INTEGRATED CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE PROGRAM

Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Program

Round 2 Grant Guidelines (DRAFT) FY 2026-2027

Contents

Guideline Overview

What is the Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Program (the Program)?

The Program is housed within the Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI). The Program supports planning and implementation projects to protect California communities most vulnerable from the impacts of extreme heat.

What activities does the Program fund?

Round 2 of the Program focuses on funding the planning and building of infrastructure to address extreme heat through two project types:

- **Early Transformative Projects** focus on planning for infrastructure to reduce heat-related harm, with demonstration infrastructure projects serving as key components to inform the planning product.
- **Advanced Transformative Projects** fund the implementation of extreme heat infrastructure that is ready or nearly ready for deployment, based on rigorous prior planning and identified needs.

What is the funding amount?

In this second round, and subject to availability, the Program plans to award $27.5 million in two types of grants.

- **Early Transformative Projects**. A total of $7.5 million will be available, with each award ranging from $600,000 to $1 million.
- **Advanced Transformative Projects** A total of $20 million will be available, with each award ranging from $2.5 million to $4 million.

Who is eligible to apply and what are the partnership requirements?

- **Local or regional public entities:** the co-applicant must be a community-based organization (CBO) or California Native American Tribe.
- **CBOs:** the co-applicant must be a local/regional public entity or California Native American Tribe.

- **Public higher academic institutions**: the co-applicants must be both a CBO and a local/regional public entity or California Native American Tribe.
- **Coalitions**: the co-applicants must be both a CBO and a local/regional public entity or California Native American Tribe.
- **California Native American Tribes**: no co-applicant is required.

How do you apply?

- **Step 1:** Submit a Pre-Application Interest Form via Submittable during
    - Window 1 (to request technical assistance), open from ==April (Estimated)== to Month X, 2026, at 12:00 PM PST, or
    - Window 2, open from Month X to Month X, 2026 at 12:00 PM PST.
- **Step 2:** Submit the Full Application via Submittable. The Full Application will be available only to applicants who have completed Step 1 and must be submitted by 12:00 PM PST on Month X, 2026.

What are the project lengths?

All awarded projects will enter into a contract with the State for a term of 30 months.

What is the grant availability type?

All awarded projects will be selected on a competitive basis.

Is match funding required?

No.

What is the process for fund disbursement?

The funding will be provided on a cost-reimbursement basis. Partial advance payments may be available, at the State's discretion, to select awarded applicants and will be determined during the contract period.

How do I contract program staff?

If you have questions, feel free to reach out to the Extreme Heat Program staff at icarp.grants@lci.ca.gov

Background

Why does the program exist?

The Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Program (the Program) is housed within the Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program (ICARP) at the Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI). The Program supports heat action planning and project implementation to protect California's communities most vulnerable to the impacts of extreme heat.

The following policy pieces shaped the Program: SB 155, the Public Resources Trailer Bill (2021), made available resources in the 2022–23 fiscal year to LCI through the ICARP. The bill established a grant program for projects that mitigate the impacts of extreme heat or the urban heat island effect through planning and implementation. Additional rounds of the grant program have been made available through additional funding sources. The funds for Round 2 come from Proposition 4 Bond funds and the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF).

What is extreme heat?

Extreme heat refers to temperatures above normal that last over consecutive days and nights. Regions long accustomed to hot weather are now experiencing heat that is more intense and longer lasting, while historically cooler areas are facing extreme heat conditions for which they are unprepared.

Extreme heat is a serious public health threat. It affects both physical and mental health and can worsen underlying medical conditions. Extreme heat poses a serious threat, especially to vulnerable populations. Socioeconomic factors such as age, health status, income, and the condition of the built environment all influence who is most at risk and how well communities can protect residents during extreme heat.

Rising temperatures also strain California's natural systems, increasing the likelihood of events like wildfires and drought. These impacts further compound risks to human health and impact other areas of well-being, particularly for communities whose cultural, spiritual, and economic practices depend on healthy natural environments.

Heat is already one of California's deadliest climate-driven hazards, and its impacts are expected to grow in the coming decades. According to the California's Climate Change Assessment, heat-related deaths in cities could triple by midcentury. Hot regions like the Central Valley could face heat waves lasting up to two weeks longer than current heat waves, while cooler areas such as the northern Sierra Nevada mountains could see extreme heat 4 to 10 times more often. Addressing this growing threat requires a coordinated, statewide response that prioritizes harm reduction and is grounded in community-based solutions to ensure lasting and equitable impact.

Why community resilience to extreme heat?

Extreme heat affects every community differently, and protecting people requires more than just technological solutions. Community resilience is central to our approach; it is what allows communities not just to survive, but to withstand, recover, and adapt in the face of repeated extreme heat events and other hazards. The Program invests in solutions that go beyond individual projects or single heat events, focusing also on building lasting capacity for communities to respond to adverse events broadly.

The success of the Program and of the projects we fund depends on strengthening resilience in ways that are real and tangible. While resilience is multi-dimensional and an ongoing practice, this Program focuses on two critical aspects: partnerships and belonging.

Strong partnerships help communities plan and implement projects collaboratively, ensuring governance is inclusive and responsive and addressing interconnected inequities to extreme heat, including economic, health, social, and racial disparities.

A sense of belonging gives residents ownership of resources and a voice in the policies and projects that protect them from heat. In communities where belonging is nurtured, all members are supported during and after adverse events, included in recovery efforts, and empowered to shape solutions, regardless of identity.

Community resilience is one measure of whether extreme heat projects truly work. The Program works hand-in-hand with awardees to grow resilience alongside project implementation, ensuring solutions are effective, equitable, and lasting.

Program development

Round 1 of the Program was shaped through extensive engagement, including listening sessions with over 800 participants, a public comment period on the Draft Grant Guidelines, and additional discussions focused on community-based organizations. The program received 167 applications, and the grant selection process resulted in the distribution of $32 million across 47 grantees in 23 communities, with 20 awards led by community-based organizations.

Round 2 of the Program is being shaped by lessons learned from Round 1 and insights gathered from 10 community input sessions held in the latter half of 2025, with participation from 500 community members. This engagement will be followed by an open public comment period during the first quarter of 2026.

Program Values

Round 2 of the Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Grant Program is shaped by the following four values, which informed application questions:

Harm reduction

In brief: Protect health and save lives

Meaning: Acting with care and urgency to protect people and reduce illness and death caused by extreme heat.

The gap: Expecting communities to protect themselves from extreme heat through behavior changes while ignoring the infrastructure gaps that prevent those changes.

In practice: The infrastructure project is a targeted harm-reduction intervention, grounded in a clear understanding of how extreme heat affects the health and wellbeing of the community.

What we look for:

- Clear identification of an individual community and how residents are exposed to extreme heat, demonstrating deep understanding of the problem and the pathways that lead to harm.
- Solutions that logically follow from a clear understanding of the problem offering realistic and feasible ways to reduce harm.
- Evidence that the proposed solution is effective while acknowledging its limitations.

Collaboration

In brief: Pair community voices with practical influence

Meaning: This value positions affected communities at the center of extreme heat solutions and pairs their capacity with the institutional power and reach needed to bring solutions to life.

The gap: Infrastructure investments can miss the mark without community input, and even well-designed projects may fail without the backing of local government.

In practice: The project chooses partners intentionally, leveraging each partners' strengths to achieve shared goals.

What we look for:

- One partner is embedded in the community and has ground-level knowledge of extreme heat impacts, while another partner brings the authority or institutional power to drive the work to completion.
- The narrative and workplan clearly reflect the division of roles, responsibilities, and budget in ways that demonstrate a logical partnership.

Transformation

In brief: Advance lasting solutions to extreme heat

Meaning: This value recognizes that projects are one step in a much bigger effort and encourages thinking about how projects can inform or inspire longer-term changes.

The gap: One-off projects leave communities only partly protected and solutions fragmented if projects fail to contribute to needed system changes.

In practice: Project demonstrates thinking on what comes next, whether that is future projects, policy advocacy, or other activities that push toward long-term protection from extreme heat.

What we look for:

- The project recognizes that extreme heat is a long-term challenge and positions its work as one piece of a broader, ongoing effort.
- The project identifies how its activities contribute to future work or systemic change, even if the current effort is limited in scope.

- The project demonstrates how its outcomes, lessons, or processes can influence broader systems, policies, or initiatives to improve community safety over time.

Belonging

In brief: Create public spaces and infrastructure that fosters community connection and ownership

Meaning: People use the infrastructure because they helped create it, feel ownership over it, or see themselves reflected in it.

The gap: Even if the right solution is implemented, it may be underused if communities don't feel safe, welcome, represented or connected to it.

In practice: The project design features a sense of belonging that is inclusive of community needs, culturally relevant, and develops community trust.

