NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY
Community Resilience Centers Program
FY 2022-2023 FUNDING ROUND

DATE: July 5, 2023

TO: All Potential Applicants

FROM: CRC Program Staff, Strategic Growth Council

SUBJECT:

AMENDED COMMUNITY RESILIENCE CENTERS (CRC) NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY (ROUND 1)

The California Strategic Growth Council (SGC) is pleased to announce the availability of funding for Round 1 of the Community Resilience Centers (CRC) Program through this Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA). SGC anticipates that approximately $5 million in Planning Grant funding, approximately $9.6 million in Project Development Grant funding, and approximately $84 million in Implementation Grant funding will be available for competitive awards in Round 1. SGC retains the right to make partial awards and to reallocate funds between CRC grant types based on program needs and considerations.

Created by Senate Bill (SB) 155 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, Chapter 258, Statutes of 2021), the CRC program will provide "funding…for the construction or retrofit of facilities to serve as community resilience centers that mitigate the public health impacts of extreme heat and other emergency situations exacerbated by climate change." Assembly Bill (AB) 211 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, Chapter 574, Statutes of 2022) directs the program to ensure applicants demonstrate collaboration with community members; involvement with community-based organizations and local residents in governance and decision-making; multi- stakeholder partnerships; and accessible CRCs providing eligible services and amenities year- round to community residents. AB 211 also authorizes SGC to provide advance payment to specific grantees and directs CRC program staff to prioritize projects in and benefitting under- resourced communities and to ensure statewide geographic diversity. Funding for CRC Program Round 1 is through the General Fund's Climate Budget.

Funds available include a total of approximately $5 million for Planning Grants, $9.6 million for Project Development Grants, and $84 million for Implementation Grants, totally approximately $98.6 million in total CRC Round 1 awards across the 3 CRC grant types.

To demonstrate interest in applying for a CRC Planning Grant, Project Development Grant, or Implementation Grant, all prospective applicants are strongly encouraged to submit an [Intent to Apply Survey](#) as early as possible. **This form closes at 11:59:59 p.m. PST on Monday, September 18, 2023.** Survey responses will help CRC program staff design tailored outreach, plan staffing and support, prepare technical assistance providers, and better support Round 1 applicants of this new climate infrastructure program. Applicants are not held to any information provided in the Intent to Apply Survey; survey responses will not be scored and responses will not impact applications, either pre-proposals or full applications.

Applicants intending to apply for a CRC Planning Grant, Project Development Grant, or Implementation Grant may request application technical assistance (TA) through the [CRC Application TA Request Form](#) by no later than **11:59:59 p.m. PST on Friday, June 23, 2023** *(extended from Friday, June 16, 2023)*. Please review Section 4 for further detail.

To be considered for an Implementation Grant award, interested applicants <u>must</u> complete an [Implementation Grant Pre-Proposal](#). **Implementation Grant Pre-Proposals must be submitted no later than 11:59:59 p.m. PST on Friday, August 25, 2023.** To ensure sufficient time for feedback and feedback incorporation, CRC program staff strongly recommend submitting Pre-Proposals by the **Pre-Proposal Priority Deadline** of no later than 11:59:59 p.m. PST on Friday, August 4, 2023. Please review Section 3 for further detail.

Full CRC Planning, Project Development, and Implementation Grant Applications must be submitted no later than 11:59:59 p.m. PST on Monday, September 18, 2023 *(extended from Tuesday, September 5, 2023)*, **according to the terms of this NOFA.**

SECTION 1. PROGRAM SUMMARY

Administered by SGC, the CRC Program will fund planning, development, construction, and upgrades of local facilities to serve as Community Resilience Centers, providing shelter and resources during climate and other emergencies, including extreme heat events and poor air quality days. The program will also fund ongoing year-round community services and programs, such as information and resource distribution and workforce development trainings, that build overall community resilience. Community-serving locations may include schools, libraries, community and youth centers, health clinics, places of worship, independent living centers, and more. SGC's CRC program will fund planning, pre-development, and implementation activities.

CRC Planning Grants are intended to help communities in initial stages of CRC project development by funding planning and pre-development, community engagement and coordination, site preparation, and other activities necessary to prepare for future CRC rounds of funding and other related funding opportunities. Planning Grant awards will range from

$100,000 to $500,000 each, with a grant term of approximately two (2) years, with the option to extend on a case-by-case basis.

