

April 29, 2021

Subject: Community Assistance for Climate Equity Program (CACE): BOOST Pilot Program

Reporting Period: April 2019 – April 2021

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Background

All Californians deserve to live in communities where they have access to clean air and water, clean transportation, affordable housing and economic opportunity. Yet many communities across the state lack the staff capacity and resources to develop projects and secure funding to make this a reality for their residents. To help address this need, SGC partnered with the Institute for Local Government (ILG) to create a pilot program called BOOST, to help local governments across the California build capacity to address those needs.

Funded by a \$1 million from SGC's California Climate Investments Technical Assistance Program (CCI TA) which is managed by the Community Assistance for Climate Equity team (CACE), the BOOST pilot program provided tailored technical assistance to 10 cities and two regions in California: Arcata, Arvin, Bakersfield, East Palo Alto, El Centro, Mammoth Lakes, Paramount, Salinas, San Diego and Ventura, and regions in the San Joaquin Valley and the Coachella Valley.

Key Outcomes

During the 18-month pilot, BOOST helped build the capacity of the 12 communities to initiate planning efforts, apply for and obtain funding, establish lasting collaboration, and train agency staff on public engagement strategies. In addition, the program quickly adapted to the COVID-19 crisis and supported efforts around community resilience as necessary. Key highlights include:

- Connecting BOOST communities to 59 grant opportunities and providing direct application assistance on 23 grants, leading to over \$50 million in new funding from State and Federal sources;
- Providing guidance and securing funding resources to help develop six climate action and/or resiliency plans; and
- Training more than 70 local agency staff on public engagement best practices, including virtual public engagement strategies and supporting relationship building with community-based organizations and advocates.

As this pilot program comes to an end, ILG has compiled success stories and takeaways from this effort into a *Best Practices and Lessons Learned Report* (Attachment 2) to help inform SGC's future capacity building and technical assistance efforts.

Next Steps

Capacity building and technical assistance remains a priority for SGC to advance the State's climate and equity objectives. Building on the success of the BOOST pilot program, SGC released a new [Request for Proposals \(RFP\)](#) in April, titled *Capacity Building for Local Governments*. Through this RFP, SGC is seeking technical assistance providers to provide tailored assistance to under-resourced local governments, helping to advance their sustainability and equity goals. Building from successes and lessons learned during the BOOST pilot program, this initiative aims to equip 5-7 under-resourced communities with the necessary skills, tools, and resources to achieve local objectives related to: climate mitigation and greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction; climate adaptation and resiliency; environmental justice and racial equity; COVID-19 recovery; and community-engaged planning.

Attachments

Attachment 1: BOOST 2-page Info Sheet

Attachment 2: BOOST Best Practices and Lessons Learned Report

