

BOOST Round 2 Q&A



On Tuesday, August 17, the California Strategic Growth Council (SGC) hosted an information webinar on BOOST Round 2. This document compiles the questions received and answered during the webinar. Watch the [recording on YouTube](#).

PROGRAM APPLICATION

Q: How does a local government apply?

To apply, complete [this application survey](#).

Q: What are the grant requirements?

BOOST is not a grant program. It is a technical assistance program that supports under-resourced cities and towns in building capacity.

Q: Do you have to partner with a community-based organization to apply?

No. This program is for city or town governments. However, the application survey does provide an opportunity for you to describe any existing partnerships with non-governmental organizations, and to detail any specific goals or challenges related to building partnerships. The BOOST program will offer partnership development support to help the selected jurisdictions build relationships and partnerships with community-based organizations.

Q: Can you provide more information about how we can demonstrate staff capacity challenges, or what would count as staff capacity challenges?

Please provide information about the number of staff members in your city or town who are dedicated to climate-related work and grant writing. Please also specify if you have any private consultants adding additional capacity to city/town staff on these efforts.

Any information you can provide about staff capacity challenges your town/city faces, such as a need for specific trainings, challenges with staff turnover, or other issues that have made it difficult for your city/town to make progress on your climate and equity related goals would be helpful to include as well.

Q: Any general tips for the application?

The selection committee wants to understand applicants' climate and equity-related goals, vision for engagement in the BOOST program, and key opportunities for BOOST to make an impact in your community. Please be as specific and detailed as you can to help the selection committee understand how the BOOST program would be able to support your community should it be selected to participate.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Q: During the BOOST pilot, associations of governments were part of the program. Will associations of governments be eligible to apply this year?

No, this round will focus exclusively on supporting 5-7 cities or towns. Associations of governments are encouraged to share this opportunity with the cities that they serve and interface with.

Q: Would a rural transit agency be eligible for the BOOST program?

The local city or town government would need to be the main applicant to the BOOST program, but other partners, such as transit agencies, may be involved in the program's activities.

Q: On the slide for threshold criteria and prioritization considerations, do all items listed need to be met to be considered? For example, if one bullet does not necessarily apply but the rest do.

An applicant must meet all the following threshold criteria:

- » California city or town government
- » Disadvantaged and/or low-income community
- » Demonstrated staff capacity challenges
- » Desire to work on the specific projects related to the goals of BOOST

The selection committee will also take into account some prioritization considerations in addition to this threshold criteria, including climate vulnerability and aging infrastructure challenges, strong commitment to focus on equity and/or environmental justice, demonstrated past difficulty in applying for State funding, and creating a cohort that includes both rural and non-rural jurisdictions. Communities do not need to meet all the prioritization considerations to be eligible for the program. Threshold and prioritization for the program is discussed at minute 19:06 in the [webinar recording](#).

Q: Can you repeat what you are using to qualify jurisdictions as disadvantaged communities?

CalEnviroScreen 3.0: <https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviro-screen/report/calenviro-screen-30>

Is a city/town eligible for the program if a portion of the city is identified as disadvantaged per AB 1550/SB 535 but the majority of the city is not?

Yes, applicants are only required to show that a portion of their community is disadvantaged and/or low-income according to AB 1550/SB 535.

Q: If multiple agencies apply for the program in your region, is it possible for multiple agencies to get selected?

It is possible for multiple jurisdictions within the same region to be selected to participate in the BOOST program, but the selection committee will take geographic diversity into account.

Q: We are a county government with some success applying for social and environmentally progressive programs, yet we work with community partners (special districts, public utility districts etc. that need a boost). Could this program help facilitate those relationships even if the public utility districts do not directly apply?

Counties are not eligible applicants for BOOST Round 2. However, working with community partners is a key aspect of the program, and BOOST aims to facilitate relationships with other public agencies (local, regional, state) as well as community-based organizations and residents.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Q: Can BOOST be used for a Sewer Master Plan Development?

BOOST is not meant to provide assistance on any one specific project. Instead, selected communities will be provided capacity building technical assistance to help achieve broader goals around sustainability, climate resilience, and equity. However, the capacity building roadmap that the BOOST project team will develop with each participating community to define the scope of BOOST activities may include support on specific projects related to these overall goals.

Q: Our city is working on adaptation planning for sea level rise. We are currently focused on doing community outreach and educating our community so they can decide what solutions they want pursue to address sea level rise. Would BOOST be a good fit for our project?

As stated above, BOOST is not meant to provide assistance on any one specific project. However, a project like this could be a component of the broader capacity building support provided to a participating jurisdiction.

Q: Can the BOOST program offer training support for a city that has recently hired new staff starting off their careers?

As stated above, the BOOST program is meant to provide capacity building technical assistance to help achieve broader goals around sustainability, climate resilience, and equity. Staff training may be a component of the roadmap for a participating jurisdiction, but it would be important to tie training activities to broader climate and equity goals.

Q: Regarding authentic community engagement, are there any restrictions on compensating community organizations for their time in participating in the awardees program?

The BOOST project team has a limited budget to compensate community-based organizations for their time and assistance with BOOST-related activities.