



March 8, 2022

## NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY

### Transformative Climate Communities Program

### FY 2021-2022 FUNDING ROUND

TO: **All Potential Applicants**

FROM: TCC Program Staff, Strategic Growth Council

SUBJECT: **NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY – A TOTAL OF APPROXIMATELY \$105 MILLION FOR THREE IMPLEMENTATION GRANT AWARDS AND A TOTAL OF APPROXIMATELY \$1.2 MILLION FOR FOUR PLANNING GRANT AWARDS FOR ROUND 4 OF THE TRANSFORMATIVE CLIMATE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM**

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The California Strategic Growth Council (SGC) along with its partner agency, the Department of Conservation (DOC), is pleased to announce the availability of funding for Round 4 of the Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) Program through this Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA). SGC anticipates that approximately \$105 million in Implementation Grant funding and approximately \$1.2 million in Planning Grant funding will be available for competitive awards in Round 4. The TCC Program furthers the purposes of [AB 32](#) (Nunez, Chapter 488, Statutes of 2006) and [AB 2722](#) (Burke, Chapter 371, Statutes of 2016) by funding projects that reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through the development and implementation of neighborhood-level transformative climate community plans that include multiple coordinated GHG emissions reduction projects that provide local economic, environmental, and health benefits to disadvantaged communities. Funding for the TCC Program is provided by the General Fund's Climate Budget.

Funds available include a total of approximately \$105 million for three implementation grant awards of \$35 million each and a total of \$1.2 million for four planning grant awards of \$300,000 each for Round 4 of the TCC Program.

**Implementation Grant Pre-Proposals must be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m. PST on Friday, April 22, 2022. Final Implementation Grant Applications must be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m. PST on Friday, July 1, 2022 according to the terms of this NOFA.**

**Planning Grant Applications must be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m. PST on Friday, July 1, 2022 according to the terms of this NOFA.**

To be considered for awards, applicants must fill out an application survey and indicate their interest in applying for a TCC Implementation Grant by March 25, 2022, or a TCC Planning Grant by May 16, 2022 (except for Planning Grant applicants from unincorporated communities or tribal communities that wish to have Application Technical Assistance and must submit earlier).

**Application Surveys from all applicants using Application Technical Assistance are due Friday, March 25, 2022.** Application Technical Assistance is required for all Implementation Grants and available to tribal communities and unincorporated communities for Planning Grants. Surveys will be available on the [TCC Resources](#) page under "Current Application Materials".

After receiving the survey responses, TCC Program staff will provide Implementation Grant and Planning Grant Applicants with a link to a Microsoft SharePoint folder where the application materials can be accessed and uploaded once they are completed. TCC Program staff will also connect all Implementation Grant Applicants to the SGC-selected technical assistance provider to assist with the completion of application materials. Applicants that are unable to access an online application via a Microsoft SharePoint folder may contact SGC for assistance.

Information about the TCC Program, including the Program Guidelines, application technical assistance, and other resources can be found at the SGC website: <http://sgc.ca.gov/programs/tcc/resources/>. Questions may be directed to the TCC Program by email at [tcc@sgc.ca.gov](mailto:tcc@sgc.ca.gov).

## PROGRAM SUMMARY

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The TCC Program is administered by SGC and implemented by DOC, along with other partnering State agencies. SGC staff and partnering State agencies have worked collaboratively to develop and administer the TCC Program, including developing program guidelines and application materials, preparing agreements and program templates, and coordinating technical assistance for potential applicants.

## IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS

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### Eligible Applicants and Project Types

Eligible applicants for Implementation Grants may include but are not limited to: community-based organizations, local governments, nonprofit organizations, philanthropic organizations and foundations, faith-based organizations, coalitions or associations of nonprofit organizations, community development finance institutions, community development corporations, joint powers authorities, councils of government, and/or California Native American Tribes.

Eligible applicants must form a Collaborative Stakeholder Structure to develop and submit one application based upon a shared vision. The Collaborative Stakeholder Structure shall be charged with overseeing implementation of the TCC Proposal, including each of the requirements outlined in Section II.E, "Transformative Elements", of the [TCC Guidelines](#), and led by one Lead Applicant. The Collaborative Stakeholder Structure must include at least one of the required Project Leads for each of the proposed Projects and Transformative Plans included in the TCC Proposal. The acceptable Project Leads are listed in Appendix B, "TCC Funded Projects by Strategy" and Appendix C, "Transformative Elements," of the [TCC Guidelines](#).

