



NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY

Transformative Climate Communities Program

FY 2022-2023 FUNDING ROUND

DATE: March 8, 2023

TO: **All Potential Applicants**

FROM: TCC Program Staff, Strategic Growth Council

SUBJECT: **NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY – A TOTAL OF APPROXIMATELY \$88.5 MILLION FOR THREE IMPLEMENTATION GRANT AWARDS, A TOTAL OF APPROXIMATELY \$9.8 MILLION FOR MULTIPLE PROJECT DEVELOPMENT GRANTS, AND A TOTAL OF APPROXIMATELY \$900 THOUSAND FOR THREE PLANNING GRANT AWARDS FOR ROUND 5 OF THE TRANSFORMATIVE CLIMATE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM**

The California Strategic Growth Council (SGC) along with its partner agency, the Department of Conservation (DOC), is pleased to announce the availability of funding for Round 5 of the Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) Program through this Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA). SGC anticipates that approximately \$88.5 million in Implementation Grant funding, approximately \$9.8 million in Project Development Grant funding, and approximately \$900 thousand in Planning Grant funding will be available for competitive awards in Round 5. The TCC Program furthers the purposes of [AB 32](#) (Nunez, Chapter 488, Statutes of 2006) and [AB 2722](#) (Burke, Chapter 371, Statutes of 2016) by funding projects that reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through the development and implementation of neighborhood-level transformative climate community plans that include multiple coordinated GHG emissions reduction projects that provide local economic, environmental, and health benefits to disadvantaged communities. Funding for the TCC Program is provided by the General Fund's Climate Budget.

Funds available include a total of approximately \$88.5 million for three Implementation Grant awards of \$29.5 million each, a total of \$9.8 million for multiple Project Development Grant awards of up to \$5 million each, and a total of \$900 thousand for three Planning Grant awards of \$300,000 each for Round 5 of the TCC Program.

To be considered for TCC Implementation Grant, Project Development Grant, and Planning Grant awards, applicants must fill out the **Application Initiation Form** and indicate their interest in applying for a specific Grant Type by the relevant deadline for the Grant Type. The earliest deadline for the Application Initiation Form is **Friday, March 31, 2023**, for Implementation Grants. Please see Section 4. Technical Assistance, below for Form deadlines and further information. Application Technical Assistance is required for all Implementation Grants and available to tribal communities and Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities (DUCs) for Project Development and Planning Grants.

Implementation Grant Pre-Proposals must be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m. PST on Monday, May 1, 2023.

Final Planning, Project Development, and Implementation Grant Applications must be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m. PST on Tuesday, August 1, 2023, according to the terms of this NOFA.

SECTION 1. PROGRAM SUMMARY

The TCC Program is administered by SGC and implemented by DOC, along with other partnering State agencies. SGC staff and partnering State agencies have worked collaboratively to develop and administer

the TCC Program, including developing program guidelines and application materials, preparing agreements and program templates, and coordinating technical assistance for potential applicants.

Implementation Grants are intended to fund holistic neighborhood-level projects that have multiple Strategies and Projects that align with their vision and meaningfully address important community needs within the Project Area. Applicants must develop a Vision Statement for their proposal that aligns with TCC Program Objectives. The Round 5 funds will be allocated competitively among eligible disadvantaged community areas, according to the criteria outlined in Section 6.4, “Project Area Eligibility,” of the [TCC Guidelines](#) and the [TCC Mapping Tool for Eligible Project Areas and Planning Areas](#). The grant term will be approximately five years, with an additional year for evaluation and reporting.

Project Development Grants are intended to bridge support for communities who do not have shovel-ready projects and help increase their potential to successfully apply for and to implement future TCC Implementation Grant awards or other funding opportunities. Project Development activities should focus on pre-development, basic infrastructure, and capacity building activities and further the development of an area to be eligible to apply for a future TCC Implementation Grant. The grant term will be approximately two years.

Planning Grants are intended to help communities increase their potential to successfully apply for and to implement future TCC Implementation Grant or Project Development Grant awards or other funding opportunities. Planning activities should focus on responding to planning issues or priorities that directly benefit vulnerable communities and that are defined either within an existing regional or local plan, or further the development of an area to be eligible to apply for a future TCC Project Development or Implementation Grant. The grant term will be approximately two years.

