

Round 4 Transformative Climate Communities (TCC)

Application Workshop Frequently Asked Questions

March 23, 2022

Do I have to apply for a TCC Planning Grant before applying for an Implementation Grant?

No, applicants can apply for an Implementation Grant without having previously been awarded a TCC Planning Grant. Planning Grants can help communities prepare to apply to TCC Implementation Grants or other sources of resilience funding, but are not required.

Can I apply to both a Planning Grant and an Implementation Grant in Round 4?

Yes.

My community is in an unincorporated area that does not fall within the top 25% of CalEnviroScreen. Am I eligible for the program?

Potentially yes. There are four criteria by which unincorporated communities can be eligible for TCC, two of which do not rely on CalEnviroScreen. A community only needs to meet one of these four criteria to be eligible. The four criteria are outlined on page 10 of the [Round 4 Guidelines](#).

One of the methods for establishing eligibility is for a community to self-identify as a disadvantaged unincorporated community, with localized data that identifies population characteristics defined by a neighborhood-level assessment. If you believe your unincorporated community should be eligible, our Application Technical Assistance team will work with you to identify appropriate data sources to demonstrate that your community qualifies as a disadvantaged unincorporated community and is eligible for the program.

Furthermore, the Strategic Growth Council will consider a technical amendment to TCC's Round 4 Guidelines at the April Council Meeting that would clarify that unincorporated areas are eligible as Implementation Grant Project Areas if they fall within the Planning Area of a former TCC Planning Grant, regardless of whether they meet Round 4 priority population requirements for unincorporated communities.

For assistance with the [TCC Mapping Tool](#), which is another method of being eligible for the program, please see the [Story Map](#) and [video tutorial](#).

I was awarded a TCC Implementation Grant as a Lead Applicant in Round 1, 2, or 3 of TCC. Am I eligible to apply again as a Lead Applicant?

The Strategic Growth Council will consider a technical amendment to TCC's Round 4 Guidelines at the April Council Meeting to allow previously awarded TCC Lead Implementation Grantees to apply as Lead Applicants in Round 4 and to clarify project area eligibility for unincorporated communities.

Organizations that were awarded a TCC Implementation Grant in Round 1, 2, or 3 as a Lead Grantee are currently ineligible to apply as a Lead Applicant in Round 4. The technical amendment would remove this, thereby expanding eligibility to organizations that were previously awarded a TCC Implementation

Grant - should they demonstrate sufficient capacity to administer both grants simultaneously. The technical amendment would also clarify that previously awarded Lead Grantees with partial awards would be eligible to apply for Round 4 funding. If the technical amendment is approved, formerly awarded Lead Applicants will be eligible to submit their applications by the July 1 deadline.

In addition, the technical amendment would clarify that unincorporated areas are eligible as Implementation Grant Project Areas if they fall within the Planning Area of a former TCC Planning Grant, regardless of whether they meet Round 4 priority population requirements for unincorporated communities.

If you have comments or questions regarding the proposed amendment in advance of its consideration by the Council, please email them to tcc@sgc.ca.gov.

Can I apply for less than \$35 million for an Implementation Grant?

SGC intends to make awards of approximately \$35 million each, and expects that most applicants will apply for approximately this amount. SGC may make smaller awards, but the program is designed to support transformative investments, and so larger awards may be more competitive depending on the pool of applications received.

As described above, the Strategic Growth Council will consider a technical amendment to TCC's Round 4 Guidelines at the April Council Meeting. The technical amendment would also clarify that previously awarded Lead Grantees with partial awards would be eligible to apply for Round 4 funding. Formerly partially awarded grantees could apply for smaller awards to build off of their previous grants, and the amount requested would not impact their application's competitiveness. Round 4 awards building on former partial awards would need to be in the same Project Area.

Does [entity] qualify as a public agency?

At least one Lead Applicant or Co-Applicant must be a public agency. The [TCC Round 4 Guidelines](#) (Appendix A-5) define a public agency as "A local or regional agency, such as a county, city, city and county, municipal corporation, district, metropolitan planning organization, joint powers authority, regional transportation planning agency, council of government, school district, political subdivision, duly constituted governing body of an Indian reservation or rancheria, tribally designated housing entity, or any board, commission or agency thereof, other local public agency, or entities that are legislative bodies of a local agency pursuant to subdivisions (c) and (d) of Section 54952 of the California Government Code." If you have questions about whether your specific entity qualifies, please let us know at tcc@sgc.ca.gov.