CRC Project Development Grants are intended to bridge support for communities developing shovel-ready projects. Project Development Grants will fund pre-development and basic infrastructure activities that advance community-serving facilities' capability to serve as a future Community Resilience Center and prepare grantees for future CRC rounds of funding and other related funding opportunities. Project Development Grants will prioritize applicants from Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities, Tribal Communities, and Rural Communities. Project Development Grant awards will range from $500,000 to $5 million each, with a grant term of approximately two (2) years, with the option to extend on a case-by-case basis.

CRC Implementation Grants are intended to fund new construction and upgrades of neighborhood-scale facilities as Community Resilience Centers, bridging physical and social infrastructure investments to build climate and community resilience. Implementation Grant activities include pre-development, community engagement, construction, services and programs, and evaluation. Implementation Grants will range from $1 million to $10 million each, with a grant term of approximately five (5) years, inclusive of a four (4) year project completion period and a one (1) year performance period.

SECTION 2. ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicants for CRC Planning Grants, Project Development Grants, and Implementation Grants must be based in California and include but are not limited to:

- California Native American Tribes
- Coalitions or associations of nonprofit organizations
- Community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs)
- Community development finance institutions or community development corporations
- Emergency management, response, preparedness and recovery service providers and organizations
- Philanthropic organizations and foundations, private or nonprofit
- Private sector and consultants
- Public entities, including:
    - Schools and public libraries
    - California incorporated cities
    - California counties, including unincorporated communities
    - Local, regional public agencies, and districts at the county level including community-choice aggregators, special districts, joint powers authorities, councils of governments, and other forms of local government
- Small businesses

Each CRC Grant application must include a Collaborative Stakeholder Structure (CSS). The intent of this structure is to formalize localized, place-based partnerships to ensure consistent buy-in and support; shared values and governance; and alleviation of existing power imbalances that may skew input and decisions, especially under time and resource constraints or emergency conditions. Statute (AB 211) requires applicants to demonstrate involvement of community-based organizations (CBOs) and community residents within governance and decision-making processes, including selection and planning of the Project and all subsequent phases of the Project. Applications will be evaluated on the degree to which they incorporate community leadership, especially in decisions like site selection, proposal development, and project design, implementation, and evaluation.

One Lead Applicant will submit an application on behalf of their CSS, alongside Co-Applicants. The CSS should also include residents and community-nominated members such as CBOs that are not Co-Applicants.

CRC applications may include multiple sites if all sites share the same owner and each site can demonstrate ability to meet CRC grant requirements by the end of the relevant CRC grant term.

Planning Grants
For CRC Planning Grant applications, applicants must include at least one proposed site per application by time of application submission. Applicants will propose partners for a future CSS in their application and, if awarded, use the grant term to finalize the CSS.

Project Development Grants
For CRC Project Development Grants applications, applicants must include an existing facility for proposed retrofits. At least one proposed site or facility is required per application.
Applicants will submit a draft Partnership Agreement and/or Memorandum of Understanding to demonstrate their proposed CSS upon application and, if awarded, must finalize the Partnership Agreement and/or Memorandum of Understanding by grant agreement stage.

Implementation Grants
For CRC Implementation Grants, applicants must include at least one proposed site and/or facility per application. Applicants can propose existing facilities or new construction projects. Applicants will submit a draft Partnership Agreement and/or Memorandum of Understanding to demonstrate their proposed CSS upon application and, if awarded, must finalize the Partnership Agreement and/or Memorandum of Understanding by grant agreement stage.
Please note that applicants who apply for an Implementation Grant may be considered for a Project Development Grant if CRC program staff determine that their application is not competitive as an Implementation Grant proposal.

SECTION 3. APPLICATION PROCESS
All CRC Planning, Project Development, and Implementation Grant applicants must submit CRC Application materials via Submittable by 11:59:59 p.m. PST on Monday, September 18,

2023. No late applications or application revisions will be accepted after the application submittal deadline. No hard copies, facsimiles, electronic transmissions via email, hand- delivered copies, or any other method of submitting complete applications will be accepted. CRC program staff will provide information on SGC's website on how to navigate and apply through Submittable.

All applications will be reviewed by CRC program staff to ensure that all required documentation is submitted and that the application is complete. Applicants that may be missing application information will be notified by CRC program staff. If applicants are contacted because of missing information, the application will be deemed incomplete if the applicant does not provide the missing information within two (2) business days.

