

INTEGRATED CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCY PROGRAM

Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Program

# Round 2 Grant Guidelines

June 2026



# Guideline Overview

## **What is the Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Program?**

The Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Program (Extreme Heat 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 provides funding for projects to protect California communities most vulnerable to the impacts of extreme heat. Round 2 will fund infrastructure projects with funding from the 2024 Climate Bond (Proposition 4) and the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund.

## **What projects does the Extreme Heat Program fund?**

**Early Infrastructure Projects** fund heat-related infrastructure planning and a demonstration project that tests proposed approaches. Awards range from \$750,000 to \$1.2 million.

**Advanced Infrastructure Projects** fund the implementation of heat-related infrastructure projects that have been identified through prior planning efforts and determined to be feasible. Awards range from \$3 million to \$4.5 million.

## **Who is eligible to apply?**

Applications must include a Lead Applicant and at least one Co-Applicant. Eligible Lead Applicants and Co-Applicants include Local and Regional Public Entities, Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), Public Higher Academic Institutions, California Native American Tribes, and Coalitions.

## **How do you apply?**

- **Step 1: Submit a Pre-Application Interest Form via Submittable.** Window 1 opens on June 16, 2026, and closes on July 21 at 2:00 PM PST. Technical Assistance requests are only accepted during Window 1. Window 2 opens on July 1, 2026, and closes on August 11 at 2:00 PM PST.
- **Step 2: Submit the Full Application Form via Submittable.** The Full Application Form is only available to applicants who have completed a Pre-Application Interest Form. The Full Application Form must be submitted by October 13, 2026, at 2:00 PM PST.

## **What are the funding priorities?**

The Extreme Heat Program will direct at least 40% of its funding to projects with meaningful and direct benefits for Disadvantaged Communities (DACs) or Vulnerable Populations. Of that 40%, a minimum of 10% must support Severely Disadvantaged Communities (SDACs).

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# 1. Background

## 1.1 Program Background and Development:

The Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Program (the Extreme Heat Program) was established through [SB 155](#), the Public Resources Trailer Bill (2021), which allocated resources beginning in the 2022–23 fiscal year.

Round 1 was shaped by listening sessions with over 800 participants, a public comment period, and discussions with community-based organizations (CBOs). LCI awarded \$32 million to 47 grantees across 23 counties.

Round 2 builds on lessons learned from Round 1. Early feedback was collected from over 500 community members across 10 input sessions in 2025 and a public comment period on the draft guidelines was held in early 2026. This round is funded by the 2024 Climate Bond (Proposition 4) and the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. The Climate Bond requires that the Extreme Heat Program directs at least 40% of its funding to projects with meaningful and direct benefits for Disadvantaged Communities (DACs) or Vulnerable Populations. Of that 40%, a minimum of 10% must provide meaningful and direct benefits to Severely Disadvantaged Communities (SDACs).

## 1.2. Extreme Heat and Community Resilience:

Extreme heat is one of California's deadliest climate hazards, with events becoming more frequent and severe<sup>1</sup>. Across the state, regions long accustomed to hot weather are experiencing heat that is more intense and prolonged, while historically cooler areas are facing hotter conditions for which they are unprepared. In both cases, temperatures threaten physical and mental health, worsen underlying medical conditions, and fall hardest on those most vulnerable. Extreme heat also strains California's natural systems, driving wildfires and droughts that compound the impacts to communities whose cultural, spiritual, and economic wellbeing depends on healthy landscapes.

Addressing the threats posed by extreme heat requires more than technical solutions; it requires building lasting community capacity to withstand, recover from, and adapt to increasingly intense and prolonged heat events. The Extreme Heat Program funds solutions that go beyond individual projects and works alongside grantees to build resilience through the implementation of physical and social infrastructure, ensuring that solutions are effective, equitable, and built to last.

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<sup>1</sup> Schmeltz, M. T., Smith, J. A., Olmos, I., & Quintero, E. (2022). Extreme Heat Governance: A Critical Analysis of Heat Action Plans in California. *American Journal of Public Health, 113*(1), 15-19. <https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2022.307117>

## 2. Program Values

The Extreme Heat Program is guided by four core values that shape how projects are designed, delivered, and sustained. Together, these values reflect a commitment to protecting the people most harmed by extreme heat, doing so in partnership with the communities they serve, creating infrastructure that fosters a sense of belonging, and ensuring that investments contribute to lasting change.

**2.1 Harm Reduction:** reflects a commitment to acting with urgency to reduce immediate heat-related illness and death, particularly in communities that face disproportionate exposure due to historic and ongoing inequities in infrastructure investment. This value shifts the focus away from relying solely on individual behavioral change and toward focused, place-based infrastructure interventions that directly reduce risk. It emphasizes a clear understanding of how extreme heat exacerbates harm and the importance of implementing solutions that intentionally reduce harm.

**2.2 Partnership:** recognizes that effective solutions require both community knowledge and implementation capacity. Communities most affected by extreme heat bring critical lived experience and insight into local conditions, while public agencies and other institutions provide the authority, resources, and scale needed to deliver infrastructure. This value emphasizes intentional, complementary partnerships and shared decision-making, ensuring that projects are both grounded in community realities and positioned for successful implementation and long-term support.

**2.3 Belonging:** ensures that infrastructure is designed with and for the people who use it. Projects center the needs of communities through inclusive, community-driven design processes. They incorporate input from diverse residents, reflect local languages and cultures, and acknowledge past and ongoing harm. By engaging trusted community voices, projects create spaces that are safe, welcoming, and reflective of the communities they serve.

