

BOOST Program



About

BOOST is a statewide capacity-building program designed to help California local governments with their climate, resilience, and equity goals. In partnership with the Institute for Local Government (ILG), the California Strategic Growth Council (SGC) created the BOOST Program in 2019 to equip under-resourced local agencies with the skills and resources to advance equitable climate action. One in a suite of capacity building programs provided the Strategic Growth Council's Community Assistance for Climate Equity team, BOOST offers flexible technical assistance that is customized to meet the unique needs of under-resourced local agencies.

The BOOST Program provides local agencies with 18 months of no-cost technical assistance with the needs and priorities each local agency identifies. The timeframe and flexibility of the program allow the BOOST Technical Assistance team to help local agencies prioritize climate and equity while maneuvering through complex challenges and unlocking new opportunities.

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Participating in BOOST is one of the best things the city has done to advance its sustainability and equity goals.... [The] invaluable guidance and technical assistance [helped] the city secure over \$3.2 million in grant funding. Additionally, BOOST staff host trainings for city staff centered around public engagement and equity.”

Mayor Mark Nagales, City of South
San Francisco Tailored Support

BOOST

Build • Organize • Optimize • Strengthen • Transform

B Building awareness of funding opportunities to address climate action

O Organizing projects to be best positioned to meet their goals

O Optimizing existing resources and building capacity

S Strengthening cross-sector relationships and identifying new opportunities for regional collaboration

T Transforming approaches to addressing climate action

Program Services

The BOOST Program provides local agencies with a wide range of capacity-building support, including:

Technical Assistance

- Support with grant writing and applications
- Help planning for climate action and resilience
- Guidance on project development

Capacity Building

- Training on community engagement and facilitation
- Communications support
- Connections to other technical assistance and funding programs

Relationship Building

- Forming partnerships
- Peer learning opportunities

Program Highlights

The list below includes highlights from the first two rounds of the program.

- Supported **17 cities and towns and 2 regions**
- Provided strategic counsel, accessed funding, and/or identified expert consultants to **help develop 7 Climate Action and/or Resiliency Plans**
- Connected BOOST Participants to nearly 90 grant opportunities, helping participants secure **over \$73 million in new grant funding** across the participating jurisdictions
- **Trained more than 100 local agency staff** on effective public engagement strategies
- **Helped multiple cities meet state planning mandates**, which increases funding opportunities

BOOST in Action:

City of Needles Pro Housing Designation

The BOOST Technical Assistance team partnered with PlaceWorks to help the City of Needles apply for the state's Prohousing Designation Program. In April 2023, the city became the first rural community and the smallest city to receive this prestigious designation to date. This designation will not only help Needles attract developers, it also helps the city compete for state funding programs. This designation qualified the city to apply to the Prohousing Incentive Pilot Program, for which the BOOST team helped the city develop an application. In response to the application, the Prohousing Incentive Pilot Program awarded the city a \$445,000 grant to help accelerate affordable housing production and preservation.

Contact

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