

AHSC Round 9 Narrative Rubric Instructions | 03.25.2025

AHSC narrative reviewers will use this document to score applications. Applicants may use this document in conjunction with the Narrative Prompts and Required Materials to respond to the outlined prompts. Applicants may also use the Supplemental Narrative Resource for further support in identifying how strategies may connect to the Narrative Prompts and equity subsections. Please see AHSC Round 9 Guidelines page for the Narrative Prompts and other narrative related materials at: https://sgc.ca.gov/grant-programs/ahsc/resources/guidelines.html

Reviewers will use this rubric in conjunction with Narrative Prompts and narrative related attachments to score each Project's narrative. It is incumbent on the applicant to ensure the content is correct and consistent throughout all application materials. Inconsistent or demonstrably false statements may result in reviewers issuing a score of zero on any or all portions of the application review process. Reviewers will use differentials of no less than 1.0 to differentiate scores between projects.

This rubric has four sections for each of the scoring subsections. Under each category there is also an equity consideration table. Please follow the respective instruction for that table.

Climate Adaptation & Community Resiliency – 7 Points Maximum

Table 1. Climate Adaptation & Climate Resilience (7 points)

Table 1. Climate Adaptation & Climate Resilience (7	<u>·</u>					
Scoring Considerations	5 Points	4 Points	3 Points	2 Points	1 Point	0 Points
In the General Context responses, how much of the requested						
background information needed to contextualize the project						
was provided?	All needed information	Nearly all needed information	Most needed information	Some of the needed information	Little of the needed information	None of the needed informatio
				1	Displays a limited understanding	
	Displays a sufficient understanding &	Displays a sufficient understanding &	Displays a sufficient understanding &	& partially describes how	& minimally describes how	
Applicants display a level of understanding of the vulnerabilities	fully describes how adaptation	mostly describes how adaptation measures	generally describes how adaptation	adaptation measures work	adaptation measures work	
from climate impacts AND how well do they describe the	measures work together to address	work together to address multiple climate	measures work together to address	together to address multiple	together to address multiple	
adaptive/mitigation measures?	multiple climate risk categories	risk categories	multiple climate risk categories	climate risk categories	climate risk categories	Does not describe either
Technical aspects of adaptive measures in the Adaptive						
Measures table in the Climate Matrix are described in:	Comprehensive detail	Significant detail	Sufficient detail	Some detail	Minimal detail	No detail
Selected adaptive measures will mitigate the respective	C. hata attalli astita ata	AA and an internal	Cara and Caracteria	A de de cod el codificado	Notes to a History of the sales	D
vulnerabilities in the near future to what degree?	Substantially mitigate	Mostly mitigate	Generally mitigate	Moderately mitigate	Minimally mitigate	Does not mitigate
Selected adaptive measures will mitigate the respective						
vulnerabilities in the long term, beyond the near future to what						
degree?	Substantially mitigate	Mostly mitigate	Generally mitigate			Will not mitigate
Beyond the most pressing vulnerability, how many other					,	Did not address the most
vulnerabilities does the project address?	All noted vulnerabilities	Multiple vulnerabilities	More than one other vulnerability	One other vulnerability	vulnerability	pressing vulnerability
In the narrative response to the "Mitigation Measures and						
·						
Community Resiliency" prompt, applicants provide which type						
of explanation for why the adaptive measures were chosen for	Community	A close detailed avalenation	A sufficient avalenation	A limited conference		No evelopation
each applicable hazard?	Comprehensive explanation	A clear, detailed explanation	A sufficient explanation	A limited explanation	An inadequate explanation	No explanation
In the "Improving Health Outcomes" prompt response, the	In comprehensive detail	In significant detail				
Applicant describes how climate and air pollution-related	(including components, project design,	(including most components, project				
measures will improve health outcomes for future residents	and outreach and education on the	design, and outreach and education on the				
and/or the community:	impacts of air pollution)	impacts of air pollution)	In sufficient detail	In some detail	In minimal detail	no detail provided