**2.4 Lasting Community Benefits:** recognizes that addressing extreme heat requires investments that extend beyond individual projects, contributing to the long-term resilience and well-being of communities vulnerable to extreme heat. Through activities, lessons learned, and relationships generated during the grant term, projects should build momentum for additional investment. By cultivating community interest and political support, projects can leverage additional resources to scale infrastructure solutions and broaden their long-term benefits.

## 3. Early Infrastructure Projects

**3.1 Purpose:** Applicants must develop a heat-related infrastructure planning document that identifies where infrastructure will be deployed and how it will protect vulnerable populations from extreme heat within a defined geographic area. The planning document must be supported by an infrastructure demonstration project, and both must be completed within 30 months of the grant award start date.

**3.2 Award Range:** \$750,000 to \$1.2 million.

**3.3 Eligible Projects:** Eligible projects must produce a planning document for the installation or modification of infrastructure whose primary purpose is to protect people from extreme heat.

Projects may include:

- Built environment solutions, such as cool pavements, shading, passive and mechanical cooling, building upgrades, hydration stations, and transit shelters.
- Nature-based solutions, such as urban forestry, green spaces, green stormwater infrastructure.
- Projects that integrate both built and nature-based solutions.

All projects must produce two deliverables: Planning Document and Infrastructure Demonstration Project.

### 3.4 Program Requirements:

- **Infrastructure Demonstration:** 25% – 60% of the total budget must support the demonstration project.
- **Partnerships:** At least 8% of the total budget must go directly to partners (Co-Applicants and/or Contributors) for assigned workplan activities.
- **Belonging Activities:** At least 4% of the total budget must support Belonging design and implementation activities. See [Section 5. Workplan and Eligible Activities](#). See [Appendix B: Belonging Guide](#).
- **Post-Award Activities:** Applicants must set aside \$25,000 in their budget to participate in required post-award activities. See [Section 9. Post-Award Requirements](#).
- **Indirect Costs:** Up to 15% of the total budget can be allocated for indirect costs.

**3.5 Infrastructure Demonstration Project Requirements:** A demonstration project is required to inform the planning document and must be completed before the planning document is finalized. By testing a proposed infrastructure system, grantees will deliver immediate cooling benefits to their communities while generating insights needed to produce a credible and

actionable planning document and build support for future investment. Infrastructure Demonstration Projects must be set up to:

- **Provide Shade or Cooling:** Deliver immediate heat relief to communities through the installation of physical infrastructure.
- **Test Belonging Approaches:** Test strategies that engage potential users in the co-creation of infrastructure that reflects the community it serves and is welcoming, accessible, and safe.
- **Test the Infrastructure Design:** Test the design of the demonstration project by identifying which components work well, which do not, and what should be adjusted before scaling.
- **Learn from the Implementation Process:** Learn the processes to design, permit, and install heat resilience infrastructure in a community, generating practical lessons that can inform the implementation of future infrastructure solutions.
- **Build Momentum:** Generate community and political support for extreme heat infrastructure and develop support for the policies and investments articulated in the plan.

While the infrastructure type for the demonstration project must be identified at the time of application (e.g., cool pavement, misting stations, etc.), applicants have flexibility to determine the project's scale and location, provided that the demonstration produces the required components.

**3.6 Planning Document Requirements:** Eligible Planning Documents must take one of the following forms:

- **An Infrastructure Master Plan** is a strategic planning document focused specifically on heat-resilient infrastructure within a defined geographic area. It establishes a community vision for the infrastructure needed to protect people from extreme heat and provides a roadmap for long-term investment and implementation. Infrastructure Master Plans may focus on a specific type of infrastructure (microgrids, urban forestry, home retrofits, hydration stations, and cool corridors) or on cooling and shade infrastructure more broadly through efforts, such as cool parks or a shade master plan.
- **An Extreme Heat Action Plan** is a broader comprehensive plan that addresses community preparedness and response to extreme heat, including public awareness, communications, emergency response, and infrastructure investment. All Extreme Heat Action Plans must include a dedicated infrastructure planning section. At a minimum, this section must identify where infrastructure investments are needed, the types of

infrastructure required to address community needs, how the infrastructure will be designed and implemented, and the financial strategies to implement them.

**Required Planning Elements:** While the two plan types differ in scope, both must address all required planning elements listed below and include community engagement, local partnerships, and evidence of Belonging strategies (see [Appendix B: Belonging Guide](#)):

- **Priority Areas:** Identification of high-need areas where infrastructure investments are lacking or insufficient.
- **Infrastructure Strategy:** Identification and justification of infrastructure types that address community needs and have community support.
- **Partnerships:** Identification of entities that could support design, implementation, operation, and maintenance.
- **Design Principles:** A set of community-informed principles that describe what the infrastructure should achieve and how it should function for the community it serves. These principles should guide future design decisions and be used to inform grant proposals or design scopes of work.
- **Implementation Cost Estimates:** Preliminary pre-construction costs estimates for proposed infrastructure investments, including designs, contingencies and scaling considerations, as appropriate.
- **Implementation Roadmap:** A high-level roadmap that provides a clear and credible outline of how the community intends to move from planning to action. The roadmap may include proposed next steps, potential funding opportunities, key milestones, and the entities responsible for advancing implementation.
- **Optional Consideration:** Applicants will identify infrastructure solutions that address community heat resilience needs. Applicants seeking to move a specific solution closer to implementation may also develop preliminary engineering and design materials, such as construction documents at the 15% or 30% design stage. Applicants may also identify permitting requirements, site control needs, and other considerations necessary to support future implementation.

