

Regional Climate Collaboratives Project Area Eligibility Regions and Communities of Focus

As a part of the application process for the Regional Climate Collaboratives Program (RCC), Applicants must identify the region within which they propose to work and the under-resourced communities within that region where they plan to focus their place-based strategies and activities. This document is meant to provide guidance to applicants about the RCC program requirements related to drawing the boundaries of the proposed region and communities of focus. It also provides an explanation of how to determine whether or not a census tract is under-resourced.

Definitions of Region and Communities of Focus

The selected region must:

- At minimum, include two under-resourced census tracts that the proposed activities will focus on (these do not need to be contiguous)
- Cover a geographic area of between one and eight (1 – 8) contiguous counties

The specific census tracts that Applicants propose to serve will be referred to as the **Communities of Focus**. The counties that Applicants intend to work within will be referred to as the **Region**.

While various State and other programs define region according to their own needs or policy areas, the RCC program does not intend to align with any one definition used by other programs or initiatives. Applicants may choose to work within a 'region' that is pre-defined for another initiative to the extent that it is helpful to accomplishing their workplan but doing so will not receive any preference in scoring or award selection.

[Senate Bill 1072](#), the enabling legislation for the Regional Climate Collaboratives Program (RCC), defines 'under-resourced communities as:

- Census tracts identified as 'disadvantaged' by the California Environmental Protection Agency; **OR**
- Census tracts with median household incomes at or below 80 percent of the statewide median income or with median household incomes at or below the threshold designated as low income by the Department of Housing and Community Development's list of state income limits adopted pursuant to Section 50093 of the California Health and Safety Code; **OR**
- Census tracts with a median household income less than 80% of the statewide average.

Applicants may select specific under-resourced communities within a broader region where Collaborative activities will be focused, and do not need to include every community that meets the definition of under-resourced in their geographic areas of focus for their selected region.

RCC Requirements for Serving Under-Resourced Communities

At least fifty one percent (51%) of the census tracts identified within the Communities of Focus must meet the definition of under-resourced. An example of how Applicants could determine eligibility for Communities of Focus within their Region is provided below.

- Applicant A proposes to serve 5 census tracts across their Communities of Focus: 3 census tracts must meet under-resourced definition
- Applicant B proposes to serve 4 census tracts across their Communities of Focus: 3 census tracts must meet under-resourced definition
- Applicant C proposes to serve 2 census tracts across their Communities of Focus: both census tracts must meet under-resourced definition

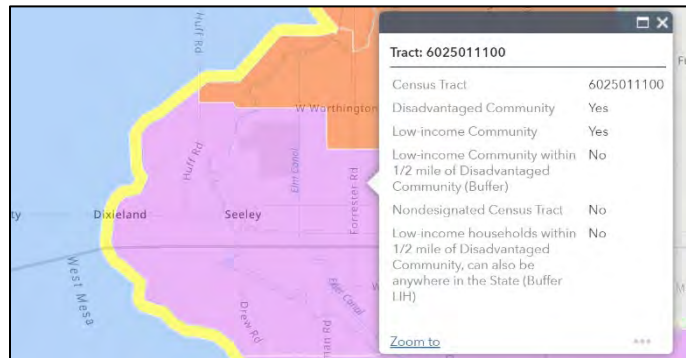
In addition to meeting this threshold eligibility, reviewers for the program will take into account the following scoring criteria related to region and communities of focus. See [Section IX of the RCC Program Guidelines](#) for more information about scoring for the RCC program.

- Applicant provides a clear, compelling description of existing capacity gaps and the resulting impact of grant activities on the region's ability to access climate-related funding. Applicant demonstrates awareness of existing capacity building efforts within the region and alignment with existing strategies. Applicant additionally explains how the Collaborative will add value to and leverage existing efforts.
- Applicant provides a clear description of priority climate issues experienced by communities within the region as well as any gaps in data or knowledge about climate issues or potential impacts facing the region.
- Applicant provides information sufficient to enable reviewers to evaluate the impact of the workplan in under-resourced communities and both the Region's and Communities of Focus' previous success in receiving competitive state climate change mitigation and adaptation moneys, as well as whether the funded projects addressed under-resourced communities' climate needs as identified by the Applicants. Includes sufficient justification of project need via qualitative/quantitative data and community engagement and input.
- Applicant makes a clear case for their definition of the Region and Communities of Focus as proposed, with an explanation of the factors that identify them as a region, and why the selected under-resourced communities within the region were selected. Reviewers will consider both the proportion of under-resourced communities served above threshold requirements and the proportion of under-resourced communities within the overall region.

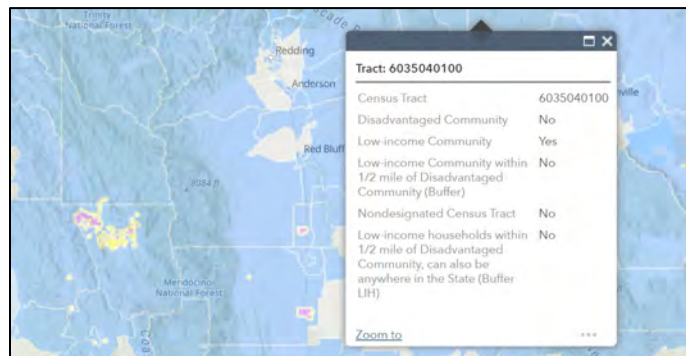
How to Determine if a Census Tract is an “Under-Resourced Community”

To easily identify if a census tract qualifies as an under-resourced community, please access the mapping tools below. A census tract qualifies as under-resourced if it is identified as:

- A ‘disadvantaged’ community according to the [California Air Resources Board's Priority Populations Map](#): **OR**



- A ‘low income’ community according to the [California Air Resources Board's Priority Populations Map](#): **OR**



- A ‘disadvantaged’ or ‘severely disadvantaged’ community according to the [California Department of Water Resources' DAC Mapping Tool](#):

