

AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

ROUND 5
FY 2018-2019 PROGRAM GUIDELINES



CALIFORNIA STRATEGIC
GROWTH COUNCIL



October 31, 2019

**Technical Amendments: 12/9/19,
2/24/21, and 12/17/2024**

Please refer to the respective Council meeting
materials for details

[https://sgc.ca.gov/meetings-events/council/
index.html](https://sgc.ca.gov/meetings-events/council/index.html)

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Note: Defined terms are bolded throughout the document. Refer to Appendix A for complete definitions.

Article I. AHSC General Overview

Section 100. Purpose and Scope

- (a) The purpose of these Program Guidelines is to implement Division 44, Part 1 of the Public Resources Code (PRC) (commencing with Section 75200), which establishes the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Program, hereinafter referred to as the **AHSC Program**.
- (b) The purpose of the **AHSC Program** is to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through projects that implement land-use, housing, transportation, and agricultural land preservation practices to support infill and compact development, and that support related and coordinated public policy objectives, including the following:
 - (1) reducing air pollution;
 - (2) improving conditions in disadvantaged communities;
 - (3) supporting or improving public health and other co-benefits as defined in Section 39712 of the Health and Safety Code;
 - (4) improving connectivity and accessibility to jobs, housing, and services;
 - (5) increasing options for mobility, including the implementation of the Active Transportation Program established pursuant to Section 2380 of the Streets and Highway Code;
 - (6) increasing transit ridership;
 - (7) preserving and developing affordable housing for lower income households, as defined in Section 50079.5 of the Health and Safety Code; and
 - (8) protecting agricultural lands to support infill development.

Section 101. AHSC Program Overview

The **AHSC Program** furthers the purposes of AB 32 (Chapter 488, Statutes 2006) and SB 375 (Chapter 728, Statutes, 2008) by investing in projects that reduce GHG emissions by supporting more compact, infill development patterns, encouraging active transportation and transit usage, and protecting agricultural land from sprawl development. The Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF), an account established to receive proceeds from Cap-and-Trade auctions, provides funding for the **AHSC Program**. The Cap-and-Trade Program, a key strategy for achieving the GHG emission reduction goals of AB 32, issues a limited number of GHG emissions permits (called allowances) each year. A portion of these allowances can be purchased from the State at quarterly auctions, thereby generating auction proceeds. These State auction proceeds are then deposited in the GGRF, where they become available for appropriation by the Legislature to further the purposes of AB 32.

The **AHSC Program** is administered by the **Strategic Growth Council (Council)**. The **Department of Housing and Community Development (Department)** will implement the transportation, housing and infrastructure components of the **AHSC Program**. The **Council** staff will coordinate efforts with **Department** staff, working with the **California Air Resources Board (CARB)** and the **Council** to administer the broader **AHSC Program**, including developing program guidelines, evaluating applications, preparing agreements, monitoring agreement implementation, and program reporting.

- The **Council** will coordinate with **CARB** to develop and incorporate consistent guidance in the following areas, which will apply to all GGRF programs, including the **AHSC Program**:
- Expenditure records to ensure investments further the goals of AB 32.
- SB 535 (Chapter 830, Statutes 2012) and AB 1550 requirements to maximize benefits to **Disadvantaged Communities, Low-Income Communities, and Low-Income Households**.
- Consistent methodologies for quantifying GHG reductions and other economic, environmental and public health co-benefits.
- Project tracking and reporting.

The **AHSC Program** provides grants and/or loans to projects that achieve GHG emission reductions and benefit **Disadvantaged Communities, Low-Income Communities, and Low-Income Households** through increasing accessibility of affordable housing, employment centers and **Key Destinations** via low-carbon transportation resulting in fewer vehicle miles traveled (VMT) through shortened or reduced vehicle trip length or mode shift to transit, bicycling or walking. Three **Project Area** types have been identified to implement this strategy: 1) Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Project Areas, or 2) Integrated Connectivity Project (ICP) Project Areas, or 3) Rural Innovation Project Areas (RIPA).

AHSC awards funds will be allocated through a competitive process, based on the merits of applications submitted and the proposed use of funds within the identified **Project Area**. The threshold requirements and application selection criteria focus on the extent to which developments realize the **AHSC Program's** objectives of reducing GHG emissions,

benefiting **Disadvantaged Communities, Low-Income Communities, and Low-Income Households**, providing affordable housing, demonstrating project readiness, and meeting other policy considerations.

Disadvantaged Community Benefits

In June 2018, using the updated results from CalEnviroScreen 3.0, the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) identified **Disadvantaged Communities** to include census tracts that fall within the top 25 percent of CalEnviroScreen 3.0, plus an additional 22 census tracts that score in the highest 5 percent of CalEnviroScreen's Pollution Burden but do not have an overall CalEnviroScreen score because of unreliable socioeconomic or health data. AB 1550 has also created investment requirements for **Low-Income Communities** and **Low-Income Households**. In July 2018, CARB approved the *Funding Guidelines for Agencies Administering California Climate Investments* that will provide criteria to evaluate whether a project provides a benefit to a **Disadvantaged Community, Low-Income Community, or Low-Income Household**. These guidelines can be found here: www.arb.ca.gov/ccifundingguidelines.

A **Project** that is located in and provides benefits to a **Disadvantaged Community, Low-Income Community, or Low-Income Households** may receive priority for funding in order to meet the AHSC Program **Disadvantaged Community** and **Low-Income Community** funding requirements. All applicants must evaluate the criteria for demonstrating a benefit to **Priority Populations** as part of the application, and, if applicable, demonstrate in the application how the **Capital Project** or **Program Costs** within the **Project** meets one of the criteria.

Article II. Program Requirements and Procedures

Figure 1: AHSC Program Summary

Project Area Types	Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Project Area	Integrated Connectivity Project (ICP) Project Area	Rural Innovation Project Area (RIPA)
Transit Requirements (All Project Areas) §102	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MUST include Qualifying Transit ▪ Qualifying Transit includes various forms of Rail Service, Bus Service and Flexible Transit Service. ▪ All Project Areas MUST also include a Transit Station/Stop, served by at least one Qualifying Transit line departing two or more times during Peak Hours (unless it is Flexible Transit Service). <p><i>Note: ICP/RIPA projects that propose addition of High Quality Transit will remain eligible as an ICP/RIPA.</i></p>		
Project Area Specific Transit Requirements §102	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MUST be served by High Quality Transit ▪ Headway frequency of 15 minutes or less during Peak Hours ▪ Must operate on a railway or be a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) service that either fully or partially operates on a dedicated bus-only lanes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CANNOT be served by High Quality Transit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CANNOT be served by High Quality Transit ▪ MUST be located within a Rural Area
Required AHSC Funded Components §102 & §103	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ At least fifty (50) percent of AHSC Program funds MUST be used for Affordable Housing (which includes Affordable Housing Developments or Housing Related Infrastructure) AND ▪ At least one other type of Eligible Capital Project or Program Cost 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ At least fifty (50) percent of AHSC Program funds MUST be used for Affordable Housing (which includes Affordable Housing Developments or Housing Related Infrastructure) ▪ AHSC Program funds MUST be used for Sustainable Transportation Infrastructure AND Affordable Housing (which includes Affordable Housing Developments or Housing Related Infrastructure) 	
Eligible Capital Projects or Program Costs §103	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Affordable Housing Developments (AHD) ▪ Housing Related Infrastructure (HRI) ▪ Sustainable Transportation Infrastructure (STI) ▪ Transportation-Related Amenities (TRA) ▪ Programs (PGM) 		
Affordable Housing Development Requirements §103	<p>Affordable Housing Developments may be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New construction ▪ Acquisition and Substantial Rehabilitation including preservation of affordable housing at-risk ▪ Conversion of one or more nonresidential structures to residential dwelling units 		
Funds Available §108	Target 35 percent of available funds to TOD Project Areas	Target 45 percent of available funds to ICP Project Areas	Target 10 percent of available funds to RIPAs
	Target a project from a Federally Recognized Indian Tribe, an eligible entity having co-ownership with a Federally Recognized Indian Tribe, or an eligible entity established by a Federally Recognized Indian Tribe to undertake Tribal housing projects		
Project Awards §104	All Project Area Types are subject to the following minimum and maximum award amounts: Maximum: \$30 Million Minimum: \$1 Million		
Statutory Funding Set-asides §108	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 50 percent of the AHSC Program expenditures shall be for Affordable Housing (Health & Safety Code § 39719(a)(1)(C)) ▪ 50 percent of AHSC Program expenditures shall be for projects benefitting Disadvantaged Communities (Public Resources Code § 75214) <p><i>Note: A single project can address both set-asides above, and are not mutually exclusive.</i></p>		

Section 102. Eligible Projects

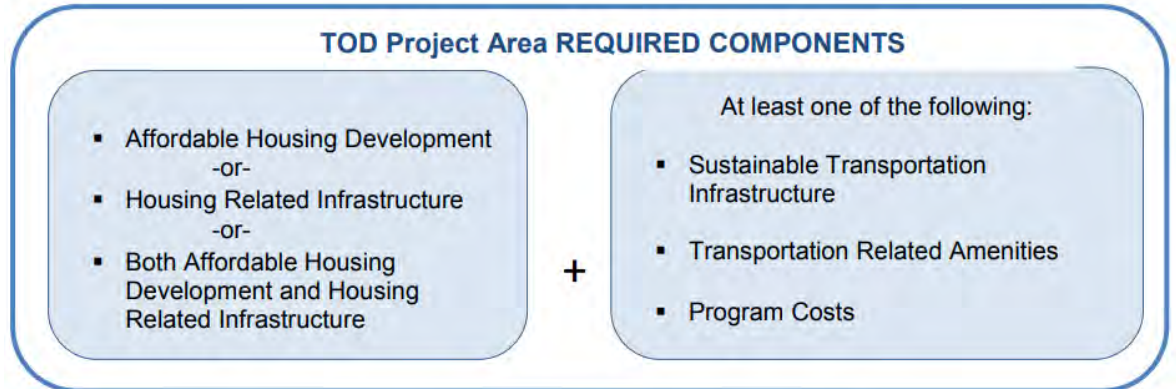
The **AHSC Program** is designed to implement GHG emissions reductions through a reduction of vehicle miles travelled (VMT), or fewer and shorter auto-trips. The **AHSC Program** will fund integrated land use and transportation projects supporting low-carbon transportation options. Promoting mode shift to low-carbon transportation will require strategies that link residential areas, major employment centers and other **Key Destinations** to transit and active transportation options.

- (a) All applicants are required to define a **Project Area**. The **Project Area** is the area which encompasses transit, housing and destinations and is the area in which **AHSC Program** funds will be invested. Each **Project Area** must:
- (1) Be a contiguous area included within a distinct planning area in a local or regional planning document(s) or transit service area
 - (2) Include at least one **Transit Station/Stop** consistent with the requirements set forth in (c) or (d) below; and
 - (3) Be of a defined size consistent with one of the following:
 - (A) For **Project Areas** with fixed transit routes, the defined **Project Area** may not exceed a one (1) mile radius from the identified **Transit Station/Stop**.
 - (B) For Project Areas with **Flexible Transit Service** routes, the defined **Project Area** must be defined based on the identified service area of the transit line.
 - (C) For Project Areas which include a **Transit Corridor** or bicycle network or both, the defined **Project Area** must be identified in a plan, i.e. general plan, bicycle master plan or transit corridor implementation plan.
- (b) The **AHSC Program** includes three eligible **Project Area** types as defined below:
- (1) Transit Oriented Development (TOD) **Project Areas**,
 - (2) Integrated Connectivity Project (ICP) **Project Areas**, and
 - (3) Rural Innovation **Project Areas** (RIPA).

All projects regardless of **Project Area** type must demonstrate VMT reduction through fewer or shorter vehicle trips or incentivize mode shift to transit use, bicycling or walking within transit areas, with an emphasis on integration of or development of affordable housing, and with an emphasis on providing **Disadvantaged Community** or **Low-Income Community** benefits. There are several differentiating requirements between each **Project Area** type, as described below.

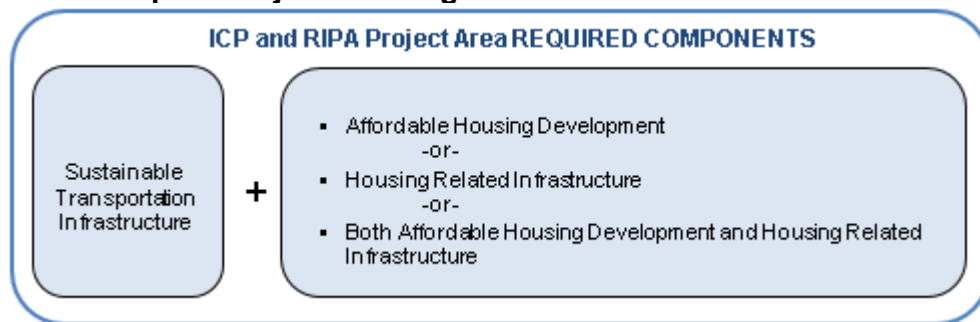
- (c) **TOD Project Areas** must demonstrate ALL of the following:

- (1) Include at least one (1) **Transit Station/Stop** served by **High Quality Transit** at the time of application submittal;
- (2) Include an **Affordable Housing Development** located no farther than one-half mile from a **Transit Station/Stop** served by High Quality Transit. While the TOD Project Area must include an **Affordable Housing Development**, it may be funded from sources other than the AHSC Program but must meet the requirements of Section 103 (a)(1)(A) through (C); and
- (3) Include **Capital Projects** or **Program Costs** as follows:



(d) **ICP Project Areas** must meet all of the following:

- (1) Include at least one (1) **Transit Station/Stop**
- (2) Include an **Affordable Housing Development** served by at least one (1) mode of **Qualifying Transit** that does not meet the requirements of **High Quality Transit** at the time of application submittal; and
- (3) Include **Capital Projects** or **Program Costs** as follows:



Affordable Housing Developments must be located within one-half mile of a **Transit Station/Stop** by the time a certificate of occupancy is provided.

(e) **RIPAs** must meet all the requirements detailed in Section 102(d) above for an **ICP Project Area** and must be located within a **Rural Area**.

Section 103. Eligible Costs

The **AHSC Program** funds **Capital Projects** and eligible **Program Costs** within TOD, ICP and RIPA **Project Areas** consistent with requirements of Section 102(c),(d) and (e) as follows:

Figure 2 Eligible Capital Projects and Program Costs	
Eligible Capital Projects	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Affordable Housing Development (AHD) ▪ Housing-Related Infrastructure (HRI) ▪ Sustainable Transportation Infrastructure (STI) ▪ Transportation-Related Amenities (TRA) 	
Eligible Program Costs (PGM)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Active Transportation Programs ▪ Transit Ridership Programs ▪ Criteria Air Pollutant Programs ▪ Workforce Development Programs ▪ Car Share Programs 	

Note: Each Capital Project or Program Cost must be unique to a single application and cannot be split over multiple applications.