**3.7 Eligible Project Examples:** see [Appendix C: Eligible Projects Examples](#).

## 4. Advanced Infrastructure Projects

**4.1 Purpose:** Applicants must implement infrastructure that protects vulnerable populations from extreme heat. Projects must be informed by prior planning efforts that demonstrate a feasible infrastructure solution and a defined project location (see [Section 4.5: Project Feasibility Requirements](#)). Additionally, applicants must develop a Future Implementation

Playbook that documents lessons learned and identifies opportunities to expand or replicate heat resilience investments in the future. Applicants must demonstrate that construction will be completed within 48 months of the grant award start date.

**4.2 Award Range:** \$3 million to \$4.5 million.

**4.3 Eligible Projects:** Eligible projects must primarily protect people from extreme heat and demonstrate sufficient readiness to proceed toward implementation.

Projects may include:

- Built environment solutions, such as cool pavements, shading, passive and mechanical cooling, building upgrades, hydration stations and transit shelters.
- Nature-based solutions, such as urban forestry, green spaces, and green stormwater infrastructure.
- Projects that integrate both built and nature-based solutions.

All projects must produce two deliverables: Completed Infrastructure Project and a Future Implementation Playbook.

**4.4 Program Requirements:**

- **Infrastructure Construction:** At least 70% of the total budget must support infrastructure implementation and construction activities.
- **Partnerships:** At least 6% of the total budget must be allocated directly to partners (Co-Applicants and/or contributors) for assigned workplan activities.
- **Belonging Activities:** At least 2% of the total budget must be allocated to support Belonging design and implementation activities. See [Section 5. Workplan and Eligible Activities](#) and [Appendix B: Belonging Guide](#).
- **Post Award Activities:** Applicants must set aside \$50,000 in their budget to participate in required post-award activities. See [Section 9. Post-Award Requirements](#).
- **Indirect Costs:** Up to 15% of the total budget can be allocated for indirect costs.

**4.5 Project Feasibility Requirements:** Applicants must demonstrate that the proposed project is feasible and can reasonably advance to construction within the 48-month grant term.

Applications must include the following:

- **Identification of the proposed infrastructure solution and project site.**
- **Preliminary cost estimates:** A cost estimate table or equivalent document providing planning-level cost estimates for the proposed infrastructure.

- **Preliminary design or engineering documents:** Conceptual drawings, site plans, or other early-stage documents demonstrating project feasibility.
- **Site control:** Formal site control documentation will be required upon award. See [Section 9. Post-Award Requirements](#).

The following are not required but may strengthen the project’s demonstration of feasibility:

- Site-specific feasibility information, such as structural assessments, utility requirements, or equipment specifications.
- Existing plans, studies, or prior planning efforts relevant to the proposed project.
- Evidence of progress toward permits or environmental review, if applicable.

**4.6 Completed Infrastructure Requirements:** All proposed infrastructure must be fully installed, operational, and compliant with all required inspections and approvals by the end of the grant term. Applicants must also develop a long-term operations and maintenance plan identifying the entity responsible for ongoing operation, maintenance, and stewardship.

**4.7 Future Implementation Playbook Requirements:** Applicants must produce a written document that supports future investment building on the progress made by the completed infrastructure. The Playbook should identify opportunities to expand, replicate, sustain, or scale the project’s impact and may be used to support future fundraising, planning, design, and implementation efforts. The Playbook may take the form of a policy memo with recommendations to local jurisdictions, an implementation toolkit, a financing and funding strategy, a technical guide, or design guidelines.

**4.8 Eligible Project Examples:** See [Appendix C: Eligible Projects Examples](#).

## 5. Workplan and Eligible Activities

**5.1 Simplified Workplan and Budget:** Applicants must complete a Simplified Workplan and Budget template as part of the application and contracting process. Upon contract execution, awarded applicants will submit a detailed workplan as a first-quarter deliverable.

The Simplified Workplan and Budget is structured around six tasks designed to help applicants identify the key milestones needed to produce the required deliverables for their project type.

Task	Purpose
<b>Task 1: Project Initiation</b>	Develop the detailed workplan, finalize partnership agreements, and establish the project team.
<b>Task 2: Community Assessment and Engagement</b>	Conduct community or site-specific assessments and engagement to inform the planning document and infrastructure deployment.
<b>Task 3: Infrastructure Readiness</b>	Complete all pre-construction activities and obtain program readiness approval before deployment.
<b>Task 4: Infrastructure Deployment</b>	Construct and install the infrastructure and prepare the community to access and use it.
<b>Task 5: Planning and Policy</b>	Complete either the Planning Document for Early Infrastructure OR Future Implementation Playbook for Advanced Infrastructure.
<b>Task 6: Project Administration</b>	Fulfill all reporting, administrative, and peer learning requirements throughout the grant term.

*Table 1. Project Tasks at a Glance*

**5.2 Eligible Activities:** Within each Task, the eligible activities listed are intended to guide applicants in developing their workplan. Applicants must address each Task but have flexibility in selecting the activities most appropriate for their project. Unless otherwise noted, eligible activities apply to both Early and Advanced Infrastructure Projects.