Table 2. Equity Considerations under Climate Adaptation & Climate Resilience (CACR)

able 2. Equity Considerations under Climate Adaptation & Climate Resilience (CACR)					
Equity Considerations	Effort Level: High	Effort Level: Some	Effort Level: Low/None		
Do the adaptive measures benefit surrounding project area residents, in addition to residents of the Affordable Housing Development?	YesAbove & beyond	YesMeets Expectations	Does Not Meet Expectations		
Were the adaptive measures selected based on community (i.e. Project Area specific, if by-right can be broader) input?	YesAbove & beyond	YesMeets Expectations	Does Not Meet Expectations		
Were climate adaptation and community resiliency measures supplemented by programming and outreach to the disadvantaged population(s)?	YesAbove & beyond	YesMeets Expectations	Does Not Meet Expectations		
Was or will education, empowerment, safety, and preparedness prioritized to increase resiliency?	YesAbove & beyond	YesMeets Expectations	Does Not Meet Expectations		
Did the applicant communicate how potential clean energy or greening benefits (financial or otherwise) will be shared or passed along to future AHD residents or vulnerable community members? (For example, reduced energy costs resulting in lower utility bills for AHD residents)	YesAbove & beyond	YesMeets Expectations	Does Not Meet Expectations		
Does the project incorporate mitigation measures that go beyond AHSC expectations? For example, addressing unspecified climate or environmental hazards or substantial consideration and planning for long term impacts	YesAbove & beyond	YesMeets Expectations	Does Not Meet Expectations		
[Other factor unique to project, insert here]	YesAbove & beyond	YesMeets Expectations	Does Not Meet Expectations		
For reviewers: select demonstrated effort level for this section's equity considerations	High level of effort: Above & Beyond for 2 or more options	Some level of effort: Meets Expectations for at least 2 options OR Above & Beyond for at least 1 option	Low or no effort: Does Not Meet Expectations OR Meets Expectations for only 1 option		





Community Benefits and Engagement – 6 Points Maximum

Table 1. Community Engagement & Leadership (3 points)

Scoring Considerations	3 points	2 points	1 point	0 points
In the General Context responses, how much of the requested background information needed to				
contextualize the project was provided?	All needed information	Most of the needed information	Some of the needed information	None of the needed information
What are the developer's or development team's ties to the community?	Has Strong Ties to the community immediately			
·	around the Affordable Housing Development	Has Some Ties to the community immediately	Has Some Ties to the broader community . If	
	(AHD). If including a Joint Venture, the "local"	around the AHD. If including a Joint Venture,	including a Joint Venture, the "local" developer is	
	developer is from the immediate or surrounding	the "local" developer is from the broader	from the same region and has some ties to the	
developer.	community, with significant ties.	community, with some ties.	community.	Has Limited Ties to the community
	There was significant involvement (or			
How involved were community residents and/or local Community Based Organizations (CBOs) in	leadership) prior to, or from the initial visioning,	There was some involvement in visioning for	There was limited involvement in visioning for	There was no involvement prior to the AHSC
visioning for the AHSC proposal (Pre-AHSC Process)?	of the AHSC proposal.	the AHSC proposal.	the AHSC proposal.	process.
If a project has limited or no involvement and has certain contextual factors (e.g. by-right or proposed				
in communities that may not be supportive of affordable housing or sustainable transportation				
projects):	2 or more alternative strategies and a clear,	At least 1 alternative strategy and a clear plan		
	detailed plan for how CBOs or other interested	for how key parties and participants will be	1 alternative strategy OR a clear plan for how	No alternative strategy OR a minimal plan for
Did the applicant make, or plan to make, an effort to compensate for a lack of pre-AHSC involvement	parties will be engaged and/or future residents	engaged and/or future residents will be	interested parties will be engaged, and future	how interested parties will be engaged, and
and/or AHSC process engagement, through a combination of the following?	will be supported.	supported.	residents will be supported	future residents will be supported
	They had a strong influence on Project	They had some influence on Project	They had limited influence on Project	They had no or minimal influence on Project
How involved were local Community Based Organizations (CBOs) during the AHSC process?	components.	components	Components	components
	There is a clear, detailed plan for how			
	Collaborators will be engaged and/or involved		There is a limited plan outlined for how	
	moving forward; includes a strong "Community	Collaborators will be engaged and/or involved,	Collaborators will be engaged or involved in future	
Is there a plan for continued/future engagement with CBOs and other interested partners?	Needs" or "Future Engagement" upload.	moving forward.	engagement	There is no plan outlined future engagement.



