

Community Resilience Centers (CRC)

Draft Round 2 Program Guidelines

Key Changes and Request for Input

Sept. 29, 2025

Action

The California Strategic Growth Council (SGC) requests input from members of the public on the Round 2 Community Resilience Centers Draft Guidelines by Jan. 2, 2026. You can share your feedback by completing our [feedback form](#) or attending a community input session.

Summary

The SGC invites public comment on the Round 2 Community Resilience Centers (CRC) Draft Guidelines (Draft Guidelines). This Key Changes and Request for Input document contains a summary of the significant changes in Round 2 and identifies areas where CRC staff are especially requesting feedback. We are particularly seeking input from California Native American Tribes and disadvantaged unincorporated communities. Comments will inform the Round 2 CRC Final Guidelines, which are expected to be released in spring/summer 2026. Round 2 would make \$55 million available in grant funds through the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024, commonly called the “Climate Bond.”

Public comment period

The public comment period for the Round 2 Draft Guidelines is **Sept. 29, 2025 – Jan. 2, 2026**.

How to submit comments and questions

Interested parties may submit comments on the Draft Guidelines using this [online form](#). CRC staff will also be hosting community input sessions and small focus groups. To register for these sessions, please visit the CRC website [here](#). These dates will be announced through the program’s announcement list. For updates on Round 2 of the CRC Program, register for the [CRC News & Update Announcement List](#). If you have questions about the CRC Program, email us at crc@sgc.ca.gov.

Background

The SGC updates the CRC Guidelines before each round of funding based on community input. These updates adapt the program to changes in legislation and current events to improve the program’s accessibility and inclusivity, and advance the program’s objectives. Staff have drafted the CRC Round 2 Draft Guidelines based on:

- Feedback from past CRC applicants and grantees
- Prior public engagement processes led by CRC and other SGC grant programs
- Lessons learned from the first round of CRC implementation
- Policy research
- Recent legislation
- A Request for Input conducted in spring 2025 on a new, proposed application process for CRC Implementation Grants

We are now seeking input and public comment on the Draft Guidelines.

This document summarizes the most significant proposed changes to the CRC Guidelines, organized by section of the Draft Guidelines. Minor changes have been omitted from this document.

Public comment is not limited to the following topics. We encourage you to comment on any content in the Draft Guidelines. All comments will be reviewed and considered by CRC staff but may not be reflected in the Round 2 Final Guidelines. The Round 2 Final Guidelines will be released 10 days prior to their consideration by SGC at a public meeting in spring/summer 2026.

Detailed Proposed Changes

CRC staff have incorporated the following changes to address the issues identified through the public engagement process. This document first details three topic areas with significant changes (California Native American Tribes; Project Development Grants; and Implementation Grants) before listing the changes in other sections in order. CRC staff may also make additional changes between the Draft and Final Guidelines that have not been proposed here.

California Native American Tribes (Sections 2 and throughout)

Requested feedback:

- Are these changes helpful? Are there other areas where CRC should consider building in flexibility for Tribes?
- Do you have feedback on the definition of a Tribally led/owned nonprofit?
- Do you have any feedback on the Tribal Funding Goal or priority points, particularly on who is eligible for them?
- What forms of technical assistance would you most benefit from?

Federally recognized and non-federally recognized California Native American Tribes are eligible Lead Applicants and are encouraged to apply.

In Round 1, the CRC Program had a Tribal Funding Target of funding a minimum of five qualifying Tribally-led proposals across all grant types. Of the 24 Round 1 awards, SGC awarded three Planning Grants and one Implementation Grant to projects led by California Native American Tribes. These four awards represent nearly 12% of awarded funds.