What we look for:

- The project engages the community to shape the infrastructure design or implementation.
- Design elements and programming reflect the community identity making the space relevant to them.
- The project has safeguards in place to maintain community ownership over time.

Project Types

Project types

Round 2 of the Program focuses on supporting communities in planning and deploying infrastructure to address extreme heat. Two project types are available:

- **Early Transformative Infrastructure:** These projects focus on planning for infrastructure to reduce heat-related harm, with pilot tests or demonstrations serving as key components to inform the final product. The goal is to prepare projects for infrastructure development.

- **Advanced Transformative Infrastructure:** These projects fund the implementation of extreme heat infrastructure that is ready or nearly ready for deployment, based on rigorous prior planning and identified needs.

Award amounts

The table below summarizes the award ranges and budget requirements for each project type. Details for each project type can be found within *Section 5: Early Transformative Infrastructure* and *Section 6: Advanced Transformative Infrastructure*.

Table 1: Award Ranges and Budget Requirements by Project Type

	Award range	Infrastructure	Partnership	Belonging	Indirect costs
Early Transformative Infrastructure	$600,000 - $1 million	25% - 60% Demonstration Project	15% minimum	5% minimum	15% maximum
Advanced Transformative Infrastructure	$2.5million - $4 million	70% minimum infrastructure	10% minimum	5% minimum	15% maximum

Infrastructure location

All project proposals must ensure their infrastructure components are located within areas designated as Priority Populations in the California Climate Investments Priority Populations Mapping Tool 4.0 (See Section 10: Funding Goals).

Grant term

Projects must be completed within a 30-month term to meet encumbrance and liquidation timelines. This timeframe also reflects the minimum needed to plan and execute infrastructure projects, including pre-planning, permitting, and the inherent complexity of infrastructure work.

Project phases

The phases listed below represent the typical stages of a project, though they may not always occur in a linear order. All projects must link their activities to these phases when creating the workplan. The workplan template is organized around these phases to support consistent tracking across applications.

To help ensure projects align with the goals of this grant program, the table below highlights where the program's values can be included in each phase.

Table 2: Linking Project Phases to Program Values

Project Phases	Values	Questions to Translate Values into Action
Project initiation	Harm reduction	How will your infrastructure and overall project help reduce the harm of extreme heat for this community?
Preparation for infrastructure	Collaboration	What is each partner's role in the project, and how does their expertise support successful implementation?
Infrastructure deployment	Belonging	How will your infrastructure look and feel like it belongs to the community, encouraging people to use it, value it, and maintain it over time?
Future planning	Transformation	In what concrete ways will leaders and community partners support and continue the next steps created by this project?

Project Initiation: This phase (depicted in blue) begins once a contract agreement has been executed. During this phase, a detailed workplan is prepared, with a focus on clearly defining and integrating the project's harm reduction measures into the upcoming phases. While other activities to set up the project are allowed, the primary priority is ensuring the project is clearly targeted at protecting people from extreme heat harm.

Eligible activities include but are not limited to:

- o Assessment and analysis to ensure harm reduction goals
    - ❖ Site, facility, or landscape assessments
    - ❖ Heat and vulnerability analyses
    - ❖ Identification and documentation of cooling infrastructure needs
- o Development of a detailed workplan
    - ❖ Development of a comprehensive workplan and budget following a provided template to be delivered as a first-quarter deliverable.
- o Partnership development activities
    - ❖ Facilitated workshops and community listening sessions
    - ❖ Tours of project implementation sites or other relevant areas
    - ❖ Other collaborative activities that support workplan development, goal setting, and trust building
    - ❖ Communication campaigns about the proposed infrastructure
    - ❖ Activities ensuring vulnerable populations contribute to the project implementation
- o Staff training and capacity building
    - ❖ Training related to project development, including topics on extreme heat, resilience, equity, and the specific infrastructure focus of the project
    - ❖ Subcontracting technical experts, designers, engineers or other experts for infrastructure planning and/or implementation

- **Preparation for Infrastructure:** Under this phase (depicted in green), the project will focus on tasks associated with conceptual design, analysis, drafting of planning documents and other project information that support preparation for infrastructure development. Preparation for infrastructure should also include input and engagement from collaborative partnerships, including a focus on community engagement, and partnership development and enhancement.

  Eligible activities include but are not limited to:

- o Pre-construction activities
  - ❖ Preparation of layouts, renderings, engineering concepts, or any other pre-design work
  - ❖ Preparing and applying for permitting and compliance requirements (e.g., CEQA, site control documentation, zoning approvals, utility coordination).
  - ❖ Procurement of eligible materials, equipment, or other needs for infrastructure development.
- o Belonging design
  - ❖ Facilitation of trauma-informed and equity-centered engagement led by social workers or other trained professionals to support residents in processing the impacts of extreme heat, structural inequities, historical harms, and in co-shaping the design, placement, and intended use of the infrastructure.
  - ❖ Design of cultural, artistic, and place-making elements, including mural design, community art, storytelling, and other creative expressions, into infrastructure to strengthen community identity, safety, and ownership.
- **Infrastructure Deployment:** Under this phase (depicted in orange), the applicant will focus and prioritize the infrastructure project. Critical steps associated with this phase may include final design, construction, and belonging activities. Undertaking these tasks should highlight how the infrastructure component is achieving harm reduction and supporting collaborative partnerships and transformation.

Eligible activities include, but are not limited to:

- o Infrastructure deployment
  - ❖ Full installation for Advanced Transformative Infrastructure projects
  - ❖ Small-scale pilot deployment for Early Transformative Infrastructure projects
- o Design and final preparations
  - ❖ Final design refinements
  - ❖ Permitting and regulatory compliance
- o Staff training and capacity building
- o Documentation and knowledge capture
- o Belonging and community engagement
  - ❖ Implementation of cultural, artistic, and participatory elements
- o Monitoring, evaluation, and sustainability planning
  - ❖ Assessing infrastructure performance and harm reduction impact
  - ❖ Developing long-term maintenance plans

- **Future Planning**: Under this phase (depicted in purple), the project shifts from building and implementation to planning what comes next. The focus is on creating a clear output, such as a roadmap, that shows how the project will grow, continue, or be replicated. This may include tracking results, capturing lessons learned, identifying improvements, or outlining future actions with community partners.

  Eligible activities include, but are not limited to:

  o Completion of planning documents for Early Transformative Project
    ❖ Prepare final planning documents, including final designs, cost estimates, and financial strategies
    ❖ Identify next steps to move to full deployment, including strategic partnerships
  o Next steps planning for Advanced Transformative Projects
    ❖ Share findings and lessons learned with local leadership and communities
    ❖ Roadmap for continued heat mitigation activities

Project Phases Examples

- **Early transformative infrastructure example**
  - o Project title: Development of a Cool Corridor Master Plan with a shade structure demonstration project

    The graphic below shows an example of the proportion of budget going to each project phase in an Early Transformative Infrastructure project. There is a greater focus on future planning (pink phase), at least 25% of the total budget is going toward infrastructure deployment (orange phase). Community engagement occurs at multiple points throughout the project phases.

Figure 1: Graphical representation of an Early Transformative Infrastructure project showing the sequence of project phases
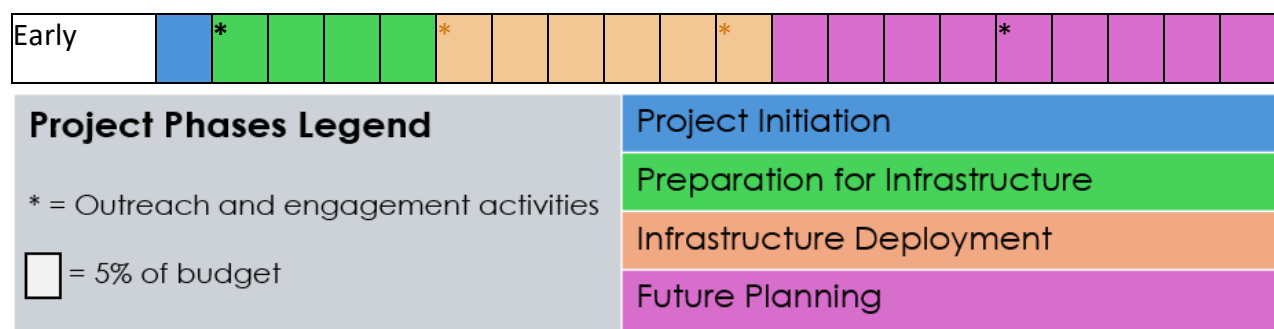
- Project initiation: The project initiation phase allows the applicant and their team to get organized and begin planning for future steps of the project by developing a detailed workplan. The applicant also focuses on organizing the project and team members through meetings and development of organizational materials (final work plan, engagement strategy, etc.).
- Preparation for infrastructure: In the preparation phase, the applicant identifies the key elements of the Master Plan and refines details of the demonstration project. The applicant collects data to document existing tree canopy, heat exposure, and community demographics. The applicant coordinates with community members and partners and conducts mapping and analysis to better understand project issues and community needs.
- Infrastructure deployment: Upon completion of the preparation phase, the applicant constructs a demonstration project based on initial findings during the data collection and analysis phase of the Master Plan development. The applicant hosts a community event to celebrate the opening of the community's first cool corridor.
- Future planning: Based on the results of the infrastructure deployment phase, the applicant finalizes the Master Plan, providing key recommendations for future strategies and implementation methods to be used throughout the planning area. The applicant reviews and tests plan assumptions and plans for next steps.