Examples of **Eligible Costs** within each category of eligible **Capital Projects** and **Program Costs** are identified in Figure 3 below:

Figure 3: Eligible Cost Examples	AHD/ HRI	STI	TRA	PGM
Construction or Substantial Rehabilitation of affordable housing	X			
Installation of new or improved walkways that improve mobility and access of pedestrians		X		
Installation of new or improved bikeways that improve mobility and access of cyclists		X		
Installation of new or improved pedestrian crossings or over-crossings		X		
Non-capacity increasing streetscape improvements, including, but not limited to the installation of lighting, signage, or other related amenities for pedestrians, cyclists and transit riders			X	
Street crossing enhancements including installation of accessible pedestrian signals		X		
Traffic calming projects including development of curb extensions, roundabouts, median islands, "road diets," lane narrowing projects		X		
Signage and way-finding markers			X	
Installation of traffic control devices to improve safety of pedestrians and bicyclists		X		

Figure 3 (continued): Eligible Cost Examples	AHD/ HRI	STI	TRA	PGM
Street furniture (e.g. benches, shade structures, etc.)			X	
Bicycle repair kiosks			X	
Publicly accessible bicycle parking			X	
Bike sharing infrastructure and fleet		X		
Bicycle carrying structures on public transit			X	
Development of a dedicated bus lanes as part of a BRT project		X		
Development and/or improvement of transit facilities or stations		X	X	
Transit related equipment to increase service or reliability		X		
Transit Signal Priority technology systems		X		
Real-time arrival/departure information systems			X	
Installation of at-grade boarding infrastructure		X		
Development or improvement of shelters or waiting areas at transit station/stops			X	
Transit ticket machine purchase or improvements			X	
Transit passenger amenities - e.g. Wi-Fi access			X	
Transit Vehicle Procurement for service expansion		X		
Transit Operations for service expansion		X		
Station area signage			X	
Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy	X	X	X	
Open Network or transit vehicle only ZEV Charging Infrastructure	X	X	X	
Water Efficiency	X	X	X	
Urban Greening	X	X	X	
Pedestrian and bicycle safety education programs				X
Development and publishing of community walking and biking maps, including school route/travel plans				X
Development and implementation of "walking school bus" or "bike train" programs				X
School crossing guard training programs				X
Bicycle clinics				X
Public outreach efforts to increase awareness and understand the needs of active transportation users				X
Bike sharing program operations				X
Ride and/or car share programs				X
Transit subsidy programs				X
Education and marketing of transit subsidy programs				X
Transportation Demand Management (TDM) programs				X
Air pollution exposure reduction program				X
Workforce development partnerships				X

(a) **Capital Projects**

(1) **Affordable Housing Development Capital Projects**

(A) **Affordable Housing Development Capital Projects** must:

- (i) Consist of one or more of the following:
 - a. New Construction
 - b. Acquisition and **Substantial Rehabilitation** (including preservation of affordable housing at-risk of conversion to market rate). The acquisition must be made through a bona fide sale or transfer from the existing ownership entity to the new ownership entity comprised of a completely disparate ownership structure, which contains no common entity interest at any level of the organizational structure.
 - c. Conversion of one or more nonresidential structures to residential dwelling units;

*Note: Re-syndication of an **Affordable Housing Development** is not an eligible **Capital Project**.*

- (ii) Be located within one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) mile from a **Transit Station/Stop** that meets the **Project Area** transit requirements as defined in Section 102(c) or (d). The one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) mile is to be measured from the nearest boarding point of the **Transit Station/Stop** to the entrance of the residential structure in the **Affordable Housing Development** furthest from the **Transit Station/Stop** along a walkable route. The walkable route, after completion of the proposed **Project**, shall be free of negative environmental conditions that deter pedestrian circulation such as barriers, stretches without sidewalks or walking paths, noisy vehicular tunnels, streets, arterials or highways without regulated crossings that facilitate pedestrian movement, minimize stretches without shade or cover, or stretches without lighted streets;
- (iii) Rental **Affordable Housing Developments** must include at least 20 percent of the total residential units as **Affordable Units** with an overall **Project** average affordability of all **Restricted Units** within the **Project** no greater than 50 percent represented by **Area Median Income** (AMI). Average affordability means the total number of **Restricted Units** multiplied by each restricted affordability level divided by the total **Restricted Units**. For example, for a 30 unit project with 10 units restricted to 40 percent and 10 units restricted to 60 percent AMI the calculation of the average affordability would be as follows:

10 units @ 40% AMI → 10 x 40 = 400
 10 units @ 60% AMI → 10 x 60 = 600
 400 + 600 = 1000
 1000/ 20 total restricted units = average affordability of 50%

Homeownership **Affordable Housing Developments** must include at least 20 percent of the total residential units as Affordable Units with an overall **Project** average affordability of all **Restricted Units** within the **Project** no greater than 80 percent represented by **Area Median Income (AMI)**.

and;

- (iv) Have a minimum **Net Density**, upon completion of the **Affordable Housing Development**, not less than that shown on the following table:

Figure 4: Minimum Net Density Requirements		
Project Area Type	Residential only Projects	Mixed-Use Projects (Floor Area Ratio)
TOD	30 units per acre	>2.0
ICP	20 units per acre	>1.5
RIPA	15 units per acre	>0.75

- a. Mixed-use **Affordable Housing Developments** may demonstrate consistency with the **Net Density** requirements through either the unit per acre or **Floor Area Ratio** requirements detailed in Figure 4.
- b. Acquisition and **Substantial Rehabilitation** (including preservation of affordable housing at-risk of conversion to market rate housing) are exempt from the above minimum density requirements but shall not result in fewer units or lower percentage of total affordability than currently exists except where reductions in unit count are required to meet building code requirements.
- (v) Must supply at least one (1) **Secure Overnight Bicycle Parking** spot for every two residential units that is not publicly accessible and is completely enclosed. Bicycle parking at the **Affordable Housing Development** will be considered an eligible cost but may not be used to meet required **Project Area** components as outlined in Section 102.

(B) **Affordable Housing Development Capital Projects** may:

- (i) Include residential units that are rental or owner-occupied, or a combination of both;

- (ii) Consist of scattered sites constituting a single, integrated **Affordable Housing Development** that meets the requirements set forth by Section 8303(b) of the Uniform Multifamily Regulations (UMRs); or
 - (iii) Include nonresidential uses that are compatible under local zoning.
- (C) Eligible costs for **Affordable Housing Development Capital Projects** are limited to:
- (i) Costs for a **Housing Development**, as specified in Section 7304(a) and (b) of the MHP Guidelines dated June 19, 2019 (MHP Guidelines). Section 7304(b)(10) the reasonable developer fee subject to the provisions of Section 7305, must be calculated as applicable using the **TCAC** Regulations dated February 27, 2019.
 - (ii) Soft costs such as those incidentally but directly related to construction or other pre-development components including, but not limited to, planning, engineering, construction management, architectural, and other design work, required mitigation expenses, appraisals, legal expenses, and necessary easements. Soft costs shall not exceed 10 percent of total **AHSC Program** award.
 - (iii) Each AHSC application may budget up to 2 percent of their total funding request for **Employment Benefits and Outcomes Reporting**. This amount will scale with the size of the Applicant's funding request. Applicants should consider the size of their loan and grant funded project components when allocating this item into capital cost budgets. **Employment Benefits and Outcomes Reporting** costs are not included within the soft costs cap.
- (D) **Affordable Housing Development and Housing Related Infrastructure Capital Projects** must comprise *at least* fifty (50) percent of total AHSC funds requested.
- (E) A single **Affordable Housing Development Capital Project** may not include more than one **Affordable Housing Development**, nor may it include an **Affordable Housing Development** that contains multiple development sites when one development site is receiving four percent low-income housing tax credits, and another is receiving nine percent low-income housing tax credits. An application proposing an **Affordable Housing Development** with both four percent low-income housing tax credits and nine percent low-income housing tax credits will be disqualified on the grounds that it is not proposing a **Project** within the meaning and design of the **AHSC Program**. To the extent such tax credit scenarios are contemplated, they shall constitute two separate and independent **Projects**, each of which must submit an entirely separate application and qualify independently of the other.

(2) **Housing-Related Infrastructure Capital Projects**

- (A) Eligible costs for **Housing-Related Infrastructure Capital Projects** are limited to:
- (i) Capital improvements required by a **Locality**, transit agency, or special district as a condition to the approval of the **Affordable Housing Development**.
 - (ii) Soft costs such as those incidentally but directly related to construction or other pre-development components including, but not limited to, planning, engineering, construction management, architectural, and other design work, required mitigation expenses, appraisals, legal expenses, and necessary easements. Soft costs shall not exceed 10 percent of total **AHSC Program** award.
 - (iii) Each AHSC application may budget up to 2 percent of their total funding request for **Employment Benefits and Outcomes Reporting**. This amount will scale with the size of the Applicant's funding request. Applicants should consider the size of their loan and grant funded project components when allocating this item into capital cost budgets. **Employment Benefits and Outcomes Reporting** costs are not included within the soft costs cap.
 - (iv) Required environmental remediation necessary for the **Capital Project** where the cost of the remediation does not exceed 50 percent of **AHSC Program** grant funds.
 - (v) Real property acquisition of the **Housing-Related Infrastructure** project site and associated fees and costs (not to exceed 10 percent of the total **AHSC Program** award). Real estate commissions for purchase or acquisition are not an eligible expenditure.
 - (vi) Impact fees required by local ordinance are eligible for funding only if used for the identified eligible **Capital Project** not to exceed 15 percent of the **AHSC Program** award up to \$300,000.
- (B) **Affordable Housing Development** and **Housing Related Infrastructure Capital Projects** must comprise *at least* fifty (50) percent of total AHSC funds requested.
- (3) **Sustainable Transportation Infrastructure Capital Projects** (including **Active Transportation** and transit infrastructure)
- (A) Eligible costs for **Sustainable Transportation Infrastructure Capital Projects** are limited to:
- (i) Capital improvements that result in the improvement or addition of infrastructure that encourages mode-shift by enhancing: 1) public transit access; 2) pedestrian network; or 3) bicycle network (includes public bike-share infrastructure and fleet) within the defined **Project**

Area meeting the transit requirements detailed in Section 102 (c) or (d).

- (ii) Soft costs such as those incidentally but directly related to construction or project plans, specifications and estimates including, but not limited to, planning, engineering, construction management, architectural, and other design work, environmental impact reports and assessments, appraisals, legal expenses, and necessary easements. Soft costs shall not exceed 30 percent of total **AHSC Program** award.
- (iii) Each AHSC application may budget up to 2 percent of their total funding request for **Employment Benefits and Outcomes Reporting**. This amount will scale with the size of the Applicant's funding request. Applicants should consider the size of their loan and grant funded project components when allocating this item into capital cost budgets. **Employment Benefits and Outcomes Reporting** are not included within the soft costs cap.
- (iv) **Activity Delivery Costs** that are associated with the implementation of the **Capital Project** not to exceed 10 percent of the costs associated with the **Capital Project**.
- (v) Operations expenditures for up to 2 years that directly expand transit service by supporting new or expanded routes and may include wages, fueling, maintenance, and other costs to operate those services.
- (vi) Other **Capital Project** costs required as a condition of local approval for the **Capital Project**, as approved by the **Department**.

(B) The total combined grant amount for **Sustainable Transportation Infrastructure Capital Projects** and **Transportation-Related Amenities Capital Projects** within a **Project Area** shall not exceed \$10,000,000.

(4) **Transportation-Related Amenities Capital Projects**

(A) **Transportation-Related Amenities** must be publicly accessible.

(B) Eligible costs for **Transportation-Related Amenities Capital Projects** are limited to:

- (i) Capital improvements that are publicly accessible and provide supportive amenities to cyclists, pedestrians, and transit riders (i.e. bike parking, bus shelter, benches, street trees, etc.) within the defined **Project Area** meeting the transit requirements detailed in Section 102 (c) or (d).
- (ii) Soft costs such as those incidentally but directly related to construction project plans, specifications and estimates including,

but not limited to, planning, engineering, construction management, architectural, and other design work, environmental impact reports and assessments, appraisals, legal expenses, and necessary easements. Soft costs shall not exceed 10 percent of total **AHSC Program** award.

- (iii) Each AHSC application may budget up to 2 percent of their total funding request for **Employment Benefits and Outcomes Reporting**. This amount will scale with the size of the Applicant's funding request. Applicants should consider the size of their loan and grant funded project components when allocating this item into capital cost budgets. **Employment Benefits and Outcomes Reporting** costs are not included within the soft costs cap.
- (iv) **Activity Delivery Costs** that are associated with the implementation of the **Capital Project** not to exceed 10 percent of the costs associated with the **Capital Project**.
- (v) Other **Capital Project** costs required as a condition of local approval for the **Capital Project**, as approved by the **Department**.

(C) The total combined grant amount for **Sustainable Transportation Infrastructure Capital Projects** and **Transportation-Related Amenities Capital Projects** within a **Project Area** shall not exceed \$10,000,000.

(b) **Program Costs**

- (1) **Program Costs** include those costs typically associated with 1) program creation, or 2) expansion of existing programs to serve new populations or offer new program service and implementation. Eligible costs may include operational costs for programs for the term of the grant (3 years). Programs include education, outreach and training programs for **Active Transportation** or transit ridership; air pollution exposure reduction; workforce development partnerships; and outreach, education, and subsidy to low-income residents for **ZEV** car sharing.
- (2) The total grant amount for **Program Costs** within a **Project Area** shall not exceed 30 percent of the funding request for the overall **Project** up to \$500,000. Costs incurred for required transit passes or cards described in Section 106 (4) will not contribute to this cap.

(c) Ineligible costs include all of the following:

- (1) Costs are not eligible for funding if there is another feasible, available source of committed funding for the **Project** portion thereof to be funded by the **AHSC Program** or if the cost is incurred prior to **AHSC Program** award;
- (2) Routine maintenance or operations of transportation infrastructure including the general transit fleet, not including AHSC funded transit service expansion;

- (3) In lieu fees for local inclusionary housing programs;
- (4) Ongoing operational costs beyond the term of the grant (three years) for **Program Costs**; and
- (5) Costs associated with automobile or motorcycle parking (excluding electric vehicle charging infrastructure).