Draft changes: In order to increase access for Tribes, CRC staff have proposed the following changes:

- The Guidelines define **Tribally led/owned nonprofits** as “A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, with a majority of board members belonging to a specific California Native American Tribe, that exists as an arm of that Tribal nation to represent and pursue the interests of the Tribe. The Tribally led/owned nonprofit will need to receive formal endorsement from the Tribal government to apply and receive the grant if awarded.”
- *Section 1.7 Funding Goal and Section 2.2 Tribal Funding Goal:* Describes new Tribal funding goal of funding at least one qualifying Planning Grant application and one qualifying Implementation Grant application where the Lead Applicant is a California Native American Tribe or Tribally led/owned nonprofit. Given the smaller number of awards anticipated for Round 2, this goal represents approximately 19% of anticipated grant funds.
- *Section 2.3 Special Considerations:* Made Tribally led/owned nonprofits eligible to request modifications to most items for which California Native American Tribes can request modifications.
- *Section 2.4 Data Sovereignty:* Strengthens language around protecting data sovereignty.
- *Section 2.5 Tribal Notification:* CRC Program staff will notify California Native American Tribes on the Native American Heritage Commission contact list of applications received in their region
- *Section 2.6 Technical Assistance:* The CRC Program will provide technical assistance to California Native American Tribes or Tribally led/owned nonprofits during the application process
- *Section 3.1 Eligible Applicants and Appendix B: Collaborative Governance Structure:* California Native American Tribes and Tribally led/owned nonprofits do not need Partners in certain situations.
- *Section 6.3 Cost Categories and Caps:* Details exceptions to proposed new indirect cost rates to be (15% of the total grant award)
- *Section 7.1 Community Engagement:* Clarifies that engagement requirements should be interpreted to apply to that Tribal community, not to the public beyond that community.
- *Section 7.2 Collaborative Governance:* Requires all applicants notify surrounding Tribes of their project and, if desired by all parties, engage in consent-based collaboration that is flexible, equitable, culturally appropriate, and respectful.
- *Section 7.4 Applicant Capacity:* California Native American Tribes are exempt from submitting any financial management information that violates their data sovereignty, but must adequately demonstrate through other documentation that they have sufficient management and financial capacity to fulfill their proposed role in the CRC Grant.
- *Section 8.4 Program Thresholds and Scoring Criteria:* Applications led by a California Native American Tribe, Tribally led/owned nonprofit, or Tribal-serving nonprofit will receive priority points in all grant types.

Elimination of Project Development Grants

Draft changes: The SGC proposes eliminating CRC's Project Development Grant, as overall funding amount for Round 2 is half of that of Round 1; staff has expanded eligible costs for Planning Grants and Implementation Grants to address the needs previously served by the Project Development Grants in Round 1.

Implementation Grants (Section 5 and throughout)

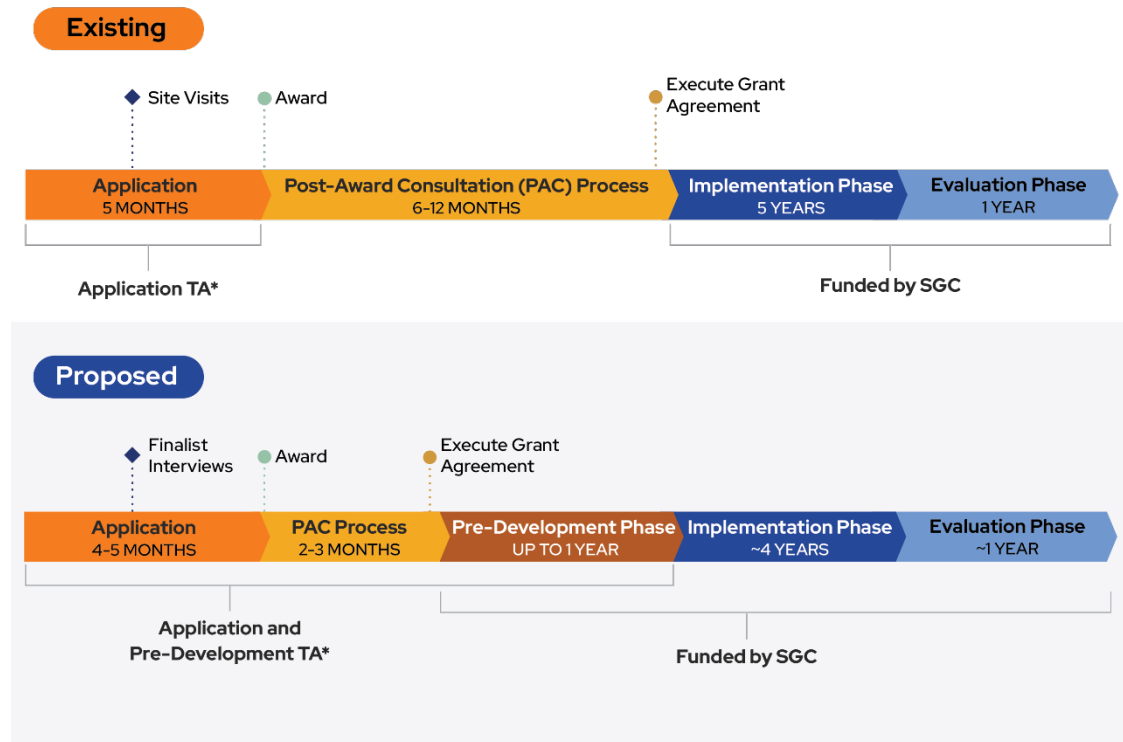
The SGC proposes changes to make the Implementation Grant Application process less burdensome.