Applicants must develop a Vision Statement for their proposal that aligns with TCC Program Objectives and identify multiple Strategies and Projects that align with their vision and meaningfully address important community needs within the Project Area. The Round 4 funds will be allocated competitively among eligible disadvantaged community areas, according to the updated criteria which now expands eligibility to the top 25 percent of disadvantaged communities per CalEnviroScreen and includes disadvantaged unincorporated areas and federally recognized tribal territories in the [TCC Mapping Tool for Eligible Project Areas and Planning Areas](#) and the [TCC Guidelines](#). The grant term will be approximately five years, with an additional year for evaluation and reporting.

### Application Process

All Implementation Grant Applicants must submit application materials using their assigned TCC Microsoft SharePoint folder, a web-based application. Pre-Proposal Applications must be submitted by **5:00 p.m. PST on April 22, 2022**, and Final Applications must be submitted by **5:00 pm PST on July 1, 2022**. No late applications or application revisions will be accepted after the application submittal deadline. No hard copies, facsimiles, electronic transmissions via email, hand-delivered copies, or any other method of submitting complete applications will be accepted.

All applications will be reviewed by TCC Program Staff to ensure that all required documentation is submitted and the application is complete. Applicants that may be missing application information will be notified by TCC Program Staff. If applicants are contacted because of missing information, the application will be deemed incomplete if the applicant does not provide the missing information within two (2) business days.

Implementation Grant applications will be reviewed and evaluated by SGC staff, along with an interagency review panel of partnering State agencies, according to the requirements stated in Section II.A-H of the

[TCC Guidelines](#). Eligible applications will be scored based on the threshold and scoring criteria in Section II.G, “Application”. Following the initial application review, members of the review panel will conduct site visits with each of the applicants. Based on the interagency review of the applications and site visits, TCC Program Staff will finalize and prepare award recommendations to present to the SGC Council Members for consideration of final approval. The SGC staff will contact applicants recommended for funding. Staff recommendations will be posted for public review ten (10) days prior to the SGC public meeting.

Application resources are available on [SGC's website](#) including how to access and submit an application via the Microsoft SharePoint folder. The anticipated date of announcement for the selection of Implementation Grant recommendations is October 2022. The ultimate awarding of Implementation Grant Program funds is subject to the approval of the Council. The Council decision is final.

Applications must meet all eligibility requirements upon submission. Applications having material inconsistencies will not be rated and ranked. Modification of the application by the applicant after submission is prohibited.

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the application is clear, complete, and accurate. After the application deadline, staff from SGC, DOC, or other partnering state agencies may request clarifying information or inquire as to where the application-specific information is located provided that such information does not affect the competitive rating of the application. No information, whether written or oral, will be solicited or accepted if this information would result in a competitive advantage to an applicant or a competitive disadvantage to other applicants.

### **Application Scoring**

Applications will be evaluated according to the process and scoring criteria set forth in Section II.G of the [TCC Guidelines](#). The three top scoring Applicants will be recommended to the Strategic Growth Council to receive TCC Implementation Grants. Applications will be evaluated based on the scoring criteria.

### **Basis of Appeals**

1. Upon receipt of a notice that an application has been determined to be ineligible, fail threshold review, or not awarded based on final scores, Implementation Grant Applicants under this NOFA may appeal such decision(s) to SGC pursuant to this section.
2. No Applicant shall have the right to appeal a decision of SGC relating to another Applicant's eligibility, point score, award, denial of award, or any other matter related thereto.
3. The appeal process provided herein applies solely to the decision of SGC made in this program NOFA and does not apply to any decisions made with respect to any previously issued NOFAs or decisions to be made pursuant to future program NOFAs.