Section 104. Assistance Terms and Limits

- (a) The maximum **AHSC Program** loan or grant award, or combination thereof, for a TOD, ICP and RIPA **Project Area** is \$30 million with a minimum award of \$1 million.
- (b) Loans for rental **Affordable Housing Developments**, or the rental portions of an **Affordable Housing Development**, are subject to the following terms:
 - (1) **AHSC Program** funds will be provided as a loan for permanent financing by the **Department** to the owner of the **Affordable Housing Development**, with the same terms as the **Department's MHP** Program financing as set forth in Section 7308 of the MHP Guidelines.
 - (2) The maximum loan amount shall be calculated pursuant to Section 7307 of the **MHP Guidelines** based on the number of **Restricted Units** in the **Affordable Housing Development**, affordability, unit sizes, and location in addition to the base amount for loan calculation as follows: \$95,000 for projects receiving 9 percent tax credits and \$175,000 for projects not receiving 9 percent tax credits. A manager's unit will be considered to be a Restricted Unit for the purpose of allocating **Affordable Housing Development** costs and may qualify for a loan amount up to the amount applicable to the 60 percent AMI level.
 - (3) Unless contradictory to any other provision expressly set forth herein, the currently adopted and applicable UMRs as may be amended from time to time, all as set forth in the **CCR**, Title 25, commencing with Section 8300 ("UMRs") are hereby incorporated by reference in their totality into these Guidelines.
 - (4) Use of multiple **Department** funding sources on the same Assisted Units (subsidy stacking) is prohibited. "**Department** funding sources" shall mean loan or grant funds awarded for permanent funding of development costs (which shall not include funds specifically designated for capitalized operating or operating subsidy reserves) under the following programs:
 - (A) Supportive Housing Multifamily Housing program;
 - (B) **MHP**
 - (C) Veterans Housing and Homelessness Prevention program;
 - (D) No Place Like Home Program, including funds awarded either by the Department or an Alternative Process County;
 - (E) Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities program - Affordable Housing Development loans, but not grants for Housing Related Infrastructure, Sustainable Transportation Infrastructure, Transportation Related amenities or Program Costs, all as defined in the program guidelines;

- (F) Transit Oriented Development program – rental housing development loans, but not grants for infrastructure;
 - (G) Joe Serna, Junior Farmworker Housing Grant program;
 - (H) SB 2 Farmworker Housing Program;
 - (I) Housing for a Healthy California program, including funds awarded either by the Department of Housing and Community Development or a county.
- (c) Grants shall be subject to the following terms:
- (1) The applicant must demonstrate that the grant will not result in a profit that exceeds the commercially reasonable range for other developments of similar size and level of risk.
 - (2) **AHSC Program** grant funds will be disbursed as reimbursed progress payments for eligible costs incurred after [the award of funds, at a Strategic Growth Council meeting, execution of the Standard Agreement](#) in the amount not to exceed the **AHSC Program** award of funds. Costs incurred prior to execution of the Standard Agreement are not eligible for reimbursement.
 - (3) If the **Capital Project** grant includes multiple phases or developments, all entitlements and construction funding commitments for the first phase must be received prior to the initial disbursement of AHSC funds.
 - (4) For **Housing-Related Infrastructure Capital Project** grants:
 - (A) The total **Housing-Related Infrastructure Capital Project** grant amount is \$35,000 per residential unit in the proposed **Affordable Housing Development**, or \$50,000 per **Restricted Unit**.
 - (B) Conditions precedent to the first disbursement of **AHSC Program** funds shall include receipt of all required public agency entitlements and all construction funding commitments for the **Affordable Housing Development** supported by the **Housing-Related Infrastructure Capital Project**.
 - (C) Rental **Affordable Housing Developments** supported by the **Housing-Related Infrastructure Capital Project** shall be subject to a recorded covenant ensuring affordability for duration of at least 55 years, recorded on the fee interest of the real property on which the rental **Affordable Housing Development** is to be located.
 - (D) Homeownership **Affordable Housing Developments** supported by the **Housing-Related Infrastructure Capital Project** shall be subject to a recorded covenant with a duration of at least 30 years that includes either a resale restriction or equity sharing upon resale, recorded on the fee interest of the real property on which the homeownership **Affordable Housing Development** is to be located.

- (E) For homeownership **Affordable Housing Developments, AHSC Program** assistance will be provided in the form of a grant from the **Department** to a **Locality** or **Developer**. It will be disbursed as reimbursed progress payments for **Eligible Costs** incurred for the construction of **Housing Related Infrastructure** required as a condition of approval of the homeownership **Affordable Housing Development**, made available for sale to qualified first-time homebuyers. The total first-time homebuyer grant amount is \$50,000 per **Restricted Unit**. Prior to any disbursement, an affordability covenant will be recorded against the fee interest in the property of the **Affordable Housing Development**. At the time of sale of the **Restricted Unit** to a qualified first-time homebuyer, either the affordability covenant or a resale restriction will be recorded against the **Restricted Unit** for a period of not less than 30 years from the date of recordation.

Section 105. Eligible Applicants

(a) Eligible Applicants

- (1) Eligible applicant entities shall include any of the following:
 - (A) A **Locality**, public housing authority, redevelopment successor agency, transit agency or transit operator, Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA), local Transportation Commission, Congestion Management Agency, Joint Powers Authority (JPA), school district, facilities district, University or Community College District.
 - (i) For **STI** or **TRA** components only, an applicant may provide an executed agreement with a specific **Locality** or transportation agency non-applicant for the completion of the **STI** or **TRA** components of the AHSC Project for which funding is sought.
 - (B) A **Developer** or **Program Operator**.
 - (C) A **Federally Recognized Indian Tribe** whose **Project** meets requirements listed in detail in Appendix B.
- (2) A special purpose entity formed and controlled by the **Developer**, and which will serve as the ultimate borrower of AHSC loan funds, is not an **Eligible Applicant**. A special purpose entity ultimate borrower may be listed on the AHSC Program application in the appropriate, designated fields for listing such a borrower entity.
- (3) Where a **Public Agency** has a real property interest in the proposed **Project**, the application must include the **Public Agency** as a joint applicant or otherwise include a commitment to enter into a contractual agreement to develop the **Project**, if it is awarded.
- (4) Joint applicants for the **Project** will be held jointly and severally liable for the completion of the **Project**.
 - (A) A **Recipient** of **Department** funds must remain liable for performing all requirements of the award of funds as set forth in the Standard Agreement. Where there are multiple **Recipients**, all such **Recipients** must remain jointly and severally liable to the **Department** for that performance. Notwithstanding the foregoing, **Recipients** may indemnify each other by entering into agreements with one another as to particular portions of the award. In no event will any such agreement alter, amend, or revoke each individual **Recipient's** obligations to the Department, including the joint and several liability.

Section 106. Program Threshold Requirements

(a) Application Threshold Requirements

In addition to requirements detailed in Sections 102 through 105, to be eligible for **AHSC Program** funding, an application shall demonstrate to the **Department** all of the following:

- (1) The proposed **Project** will achieve a reduction in GHG emissions through fewer vehicle miles travelled (VMT), pursuant to the most recent **AHSC Program** Quantification Methodology, available on the California Air Resources Board's Climate Change Investments (CCI) Quantification, Benefits and Reporting Materials webpage (www.arb.ca.gov/cci-resources). This must be evidenced by completed GHG Benefits Calculator tool, described in the AHSC Application, displaying VMT and GHG reductions for each **Project** component.
- (2) The proposed **Project** supports the implementation of the applicable Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS), as confirmed by the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), or similar sustainable planning document in non-MPO regions, as allowed by SB 862 (Chapter 36, Statutes of 2014). The application must be consistent with activities or strategies identified in the regional SCS, or similar planning document that demonstrate a per capita reduction in VMT and GHG.
- (3) The proposed **Project** must be consistent with the State Planning Priorities established pursuant to Section 65041.1 of the Government Code.
- (4) All proposed **Affordable Housing Developments** must provide free transit passes, reloadable transit cards, or discounted passes priced at no more than half of retail cost. At least one (1) pass or card shall be made available for each Restricted Unit for at least 3 years. The card or pass should have a minimum value of 40 average commute length rides a month as determined by the transit agency. These passes or cards may be paid for with AHSC funding.
- (5) Applicants of all proposed **Affordable Housing Developments** must certify that the development will be smoke free and demonstrate compliance by submitting a **Smoke Free Housing** lease addendum prior to construction loan closing.
- (6) The AHSC funded components of the **Project** must:
 - (A) Incorporate more than one **Urban Greening** feature with dedicated maintenance for at least two years.
 - (B) Include adequate lighting in accordance with local, state, and federal design standards and requirements for all publicly accessible components of the **Project** including active transportation routes and transit stations or stops.

- (7) The **Project** must demonstrate a level of committed funding at time of application that is 90 percent or greater calculated by the following equation:

$$\frac{\text{AHSC funds requested} + \text{Enforceable Funding Commitments (EFCs)} - \text{Deferred Costs}}{\text{Total Development Cost} - \text{Deferred Costs}}$$

Note: HRI grant requests for Homeownership Affordable Housing Developments will not be counted as part of this equation, and therefore are exempt from this EFC threshold.

- (8) Completion and approval or adoption of all necessary environmental clearances including those required under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and if applicable, the National Environmental Policy Act. All applicable time periods for filing appeals or lawsuits have lapsed within 30 days of the application due date with lawsuits or appeals filed.
- (A) **STI** or **TRA** components of a **Project** are not required to certify completion and demonstration of approval of environmental clearances (NEPA or CEQA) as stated in (8) above until prior to the initial disbursement of grant funds
- (9) Applications must demonstrate that all necessary discretionary local land use approvals, excluding design review, have been granted.
- (10) The application must be sufficiently complete to assess the feasibility of the proposed project and its compliance with **AHSC Program** and application requirements. For example, the applicant must demonstrate that the **Project** is financially feasible as evidenced by documentation including, but not limited to, a market study, project pro-forma, sources and uses statement, proposed operating budget, multi-year pro-forma, or other feasibility documentation that is standard industry practice for the type of proposed **Affordable Housing Development**. A market study that meets the requirements specified in the **TCAC Regulations Section 10322(h)(10)** will be accepted by the **Department**.
- (11) The applicant or **Developer** of the **Project** must demonstrate **Site Control** sufficient to ensure the timely commencement of the **Project** as determined by the **Department**.
- (12) Applicants must demonstrate experience by providing evidence of at least two projects that are similar to the proposed **AHSC Project** in scope and size, which have been completed by the applicant, or joint applicant, during the ten years preceding the application due date.
- (A) For **STI** or **TRA** components only, an applicant may demonstrate the requisite experience (as detailed above) by using the past experience of work completed of a Locality or Transportation Agency non-applicant so long as the applicant can provide an executed agreement with that specific **Locality** or transportation agency non-applicant for the

completion of the **STI** or **TRA** components of the AHSC Project for which funding is sought.

- (13) As of the date of application, the applicant(s), the **Project**, or the real property on which the **Project** is proposed may not be party to or the subject of any claim or action in the state or federal courts that affects or potentially affects the feasibility of the project. Further, the applicant(s) shall disclose and describe any claim or action undertaken by or against the applicant(s), the **Project** or the Property which affects or potentially affects the feasibility of the **Project**.
- (14) Construction of the **Project** has not commenced as of the application deadline set forth in the **NOFA**.
- (15) **Qualifying Transit** must be completed and offering service to the **Transit Station/Stop** of the **Project Area** by the time set forth in the Standard Agreement, but in no case later than the issuance of the certificate of occupancy for the **Affordable Housing Development**.
- (16) Demonstrate consistency with State Relocation Assistance Law (CA Gov Code Sec. 7260-7277).
- (17) The Housing Element for the jurisdiction in which the **Project** is located must be in substantial compliance by the date of award recommendation. Housing Element in substantial compliance means the local public entity's adopted housing element is in substantial compliance as demonstrated by a letter from the Department which sets forth findings that the housing element adopted within the time frames required by Section 65588 of the Government Code includes that substance essential to every requirement of Article 10.6, commencing with Section 65580, of Chapter 3 of Division I of Title VII of the Government Code. A jurisdiction's current housing element compliance status can be obtained by referencing the **Department's** website at www.hcd.ca.gov. **Projects** located on Trust Land, as defined in Appendix B(a)(1), (2), are exempt from this requirement.
- (18) Applications must integrate applicable climate adaptation measures as described in Section 107(o).
- (19) The applicant must demonstrate that costs for any **Project** or component thereof will not result in loss or conversion of agricultural or other working lands or natural resource lands for other uses. The **Project** site must not be designated as agricultural land according to the State Department of Conservation's Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) Tool. An exemption to the FMMP designation may be allowed for applications that submit documentation that substantiates a description of an **Infill Site**.
- (20) Applications requesting **AHSC Program** funding for **Affordable Housing Developments** and **Housing-Related Infrastructure Capital Projects** must also demonstrate to the satisfaction of the **Department** all the following:

- (A) Rental **Affordable Housing Developments** must meet the underwriting standards in the UMRs and MHP Guidelines Section 7312.
 - (B) The **Affordable Housing Development** and/or **Housing-Related Infrastructure Capital Project(s)** are infeasible without **AHSC Program** funds, and other committed funds are not and will not be supplanted by **AHSC Program** funds.
 - (C) Proposed **Projects** involving new construction or **Substantial Rehabilitation** and requiring the demolition of existing residential units are eligible only if the number of bedrooms in the new **Project** is at least equal to the number of bedrooms in the demolished structures, with equal or greater affordability. The new affordable units may exist on separate parcels provided all parcels are part of the same **Project** meeting the requirements of the **UMRs** Section 8303 (b).
 - (i) The Department may approve Projects involving new construction or Substantial Rehabilitation and requiring the demolition of existing residential units that result in a number of bedrooms less than the number in the demolished structures where it determines that such approvals will substantially improve the livability of the remaining units, or serve some other compelling public policy objective, as long as the reduction does not result in more than 25 percent fewer units upon Project completion.
 - (D) Applicants must demonstrate the proposed **Affordable Housing Development** is consistent with State and Federal Fair Housing requirements including duties to affirmatively further fair housing.
 - (E) Where approval by a local public works department, or other responsible local agency, is required for the **Housing-Related Infrastructure Capital Project**, the application must include a statement from that department indicating that the **Housing-Related Infrastructure Capital Project** is consistent with all applicable local rules, regulations, codes, policies and plans enforced or implemented by that **Department**.
- (21) Applications requesting AHSC Program funding for **Sustainable Transportation Infrastructure** and/or **Transportation-Related Amenities Capital Projects** must satisfy all the following:
- (A) Where approval by a local public works department, or other responsible local agency, is required for the **Project**, the application must include a statement from that entity indicating that the **Sustainable Transportation Infrastructure** and/or **Transportation-Related Amenities Capital Project(s)** is consistent with all applicable local rules, regulations, codes, policies and plans enforced or implemented by that entity.
 - (B) If the **Sustainable Transportation Infrastructure** and/or **Transportation-Related Amenities Capital Project(s)** involves the

demolition of existing units that are affordable to lower-income households, the application must demonstrate the replacement of demolished units, comparable in size, of equal or greater affordability and equal to or greater than the number of the demolished affordable units located within comparable access to transit and include first right of return to displaced residents.

- (i) The no net loss requirements contained in section 106(a)(20)(C) of these Guidelines apply to **Sustainable Transportation Infrastructure or Transportation-Related Amenities Capital Projects** occurring on a property which includes a parcel, or any portion of a parcel, on which (1) residential dwelling units affordable to lower income households currently exist, or (2) there have been dwelling units restricted to lower-income households that have been vacated or demolished within the five year period preceding the application.
- (22) Applications requesting AHSC Program funding for **Program Costs** must also demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Department all the following:
- (A) The **Program Costs** are infeasible without AHSC Program funds, and other committed funds are not being supplanted by AHSC Program funds
- (23) All proposed AHSC **Project** components are subject to all applicable codes, including the California Building Standards Code (**CCR**, Title 24). The 2019 edition of this code, effective January 1, 2020, requires mechanical ventilation systems with high efficiency filtration of Minimum Efficiency Rating Value (MERV) 13.
- (24) Outreach and education on reducing potential health impacts of air pollution must be provided to residents of **Affordable Housing Developments**. Local health departments, air districts, and nonprofits may provide useful resources for this requirement.
- (25) **Projects** must meet the accessibility requirements specified in the **TCAC** regulations, as may be amended and renumbered from time to time. Exemption requests, as provided for in the **TCAC** regulations, must be approved in writing by the **Department** prior to the start of construction. Projects must also provide a preference for accessible units to persons with disabilities requiring the features of the accessible units in accordance with **TCAC** regulations. The applicant or **Developer** of the **Project** must ensure that any other applicable federal, state, and local accessibility requirements are met.

