



CALIFORNIA
RESILIENCE
CHALLENGE

Frequently Asked Questions

2021 Grant Program Request for Proposals

Where can I view the recording of the RFP webinar/workshop?

[Here](#)

Can you share how scoring is weighted?

Proposals are qualitatively judged on their cumulative alignment with the values, goals, and objectives of the Request for Proposals (RFP). A point system is not used.

Would a letter of support from either city managers or elected officials suffice? Or are city council resolutions necessary?

The California Resilience Challenge is asking that proposals demonstrate community support for the proposal by attaching letters of support from local civic, community, business leaders, etc. A city council resolution is not required, though it would certainly count as an example of local support.

Only one of the 12 winners from 2020 focused on specific plans to provide resilience centers, e.g. cooling centers/evacuation centers, to assist people who are impacted by climate change extreme events. Is there something in the scoring method that devalues these type of planning efforts?

No. That only one of the 12 projects from 2020 was mostly a reflection on the number of proposals of that particular type.

Is there a specific tool being used to identify or define what an under-resourced community is? (Ex: Census Tracker, CalEnviro Screen, State Household-Income, etc.)

See RFP Section 4: Eligibility, page 7.

Is there a grant match requirement?

No.

Is a private entity owning a public water system eligible?

No.

What about agriculturally based communities where undocumented immigrants make up a significant part of the underserved population?

Possibly—refer to the “underserved community” examples in the RFP.

Are Climate Action and Adaptation Plans eligible for funding?

Yes, provided they meet the other eligibility requirements.

Are climate vulnerable communities in the Santa Monica Mountains WUI region (specifically Malibu, Calabasas, Hidden Hills and Westlake Village) eligible for funding?

Possibly—refer to the “underserved community” examples in the RFP. See RFP Section 4: Eligibility, page 7.

Could this grant contest be set up so that all entries are public by default and presented on some platform?

Applicants will be asked if their 500-word summary may be shared after the award process on the California Resilience Challenge website.

Are ongoing projects with discrete, secondary phases able to submit that secondary phase as a separate project for funding?

Yes, provided they meet the eligibility requirements in Section 4 of the RFP.

While the focus is drought, flood, fire, and heat, would a project related to farming, food production, regenerative agriculture be considered if it addressed the main priorities?

Yes, if the project could demonstrate that it would improve community resilience to at least one of the four identified climate stressors and that the project meets all the other eligibility requirements in Section 4 of the RFP.

Are previous award winners eligible to apply?

Yes.

Will Bay Area Council staff (or others) be available for questions via email or phone prior to submission?

Yes.

Once a proposal is submitted, will applicants be contacted if there are follow-up questions, or will a decision be made based on the submitted proposal alone?

Applicants may be contacted if Bay Area Council staff or the Advisory Committee need any clarifications; otherwise, decisions will be made based on the emailed submissions.

If we're considering a collaborative proposal between eligible organizations of different types, e.g. a city and a community-based organization, do you have a recommendation for which would be best to apply through?

So long as the partners are both eligible entities, we have no preference as to which organization sends the proposal or acts as the fiscal agent. All partnerships should be clearly identified in the project summary and description.

Are construction projects to combat sea level rise eligible?

For planning and analysis yes, assuming the project meets all other eligibility requirements listed in Section 6: Evaluation Criteria, page 8.

Are Resource Conservation Districts eligible to submit a proposal?

Yes.

Is funding allowed to be used for sub-grants to community partners?

Yes.

Can a research project/analytic exercise qualify as eligible, e.g. developing a local resilience scorecard, or does it need to be an actual physical project like a resilience center?

Yes, if submitted by an eligible applicant and especially if the research resulted in new data that would help inform climate adaptation planning for future physical projects.

Are national organizations that do community-based work in CA eligible?

No, unless the national organization has an official California-based chapter.

Are nonprofit organizations that do projects focused on supporting disadvantaged communities, or projects located within such communities, but are not themselves community-based organizations, eligible for this grant?

Yes.

Would we be able to include stipends/consumables as incentives for participating in community engagement events? And if so, would a tree giveaway as part of a public workshop count?

Yes.

I am part of a team that does research into how wildfire impact various marginalized communities across the state. Would the grant fund this kind of research done out of a university?

Yes, if the university partners with an eligible entity to submit the proposal, and if the research project is going to produce information that would help improve the ability of under-resourced communities to adapt to wildfires.

What is the expected word/page length of each section of the proposal?

Proposals must include a one sentence project summary and a 500-word max project description. For the remaining requirements we ask the applicants use their best judgment to provide the necessary amount of information for the project.