



Round 3 Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

This document is intended to answer frequently asked questions regarding Round 3 of the California Strategic Growth Council's (SGC) Factory-Built Housing Regional Pilot Program (FBH Program). These questions have come from general inquiries, office hours, and technical assistance requests. View the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) and Catalyst and Planning Grants on our website:

- [NOFA](#)
- [Catalyst Application](#)
- [Planning Application](#)

For further questions and inquiries, contact factorybuihousing@sgc.ca.gov or attend office hours **every Wednesday from 2-3 p.m. PST**. [Register for office hours through Zoom](#).

Additionally, to support the development of competitive FBH Round 3 applications, the SGC will make no-cost **technical assistance (TA)** available to some program applicants. Applicants intending to apply for a FBH Catalyst or Planning Grant can request application TA by emailing factorybuihousing@sgc.ca.gov with the subject line "FBH Round 3 Technical Assistance Request" by no later than **11:59 p.m. PST Wednesday, April 15**.

Please include within your email:

1. Your organization name
2. Your organization type
3. Whether your organization serves [priority populations](#) defined by California Climate Investments (CCI).
4. The information you would like to discuss/need assistance with.

Additional questions and answers may be added to this document as the FBH team receives further inquiries.

Applicant Experience and Capacity



Question: There is a question on the application that says: “Upload: Financial documents required for the Lead Applicant’s entity type.” It only describes the financial documents required for for-profit entities and nonprofits. What if my organization is a different type of entity?

Answer: For all applications outside of those two listed organization types, please upload annual organizational budgets and a copy of recent financial statements (from the last three years). Any applicant with audit findings from the last five years is required to disclose results or upload those audit findings to the question.

District Reporting

Question: One of the earlier questions only allows a single "Project Congressional District" to be selected. Our proposal covers more than one district. How should I handle this?

Answer: We understand that we've only made single options available for those questions although projects may be serving multiple jurisdictions. This question is coming from an agency reporting perspective and will not have any impact on the scoring or understanding of your project proposal. You will be able to fully demonstrate your project area scope in later questions. Functionally for that question, you may select whichever district you feel best fits the project, or you could choose the district that your organization is located in.

Eligible Activities/Costs

Question: Is site acquisition an eligible cost?

Answer: Site acquisition is not an eligible cost, unless the applicant creates a pass-through mechanism that allows for subrecipients to use FBH Program funds. While the FBH Program does not allow grantees to fund development or acquisition with FBH Program funds, recipients of pass-through funds may use the funds for development, associated pre-construction, construction, and acquisition costs. The pass-through funding option is primarily reserved for project proposals that are intended to pass through funding to multiple entities for various projects. Appropriate projects that may contain a pass-through funding mechanism could



include creating an alternative financing mechanism (e.g. financing product, grant program, or community land trust).

Proposed projects that include pass-through funding must explicitly describe, at the time of application, the applicant's vision for the pass-through mechanism or structure, its alignment with FBH Program objectives, and the anticipated administrative and compliance responsibilities of all participating entities. Entities directly affiliated with the grantee (e.g. a nonprofit arm of a for-profit grantee or a subsidiary of the grantee) are not permitted to receive pass-through funds from the FBH Program.

The SGC reserves the right to request additional documentation or justification at the time of application to ensure the applicant's project aligns with the FBH Program's goals and objectives. For more information on pass-through funding, please see [Appendix B: Pass-Through Funding](#) of the FBH Program R3 Guidelines.

Question: Is a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) study an eligible activity?

Answer: Yes, a CEQA study, site feasibility assessment, and broader site assessments are all considered eligible activities for both Planning and Catalyst Grants.

Partnerships

Question: What is the role of partnerships within Catalyst Grants?

Answer: Catalyst Grants do not have any partnership requirements at the time of application. However, Catalyst Grant applicants should demonstrate their willingness and capacity to enter into partnerships, as finalized partnerships will be a year one requirement during the Catalyst Grant term, if awarded. Please note, Planning Grants require draft Partnership Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) at the time of application.



