconcile ten (10) of the eleven (11) approved Planning Grant awards to honor their full funding requests, rather than awarding a partial Project Development Grant.

Summary

This Staff Report summarizes the California Strategic Growth Council's (SGC) CRC Project Development and Implementation Grant Programs, the Round 1 Application Process, and CRC Staff award recommendations. Attachments include proposal summaries and applicant scores.

The CRC Round 1 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) made $9.6 million available for Project Development Grant awards for up to $5,000,000 each. In Round 1, the Project Development Grant program received twenty-eight (28) applications. Of the 28 applications, Program Staff recommend four (4) applicants for award for their full funding request, for a total in $8,985,850 funding.

The CRC Round 1 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) made $84 million available for Implementation Grant awards for up to $10,000,000 each. In Round 1, the Implementation Grant program received seventy-four (74) applications. Of the 74 applications, Program Staff recommend nine (9) applicants for award for their full funding request, for a total in $83,250,226 funding.

Background

The CRC Program (Program) was created by SB 155 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, Chapter 258, Statutes of 2021), to provide "funding...for the construction or retrofit of facilities to serve as community resilience centers that mitigate the public health impacts of extreme heat and other emergency situations exacerbated by climate change." The Program provides funding for new construction and upgrades of neighborhood-level resilience centers to provide shelter and resources during climate and other emergencies, as well as funding for year-round services and ongoing programming that build overall community resilience, and campus amenities that support usage of Community Resilience Center facilities, such as transportation options and community gardens.

Separately, AB 211 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, Chapter 575, Statutes of 2022) directs the Program to ensure applicants demonstrate collaboration with community members, specifically by utilizing multi-stakeholder partnerships and ensuring that community-based organizations and local residents are involved in governance and decision-making. To ensure this statutory requirement is met, the Program requires the formation of a Collaborative Stakeholder Structure, which creates localized, place-based partnerships to provide support for community engagement and drive decision-making throughout project implementation.

The Program seeks to build and support community resilience to climate impacts and aims to do this through:

- The development of multi-benefit community-serving spaces;
- Services and programming to support communities both during disasters and year-round;
- Supporting development of community-driven partnerships;
- Expanding economic opportunities; and
- Supporting grassroots engagement in local decision-making processes.

Priority Communities

While all communities in California are eligible to apply to the CRC program, statute directs the program to prioritize projects located in and benefitting under-resourced communities, as defined by Health and Safety Code Sections 39711 and 39713. The CRC program has identified the following additional priority communities for Round 1:

- Tribal Lands that meet the definition of an under-resourced community
- Rural communities that meet the definition of an under-resourced community
- Unincorporated communities that meet the definition of an under-resourced community

All applicants are required to discuss if and how their proposal considers, involves, impacts, and benefits priority communities.

Priority Populations

Each proposal must identify, work with, and intentionally serve the needs of priority populations in the proposed neighborhood containing the CRC facility. In alignment with the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) and other State agencies, the Program has identified the following priority populations:

- Individuals with physical, developmental, or intellectual disabilities
- Individuals with chronic conditions or injuries
- Individuals with limited English proficiency
- Older adults, children, and pregnant people
- Low-income, homeless, and/or transportation-disadvantaged or public transit-dependent people

CALIFORNIA STRATEGIC
GROWTH COUNCIL

Funding Targets

To illustrate the Program's commitment to statewide geographic diversity required by statute, the Program commits to awarding at least one grant (of any grant type) to each of the six Cal OES Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid Regions. See the map of the six regions pictured below.

The Program's Planning Grant awards (approved at SGC's February Council Meeting) spanned all but one of the six Cal OES Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid Regions[1], nearly meeting the Program's geographic diversity funding target. Both Project Development and Implementation Grant recommended awards represent significant geographic diversity as well, inclusive of the remaining Cal OES Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid Region, spanning across the State and surpassing this funding target. In total, there are four (4) proposals in Region 1, five (5) proposals in Region 2, two (2) proposals in Region 3, two (2) proposal in Region 4, four (4) proposals in Region 5, and seven (7) proposals in Region 6 among both the Planning Grant awards and recommendations for Project Development and Implementation Grants.