SECTION 2. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Eligible applicants for Planning Grants, Project Development Grants, and Implementation Grants may include but are not limited to:

- Community-based organizations
- Local governments
- Nonprofit organizations
- Philanthropic organizations and foundations
- Faith-based organizations
- Coalitions or associations of nonprofit organizations
- Community development finance institutions
- Community development corporations
- Joint powers authorities
- Councils of government
- California Native American Tribes

Implementation Grants

For Implementation Grants, eligible applicants must form a Collaborative Stakeholder Structure to develop and submit one application based upon a shared vision. The Collaborative Stakeholder Structure shall be charged with overseeing implementation of the TCC Proposal, including each of the requirements outlined in Section 8.5, “Transformative Elements”, of the [TCC Guidelines](#), and led by one Lead Applicant. The Collaborative Stakeholder Structure must include at least one of the required Project Leads for each of the proposed Projects and Transformative Plans included in the TCC Proposal. The acceptable Project Leads are listed in Appendix B, “TCC Funded Projects by Strategy” and Appendix C, “Transformative Elements,” of the [TCC Guidelines](#). Note that applicants who apply for an Implementation

Grant may be considered for the Project Development Grant if TCC staff determines that their application is not competitive as an Implementation Grant proposal.

Project Development Grants

For Project Development Grants, eligible applicants must form a Collaborative Stakeholder Structure to develop and submit one application based upon a shared vision. The Collaborative Stakeholder Structure shall be charged with overseeing implementation of the TCC Proposal. Priority in scoring will be given to applicants that are able to demonstrate strong and diverse partnerships, including with community-based organizations and other stakeholder groups. Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities (DUCs), tribal Communities, Planning Grant Grantees, and Previous Implementation Grant Applicants will be prioritized for Project Development Grants, with DUCs given the most priority.

Planning Grants

There must be a minimum of one (1) Co-Applicant in addition to the Lead Applicant. More than one (1) Co-Applicant is strongly encouraged. Priority in scoring will be given to applicants that are able to demonstrate strong and diverse partnerships, including with community-based organizations and other stakeholder groups.

SECTION 3. APPLICATION PROCESS

All Implementation, Project Development, and Planning Grant Applicants must submit application materials using the designated online submission folder. Final Applications must be submitted by **5:00 pm PST on August 1, 2023**. No late applications or application revisions will be accepted after the application submittal deadline. No hard copies, facsimiles, electronic transmissions via email, hand-delivered copies, or any other method of submitting complete applications will be accepted. Application resources are available on SGC's website including how to access and apply via the designated online submission folder.

All applications will be reviewed by TCC Program Staff to ensure that all required documentation is submitted and that the application is complete. Applicants that may be missing application information will be notified by TCC Program Staff. If applicants are contacted because of missing information, the application will be deemed incomplete if the applicant does not provide the missing information within two (2) business days.

Applications must meet all eligibility requirements upon submission. Applications having material inconsistencies will not be rated and ranked. Modification of the application by the applicant after submission is prohibited.

All applications will be reviewed and evaluated by SGC and DOC staff, along with an interagency review panel of partnering State agencies, according to the requirements stated in Section 9.3, "Application Components," of the [TCC Guidelines](#). Eligible applications will be scored based on the threshold and scoring criteria in their respective sections:

- Implementation Grants: Section 9.6, "Program Thresholds and Scoring Criteria: Implementation Grants"
- Project Development Grants: Section 9.5, "Program Thresholds and Scoring Criteria: Project Development Grants"
- Planning Grants: Section 9.4, "Program Thresholds and Scoring Criteria: Planning Grants"

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the application is clear, complete, and accurate. After the application deadline, staff from SGC, DOC, or other partnering state agencies may request clarifying information or inquire as to where the application-specific information is located provided that such information does not affect the competitive rating of the application. No information, whether written or oral,

will be solicited or accepted if this information would result in a competitive advantage to an applicant or a competitive disadvantage to other applicants.

Based on the interagency review of the applications, TCC Program Staff will finalize and prepare award recommendations to present to the SGC Council Members for consideration of final approval. The SGC staff will contact applicants recommended for funding. Staff recommendations will be posted for public review ten (10) days prior to the SGC public meeting. The anticipated date of announcement for the selection of Grant recommendations is December 2023. The ultimate awarding of TCC Program funds is subject to the approval of the Council. The Council decision is final.

