# Regional Climate Collaboratives Program Round 2 Draft Guidelines: Summary of Proposed Changes

This summary outlines the proposed changes for Round 2 of the Regional Climate Collaboratives Program. The Round 2 Guidelines maintain the same program objectives and follow SGC's legislative requirements per Senate Bill 1072. SGC will solicit feedback on the following proposed changes.

## Simplified and Streamlined
- Reduced page count by removing unnecessary text.
- The Round 2 draft is 28 pages compared to the 42-page Round 1 Guidelines.

## Collaborative Stakeholder Structure
- SGC proposes no longer requiring a signed Partnership Agreement at time of application submission. Instead, applicants can submit an unsigned draft. Award applicants will need to submit a signed version during the post-award consultation process to include in the executed grant agreement.
- Round 2 applicants have the option to include "Supporters" within their applications. Supporters are entities that the Collaborative will work with to leverage community engagement, policy making, and technical assistance opportunities. Unlike the Managing Stakeholder and Partners, Supporters are not funded by the RCC grant and instead plan to offer in-kind time and resources to help advance the work of the Collaborative.

## Eligible Costs
- SGC added clarify around consultant costs and proposes applicants can dedicate up to 10% of their direct costs budget to consultants who have not yet been identified. The purpose of this budget set-aside is to enable Collaboratives to access specific technical expertise to assist with components of the Collaborative's work plan as needed and/or add staff capacity through employing interns and fellows.
- The administrative cost category was removed and is reflected within the indirect cost category for Round 2.

## Project Area
- RCC maintains both a regional and place-based component to project area eligibility, with a slight modification to each:
  - **Region:** SGC proposes increasing the flexibility for applications to define their own region. Instead of using a county scale, applicants can determine their own region based on shared natural, political and built environment systems; climate risks; and/or other shared challenges or dynamics. However an applicant determines their regional boundary, the region must be contiguous and should not exceed eight counties.

- o **Communities of Focus:** SGC proposes increasing the percentage of under-resourced communities served by Collaboratives from 51% to 75%.

## Funding Tracks

- SGC proposes establishing the following two funding tracks:
    1. Small Grants: $500,000-$999,999
    2. Large Grants: $1,000,000-$1,750,000
- The purpose of this update is to prevent small and large proposals from being in the same applicant pool and to increase the diversity of Collaborative scales and scopes.

## Recommending Awards

- SGC proposes to recommend awards to the two top-scoring applications from each funding track. In order to ensure geographic diversity, after designating funds to these four projects that meet the grant size targets, the remaining available funds will be awarded to the next highest scoring applications located in counties that have not yet received an RCC award (in either Round 1 or Round 2), regardless of award size.
- This would provide SGC a clear process for advancing geographic equity within the RCC program, as mandated by SB 1072.

## Application Process

- Round 2 will have a two-phased application process like Round 1. The difference is that the Pre-Proposal is no longer optional and will be required in order to submit a Full Proposal.

## Threshold & Scoring Criteria

- The threshold criteria were simplified to increase program accessibility and remove redundancy. The Round 1 threshold requirements that were removed (such as including a project map that meets all of the specifications in the Guidelines) are instead reflected within the Round 2 scoring criteria.
- The scoring criteria was also refined for clarity and now includes a section dedicated to the interview component of the program.