Section 107. Scoring Criteria

AHSC Program funds will be allocated through a competitive process, based on the merits of the application to support sustainable development that expands and improves transit, walking and bicycling infrastructure and provides opportunities to reduce VMT by supporting connectivity between housing and destinations to bring about reduction of GHG emissions.

The scoring criteria is divided by three categories, for a total of 100 points:

1. GHG Reductions Scoring (30 points)
2. Quantitative Policy Scoring (55 points)
3. Narrative-Based Policy Scoring (15 points)

Applications meeting threshold requirements as detailed in Section 106 will be reviewed and scored based upon the detailed criteria as described in Figure 5 below. The narrative-based policy scoring section of the application will be scored only for projects that obtain over 50 percent of the total points available (at least 43 of the 85 other available Quantitative and GHG-related points). Projects that are not scored for Narrative are not eligible for award. All of the scoring criteria will be applied to all **Projects**, regardless of the project components present in each specific **Project**.

To receive points related to a specific **Project** component, the component must be at least partially funded through AHSC (e.g. an applicant can only receive points related to an **Affordable Housing Development** when requesting **AHD** or **HRI** funds).

Figure 5 AHSC Scoring Elements and Criteria	
Criteria	Points
GHG Reductions Scoring	
GHG Efficiency	15
GHG Total	15
Quantitative Policy Scoring	
Active Transportation Improvements	10
Green Buildings and Renewable Energy	8
Housing and Transportation Collaboration	9
Location Efficiency and Access to Destinations	6
Funds Leveraged	4
Anti-Displacement Strategies	5
Prohousing Local Policies	2
Local Workforce Development and Hiring Practices	2
Housing Affordability	5
Programs	2
Urban Greening	2
Narrative-Based Policy Scoring	
Collaboration & Planning	4
Community Benefit & Engagement	6
Community Climate Resiliency	3
Community Air Pollution Exposure Mitigation	2

(a) **Estimated GHG Emissions Reductions – 30 Points Maximum**

For this section, applications will be scored based on the quantified GHG emission reductions based on: 1) the total **Project** GHG Reductions Score; AND 2) cost efficiency of estimated GHG reductions per AHSC dollar. Each of these scoring methods will represent a maximum of 15 points of the total combined 30 points available under this criterion.

Applications will be awarded points for Project GHG Emissions Reductions according to the following process:

- (1) For each **Project**, applicants will calculate the estimated GHG reductions using the most recent AHSC Benefits Calculator Tool, available on the California Air Resources Board’s CCI Quantification, Benefits, and Reporting Materials webpage (www.arb.ca.gov/cci-resources).

Total **Project** GHG Reductions score will represent the total GHG reduction calculated through the AHSC Benefits Calculator Tool, and

- (A) Cost efficiency of estimated GHG reductions will be calculated by the following formula:

$$\frac{\text{Total Project GHG Reductions}}{\text{AHSC \$ Request}}$$

Total **Project** GHG Reduction score will represent the total GHG reduction calculated through the AHSC Benefits Calculator Tool.

Note: For phased projects, only the current phase (the phase seeking AHSC funding) of a project will be quantified.

- (2) All applications will be ranked from highest to lowest within each **Project Area** type for both the total **Project** GHG Reduction score and the Efficiency of Reductions score.
- (3) Each application will be assigned to one of five bins representing one fifth of the total number of applications in ranked order with each bin receiving an assigned point score, up to a maximum of 15 points for both (1) total **Project** GHG reduction score and (2) cost efficiency of estimated GHG reductions, as follows:

Bin Scoring
Bin 1 = 15 points
Bin 2 = 12 points
Bin 3 = 9 points
Bin 4 = 6 points
Bin 5 = 3 points

- (4) Bin scores for (1) total **Project GHG Reduction** score and (2) cost efficiency of estimated **GHG Reductions**, will be combined to determine final **GHG Reduction** criteria score as follows:

Total Project GHG Reductions		Efficiency of Reductions
Bin 1 = 15 points	+	Bin 1 = 15 points
Bin 2 = 12 points		Bin 2 = 12 points
Bin 3 = 9 points		Bin 3 = 9 points
Bin 4 = 6 points		Bin 4 = 6 points
Bin 5 = 3 points		Bin 5 = 3 points

Note: For the purposes of calculating the points used to determine the GHG reductions score for the TOD, ICP, and RIPA targets, projects will be binned within their Project Area Type, and therefore will only compete within their project area type for the first 90 percent of appropriated funding per Section 108.

Quantitative Policy Scoring – 55 Points

(b) **Active Transportation Improvements – 10 Points Maximum**

- (1) Up to 2 points for the total length (in linear miles) of AHSC funded **Context Sensitive Bikeways** as follows:
 - 2 points for over half a mile
 - 1 point for less than half a mile

- (2) 1 point for **Projects** that link the **Affordable Housing Development** or **Qualifying Transit Station or Stop** to an existing bicycle network or a bicycle network identified official public planning documents. The existing or planned bicycle network must be directly linked by a new **Context Sensitive Bikeway** funded by AHSC that has an entry point within one quarter mile of either the **Affordable Housing Development** or **Qualifying Transit Station or Stop**. The existing or planned bicycle network does not have to be comprised of **Context Sensitive Bikeways**.

- (3) Up 2 points for projects that address barriers to safe access of bicycle routes. Documentation must be provided to certify that the **Project** will do at least one of the following in an attempt to increase bicycle safety and access: reduce vehicular speed or volume near bicycle users; improve sight distance and visibility; eliminate potential conflict points; improve compliance with traffic laws; or address any other barriers to cyclists that may have existed on the route. One point will be awarded for each addressed site of a barrier(s) to safe bicycle access.

- (4) Up to 2 points for the length of AHSC funded **Safe and Accessible Walkways** as follows:
- 2 points for over 2,000 feet
 - 1 point for 1,000 to 1,999 feet

Indicate the measured length (in feet) of new or replaced sidewalk.

STI improvements that will make walkways safe and accessible (e.g., through sidewalk replacement) will be measured for the distance of the entire block face on which the infrastructure improvement will be made so long as the entire distance of its walkway will then meet the AHSC definition of **Safe and Accessible Walkway**. Safe and accessible crosswalk improvements, which are **STI**, can be measured for the crosswalk distance plus the distance of one block face to which it connects, so long as the block face is a **Safe and Accessible Walkway**.

TRA improvements that will create **Safe and Accessible Walkways** will be measured according to the length of sidewalk directly improved (ex: provided shade to, illuminated). Unimproved distances of walkways in-between **TRA** improvements will not be measured.

- (5) 1 point for **Projects** that provide a pedestrian crossing point that directly links two pedestrian networks that are unlinked for one quarter mile along a walkable route (i.e. no connecting point for one quarter mile). Examples include overpasses, underpasses, and placement of sidewalk where none previously existed. At-grade crosswalks are not eligible for this point.
- (6) Up to 2 points for projects that address barriers to safe access of pedestrian routes. Documentation must be provided to certify that the **Project** will do at least one of the following in an attempt to increase pedestrian safety and access: reduce vehicular speed or volume near pedestrians, improve sight distance and visibility, eliminate potential conflict points, improve compliance with traffic laws, or address any other barriers to pedestrians that may have existed on the route. One point will be awarded for each addressed site of a barrier(s) to safe pedestrian access.

(c) **Green Buildings and Renewable Energy - 8 Points Maximum**

- (1) 3 points will be awarded for **Projects** that are designed to achieve green building status beyond State mandatory building code requirements as verified by a Home Energy Rating System (HERS) rater. Applicants may select from the following green building certification programs:

Certifications for residential construction:

Program	Tier
CalGreen	Tier 2
LEED	Gold
Green Point Rated	New Construction: Gold Rehabilitation: Whole Building
ENERGY STAR	Certified Home

Certifications for non-residential construction:

Program	Tier
CalGreen	Tier 2
LEED	Gold

- (2) Up to 5 points will be awarded for **Projects** that achieve energy grid use reductions, measured as total onsite energy consumption and as verified by a HERS rater, based on the following:

Level	Points
Energy Producer	2 points
Zero Net Energy	5 points

- Energy Producer: At least one-third (or 33 percent) of the building energy is produced by on site renewable sources.
- Zero Net Energy: A development that produces as much energy as it consumes over the course of a year, when accounted for at the energy generation source.

(d) **Housing and Transportation Collaboration - 9 Points Maximum**

- (1) Up to 6 points for applications with an AHSC funds request of at least \$1,000,000 for either **Affordable Housing Development** or **Housing-Related Infrastructure** AND an AHSC funds request for **Sustainable Transportation Infrastructure** that comprises at least a certain percentage of the total AHSC funds request as detailed below:

STI Funds Request as percentage of Total AHSC Request	Points
10%	2 points
15%	4 points
25%	6 points

- (2) 2 points for applications which invest at least 5 percent of total AHSC funds in **Transportation Related Amenities** at a **Transit Station or Stop** within the **Project Area**. One point will be given to projects that invest at least 5 percent of total AHSC funds in **Transportation Related Amenities**, but not at a **Transit Station or Stop**.
- (3) 1 point for **Projects** which have received funding from other Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) programs which directly benefit or contribute to the development of the proposed **Project**.

OR

1 point for **Projects** within environmentally cleared California high speed rail station planning areas.

(e) **Location Efficiency and Access to Destinations - 6 Points Maximum**

- (1) Up to 3 points will be given for the Location Efficiency of the **Project** site as determined by the US EPA Walkability Index using the address of the **Project** site. If the **Project** is a corridor and does not have a specific address, use the center most point of the **Project** for the calculation. [Click here for the methodology for the Walkability Index](#).

Points will be given on the following scale:

- 3 points: Most Walkable (Dark Green; 15.25-20)
 - 2 points: Above Average Walkable (Light Green; 10.51-15.25)
 - 1 point: Below Average Walkable (Yellow; 5.76-10.5)
 - 0 points: Least Walkable (Orange; 1-5.75)
- (2) Up to 3 points will be given for projects that provide a map highlighting the location of existing **Key Destinations** within the Project Area. Each type of **Key Destination** is worth one third of a point and may only be counted once.
- Grocery store which meets the CalFresh Program requirements
 - Medical clinic that accepts Medi-Cal payments
 - Public elementary, middle or high school
 - Licensed child care facility
 - Pharmacy
 - Park accessible to the general public
 - Public library
 - Office park
 - University or junior college
 - Bank or Post Office
 - Place of Worship

(f) **Funds Leveraged - 4 Points Maximum**

- (1) A maximum of 4 points will be awarded for applications demonstrating **Enforceable Funding Commitments** to leverage AHSC funded **Capital**

Projects and **Program** activities. Applications will be scored based on the amount of **Enforceable Funding Commitments** (as defined in Appendix A) from sources other than the **AHSC Program**, as a percentage of the requested amount of **AHSC Program** funds as follows:

Enforceable Funding Commitments as percentage of Total AHSC Request	Points
50% to 99%	1 points
100% to 149%	2 points
150% to 199%	3 points
>200%	4 points

(g) **Anti-Displacement Strategies - 5 Points Maximum**

- (1) Up to 3 points (1 point per strategy) for **Projects** that either implement strategies or programs, or are located in jurisdictions with policies, strategies or programs that currently exist to prevent the displacement of local community residents from the area surrounding the **Project**. Strategies should be selected from the following lists and may only be counted for one point each unless otherwise noted.*

Voluntarily Implemented by Applicants:

- Replacement requirements or demonstration of no net loss of units on site according to affordability
- First right of return policies that include moving expenses
- Strategies in coordination with local governments or other pertinent organization to address indirect or direct displacement in neighborhoods near the proposed project (e.g., donation to community land trust, multi-lingual tenant legal counseling)
- Affirmative marketing strategies or plans targeting nearby neighborhoods, a **Disadvantaged Community** or a **Low-Income Community**

Implemented by Local Jurisdiction: *

- Replacement requirements in targeted growth areas such as transit stations, transit corridors, job and housing rich areas, downtowns and revitalization areas or policies on sites identified pursuant to Government Code section 65583.2(g)(3)
- Rent stabilization programs beyond what is required by California Civil Code 1946.2
- Just cause eviction or other efforts improving tenant stability beyond what is required by California Civil Code 1946.2
- Ongoing funding programs of at least \$1,000,000 in cumulative allocations, affirmative marketing strategies and policies dedicated to the conservation and improvement of housing for lower and moderate income households (e.g., acquisition/rehabilitation, community land trusts, land banking, mobilehome park overlay zones, single room occupancy preservation ordinances, affordable housing or commercial linkage fees).

Different strategies captured within this bullet point are each eligible for points.

- Density bonus ordinances that expand on state replacement requirements

* Strategies under “Implemented by Local Jurisdiction” will only be awarded points if these policies are implemented by the local jurisdiction.

- (2) Up to 2 points (1 point per strategy) for **Projects** demonstrating policies, strategies or programs that either currently exist or will be implemented through this **Project** to prevent the displacement of locally-owned businesses from the area surrounding the **Project**. One point will be given for a policy, strategy, or program that either currently exists or is newly implemented through this **Project**. Two points will be given for two policies, strategies, or programs, either as one currently existing and one newly implemented through this **Project**, or both newly implemented through this **Project**. Strategies should be selected from this following list:

- Implementation of an overlay zone to protect and assist small businesses;
- Establishment of a small business advocate office and single point of contact for every small business owner;
- Creation and maintenance of a small business alliance;
- Increased visibility of the jurisdiction’s small business assistance programs;
- Formal program to ensure that some fraction of a jurisdiction’s purchases of goods and services come from local businesses;
- Prioritization of Minority and Women Business Enterprises (MWBE) for public contracting.

(h) **Prohousing Local Policies - 2 Points Maximum**

- (1) Up to 2 points (1 point per strategy) will be awarded for **Projects** that are located in jurisdictions that meet the following criteria:

- Implemented programs over the last five years that finance infrastructure with accompanying increased housing capacity or local financial incentives for housing, including, but not limited to, a local housing trust fund or fee waivers.
- Adopted a Nondiscretionary Local Approval Process for residential and mixed-use development in all zones permitting multifamily housing, established workforce housing opportunity zones, as defined in Gov. Code Section 65620, or housing sustainability districts, as defined in Gov. Code Section 66200.
- Zoning more sites for residential development or zoning sites at higher densities than is required to accommodate 150 percent of the minimum

regional housing needs allocation for the low income allocation in the current housing element cycle.

- Adopted accessory dwelling unit ordinances or other mechanisms that reduce barriers for property owners to create accessory dwelling units beyond the requirements outlined in Gov. Code Section 65852.2 as follows:
 - Parking reductions to 0.75 or fewer spaces per accessory dwelling unit in areas not already exempt from parking pursuant to Gov. Code Section 65852.2;
 - Processing and Impact fee waivers or reductions of 50 percent or more;
 - Ministerial approval in fewer than 45 days;
 - Reduction or modifications of development standards for side yard setbacks to five feet or less;
 - Reduction or modifications of development standards to two story heights;
 - Reduction or modifications of development standards to allow 60 percent or more lot coverage;
 - No minimum lot size requirement;
 - Provisions for affordability; or
 - Offering support programs such as a user-friendly website
- Only use objective design standards for multifamily residential development or adopt fee transparency measures, including publicly available fee calculators.

