

Frequently Asked Questions

Applicant Eligibility Questions

1. Is there a definition for "affected by wildfire between 2017-2019," or a list of eligible applicants, does it need to be directly affected by the wildfires?
 - a. The eligibility requirement for "affected by wildfire" is meant to allow as many applicants as possible to apply. As long as an applicant meets the threshold requirements the application will be further considered. There is not a list of eligible applicants. Applicants should search the name of the fire that affected their community through <http://www.oesnews.com/> and <https://www.fema.gov/disasters>.
2. Are water districts or other special districts eligible applicants to apply for this grant program?
 - a. Water districts and special districts are not eligible applicants to apply on their own. However, both water and special districts can serve as a partner on a proposal and can be included in the project budget.
3. Do county-level or regional projects have an advantage over more localized projects in terms of scoring?
 - a. No, both regional and local planning activities will be scored based on how effectively the application meets the Guidelines' Threshold Requirements, Program Objectives, Priority Considerations, and Organizational Capacity.
4. Can a single county submit more than three applications if the applications come from different departments?
 - a. No, an entity cannot be the lead applicant on more than three applications. If more than three applications are submitted from a given entity, only the first three applications will be reviewed.

Activity Eligibility Questions

1. What are examples and ideas of planning activities that advance climate adaptation?
 - a. Within Appendix H of the Guidelines there are several resources that can be used to identify potential adaptation planning activities.
2. Are community wildfire protection plans or mitigation plans that will be part of the General Plan considered eligible activities?
 - a. Activities that support or update a General Plan are generally eligible for this grant program. Additionally, preparation, adoption, and implementation of other plans that incorporate wildfire and climate risk may be eligible as well (if connected to the General Plan or an adopted regional plan). This can include documents that are being referenced for the purpose of meeting SB 379 Safety Element update requirements to the General Plan.
3. Can standalone plans, such as a Business Continuity Plan or Emergency Operations Plan, be eligible under this solicitation?
 - a. Activities that support or update a General Plan are generally eligible for this grant program. Additionally, preparation, adoption, and implementation of other plans that incorporate wildfire and climate risk may be eligible as long as there is a nexus to the General Plan (including updating General Plan elements) or an adopted regional plan.
4. Can activities such as GIS mapping, scientific research, and other studies be an allowable activity?
 - a. Funding may go towards supportive planning activities (e.g., community engagement, scoping and pre-planning activities, and technical studies) that advance development of a General Plan or General Plan element update. The applicant must explain how proposed activities support the goals, objectives, and priority considerations of the grant program.
5. Does a project qualify for funding if the applicant has already begun working on the project or process?
 - a. Applicants who have adaptation planning efforts underway, as well as those who have not yet started adaptation work are encouraged to apply.

Funding Questions

1. Is there match funding required for this grant?
 - a. No, this grant does not require a match from the grantee.
2. How long does a grantee have to expend the funds?
 - a. This is dependent on when the project starts, but all invoices must be submitted by October 31, 2022.
3. Can outside funding be used as a cost share?
 - a. This grant does not require a cost share program, If an applicant is receiving FEMA money (i.e., adopting a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan) they cannot request funding to subsidize their costs to complete these efforts. However, an applicant can submit a project that will enhance this funded work. For example, an applicant might propose to engage stakeholder and community support and integrate language from the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan to adopt an update of the jurisdiction's General Plan Safety Element. Generally, an applicant will need to show that these funds will be distinct from what the applicant is doing with FEMA funding.
 - b. Funds from this program cannot be used provide the local cost share for another grant program.
4. Regarding the July 1 date to have contracts in place, is that referring to contracts between grantee and the State, or grantee contracts with project consultant/outside contracting?
 - a. Only the state's contract with the grantee. Other contracts executed by the grantee can take longer if needed, but there is a 24-month deadline that will need to be considered when entering contracts. Any other contracts must have a nexus to the applicants general or regional plan that is identified in the applicant's answer to the Threshold Requirements.
5. Does the grant use a re-imbursement model? Does the applicant front the cost for the eligible program and then get reimbursed by the grant?
 - a. These are cost-reimbursed agreements and the grantee will need to initially pay the costs of the project.

Other

1. The Website address <http://sgc.ca.gov/programs/prop84/> contains an overview, the grant guidelines, and a link to the online application.
2. The GRanTS online application platform, www.water.ca.gov/grants provides a copy of the grant guidelines and templates for the budget and workplan that may be used to develop project proposals.
3. Under the Guidelines section IV. A Figure 2 it includes formatting instructions. Which documents need to be formatted in this way? It appears most of the application is submitted through online fillable forms. Are applicants to import text into these online fillable forms in this format?
 - a. Only the attachments. The templates can be used as is (available on the application platform) or you can submit your own budget and workplan documents using the formatting guidelines. Letters of support and the Letter of Commitment must comply with the formatting guidelines.
4. Can the letter of commitment from a governing body be submitted after the application deadline?
 - a. All application components must be submitted prior to the application deadline. However, the Council does not need to sign this letter. It is for the officer within government that would be responsible for ensuring staff and financial resources will be used to complete the project. Normally this is the City Manager or Division Head.