

Community Resilience Centers Program

Round 2 Applicant Preparation Guide

Overview

Purpose

This guide is designed to help potential applicants evaluate their readiness to successfully navigate the Community Resilience Center Program (CRC) Round 2 application process. It provides a checklist of key steps and materials needed to prepare for the application period and ensure project proposals align with program requirements.

CRC Round 2 program timeline and requirements discussed in this guide are of a high level and subject to change. Please consult the [CRC Round 2 Guidelines](#), the [CRC Round 2 Materials](#), and the [CRC website](#) and sign up for [e-mail updates](#), or contact CRC at CRC@sgc.ca.gov.

CRC Round 2 Overview

Round 2 of CRC will award \$55 million to fund the planning, construction, and retrofit of community resilience centers and advance local communities' long-term capacity to respond to and recover from climate emergencies. The program aims to support efforts that combine community services and physical improvements to protect the health of Californians who are most vulnerable to climate extremes. This second round of funding comes from California's Climate Bond (Proposition 4).

Anticipated Timeline & Milestones



May 29: CRC Round 2 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) is available

July 2: CRC Round 2 Applications available on Submittable

September 4: CRC Round 2 Planning Grant Application closes

September 25: CRC Round 2 Implementation Grant Application closes

Spring 2027: SGC announces CRC Round 2 awardees

Technical Assistance for Applicants

General resource materials and tools will be available to all applicants to support the development of their applications. Eligible applicants may also request technical assistance (TA) to help meet grant requirements and strengthen the competitiveness of their applications.

Applicants from California Native American Tribes and Tribally-owned nonprofits will be prioritized for TA. If available, remaining TA resources will be provided to organizations in the following order and on a first-come, first-served basis: 1. Lead Applicants that are nonprofits whose missions are primarily focused on serving Tribal communities and the grant activities are primarily focused on serving Tribal communities. 2. Lead Applicants that are nonprofits in rural communities or unincorporated communities and that meet the definition of an under-resourced community. Eligible applicants listed above should indicate interest in receiving TA on the [Technical Assistance Interest Form](#) by July 31, 2026, after which SGC staff will reach out with additional information and next steps.

Who Can Apply?

Eligible Lead Applicants include:

- **Local and regional public agencies**, including, but not limited to, cities, counties, joint powers authorities, public utility, local publicly owned utility, mutual water company, special districts (e.g., climate resilience districts, resource conservation districts, harbor districts), public schools, local or regional public authorities, local or regional public agencies, or other political subdivisions.
- **California Native American Tribes or Tribally-owned nonprofits**
- **IRC 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organizations**

Private shareholder corporations are not eligible as Lead Applicants or funded Partners.

Applicant Team Roles

Together, the Lead Applicant and Partner(s) are collectively referred to as the "Applicants."

- **Lead Applicant** will be responsible for submitting the full application and will receive funds from CRC if awarded. If awarded, the Lead Applicant will enter into an agreement for grant funding with the state.
- **Partner(s)** is required for each grant type and will receive funds from CRC through the Lead Applicant if awarded. At application, Planning Grants will require one partner and Implementation Grants will require two partners with at least one being a community-based organization (CBO), if the Lead Applicant is not already a CBO. Applicants should consider their Partner's key activities, detailed tasks, and cost at application. Tribal applicants do not need Partners in certain situations.

What Kinds of Projects Are Eligible for Awards?

CRC Round 2 will require that Applicants to apply to one grant type.

Planning Grants will fund communities in the initial stages of CRC project development. Examples of eligible activities include community engagement, creating relevant plans (e.g., emergency operations, climate adaptation), and capacity building. Grant activities will prepare grantees for future funding to build or renovate community resilience centers.

- Award Amount: \$100,000 to \$500,000

Implementation Grants will fund new construction and retrofits of facilities to serve as Community Resilience Centers, as well as programs and services that build overall community resilience. Examples of eligible activities include construction, retrofits, and other upgrades to the CRC Facility itself; campus amenity improvements; programs and services; community engagement.

- Award Amount: \$1,000,000 to \$10,000,000

Additionally, Implementation grants can fund:

- Pre-Development phase: pre-construction activities such as facility condition assessments, planning, engineering, architectural, and other design work, and soft costs for construction plans.
- Partner Sites: Site(s) managed by Applicants that offers programming and services that advance resilience within the community. Eligible costs include programs and services and minor infrastructure upgrades.

