

June 29, 2021

Subject: Transformative Climate Communities Program: Round 1 Progress Evaluation Update

Reporting Period: January 2018 – June 2021

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TCC Round 1 Implementation Grant Awardees Update

The Transformative Climate Communities Program (TCC) will provide a progress update on the Round 1 Implementation Grant Awardees (“R1 Implementation Awardees”) in Fresno, Ontario, and Watts/South Los Angeles. This first TCC cohort is in their second year of a 5-year implementation cycle. All R1 Implementation Awardees have broken ground on their key infrastructure projects, and all engagement, workforce, and displacement avoidance activities are underway – bolstering community economic, health, and climate resilience alongside the physical infrastructure investments. Key findings to date include:

- TCC investments have begun to catalyze change in historically disinvested neighborhoods. Since 2018, TCC has helped the R1 Implementation Awardees to garner well over \$100M in additional grants and loans directly to the project area and spurred additional development initiatives such as the Fresno DRIVE Initiative.
- The Collaborative Stakeholder Structure is a key asset to awardees during program implementation and execution. The local cross-sectoral partnership model enables awardees to build capacity to carry out local climate action by openly sharing information and technical and financial resources, and to maintain momentum.
- Transformative Plans support successful project implementation and community change. Funding community engagement and outreach has contributed to the success of the infrastructure projects, enabling broad reach, engagement, and buy-in. Residents are also enthusiastic about engaging in the displacement avoidance and workforce training opportunities and express desire for more opportunities to bring about transformative change.
- Investments in Transformative Plans also enabled awardees to leverage their platforms to provide community relief and critical public health information during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The UCLA Luskin Center for Innovation, which developed the TCC Program Evaluation framework and is evaluating all R1 Implementation Awardees, will provide an overview of the evaluation framework and an overall progress update. Representatives from each R1 Implementation Awardee will also speak on the progress to date.

The UCLA Luskin Center for Innovation is currently evaluating all three R1 Implementation Awardees and published the second of five annual progress evaluation reports in May 2021. The reports describe the key accomplishments and COVID-19 pandemic responses across all three awardees between the award date in January 2018 and June 2020. The inaugural TCC R1 Implementation Awardee cohort includes:

- City of Fresno (\$66.5M for Transform Fresno)
- City of Ontario (\$33.25M for Ontario Together)
- Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (\$33.25M for Watts Rising)

Background

Established by AB 2722 (Burke, 2016), TCC invests in neighborhood-scale projects that at once reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide environmental, health, and economic benefits to residents in California's most disadvantaged communities. TCC projects are developed and implemented through a community-driven process that requires local cross-sectoral partnerships. Each awardee implements the TCC investment with guidance and oversight from a collaborative stakeholder structure that includes resident and community partners.

Since 2018, TCC has awarded over \$227 million in Implementation Grants to 8 communities and over \$3 million in Planning Grants to 18 communities. The Planning Grant program has prepared a pipeline of communities to get ready for infrastructure implementation funding. All three Round 3 Implementation Grant Awardees were former TCC Planning Grant Awardees that are currently implementing their community's vision for climate resilience (City of Stockton, City of Oakland, City of Riverside).

Program evaluation is a critical part of the implementation phase. During the first funding round, SGC contracted the UCLA Luskin Center for Innovation to develop a program evaluation framework, which includes a methodology for monitoring each awardee's project outcomes as well as the TCC program design itself. TCC program staff review the reports annually and make

adjustments to the program based on the key observations and recommendations identified by the evaluators and awardees.

Attachments

Attachment 1: Transformative Climate Communities Program Evaluation Plan

Attachment 2: TCC Watts Rising 2021 Progress Report

Attachment 3: TCC Ontario Together 2021 Progress Report

Attachment 4: TCC Transform Fresno 2021 Progress Report