Applications must meet all eligibility requirements upon submission. Applications having material inconsistencies will not be rated and ranked. Modification of the application by the applicant after submission is prohibited. After a check for completeness, SGC staff will conduct a threshold review of applications for the relevant CRC grant type (Section 9.3 Program Thresholds of the CRC Round 1 Final Guidelines). Applications that meet all thresholds will advance to an interagency review panel of partnering State agencies. The interagency review panel and CRC program staff will evaluate applications according to the scoring criteria for the relevant CRC grant type (Section 9.4 Scoring Criteria of the CRC Round 1 Final Guidelines). CRC program staff may invite top-scoring applicants to virtual interviews.

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the application is clear, complete, and accurate. After the application deadline and interviews, CRC program staff may request clarifying information or inquire as to where the application-specific information is located provided that such information does not affect the competitive rating of the application. No information, whether written or oral, will be solicited or accepted if this information would result in a competitive advantage to an applicant or a competitive disadvantage to other applicants.

Based on the interagency review of the applications and interviews, CRC program staff will finalize and prepare award recommendations to present to SGC Council Members for final approval. CRC program staff will contact applicants recommended for funding. Staff recommendations will be posted for public review ten (10) days prior to the SGC public meeting. Final funding decisions will be subject to programmatic considerations including diversity of project types and geographic locations, including but not limited to variety of climate impacts, representation from rural and urban, incorporated and unincorporated communities. SGC will make final CRC Round 1 awards at a Council meeting, currently anticipated for December 2023. The Council decision is final.

For further detail on application review process, components, and scoring criteria, please reference Section 9: Application of the CRC Round 1 Final Guidelines.

Intent to Apply Form (All CRC Grant Types)

All prospective applicants for any CRC grant type are strongly encouraged to submit an [Intent to Apply Survey](#) as early as possible. **This form closes at 11:59:59 p.m. PST on Monday, September 18, 2023.** Survey responses will help CRC program staff design tailored outreach, plan staffing and support, prepare technical assistance providers, and better support Round 1 applicants of this new climate infrastructure program. Applicants are not held to any information provided in the Intent to Apply survey; survey responses will not be scored and responses will not impact applications, either pre-proposals or full applications.

Implementation Grant Pre-Proposal (CRC Implementation Grants Only)

All applicants interested in applying for a CRC Implementation Grant must complete the [Implementation Grant Pre-Proposal](#) in Microsoft Forms no later than 11:59:59 p.m. PST on Friday, August 25, 2023 *(extended from Friday, June 16, 2023)*. CRC program staff and the third-party technical assistance (TA) provider will review Pre-Proposals to provide consistent, unscored feedback to applicants to help inform applicants' decisions to advance to the CRC Implementation Grant Full Application. CRC program staff intend to provide Pre-Proposal feedback to applicants within 2-4 weeks of Pre-Proposal submission as capacity permits. The Pre-Proposal stage is also intended to ensure applicants understand the deadlines and requirements for Implementation Grant thresholds and Full Applications.

To ensure sufficient time for feedback incorporation, CRC program staff strongly encourage applicants meet the Implementation Grant Pre-Proposal Priority Deadline of no later than 11:59:59 p.m. PST on Friday, August 4, 2023. Applications received after Friday, August 4, 2023 may not receive feedback before the Full Application deadline.

Implementation Grant applicants who would like to request technical assistance must fill out the Application TA Request form, detailed in Section 4 below.

Full CRC Applications (All CRC Grant Types)

Full CRC Planning, Project Development, and Implementation Grant Applications must be submitted via Submittable no later than 11:59:59 p.m. PST on Monday, September 18, 2023. Applicants that submitted an Implementation Grant Pre-Proposal must submit an Implementation Grant Full Application for Round 1 award consideration. Please email questions to CRC program staff at: CRC@sgc.ca.gov.

Materials and Resources for Applicants (All CRC Grant Types)

CRC program staff will record and publicly post a series of webinars providing an overview of available CRC grants including program objectives, program thresholds and requirements, application process, and grant administration for each of the 3 CRC grant types (Planning, Project Development, Implementation Grants).

CRC program staff will host virtual office hours throughout the application window. Visit the [CRC Resources webpage](#) for the most updated Office Hour schedule and registration information.

Staff will also develop application materials, including case studies, application templates, sample language, and additional support. To receive updates about the program, [sign-up for the CRC email listserv](#).