- **Advanced transformative infrastructure example**
  - Project title: Cool Corridor with street trees, cool pavements, and shade structures.

    The graphic below shows an example of the proportion of budget going to each project phase in an Advanced Transformative Infrastructure project. There is a greater focus on implementation (orange phase), at least 70% of the total budget is going toward infrastructure development (orange phase). Community engagement occurs at multip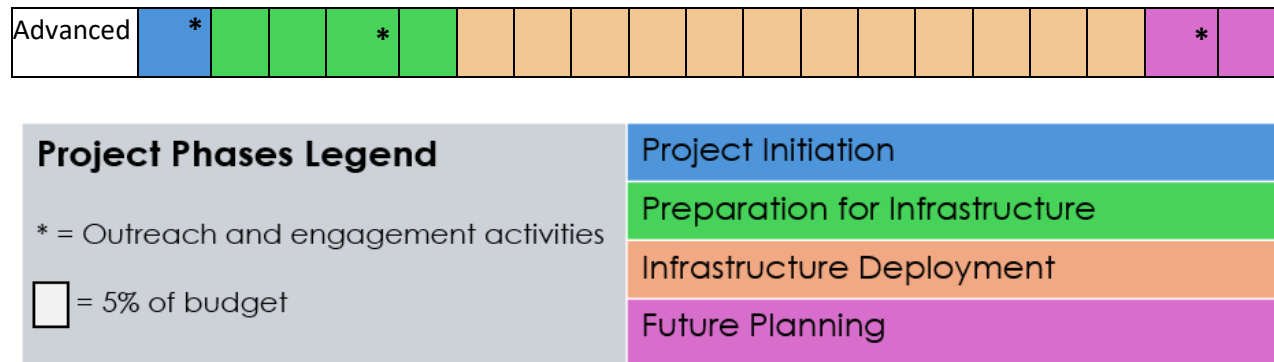le points throughout the project phases. In this example, the majority of the project is the actual building of the cool corridor in the implementation phase.

Figure 2: Graphical representation of an Advanced Transformative Infrastructure project showing the sequence of project phases

- o <u>Project initiation:</u> The project initiation phase (depicted in blue) builds on an existing plan and allows the applicant and their team to get organized and prepare for construction. During this phase, the team focuses on translating the plan into a practical, build-ready workplan and implementation schedule, organizing roles and responsibilities, and completing supporting activities such as engagement strategy development.

- o <u>Preparation for infrastructure:</u> This phase (depicted on green) focuses on preparing for implementation, addressing permits, final designs, and contractor selection, while completing community engagement and finalizing any other pre-construction work associated with the heat mitigation measures that will be included within the cool corridor deployment (e.g., shade trees, green infrastructure, reflective pavement).

- o <u>Infrastructure deployment:</u> Implementation is the core project phase (depicted in orange), centered on building and deploying the cool corridor. The applicant manages contractors and suppliers, completes site preparation, installs any built and green infrastructure component of the corridor, and monitors construction quality to ensure the project delivers effective, long-term protection against extreme heat.

- Future planning: During this phase (depicted in purple), the project shifts from implementation to future planning. The focus is on producing a concrete deliverable laying out a clear pathway for a Phase 2 effort, such as implementing a cool corridor in another part of the city. This deliverable, which could take the form of a roadmap, includes potentially documenting lessons learned from the initial corridor, identifying opportunities for improvement, or planning to advocate for citywide policies and plans.

Incorrect Project Type Submissions

Applications submitted under an incorrect project type may be provided an opportunity to correct the classification prior to the Interagency Panel Review (See Section 11. Application Review). Program staff will make reasonable efforts to identify potential misclassifications during the initial Eligibility Review and will contact the lead applicant if such issues are found; however, applicants remain responsible for selecting the correct project type. The Program reserves the right to disqualify applications on this basis, even in instances where an error was not identified during staff review (See Section 11. Application Review).

Early Transformative Infrastructure

Purpose

These projects focus on planning for infrastructure to reduce heat-related harm, with pilot tests or demonstration infrastructure projects serving as key components to inform the planning project. The goal is to prepare projects for full-scale deployment.

Award amount

Applicants can request any amount between $600,000 –and up to $1 million.

Special requirements

- Infrastructure: A minimum of 25% and up to 60% of the total requested budget must be allocated to the demonstration project.
- Partnerships: A minimum of 15% should be allocated to all partnerships collectively (i.e., including co-applicants and/or contributors) to ensure their contributions to the project are financially supported.

- Belonging: A minimum of 5% should be allocated to belonging-related activities to ensure the community is involved in project development and feels a sense of ownership of the project infrastructure.
- Indirect costs: A maximum of 15% of the funds may go towards indirect costs
- Infrastructure location: All project proposals must ensure their infrastructure components are located within areas designated as Priority Populations in the California Climate Investments Priority Populations Mapping Tool 4 (see Section 10. Infrastructure location).

Eligible Projects under Early Transformative Infrastructure

The projects below are organized around two solution areas:

- Built Environment Solutions for Extreme Heat
- Nature-Based Solutions for Extreme Heat

These solution areas reflect the grant program's goal of supporting infrastructure that helps protect people from extreme heat by minimizing exposure as much as possible. Applicants are encouraged to draw from and combine approaches across these solution areas. The activities listed are intended to illustrate the types of eligible planning projects and are not exhaustive.

Built Environment for Extreme Heat

Planning (including demonstration or pilot infrastructure) for:
- Cool pavements to make streets and sidewalks more comfortable to use on extreme hot days, with examples including solar-reflective pavements, reflective coatings, and permeable pavements.
- Cool corridors to make highly trafficked areas safer on extreme heat days, with examples including walking and biking paths cooled through enhanced shade, misting systems, and reflective surfaces.
- Passive (solutions that do not require energy use) and active (mechanical or powered) cooling solutions to protect public transportation users during extreme heat days, with examples including measures such as shade, misting, and cooling surfaces at transit stations.
- Heat action plans that include site-specific infrastructure recommendations and pilot projects to test and implement those recommendations.
- Installing passive and active solutions across households to protect families during extreme heat, with examples including solar control ventilation, insulation, fans, swamp cooler and air conditioning.

- Making outdoor recreational areas resilient on extreme heat days, with examples including adding constructed shade at playgrounds, parks, plazas, and other outdoor public spaces.
- Installing cool roofs and walls, including reflective coatings or paints, heat-reflecting pavement surfaces, or heat-reflecting glass.
- Upgrading essential amenities in public spaces to ensure safe use during extreme heat days, such as temperature-regulated restrooms and lactation rooms.
- Upgrading of public buildings with passive and active cooling solutions, including schools, libraries, and community buildings using reflective surfaces, enhanced shade, natural ventilation, or mechanical systems like HVAC or mini splits.
- Installing of microgrids or small-scale renewable energy systems for critical facilities, such as emergency response centers, cooling centers, and other essential buildings.
- Deploying water-based strategies to provide cooling through immersion, including splash pads and swimming pools.

Nature-Based Solutions for Extreme Heat

Planning (including demonstration or pilot infrastructure) for:
- Forestry master plans to enhance cooling for residents through increased shading.
- Deployment of pocket forests (tiny forests) in public spaces to primarily provide shade and reduce temperatures for local residents.
- Deployment of cool corridors using nature-based solutions that make highly trafficked areas safer to use during extreme heat days, including walking and biking paths cooled by continuous tree cover.
- Deployment of green stormwater management systems such as bioswales, and permeable pavements, to reduce urban heat as the primary benefit.
- Deployment of water-based strategies to provide cooling through immersion, including access to natural water features such as lakes and beaches.
- Restoration of green and blue spaces to provide cooling benefits, including restoring urban parks, street trees, and natural swimming areas.
- Master plans to respond to extreme heat using Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) and Tribal land stewardship.
- Reduce low-light radiation infrastructure across multiple sites by replacing asphalt and other hard surfaces with green infrastructure, including converting paved playgrounds into permeable, vegetated surfaces.
- Making buildings cooler using cool roofs and walls, including green roofs, living walls, and other vegetated building surfaces in schools, libraries, and community centers.
- Deploying cooling amenities in green spaces to support safe use during extreme heat days, such as hydration stations, shade sails, and misting elements in parks.