**5.3 Tasks Definitions:**

**Task 1. Project Initiation:**

Upon contract execution, applicants must initiate project kick-off activities, including the development of a detailed workplan and execution of partnership agreements. Both deliverables are due at the end of the first quarter of the grant term. Eligible activities include:

- **Detailed Workplan and Budget Development (Required):** Upon contract execution, applicants must develop a detailed workplan using the provided template. This deliverable is due by the end of the first quarter following contract execution and will serve as the roadmap for project implementation.
- **Partnership Agreement (Required):** Applicants must finalize and submit a formal Partnership Agreement with all Co-Applicants and Contributors.
- **Staffing and Procurement:** Applicants may conduct staffing and procurement activities necessary to prepare for project implementation, including hiring staff and onboarding, consultant procurement, requests for proposals (RFPs), subcontracting, purchasing and project management setup.

## **Task 2. Community Assessment and Engagement:**

This task covers the assessment and engagement activities necessary to inform project design and implementation based on community needs and site conditions. For Early Infrastructure Projects, activities must focus on broad community-level vulnerability assessments to inform the planning document and demonstration project. For Advanced Infrastructure Projects, activities must focus on site-specific assessments that optimize the design and configuration of the proposed infrastructure to maximize heat protection. Eligible activities include:

- **Community and Heat Vulnerability Assessments:** Grantees must conduct activities that assess the physical and social conditions of the community they will serve:
  - **Early Infrastructure Projects:** broad community-level assessments to understand how extreme heat affects the community as a whole (e.g., exposure and vulnerability assessments, heat mapping, tree canopy analysis, health outcome data review, identification of existing cooling assets).
  - **Advanced Infrastructure Projects:** site-specific assessments to optimize the configuration of the already identified infrastructure for maximum cooling benefit (e.g., shade angle analysis, surface temperature mapping, structural assessments, and utility and equipment placement reviews).
- **Community Engagement:** Applicants must ensure that communities most affected by extreme heat have a meaningful role in shaping how the project is planned and implemented (e.g., facilitated workshops, community listening sessions, communication campaigns, outreach to trusted messengers, site visits of similar projects, site-specific community input sessions).

## **Task 3. Infrastructure Readiness:**

This task covers all pre-construction activities needed to ensure the project is ready for infrastructure deployment. For Early Infrastructure Projects, this task focuses on preparing the demonstration project for implementation. For Advanced Infrastructure Projects, this task focuses on completing all feasibility requirements necessary to begin full infrastructure construction. This task is completed when projects receive Readiness Review approval that lets them move into infrastructure deployment. Eligible activities include:

- **Pre-Construction:** Applicants must complete all activities needed to prepare the project for infrastructure deployment:

- **Early Infrastructure Projects:** Finalize the demonstration project location and complete all pre-construction activities needed for deployment, including design, site investigations, permitting, procurement, and evidence of site control.
- **Advanced Infrastructure Projects:** Building on the previously identified infrastructure solution and location, complete all feasibility requirements (see [Section 4. Advanced Infrastructure Projects](#)) and any remaining pre-construction activities, such as permits, procurement documentation, and evidence of site control.
- **Belonging Design (Required):** As part of pre-construction, grantees must incorporate belonging principles into infrastructure design to ensure projects are safe, welcoming, and reflective of the communities they serve. Activities may include engaging community members, especially those most vulnerable to extreme heat, through an intentional design process that may involve artists, cultural bearers, social workers, or indigenous knowledge experts. Final designs must incorporate cultural and place-based elements that reflect community identity and support long-term use and ownership. See [Appendix B: Belonging Guide](#). Belonging design activities must be completed prior to Readiness Review.
- **Readiness Review (Required):** Applicants must complete a formal readiness review confirming that the demonstration project or infrastructure project is ready for deployment before deployment costs can be invoiced. The Readiness Review must be completed by month twelve.

#### **Task 4. Infrastructure Deployment:**

This task includes all activities necessary for construction and installation. For Early Infrastructure Projects, this task consists of deploying the demonstration project. For Advanced Infrastructure Projects, this task consists of completing full infrastructure construction. Eligible activities include:

- **Infrastructure Deployment:** Applicants must complete all construction, installation, inspection, testing, and commissioning activities necessary to deliver the infrastructure.
- **Community Preparedness and Operational Readiness:** Applicants must ensure that staff and community members are prepared to access, operate, and maintain the infrastructure. Activities may include workforce training, outreach and communications, preparedness protocols, and long-term maintenance planning.

### **Task 5. Planning and Policy:**

In this task applicants will develop written deliverables and may also conduct activities to track the performance of the infrastructure. Eligible activities include:

- **Planning Document Development (Required — Early Infrastructure Projects):** All activities necessary to produce the required planning document, including data analysis, drafting, stakeholder review sessions, and presentations to councils or decision makers.
- **Future Implementation Playbook (Required — Advanced Infrastructure Projects):** All activities necessary to produce the playbook, including workshops to reflect on lessons learned, stakeholder meetings, drafting, and presentations of results to councils, decision makers, or potential funders.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Applicants must establish and implement a strategy to assess infrastructure effectiveness and evaluate whether project or program objectives are being achieved. Activities may include measurement of temperature reduction, shade coverage, infrastructure utilization, community feedback, surveys, interviews, focus groups, and other evaluation methods appropriate to the project.