Table 2. Addressing Community Needs (3 points)

Scoring Considerations	3 Points	2 Points	1 Point	0 Points
In the General Context responses, how much of the requested background information needed to				
contextualize the project was provided?	All needed information	Most of the needed information	Some of the needed information	None of the needed information
			Information that is generally relevant and	Information that is not relevant or minimally
	Information that is relevant and clearly tied to	Information that is relevant and somewhat	somewhat tied to the proposed AHSC Project	related to the proposed AHSC Project
The Community Engagement Tracker includes:	the proposed AHSC Project components	tied to the proposed AHSC Project components	components	components
Relevant needs expressed in community visioning or planning engagement efforts conducted prior to	Integrated into the AHSC visioning process and	Considered in AHSC visioning and partially	Given limited consideration through the AHSC	
the AHSC process were:	built upon in the project proposal	Integrated into the project proposal	visioning process	Not considered in the AHSC Process
	Strongly Supported by Community Engagement	Mostly Supported by Community Engagement	Generally Supported by Community Engagement	Not Supported by Community Engagement
Themes and/or needs identified through community engagement are:	Tracker	Tracker	Tracker	Tracker
Project Area* residents were involved:				
*Note: If a Project is permitted by-right or proposed in communities that may not be supportive of	Prior to AHSC Process through a community-			
affordable housing or sustainable transportation project, outreach can be focused on potential	driven effort	During the AHSC Process for Project	After AHSC	
residents within the community and near-by low-income communities instead of Project Area	OR from initial visioning of the Project (as	components selection (as evidenced by	Project components selection (No to Limited	Minimally (No to Limited evidence found in
residents.	evidenced by Community Engagement Tracker)	Community Engagement Tracker)	evidence found in Tracker)	Tracker)
	Clearly for ALL housing and transportation and			
	includes needs beyond housing and	Clearly for ALL housing and transportation;	Clearly for MOST housing and transportation	Clearly for SOME housing and transportation
Project addresses the needs identified by the community:	transportation	minimally beyond those	(Nothing beyond)	(Nothing beyond)
	Demonstrates significant effort and those efforts	Demonstrates sufficient effort and those	Demonstrates limited effort and those efforts	
	include area's most vulnerable populations , in	efforts include approaches that are considerate	include approaches that are somewhat	
During the AHSC process, applicant and project partners made opportunities for community	addition to approaches that are considerate of	of community context AND/OR culturally	considerate of community context AND/OR	
involvement that:	community context and culturally appropriate.	appropriate	culturally appropriate	Demonstrates minimal effort
	There is a clear, detailed plan,			
	The state of the s	There is an adequate plan ,	There is a limited plan outlined,	
	residents and/or community members AND/OR	which includes the engagement of potential	which mentions the engagement of potential	
	how they will be supported based on the needs	residents and/or community members	residents and/or community members	
Is there a plan for continued/future engagement and does it include the engagement or support of	express previously. Also includes a strong "Future	· ·	OR how they will be supported with limited	
future residents?	Engagement" upload.	connection to the needs express previously	connection to expressed needs.	There is no plan outlined

Table 3. Equity Considerations under Community Benefit & Engagement (Outreach & Feedback)