All grant types can fund staff time for work on the CRC grant at a fully burdened rate so be sure to include it in your budget plan at application.

What is an Eligible Community Resilience Center?

A Community Resilience Center (CRC) is a physical building. The building will vary based on local context. CRC Round 2 Guidelines provide examples of existing community-serving facilities that are eligible, but applicants can also propose the construction of new buildings.

When proposing a CRC Facility, applicants should consider the Program's required functions and features, including the ability to deliver year-round, publicly available services and programming including emergency response services during disruptions, such as a disaster, state of emergency, local emergency, and/or de-energization event.

For Implementation Grants, the CRC Facility itself is one part of a Project Area. A Project Area's physical structures include:

- **Community Resilience Center (required):** A CRC is a publicly available, year-round building to serve the local community during emergencies and during normal, non-emergency periods. Also referred to as the CRC Facility.
- **Campus Amenities:** Physical features of the CRC that strengthen community resilience such as rain gardens or sidewalk accessibility. Must be on same parcel or adjoining parcel as the CRC or be an amenity within a one-mile radius that improves accessibility.
- **Partner Site(s):** Sites managed by Lead Applicant or Partner(s) that are within the applicants' geographic focus area, but outside the CRC campus and one-mile radius. They are not considered CRCs and are not responsible for the full suite of required functions or features.

Planning Grant applicants are required to define a Planning Area, inclusive of a proposed CRC Facility and the related planning activities, and the impacted community around the proposed CRC Site. At the Planning Grant stage, applicants may include multiple CRC Facility sites with the intention of selecting a suitable project site for a future CRC Facility. Applicants are encouraged to review the Project Area eligibility requirements for Implementation Grants and consider their ability to align the focus area for future funding opportunities.

Connecting Proposed Projects to Program Objectives

The CRC Program aims to support proposals that have project goals and vision aligned with the **CRC Program Objectives** listed below. Be sure to use these values to guide your project planning and proposal development.

- Fund the planning, construction, and/or retrofit of Community Resilience Centers across California's diverse communities
- Advance the capacity of local communities to respond to and recover from emergencies as they build long-term resilience with investments in physical and social infrastructure
- Support meaningful engagement, cross-sectoral collaboration, community-based partnerships, and shared governance models
- Mitigate the public health impacts of extreme heat and other emergencies exacerbated by climate change

Prioritize projects located in and benefiting under-resourced (low-income, extremely low-income, disadvantaged, severely disadvantaged), rural, unincorporated, and Tribal communities across geographically diverse regions in the state of California.

How to Prepare for the CRC Round 2 Application

There are many opportunities for potential applicants to get started early on their Round 2 proposals before the CRC Submittable application is released on July 2, 2026.

Before you get started...

1. Review [CRC Round 2 Guidelines' eligibility](#) to confirm that your organization is an eligible entity. Pay close attention to Sections 3-8 in the CRC Round 2 guidelines to make sure proposals fall within the eligibility requirements for the selected grant type.
2. Make sure you've bookmarked the [CRC webpage](#) and signed up for program and application updates through our [email list!](#)
3. Review the checklists below to get started early on application preparation!

1. Identify and Scope Your Project

Getting an early start on identifying, scoping, and planning your project will make the application process smoother and less stressful, giving you more time to focus on building strong partnerships and developing a compelling proposal. Begin by reviewing program requirements and community priorities, identifying potential sites and project components, and drafting a preliminary budget. Please note, the CRC Round 2 Guidelines details distinct program requirements for [Planning Grants](#) and [Implementation Grants](#).

Project Identification and Scoping Checklist

- Review Round 2 Activity Eligibility Requirements, Project Types, and CRC Program Objectives to guide project planning.
- Review any existing local or regional climate emergency planning to identify existing priorities and strategies.
- Review any previous planning or community engagement efforts around climate extremes (extreme heat, floods, etc.) to identify geographic or community priorities.
- Identify potential existing CRC Facilities, Partner Sites, and Planning or Project Areas for your CRC and assess site feasibility, including ownership, land use/zoning, environmental compliance (CEQA), and permitting needs.
- Determine the planning and design stages required for physical infrastructure, including timelines and dependencies. Consider operations, maintenance, and long-term sustainability of the project once implemented.
- Draft a high-level timeline for project milestones (e.g., planning, design, permitting, construction, evaluation).
- Determine any planning components required before, during, or after the development of physical infrastructure (e.g., community engagement, community planning, assessments).