### **Task 6. Project Administration:**

Applicants must complete all required reporting, documentation, and peer-to-peer learning activities throughout the grant term. Templates will be provided for all deliverables. Required reporting requirements include:

- **Progress Reports:** Applicants must submit quarterly reports ahead of each check-in with informal, high-level snapshots of progress, milestones, and challenges; a mid-term report tracking progress against the detailed workplan to confirm the project is on track and flag any risks or technical assistance needs; and a final report summarizing accomplishments and documenting activities completed throughout the grant term.
- **Case Study:** Applicants must produce a project case study at the end of the grant term documenting lessons learned and effective practices to help other community efforts learn from each other and advance the field.
- **Post-Award Activities:** Applicants must participate in quarterly peer-to-peer learning sessions and other program-sponsored activities intended to support collaboration, knowledge exchange, and other activities to support peer learning and capacity building.

## **6. Eligibility**

**6.1 Eligible Applicants:** The following entity types are eligible to apply as a Lead Applicant:

- **Local and Regional Public Entities:** including cities, counties, city/county, Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), Joint Power Authorities (JPAs), Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (RTPAs), Councils of Governments (COGs), Congestion Management Agencies, Groundwater Sustainability Agencies, School Districts, Special Districts (i.e., political subdivisions authorized under a State statute to provide services not offered by local cities or counties, such as climate resilience districts, resource conservation districts, and harbor districts), local and regional public authorities and agencies, and other political subdivisions. Community Choice Aggregators will be considered on a case-by-case basis due to the variability in their structure and authority to ensure compliance with statute.
- **California Native American Tribes:** 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). LCI acknowledges the sovereignty of federally recognized tribes. Federally recognized tribes serving as Lead or Co-Applicant will not be required to submit a limited waiver of sovereign immunity.
- **Community-Based Organizations (CBOs):** defined as entities qualified to do business in California and qualified under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, including nonprofit organizations, non-governmental organizations, philanthropic organizations, faith-based organizations, and community foundations.
- **Coalitions:** defined as collaboratives or associations of non-profit organizations fiscally sponsored by a 501(c)(3) nonprofit or academic institution.
- **Public Higher Academic Institutions:** including public universities, community colleges, and individual campuses of the University of California and California State University. Private universities with 501(c)(3) status are also eligible. The University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources Division is an eligible applicant. Note that system-level offices such as the University of California President's Office and California State University Chancellor's Office are not eligible (see Section 6.2 Ineligible Applicants).

**6.2 Ineligible Applicants:** The following entities are not eligible to apply as a Lead Applicant, Co-Applicant, Contributor, or fiscal sponsor.

- **For-Profit Entities:** including private for-profit universities.
- **Individual Community Members:** They can be subcontracted by grantees to conduct research or other services.
- **State and Federal Agencies:** State and federal agencies are not eligible to apply, including regional conservancies, councils, and commissions listed on the [State Agency Listing](#), and system-level offices representing a higher education institution (e.g., University of California President's Office, California State University Chancellor's Office). Note that individual campuses and divisions are eligible (see Section 6.1 Eligible

Applicants). State and federal agencies may still provide technical assistance, planning, design, data analysis, research, or other services to eligible applicants.

Entities determined to be ineligible following the Eligibility Review (see [Section 8. Application Process](#)) may submit an eligibility appeal by providing a formal letter within fifteen days of receiving their ineligibility determination. The letter should outline why they believe they meet the eligibility criteria. The Extreme Heat Program may take up to forty-five days to review the appeal. The final decision rests solely with LCI.

### 6.3 Team Structure:

- **Applicant Team:** All applications require a Lead Applicant and at least one Co-Applicant. Applications may also include Contributors, Supporters, and contractors. Together, these roles make up the Applicant Team.
- **Co-Applicant Requirement:** A Co-Applicant is required to ensure each team has the expertise, community participation, implementation and operational capacity needed to deliver the project. The table below outlines how the requirement can be met based on the Lead Applicant type.

Lead Applicant	Co-Applicant Requirement
Local or Regional Public Entity	CBO <b>or</b> California Native American Tribe
CBO	Local <b>or</b> regional public entity <b>or</b> California Native American Tribe
Public Higher Academic Institution	Both a CBO <b>and</b> a local or regional public entity <b>or</b> California Native American Tribe
Coalition	Both a CBO <b>and</b> a local or regional public entity <b>or</b> California Native American Tribe
California Native American Tribe	No co-applicant required

*Table 2. Co-Applicant Requirements by Lead Applicant Type*

- **CBO Office Requirement:** Any CBO serving as a Co-Applicant must maintain a staffed operational office within 100 miles of the infrastructure project site. If the Lead Applicant is a CBO but does not meet this requirement, the Applicant Team must include an additional qualifying CBO as a Co-Applicant. Coalitions cannot be used in place of a CBO to meet this requirement.
- **Exception for CBO Lead Applicants Without a Co-Applicant (Early Infrastructure Projects Only):** CBO Lead Applicants that cannot apply with a local or regional public entity or California Native American Tribe at the time of application must include the following in their application:

- **Justification:** An explanation of the barriers to partnering with a local or regional public entity or Tribe, how the CBO will engage with such entities throughout the project, and how the CBO plans to develop new partnerships through grant activities as described in the workplan and budget.
- **Letter of Support:** Submitting a letter of support from the relevant local or regional public entities or Tribe is encouraged.
- **Partnership Development:** Partnership development activities must be included in the project workplan and budget.

Applications that fail to include a justification and partnership development response will be considered ineligible.

