





#### **Capacity and Project Development Grant Workshop**

May 23, 2023

# Agenda



- Survey
- Overview of SALC Program
- Review Capacity and Project Development Program
- Eligibility Criteria
- Application Process and Timeline
- Next Steps and Questions







## Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation

- Protect agricultural lands to support infill and compact development
- Contribute to carbon neutrality and build climate resilience
- Safeguard economic sustainability and food security
- Protect biodiversity
- Enable enduring conservation of working lands
- Advance equity and opportunity for all regions of California







# Funding

- 10% of the AHSC Program's GGRF monies
- Round 8 cycle awarded \$74 million in funding to 24 acquisition projects, 3 planning projects, and 20 capacity projects
- Round 9 funding to be determined after May auction







# Eligible Project Types

## Capacity and Project Development

## Acquisitions

#### Land Use Plans







# Capacity and Project Development Grants Overview







# Capacity Grants - Eligible Activities

- Build organizational and financial capacity to develop agricultural conservation acquisition projects
- Assist eligible applicants in developing agricultural conservation easement and fee acquisition projects
- Cover associated costs for acquisition projects funded by a non-DOC program
- Develop new 501(c)3 organization like a tribal land trust to partner with Federally or Non Federally recognized CA Native American tribes







## **Capacity Overview**

- Round 9 aim to award 5% of total funding
- Tier 1: Up to \$100,000 to build organizational and financial capacity to develop agricultural conservation acquisition projects
- Tier 2: Up to \$250,000 to expand on existing capacity and develop agricultural acquisition projects
- Grant term Three years







# Capacity Grants - Eligible Applicants

- Cities
- Counties
- Non-profit organizations
- Resource conservation districts (RCDs)
- Regional park or open-space districts
- Regional park or open-space authorities
- California Native American tribe (federally recognized)
- California Native American tribe (on NAHC list)

Note: Active SALC Capacity grantees are not eligible to apply until grant is closed







# Capacity Grants - Eligibility Criteria

- The applicant is an Eligible Applicant as defined in the guidelines
- The proposal is for an eligible activity
- The proposal demonstrates that the requested funding will increase the applicant's capacity to initiate and conduct agricultural land conservation activities







# Capacity Grants - Selection Criteria

Agricultural Conservation Acquisition Project Development Grants Selection Criteria				
Program Goals				
The extent to which the project(s) proposed for development meet the program's goals.	/35			
Equity				
The extent to which the proposal will advance equity and opportunity by providing meaningful benefits to a priority population or increasing new, Veteran, or Native American farmer or rancher access or tribal access to State funding for agricultural conservation acquisitions.	/30			
Sustainability				
The extent to which the application demonstrates that increased organizational capacity to develop projects will be sustained after the life of the grant.	/20			
Budget				
The costs described in the applicant's budget are reasonable costs likely to be incurred in the development of one or more agricultural conservation acquisition projects.	/15			
Total points received/Total points possible	/100			







# Capacity Grants – Application Materials

- Fillable Word Document
  - Please submit your application in Word document format to ensure formatting issues do not occur.
  - New budget template







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# Capacity Grants – Required Application Materials

- Grant Application Checklist
- Cover Sheet
- Executive Summary (1/2 page maximum)
- Narrative Questions
- Applicant Resolution of Support
- Work Plan
- Budget







# Capacity Grants – Required Application Materials

- Documentation of Organizational Eligibility
- Project Boundary Maps (if available)
- Priority Population Benefits table (if applicable)

## Tier 2 only:

Documentation of Organizational and Fiscal Capacity







# Organizational Capacity (Tier 2 applicants)

#### Tier 2 applicants must have:

- Board and/or management structure that provides oversight over staff work
- Tools and resources to track projects and the expenditure of grant funds, such as:
  - grant management software or spreadsheets
  - financial tracking systems
  - geographic information systems
- Professional staff within the applicant's employ who have the knowledge and expertise to successfully develop conservation acquisition projects







# Organizational Capacity (Tier 2 applicants)

- A staff time-keeping system with the capacity to generate reports that break time down by grant task and by person
- Staff or a contractor sufficiently skilled to track project financials in a way that allows for efficient and accurate invoice submission
- (For non-profits only) Accreditation by the Land Trust
   Accreditation Commission or adopted equivalent or
   greater policies regarding conflict of interest,
   amendments, monitoring, stewardship endowments, and
   enforcement, as relevant







# Fiscal Capacity (Tier 2 applicants)

# Tier 2 applicants must provide the following to demonstrate fiscal capacity to administer a grant:

- A copy of their current annual organizational budget
- A copy of the most recent financial audit (if an audit is not available, a copy of the organization's recent financial statements).







# Capacity Application Deadline

Applications due Friday, July 21, 2023

Email applications to salcp@conservation.ca.gov







# **Questions and Comments**









# Thank You!

https://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/grant-programs/SALCP salcp@conservation.ca.gov