Draft changes:

- *Section 5.5 Implementation Grant Phases:* The Draft Guidelines introduce a new “Pre-Development Phase” for Implementation Grants. This change would fund the development of detailed work plans and budgets. Instead of going from the Post-Award Consultation Process directly into grant implementation, the Post-Award Consultation process will be shorter, and SGC will fund a year of Pre-Development activities to prepare projects for Implementation. The new proposed process and approximate timelines are:
 - Application period (4 months) - Applicants will complete applications on SGC’s online grants portal, Submittable. Only applicants that meet all Application Requirements will be considered for award. The Council will make awards based on application scores and CRC funding goals.
 - Post-Award Consultation (PAC) Process (2-3 months) - Awardees and SGC staff will work together to execute a grant agreement containing a detailed work plan and budget for the Pre-Development Phase.
 - Pre-Development Phase (up to 1 year) - During the Pre-Development Phase, grantees will have access to a portion of their funds to support: staff time, pre-development work to achieve shovel-ready project plans, and continued community engagement to refine project plans and prepare for the Implementation Phase. Grantees can exit the Pre-Development Phase once they have met all Implementation Requirements and developed detailed work plans and budgets for all Implementation Phase work.
 - Implementation Phase (up to 3.5 years) - Lead Grantees complete all projects and plans
 - Performance Period (6 months) - No work can be completed during the Performance Period. Lead Grantees and Evaluation partners can continue to access funds for evaluation, reporting, and programming.
- *Section 5.6:* New subsection that details the anticipated timeline of the Implementation Grant.
- *Section 10.1 Application Technical Assistance:* the SGC will support priority applicants with application technical assistance (TA). Priority recipients will include disadvantaged unincorporated communities and California Native American Tribes. TA may also be

available during the Pre-Development Phase. See Sections 9 and 10 for more detail on the proposed changes.

The following timeline shows an approximate time frame of the proposed grant term (Implementation Phase will likely be 3.5 years and Performance Period will likely be 6 months).



Section 1: Program Overview

Draft changes: CRC staff have proposed the following draft changes to Section 1:

- *Section 1.3 Program Objectives:* New section that details overall CRC Program Objectives
- *Section 1.6 Priority Communities and Priority Populations:* Expands definition of priority communities to include disadvantaged communities (DACs) and severely disadvantaged communities (SDACs) as identified in the Climate Bond.
- *Section 1.7 Funding Goals:* Amends the CRC Round 1 geographic funding goal to specify that no more than 40% of the total available funds may be awarded to projects within a single California Governor's Office of Emergency Services Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid Region. Final award selections will aim to reflect broad regional distribution, based on the competitiveness and eligibility of applications.

Requested feedback:

- Are the definitions for priority communities and priority populations clear? Do you have concerns about determining whether your community is a priority community?
- How can the CRC Program best prioritize geographic diversity? How is geographic diversity for CRC grant awards best defined?