Advanced Transformative Infrastructure

Purpose

These projects fund the implementation of extreme heat infrastructure that is ready or nearly ready for deployment, based on rigorous prior planning and identified needs.

Award amount

Applicants can request any amount between $2.5 million and $4 million.

Special requirements

- **Infrastructure:** A minimum of 70% of the requested budget must be allocated to the project's infrastructure component.
- **Partnerships:** A minimum of 10% should be allocated to all partnerships collectively (i.e., including co-applicants and/or contributors) to ensure their contributions to the project are financially supported.
- **Belonging:** A minimum of 5% should be allocated to belonging related activities to ensure the community is involved in project development and feels a sense of ownership of the project infrastructure.
- **Indirect costs:** A maximum of 15% of the funds may go towards indirect costs.
- **Infrastructure location:** All project proposals must ensure their infrastructure components are located within areas designated as Priority Populations in the California Climate Investments Priority Populations Mapping Tool 4 (See Section 10: Funding Goals).

Eligible Projects under Advanced Transformative Infrastructure

The projects below are organized around two solution areas:

- Built Environment for Extreme Heat
- Nature-Based Solutions for Extreme Heat

The focus on these two solution areas reflects the goal of the grant program to implement infrastructure that protects people from extreme heat by reducing their exposure to extreme heat as much as possible.

The categories below are for organizational purposes only; applicants may combine approaches across categories, and the activities listed are examples of eligible planning projects and are not exhaustive.

Built Environment for Extreme Heat

Deployment of:

- Cool pavement solutions to make streets and sidewalks more comfortable to use during extreme heat days, including solar-reflective pavements, reflective coatings, and permeable pavements.
- Cool corridors to make highly trafficked areas safer on extreme heat days, including walking and biking paths cooled through enhanced shade, misting systems, and reflective surfaces.
- Structural and mechanical solutions to protect public transportation users during extreme heat days, such as shade, misting, and cooling surfaces at transit stations.
- Full or partial infrastructure elements from a heat action plan.
- Passive and active cooling solutions in individual households to protect families during extreme heat, such as solar control ventilation, insulation, fans, swamp coolers, and air conditioning.
- Cooling solutions in recreational areas to protect users during extreme heat days, including constructed shade at playgrounds, parks, pavilions, plazas, and other outdoor public spaces.
- Cool roofs and walls, including reflective coatings or paints, heat-reflecting pavement surfaces, or heat-reflecting glass.
- Upgraded essential amenities in public spaces to ensure safe use during extreme heat days, such as temperature-regulated restrooms and lactation rooms.
- Upgraded public buildings with passive and active cooling solutions, with examples including schools, libraries, and community buildings using reflective surfaces, enhanced shade, natural ventilation, or mechanical systems like HVAC or mini splits.
- Microgrids or small-scale renewable energy systems for critical facilities, such as emergency response centers, cooling centers, and other essential buildings.
- Water-based strategies to provide cooling through immersion, including splash pads and swimming pools.

Nature-based Solution for Extreme Heat

Deployment of:

- Full or partial forestry master plans with enhancing cooling for residents through increased shading as one main goal.
- Pocket forests (tiny forests) in public spaces to primarily provide shade and reduce temperatures for local residents.
- Cool corridors using nature-based solutions that make highly trafficked areas safer to use during extreme heat days, with examples including walking and biking paths cooled by continuous tree cover.
- Green stormwater management systems, such as bioswales and permeable pavements to reduce urban heat as the primary benefit.
- Water-based strategies to provide cooling through immersion, including access to natural water features such as lakes and beaches.
- Restoration of green and blue spaces to provide cooling benefits, such as urban parks, street trees, and natural swimming areas.
- Full or partial implementation of master plans that use Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) and tribal land stewardship to protect communities from extreme heat harm.
- Low reflective surface across multiple sites by replacing asphalt and other hard surfaces with green infrastructure, with examples including converting paved playgrounds into permeable, vegetated surfaces.
- Cool roofs and walls, including green roofs, living walls, and other vegetated building surfaces in schools, libraries, and community centers.
- Cooling amenities in green spaces to support safe use during extreme heat days, including hydration stations, shade sails, and misting elements in parks.

Note: Maintenance and watering for nature-based solutions and urban and any staff training necessary to ensure landscapes are maintained to achieve desired outcomes. Pending state funding availability, invoices for maintenance costs may be accepted beyond the 30-month grant term. Please indicate interest in funding for this activity beyond the 30-month grant term in the project workplan and budget.

Eligible Applicants Definitions

Local and regional public entities

- Cities
- Counties
- Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs)
- Joint Powers Authorities (JPAs)
- Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (RTPAs)
- Councils of Governments (COGs)

- Congestion Management Agencies
- Groundwater Sustainability Agencies
- School Districts
- Special districts (e.g., climate resilience districts, resource conservation districts, harbor districts)
- Local or Regional Public Authorities
- Local or Regional Public Agencies
- Political subdivisions other than those mentioned above
- Community Choice Aggregators. **Note:** Due to variability in their structure and authorities, the program will work with applicants to determine eligibility and ensure compliance with statute.

California Native American Tribes (Tribes)

This eligibility includes Native American Tribes that are on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) for the purposes of Chapter 905 of the Statutes of 2004 (Pub. Resources Code, § 21073).

Important note:

- LCI acknowledges the sovereignty of federally-recognized tribes. Federally-recognized tribes serving in the role of lead or co-applicant will not be required to submit a limited waiver of sovereign immunity to LCI.

Community-Based Organizations (CBOs)

Entities qualified to do business in California and qualified under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, which could include but are not limited to nonprofit organizations, non-governmental organizations, philanthropic organizations, faith-based organizations, and community foundations.

Important note:

- The application should also include a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), operating agreement or other document establishing the organization and setting forth its purpose. 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations may meet this requirement by providing their valid Employer Identification Number (EIN). LCI will use the EIN to verify that an applicant has valid 501(c)(3) status in good standing.

Coalitions, collaboratives, or associations of nonprofit organizations that are fiscally sponsored by a 501(c)(3) non-profit or academic institution (Coalitions)

Coalitions may apply so long as the organization provides an MOU, operating agreement or other document establishing the coalition or association, listing its membership, and setting forth its purpose. The application should also include a letter from the fiscal sponsor stating their intent.

Important note:

- The application should include a letter from the fiscal sponsor stating their intent to serve as fiscal sponsor, as well as proof of the sponsor's nonprofit status, if applicable. 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations may meet this requirement by providing their valid Employer Identification Number (EIN). LCI will use the EIN to verify that an applicant has valid 501(c)(3) status in good standing.
- If awarded, the grant agreement is entered into with the fiscal sponsor.

Public higher academic institutions

Public higher academic institutions include individual public California institutions of higher education (e.g., universities, community colleges, etc.).

Important note:

- The University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources Division is an eligible applicant.
- While individual institutions are eligible applicants, state agencies representing a system of higher education institutions (e.g., University of California, California State University) are not eligible applicants.
- Private universities with 501(c)(3) status are eligible.
- Private for-profit universities are not eligible applicants.
- If awarded, academic institutions should provide a letter or other document approved by the governing body or leadership of the institution committing to the execution of the project proposed in the application.

Ineligible Applicants

For-profit entities:

For-profit entities, private for-profit universities, and individual community members are not eligible to apply as a lead applicant, co-applicant, contributor or fiscal sponsor but can be subcontracted by grantees to provide research or other services.

Individual community members

Individual community members are not eligible to apply as a lead applicant, co-applicant, contributor or fiscal sponsor but can be subcontracted by grantees to provide research or other services.

State and federal agencies

State and Federal Agencies are ineligible to apply to this program, including as lead applicants, co-applicant, or contributor. However, they may provide technical assistance, training, planning, design activities, data analysis, research, meeting facilitation, and/or other services to eligible applicants. This restriction applies to all regional conservancies, councils, and commissions listed on the State Agency Listing.

Eligibility appeals

Entities determined to be ineligible at the end of the Eligibility Review phase of the Application Review process *(See Section 11: Application Review)* may submit an eligibility appeal by providing a formal letter within 15 days of receiving their ineligibility determination. The letter should outline the rationale for why they believe they meet the eligibility criteria. Once an appeal is received, the Program may take up to 45 days to conduct its review. The final decision rests solely with the Program.

Applicant Team and Partnership Requirements

Applicant team definition

Together, the lead applicant, co-applicant(s), contributor(s), and supporter(s) are collectively referred to as the "Applicant Team".

Site control requirement

The entity with site control of the property where infrastructure will be installed must be included on the Applicant Team as either the lead applicant or a co-applicant. For projects on privately owned sites (e.g., individual homes), property owners may be represented by a CBO, local or regional government, Tribe, or coalition that serves as an intermediary and coordinates implementation *(see Section 7: Eligible Applicants Definitions)*.