### **Appeal Process and Deadlines**

1. Process: To file an appeal, Implementation Grant Applicants must submit to SGC, by the deadline set forth below, a written appeal, which states all relevant facts, arguments, and evidence upon which the appeal is based. Furthermore, the Applicant must provide a detailed reference to the area or areas of the application that provide clarification and substantiation for the basis of the appeal. No new or additional information will be considered if this information would result in a competitive advantage to an Applicant. Once the written appeal is submitted to SGC, no information of materials will be accepted or considered thereafter. Appeals submitted to SGC at [tcc@sgc.ca.gov](mailto:tcc@sgc.ca.gov) according to the deadline set forth in SGC review letters.
2. Filing deadline: Appeals must be received by SGC no later than five business days from the date of SGC's threshold review or score letters, representing SGC's decision made in response to the application.

## **Appeal Decision**

Any request to appeal to SGC's decision regarding an Implementation Grant application shall be reviewed for compliance with the [TCC Guidelines](#) and this NOFA. All decisions rendered shall be final, binding, and conclusive, and shall constitute the final action of SGC.

## **PLANNING GRANTS**

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### **Eligible Applicants and Planning Activities**

Eligible applicants for Planning Grants include but are not limited to: community-based organizations, local governments, nonprofit organizations, philanthropic organizations and foundations, faith-based organizations, coalitions or associations of nonprofit organizations, community development finance institutions, community development corporations, joint powers authorities, councils of government, and/or California Native American Tribes. SGC strongly encourages submittal of proposals comprised of meaningful, actionable internal and external collaboration that demonstrates a commitment to the proposal from multiple organizations.

There must be a minimum of one (1) Co-Applicant in addition to the Lead Applicant. More than one (1) Co-Applicant is strongly encouraged. Priority in scoring will be given to applicants that are able to demonstrate strong and diverse partnerships, including with community-based organizations and other stakeholder groups.

Planning Grants are intended to help communities increase their potential to successfully apply for and to implement future Transformative Climate Communities Implementation Grant awards or other California Climate Investment programs. Planning activities should focus on responding to planning issues or priorities that directly benefit vulnerable communities and that are defined either within an existing regional or local plan, or further the development of an area to be eligible to apply for a future TCC Implementation Grant.

### **Application Process**

All Planning Grant Applicants must submit an application using their assigned TCC Microsoft SharePoint folder, a web-based application by **5:00 pm PST on July 1, 2022**. No late applications or application revisions will be accepted after the application submittal deadline. No hard copies, facsimiles, electronic transmissions via email, hand-delivered copies, or any other method of submitting complete applications will be accepted.

All applications will be reviewed by TCC Program Staff to ensure that all required documentation is submitted and applications complete. Applicants that may be missing application information will be notified by TCC Program Staff. If applicants are contacted because of missing information, the application will be deemed incomplete if they applicant does not provide the missing information within two (2) business days. Planning Grant applications will be reviewed and evaluated by staff from SGC, DOC, and an interagency review panel of partnering State agencies, according to the requirements stated in Section III, "Planning Grants", of the [TCC Guidelines](#). Based on the interagency review of the applications, TCC Program Staff will finalize and prepare award recommendations to present to the SGC Council Members for consideration of final approval.

Application resources are available on [SGC's website](#) including how to access and submit an application via the Microsoft SharePoint folder. The anticipated date of announcement for the selection of Planning Grant recommendations is October 2022. The ultimate awarding of TCC Planning Grant funds is subject to the approval of the Council. The Council decision is final.

Applications must meet all eligibility requirements upon submission. Applications having material inconsistencies will not be rated and ranked. Modification of the application by the applicant after submission is prohibited.

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the application is clear, complete, and accurate. After the application deadline, SGC and DOC staff may request clarifying information or inquire as to where the application-specific information is located provided that such information does not affect the competitive rating of the application. No information, whether written or oral, will be solicited or accepted if this information would result in a competitive advantage to an applicant or a competitive disadvantage to other applicants.

### Applicant Scoring

Applications will be evaluated based on scoring criteria set forth in Section III.D, "Application" of the [TCC Guidelines](#), including the extent to which the proposed planning activities will accomplish plan objectives, satisfy State planning priorities and increase the likelihood that Applicants will be competitive for future TCC Implementation Grant funding or other funding programs.

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

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### Implementation Grant Applications

All applicants to the TCC Implementation Grants are required to work with no-cost technical assistance, provided by SGC. This technical assistance is provided to support TCC applicants in the development of their project scope, calculation of greenhouse gas emissions, and developing a complete application.