Section 3: Eligibility

Draft changes: CRC staff have proposed the following draft changes to Section 3:

- Section 3.1 Eligible Applicants:
 - Updates the list of eligible Lead Applicants and Partners to align with Climate Bond requirements. The Lead Applicant must be a public agency, local agency, nonprofit organization, special district, joint powers authority, Tribe, public utility, local publicly owned utility, or mutual water company. Private shareholder corporations are ineligible.
 - Eliminates the term “Co-applicant” and replaces it with the term “Partner” throughout the document.
 - Updates the number of Partners required for each application (1 Partner required for Planning Grant applicants, and 2 Partners required for Implementation Grant applicants).
- Section 3.2 Eligible Planning and Project Areas:
 - Updates Planning Grant Planning Area definition to include the proposed CRC site, proposed planning activities, and impacted community around site.
 - Updates Implementation Grant Project Area requirements. Applicants must submit a letter of commitment from relevant public agency(ies) who have jurisdiction over the project area. If the awarded and if the Project Area spans multiple jurisdictions, the Grantee must submit execute Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) outlining the involvement of the various jurisdictions.
- *Section 3.3: Eligible Facility Types:* Updates requirements for applications with more than one CRC facility. If an application includes more than one facility, the facilities must be within a one-mile radius and have the same owner.

Requested feedback:

- Are the Project Area requirements clear? Are there other considerations CRC should consider in relation to Tribal, rural, and unincorporated communities?
- The one-mile radius for multi-site applications is intended to focus resources on single neighborhoods; is a one-mile radius sufficient for applications that include multiple facilities?

Section 4: Planning Grants

Draft changes: CRC staff have proposed the following draft changes to Section 4:

- *Section 4.2 Eligible Planning Grant Activities:* Updates new Planning Grant eligible activities to include site investigation and reconnaissance activities such as soil sampling and cultural resource surveys; updates descriptions of capacity building and programming activities as eligible activities
- *Section 4.3 Planning Grant Requirements:* New subsection that details Planning Grant requirements during the grant term

Requested feedback:

- Are the differences between Planning and Implementation Grant eligible activities and requirements clear?

Section 5: Implementation Grants

Draft changes: See “Implementation Grants” section, above, for details on proposed changes to Section 5.

Section 6: Eligible Costs

Draft changes: CRC staff have proposed the following draft changes to Section 6:

- *Section 6.1 Ineligible Costs:* Clarifies ineligible food and refreshment costs, door prize costs, cash subsidies, sponsorships costs, and real estate commission-based compensation fees related to acquisition or disposition of real property.
- *Section 6.2 Cost Categories and Caps:* Raises indirect costs to be 15% of the total grant award, from 12% in Round 1; clarifies travel expenses, community engagement and outreach expenses (communication materials, consultation services, public awareness supplies), event-related costs (venues, facilitators), and childcare expenses for community residents during community engagement events.
- *Section 6.3 Cost Categories and Caps:* Clarifies that CRC funds cannot be used for the acquisition and/or maintenance of fossil-fuel powered appliances and infrastructure, such as diesel generators and gas-powered appliances.

Requested feedback:

- Is the distinction between eligible and ineligible costs clear?
- Are there additional items that should be added as eligible costs?

Section 7: Program Requirements

Draft changes: CRC staff have proposed the following draft changes to Section 7:

- *Section 7.1 Community Engagement:*
 - Implementation grant applicants must submit a summary of community engagement to date and proposed engagement activities, rather than a community engagement plan; Grantees must instead complete the community engagement plan by the end of the Pre-Development Phase.