If the entity with site control is unable to join the Applicant Team, the application must include:

- A letter explaining why the entity cannot participate as an applicant and confirming its commitment to work with the Applicant Team if awarded; and
- An Access Agreement (drafts are acceptable at the time of application).

The Access Agreement must document the property owner's authorization for the Applicant Team (or its contractors) to access the site for the purposes of installing, operating, and maintaining the proposed infrastructure for the duration required by the program, and must identify the specific property(ies) covered. When necessary, an executed Access Agreement will be required as a condition of funding.

Partnership requirement

Round 2 requires lead and co-applicant pairings to ensure each applicant team has the expertise, community participation, governmental authority, and operational capacity needed to implement the project. The list below outlines the different ways the co-applicant requirement can be met.

- **If the lead applicant is a local or regional public entity,** the co-applicant must be a CBO or California Native American Tribe.
- **If the lead applicant is a CBO,** the co-applicant must be a local or regional public entity or California Native American Tribe.
- **If the lead applicant is a public higher academic institution**, the co-applicant(s) must consist of both a CBO and a local or regional public entity or a California Native American Tribe.
- **If the lead applicant is a coalition**, the co-applicant must consist of both a CBO and a local or regional public entity or a California Native American Tribe.

- **If the lead applicant is a California Native American Tribe or Tribal Entity**, no co-applicant is required.

Important notes:

- Any CBO serving as a co-applicant to fulfill the partnership requirement must maintain a qualifying office (i.e., a staffed, operational office) within 100 miles of the infrastructure project site. While CBOs may represent multiple communities, jurisdictions, or regions statewide, they are still required to maintain a qualifying office within this 100-mile radius.
- If the lead applicant is not a CBO that meets the office requirement above, the Applicant Team must include a CBO as a co-applicant that does maintain a staffed, operational office within 100 miles of the infrastructure project site, in addition to the required local or regional public entity or California Native American Tribe.
- Coalitions cannot be used in place of a CBO to meet this requirement.

Applicant team roles

- **Lead applicant:** The lead applicant is responsible for submitting the Pre-Application Interest Form and Full Application Form and will receive funds from the Extreme Heat Program if awarded. If awarded, the lead applicant is the only entity to enter into an agreement for grant funding with the State (*see Section 11: Application Process).*

    - If awarded, lead applicants will receive a formal award notification letter. The lead applicant must respond with a letter or other documentation, approved by their governing body, officers, board, or other authorized leadership, confirming acceptance of the award and commitment to implement the project. If a letter is not received within 60 days of the award notification, LCI reserves the right to rescind the award.
    - If awarded, the lead applicant should also provide a letter from the co-applicant(s) stating commitment to complete the work as laid out in the workplan.
- **Co-applicant(s):** All applications require at least one co-applicant. Co-applicants will receive funds from the Extreme Heat Program through the lead applicant if awarded.
    - The project work plan and budget must include the co-applicant's key activities, detailed tasks, and allocated budget.
    - Co-applicants should submit a letter of support with application materials. The letter should include the following information:
        - How the project supports the goals and interests of your organization and why you think the project deserves to be funded;

- Description of how you plan to accomplish the components of the project your organization is responsible for; and
    - o If awarded, the lead applicant and co-applicants will be required to submit a formal Partnership Agreement. All co-applicants should have the capacity to enter into a binding partnership agreement with the lead applicant (see Section 14. Partnership Agreement).
    - o Co-applicants should also provide financial statements from the last two years, including balance sheets, income statements, and statements of cash flows; for non-profits, the most recent Form 990 and IRS 501(c)(3) Tax Determination Letter; and (if applicable) any audit findings in the last five years.
- **Contributor(s):** Contributors are optional and can be included in the project proposal, work plan, and budget without detailed tasks. This flexibility allows the lead applicant to develop the contributor's role post-award and over the course of the project period.
    - o Contributors are not required to submit a letter of support.
    - o If awarded, the lead applicant and contributors will be required to submit a formal Partnership Agreement. All contributors should have the capacity to enter into a binding partnership agreement with the lead applicant *(see Section 14: Partnership Agreement).*
- **Supporter(s):** Supporters are optional and can be included in the proposal to help illustrate local support for the proposed project. Supporters do not receive funding from the program and include partner organizations who are in favor of the project and may participate in some project activities without additional funds.
    - o Supporters may be local and/or regional public entities, advocacy organizations, elected officials, or any other community-based organizations.
    - o Supporters will submit a letter of support with the application, which should cover:
        - ❖ How the project supports the goals and interests of your organization and why you think the project deserves to be funded.
        - ❖ If applicable, how the Supporter will be involved in the grant project.
    - o A Supporter is an informal project partner not included in the Partnership Agreement.
    - o Each application may include up to 5 supporters.
- **Contractor(s):** Contractors are separate from any other role in the Applicant Team; they are entities paid by the grant to accomplish specific tasks. Contractors can be non-profits or private entities. Contractors do not have to be selected at the time of application. Contractors will be selected using the rules and guidelines of the lead applicant.

Funding Goals

The Extreme Heat Program is committed to investing 100% of its funding in California's Priority Populations, as defined by [California Climate Investments](#). To meet this goal, specific provisions exist to guide where infrastructure can be located. Additionally, to further support California Native American Tribes and Disadvantaged Communities access funds, the program grants them additional points in the scoring process.

Infrastructure location

All project proposals must ensure their infrastructure components are located within areas designated as Priority Populations in the [California Climate Investments Priority Populations Mapping Tool 4.0](#). During the application process, applicants will be asked to provide coordinates to determine eligibility.

Additional points

To further support California Native American tribes and Disadvantaged Communities, the program grants them additional points in the scoring process.

- **California Native American Tribes:** If a Tribe is the lead applicant, or if the infrastructure will be located on tribal land with the Tribe serving as a co-applicant and granting permission for the project, the proposal will qualify for seven additional points in the scoring.
- **Disadvantaged Communities:** Project proposals that locate their infrastructure within areas designated as Disadvantaged Communities in the [California Climate Investments Priority Populations Mapping Tool 4.0](#) will receive an additional five points in the scoring process.

Priority populations

Priority Populations in California include three subcategories defined by environmental pollution, socioeconomic indicators, and geography. Each subcategory is outlined below using definitions from the [California Climate Investments website](#), where additional information is also available.

- **Disadvantage communities**: This includes census tracts:
  - Receiving the highest 25% of overall scores in CalEnviroScreen (CES) 4.0.

- Lacking overall scores in CES 4.0 due to data gaps but receiving the highest 5% of CES 4.0 cumulative pollution burden scores.
- Identified in the 2017 DAC designation as disadvantaged, regardless of their scores in CES 4.0.
- **Low-income communities:** Census tracts that are either at or below 80% of the statewide median income, or at or below the threshold designated as low-income by the California Department of Housing and Community Development's (HCD) Revised 2021 State Income Limits.
- **Disadvantage community ½-mile neighbors:**
  - Areas that that are outside of, but within a 1/2 mile of, a disadvantaged community and also in an overlapping low-income community.
  - Areas that that are outside of, but within a 1/2 mile of, a disadvantaged community and not in a low-income community.
- **Disadvantaged community - Tribal land:** Disadvantaged communities, based on CalEPA's identification of lands under the control of federally recognized Tribes. A Tribe may have a single land area represented or may be a multipart feature. A Tribal land may be wholly or partially within a census tract.

Application Process

Submission platform

All applications must be submitted online through Submittable, including the pre-application form, full application form, and any other required materials. All communications related to submissions will also be conducted through Submittable. All materials submitted as part of applications will be treated in accordance with Public Record Acts requirements *(see Section 15: Confidential information).*

Pre-application interest form window 1 (includes technical assistance requests)

- **Timeline:** The Pre-application interest forms will open on April X at 9:30 AM and close on Month X at 12:00 PM PST.

- **What to submit:** Prospective applicants are required to complete the Pre-Application interest form to gain access to the full application on Submittable. Applicants interested in receiving application technical assistance must indicate this during this window only. The pre-application form will include, but is not limited to, the following questions:
  - Project name
  - Project type
  - Location of demonstration project (for Early Transformative Infrastructure) or infrastructure (for Advanced Transformative Infrastructure)
  - Project description and how it will achieve harm reduction
  - Description of demonstration project or infrastructure
  - Overview of community/focus population and how they are impacted by extreme heat
  - Project contributions to lasting change
  - Project co-applicant if already identified at this stage
  - Interest in being considered for technical assistance
- **Feedback:** Extreme Heat program staff will review each pre-application and provide feedback on basic eligibility and whether the proposed concept aligns with Round 2 Eligible Activities, and whether the applicant has been assigned technical assistance to develop the full application. Feedback will be provided two to three weeks after Pre-Application Window 1 closes.