The Program also has a Tribal Funding Target intended to prioritize a portion of Program funding for California Native American Tribes, similar to a Tribal set-aside. The program intends to fund a minimum of five (5) qualifying Tribally-led proposals across all grant types.

Three (3) Planning Grants were awarded to Tribally-led proposals, and one (1) project led by a California Native American Tribe is recommended for an Implementation Grant award.

---

[1] See Table 3. Staff Recommendations for CRC Planning Grant Round 1 Awards (Reconciled) below.

CALIFORNIA STRATEGIC GROWTH COUNCIL

About the CRC Project Development Grant Program

CRC Project Development Grants will provide funding for pre-development and basic infrastructure activities that (a) advance community-serving facilities' capability to serve as a future Community Resilience Center and (b) prepare grantees for future funding opportunities. CRC Project Development Grants should build on local community engagement efforts to identify CRC sites requiring additional project development and basic infrastructure support funds, in preparation for future implementation funds. CRC Project Development Grants prioritize Applicants from Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities, Tribal Communities, and Rural Communities as stated in the CRC guidelines. Project Development activities should advance the development of sites identified by residents for use as Community Resilience Centers that build climate resilience and community resilience, both during emergencies and year-round. They should also aim to construct climate-resilient infrastructure to (a) ensure or improve access to a CRC and (b) to strengthen local community resilience in connection with a proposed CRC. These activities may include but are not limited to:

- General pre-development phase activities, such as community engagement; feasibility studies; market analysis; site acquisition; financial planning;
- Pre-development, constructions, and development of long-term operations and maintenance plans for critical utility infrastructure;
- Basic infrastructure pre-development, constructions, and planning for infrastructure to develop, protect, and access evacuation routes to and from CRC sites;
- Local project planning activities that prepare community-prioritized project sites for development and future activations as CRCs;
- Or support costs to build and sustain local capacity of Project leads and Partners.

Project Development activities must also demonstrate consistency with the State's Planning Priorities, identified in Section 65041.1 of the California Government Code. These priorities intend to promote equity, strengthen the economy, protect the environment, and promote public health and safety in the State, including urban, suburban, and rural communities. Project Development Grant awards range from $500,000 to $5,000,000 and have a two-year grant term.

About the CRC Implementation Grant Program

CRC Implementation Grants will fund new construction and upgrades of facilities to serve as Community Resilience Centers, Campus Amenities that support use of the facility, and services and programs that build overall community resilience. Implementation Grant activities should:

- Offer multi-benefit physical community-serving spaces resilient to current and future climate hazards;
- Provide integrated delivery of essential services and programming to local communities during and following disasters, emergencies, and disruption events;
- Integrate physical infrastructure projects with social infrastructure through community-driven partnerships and programming to increase climate resilience, expand economic opportunities, and reduce health, environmental, and social inequities across California;

CALIFORNIA STRATEGIC
GROWTH COUNCIL

- Leverage and build a skilled, diversified, and trained workforce and promote local workforce development and training opportunities; and
- Build, strengthen, and sustain local leadership and grassroots engagement in civic and community development, and climate resilience awareness and activities.

The CRC program intends to balance both shorter-term emergency response needs, as well as longer-term ongoing community needs and services. To achieve the CRC Implementation Grant Program Objectives, each CRC proposal must include at least four (4) of the seven (7) following strategies, listed in the CRC Guidelines:

- Energy Resilience
- Water Resilience
- Air Quality and Public Health
- Nature-Based Solutions and Food Security
- Emergency Preparedness and Critical Communications
- Mobility and Access
- Workforce Development, Education, and Training

These strategies are modeled from other SGC programs, integrated with robust stakeholder input, and intentionally bridge both the physical infrastructure and social infrastructure. This approach is intended to provide local communities maximum flexibility to self-determine and thoughtfully select strategies to best meet local context, priorities, and needs. Implementation Grant awards range from $1,000,000 to $10,000,000 and have a five-year grant term, with a four-year completion period followed by one year of evaluation.