- Section 7.2 Collaborative Governance:
 - All grant types: The Collaborative Stakeholder Structures (CSS) from Round 1 will now be called the Collaborative Governance Structures (CGS); the Partnership Agreements (PAs) will now be referred to as a Collaborative Governance Agreements (CGAs) in Round 2.
 - All grant types: Requires all applicants notify surrounding Tribes of their project and, if desired by all parties, engage in consent-based collaboration that is flexible, equitable, culturally appropriate, and respectful
 - Implementation Grant Lead Applicants need to submit signed letters of commitments from identified Partners. The Partners must also sign a worksheet that addresses all requirements of the Collaborative Governance Agreement (CGA) at time of application. In Round 1, Applicants had to submit a full draft Partnership Agreement (now a CGA) at the time of application. Draft changes for Round 2 require that CGAs must be complete by the end of the Pre-Development Phase, prior to moving onto the Implementation Phase.
- Section 7.3 Site Control and Readiness
 - Clarifies Planning Grant site control requirements.
 - Clarifies and updates Implementation Grant requirements, distinguishing application requirements from pre-development requirements:
 - Applicants must demonstrate ability to gain **site control** by the end of Pre-Development phase. Grantees must gain site control before the end of the Pre-Development Phase;
 - Grantees must demonstrate **CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) compliance** by the end of the Pre-Development phase;
 - Applicants must consult with **emergency service providers** about the site location and demonstrate road capacity can function as proposed;
 - Applicants must submit **project budgets** with appropriate documentation that ensures no funding gap of more than 10% of total project costs (if total cost of project is higher than requested amount, CRC requires secured leverage funding documentation) and a plan for closing the funding gap with a list of potential funding sources;
 - Applicants must submit **land-use analysis** for land-use/zoning suitability along with a zoning verification letter at time of application;
 - Grantees must acquire all necessary **permits** by the end of Pre-Development Phase;
 - Applicants and Grantees must demonstrate that projects do not have a funding gap of more than 10% of overall project amount, at time of application or at any time during project implementation;
 - Applicants must answer narrative questions regarding project **operations and maintenance** beyond the grant term at time of application; Grantees must complete a final Operations and Maintenance Plan by the end of the Pre-Development Phase;

- Grantees must provide final **floor plans** during the Pre-Development Phase
- Grantees must complete a **Facility Condition Assessment** for existing facilities within the first six months of the Pre-Development Phase.
- Section 7.4 Applicant Capacity
 - All grant types: Clarifies requirements that each Lead Applicant and Partner must provide a letter of commitment and that Lead Applicants must answer narrative questions related to management and financial capacity, at time of application.
 - IG only: Applicants must submit the contact information, rather than a letter of support, from one reference who can speak to Lead Applicant's quality and timeliness of work.
- *Section 7.5 Long-term Use of the CRC Facility:* Updates the forms of documentation required of Implementation Grantees who utilize leased facilities. Grantees must provide a signed and executed Memorandum of Unrecorded Grant Agreement (MOUGA) or a Notice of Unrecorded Grant Agreement, by the second year of the Grant Agreement.
- *Section 7.6 Other Grant Requirements:* New sub-section that outlines other grant specific requirements for Planning and Implementation Grants.

Requested feedback:

- At time of application, applicants must demonstrate that they have secured at least 90% of funding costs. What level of documentation should be required? Is 10% an appropriate funding gap allowance at time of application?
- Implementation Grant Lead Applicants are required to submit letters of commitment from at least two Partners (one of the two must be a community-based organization). Do rural or tribal communities anticipate challenges with this requirement? If so, what are those challenges?
- Within the CRC program, a rural area is defined by [Health and Safety Code 50199.21](#). Is the distinction between rural and urban areas clear? Are there other definitions CRC should consider?
- For Implementation Grant applicants, do these Application Requirements seem more feasible and less burdensome to obtain? Does the shift in requirements from application to pre-development phase ease application burden (e.g., reduce the money and staff capacity needed to apply)? Which Application Requirements will be the most challenging to complete?
- Do the proposed changes to Program Requirements create new challenges for rural communities?

Section 8: Application

Draft changes: CRC staff have proposed the following draft changes to Section 8:

- *Section 8.2 Application Submission Process and Timeline:* Requires the Intent to Apply Survey as the first step of the application process. Modifies Implementation Grant scoring criteria, which totals to 190 points for the application review phase. Top-scoring

Implementation Grant applicants will also participate in an interview, scored out of an additional 25 points (top-scoring Implementation Grant applicants may now receive up to 215 points).