Equity Considerations	Effort Level: High	Effort Level: Some	Effort Level: Low/None
Outreach extensively considered the access and accessibility considerations for specific population?	YesAbove & beyond	YesMeets Expectations	Does Not Meet Expectations
Did the applicant conduct targeted outreach to underrepresented community members and incorporated feedback received?	YesAbove & beyond	YesMeets Expectations	Does Not Meet Expectations
Were AHSC project components originated by the community (residents, longstanding organizations or other interested parties)?	YesAbove & beyond	YesMeets Expectations	Does Not Meet Expectations
Did the community have a clear and important role in the decision-making processes throughout AHSC visioning or will they have one during implementation?			
Some examples include: community representation on project advisory team/taskforce/committee; leadership development opportunities made available for vulnerable groups; resident council for	Voc. Alexa O be and	Voc. Maria E contactions	Dana Mat Mart 5 and the co
future residents Did the project make significant efforts to integrate and build upon engagement and feedback from	YesAbove & beyond	YesMeets Expectations	Does Not Meet Expectations
previous efforts?	YesAbove & beyond	YesMeets Expectations	Does Not Meet Expectations
If the project was by-right: were there still significant efforts made for outreach and engagement throughout the AHSC visioning process?			
If the project was not by-right: did the community engagement involve community residents and/or local CBOs from the start and throughout the planning process?	YesAbove & beyond	YesMeets Expectations	Does Not Meet Expectations
[Other factor unique to project, insert here]	YesAbove & beyond	YesMeets Expectations	Does Not Meet Expectations
	High level of effort: Above & Beyond for 2 or more	Some level of effort: Meets Expectations for at least 2 options OR Above & Beyond for at least 1	Low or no effort: Does Not Meet Expectations OR
For reviewers: select demonstrated effort level for this section's equity considerations	options	option	Meets Expectations for only 1 option



Collaboration & Planning – 4 points maximum

Table 1. Housing and Transportation Collaboration (3 points)

Scoring Considerations	3 Points	2 Points	1 Points	0 Points
In the General Context responses, how much of the requested background information needed to		Most of the needed	Some of the needed	None of the needed
contextualize the project was provided?	All needed information	information	information	information
				Provides no
				descriptions of
		Provides sufficient		partners'
	Provides detailed descriptions of	descriptions of partners'	Provides limited descriptions	involvement and
	partners' involvement and	involvement and	of partners' involvement and	does not
Response demonstrates what level of collaboration between Housing and Transportation	demonstrates extensive and	demonstrates significant	demonstrates limited	demonstrate
partners?	meaningful collaboration.	collaboration.	collaboration.	collaboration.
The AHSC proposal accounts for collaboration related to local needs and priorities in its visioning				Limited or None Does
process, in a way that is:	Extensive and meaningful	Significant	Some Limited	not
The AHSC proposal accounts for collaboration related to specific site needs in it's visioning process				Limited or None Does
in a way that is:	Extensive and meaningful	Significant	Some Limited	not
				Provides no
				descriptions of
		Provides sufficient		partners'
	Provides detailed descriptions of	descriptions of partners'	Provides limited descriptions	involvement and
To what degree does the Applicant provide descriptions of Workforce and Anti-Displacement	partners' involvement and	involvement and	of partners' involvement and	insufficient
Activity partners involvement in prompt response and in "Table 2. Organizational Engagement" of	demonstrates extensive and	demonstrates significant	demonstrates limited	demonstrate
the Narrative Prompts document?	meaningful collaboration.	collaboration.	collaboration.	collaboration.
Overall the proposed STI components are a [point descriptor] that will increase accessibility,				
connectivity, or mobility and backed by [[point descriptor]] credible sources or noted planning				
priorities.				
		Significant improvement		
Consider how proposed STI improvements connect future residents of the AHD and nearby low-	Significant improvement and backed	minimally backed by credible		
income households to an improved transit line, job dense areas, areas with greater opportunity, or	by credible sources or noted planning	sources or noted planning		Are an inappropriate
substantially improve connectivity and safety for active transportation.	priorities	priorities	Notable Improvement	improvement
If applicable, information in "Table 2. Organizational Engagement" of the Narrative Prompts				
document captures the roles of other notable partners, the level of their input, and when they	Detailed descriptions of their	Sufficient descriptions of their	Limited descriptions of their	
were involved by providing:	involvement	involvement	involvement	No description