The intent behind including the public agency requirement is to ensure that there is sufficient support and coordination from relevant public agencies to execute all components of the TCC grant within the grant term. We have seen that formal involvement of public agencies is crucial for ensuring successful grant implementation (particularly for Implementation Grants). While the guidelines are flexible and allow any public agency to serve in this role, the evaluation process will take into consideration whether the appropriate partners (including public agencies) are involved in the grant. If the public agency does not have the authority to ensure successful implementation of your proposal, then your application would still technically qualify but likely would not be competitive. Please see the "Capacity"

(Implementation Grants, page 32) and “Organizational Capacity” (Planning Grants, page 46) sections of the scoring criteria in the [Round 4 TCC Guidelines](#) for further explanation. Multiple public agencies can be Co-Applicants as part of a single application.

Will tribes be required to sign a waiver of sovereign immunity?

No, tribes will not need to sign a waiver of sovereign immunity.

Can tribal departments be distinct Co-Applicants?

Yes, tribal departments can be separate Co-Applicants as part of an application. Please contact us at tcc@sgc.ca.gov if you have any questions about this.

What is leverage funding?

For Implementation Grants, Applicants must leverage additional funding sources that equate to at least fifty percent (50%) of the total requested TCC grant funds. For example, an applicant who applies for \$35 million from TCC would need to leverage an additional \$17.5 million from other sources. Planning Grants applications do not require any leverage funding.

This fifty percent (50%) contains two components: At least forty percent (40%) must be included in the budgets of grant-funded projects or transformative plans. The remaining ten percent (10%) may come from stand-alone leverage projects that specifically enhance the TCC Proposal and are new investments in the project area.

Leverage funding must be committed at the time Applicants submit their applications. Leverage funding must clearly support the implementation of the Strategies selected to achieve the TCC Program Objectives. Leverage funding must be spent within the TCC Project Area and for the purposes of the TCC Project. Expenditure of leverage funding will only count towards the fifty percent (50%) threshold if it occurs after the grant has been awarded by Strategic Growth Council and before the end of the grant term.

Eligible funding sources for leverage are designed to be flexible and may include, but are not limited to: federal funding sources; state funding sources, including other SGC-administered or California Climate Investments funds; private capital; foundation grants; low-income housing tax credit equity contributions and tax-exempt bonds in connection with four percent (4%) low-income housing tax credits; funds from regional or local tax measures, bonds, property assessments and fee revenue committed to public infrastructure related to Projects included in the TCC Proposal, and located within the designated Project Area; funds for transportation projects that are programmed for allocation and expenditure in the applicable capital improvement plan consistent with the terms and timeframes of the contract agreement. In-kind goods and services, such as the provision of meals, transportation, or childcare for an eligible community event, may be accepted as eligible sources of leverage if they are adequately defined and documented. They will be subject to review by the State during review of the Application.

For a complete explanation of leverage funding requirements, please see pages 26-27 and Appendix C-5 of the [TCC Round 4 Guidelines](#).

Where is the Planning Grant interest survey that is due May 16 (for those not eligible for Planning Grant Application Technical Assistance)?

The survey is the same one as the [Application Technical Assistance Survey](#). If you are a Planning Grant applicant who is not eligible for technical assistance (because you are not from an unincorporated community or a tribal community), you can write “n/a” for any questions specific to technical assistance.

What happens if I miss the March 25 priority deadline to submit the [Application Technical Assistance Survey](#)?

For tribal communities and unincorporated communities: Please complete the survey at any point during the application period, regardless of whether you are applying for a Planning Grant or Implementation Grant. We encourage you to submit the survey as soon as you are able to in order to ensure that you have sufficient time to work with the technical assistance team to apply in this round, but there is no deadline.

For all other Implementation Grant Applicants: We will accept requests for Application Technical Assistance after March 25 only if the technical assistance providers have additional capacity. If there are more applicants than we have the ability to support, we will prioritize applicants who submit the survey by March 25 (except for applicants from tribal communities and unincorporated communities, who may request technical assistance beyond this deadline).

Will there be future rounds of funding for the program?

Yes, additional funding has been allocated for Rounds 5 and 6 of the program, which will follow a similar annual cycle.

Certain program requirements create barriers for my community or could otherwise be improved. How can I share my feedback?

We want to hear from you about how this program can better serve your community. Please reach out to tcc@sgc.ca.gov with feedback, input, barriers you have faced, suggestions, etc. TCC staff track all the feedback we receive, and it directly informs subsequent rounds of TCC Guidelines, which are updated each round through a public process. The program has significantly changed each round in response to feedback from grantees, applicants, and advocates. SGC is grateful for the input, collaboration, and feedback that has shaped the program to date, and we hope to hear from you going forward. and feel free to reach out to TCC staff at any point at tcc@sgc.ca.gov.