

On September 23, Governor Gavin Newsom signed a \$15 billion package to tackle the climate crisis and protect vulnerable communities. Through this historic budget, SGC received \$20 million dollars to implement the Regional Climate Collaboratives (RCC) Program as envisioned by Senate Bill 1072 (Leyva, 2018). SGC will kick off the program guidelines development process in October 2021, which will include robust stakeholder engagement and interagency collaboration. The program guidelines will clarify key topics such as the timeline for implementation, minimum and maximum funding amounts, and eligibility criteria.

### ***Goals: What is the goal of the program, and what is capacity building?***

The goal of the program is to help under-resourced communities advance their climate mitigation, adaptation, and resilience priorities by increasing their ability to compete for grants and implement projects. As defined by SB 1072, capacity building is the process of strengthening local coordination, leadership, knowledge, skills, expertise, and access to resources with the goal of helping to develop or increase the ability of that community to independently compete for grants and implement projects in the future. SGC anticipates a significant portion of this work being dedicated to building partnership networks, informing local and regional policy, and supporting community-led planning processes.

### ***Funding: How much total funding is available? Is it a new program or an augmentation of an existing one?***

RCC is a new funding program. SGC will receive \$20 million over the next two years to implement the program. The number of funding rounds for this program is still being determined.

### ***Administration: What agency is funding and administering RCC? Are there other agencies involved?***

SGC will fund and administer the RCC program. SGC will coordinate and collaborate with various State agency partners to inform the program guidelines. Staff will especially engage SGC member agencies, including California's Environmental Protection Agency; Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency; Natural Resources Agency; Health and Human Services, State Transportation Agency; and the Department of Food and Agriculture.

### ***Allocations: How will the funds be determined and distributed? Will sub-granting be allowed?***

RCC grants will be awarded through a competitive process. Additional details on grant administration, such as sub-granting, will be determined during the guidelines development process.

### ***Geographies: Are there defined priority geographies for the distribution of funding? And if so, what are they?***

Communities classified as under-resourced are eligible to apply. Under-resourced communities are those within the top 25 percentile on [CalEnviroScreen](#), designated as low income per [AB 1550](#), and/or communities with median household income less than 80% of the statewide average.

### ***Eligibility: Who is eligible to apply?***

Statute defines eligible applicants for a collaborative as including, but not limited to, any of the following:

- » Community-based organizations
- » Nonprofits and foundations
- » Small businesses
- » Local government agencies

- » Joint powers authorities
- » Tribal governments
- » Other organizations with a history of providing community-based outreach and technical assistance

**How would Regional Climate Collaboratives align with existing regional collaboratives in California?**

There are various local and regional collaboratives working on climate-related initiatives throughout California. SGC envisions that RCCs would conduct work at a place-based scale given the program’s focus on supporting local communities in accessing funding resources for project planning and implementation. Importantly, RCCs would center racial and social equity by providing resources for communities to coalesce with partners, conduct community visioning, build skills, and identify specific priorities and strategies to achieve community goals. If existing collaboratives are comprised of eligible entities, under ‘Eligibility’ above, they can apply to the RCC program. RCCs should engage with other existing collaboratives in their region and work to form broader partnership networks in support of community climate resilience priorities.

**Timing: When will the funding be made available and by when does it have to be spent?**

Funding will be made available through a Notice of Funding Availability and Request for Proposals. The timing for the release of funding availability is subject to the Council’s formal adoption of program guidelines, which is currently anticipated for April 2022. SGC hopes to make the first round of funding available in Summer 2022.

**How can an individual or organization get involved in the RCC guidelines development process?**

SGC staff is planning to host a series of workshops throughout Fall 2021 and early 2022. The dates and structure of these events are still being determined, and SGC will publicize the workshops widely once details have

been finalized. SGC is committed to a robust engagement process during this period. To stay up to date on RCC, sign up for [SGC’s newsletter](#), follow SGC on [Twitter](#), or connect with staff directly at the contact below.

**Allowable uses: What kinds of projects are allowed under RCC?**

RCCs will focus on capacity building activities and will not fund any infrastructure costs. Statute includes the following activities that RCCs will undertake:

- » Conduct outreach and build awareness of competitive grant programs.
- » Convene stakeholders to discuss community needs regarding potential climate change mitigation and adaptation projects eligible for statewide competitive grant programs with specific allocations for under-resourced communities
- » Develop community and project plans, including climate action plans, demonstrating local needs and identifying multiple-benefit projects for implementation
- » Support the development of partnerships between stakeholders and potential public and private funding sources
- » Provide policy, program, and technical advice to stakeholders to develop and align multi-benefit projects with potential funding sources
- » Serve as an intermediary between community stakeholders and technical assistance programs within relevant agencies and coordinate scientific and technical support from outside experts
- » Coordinate and implement assistance and training to stakeholders in grant application development, project management, implementation, and monitoring
- » Assist in the development of local job training and anti-displacement programs and policies.

**Contact**

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