SECTION 4. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

To support the development of competitive CRC Round 1 applications, SGC has secured a third-party contractor to provide no-cost application technical assistance (TA) to selected CRC applicants for CRC Planning, Project Development, and Implementation Grants. Application TA activities from the TA provider may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Review of application responses
- Application coordination
- Financial analysis and budget development
- Assessment of project readiness

Application Technical Assistance Request Form

Applicants intending to apply for any CRC grant type may request application TA through the [CRC Application TA Request Form](#) by no later than **11:59:59 p.m. PST on Friday, June 23, 2023** *(extended from Friday, June 16, 2023)*. Completion of the CRC Application TA Request Form does not guarantee application TA; please note that TA resources are limited and will be awarded on a competitive basis. CRC program staff will review requests, select TA recipients for each grant type, and connect TA recipients with the TA provider. CRC program staff will prioritize applicants from priority communities for application TA.

For further detail on priority communities, please reference [Section 2.3 Priority Communities and Priority Populations](#) in the CRC Round 1 Final Guidelines. For further detail on technical assistance, please reference [Section 11.1 Application Technical Assistance](#) in the CRC Round 1 Final Guidelines.

SECTION 5. SCORING

Applications will be evaluated according to the process and scoring criteria set forth in [Section 9.4 Scoring Criteria](#) of the CRC Round 1 Final Guidelines. The top scoring applicants will be recommended to the California Strategic Growth Council to receive CRC Planning, Project Development, and Implementation Grants.

SECTION 6. APPEALS

Basis of Appeals

1. Upon receipt of a notice that an application has been determined to be ineligible, fails

threshold review, or not awarded based on final scores, CRC Implementation Grant Applicants under this NOFA may appeal such decision(s) to SGC pursuant to this section.

2. No Applicant shall have the right to appeal a decision of SGC relating to another Applicant's eligibility, point score, aware, denial of award, or any other matter related thereto.

3. The appeal process provided herein applies solely to the decision of SGC made in this program NOFA and does not apply to any decisions made with respect to any previously issued NOFAs or decisions to be made pursuant to future program NOFAs.

Appeal Process and Deadlines

1. Process: To file an appeal, CRC Implementation Grant Applicants must submit to SGC, by the deadline set forth below (see 2. Filing Deadline), a written appeal, which states all relevant facts, arguments, and evidence upon which the appeal is based. Furthermore, the Applicant must provide a detailed reference to the area or areas of the application that provide clarification and substantiation for the basis of the appeal. No new or additional information will be considered if this information would result in a competitive advantage to an Applicant. Once the written appeal is submitted to SGC, no information of materials will be accepted or considered thereafter. Appeals submitted to SGC at CRC@sgc.ca.gov according to the deadline set forth in SGC review letters.

2. Filing deadline: Appeals must be received by SGC no later than five (5) business days from the date of SGC's threshold review or score letters, representing SGC's decision made in response to the application.

Appeal Decision

Any requests to appeal to SGC's decision regarding an Implementation Grant application shall be reviewed for compliance with the CRC Round 1 Final Guidelines and this NOFA. All decisions rendered shall be final, binding, and conclusive, and shall constitute the final action of SGC.

SECTION 7. OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS

State Prevailing Wages

Program funds awarded under this NOFA are subject to State prevailing wage law, as set forth in Labor Code Section 1720 et seq., and require the payment of prevailing wages unless the project meets one of the exceptions of Labor Code 1720 (c) as determined by the Department of Industrial Relations. Applicants are urged to seek professional advice as to how to comply with State prevailing wage law. Please reference Section 10.6 Prevailing Wage Requirements in the CRC Round 1 Final Guidelines.

Disclosure Application of Information

Information provided in the CRC Planning, Project Development, and Implementation Grant applications will become a public record available for review pursuant to the Public Records Act. As such, any materials provided will be disclosable to any person making a public records request. Applicants should use discretion in providing information that is not specifically requested, including, but not limited to bank account numbers, personal phone numbers, and home addresses. By providing this information in an application, the applicant waives any claim of confidentiality and consents to the public disclosure of all submitted material. Awarded applications will be available through the SGC website.

Right to Modify or Suspend

SGC reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to suspend, amend, or modify the provisions of this NOFA at any time, including without limitation, the amount of funds available hereunder. If such an action occurs, CRC program staff will notify all interested parties via email and will post the revisions to the CRC Program website.

Conflict

In the event of any conflict between the terms of this NOFA and either applicable state or federal law regulation, the terms of the applicable state or federal law or regulation shall control. In the event of a conflict between the terms of this NOFA and the CRC Round 1 Final Program Guidelines, guideline terms shall control.

SECTION 8. RESOURCES AND QUESTIONS

Information about the CRC Program, including Program Guidelines, application and communications materials, technical assistance, and other resources can be found on the CRC program webpage. Please email questions to CRC program staff at: CRC@sgc.ca.gov.