(i) **Local Workforce Development & Hiring Practices - 2 Points Maximum**

(1) Up to 2 points for **Projects** that implement at least one workforce development strategy. Examples of workforce development strategies include:

- Establishing a partnership with a community-based workforce development and job training entities that have a track record of success serving disadvantaged populations and/or have demonstrated a high job placement rate among trainees from disadvantaged communities;
- Partnerships with pre-apprenticeship programs, state certified community conservation corps programs, “earn-while-you-learn” programs, YouthBuild programs, and/or registered apprenticeship programs that lead to industry recognized credentials, certifications and/or references for long term employment and that have a track record of success in serving low income residents;
- Partnerships with local Workforce Investment Board programs serving disadvantaged populations or individuals with barriers to employment.
- Projects that have developed project labor, community workforce, or high-road agreements with targeted local hire specifications OR that are located in jurisdictions with local hire ordinances that directly apply to the proposed project.

Applicants shall provide the name of the organization(s) they are partnering with, the demographic data on the population they serve, and a written agreement that details the partnership strategy or policy undertaken.”

The purpose of these workforce partnerships and targeted hire policies shall be to advance the recruitment, training, and/or hiring of low income residents and underrepresented workers living in disadvantaged communities in a manner that connects these populations with training and hiring opportunities that are created and/or facilitated through the project.

Note: Projects in which every AHSC project component cannot legally implement local hire or workforce development strategies must include an explanation detailing these barriers in order to receive full points.

(j) **Housing Affordability - 5 Points Maximum**

- (1) Up to 5 points will be awarded for applications which restrict a percentage of units in the **Affordable Housing Development** to Extremely Low Income (ELI) households:

Percent of total units restricted to ELI households	Points
5% to 10%	2 points
11% to 15%	3 points
16% to 20%	4 points
>20%	5 points

(k) **Programs – 2 Points Maximum**

- (1) 1 point will be awarded to applicants that propose an AHSC funded eligible **Program**. For transit pass programs to qualify for this point, they must be offered to at least as many individuals within the community as are offered to residents of the **Affordable Housing Development**.
- (2) Up to 1 point will be awarded for applicants that provide documentation showing how the Program Operator will sustain the program beyond the term of the AHSC Program grant (three years).

(l) **Urban Greening – 2 Points Maximum**

- (1) 1 point will be awarded to applicants that propose between \$100,000 - \$199,999 in reasonable direct **Urban Greening** costs.
- (2) 2 points will be awarded to applicants that propose \$200,000 or more in reasonable direct **Urban Greening** costs.

Narrative-Based Policy Scoring- 16 Points

The narrative-based policy scoring section of the application will be scored only for projects that obtain over 50 percent of the Quantitative and GHG QM points (i.e., 43 points or higher). For this section, applicants must include a PDF attachment of a narrative that addresses the following questions and prompts. Please include the bolded headers listed below for each point section of the write-up; the questions should not be re-stated in the write-up. The total write-up may not exceed six pages, not including required documentation. Ensure that all relevant information for each section is included either in the response for that section, or the required documentation for that section.

(m) **Collaboration & Planning - 4 Points Maximum**

Collaboration between local governments and housing and transportation providers is critical to create a project that ensures connectivity and responds to its contexts. Outline how the proposed project brings together the efforts of local government, including housing and transportation agencies. The following prompts must be addressed in the narrative:

- (1) **Local Planning Efforts:** Identify what local planning efforts the project implements, and if applicable, describe what particular components of the project are derived from a local plan. Explain how local government agencies were involved in the process of creating the project.
 - Agencies to consider in your answer may include, but are not limited to: local public works department, transit agencies, planning and community development departments, housing departments, local health department, schools/school districts, emergency services, law enforcement, etc.
 - Examples of planning efforts to discuss may include, but are not limited to: General Plan (e.g., circulation element or housing element); Specific Plan; Community Plan; Climate Action Plan; Redevelopment Plan; Bicycle Master Plan; Disadvantaged Community Assessment (Government Code Section 65302); Pedestrian Master Plan; Local Coastal Plan; Transit Plan; Transit Corridor Plan; Station Area Plan; Corridor System Management Plan; Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Strategy or Plan.

Required Documentation: Applicable section or elements of local planning document.

- (2) **Housing and Transportation Collaboration:** Describe the relationship between the joint-applicants or partners that worked together to create the proposed AHSC **Project**. Explain the process involved in coming together to create a larger vision for the **Project Area**. Describe the integration of housing, transportation, and urban greening infrastructure components in creating a cohesive **Project**.

Required Documentation: Site Plan and project area map (or context plan).

(n) **Community Benefits & Engagement - 6 Points Maximum**

Community involvement and leadership are crucial to ensuring that both the principle objectives and co-benefits of the project respond to the true needs of local residents. Explain how local residents and community-based organizations were meaningfully engaged in developing the **Project**, especially those from **Disadvantaged** and **Low-income Communities**, and how the project addresses community-identified needs. Please address the prompts below in your narrative.

- (1) **Community Engagement and Leadership:** Describe how community-based organizations and local residents have been meaningfully involved in the visioning and development of this project. Explain in which stage(s) of the process community members and CBOs have been and will be engaged. Describe efforts to involve **Disadvantaged** and/or **Low-Income Community** residents, including how meetings were advertised and made accessible.
- (2) **Addressing Community Needs:** Demonstrate how the proposed AHSC project meets one or more identified community needs, articulating how these needs were identified (e.g. through the community engagement process, a local needs assessment, as part of a local health department plan or other city/county plan, etc.). Address community needs beyond the provisions of housing and transportation. For projects located in a **Disadvantaged Community** or **Low-Income Community**, applicants are also encouraged to cite top burdens from their CalEnviroScreen 3.0 score as community needs that their projects will address.

Required Documentation:

1. *Letter of support from local community-based, grassroots organization describing the community engagement process and how feedback from local residents was incorporated into the project.*
2. *Community Engagement Tracker: Provide additional information on events where community participation occurred in the Community Engagement Tracker template.*

(o) **Community Climate Resiliency - 3 Points Maximum**

Communities will continue to experience effects of climate change in various ways, including increased likelihood of droughts, sea level rise, flooding, wildfires, heatwaves and severe weather. Due to these effects, climate resiliency is a key part of planning and project implementation decisions.

- (1) **Climate Adaptation Assessment Matrix:** Fill out the Climate Adaptation Assessment Matrix with climate projections for the listed impacts and with technical descriptions of adaptive measures to be employed. If the project is considering climate projections from data sources besides those listed below, state where the data are from and if they use different assumptions (e.g., time horizon).
- (2) **Climate Adaptation:** Describe how the risks posed from changing climate conditions will be reduced by strategies listed in the Climate Adaptation

Assessment. Consider the lifetime of **Project** elements, risks posed by changing climate conditions, and consequences of those risks (e.g., impacts to occupant health and safety, structural integrity, heating and cooling systems, etc.). If your local city or county has added adaptation measures to the General Plan or other local planning documents, describe how the **Project** conforms to the implementation of that plan (Government Code section 65302(g)(4), requires cities and counties to incorporate climate considerations in the Safety Element of the General Plan or other local plan or document by January 1, 2022). Please separate responses according to climate impacts.

Note: If available, use localized climate impact projections. For tools to help assess general climate impacts, please visit [Cal-Adapt](#). For adaptation tools, resources, strategies and case studies visit the [state's Adaptation Clearinghouse](#).

(p) **Community Air Pollution Exposure Mitigation – 2 Points Maximum**

Decreasing air pollution exposure to residents living near sources, including (but not limited to) freeways and high-volume roadways, is essential for ensuring the benefits of infill development are actualized, including promoting public health. Implementing scientifically based air pollution mitigation strategies at the project level, can help protect public health and support GHG reduction goals.

- (1) **Air Pollution Exposure Mitigation Strategies:** Identify pollutants of concern and known sources of pollution affecting the Project Area. Report the Particulate Matter (PM) 2.5, Diesel PM, Toxic Releases to Air, and Traffic Density percentiles as described in CalEnviroScreen 3.0 for the census tract in which the project will be sited.* Describe how air pollution mitigation strategies are utilized in the design of the **Project**, how they were selected, and how they address pollution sources.

Example Strategies:
Speed reduction mechanisms, including roundabouts
Traffic signal management
Design that promotes air flow and pollutant dispersion along street corridors
Solid barriers, such as sound walls or those created by continuous vegetation
MERV 16 air filtration system

Note: These strategies are limited by the many factors that may influence their effectiveness, ranging from local meteorology and topography to human use, maintenance, etc.

Note: For additional suggested strategies to mitigate air pollution exposure see the following resources:

- Bay Area Air Quality Management District, [“Planning Healthy Places”](#)
- California Air Resources Board, [“Strategies to Reduce Air Pollution Exposure near High Volume Roadways: Technical Advisory”](#)

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, [“Best Practices for Reducing Near-Road Air Pollution Exposure at Schools”](#)
- California Governor’s Office of Planning and Research, [“General Plan Guidelines”](#). Chapter 6- Healthy Communities
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [“Recommendations for Constructing Roadside Vegetation Barriers to Improve Near-Road Air Quality”](#)
- Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, [“Public Health Recommendations to Minimize the Health Effects of Air Pollution Associated with Development Near Freeways and High-Volume Roads”](#)

Note: In CalEnviroScreen 3.0, a geographic area’s percentile for a given indicator simply tells the percentage of areas with lower values of that indicator. A percentile does not describe the magnitude of the difference between two or more areas. For example, an area ranked in the 30th percentile is not necessarily three times more impacted than an area ranked in the 10th percentile.

** For a spreadsheet showing raw data and calculated percentiles for individual indicators for individual census tracts, download the [CalEnviroScreen 3.0 results](#).*

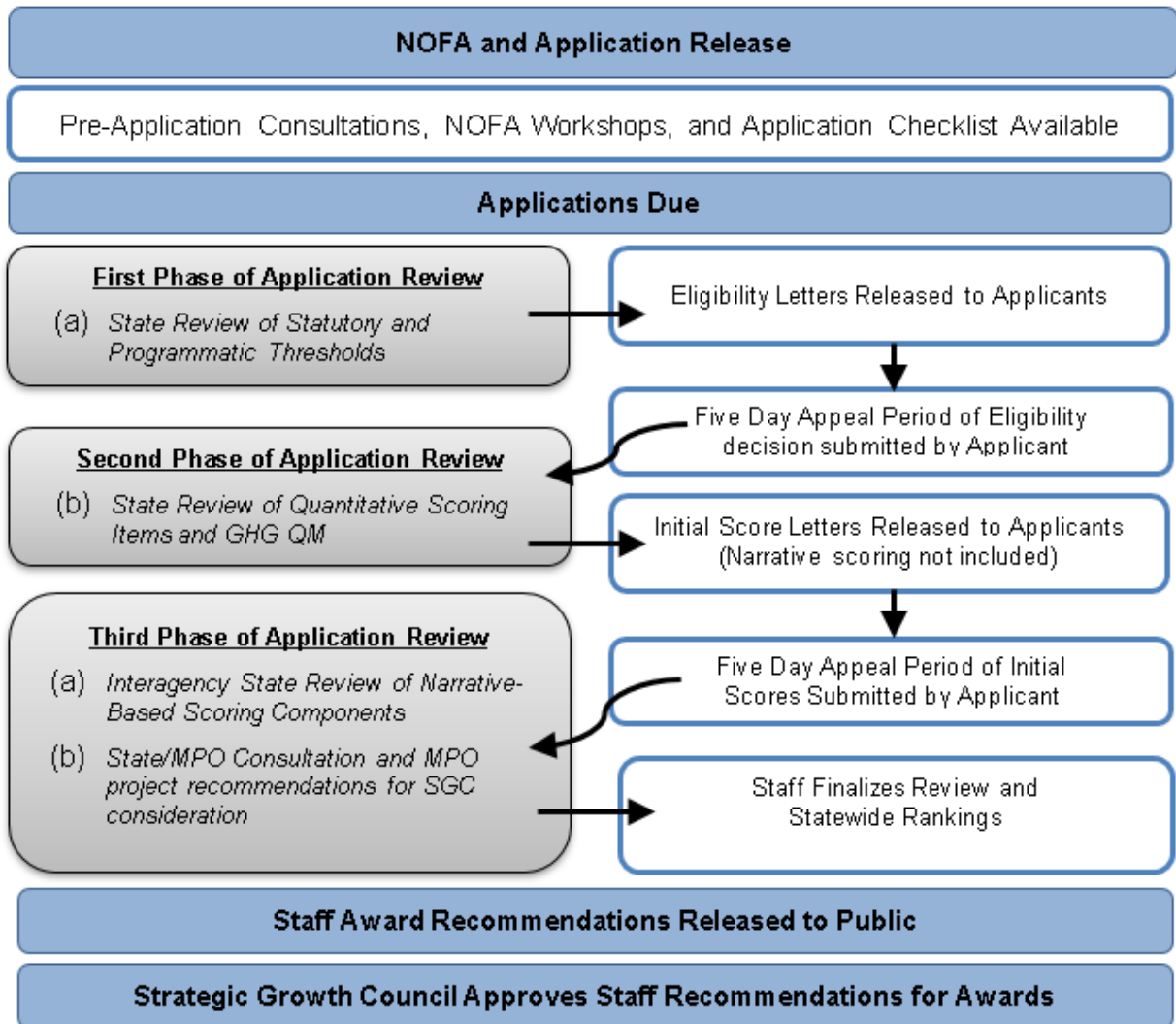
Section 108. Application Process

- (a) Pursuant to direction of the **Council**, the **Department** shall offer funds through a **NOFA** and applications will be reviewed based on the steps detailed below and illustrated in Figure 6.
- (b) The **Department** will offer optional pre-application consultations as detailed in the **NOFA** in order to provide assistance to applicants regarding minimum threshold eligibility and other program requirements.
- (c) Applications will be made available through the **Department**, and complete applications must be submitted to the **Department** by the deadline detailed in the **NOFA**.
- (d) The highest scoring applications that meet all threshold requirements as determined by the **Department**, based on criteria set forth in these guidelines, shall be recommended to the **Council** for funding as specified in the **NOFA**. The **Council** may make adjustments in this procedure to meet the following objectives:
 - (1) At least fifty (50) percent of **AHSC Program** expenditure for **Projects** benefitting and located in **Disadvantaged Communities**.
 - (2) At least fifty (50) percent of the annual proceeds appropriated for the **AHSC Program** shall be expended for affordable housing. For the purposes of this set-aside, expenditures related to **Affordable Housing Development** and **Housing-Related Infrastructure Capital Projects** shall count toward this requirement.
 - (3) **Project Area** type targets are as follows:
 - (A) Target forty five (45) percent of funds available as designated in the **NOFA** to **TOD Project Area** applications.
 - (B) Target thirty five (35) percent of funds available as designated in the **NOFA** to **ICP Project Area** applications.
 - (C) Target ten (10) percent of funds available as designated in the **NOFA** to **RIPA** applications.
 - (D) Remaining ~~ten twenty~~ (210) percent of available funds may be awarded to any eligible project area type.
 - (E) To the extent applications received are not sufficient to meet **TOD Project Area, ICP Project Area or RIPA** targets detailed in (i), (ii) and (iii) above, the **Council** reserves the right to waive these requirements and recommend funding a greater percentage of applications in either of the three identified **Project Area** types.
 - (4) **Project Area** type targets and statutory set-asides detailed in (3) above will be subject to the following process:

- (A) Applications for TOD, ICP and RIPA Project Areas will be ranked based on the result of the Estimated GHG Emissions Reductions as stated in Section 107(a) and binned separately by respective **Project Area** types.
 - (B) For each application, the resulting score from this initial binning will be added to scores from the quantitative and narrative-based scoring criteria to determine an applicant's total score.
 - (C) Total application scores will be ranked within each **Project Area** type (TOD, ICP and RIPA). Applications will be recommended to the Council for award based on the amount of funding targeted in each **Project Area** type, as detailed in Section 108(d)(3).
 - (D) Applications not recommended for funding based on the application of **Project Area** type set-asides will be re-binned based on the Estimated GHG Emissions Reductions using the same methodology outlined in section 107(a) without regard to **Project Area** type.
 - (E) Each application's resulting **GHG Emissions Reductions** score will be added to previously determined scores for other project criteria to determine a revised total application score. This revised total application score will be used to allocate the remaining 10 percent of funds available under the NOFA, with specific consideration given to ensure statutory set-asides for **Affordable Housing** and **Disadvantaged Communities** are met.
- (5) Regardless of **Project Area** type, the Council will seek to fund one project, in the tribal funding target, per funding cycle to a **Federally Recognized Indian Tribe**, an eligible entity having co-ownership with a **Federally Recognized Indian Tribe**, or an eligible entity established by a **Federally Recognized Indian Tribe** to undertake Tribal housing projects. The **Project** must meet the requirements laid out in Appendix B in order to qualify for the Tribal funding target. Unless stated otherwise, the **Project** must meet all AHS Program requirements. The **Project** will contribute to the relevant **Project Area** type target. If multiple Federally Recognized Indian Tribes apply for **Projects**, the Council will apply the scoring criteria from these Guidelines to rank the **Projects** such that the top-ranked **Project** will be awarded under the Council's Tribal target and the remaining **Project(s)** will compete in their respective **Project Area** types.
- (6) Though there are no statutory requirements or specific targets for regional allocation of awards, the **Council** is committed to striving for an equitable distribution of resources. Since it is in the interest of the State to fund a variety of project types and scales in a variety of locations to demonstrate the many ways GHG emissions may be reduced, adjustments may be made in the recommendation and award of funds.

- (7) A single **Developer** may be awarded no more than \$60 million per **NOFA** funding cycle, however this limitation may be waived if necessary to meet AHSC statutory funding set-asides.
 - (8) As station area plans for High Speed Rail are implemented, the **Council** may prioritize investments in these areas.
 - (9) The **Department** may elect to not evaluate compliance with some or all threshold requirements for applications that are not within a fundable range.
 - (10) In the event of two or more applications having the same scores, the Council has the discretion to make the final selection regarding these projects to ensure alignment with the objectives set out in these **AHSC Program** Guidelines.
 - (11) Applications recommended for funding and approved by the **Council** are subject to conditions specified by the **Department**. Applicants will receive an official letter of award after funding recommendations are approved by the **Council**.
 - (12) Applications will be treated in accordance with Public Records Act. Certain information, in accordance with the Public Records Act, may be publicly disclosed.
- (e) Metropolitan Planning Agency Role in Application Review
- (1) To support implementation of an applicable SCS and consistency with activities or strategies identified in a regional SCS, or similar planning document that demonstrate a per capita reduction in VMT and GHG, as allowed by SB 862 (Chapter 36, Statutes of 2014), an MPO/region may develop its own process prior to the application due date to identify and recommend applications that have the highest regional priorities based on criteria established by the MPO/region.

Figure 6: AHSC Program Application Review Process



Article III. Legal and Reporting Requirements

Section 109. Legal Documents

- (a) **Rental Affordable Housing Developments:** Upon the award of **AHSC Program** funds to assist a rental **Affordable Housing Development**, the **Department** shall enter into one or more agreements with the applicant, which may be in the form a State of California Standard Agreement (Standard Agreement), which shall commit funds from the **AHSC Program** in an amount sufficient to fund the approved **AHSC Program** loan amount. The agreement or agreements shall contain the following:
- (1) A description of the approved **Affordable Housing Development** and the permitted uses of **AHSC Program** funds;
 - (2) The amount and terms of the **AHSC Program** loan;
 - (3) The regulatory restrictions to be applied to the **Affordable Housing Development** through the Regulatory Agreement;
 - (4) Special conditions imposed as part of the **Department's** approval of the **Affordable Housing Development**;
 - (5) Requirements for the execution and the recordation of the agreements and documents required under the **AHSC Program**;
 - (6) Terms and conditions required by federal and state law;
 - (7) Requirements regarding the establishment of escrow accounts for the deposit of documents and the deposit and disbursement of **AHSC Program** loan proceeds;
 - (8) the approved schedule of the **Affordable Housing Development**, including land acquisition if any, commencement and completion of construction or rehabilitation work, and occupancy by eligible households;
 - (9) Terms and conditions for the inspection and monitoring of the **Project** in order to verify compliance with the requirements of the **AHSC Program**;
 - (10) Provisions regarding tenant relocation in accordance with State law;
 - (11) Provisions relating to the placement of a sign on or in the vicinity of, the **Affordable Housing Development** site indicating that the **Council** has provided financing for the **Affordable Housing Development**. The **Council** may also arrange for publicity of the **AHSC Program** loan in its sole discretion;
 - (12) Provisions to ensure that the eligible costs and use of **AHSC Program** funds maintain the required GHG Reduction represented in the application;
 - (13) Other provisions necessary to ensure compliance with the requirements of the **AHSC Program**;

- (14) Description of the conditions constituting breach of the agreement(s) and remedies available to the parties thereto; and
 - (15) Any of the **Department's** standard contractual terms that may be applicable.
- (b) For rental **Affordable Housing Developments**, the **Department** shall enter into a single Regulatory Agreement with the applicant for not less than the original term of the loan that shall be recorded against all sites comprising the property of the **Affordable Housing Development** prior to the disbursement of funds. The Regulatory Agreement shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
- (1) The number, type and income level of **Restricted Units**;
 - (2) Standards for tenant selection pursuant to 25 **CCR** 8305;
 - (3) Provisions regulating the terms of the rental agreement pursuant to 25 **CCR** 8307;
 - (4) Provisions related to a Rent Schedule, including initial rent levels for **Restricted Units** and non-Restricted Units pursuant to subsections (a) and (b) of MHP Guidelines Section 7312;
 - (5) Conditions and procedures for permitting rent increases pursuant to MHP Guidelines Section 7312;
 - (6) Provisions for limitations on Distributions pursuant to 25 **CCR** 8314 and on developer fees pursuant to 25 **CCR** 8312;
 - (7) Provisions regarding the deposit and withdrawal of funds to and from reserve accounts in accordance with 25 **CCR** 8308 and 8309;
 - (8) Assurances that the **Affordable Housing Development** will be maintained in a safe and sanitary condition in compliance with state and local housing codes and the management plan, pursuant to MHP Guidelines Section 7324;
 - (9) Description of the conditions constituting breach of the Regulatory Agreement and remedies available to the parties thereto;
 - (10) Provisions governing use and operation of non-Restricted Units and common areas to the extent necessary to ensure compliance with AHSC Program requirements;
 - (11) Special conditions of loan approval imposed by the **Department**;
 - (12) "Program Operations," MHP Guidelines Sections 7321 through 7326, shall apply to rental **Affordable Housing Developments** assisted by the **AHSC Program**; and
 - (13) Other provisions necessary to assure compliance with the requirements of the **AHSC Program**.

- (c) All **AHSC Program** loans for assistance to rental **Affordable Housing Developments** shall be evidenced by a promissory note payable to the **Department** in the principal amount of the loan and stating the terms of the loan consistent with the requirements of the **AHSC Program**. The note shall be secured by a deed of trust on the **Affordable Housing Development** property naming the **Department** as beneficiary or by other security acceptable to the **Department**; this deed of trust or other security shall be recorded junior only to such liens, encumbrances and other matters of record approved by the Department and shall secure the **Department's** financial interest in the **Affordable Housing Development** and the performance of applicant's **AHSC Program** obligations.
- (d) Grants shall be governed by a Standard Agreement or other agreement with the **Recipient** in a form prescribed by the **Department**. The agreement shall ensure that the provisions of these Guidelines are applicable to the **Project** covered by the agreement and enforceable by the **Department**. The agreement will contain such other provisions as the **Department** determines are necessary to meet the requirements and goals of the **AHSC Program**, including but not limited to the following:
- (1) A description and sources and uses of the approved **Project** and the permitted uses of **AHSC Program** funds;
 - (2) Provisions governing the amount, terms and conditions of the **AHSC Program** grant;
 - (3) Provisions governing the construction work and, as applicable, the acquisition and preparation of the site of the **Capital Project**, and the manner, timing and conditions of the disbursement of grant funds;
 - (4) A schedule for completion of the **Project** and a series of milestones for progress toward **Project** completion together with the remedies available to the **Department** in the event of the failure to meet such milestones;
 - (5) Provisions for the payment of prevailing wages if and as required by state or federal law;
 - (6) Requirements for periodic reports from the **Recipient** on the construction and use of the **Project** and provisions for monitoring of the **Project** by the **Department**;
 - (7) The **Recipient's** responsibilities for the development of the approved **Project**, including, but not limited to, construction management, maintaining of files, accounts and other records, and report requirements;
 - (8) Provisions relating to the development, construction, affordability and occupancy of the **Affordable Housing Development** supported by the **Housing-Related Infrastructure Capital Project**, if applicable;

- (9) Provisions relating to the placement on, or in the vicinity of, the **Project** site, a sign indicating that the **Council** has provided financing for the **Project**. The **Council** may also arrange for publicity of the grant in its sole discretion;
- (10) Remedies available to the **Department** in the event of a violation, breach or default of the Standard Agreement;
- (11) Requirements that the **Recipient** permit the **Department** or its designated agents and employees the right to inspect the **Project** and all books, records and documents maintained by the **Recipient** in connection with the **AHSC Program** grant or loan or both;
- (12) Special conditions imposed as part of **Department** approval of the project;
- (13) Terms and conditions required by federal or state law;
- (14) Provisions to ensure that the **Project** maintains the required **GHG Reduction** as represented in the application; and
- (15) Other provisions necessary to ensure compliance with the requirements of the **AHSC Program**.

Section 110. Reporting Requirements

- (a) During the term of the Standard Agreement and according to the annual deadline identified in the Standard Agreement, the **Recipient** shall submit, upon request of the **Department** and the **Council**, an annual performance report that demonstrates satisfaction of all reporting requirements pursuant to the **AHSC Program** reporting requirements identified in the Standard Agreement. Recipient shall also submit the reports required by MHP Guidelines Sections 7325 and 7326 and any additional reporting requirements developed by the **Department**, the **Council** or **ARB**. The reports will be filed on forms provided by the **Department**.
- (b) **Recipient** is responsible for meeting the applicable project reporting requirements of CARB's *Funding Guidelines for Agencies that Administer California Climate Investments* as well as CARB's AHSC Program Quantification Methodology and Benefits Calculator Tool. These may include, but are not limited to: **Project** metrics; the duration over which the **Recipient** will track **Project** metrics; frequency of reporting; the format **Recipient** will use to report; **Project** profile information; **Project** benefit information; and information related to **Priority Population** benefits.
- (1) Award recipients are required to submit estimates of jobs supported by their projects using CARB's Jobs Co-Benefit Assessment Methodology within 90 days of award. This methodology will estimate the number of jobs supported by the AHSC investment based upon the **Project's** budget.
- (2) Consistent with the *2018 Funding Guidelines for Agencies that Administer California Climate Investments*, AHSC funding recipients must track and report the employment outcomes of their projects. Award recipients will be required to conduct **Employment Benefits and Outcomes Reporting** for employment benefits and outcomes created supported by the AHSC investment and all leveraged funding, while accommodating provisions for data privacy. Once funds are disbursed, reporting may occur as frequently as an annual basis. AHSC Program staff will work with applicants to clarify what the jobs reporting process may look like.

The following items must be reported according to each job classification or trade:

- Job Training Credentials including Credentials from Apprenticeship and Workforce Development Programs
- Number of Jobs Provided
- Total Project Work Hours
- Average Hourly Wage
- Total Number of Workers who Completed Job Training
- Description of Job Quality and Benefits Provided (insurance, annual leave, overtime, etc.)

Number of jobs, project work hours, and average hourly wage for **Priority Populations** must also be indicated. A complete list of required tracking indicators will be provided to awardees and included in their Standard Agreements.

The following references are available for addition guidance in determining employment and other co-benefit reporting requirements:

- [Funding Guidelines](#)
- [Benefit Assessment](#)
- [Co-benefit Assessment Methodologies](#)

All projects awarded in future rounds will be subject to **Employment Benefits and Outcomes Reporting** requirements.

- (c) At any time during the term of the Standard Agreement, the **Department** may perform or cause to be performed a financial audit of any and all phases of the **Recipient's Project**. At the **Department's** request, the **Recipient** shall provide, at its own expense, a financial audit prepared by a certified public accountant. The State of California has the right to review project documents and conduct audits during project implementation and over the project life.

Section 111. Performance Requirements

- (a) **Recipients** shall begin construction of the housing units to be developed in the **Affordable Housing Development** that is a **Capital Project** and the housing designated in the application within the time set forth in the Standard Agreement but not later than July 30, ~~2022~~2023.
 - (1) **Recipients** may request extensions of the performance requirement in Section 111(a) by addressing a letter to SGC's Executive Director explaining the circumstances for why an extension is needed and detailing a plan for meeting the extended performance requirement deadline. At the discretion of SGC's Executive Director, an extension of up to two (2) years may be granted.
- (b) The housing units developed in the **Affordable Housing Development** that is a **Capital Project** and the housing designated in the application must be completed, as evidenced by receipt of a certificate of occupancy, within the period of time set forth in the Standard Agreement, but not later than July 30, ~~2025~~2026.
 - (1) **Recipients** may request extensions of the performance requirement in Section 111(b) by addressing a letter to SGC's Executive Director explaining the circumstances for why an extension is needed and detailing a plan for meeting the extended performance requirement deadline. At the discretion of SGC's Executive Director, an extension of up to two (2) years may be granted.
- (c) **AHSC Program** funds must be disbursed in accordance with deadlines specified in the Standard Agreement, and in no event later than the disbursement deadlines outlined in the **NOFA**.
- (d) **Recipients** may only reapply for **AHSC Program** funds in a subsequent **NOFA** for the same **Project** if the **Recipient** has disbursed at least fifty (50) percent of the funds allocated from prior awards.
- (e) Negative points will be assessed against the Developer on subsequent AHSC applications if the Project does not comply with the dates set in the Standard Agreement for the performance requirements described in Section 111(a) or Section 111(b).