Round 1 Guidelines Development

Program Staff developed the CRC Program Round 1 Guidelines (Guidelines) through an extensive public engagement and research process. This included listening sessions, meetings, and key information interviews to understand the needs and priorities of communities across the State. SGC released the draft Guidelines in December 2022 for a 45-day public comment period, during which Program Staff held seven (7) workshops that included regional and audience-specific workshops that covered all regions throughout the State and included rural communities and Tribes. Staff reviewed and analyzed over 750 public comments to identify key topics for further research, identify areas which needed further expertise, and to inform final guideline development.

Round 1 Application Process

The Council adopted the Guidelines on April 26, 2023. A technical amendment on December 14, 2023, updated the guidelines to reflect the expanded advance pay authority under AB 590 (Hart, 2023). The Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA), released on May 26, 2023, set a September 5, 2023 deadline for CRC grant applications. The NOFA was then revised on July 5, 2023, to extend the application deadline for all CRC grant applications to September 18, 2023.

The NOFA made $98.6 million available for all grant types. Approximately $9.6 million was intended for Project Development Grant awards with awards ranging from $500,000 to $5,000,000 each. Approximately $84 million was intended for Implementation Grant Awards

CALIFORNIA STRATEGIC
GROWTH COUNCIL

with awards ranging from $1,000,000 to $10,000,000 each. Following the NOFA release, CRC Staff (Program Staff) hosted 14 virtual Application Office Hour sessions in July, August, and the beginning of September – for general audiences, tribal, and rural communities. Program Staff and the technical assistance providers provided ongoing technical assistance to a total of 50 applicants.

The CRC Implementation Grant application process involved both a Pre-Proposal and Full Application phase. The intent of the two-phase application process was to decrease the application burden on applicants and to offer input and guidance earlier in the application process. Staff screened Pre-Proposal submissions and provided feedback and direction, but did not score them.

SGC received a total of 28 Project Development Grant applications and 74 Implementation Grant applications in response to the Round 1 solicitation, with 26 Project Development Grant applications and 48 Implementation Grant applications passing threshold review. Attachment B provides a complete list of the 28 Project Development Grant applicants and 74 Implementation Grant applicants.

Round 1 Application Review Process
All applications were evaluated through a multi-stage review process by Program Staff, a Technical Assistance (TA) Provider, and an Interagency Review Panel.

Submitted applications underwent the following review process:

- **Completeness Check:** The TA Provider and Program Staff reviewed the submitted application materials for completeness. Applicants were notified if their application was incomplete and were given a 48-hour window to reupload missing information flagged by Program Staff.
- **Program Threshold review:** The TA Provider performed the initial threshold reviews alongside Program Staff. Applications were reviewed based on the program thresholds defined by guidelines. After resubmission of missing materials identified in the Completeness Check, twenty-six (26) Project Development Grant applications and forty-eight (48) Implementation Grant applications passed threshold review.
- **Interagency Review Panel:** The applications that passed threshold review advanced to an Interagency Review Panel, selected by the California Strategic Growth Council (SGC). Seventeen (17) Interagency Reviewers scored Project Development proposals and forty-two (42) Interagency Reviewers scored Implementation proposals according to a scoring rubric developed by Program Staff using the scoring criteria listed in the CRC Guidelines. Panel members attended a training session to understand the program goals and review process prior to scoring applications. Each application was reviewed by three (3) Interagency Reviewers, and the reviewers' scores were averaged to determine a final score for each application. The maximum score for Project Development Grants was 93 points. The maximum score for Implementation Grants was 200 points. The Interagency Review Panel included representatives from the following State entities:
    - California Air Resources Board (CARB)