Implementation Grants

Implementation Grant Pre-Proposal Applications must be submitted by **5:00 p.m. PST on May 1, 2023**. Applications will be evaluated based on the Program Threshold criteria in Section 9.6, "Program Thresholds and Scoring Criteria: Implementation Grants." TCC Program Staff and the Technical Assistance Providers will provide feedback to applicants on whether they meet threshold requirements to help inform applicants' decisions to move forward to the final application stage.

Implementation Grant Final Applications must be submitted by **5:00 p.m. PST on August 1, 2023**. Eligible Implementation Grant applications will be scored based on the threshold and scoring criteria in Section 9.6, "Program Thresholds and Scoring Criteria: Implementation Grants." Following the initial application review, members of the review panel will conduct site visits with applicants selected as finalists.

SECTION 4. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Application Initiation Form

To be considered for TCC Implementation, Project Development, and Planning Grant awards, applicants must fill out the [Application Initiation Form](#) and indicate their interest in applying for a specific Grant Type by the relevant deadline:

- **March 31, 2023:** [Implementation Grant Applicants](#). This is also the priority deadline for tribal and DUC applicants for Technical Assistance (TA) for all grant types.
- **July 3, 2023:** [Project Development Grant and Planning Grant Applicants](#). Tribal Communities and DUCs applying for a Project Development Grant or Planning Grant will continue to be connected to TA. We encourage tribal and DUC applicants to submit the form as soon as possible to begin receiving TA earlier in the application process; however, these applicants are eligible for extensions for this form.

This form is required for all applicants. All applicants who submit the form by the appropriate deadline are eligible to apply and should proceed with the application process without waiting for additional communication from SGC. Filling out an Application Initiation Form does not represent a commitment to apply on the part of the Applicant.

Implementation Grants

All applicants to the TCC Implementation Grants are required to work with no-cost technical assistance, provided by SGC. This technical assistance is provided to support TCC applicants in the development of their project scope, calculation of greenhouse gas emissions, and developing a complete application.

The technical assistance provider will work with each TCC Implementation Grant applicant to create a work plan for the development of their TCC application. The technical assistance provider will be able to provide supportive services, including but not limited to:

- Review of application responses
- Application coordination
- Financial analysis and budget development
- Support for project integration
- Assessment of project readiness

All TCC Implementation Grant applicants will have greenhouse gas calculation services provided by the technical assistance provider. Applicants will be asked to submit data to the technical assistance provider to provide a comprehensive calculation of reductions. Leading up to this calculation, the technical assistance provider will work with applicants to understand the relative greenhouse gas reduction potential of projects and offer suggestions for increasing project reductions.

Implementation Grant Applicants must complete the Application Initiation Form by **March 31, 2023**, to be guaranteed eligibility to apply for an Implementation Grant. Implementation Grant Applicants who submit the form after that date will only be considered if there is sufficient capacity of the Technical Assistance providers to provide the required Application Technical Assistance. Among forms submitted after March 31, applicants from tribal and Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities will be prioritized to receive Application Technical Assistance.

An application workshop webinar series providing an overview of the available grants including program requirements, program framework, the application process, and grant administration will take place in March on the following dates:

- *March 22, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.* | **All audiences** ([register here](#))
- *March 23, 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.* | **Tribal Communities** (attendance limited to Tribes and Tribal-serving organizations - [register here](#))
- *March 23, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.* | **Rural Communities and Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities** ([register here](#))

Project Development Grants and Planning Grants

Project Development Grant and Planning Grant Applicants must complete the Application Initiation Form by July 3 to be eligible to apply. TA is available for Project Development and Planning Grant applicants from Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities and tribal communities. The TCC Program will provide this technical assistance at no cost. Project Development and Planning Grant applicants from Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities and tribal communities that would like to request technical assistance must complete the Application Initiation Form by **July 3, 2023**. Applicants from these communities will be granted extensions to the July 3 form deadline upon request. Applicants who require extensions should email tcc@sgc.ca.gov. The form will be available on the TCC [Current Application Materials](#) page.

Applicants that are from tribal or Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities and are applying for a Project Development Grant or Planning Grant are encouraged to submit the form as far in advance of this date as possible so they can work with the Technical Assistance providers during the application period, if desired. The amount of Technical Assistance offered will be dependent on when the Application Initiation Form is submitted.