Section 112. Defaults and Cancellations

- (a) In the event of a breach or violation by the **Recipient** of any of the provisions of the Standard Agreement, the **Department** may give written notice to the **Recipient** to cure the breach or violation within a period of not less than 15 days. If the breach or violation is not cured to the satisfaction of the **Department** within the specified time period, the **Department**, at its option, may declare a default under the Standard Agreement and may seek legal remedies for the default including the following:
- (1) The **Department** may seek, in a court of competent jurisdiction, an order for specific performance of the defaulted obligation or the appointment of a receiver to complete the **Project** in accordance with **AHSC Program** requirements.
 - (2) The **Department** may seek such other remedies as may be available under the relevant agreement or any law.
- (b) The **Department** may cancel funding commitments and Standard Agreements under any of the following conditions:
- (1) The objectives and requirements of the **AHSC Program** cannot be met by continuing the commitment or Standard Agreement;
 - (2) Construction of the **Capital Project** or implementation of **Program Costs** cannot proceed in a timely fashion in accordance with the timeframes established in the Standard Agreement; or
 - (3) Funding conditions have not been or cannot be fulfilled within required time periods.
- (c) Upon receipt of a notice of intent to cancel the grant from the **Department**, the **Recipient** shall have the right to appeal to the Director of the **Department**.

Section 113. Prevailing Wages

For the purposes of the State Prevailing Wage Law (Labor Code Sections 1720 – 1781), a grant or loan under the **AHSC Program** shall be considered public funding for the construction, rehabilitation, demolition, relocation, preservation, or other physical improvement of the **Capital Project** subject to the provisions of the State Prevailing Wage Law. AHSC Program funding of the **Project** shall not necessarily, in and of itself, be considered public funding of a **Project** unless such funding is considered public funding under the State Prevailing Wage Law. It is not the intent of the **Department** in these regulations to subject **Projects** to the State Prevailing Wage Law by reason of **AHSC Program** funding of the **Project** in those circumstances where such public funding would not otherwise make the **Project** subject to the State Prevailing Wage Law. Although the use of **AHSC Program** funds does not require compliance with federal Davis Bacon wages, other funding sources may require compliance with federal Davis Bacon wages.

Appendix A. Definitions

- (a) “Active Transportation” means infrastructure and non-infrastructure projects that encourage increased use of active modes of transportation, but does not include funding program operations. The project types include but are not limited to:
 - (1) Infrastructure Projects: capital improvements (construction) that will encourage increased use of active modes of transportation, such as biking and walking.
 - (2) Non-infrastructure Projects: education, encouragement and planning activities must encourage increased use of active modes of transportation, such as biking and walking.
- (b) “Active Transportation Program” means non-infrastructure related programs which instill safe pedestrian, bicyclist and motorist behaviors to make safe active transportation possible. Non-infrastructure activities can stand-alone or be conducted with infrastructure projects (fixed facilities or permanent structural changes) to increase effectiveness.
- (c) “Activity Delivery Costs” means staff costs incurred by the Public Agency that are directly related to implementing specific Capital Project and Program Costs. They may include costs such as project document preparation, project underwriting, construction management, inspections, or reporting to the Department.
- (d) “Affordable Housing Development” means a Capital Project that is a Housing Development in which at least 20 percent of the total units are Affordable Units.
- (e) “Affordable Unit” means a housing unit that satisfies all the following criteria:
 - (1) The unit must satisfy one of the following affordability criteria:
 - (A) It is available at an “affordable rent” as that terms is used and defined in Section 50053 of the Health & Safety Code;
 - (B) It is offered at an “affordable housing cost”, as that terms is used and defined in Section 50052.5 of the Health & Safety Code; or
 - (C) It is available at an “affordable rent” or an “affordable housing cost” according to the alternative percentages of income for agency-assisted rental and cooperative housing developments pursuant to Department regulations adopted under Health and Safety Code section 50462(f).
 - (2) For “Affordable Units” that are rental units, they must be subject to a recorded Program covenant ensuring affordability for a duration of at least 55 years.
 - (3) For “Affordable Units” that are ownership units, they must be sold to and occupied by an income-qualified household, and subject to a recorded covenant with a duration of at least 30 years that includes either a resale restriction or equity sharing upon resale.

- (4) For the purposes of this definition, the terms “persons and families of low income” and “area median income” shall have the same meanings as set forth in Health and Safety Code section 50093 and 50093(c).
- (5) The unit must be occupied by a “lower income household” as defined by Health and Safety Code section 50079.5, which includes “very low income households” as defined by Health and Safety Code section 50105 and also includes “extremely low income households” as defined by Health and Safety Code section 50106.
- (f) “AHSC Program” means the program as outlined by these Program Guidelines.
- (g) “Area Median Income” means the most recent applicable county median family income published by **TCAC**.
- (h) “Bus Rapid Transit” (BRT) means a rubber-tired form of rapid transit in an integrated system of facilities, equipment, services, and amenities that exceed the speed and reliability of regular bus service. BRT usually includes use of dedicated right-of way, including busways, exclusive lanes, and bypass/queue jumping lanes for buses at congested intersections to reduce vehicle running time and typically includes a combination of the following additional features: (1) center of road alignment, mixed-traffic prohibitive intersection treatments; (2) use of more limited-stop service including express service and skip-stopping; (3) application of Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) technology such as signal priority, automatic vehicle location systems, system security, and customer information; (4) platform level boarding and (5) off-board fare collection.
- (i) “Bus Service” means regularly scheduled public transit service operating with limited stops using a fixed route.
- (j) “Capital Project” means a project consisting of the construction, rehabilitation, demolition, relocation, preservation, acquisition, or other physical improvement that is an integral part of, or is necessary for completion of a Project.
- (k) “CCR” means the California Code of Regulations.
- (l) “Context Sensitive Bikeway” means on-street infrastructure for bicycle riding that is appropriately applied based on the traffic volumes and speeds on a specific street, as recommended in the California Highway Design Manual as follows:
- (1) For off street applications, install a Class I bicycle facility (Bicycle Path).
 - (2) For streets with speed limits of less than or equal to 25 MPH and vehicular average daily trips (ADT) of over 2,000, install Class II bicycle facility (Bike Lanes).
 - (3) For streets with speed limits of less than or equal to 25MPH and vehicular average daily trips (ADT) of under 2,000, install Class III bicycle facility (Bicycle Route) that functions as a “Bicycle Boulevard”, that is, a route which includes both sharrow markings and traffic control devices aimed at lowering vehicle

speed, and which prioritize bicycle through trips for bicycles over vehicles. Some example traffic control devices include bicycle right of ways, chicanes, traffic diverters, and mini roundabouts.

- (4) For streets with a speed limit greater than 25MPH, install a Class IV bicycle facility (Protected Bike Lanes, or also known as Cycletracks).
- (m) "Council" means the California Strategic Growth Council, established pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 75121.
- (n) "Currently Developed" means that the land in question is altered by paving, construction, and/or land use that would typically have required regulatory permitting to have been initiated.
- (o) "Deferred Costs" means costs deferred at construction loan closing, including but not limited to: capitalized reserves, loan fees, syndication costs, legal, accounting, audit, consultant fees, and developer fees paid from operating cashflow.
- (p) "Department" means the Department of Housing and Community Development of the State of California.
- (q) "Developer" means the entity that the Department and the Council rely upon for experience, site control, and capacity, and which controls either (1) the Affordable Housing Development during development and through occupancy, (2) the Housing-Related Infrastructure during development and through completion, or (3) the Sustainable Transportation Infrastructure and Transit-Related Amenities during development and through operation.
- (r) "Disadvantaged Community" means a census tract with a score in the top 25 percent or one of the 22 additional census tracts that score in the highest 5 percent of Pollution Burden as identified in California Environmental Protection Agency's [CalEnviroScreen 3.0](#) tool.
- (s) "Employment Benefit and Outcome Reporting" means submission of data about the jobs and related benefits created by the AHSC Investment as required by the [Funding Guidelines for Agencies Administering California Climate Investments](#).
- (t) "Enforceable Funding Commitment" means permanent commitments, including but not limited to the following:
 - (1) Low-income housing tax credit equity contributions (without the necessity of a tax credit reservation letter) and tax-exempt bonds in connection with four (4) percent low-income housing tax credits, AHSC Program funds, will be considered committed in this calculation.
 - (2) Funds conditionally reserved under the following programs shall be accepted as funding commitments: the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Supportive Housing Program (SHP), HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG),

and the California Department of Mental Health's Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Program.

- (3) A land donation in fee for no other consideration that is supported by an appraisal or purchase/sale agreement ("Land Donation") or a local fee waiver resulting in quantifiable cost savings for the Project where those fees are not otherwise required by federal or state law ("Local Fee Waiver") may be considered a funding commitment. The value of the Land Donation will be the greater of either the original purchase price or the current appraised value as supported by an independent third party appraisal prepared by a MAI-qualified appraiser within one year of the application deadline. A funding commitment in the form of a Local Fee Waiver must be supported by written documentation from the local Public Agency.
 - (4) Owner equity contributions or developer funds. Such contributions or funds shall not be subsequently substituted with a different funding source or forgone if committed in the application, except that a substitution may be made for up to 50 percent of deferred developer fee. The Department may require the applicant to evidence the availability of the proposed amount of owner equity or developer funds.
 - (5) Funds for transportation projects which are programmed for allocation and expenditure in the applicable capital improvement plan consistent with the terms and timeframes of the Standard Agreement.
- (u) "Energy Efficiency" means managing and restraining the growth in energy consumption.
- (v) "Federally Recognized Indian Tribe" means Indian native tribe, band, nation, pueblo, village or community that the Secretary of the Interior acknowledges to exist as an Indian tribe, pursuant to the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994, 25 U.S.C. 479a.
- (w) "Flexible Transit Service" means a form of transit for the public characterized by flexible routing and scheduling of small/medium vehicles operating in shared-ride mode (with at least two passengers) between pick-up and drop-off locations according to passenger needs. Flexible Transit Service includes vanpool, shuttle and feeder bus systems that reduce vehicle miles travelled.
- (x) "Floor Area Ratio" (FAR) means the square footage of the floor area of a building divided by the site square footage, excluding therefrom dedicated streets, sidewalks, parks and open space. The floor area of a building is the sum of the gross area of each floor of the building, excluding mechanical space, cellar space, floor space in open balconies, enclosed parking and elevators or stair bulkheads. Multiplying the FAR by the area of the site produces the minimum amount of floor area required in a building on the lot. For example, on a 10,000 square-foot site in a district with a minimum FAR of 1.5, the floor area of a building must be at least 15,000 square feet.

- (y) “Greenhouse Gas Reduction” (GHG Reduction) means actions designed to reduce emissions of one or all of the following gases: carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride.
- (z) “Green Streets” means a sustainable stormwater strategy that meets regulatory compliance and resource protection goals by using a natural systems approach to manage stormwater, reduce flows, improve water quality and enhance watershed health.
- (aa) “High Quality Transit” means a Qualifying Transit line with high frequencies AND permanent infrastructure as follows:
 - (1) Frequency: High Quality Transit must have Peak Period headway frequency of every 15 minutes or less and service seven days a week.
 - (2) Permanent Infrastructure: High Quality Transit must operate on a railway or be transit service with Bus Rapid Transit features that either fully or partially operate on a dedicated bus-only lane, or uses High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) or High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes.
- (bb) “Housing Development” means a residential development or the residential portion of a mixed-use development.
- (cc) “Housing-Related Infrastructure” means a capital infrastructure improvement required as a condition of approval of an affordable housing development by a Locality, transit agency or special district such as sewer, water or utility system upgrades, streets, drainage basins, etc.
- (dd) “Infill Site” means a site for which at least three of four sides or 75 percent of the perimeter of the site adjoins parcels that are **Currently Developed** qualified **Urban Uses**. In counting this, perimeters bordering navigable bodies of water and improved parks shall not be included. In order to qualify as an infill site, the site must also be located in an urbanized area meaning that it fulfills one of the following requirements:
 - (1) located within an incorporated city according to an official City or County map, OR
 - (2) located within an urbanized area or urban cluster as defined by the [U.S. Census Bureau](#), OR
 - (3) for unincorporated areas outside an urbanized area or urban cluster, the area shall be within a designated urban service area that is designated in the local general plan for urban development and is served by public sewer and water.
- (ee) “Integrated Connectivity Project (ICP) Project Area” means a Project Area which includes at least one (1) Transit Station/Stop with a combination of two or more eligible costs as defined in Section 103.

- (ff) “Intelligent Transportation Systems” means electronics, communications, or information technology, used singly or in combination, to improve the efficiency, accessibility or safety of the surface transportation system.
- (gg) “Key Destinations” means vital community amenities and resources including medical centers, schools, grocery stores, child care centers, pharmacies, public parks, or public libraries. Key Destinations must be operational at the time of application. This definition differs from “Activity Centers” as used in the AHSC Benefits Calculator Tool.
- (hh) “Locality” means a California city, unincorporated area within a county or a city and county.
- (ii) “Lower Income” has the meaning set forth in Health and Safety Code Section 50079.5.
- (jj) “Low-Income Community” means a census tract with either 1) median household incomes at or below 80 percent of the statewide median income, or 2) median household income at or below the threshold designated as low-income by Department of Housing and Community Development’s State Income Limits pursuant to the Health and Safety Code Section 50093.
- (kk) “Low-Income Households” mean individual households with either 1) household incomes at or below 80 percent of the statewide median income, or 2) household incomes at or below the threshold designated as low-income by Department of Housing and Community Development’s State Income Limits adopted pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 50093.
- (ll) “Mixed Use Development” means a building, combination of buildings, or building complex, designed to functionally and physically integrate non-residential uses such as retail, commercial, institutional, recreational, or community uses with residential uses, in a complementary manner.
- (mm) “Moderate Income” has the meaning set forth in Health and Safety Code Section 50093.
- (nn) “MHP” shall mean the Multifamily Housing Program authorized and governed by Sections 50675 through 50675.14 of the Health and Safety Code, and the MHP Guidelines dated June 19, 2019.
- (oo) “Natural Infrastructure” means the preservation and/or restoration of ecological systems, or utilization of engineered systems that use ecological processes, to increase resiliency to climate change and/or manage other environmental problems. Some examples relative to AHSC could include street trees and greenspace for water catchment, infiltration and surface cooling; water treatment facilities that utilize ecologically functioning wetlands; flood mitigation systems that utilize the natural floodplain and stable shorelines used in tandem with constructed flood barriers.