- Review program cost requirements and develop a preliminary project budget including costs and activities, with attention to cost categories and caps outlined in the [Guidelines](#).
- Begin to outline how your project will mitigate public health impacts of extreme heat and other emergencies exacerbated by climate change.
- Consider and document how the project advances the capacity of local communities to respond to and recover from climate extremes, develops collaborative partnerships, and supports Priority Populations.

2. Build Partnerships

Local, diverse partnerships are a required component of each grant type. Round 2 requires that all Lead Applicants include one or more Partner(s) in their proposed projects to be eligible for consideration. Tribal applicants are exempt from the requirement to include a Partner.

Partnership Requirements

Round 2 has specific partnership requirements for Lead Applicants. Applicants should consider local expertise, community experience, jurisdictional authority, and operational capacity necessary to implement the project when considering partnerships (see table below).

The table below lists the Partner requirement for each grant type.

Partnership Requirements for Lead Applicants

Grant Type	Required Partner
Planning Grant	Each application must include at least one Partner in addition to the Lead Applicant. Lead Applicants and Partner(s) must also submit a Letter of Commitment describing their roles, responsibilities, and commitment to supporting completion of the grant project on time and within budget.
Implementation Grant	Each application must include at least two Partners in addition to the Lead Applicant, with at least one being a community-based organization (CBO), if the Lead Applicant is not already a CBO. Lead Applicants and Partners must submit a signed Collaborative Governance Agreement Worksheet and a Letter of Commitment to demonstrate management capacity, commitment from relevant public agencies, site control, and emergency activation coordination.

With the Round 2 Application Period expected to launch July 2, 2026, applicants should begin building and/or formalizing partnerships now, as defining roles and coordinating responsibilities across multiple organizations can take time. Early one-on-one and group discussions, supported by a collaboration matrix that outlines each partner’s type and responsibilities, can help clarify structure and streamline coordination.

Strong partnerships typically bring together entities with complementary strengths, proven community engagement experience, and a history of working collaboratively—for example: regional climate collaboratives, organizations representing social workers or access and functional needs communities, and youth-led or youth-empowerment groups.

Consider these questions to help identify potential project partners:

- Are there organizations/groups doing work to address climate extremes or community resilience in your community?
- What organizations are most trusted by the people that are most vulnerable to climate extremes?
- What organizations have been most effective at building community power and advocating for policy change and community-centered infrastructure improvement?
- Have you had previous discussions with other organizations around climate extremes and community resilience?
- Are there existing local or regional planning documents or strategies for addressing climate extremes? Who owns those plans?
- What specialized skills or expertise would your project benefit from? Are there local organizations that have these skills?
- How can partners be included in the project scope to create a holistic, comprehensive approach to addressing climate extremes?

Partnership Building Checklist

- Review the updated [CRC Round 2 Partnership Requirements](#).
- Identify organizations and groups working on climate extremes or community resilience in your geographic area of focus and consider what project roles they might support.
- Try to identify and engage your Partner(s) as early as possible and begin clarifying roles and responsibilities for both the proposed project and preparing your application.
- Public agencies and Tribal applicants should communicate about and request Letters of Commitment early to account for turnaround time.

3. Gather Information Required for Round 2 Application

Required application documents vary by applicant type and are outlined below to help you begin gathering and organizing materials in preparation for the application period. The documents listed below are due when the full application is due. Review the [CRC Round 2 Guidelines Section 7: Program Requirements](#) for more details.

All Grant Types:

- Public Agencies and Tribal applicants must submit evidence of a passed formal resolution or Letter of Authorization. [CRC Round 2 Guidelines](#) contain more details.
- Summary of community engagement to date, including descriptions of type, quality, depth, methods, and a draft community engagement plan.
- Prepare to discuss Lead Applicant and Partner(s)'s management capacity including:
 - Description of the role of the Lead Applicant and Partner(s) in successfully managing the project
 - Discuss how Lead Applicants and Partner(s) will manage the proposed budget and activities.
 - If Lead Applicants and Partner(s) have previous experience managing grants, discuss lessons learned related to grant management practices, project management, and internal policies and procedures for financial management.
- Application work plan and budget. *Template is available when applications open.*
- Priority points documentation for communities designated as “under-resourced communities,” including:
 - A map identification of the Project Area as disadvantaged or severely disadvantaged using [the Climate Bond Mapping Tool](#); OR
 - A map of census tracts identified as disadvantaged by [the California Environmental Protection Agency via the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment's CalEnviroScreen 4.0 tool \(CA EPA 2021 update\)](#).
- Relevant Letters of Commitment as described in the [Round 2 Guidelines](#). *Templates are available when applications open.*
- Financial capacity. *Optional for Planning Grant Applicants.*
 - Financial statements and/or audits: Provide copies of certified financial statements and/or audits for the organization for the past three fiscal years, prepared by an independent auditor or certified public accountant.
 - Organizational budget: Provide the current fiscal year's annual organizational budget, including any other funding sources or revenue streams that exist for the organization.
 - Nonprofit documentation: If the Lead Applicant is a nonprofit organization, please provide copies of the most recent Federal Form 990 (Form 990, 990-WZ, 990-N, or