Pre-application interest form window 2 (no technical assistance requests)

- **Timeline:** Pre-application interest forms will open on Month X at 9:30 AM and close on Month X at 12:00 PM PST.
- **What to submit:** This is the second and final opportunity for applicants to submit the Pre-Application Interest Form to gain access to the full application on Submittable. Applicants cannot request technical assistance at this stage. The questions will remain the same as Pre-application interest form window 1 above.
- **Feeback:** The feedback goals for this window will remain the same as those from the Pre-application interest form window 1; however, technical assistance will not be available. Feedback will be provided within two weeks after the Pre-application interest form window 2 closes.

Full application form

- **Timeline:** The full application form will be accessible to all applicants who have submitted a Pre-application interest form at the time they receive feedback on their submission. The full application form will close on Month X at 12:00 PM PST.
- **Application narrative:** The full application form will include the following questions. Information on scoring criteria can be found in Appendix X. Scoring Criteria.

Project overview
XXX words, 10 points available

- **Project summary (XXX words max):** What infrastructure will this project build, and how will it support the other ways your community protects itself during extreme heat?
- **Project implementation (XXX words max):** How does your workplan show that you understand the tasks and sequence needed to complete the installation of the infrastructure?

Harm reduction
XXX words, 15 points available

- **Extreme heat in your community (XXX words max):** What impacts from extreme heat your community experiences, and what stories, observations, or experiences can you share that help us see the challenges they face? We're most interested in what you've seen or learned through your direct work or connection with the community, rather than just statistics.
- **How this project will help (XXX words max):** How will your infrastructure and overall project help reduce the harms of extreme heat for this community? Think about the ways your solution will protect people, make daily life safer, or help them feel more supported and cared for during hot conditions.
- **Tracking impact (XXX words max):** How will you track and measure whether your infrastructure is actually reducing the harms your community experiences from extreme heat? Think about how you will evaluate the cooling or protective effects your infrastructure provides.

Collaboration
XXX words, 15 points available

The questions below apply to all applicants required to fulfill the co-applicant requirement. Tribal applicants without co-applicants should use the questions below instead.

- **Who is at the table (XXX words max):** Who is in your partnership and how do they represent community members affected by extreme heat have a real say in shaping the project, while also including organizations with the authority and reach needed to make the solution happen and be supported?
- **Roles and responsibilities (XXX words max):** For each partner, describe their role in the project, how it aligns with their strengths and the type of work they do, and how it contributes to the overall workplan.
- **Day-to-day work (XXX words max):** How will the partnership actually work day-to-day to make sure all partners' skills and expertise are used effectively and that the project can be successfully completed?

If Tribal applicants do not have a co-applicant, the following questions will focus on internal collaboration rather than external partnerships, as is the case for other applicants.

- **Who is at the table (XXX words max):** Which departments, teams, or roles within the Tribe will be involved in implementing the project?
- **Roles and responsibilities (XXX words max):** What roles and responsibilities will each participating department, team, or role have in carrying out the project?
- **Day-to-day work (XXX words max):** How will day-to-day project activities be coordinated and managed among the groups listed above?

Transformation
XXX words, 15 points available

- **Next steps and momentum (XXX words max):** If your project is completed as planned, what concrete next steps do you expect it will make possible? Think about things like planning documents, policy changes, capital improvement programs, or workforce initiatives.
- **Support from leaders (XXX words max):** How could other authority figures in your area use or support these next steps in a real, practical way? Think about top-down decision makers such as senior leaders and local champions.
- **Community carry-through (XXX words max):** How could bottom-up entities, like local CBOs and other community member, actively continue the work your project facilitates, ensuring the next steps actually happen?

Belonging
XXX words, 15 points available

- **Belonging in the design (XXX words max):** How will your infrastructure look and feel in ways that reflect the community it serves and help people feel ownership over it so it will be used and cared for over the long term? Think about visible elements, design choices, or features that make it feel welcoming and relevant to the community.
- **Who makes it happen (XXX words max):** Who will be involved on your team or employed by them to make sure these elements that reflect community and create a sense of ownership actually happen? Examples could include creatives, culture bearers, artists, racial equity consultants, or accessibility experts.
- **Processes that center community (XXX words max):** What steps or processes will you use to make sure the community is involved in creating these elements in a safe way, recognizing that extreme heat can be painful for people who already experience other forms of inequity? You might describe trauma-informed engagement, community workshops, participatory design, or other methods that center the voices and needs of those most affected.

Budget justification and workplan
30 points available

Applicants must submit a workbook as part of their full application in Submittable, which includes both the workplan and the budget. A required template will be provided by the Extreme Heat Program and made available on Submittable for applicants to download, complete, and upload.

- **Workplan:** The workbook will prompt the applicant to provide a practical roadmap to implement the project proposal following the project phases described in Section 4: Project Phases. It will include the following elements: 1) the main tasks, brief descriptions, and associated deliverables; 2) timelines for each task and deliverables; 3) the partner responsible for each task; and 4) grant administration and program activities. *(See Section 4: Project Phases)*.

- **Budget:** The budget should provide reviewers with a clear understanding of how applicants have allocated funding across the various elements of the workplan. It should also reflect the budget requirements established for each grant type (See Section 4. Project Types).

- **Important note:** The workbooks submitted with the application will become part of the contract for awarded projects. Awardees will also be required to develop a detailed workplan once under contract, to be submitted as a first-quarter deliverable.

Other required documentation as applicable:

- Support letters from co-applicants, contributors, and supporters as applicable (see Section 7. Eligible Applicant Definitions).

Application Review

The review process for both Early Transformational Projects and Advanced Transformational Projects will include the following process below:

- **Eligibility review**: Program staff will first review all applications for eligibility and completeness. Only applications that meet both criteria will advance to scoring. Applications deemed ineligible or incomplete will not move forward in the review process.
- **Interagency panel review**: An interagency review panel will evaluate applications using the scoring criteria described in the Appendix X. Scoring Criteria. Project proposals will receive a single cumulative score. The highest-scoring proposals will be invited to a final interview.
- **Interviews:** The final interview will focus on questions related to the workbook, including both the workplan and the budget. Staff will recommend awards based on the cumulative scores from the interagency review panel and the interviews.
- **Final decision:** LCI will make the final award decisions based on the recommendations provided by program staff determined by the scoring process.

Application Support

The following support is available during the application window.

- **Technical assistance:** The Extreme Heat Program will provide technical assistance through a third-party provider to support the development of the full application form. Depending on the volume of requests, the Program will prioritize assistance for: funding targets; that is, Priority Populations and California Native American Tribes *(see Section 10. Funding Targets)*; applicants that were not funded for implementation grants in previous rounds; and applicants without grant-writing support.

Program staff and the technical assistance provider will work with prioritized applicants to determine the scope, scale, and timeline of technical assistance. Technical assistance may include, but is not limited to:

- o One-on-one meetings with the applicant team to discuss your project, application requirements, and recommendations for a competitive application.
- o Email updates on program deadlines, resources, and program questions.
- o Frameworks, tools, and templates provided to applicants.
- o Review and give feedback on sections of your application. The technical assistance team will not be able to provide full application reviews or assist with the development of your application (e.g., drafting narrative).

Applicants interested in technical support should submit during the Pre-Application Interest Form Window 1 *(See Section 11. Application Process)*. Program staff will notify applicants selected for technical assistance.

Receiving technical assistance does not guarantee that an applicant will be awarded a grant.

Other support

Program staff will host a series of optional events during the application period. A full list of offerings, including informational sessions, workshops, webinars, and office hours, along with dates, times, and locations will be posted on the Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Program webpage, once confirmed. All events will be accessible virtually and by phone.

Questions

Direct questions to the Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Program staff can be submitted using the information below:

Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Program
Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program (ICARP)
Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
1400 Tenth Street Sacramento, California 95814
Telephone: (916) 322-2318
E-mail: icarp.grants@lci.ca.gov

Applicants may ask questions during any of the optional virtual events offered during the application period, or they may submit written questions by mail or email. Program staff will compile responses into a high-level question-and-answer document, which will be posted on the program's webpage, shared with all intent survey respondents, and announced through the program's e-blasts.

Any verbal communication with program staff concerning this solicitation is not binding on the State and will in no way alter a specification, term, or condition of the solicitation. Therefore, all communication should be directed in writing to assigned program staff using the contact information above.

California Native American Tribes

Eligibility

California Native American Tribes include all those on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) pursuant to Chapter 905 of the Statutes of 2004 (Public Resources Code § 21073).

Additional points

If a Tribe is the lead applicant, or if the infrastructure will be located on tribal land with the Tribe serving as a co-applicant and granting permission for the project, the proposal will also qualify for 7 additional points in the scoring.

Technical assistance

The Extreme Heat Program will provide technical assistance to all California Native American Tribes submitting project proposals as lead applicants during the application process. The Program also intends to offer Implementation Technical Assistance during the grant term, pending available funding.