- (pp) “Net Density” means the total number of dwelling units per acre of land to be developed for residential or mixed use, excluding allowed deductible areas. Allowed deductible areas are public dedications of land which are for public streets, public sidewalks, public open space, public drainage facilities. Non-allowed deductible areas include utility easements, setbacks, private drives and walkways, general landscaping, common areas and facilities, off street parking, and traditional drainage facilities exclusive to a development project. Mitigations required for development will not be included in the allowed deductible areas.
- (qq) “NOFA” means a Notice of Funding Availability issued by the Department.
- (rr) “Peak Hours” or “Peak Period” means the period with the highest ridership during the entire transit service day as determined by the transit operator. Must include at least one hour during the morning commute hours and one during evening commute hours, Monday through Friday. Each Peak Period cannot be longer than three hours.
- (ss) “Performance measures” means indicators of transit regarding data indicators such as accessibility, mobility choices and ridership.
- (tt) “Priority Population” means residents of: (1) census tracts identified as disadvantaged by California Environmental Protection Agency per SB 535; (2) census tracts identified as low-income per AB 1550; or (3) a low-income household per AB 1550. See the [Priority Population maps](#) for more information.
- (uu) “Program Cost” means the cost(s) associated with 1) program creation, or 2) expansion of existing programs to serve new populations or offer new program service and implementation.
- (vv) “Program Operator” means the entity that administers the day-to-day operational responsibilities for the program for which the AHSC Program funding is sought.
- (ww) “Project” means the proposed use of funds representing a combination of Capital Projects or Program Costs which are proposed by the applicant to be funded the AHSC Program.
- (xx) “Project Area” means the area encompassing the Transit Station/Stop, housing and Key Destinations.
- (yy) “Public Agency” means a Locality, transit agency, public housing authority or redevelopment successor agency.
- (zz) “Qualifying Transit” means a transit line serving the public that is operated by the following: (1) Directly operated by a public entity; (2) Operated by a public entity via a contract for purchased transportation service with a private or non-profit provider; or (3) Operated by a private or non-profit entity as a grant Recipient or sub-recipient from a public entity. Qualifying Transit for the purpose of the Program includes various forms of fixed transit service (Rail Service and Bus Service) and Flexible Transit Service. A Qualifying Transit line requires service that departs two (2) or

more times during Peak Hours as defined by the transit operator. Flexible Transit service is exempt from these Peak Hours frequency requirements.

(aaa) "Rail Service" means regularly scheduled public transit service running on rails or railways.

(bbb) "Recipient" means the eligible applicant receiving a commitment of Program funds.

(ccc) "Restricted Units" mean residential units restricted by an enforceable covenant or agreement with the Department or other public agency to occupancy by low- or very low-income households, with affordable rents pursuant to MHP Guidelines Section 7312 or affordable housing costs pursuant to the CalHOME Program. Restricted Units must be substantially equivalent in size and number of bedrooms to the balance of units in the Housing Development. Restricted Units may consist of units designated for any housing tenure, rental or owner-occupied, within the Housing Development.

(ddd) "Rural Area" means the definition in Health and Safety Code Section 50199.21.

(eee) "Rural Innovation Project Area (RIPA)" means a Project Area located within a Rural Area which includes at least one (1) Transit Station/Stop with a combination of two or more eligible costs as defined in Section 103.

(fff) "Safe and Accessible Walkway" means a pedestrian corridor that has the following:

- (1) Continuously-paved, ADA-compliant sidewalks.
- (2) Marked pedestrian crossings at all arterial intersections.
- (3) Attributes which contribute to comfort and safety including, but not limited to, adequate lighting or shade canopy.

(ggg) "Secure Overnight Bicycle Parking" means bicycle parking that is not accessible to the general public, is completely enclosed and protects the bicycle from inclement weather, and allows for the bicycle frame to be secured to the bicycle rack at two points. Examples of Secure Overnight Bicycle Parking include bicycle rooms, bicycle lockers, and bicycle cages.

(hhh) "Site Control" means the applicant or Developer has control of property through one or more of the following:

- (1) Fee title;
- (2) A leasehold interest on the property with provisions that enable the lessee to make improvements on and encumber the property provided that the terms and conditions of any proposed lease shall permit, prior to grant funding, compliance with all program requirements;
- (3) An enforceable option to purchase or lease which shall extend through the anticipated date of the Program award as specified in the NOFA;

- (4) An executed disposition and development agreement, right of way, or irrevocable offer of dedication to a Public Agency;
 - (5) An executed encroachment permit for construction of improvements or facilities within the public right of way or on public land;
 - (6) An executed agreement with a public agency that gives the applicant exclusive rights to negotiate with the agency for the acquisition of the site; provided that the major terms of the acquisition have been agreed to by all parties;
 - (7) A land sales contract or enforceable agreement for acquisition of the property; or
 - (8) Other forms of site control that give the Department assurance (equivalent to 1-7 above) that the applicant or Developer will be able to complete the Project and all housing designated in the application in a timely manner and in accordance with all the requirements of the Program.
- (iii) “Smoke Free Housing” means an Affordable Housing Development that implements a policy banning the ignition and burning of tobacco products (including, but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, pipes, and water pipes or hookahs) in all living units, indoor common areas, and all other interior spaces. The smoke-free policy must also extend to all outdoor areas within 25 feet of occupied buildings on the **AHD** property.
- (jjj) “Substantial Rehabilitation” means a Housing Development with reasonable direct rehabilitation construction contract costs of at least \$35,000 per residential unit. Rehabilitation shall include energy efficiency upgrades per residential units. Rehabilitation projects must fully and efficiently address all of the physical needs of the Project for the term of the project loan and therefore merely meeting the minimum threshold cost amount of \$35,000 per residential unit may not, in and of itself, be sufficient to be considered Substantial Rehabilitation for purposes of the project loan.
- (kkk) “Sustainable Transportation Infrastructure” means capital project(s) that result in the improvement or addition of infrastructure that encourages mode-shift from single occupancy vehicles by enhancing: 1) public transit service, 2) pedestrian networks, or 3) bicycle networks (includes public bike-share programs) as well as operations expenditures that directly support transit expansion within the defined Project Area meeting the transit requirements detailed in Section 102 (c) or (d).
- (III) “TCAC” means the California Tax Credit Allocation Committee.
- (mmm) “Transit Corridor” means a transportation corridor which meets one of the following criteria: 1) A corridor served by Qualifying Transit; or 2) A corridor served by High Quality Transit that has been the subject of analysis, planning and environmental mitigation, and has been designated for investment within the regional transportation plan of a MPO, RTPA, or within a long range transportation plan of a transit agency.

- (nnn) "Transit Signal Priority (TSP)" means an operational strategy that facilitates the movement of transit vehicles through traffic-signal controlled intersections. Objectives of TSP include meeting on time schedule performance and improved transit travel time efficiency while minimizing impacts to normal traffic operations. TSP is made up of four components: (1) a detection system that lets the TSP system where the vehicle requesting signal priority is located. The detection system communicates with a (2) priority request generator that alerts the traffic control system that the vehicle would like to receive priority. (3) Priority control strategies; and 4) System management software collecting data and generating reports.
- (ooo) "Transit Station/Stop" means a designated location at which the various Qualifying Transit service(s) drop-off and pick-up riders.
- (ppp) "Transportation Demand Management" (TDM) means strategies that increase transportation system efficiency by encouraging shifting from single-occupant vehicle (SOV) trips to non-SOV transportation modes, or shifting SOV trips off peak travel periods. Effective TDM strategies result in reduction of vehicle miles traveled (VMT) by increasing travel options, providing incentives and information to incentivize individuals and employers to modify their travel behavior to support these objectives, and/or by reducing the need to travel or reducing travel distance via location efficient development patterns. TDM strategies encourage travel by transit, bike, walking or in shared vehicles.
- (qqq) "Transportation-Related Amenities" means capital improvements that are publicly accessible and provide supportive amenities to pedestrians, cyclists and transit riders (i.e. bike parking, bus shelter, benches, street trees, etc.) within the defined Project Area meeting the transit requirements detailed in Section 102 (c) or (d).
- (rrr) "Urban Forestry" means the cultivation and management of native or introduced trees and related vegetation in urban areas for their present and potential contribution to the economic, physiological, sociological, and ecological well-being of urban society.
- (sss) "Urban forest" means those native or introduced trees and related vegetation in the urban and near-urban areas, including, but not limited to urban watersheds, soils and related habitats, street trees, park trees, residential trees, natural riparian habitats, and trees on other private and public properties.
- (ttt) "Urban Greening" means the incorporation of greenscaped pedestrian and bicycle trail systems, urban street canopy, green alleys, drought tolerant and native species landscaping and landscape restoration, green roofing, community gardens, natural infrastructure and stormwater features into public open spaces. If not abundantly clear, public accessibility must be demonstrated to the satisfaction of Department staff, such as through a recorded instrument, and run for at least 55 years. Public open space must offer reasonable hours of use for the public, such as dawn to dusk. Community gardens do not have to be publicly accessible as long as they are available to residents of the **Affordable Housing Development**.

- (uuu) “Urban Uses” means any residential, commercial, industrial, transit, transportation passenger facility, or retail use, or any combination of those uses. Urban uses do not include lands used for agricultural uses or parcels in excess of 15,000 square feet in size and containing only one single-family residence.
- (vvv) “Very-Low Income” has the meaning set forth in Health and Safety Code Section 50105.
- (www) “Water Efficiency” means controlling water at the source through design—both rainfall and storm water runoff through a decentralized system that distributes storm water across a project site in order to replenish groundwater supplies.
- (xxx) “Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV)” means battery electric vehicles, plug-in hybrid electric vehicles, and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles.

Appendix B. Federally Recognized Indian Tribe Eligibility

Federally Recognized Indian Tribes may qualify for AHSC funds if their **Project** meets the following requirements:

- (a) Projects are located on one of the following lands:
- (1) Tribal Trust Lands. Real property that is held in trust by the United States Government for the benefit of a **Federally Recognized Indian Tribe**;
 - (2) Individual Trust Lands. Real property that is held in trust by the United States Government for the benefit of an individual member of a **Federally Recognized Indian Tribe**;
 - (3) Tribal Fee Restricted Lands. Fee lands that are owned by or under the control of a **Federally Recognized Indian Tribe** that are subject to a United States Government restriction that the land continue to be owned by or remain under the control of a **Federally Recognized Indian Tribe** or member or members thereof;
 - (4) Individual Fee Restricted Lands. Fee lands that were conveyed by the United States Government as individual allotments to member or members of a **Federally Recognized Indian Tribe**, regardless as to whether the property is now under common ownership among several members of that same **Federally Recognized Indian Tribe**;
 - (5) Tribally-Owned Unrestricted Lands. Fee lands that are owned by or under the control of a **Federally Recognized Indian Tribe** that are not subject to a United States Government restriction that the land continue to be owned by or remain under the control of a **Federally Recognized Indian Tribe** or member or members thereof;

AND;

- (b) The applicant meets the following requirements as a condition of award funding as set forth in a Standard Agreement, but not as a condition to engage in the competitive award process:
- (1) BIA Consent. Applicants shall obtain Bureau of Indian Affairs consent to applicant's execution and recordation (as applicable) of all Department-required documents that are subject to 25 CFR sec. 152.34 or 25 CFR sec. 162.12, all prior to award disbursement. This requirement shall not apply to projects that are within subdivision (i)(5) of this Section.

- (2) Title Insurance Requirements. Applicants shall provide title insurance for the property underlying the **Project** satisfactory to the Department. Notwithstanding the foregoing sentence, upon a showing of good cause, for Applicants unable to provide a conventional title insurance policy satisfactory to the Department, all such Applicants shall demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Department that they hold title to the property pursuant to a title condition report issued by the BIA Land Title and Records Office, and pursuant to a title opinion letter issued for the benefit of the Department but paid for by the Applicant.
- (3) Recordation Requirements. Where recordation of instruments are required by the Department, the subject instrument shall be deemed sufficiently recorded if recorded with the Land Titles and Records Office at the BIA or if the subject instruments are recorded in the County recording system having jurisdiction over the property.
- (4) Fee Security Required. For all Projects, except those falling within subdivision (i)(1) and (ii)(2), fee security shall be required, unless the terms allowing leasehold security are satisfied as set forth in Title 25 **CCR** 8316. If a Department loan/grant is recorded on fee land then there must be a restriction preventing that land being put into trust until the Department loan/grant term is complete.

Appendix C. Awardee Publicity Guidelines

AHSC award **Recipients** are required to acknowledge SGC, HCD, and California Climate Investments (CCI) in all publications, websites, signage, invitations, and other media-related and public-outreach products related to the AHSC Project. Guidance on CCI logo usage, signage, and logo files contained in the Style Guide are available at:

www.caclimateinvestments.ca.gov/logo-graphics-request. SGC and HCD staff will provide their respective logo files and guidance on their usage directly to **Recipients**.

- (a) Long-form written materials, such as reports, must include the following standard language about SGC, HCD, AHSC, and CCI:
- (1) “The Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Program builds healthier communities and protects the environment by increasing the supply of affordable places to live near jobs, stores, transit, and other daily needs. This program is administered by Strategic Growth Council (SGC), which coordinates the activities of State agencies and partners with stakeholders to promote sustainability, economic prosperity, and quality of life for all Californians (www.sgc.ca.gov) and implemented by the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD).

The AHSC Program is part of CCI, a statewide program that puts billions of Cap-and-Trade dollars to work reducing GHG emissions, strengthening the economy, and improving public health and the environment – particularly in disadvantaged communities. The Cap-and-Trade program also creates a financial incentive for industries to invest in clean technologies and develop innovative ways to reduce pollution. California Climate Investments projects include affordable housing, renewable energy, public transportation, zero-emission vehicles, environmental restoration, more sustainable agriculture, recycling, and much more. At least 35 percent of these investments are located within and benefiting residents of disadvantaged communities, low-income communities, and low-income households across California.
www.caclimateinvestments.ca.gov.”

- (b) Any informational materials that do not qualify as long-form, but that include at least a paragraph of text, such as press releases, media advisories, short case studies, some flyers, etc., should include the following language:
- (1) Long version: “[Project Name] is supported by California Strategic Growth Council’s Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities program with funds from [California Climate Investments](#), a statewide initiative that puts billions of Cap-and-Trade dollars to work reducing greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening the economy, and improving public health and the environment – particularly in disadvantaged communities.”
 - (2) Short version: “[Project Name] is supported by California Strategic Growth Council’s Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities program with funds from [California Climate Investments](#)—Cap-and-Trade Dollars at Work.”

- (c) **Recipients** may at times produce promotional materials that are primarily visual in nature, such as banners, signage, certain flyers, and sharable images for social media. In such cases, when including the boilerplate language acknowledging CCI and SGC support is not practical, grantees should instead include the official logos of both SGC and CCI, preceded by the words “Funded by.”
- (d) AHSC award **Recipients** are required to identify a point of contact for all press inquiries and communications needs related to the project and provide the name, phone number and email address of this individual to SGC. **Recipients** must also distribute a press release after grant decisions are made at SGC’s Public Council Meeting and are encouraged to do so for other major milestones throughout the lifecycle of the grant. All press releases must be approved by SGC Communications Office prior to distribution and SGC must be alerted and invited to participate in any and all press conferences related to the award.
- (e) AHSC **Recipients** are required to prepare one or more two-to-four-page documents that provide a summary of the Project components and tell the story of the AHSC proposal development process and/or implementation. All such materials must be approved by SGC Communications Office prior to distribution. These materials will be displayed on SGC website.
- (f) AHSC Applicants and **Recipients** are encouraged to use social media to share the process of creating an AHSC proposal and to inform the throughout implementation. @CalSGC, @California_HCD, and @CAClimateInvest should be tagged on all posts related to the AHSC grant. Use of the hashtags #AHSC, #AffordableHousing, and #SustainableCommunities is encouraged.

Appendix D. Allowable Supportive Service Cost Cap Increases

- (a) The following administrative notices, policies, and guidance are hereby incorporated herein by reference and shall be deemed to have the same force and effect as if set forth in full herein:
 - (1) The Department's "[Notice of Omnibus Program Guideline Amendments Supportive Services Costs Limits](#)" (Administrative Notice No. 24-05) dated October 7, 2024, and as may be subsequent amended