990-PF as appropriate) and a copy of the organization's IRS 501 (c)(3) Tax Determination Letter (if relevant).

- Audit findings: Any applicant that has had an audit finding in the last five years is required to submit Independent Auditor's Report detailing the finding(s), and the organization's written response to the auditor's report including the plan to resolve the audit finding(s).
- California Native American Tribes or Tribally owned nonprofits are exempt from submitting any financial or management capacity information that violates their data sovereignty.

Implementation Grants:

Management capacity:

- Internal organizational chart
- Documentation from the lead applicant and partners leading capital project components of having successfully completed work in California within the last five (5) years that is similar to the grant component they are proposing to lead. This could be in the form of annual reports, project close-out reports, or other similar documents.
- Project Areas Crossing Multiple Jurisdictions: If Lead Applicant's Project Area crosses municipal boundaries, federally recognized Tribal territory boundaries, or similarly relevant jurisdictional boundaries, they must submit a Letter of Commitment from each relevant public agency at the time of application if relevant agencies are not included on the Collaborative Governance Agreement worksheet.

Financial capacity

- Prepare to discuss Lead Applicants and Partners' written financial management policies and procedures, procurement policies, and management of vendor contracts.
- Prepare to discuss any other state and/or federal funding currently managed by the Lead Applicants and Partners and any related financial management and accounting practices.
- If an applicant plans to request advance pay, prepare to describe internal controls and cash management systems to be used to track and reconcile any approved advanced funding.
- Prepare to discuss organizational strategies, policies, or practices to minimize the risk of fraud, waste, and abuse of funds.

- Prepare to describe the Lead Applicant and Partners' efforts to increase administrative and financial capacity to manage grant funds.
- Collaborative Governance
 - Collaborative Governance Agreement worksheet. *Template is available when application opens.*
- Site control and readiness:
 - Evidence of ability to gain site control by the end of the Pre-Development Phase (additional details provided in Round 2 Guidelines).
 - Draft CRC Facility floor plans and floor plans of any Partner Site that will carry out CRC functions, such as overnight shelter, or will require CRC-funded improvements.
- Project financial feasibility
 - Estimated procurement schedule for architects, engineers, and construction contractors
 - Approximate timeline for construction completion, including any capital projects at Partner Sites
 - Draft construction cost estimate based on the project's final plans and specifications, created by a third-party. The cost estimate must be prepared by, or reviewed by, an architect, engineer, or another reputable California-based source.
- Draft Plans
 - If the county in which the CRC Facility is located is not a Lead Applicant or Partner, applicants must submit a copy of their communication of a Notice of Intent to Apply to the relevant County Office of Emergency Services, or they must provide alternate documentation confirming consultation. Tribal applicants with CRC projects located on Tribal trust land will not be required to coordinate with County Office of Emergency Services.
 - Draft Emergency Plan demonstrating the CRC Facility's ability to serve the local community during emergencies, with specific attention to priority populations. It should also address what role, if any, Partner Sites will have during activation (if applicable). *Template available when applications open.*
 - Draft Community Resilience Plan demonstrating the CRC Facility's ability to provide programs and services year-round, with specific attention to priority populations. *Template is available when applications open.*



Thank you for considering applying to SGC's CRC Round 2 Program

The activities suggested in this checklist are meant to prepare applicants to submit a full application, but this checklist is not the final application. CRC Round 2 applications will open on July 2, 2026, on Submittable.

We hope this document has been helpful and look forward to reviewing your application! CRC Round 2 program timeline and requirements discussed in this guide are of a high level and subject to change. For the most up-to-date information, please consult the [CRC website](#), sign up for [email updates](#), or contact the CRC program at CRC@sgc.ca.gov.