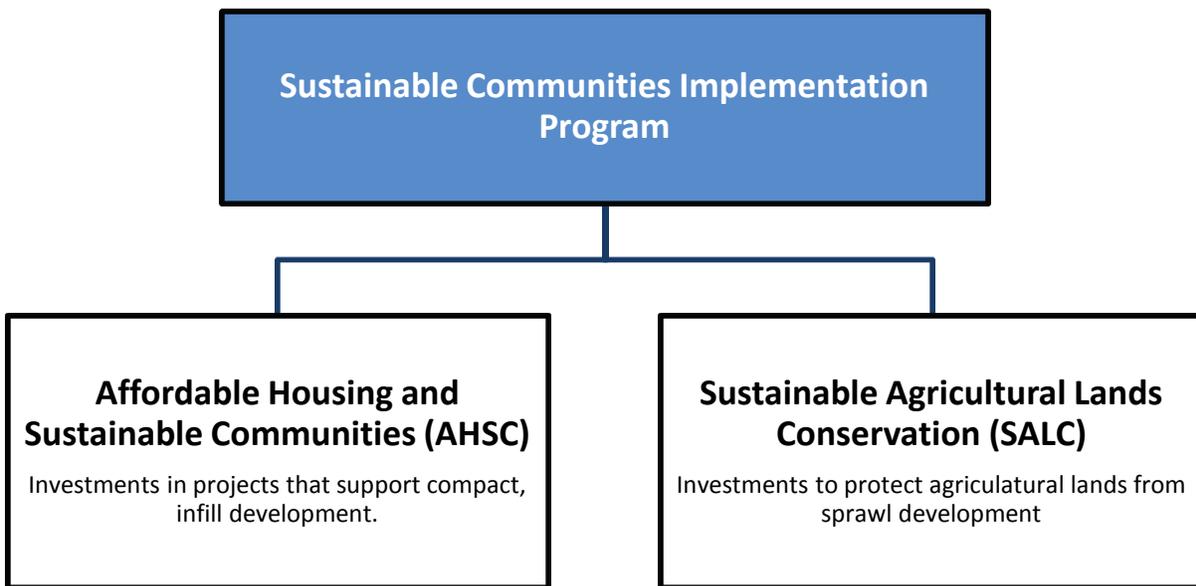


Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program FY 2015-2016 FACT SHEET

Established as the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Program to further the purposes of AB 32 (Chapter 488, Statutes 2006) and SB 375 (Chapter 728, Statutes, 2008), the Strategic Growth Council is investing in projects that reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and vehicle miles traveled (VMT) by supporting compact, infill development patterns that increase affordable housing, encourage active transportation, and protect agricultural land from sprawl development. This is achieved under our “Sustainable Communities Implementation Program” through two distinct but related programs: the AHSC Program and the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation (SALC) Program. Funding is provided from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF), an account established to receive Cap-and-Trade auction proceeds.



Sustainable Communities Implementation Program

STATUTORY THRESHOLDS

- GHG Reduction
- Supports implementation of a Sustainable Community Strategy
- Consistent with State Planning Priorities
- 50% of funds to disadvantaged communities (10% have to be within disadvantaged communities) as identified by the California EnviroScreen 2.0 tool.
- 50% of funds for affordable housing, including preserving and developing affordable housing for lower income households.

CO-BENEFITS

Project scoring criteria shall support co-benefits beyond the reduction of GHG emissions, which includes:

- Maximizing economic, environmental, and public health benefits
- Improving air quality
- Reducing energy consumption, criteria pollutants, water consumption, greenfield land consumption, commute times, and public fiscal costs
- Supporting economic growth, workforce development, civic partnerships, and stakeholder engagement

PROGRAM COORDINATION

- **Programmatic and Administrative Expertise to Develop Guidelines and Implement Program.** The Strategic Growth Council (SGC) leverages programmatic and administrative expertise of relevant state agencies and departments in implementing the AHSC Program. The California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA), and the California Department of Conservation (DOC) are supporting the SGC to develop guidelines and implement the AHSC Program.
- **Coordination with ARB.** The AHSC Program guidelines incorporate disadvantaged communities related threshold program eligibility criteria and State Air Resources Board (ARB) requirements for compliance with the state agency reporting provisions relating to expenditure records and demonstrating greenhouse gas reduction objectives.

Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities

Fiscal Year	Total Program Amount
2015-2016	\$400 million in local assistance funding

WHO CAN APPLY?

- Local Governments
- Public Housing Authorities
- Redevelopment Successor Agencies
- Transit Agencies or Transit Operators
- Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (RTPA)
- Local Transportation Commissions
- Congestion Management Agencies
- Joint Powers Authority (JPA)
- School districts
- Facilities districts
- University or Community College Districts

- For and Nonprofit Developers
- Program Operators

TYPES OF FUNDING AVAILABLE

- Grants
- Affordable housing developments are also eligible for loans

WHAT IS ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING IN AHSC?

Projects and programs designed to integrate land use and transportation to reduce GHG emissions, benefit disadvantage communities, link key destinations, and provide affordable housing.

Project Type	Description
Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Project	Transit-oriented development projects, including affordable housing and infrastructure at or near transit stations that support infill and compact development.
Integrated Connectivity Project (ICP)	Projects that encourage mode shifts, including, but not limited to, projects and programs supporting transit ridership, pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, connectivity to transit stations, and complete streets programs.
Rural Innovation Project Area (RIPA)	Projects that encourage mode shifts in Rural areas, including, but not limited to, projects and programs supporting transit ridership, pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, connectivity to transit stations, and complete streets programs.

Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation

Fiscal Year	Total Program Amount
2015-2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$40 million (\$2.5 million for strategy grants and \$37.5 million for easement grants)

WHO CAN APPLY?

- For Strategy & Outcome Grants: Cities, Counties, and partners
- For Agricultural Conservation Easement Grants: Cities, Counties, Nonprofit Organizations, Resource Conservation Districts, and Regional Park or Open-Space Districts or Authorities

WHAT IS ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING?

Projects that protect at-risk agricultural lands from conversion to more GHG-intensive land uses, such as urban or rural residential development, in order to promote growth within existing jurisdictions, ensure open space remains available, and support a healthy agricultural economy and resulting food security.

Two project categories are eligible: Strategy and Outcomes Grants, and Agricultural Conservation Easements

Strategy and Outcome grants support cities and counties with developing local and regional land use policies and strategies that protect critical agricultural land. The five Strategy and Outcome types eligible for funding in 2015-2016 are:

Strategy	GHG Quantifiable Outcome
Establish an Agricultural Land Mitigation Program	Agricultural Conservation Easement(s)
Establish an Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchasing Program	Agricultural Conservation Easement(s)
Adoption of Urban Limit Line or Urban Growth Boundary	Zoning Ordinances that effectively eliminate growth in the estimated Project Geographic Area
Increase Zoning Minimum for Designated Strategic Agricultural Areas	Zoning Ordinances that effectively eliminate growth in the estimated Project Geographic Area
Adoption of an Agricultural Greenbelt and Implementation Agreement	Results in both Agricultural Conservation Easement(s) and Zoning ordinances that effectively eliminate growth in the estimated Project Geographic Area.

Agricultural Conservation Easement grants to permanently protect the croplands and rangelands of willing landowners that are at-risk of conversion.