Program Design

Question: Do Catalyst Grants rollover into Planning Grants? Can I qualify for both? Can an entity apply for multiple projects?

Answer: Catalyst Grants and Planning Grants are separate from one another. Lead applicants may be eligible for both grant types and may submit up to one application per grant type. Lead applicants may not submit multiple applications per single grant type. However, the same organization may lead one application and be a partner on a separate application for a single grant type. For example: Nonprofit A may be the lead applicant for one Catalyst grant AND one Planning grant but may not lead other applications. Nonprofit A has no limitations on its role as a partner, and can be listed as a partner for as many applications as they have capacity to be potentially involved in.

Project Area

Question: Can you clarify what is meant by: “The project area must be composed of, at minimum, one county and/or two local jurisdictions”? Can you give an example of a local jurisdiction? Is there another type of jurisdiction besides other cities within our county?

Answer: This statement effectively means that the project proposal should make an impact on, at minimum, either a county level or a multi-local jurisdictional level (at least two cities within one or differing counties). Regional and multi-regional levels work as well.

Question: Can the project area be beyond our public sector partner's jurisdiction?

Answer: Yes, the intention of the public entity partner requirement (which applies to Planning Grants only) is to demonstrate that there is some degree of potential buy-in from organizations who hold jurisdictional authority to collaborate on project activities. However, applicants do not need all potential stakeholders to be considered within the partnership at the time of application.



Technical Assistance (TA)

Question: What is the intention/scope of TA? Will SGC help match-make potential partnerships?

Answer: Our TA is primarily focused on building technical capacity for applicants. We encourage potential applicants to come to program office hours for general inquiries. Office hours are held **every Wednesday from 2-3 p.m. PST**. You can [register for office hours through Zoom](#).

We will offer no-cost TA on a limited basis to applicants who request help on application items (workbooks, budgets, project area maps, partnership MOUs, etc.). Applicants intending to apply for a FBH Catalyst or Planning Grant can request application TA by emailing factorybuihousing@sgc.ca.gov with the subject line "FBH Round 3 Technical Assistance Request" by no later than **11:59 p.m. PST Wednesday, April 15**.

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We currently do not have a formal "matchmaking" process for applicants looking for other organizations to potentially partner together. However, applicants are free to leave a note to staff, using the staff inbox or during office hours, that will allow staff to share their information with other organizations in their region who may be looking for partners.

Tribally Led Applications

Question: If a Tribe is applying as a lead applicant, does the project area need to be composed of, at minimum, one county and/or two local jurisdictions?

Answer: Tribally led projects are not exempt from the project area requirement of at least one county or two local jurisdictions. A core part of the program is the



replicability and multi-jurisdictional element of project activities, and we are not funding any work that is site/single-development specific. There are a few other SGC programs, however, that have different project area requirements for Tribes, specifically the [Tribal Capacity Building Program](#), the [Tribal Housing Pre-Development Fund](#), and the [Community Resilience Centers Program](#).

Question: Do Tribal lead applicants have the same partnership requirements?

Answer: For Planning Grant applications that require partners at the time of application, Tribally led project proposals do still need the collaboration of a community-based organization (CBO). The SGC may consider the Tribal lead applicant as the public entity, depending on the Tribal lead entity type. However, one core component of the FBH Program is its multi-jurisdictional and replicable nature. This means that the project area requirements (one county or two local jurisdictions minimum) continue to apply to applications with Tribal lead applicants. As such, interested parties of the other jurisdictions should be in the partnership structure, as appropriate.

Question: Does it matter if the Tribal partner is a Section 17 Tribal corporation or a Tribal Council of Government?

Answer: It doesn't matter the type of Tribal organization that is in a lead applicant's general partnership structure. However, if the Tribal organization is intending to meet the requirement for a public entity partner, then it will depend on the authority that the Section 17 Tribal corporation holds. Most likely, we will still need explicit authorization from the Tribal Council which can make land use/planning changes, acknowledgement of the Section 17 Tribal corporation's involvement in the grant, and the Tribal Council's willingness/ability to make recommended changes that may come from the project.