#### **6.4 Team Roles and Responsibilities:**

- **Lead Applicant:** The Lead Applicant is responsible for submitting the application and, if awarded, will receive and manage grant funds. Key responsibilities include:
  - Submitting the Pre-Application Interest Form and Full Application Form.
  - Providing financial statements from the last two years as part of the application, including balance sheets, income statements, and statements of cash flows; for nonprofits, the most recent Form 990 and IRS 501(c)(3) Tax Determination Letter; and any audit findings in the last five years, if applicable.
  - Responding to a formal award notification with a letter approved by their governing body confirming acceptance of the award and commitment to implementing the project. This letter must be received within 60 days of award notification or LCI reserves the right to rescind the award.
  - Entering into a grant agreement with the state.
- **Co-Applicant:** Co-Applicants are required partners who receive funds through the lead applicant. Key responsibilities include:
  - Ensuring the Co-Applicant's key activities, detailed tasks, and allocated budget are included in the project workplan and budget.
  - Submitting a letter of support with the application that describes how the entity supports the goals of the project and how the Co-Applicant plans to accomplish their components of the work.
  - Providing financial statements from the last two years as part of the application, including balance sheets, income statements, and statements of cash flows; for nonprofits, the most recent Form 990 and IRS 501(c)(3) Tax Determination Letter; and any audit findings in the last five years, if applicable.

- If awarded the Co-Applicant will enter a formal Partnership Agreement with the Lead Applicant. The agreement should include the respective obligations of all parties, commitments to fulfill those obligations, a process for conflict resolution, and any other components necessary to ensure a strong and enforceable agreement. LCI will provide a template, though its use is not required.
- **Contributor:** Contributors are optional partners who can be included in the project proposal, workplan, and budget without detailed tasks, allowing their role to be developed post-award.
  - Contributors are not required to submit a letter of support.
  - If awarded, Contributors will be required to enter into a formal Partnership Agreement with the lead applicant meeting the same minimum requirements as the Co-Applicant partnership agreement above.
- **Supporter:** Supporters are optional partners included in the proposal to illustrate local support for the project. Supporters do not receive funding and may participate in some project activities without additional funds.
  - Supporters may be local or regional public entities, advocacy organizations, elected officials, or CBOs.
  - Supporters must submit a letter of support that discusses how the proposed infrastructure will protect people from extreme heat in the community; why the lead applicant and partners are well-positioned to deliver the project; and, if applicable, how the supporter will be involved in project activities.
  - Each application may include up to five supporters.
- **Contractor:** Contractors are entities paid by the grant to accomplish specific tasks. They are separate from the Applicant Team, do not need to be identified at the time of application, and will be selected using the rules and guidelines of the Lead Applicant. Contractors can be nonprofits or private entities.

## 7. Funding Priorities

**7.1 2024 Climate Bond Requirements:** The Extreme Heat Program, funded through the 2024 Climate Bond, codified in Public Resource Code Section 90000 et sec., is required to direct at least 40% of its funding to projects that provide meaningful and direct benefits to Disadvantaged Communities (DACs) or Vulnerable Populations. California Native American Tribes are considered Vulnerable Populations. Of this, a minimum of 10% must support projects providing meaningful and direct benefits to Severely Disadvantaged Communities (SDACs). For how applications to the Extreme Heat Program are evaluated for meaningful and direct benefits in the context of extreme heat and community resilience, see [Appendix F: Scoring Criteria](#).

A project’s benefits are considered meaningful and direct to a (S)DAC or Vulnerable Population if all the following four criteria<sup>2</sup> are met. The project:

1. delivers benefits that are direct, tangible, and substantial;
2. protects or enhances a (S)DAC or Vulnerable Population’s resources or quality of life by building climate resilience;
3. directly responds to the (S)DAC’s or Vulnerable Population’s needs or desired benefit; and
4. does not result in a long-term degradation or reduction of any (S)DACs’ or Vulnerable Populations’ resources.

**7.2 Points Available:** To meet the requirements above, the Extreme Heat Program awards points to applications based on the communities they will provide meaningful and direct benefits to. Applicants qualify for only one Funding Priority Group; the highest applicable point value will be used. Applicants can receive a maximum of 15 points.

Funding Priority Groups	Points
California Native American Tribe	15
Severely Disadvantaged Community (SDAC)	15
Vulnerable Populations	12
Disadvantaged Community (DAC)	10

*Table 3. Points Available by Funding Priority Group*

**7.3 Funding Priorities Groups Definitions:**

- **California Native American Tribes – 15 Points:** The project provides direct and meaningful benefits to a federally recognized Native American Tribe or a non-federally recognized Native American Tribe listed on the California Tribal Consultation List maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission.
- **Severely Disadvantaged Communities (SDAC) – 15 Points:** The project provides direct and meaningful benefits to a community defined as an SDAC in the [2024 Climate Bond Disadvantaged Communities Map](#).

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<sup>2</sup> The full criteria can be found on pages 12 and 13 of the [Meaningful and Direct Benefits Assessment](#).

- **Vulnerable Populations – 12 Points:** The project provides direct and meaningful benefits to a community with one of the following vulnerability designations for extreme heat in the [Vulnerable Communities Platform](#) (Current Timeframe)<sup>3</sup>:
  - High Climate Hazard & High Social Vulnerability
  - Medium Climate Hazard & High Social Vulnerability
  - High Climate Hazard & Medium Social Vulnerability
- **Disadvantaged Communities (DAC) – 10 Points:** The project provides direct and meaningful benefits to a community defined as a DAC in the [2024 Climate Bond Disadvantaged Communities Map](#).