The technical assistance provider will work with each TCC Implementation Grant applicant to create a work plan for the development of their TCC application. The technical assistance provider will be able to provide supportive services, including but not limited to:

- Review of application responses
- Application coordination
- Financial analysis and budget development
- Support for project integration
- Assessment of project readiness

All TCC Implementation Grant applicants will have greenhouse gas calculation services provided by the technical assistance provider. Applicants will be asked to submit data to the technical assistance provider to provide a comprehensive calculation of reductions. Leading up to this calculation, the technical assistance provider will work with applicants to understand the relative greenhouse gas reduction potential of projects and offer suggestions for increasing project reductions.

If you intend to apply for a TCC Implementation Grant, Lead Applicants must complete a survey to indicate their interest and get connected to the SGC-selected technical assistance providers. The Application Survey for Implementation Grant applicants is due by March 25, 2022 and will be available on the [TCC Resources](#) page under "Current Application Materials". An application workshop webinar series providing an overview of the Implementation Grants including program requirements, program framework, the application process, and grant administration will take place in March on the following dates:

- *March 11, 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | All audiences ([register here](#))*
- *March 18, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. | Tribal Communities (attendance limited to tribes and tribal-serving organizations - [register here](#))*
- *March 18, 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. | Unincorporated Communities and Rural Communities ([register here](#))*

### Planning Grant Applications

Technical assistance is available for applicants from disadvantaged unincorporated areas and tribal communities. The TCC Program will provide this technical assistance at no cost. Planning Grant applicants



from disadvantaged unincorporated areas and tribal communities that would like to request technical assistance must complete the Application Survey by March 25, 2022.

All other Planning Grant applicants may direct questions and requests for application assistance to TCC Program Staff. If you intend to apply for a TCC Planning Grant, Lead Applicants must complete a brief survey to indicate their interest and get access to the online application via a Microsoft SharePoint folder. The Application Survey for Planning Grant applicants is due by May 16, 2022 and will be available on the [TCC Resources](#) page under "Current Application Materials". An application workshop webinar series providing an overview of the Planning Grants including program requirements, program framework, the application process, and grant administration will take place on March 11 and 18. The information and links are the same as the above for Implementation Grant Applications.

### **Microsoft SharePoint Folder**

Instructions on utilizing the TCC Application Microsoft SharePoint folder will be explained during the application webinar. Those unable to attend the webinar may request application information from TCC Program staff directly. Applicants that are unable to access an online application via TCC SharePoint folder may contact SGC for assistance. If Applicants experience any ADA accessibility issues with application materials, please contact SGC for assistance.

## **OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

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### **State Prevailing Wages**

Program funds awarded under this NOFA are subject to State prevailing wage law, as set forth in Labor Code Section 1720 et seq., and require the payment of prevailing wages unless the project meets one of the exceptions of Labor Code 1720 (c) as determined by the Department of Industrial Relations. Applicants are urged to seek professional advice as to how to comply with State prevailing wage law.

### **Disclosure Application of Information**

Information provided in the Implementation and Planning Grant applications will become a public record available for review pursuant to the Public Records Act. As such, any materials provided will be disclosable to any person making a public records request. Applicants should use discretion in providing information that is not specifically requested, including, but not limited to bank account numbers, personal phone numbers and home addresses. By providing this information in an application, the applicant waives any claim of confidentiality and consents to the public disclosure of all submitted material. Awarded applications will be posted on the SGC website.

### **Right to Modify or Suspend**

SGC reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to suspend, amend, or modify the provisions of this NOFA at any time, including without limitation, the amount of funds available hereunder. If such an action occurs, TCC program staff will notify all interested parties via email and will post the revisions to the TCC program website.

### **Conflict**

Conflicts In the event of any conflict between the terms of this NOFA and either applicable state or federal law or regulation, the terms of the applicable state or federal law or regulation shall control.

## **RESOURCES AND QUESTIONS**

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Information about the TCC Program, including the Program Guidelines, application resources, technical assistance, and other resources can be found at the following website: <<http://sgc.ca.gov/programs/tcc/>>. Questions may be directed to the TCC Program by email at [tcc@sgc.ca.gov](mailto:tcc@sgc.ca.gov).