Data sovereignty

LCI respects Tribal data sovereignty and will work together with Tribal communities throughout every stage of the application process and grant implementation to ensure that data pertaining to Tribal communities is governed in a manner consistent with Tribal rights and governance to the extent possible consistent with California's public record laws. LCI will work with the lead grantee to ensure a clear and transparent process for excluding confidential Tribal data in the grant agreement where possible.

Consent to suit

If a Tribe is receiving grant payments on a reimbursement basis from LCI, Tribes will not be required to sign a limited waiver of sovereign immunity. If a Tribe is receiving LCI payments via advance pay, LCI may require a limited waiver of sovereign immunity. LCI is committed to working collaboratively with Tribes on tailoring limited waiver of sovereign immunity terms to support Tribal priorities while also meeting the State's obligations under the law.

Established indirect cost rate (IDC)

The Extreme Heat Program will work with Tribes that have an approved indirect cost rate (IDC) agreement from the National Business Center to apply that rate to their budgets, rather than the Program's standard 15% cap. Tribes without an approved IDC may either obtain an indirect cost rate prior to the contract agreement deadline *(see Section 14. Grant Agreement)* or use the Program's established 15% indirect cost rate.

Unawarded applications

Depending on the volume of applications, staff capacity, and the number of applicants requesting support, program staff may be able to provide high-level feedback on how to strengthen applications for future rounds. If another LCI grant program may be a better fit for a project, staff will try to direct the applicant accordingly.

Awarded applications

Post-award supporting activities

Grantees will have access to external technical assistance providers, peer-to-peer networking and learning, and program activities like workshops and other grantee support. Activities are geared towards building short-term capacity to support grant implementation and long-term technical capacity for resilience planning. Some activities are required, some are optional, and grantees may also have self-direct learning that adds capacity to the project.

Application proposals should set aside the following budget to ensure participation in post award supporting activities, with final amounts to be determined under contract: Early Transformative Projects: $25,000 USD, and Advanced Transformative Projects: $50,000 USD.

- **Program activities**
  o Description: All grantees will have quarterly check-ins with program staff to monitor progress, as well as access to 1:1 and group support from a third-party provider.
  o Requirement: 10 mandatory sessions, additional sessions encouraged.
  o Budget and eligible costs: Budget may cover staff time for participation in activities.
- **Technical assistance:**
  o Description: Given funding availability, program staff and third-party groups will be available to assist grantees with project monitoring, evaluation, project support, and/or guidance for grantees. The scope of available technical assistance will vary depending on project need and will be determined once awarded.
  o Requirement: Optional, strongly encouraged
  o Budget and eligible costs: Budget may cover staff time for participation in activities.
- **Peer-to-peer learning:**
  o Description: Program staff and partners will provide multiple opportunities for peer-to-peer learning and knowledge exchange. Grantees will have opportunities to meet with all other grantees, as well as those leading similar projects.
  o Requirement: Quarterly session mandatory, additional sessions encouraged
  o Budget and eligible costs: Budget may cover staff time for participation in activities
- **Experiential learning**

- o Description: Grantees are encouraged to self-direct additional learning activities that will add value to their projects and capacity to their teams. Optional activities may include attending non-required program-hosted network sessions, participating in third-party learning opportunities, or self-directing "field trips" and other experiences to learn from peers leading similar projects.
- o Requirement: Optional
- o Budget and eligible costs: Varied, for staff time to plan and implement activities, plus other associated costs like travel.

Reporting requirements

Grantees must submit the following progress reports over the length of the grant term:

- **Quarterly reports:** Quarterly reports are informal, high-level snapshots of project progress submitted ahead of quarterly check-ins. They provide a chance to highlight updates, milestones, and challenges that may not fit into the mid-term or final reports.
- **Mid-term progress report:** The mid-term progress report tracks work completed during the first half of the grant term against the detailed workplan. Its purpose is to confirm that grantees are on track to produce their deliverables and to identify where additional support may be needed.
- **Final report:** The final progress report will describe the overall status of the grant and track the work completed during the entire grant term.
- **Case study:** At the end of the grant term, grantee(s) will produce a project case study documenting lessons learned and effective practices through this project. This is meant to help other community efforts learn from each other and advance community planning and capacity.
- **Reporting templates:** Program staff will provide templates for the progress reports through the grant agreement. These documents will record the project's expenditures and assess general progress on deliverables.

Grant Administration

Contract agreement

The lead applicant will enter into a contract agreement with LCI. No agreement between LCI and the grant recipient takes effect until it has been signed by both the Recipient and the authorized LCI representative. Work may not begin until the agreement is fully executed; therefore, grantees cannot request reimbursement for any costs incurred or work completed before grant execution. LCI reserves the right to modify the award documents prior to execution.

LCI, through its programs, is dedicated to transparency and compliance with state auditing requirements and applicable records retention/disclosure rules. Applicants should expect that grant agreements will reflect consistency with these standards and ensure compliance with applicable rules and requirements.

Important note: Grantees must execute a contract agreement within six months of award. LCI reserves the right to rescind the award if this requirement is not met.

Partnership agreement

All awarded lead applicants with co-applicant(s) and/or contributor(s) will need to enter into a partnership agreement with the co-applicant and/or contributor and provide a copy of the signed partnership agreement to LCI prior to finalizing the grant agreement. The partnership agreement will at a minimum: 1) outline the respective obligations of the lead applicant, co-applicant(s), and/or contributor(s) throughout the grant term to implement the project, 2) include commitments from the lead applicant, co-applicant(s), and/or contributor(s) that they will implement their respective obligations, 3) require co-applicants and contributors to retain and provide documentation of actions taken related to the project to the lead applicant, and 4) include information about how the partners will make decisions and resolve disputes. LCI will provide a partnership agreement template to assist applicants with the partnership agreement, though use of the template is not required. 5) Additional components might be added to ensure strong agreements.

Eligible costs

The list below provides eligible and ineligible costs using grant funds. Applicants should ensure that costs proposed in the project budget are eligible for funding. Costs deemed ineligible in the application review process will be removed, and the project's recommended total award will be adjusted accordingly.

- **Staff costs:** Grant recipients, subgrantees, and their contractors' staff costs, including salary at an hourly rate, benefits, taxes, and leave. Staff may be full-time or part-time employees. If Applicants wish to use grant funds to pay for interns, fellows, or other positions that are not on an organization's payroll, these costs should be classified in the budget as a direct cost via a consultant contract.
- **Post-award supporting activities:** Applicants are recommended to set aside a portion of their budget to participate in the post-award supporting activities described in Section 13. Awarded Applications.
- **Travel costs:** Travel reimbursements should adhere to the State rates and conditions established on the CalHR website, except for "incidentals" and out-of-state travel, which will not be reimbursable under this grant.
- **Language and information access:** Personnel or subcontractor costs associated with translation, interpretation, or web design services for meetings, digital content, or printed materials.
- **Evaluation activities:** Personnel or subcontractor costs associated with the evaluation of the cooling performance of their infrastructure solutions.
- **Supplies and materials:** Printing, stationery, and software subscriptions or licenses, provided they are reasonable and necessary for the completion of specific deliverables of the project.
- **Partnership development:** Costs related to the development of new and existing partnerships. Partnership development activities may include:
  - Facilitated workshops and community listening sessions
  - Asset mapping among partners/potential partners
  - Tours of organizations of partners/potential partners and/or geographic area of focus
  - Data collection
  - Goal, value, vision, and principle setting
  - Other shared activities, approved by LCI, that allow for a potential partnership to develop trust and understanding.

- **Indirect administrative costs:** Indirect costs may account for no more than 15% of the total grant award across the entire project, including all charges by the lead applicant, co-applicants, contributors, and subcontractors. Costs include those incurred by the recipient to administer the grant, or costs incurred by subgrantees to perform the tasks necessary to fulfill the deliverables outlined in these guidelines. The Program will work with awardees that have an approved indirect cost rate agreement from the National Business Center to apply that rate to their budgets, rather than the Program's standard 15% cap. Administrative costs include, but are not limited to:
  - Prorated general liability, workers' compensation (may be included in payroll), and automotive insurance
  - Personnel costs associated with administrative, supervisory, legal, and executive staff
  - Personnel costs associated with support units, including clerical support, housekeeping
  - Operating expenses and equipment costs not included as part of direct project costs (functions such as accounting, budgeting, audits, business services, information technology, web design services, janitorial; and rent, utilities, supplies, etc.)
- **Engagement, outreach, education, and training:** Costs related to the development and administration of engagement, outreach, education, and training activities under the grant, including, but not limited to:
  - Compensating participants for their help developing community work products. Include documentation like sign-in sheets or written surveys. Subcontractors and consultants should be qualified to provide services. The lead applicant is responsible for complying with all applicable laws
  - Access to proprietary data or research materials to conduct research, market, and feasibility studies, compiling and analyzing community needs- related information studies, and access proprietary data
  - Facilitation of meetings
  - Marketing and advertisements
  - Transportation stipends and provision of transportation services for community residents, such as a vanpool
  - Rental costs of equipment, facilities, or venues
  - Provision of childcare or dependent-care services for community residents at project sponsored events

- Food and refreshments determined to be an integral part of the event. Examples of activities where it would be appropriate to approve food purchases would include a design charrette held in the evening, where the meal is consumed as part of the event and replaces a meal otherwise missed by attending the event.