- Section 8.3 Application Components:
 - Planning Grants only: Applicants must submit proposed Partners and a vision for their Collaborative Governance Structure.
 - Implementation Grants only: Applicants must submit a completed worksheet that addresses all requirements of the Collaborative Governance Structure; in budgets, documentation of cost estimates must be provided for the purchase of any electronics, equipment above \$5,000 and for subcontractors above \$100,000.
- Section 8.4 Program Threshold and Scoring Criteria:
 - Updates scoring criteria and point totals.
 - Planning Grants: Eliminates Lead Applicant Capacity scoring criteria, includes new Project Impact scoring criteria, expands and refines priority points scoring criteria.
 - Implementation Grants: Eliminates Sharing Plan scoring criteria, expands and refines Priority Points scoring criteria.
 - Clarifies and re-defines Program Thresholds to ensure that criteria can be easily evaluated as ‘pass/no pass.’
 - Establishes management and financial capacity as a threshold item rather than as part of the scoring criteria.
 - Adds priority points for qualifying applications representing Tribal communities, under-resourced communities, rural and/or unincorporated communities, or previous SGC or Governor’s Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation grantees.
 - *Section 8.5 Close Scores Protocol*: Creates a Close Scores Protocol to use when raw scores are within 1 point of each other for Implementation Grants. The close scores protocol will be applied to applications that are within 1 point of being awarded or not awarded.
 - Preference will be given to applications with higher Prior Community Engagement scores.

Requested feedback:

- Do the revised scoring criteria feel clear, appropriate, and aligned with CRC Objectives?
- Are the revised Program Thresholds clear and appropriate?
- Do you support the addition of the Close Scores Protocol?

Section 9: Grant Administration

Draft changes: CRC staff have proposed the following draft changes to Section 9:

- *Section 9.3 Post-Award Consultation Process*: New section that describes the Post-Award Consultation (PAC) Process, the role of this process, Lead Grantees, and SGC staff

- *Section 9.4 Disbursements and Accounting of Funds:* Clarifies that SGC can offer advanced payment to federally recognized Tribes, but that Tribes must submit a limited waiver of sovereign immunity for the advanced funds.
- *Section 9.6 Reporting Requirements:* Clarifies reporting requirements during the grant administration process; all Lead Grantees are required to submit regular progress reports and final reports; Implementation Grantees are required to submit additional annual reports, equipment inventory records, leverage funding reports, and indicator tracking (evaluation) reports.
- *Section 9.7 Implementation Grant Evaluation:* Specifies that SGC will work with each awarded Tribe and their evaluation Technical Assistance provider to reach a mutually agreeable evaluation plan that protects confidentiality of Tribal data and Traditional Ecological Knowledge.

Section 10: Technical Assistance

Draft changes: CRC staff have proposed the following draft changes to Section 10:

- *Section 10.1 Application Technical Assistance:* Details application technical assistance activities (direct application assistance, financial analysis and budget development, identification of a Project Area, assessment of project readiness); SGC will provide Third Party Technical Assistance to applicants from Tribal communities. Staff from SGC will provide general assistance to all applicants by offering webinars and supportive materials as needed (recorded videos, samples, written materials, etc.)
- *Section 10.2 Pre-Development Phase Technical Assistance:* New subsection that describes Pre-Development Phase Technical Assistance, meant to support Lead Grantees as they work towards meeting all Implementation Requirements; activities include: setting up grant management systems and procedures, developing detailed work plans and budgets, and meeting all other Implementation Requirements

Requested feedback:

- What forms of technical assistance would you most benefit from?

Appendix A: Terms and definitions

- Added definitions of: Collaborative Governance Agreement, Construction, Disadvantaged Communities (DACs), Ground disturbance activities, Letters of commitment, Letters of support, rural community, Severely disadvantaged communities (SDACs), traditional ecological knowledge, tribally led/owned non-profits, tribal-serving nonprofits, under-resourced communities.