Table 2. Local Plans (1 points)

Scoring Considerations	1 Point	0 Points
Information included in the Local Plans table is:	Relevant, clear, and organized	Irrelevant and dis-organized
	Only relevant and well-organized	Irrelevant and dis-organized
"Local Plans" upload contains:	content	content
	Information found under General	
	Context and supports claims that	
The local plans referenced in "Table 1. Description of Local Plans" of the Narrative Prompts	specific project components are	Does not support applicant
document, support:	based on local plans	claims

Table 3: Equity Considerations under Collaboration and Planning (Project Partners)

Equity Considerations	Effort Level: High	Effort Level: Some	Effort Level: Low/None
Did the project help facilitate tangible connections or coordination that will result in related efforts to provide concrete agreements, improvements, or systems to support or benefit identified populations, or the community broadly?	YesAbove & beyond	YesMeets Expectations	Does Not Meet Expectations
Is there documentation of the project's role in implementing the public partner's vision, in a local plan specific to an area within the Project Area?	YesAbove & beyond	YesMeets Expectations	Does Not Meet Expectations
Were there capacity building efforts for project partners or inclusion of community serving organizations, businesses, or other interested parties in a way that will increase their ability to serve the community moving forward?	YesAbove & beyond	YesMeets Expectations	Does Not Meet Expectations
Did the applicant note Project partners - beyond local government or agencies - with a strong connection to the project community (e.g. reflective of the identified populations, from the community, or organizations focused on community-relevant issues)?	YesAbove & beyond	YesMeets Expectations	Does Not Meet Expectations
Do the Project partners - beyond local government or agencies - for Anti-displacement and/or Workforce strategies have a long history (e.g. 5 or more years) working with the identified populations or within project community? Greater weight if the work was focused on the neighborhood in the Project Area	YesAbove & beyond	YesMeets Expectations	Does Not Meet Expectations
Were there notable roles for Project Partners with strong connections to or significant history with the identified populations or within project community?	YesAbove & beyond	YesMeets Expectations	Does Not Meet Expectations
Did the project make significant efforts to coordinate and embed outreach/engagement in ongoing planning efforts to increase reach? Or, did the project make significant efforts to integrate and build upon engagement and feedback from previous efforts?	YesAbove & beyond	YesMeets Expectations	Does Not Meet Expectations
	High level of effort: Above & Beyond for 2 or more options	Some level of effort: Meets Expectations for at least 2 options OR Above & Beyond for at least 1 option	Low or no effort: Does Not Meet Expectations OR Meets Expectations for only 1 option