- o Office of Health Equity, Climate Change & Health Equity Section (CDPH) Delta Stewardship Council
  - o California Department of Transportation
  - o California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA)
  - o California Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency (BCSH)
  - o California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA)
  - o Department of Water Resources (DWR)
  - o State Water Resources Control Board (OIMA)
  - o Department of Conservation (DOC)
  - o California Energy Commission
  - o Department Housing and Community Development (HCD)
  - o Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR)
  - o Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz)
  - o Office of Community Partnerships and Strategic Communications (OCPSC)
  - o Strategic Growth Council (SGC)
- **Deliberation:** Following the review period, Program Staff facilitated deliberation sessions with Interagency Reviewers to discuss top-scoring proposals and proposals with significant variation in reviewer scores. This deliberation period was intended to further calibrate reviewer scores and to ensure fairness in the scoring process. Reviewers had the opportunity to adjust their individual scores during and after the deliberation meetings, resulting in the final, averaged scores.
- **Interviews (Implementation Grants only)**: Once the final averaged Interagency Reviewer scores were determined, staff interviewed 18 of the top-scoring candidates during a two-week period. The interviews were scored out of 25 maximum points according to a scoring rubric developed by Program Staff in accordance with the CRC guidelines. Interviews were conducted and scored by two (2) CRC team members. Interview scores were averaged to determine a final score for each applicant's interview, out of 25 points. The interview score was added to the Interagency Review score, resulting in the final score for the proposal out of 225 points.

Recommended Awards

CRC Program Staff recommend the Council approve the four (4) top-scoring Project Development Grant applications and nine (9) top-scoring Implementation Grant applications for funding. CRC Program Staff also recommends reconciling previously awarded Planning Grant projects with $285,338.50 in remaining grant funds, bringing each Planning award to its full requested funding amount. This enables the Program to maximize its impact across Priority Communities.

The Project Development Grant applicants recommended for award are listed in Table 1 below. Out of the four (4) Project Development Grant award recommendations, all applications are located in and benefit both SB 535 Disadvantaged Communities and AB 1550-Designated Low-Income communities. One (1) application is located in and benefits an unincorporated

CALIFORNIA STRATEGIC
GROWTH COUNCIL

community and one (1) application is located in and benefits a rural community. The recommended Project Development Grants span CalOES Regions two (2), five (5), and six (6).

Attachment A contains a summary of each application recommended for award.

Table 1: Staff Recommendations for CRC Project Development Grant Round 1 Awards

Lead Applicant	Score	Requested Award	Recommended Award	County, CalOES Region
City of Banning	89	$1,070,620.00	$1,070,620.00	Riverside, Region 6
Community Action Partnership of Kern	89	$988,752.00	$988,752.00	Kern, Region 5
Little Manilla Rising	86.7	$1,926,478.00	$1,926,478.00	San Joaquin, Region 5
California Parenting Institute (dba Child Parent Institute)	86	$5,000,000.00	$5,000,000.00	Sonoma, Region 2

Implementation Grant applicants recommended for award are in Table 2 below.

Out of the nine (9) Implementation Grant award recommendations, five (5) applications are located in and benefit SB 535 Disadvantaged Communities, six (6) applications are located in and benefit AB 1550-Designated Low-Income communities, two (2) applications are located in and benefit unincorporated communities, three (3) applications are located in and benefit rural communities, and one (1) application is led by a California Native American Tribe. The recommended Implementation Grants span CalOES Regions one (1), two (2), four (4), five (5), and six (6).

Attachment A contains a summary of each application recommended for award.

Table 2: Staff Recommendations for CRC Implementation Grant Round 1 Awards

Lead Applicant	Score	Requested Award	Recommended Award	County, CalOES Region
St. John's Community Health (SJCH)	215.25	$10,000,000.00	$10,000,000.00	Los Angeles, Region 1
Washoe Tribe of Nevada & California	211.75	$10,000,000.00	$10,000,000.00	Alpine, Region 4
Ramona Municipal Water District (RMWD)	211	$9,996,195.00	$9,996,195.00	San Diego, Region 6
Pogo Park	209.75	$10,000,000.00	$10,000,000.00	Contra Costa, Region 2

CALIFORNIA STRATEGIC GROWTH COUNCIL

County of Nevada	208.42	$10,000,000.00	$10,000,000.00	Nevada, Region 4
Casa Familiar Inc.	204.67	$8,459,468.00	$8,459,468.00	San Diego, Region 6
Madera County Department of Public Health	203.58	$10,000,000.00	$10,000,000.00	Madera, Region 5
City of Coachella	203.75	$10,000,000.00	$10,000,000.00	Riverside, Region 6
Ceres Community Project	203.67	$4,794,563	$4,794,563	Sonoma, Region 2