An application workshop webinar series providing an overview of the Grants including program requirements, program framework, the application process, and grant administration will take place on March 22 and 23. The information and links are the same as the above for Implementation Grant Applications.

All Grant Types

After receiving the Application Initiation Form responses, TCC Program staff will provide applicants with instructions on where to upload the completed application materials. TCC Program staff will also connect all Implementation Grant Applicants and all tribal and DUC Applicants to the SGC-selected technical assistance provider to assist with the completion of application materials.

Information about the TCC Program, including the Program Guidelines, application technical assistance, and other resources can be found at the SGC website: <http://sgc.ca.gov/programs/tcc/resources/>. Questions may be directed to the TCC Program by email at tcc@sgc.ca.gov.

SECTION 5. SCORING

Applications will be evaluated according to the process and scoring criteria set forth in Section 9, "Application," of the [TCC Guidelines](#). The top scoring applicants will be recommended to the California Strategic Growth Council to receive TCC Implementation, Project Development, and Planning Grants.

SECTION 6. APPEALS

Basis of Appeals

1. Upon receipt of a notice that an application has been determined to be ineligible, fail threshold review, or not awarded based on final scores, Implementation Grant Applicants under this NOFA may appeal such decision(s) to SGC pursuant to this section.
2. No Applicant shall have the right to appeal a decision of SGC relating to another Applicant's eligibility, point score, award, denial of award, or any other matter related thereto.
3. The appeal process provided herein applies solely to the decision of SGC made in this program NOFA and does not apply to any decisions made with respect to any previously issued NOFAs or decisions to be made pursuant to future program NOFAs.

Appeal Process and Deadlines

1. Process: To file an appeal, Implementation Grant Applicants must submit to SGC, by the deadline set forth below (see 2. Filing Deadline), a written appeal, which states all relevant facts, arguments, and evidence upon which the appeal is based. Furthermore, the Applicant must provide a detailed reference to the area or areas of the application that provide clarification and substantiation for the basis of the appeal. No new or additional information will be considered if this information would result in a competitive advantage to an Applicant. Once the written appeal is submitted to SGC, no information of materials will be accepted or considered thereafter. Appeals submitted to SGC at tcc@sgc.ca.gov according to the deadline set forth in SGC review letters.
2. Filing deadline: Appeals must be received by SGC no later than five business days from the date of SGC's threshold review or score letters, representing SGC's decision made in response to the application.

Appeal Decision

Any request to appeal to SGC's decision regarding an Implementation Grant application shall be reviewed for compliance with the [TCC Guidelines](#) and this NOFA. All decisions rendered shall be final, binding, and conclusive, and shall constitute the final action of SGC.

SECTION 7. OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS

State Prevailing Wages

Program funds awarded under this NOFA are subject to State prevailing wage law, as set forth in Labor Code Section 1720 et seq., and require the payment of prevailing wages unless the project meets one of the exceptions of Labor Code 1720 (c) as determined by the Department of Industrial Relations. Applicants are urged to seek professional advice as to how to comply with State prevailing wage law.

Disclosure Application of Information

Information provided in the Implementation, Project Development, and Planning Grant applications will become a public record available for review pursuant to the Public Records Act. As such, any materials provided will be disclosable to any person making a public records request. Applicants should use discretion in providing information that is not specifically requested, including, but not limited to bank account numbers, personal phone numbers and home addresses. By providing this information in an application, the applicant waives any claim of confidentiality and consents to the public disclosure of all submitted material. Awarded applications will be available through the SGC website.

Right to Modify or Suspend

SGC reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to suspend, amend, or modify the provisions of this NOFA at any time, including without limitation, the amount of funds available hereunder. If such an action occurs, TCC program staff will notify all interested parties via email and will post the revisions to the TCC program website.

Conflict

In the event of any conflict between the terms of this NOFA and either applicable state or federal law or regulation, the terms of the applicable state or federal law or regulation shall control. In the event of a conflict between the terms of this NOFA and the Round 5 Final Guidelines, guideline terms shall control.

SECTION 8. RESOURCES AND QUESTIONS

Information about the TCC Program, including the Program Guidelines, application resources, technical assistance, and other resources can be found at the following website: <<http://sgc.ca.gov/programs/tcc/>>. Questions may be directed to the TCC Program by email at tcc@sgc.ca.gov.