Equity and Transformation – 3 points maximum

Table 1. Equity Considerations under Improving Health Outcomes

Equity Considerations	Effort Level: High	Effort Level: Some	Effort Level: Low/None	
Does the applicant display a level of understanding of health concerns, hazards, or impacts faced by the community in the Project Area and future residents AND how well do they describe the ways the project will lead to positive health outcomes/improvements?	Has at least a sufficient understanding & Fully Describes: how climate/air pollution measures, and other project aspects will work together to improve health outcomes for AHD residents and low income communities; OR How the selected project aspects positively impact health concerns related to multiple Community Condition categories	Has at least a sufficient understanding & Partially Describes: How climate/air pollution measures, and other project aspects will work together to improve health outcomes for AHD residents and low income communities; OR How the selected project aspects positively impact health concerns related to multiple Community Condition categories	Does not display an Understanding or Insufficiently describes either	
Does the applicant: 1) identify known sources of air pollution in Project Area; 2)describe how appropriate mitigation strategies are utilized; 3) propose adaptive measures that exceed local & state requirements, and Program expectations?	Yes to 1, 2, & 3Above & beyond	Yes to 1, 2Meets Expectations	Does Not Meet Expectations	
Does the project include physical and programmatic components designed to improve health, or support to AHD residents including those with physical, sensory, intellectual/developmental, and other types of disabilities?	YesAbove & beyond	YesMeets Expectations	Does Not Meet Expectations	
Does the project include programs to improve the health of community members in the Project Area?	YesAbove & beyond	YesMeets Expectations	Does Not Meet Expectations	
Does the applicant note any related efforts (not funded through AHSC) that the project leveraged or spurred, that will impact resident health? For example: prior remediation, access to healthy foods, health services/facilities, or park access and development, Safe Routes to School, direct connection to a major active transportation investment.	YesAbove & beyond	YesMeets Expectations	Does Not Meet Expectations	
[Other factor unique to project, insert here]	YesAbove & beyond	YesMeets Expectations	Does Not Meet Expectations	
For reviewers: select demonstrated effort level for this section's equity considerations	High level of effort: Above & Beyond for 2 or more options	Some level of effort: Meets Expectations for at least 2 options OR Above & Beyond for at least 1 option	Low or no effort: Does Not Meet Expectations OR Meets Expectations for only 1 option	



Instructions for Table 2:

First review the Equity Considerations tables in this document: 1) Community Benefits and Engagement (Outreach & Feedback), 2) Climate Adaptation and Community Resiliency (CACR), 3) Collaboration and Planning (Project Partners), 4) Improving Health Outcomes (IHO). Then select the most appropriate responses for each row.

Table 2. Equity (2 points)

Scoring Considerations	2 Points	1 Point	0 Points
In the General Context responses, how much of the requested background information needed to contextualize the project was provided?	All needed information	IMost of the needed information	None of the needed information
economic, disability, and/or health equity AND how well do they describe the ways the project aspects will lead to equitable outcomes for the community/future residents?	Fully Summarizes or Describes: How the proposed components and program costs work together to address equity OR how the selected	IHOW the proposed components and program costs	Does not display an Understanding or Insufficiently describes either
iselected under each of the four equity consideration tables	Demonstrated "High level of effort" under at least 3 of the 4 equity consideration tables.	lat least 1 of the 4 equity consideration tables and least "Meets Expectations" for the	Does not meet the requirements of the other point categories

Instructions for Table 3:

Select effort level for each of the transformation considerations. After making selections, determine a score:

1 point - Goes above and beyond in at least 1 project aspect OR given its context, meets expectations across a range of project aspects to the extent that, taken together, could be considered transformative.

0 points - Does not exceed expectation

Table 3. Transformation (1 point)

Transformation Considerations	Effort Level: Above & Beyond	Effort Level: Meets Expectations	Insufficient Information	No effort
Does the project bring together unlikely partners?	Above & beyond	Meets Expectations	Prefer Not to Evaluate	Does Not Meet Expectations
Does the project leverage an underutilized community resource?	Above & beyond	Meets Expectations	Prefer Not to Evaluate	Does Not Meet Expectations
Does the project incorporate innovative preventative health measures?	Above & beyond	Meets Expectations	Prefer Not to Evaluate	Does Not Meet Expectations
Does the project build wealth or capacity of the broader Project Area?	Above & beyond	Meets Expectations	Prefer Not to Evaluate	Does Not Meet Expectations
Is the project piloting a new approach to housing or transportation given the local context (e.g. first in the region)?	Above & beyond	Meets Expectations	Prefer Not to Evaluate	Does Not Meet Expectations
Does the project address long standing harm in a systemic			-	
way?	Above & beyond	Meets Expectations	Prefer Not to Evaluate	Does Not Meet Expectations
[Other factor unique to project, insert here]	Above & beyond	Meets Expectations	Prefer Not to Evaluate	Does Not Meet Expectations