The Planning Grantees, with their recommended reconciled award amounts, are in Table 3 below. All eleven (11) grant proposals demonstrated multi-stakeholder engagement, project readiness, and community resilience to climate emergencies and intersecting social and economic issues. The applications varied across issue areas, including but not limited to energy independence, workforce development, food security, emergency response, and tribal sovereignty. Out of the eleven (11) Planning Grant award recommendations, seven (7) applications are located in and benefit SB 535 Disadvantaged Communities, eleven (11) applications are located in and benefit AB 1550- Designated Low-Income communities, three (3) applications are located in and benefit unincorporated communities (DUCs), four (4) applications are located in and benefit rural communities, and three (3) applications are led by California Native American Tribes. The recommended Planning Grants span CalOES Regions one (1), two (2), three (3), five (5), and six (6).

Table 3: Staff Recommendations for CRC Planning Grant Round 1 Awards (Reconciled)

Lead Applicant	Score	Grant Award	Recommended Award (Reconciled)	County, CalOES Region
Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice (ICIJ)	98	$470,813.69	$500,000	San Bernadino, Region 6
Mattole Restoration Council	96.5	$470,813.69	$500,000	Humboldt, Region 2
United Domestic Workers of America/ AFSCME Local 3930 (UDW)	96	$470,813.69	$500,000	San Diego, Region 6 Merced, Region 5
Ojai Valley Fire Safe Council	95.5	$470,813.69	$500,000	Ventura, Region 1

CALIFORNIA STRATEGIC GROWTH COUNCIL

Native Roots Network (NRN)	95	$470,813.69	$500,000	Shasta, Region 3
City of Redding	94.5	$291,863.10	$291,863.10	Shasta, Region 3
Santa Ana Building Healthy Communities, a fiscally sponsored project of Charitable Ventures	94	$470,813.69	$500,000	Orange, Region 1
Greenbelt Alliance	94	$470,813.69	$500,000	Santa Clara, Region 2
Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians (FTBMI)	93.5	$470,813.69	$500,000	Los Angeles, Region 1
Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation	89.5	$470,813.69	$500,000	Del Norte, Region 2
Cahuilla Band of Indians	88.5	$470,813.69	$500,000	Riverside, Region 6

Next Steps

Following Council approval, Program Staff will enter a Post-Award Consultation (PAC) process with each awardee. During the PAC phase, Program Staff will work with the awardee to refine the submitted application materials to ensure they follow all statutory, administrative, and CRC Program requirements. Awarded applications are subject to modifications based on input from the Council and/or SGC Staff. Program Staff will work with awardees to develop a grant agreement and review grant administration procedures during this phase.

Program Staff will provide feedback to all Round 1 CRC applicants who were not recommended for award after the April 2024 SGC Council meeting. Staff will be available to discuss the identified areas for improvement during one-on-one sessions with applicants.

Council Recommendation

The Community Resilience Centers Program (CRC) Staff recommends the Council award $93.6 million total in funding from the FY 2022-23 General Fund for the Round 1 CRC Program to fund the four (4) top-scoring proposals for the CRC Project Development Grant Program and the nine (9) top-scoring proposals for the CRC Implementation Grant Program. CRC Program Staff also recommend the Council approve using the remaining $285,338.50 in remaining Project Development grant funds (total remaining $614,150) to reconcile Planning Grant awards. Should the Council agree with the Staff's recommendation, the following motion language is suggested:

CALIFORNIA STRATEGIC GROWTH COUNCIL

 "I move that the Council approve the recommended Project Development and Implementation Grant awards, and approve the reconciliation of the approved Planning Grant awards for Round 1 of the Community Resilience Centers Program."

Attachments

Attachment A: Project Summaries for Project Development and Implementation Grant Applications Recommended for Round 1 Funding

Attachment B: CRC Round 1 Project Development and Implementation Grant Application Final Scores

CALIFORNIA STRATEGIC
GROWTH COUNCIL