**7.4 How Points Are Awarded:** During the pre-application phase, Extreme Heat Program staff will assess the project's stated benefits to Funding Priority Groups, giving applicants a preliminary indication of whether they are likely to receive funding priority points. This preliminary assessment will be shared as part of the overall pre-application feedback (see [Section 8. Application Process](#)).

During the Full Application period, staff will review specific sections of the narrative and the funding priorities definitions in Section 7.3 to make a final determination on meaningful and direct benefits to Funding Priority Groups, based on the criteria outlined in [Appendix F: Scoring Criteria](#). All four criteria must be met for a project to qualify. Before assigning a final score, staff will notify applicants through Submittable of the determination and how each of the four criteria is met.

To assess whether your project is likely to qualify for points, see [Appendix E: Guide to Assessing Funding Priority Points](#).

**7.5 Funding Priorities Appeals Process:** Applicants who disagree with the determination can appeal within one week of the Submittable notification by emailing a formal appeal letter on organizational letterhead, signed by an authorized representative, to [Extreme.Heat@lci.ca.gov](mailto:Extreme.Heat@lci.ca.gov). The letter should explain why the applicant disagrees with the determination and how the application, as submitted, meets all four criteria in Section 7.1. Appeals based on new evidence or changes to the application will not be considered. Extreme Heat Program staff will respond within two weeks with a final decision. Determinations not appealed within one week are final.

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<sup>3</sup> The Vulnerable Communities Platform evaluates climate hazard in two timeframes: current and 2050. We ask applicants to only evaluate the current timeframe.

## 8. Application Process

**8.1 Submission Platform:** All applications must be submitted online through Submittable, including the Pre-Application Interest Form, Full Application Form, and any other required materials. All submission-related communications will be conducted through Submittable. Materials submitted will be treated in accordance with Public Records Act requirements (see [Section 10. Legal Notes](#)).

**8.2 Pre-Application Interest Form:** Prospective applicants must complete a Pre-Application Interest Form to gain access to the Full Application. There are two submission windows. Applicants are encouraged to submit as soon as Window 1 opens, even if they do not plan on requesting technical assistance. The form includes the same questions in both windows and covers project name and type, project description, and assessment of whether the project is likely to receive funding priority points. Staff will provide feedback on eligibility and alignment with eligible activities within three weeks of each window closing.

- **Window 1 (Technical Assistance Request Available):** Opens June 16 and closes July 21 at 2:00 PM PST. Applicants may submit during this window whether or not they intend to request Technical Assistance.
- **Window 2 (No Technical Assistance Requests):** Opens July 1 and closes August 11 at 2:00 PM PST.

**8.3 Full Application Form:** Applicants who complete a Pre-Application Interest Form will receive a link to the Full Application along with their feedback. The Full Application closes on October 13th at 2:00 PM PST and includes application questions (see [Appendix F: Scoring Criteria](#)), a workbook with workplan and budget template, and other documentation as applicable.

Once submitted, applications cannot be modified. Incomplete applications or materials submitted separately via email before or after the deadline will not be accepted.

**8.4 Budget and Eligible Costs:** Applicants must submit a budget as part of the Full Application. The budget should reflect all anticipated costs for the project, including costs for Co-Applicants and Contributors. The following guidance is intended to help applicants build a complete and compliant budget:

- **Matching:** Although no match is required by this program, program funding may itself be used as matching funds to unlock other funding opportunities. If additional funding beyond the program grant is needed to execute the project, details must be provided in the budget and workplan, including the likely timeline for securing that funding.

- **Advance Pay:** Eligible 501(c)(3) nonprofits may qualify for up to 25% of the total grant award as an advance payment. The program will work with interested grantees during the contracting process; however, advance pay cannot be guaranteed.
- **Post-Award Supporting Activities:** Applicants must set aside budget to participate in post-award supporting activities (see [Section 9. Post-Award Requirements](#)). Recommended set-asides are \$25,000 for Early Infrastructure Projects and \$50,000 for Advanced Infrastructure Projects.
- **Eligible Costs:** The following costs are eligible for grant funds. Costs deemed ineligible during the application review process will be removed and the recommended total award adjusted accordingly:
  - **Personnel and Staff:** Salary, benefits, taxes, and leave for full- or part-time employees. Subcontractor costs associated with specific project activities are also eligible. Interns and fellows not on payroll should be classified as consultant contracts. Participant compensation is eligible only when tied to a specific service or contribution to a project deliverable, not for attendance or participation alone.
  - **Infrastructure and Construction:** Pre-development costs such as engineering and design work, and direct construction costs including labor, subcontracts, equipment, and supplies.
  - **Travel, Supplies, and Materials:** Travel reimbursed at [State CalHR rates](#); supplies and software subscriptions reasonable and necessary for project deliverables. Note that incidentals and out-of-state travel are not reimbursable.
  - **Indirect Costs:** May not exceed 15% of the total grant award across all parties, including the Lead Applicant, Co-Applicants, Contributors, and Subcontractors. Indirect costs include prorated insurance, administrative and executive personnel, clerical and support staff, and operating expenses such as rent, utilities, and IT. Applicants with an approved indirect cost rate agreement from the National Business Center may apply that rate instead.
- **Ineligible Costs:** The following costs are not eligible for grant funds:
  - **Financial and Administrative:** Indirect costs exceeding 15% of awarded funds, costs incurred outside the grant agreement term, organizational membership fees, and office furniture and other capital expenditures.
  - **Activities:** Direct lobbying and general meetings not specifically related to advancing the awarded project.