Eligible costs (infrastructure)

- **Direct construction costs:** Costs directly tied to implementing the Grant Agreement including, but not limited to labor, subcontracts, equipment costs, supplies, expenses directly tied to the implementation of the grant
- **Pre-development construction costs:** These include costs for construction or project plans, specifications and estimates for engineering, architectural, and other design work. These activities are not considered Indirect Administrative Costs.

Ineligible costs

Grant funds may not be used for the following costs and are not reimbursable:

- Indirect costs in excess of 15% of the awarded funds.
- Proposed total budget for partners more than 15% for the Early Transformative Projects or 10% for the Advanced Transformative Projects.
- Costs that occur outside of the grant agreement term.
- Direct lobbying.
- Purchase of land.
- Fossil-fuel powered appliances and infrastructure, such as diesel generators and gas-powered appliances.
- Office furniture purchases, or other capital expenditures.
- Acquisition of vehicles (including water trucks or trailers) or shuttle programs.
- Organizational membership fees.
- The following costs associated with community engagement and outreach:
  - Direct cash benefits or subsidies to participants are ineligible. However, participants can be compensated for services rendered. See Eligible Costs section above for more information.
  - Alcoholic refreshments
  - Participant incentives, such as door prizes, which are unrelated to specific community work.

- General meetings that do not specifically discuss or advance implementation of the awarded project.

Advanced pay

Pursuant to authority granted by the legislature in 2023 (AB 590 (Hart, 2023)), State agencies administering a grant program may provide up to 25% of the total grant awards in advanced payments to grant recipients that are private nonprofit organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and meet specified requirements. Under these provisions, LCI may grant an advance payment exceeding 25% of the grant award only if LCI determines that the project requires a larger advance, and that the recipient entity provides sufficient justification and documentation for that larger advance to the administering state agency.

The Program will work with grantees that are interested in pursuing advance payment during the contracting process; however, LCI cannot guarantee its availability.

Site control

- **Definition:** Site control is a required checkpoint in which applicants must demonstrate possession of, or legal authority over, the property where physical, nature-based, or other modifications will be made. Site control must be demonstrated before any direct implementation costs can be incurred *(see Section 14. Eligible Costs).*

    For projects in which the Grantee or any partner does not own the proposed site, the Grantee must provide appropriate documentation confirming rights sufficient to implement and maintain the project, as applicable.

- **Forms of site control:** The type and level of site control required varies based on the nature, scale, and location of the proposed project. Applicants must ensure that the form of site control and accompanying documentation align with the specific needs of their project. Depending on the type of project, site control may be demonstrated by:
  - Proof of ownership
  - Lease
  - Right-of-access agreements
  - Contracts or other legal instruments.
  - For projects with implementation across multiple sites, site control may be demonstrated individually by each site.

- **Documentation Requirements:** Applicants can describe the form of site control being pursued in their application, including the method by which it will be demonstrated. Site control may also be requested at any point during the application process to ensure project feasibility. The final form of site control will be incorporated into the Grant Agreement.
- **Timeline for demonstrating site control:** Successful applicants are expected to demonstrate site control within 6 months of receiving award notification, if feasible. If it is not feasible to meet this 6-month requirement, the applicant must provide a written explanation, either in the application or in a post-award submission, detailing:
  - Why site control cannot be demonstrated within 6 months, and
  - Request for extension of up to a total of six months supported by appropriate justification. No more than 2 extensions may be granted.
- **Failure to demonstrate site control:** If the grantee does not demonstrate site control within the required timeline and no extension is granted by LCI, or all allowable extensions have been exhausted, LCI may rescind the award.

Disbursement and accounting funds

- The Extreme Heat Program is primarily a reimbursement grant program. LCI will provide the grant recipient with the necessary grant award and invoicing documents for the reimbursement process. Some applicants may qualify for a limited amount of advanced payment. *(See Section 15. Advanced Pay).*
- LCI will withhold the last 5% of the grant, to be paid once the State has determined that the grant terms have been fulfilled.
- The grantee cannot request reimbursement for any work completed before the execution of the grant agreement.
- Grantees may request reimbursement from LCI every quarter (every three months).
- Partners should invoice the grantee before the grantee submits an invoice to LCI.
- The grantee will be responsible for compiling all invoices, supporting documentation, and reporting materials for themselves and the partners into a single package. Once the package has been approved for payment, funds will be dispersed to the grantee.
- The grantee is responsible for dispersing payment to their partners.

Matching funds

No match funding is required. The program wishes to fund viable projects, and there is no explicit advantage for projects with existing match funding within the scoring criteria. Program funding may be used to provide the required match funding to release other funding or grant opportunities. If additional funding is needed in addition to the program funding for the project to be executed, details must be provided in the budget and work plan, including the likely timeline for securing the additional funding. Additional funding should be included and referenced in letters of support from project partners and local community organizations

Legal Notes

Guidelines and contract agreement

These guidelines contain instructions governing a firm quotation to be submitted by interested eligible Applicants, the format in which the technical information is to be submitted, the material to be included, eligibility information, and responsibilities. Applicants should take the responsibility to carefully read the entire solicitation, ask appropriate questions promptly, submit all responses completely by the required date and time, and make sure that all procedures of the solicitation are followed and appropriately addressed.

The content of these guidelines shall be incorporated by reference into the final agreement. LCI reserves the right to negotiate with grant recipients to modify the project work plan, the level of funding, or both. If LCI is unable to successfully negotiate and execute a funding agreement with a grant recipient, LCI, at its sole discretion, reserves the right to cancel the pending award and fund the next highest ranked eligible project.

Grant recipients that receive funding under these guidelines should provide an authorizing letter of commitment approved by their governing authority to agree with LCI and designate an authorized representative to sign. Applicants are encouraged to provide authorizing commitment letters at the time of proposal submission, but authorization should be submitted no later than 60 days after the notice of award.

LCI will send the approved agreement, including the general Terms and Conditions and any additional terms and conditions, to the grant recipient for review, approval, and signature. Once the grant recipient signs, LCI will fully execute the agreement. Recipients are approved to begin the proposal activities only after the full execution of the agreement.

Errors

If a prospective applicant encounters any ambiguity, conflict, discrepancy, omission, or other errors in the solicitation, the Applicant should immediately notify LCI in writing and request modification or clarification of the document. Modifications or clarifications will be given by written notice to all parties who requested the solicitation, without divulging the source of the request for clarification. LCI shall not be responsible for failure to correct errors.

Modification or withdrawal of proposal

A prospective applicant may, by e-mailing Extreme Heat Program staff at icarp.grants@lci.ca.gov, withdraw or modify a submitted proposal before the deadline to submit proposals. Proposals cannot be changed after that date and time. A proposal cannot be "timed" to expire on a specific date. For example, a statement such as the following is non-responsive to the solicitation: "This proposal and the cost estimate are valid for 60 days."

Immaterial defect

LCI may waive any immaterial defect or deviation contained in an applicant's proposal. The LCI waiver shall in no way modify the proposal or excuse the successful participating applicant from full compliance.

Confidential information

All applications and submitted materials, including those submitted via Submittable, are subject to the Public Records Act (PRA) (Government Code, §§ 7920.000 et. seq) requirements and certain information may be publicly disclosed pursuant to those requirements. Application materials will remain confidential through the application evaluation process, however, all submitted documents will become publicly available records after LCI posts the awards or the solicitation is cancelled. Materials and information submitted to LCI post-award may also be subject to public disclosure. Therefore, applicants should not include any sensitive, confidential, or proprietary information, including culturally sensitive information, in their application or in any communications with LCI.

Intellectual property rights

All materials, data, reports, documents, processes, and other work products developed using grant funds shall be owned exclusively by the State and shall be considered works made for hire. All intellectual property rights, title, and interest in such work products shall vest in the State upon creation and shall survive the termination or completion of the grant.

This ownership requirement applies to all partners, including co-applicants, contributors, contractors, and subcontractors. Such parties may not use, disclose, or incorporate grant-funded work into other activities in a manner that conflicts with the State's rights without the State's prior written consent.

If any partner declines to accept these terms or withdraws from the project, they shall retain no rights to the application or any work products developed. The lead applicant may identify and propose a replacement partner as needed, subject to program approval.

Appendix

Appendix A: Scoring criteria

- To be completed.

Appendix B: Application workbook

- To be completed.

Appendix C. Glossary and acronyms

- To be completed.
End of document