- **Purchases and Acquisitions:** Land purchases, vehicle acquisition including water trucks and trailers, and fossil fuel-powered appliances and infrastructure such as diesel generators and gas-powered appliances.
- **Community Engagement and Outreach:** Direct cash benefits or subsidies to participants, alcoholic refreshments, and participant incentives unrelated to specific grant work, such as door prizes.

**8.5 Application Review:** All applications will go through the following review process.

- **Eligibility Screening:** Staff will review all applications for eligibility and completeness, including narrative questions, workbook, and other requirement documents. Only complete applications will advance to the Interagency Panel Review. At program discretion and depending on the volume of applications received, the workbook may be scored prior to the panel review. Applications with the lowest workbook scores (see [Appendix F: Scoring Criteria](#)) may not advance to the Interagency Panel Review.
- **Interagency Panel Review:** An interagency review panel will evaluate eligible applications using the scoring criteria in [Appendix F: Scoring Criteria](#). The highest-scoring proposals will be invited to a final interview.
- **Interviews:** Interviews or site visits will be scored out of 10 points and will assess how well the Applicant Team demonstrates alignment with the Extreme Heat Program’s four values, as well as its knowledge, experience, and capacity to implement the proposed project. Questions will be based on the project narrative and workbook and will evaluate the team’s ability to successfully bring its vision to reality.
- **Awards:** LCI will make final award decisions based on cumulative scores from the Interagency Panel Review and Applicant Interviews, out of 100 points.

**8.6. Incompatible Project Type Submissions:** Applicants are responsible for selecting the appropriate project type for their proposal. Applications submitted under the incorrect project type (e.g., submitting an Early Infrastructure Project as an Advanced Infrastructure Project, or vice versa) may be given an opportunity to resubmit prior to the Interagency Panel Review. The Extreme Heat Program reserves the right to disqualify the applicant even if the error is not caught during the initial eligibility screening.

**8.7 Technical Assistance:** The Extreme Heat Program will offer technical assistance through a third-party provider to support applicants in developing their Full Application. Priority will be given to Funding Priority applicants, unawarded Round 1 applicants, and those without grant-writing support. Assistance may include one-on-one meetings, email guidance, templates, and feedback on application sections. Applicants must submit a Pre-Application Interest Form during Window 1 to request assistance. Technical assistance does not include full application reviews or drafting narratives and does not guarantee funding.

**8.8 Additional Support:** Extreme Heat Program staff will host optional events during the application period, including informational sessions, workshops, webinars, and office hours. All events will be accessible virtually and by phone. Dates and details will be posted on the Extreme Heat Program [webpage](#) once confirmed.

**8.9 Questions:** Questions may be submitted during optional virtual events or in writing using the contact information below. Staff will compile responses into a question-and-answer document posted on the program [webpage](#) and shared with all Pre-Application Interest Form respondents. Note that verbal communication with program staff is non-binding.

Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Program  
Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program (ICARP)  
Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation 1400 Tenth St., Sacramento, CA  
95814 Telephone: (916) 322-2318 - Email: [Extreme.Heat@lci.ca.gov](mailto:Extreme.Heat@lci.ca.gov)

**8.10 Unawarded Applications:** Depending on application volume and staff capacity, staff may provide unawarded applicants with high-level feedback on how to strengthen applications for future rounds. If the project is better suited for another LCI funding program, staff will try to direct the applicant accordingly.

## 9. Post-Award Requirements

**9.1 Contract Agreement:** The Lead Applicant will enter into a grant agreement with LCI upon award. No work may begin and no costs may be incurred until the agreement is fully executed. Grantees must execute the agreement within six months of award notification or LCI reserves the right to rescind the award. LCI reserves the right to modify award documents prior to execution. As part of the contracting process, grantees must also provide an Access Agreement for the land where the infrastructure will be built or installed.

LCI is dedicated to transparency and compliance with state auditing requirements and applicable records retention and disclosure rules. Grant agreements will reflect consistency with these standards.

**9.2 Readiness Review Requirements:** Grantees must demonstrate readiness before incurring any costs tied to physical implementation, such as construction and installation. Readiness will be assessed and approved independently for each project. For projects spanning multiple sites, readiness may be demonstrated individually for each site. Before implementation costs can be incurred, grantees must provide documentation confirming:

- CEQA Compliance, if applicable.
- Site Control, demonstrating legal authority over the property where modifications will be made. Acceptable forms of site control may include proof of ownership, a lease, access agreements, or other legal instruments demonstrating necessary access to and permission to use the site for grant projects.
- Any other pre-implementation requirement necessary to proceed with construction or installation.

Grantees must demonstrate readiness within the first twelve months of the grant term. If this is not feasible, the grantee must submit a written extension request to the Extreme Heat Program with appropriate justification. If a grantee fails to demonstrate readiness within the required timeline and no extension is granted or all extensions have been exhausted, LCI may rescind the award.

**9.3 Disbursement and Accounting:** The Extreme Heat Program operates on a reimbursement basis. Grantees submit invoices to LCI on a quarterly basis and are reimbursed for approved costs upon review. The following conditions apply:

- Costs incurred before execution of the grant agreement are not eligible for reimbursement.
- LCI will withhold the final 5% of the grant award until all grant terms have been fulfilled.
- Partners and contractors must invoice the Lead Applicant before the grantee submits an invoice to LCI.
- The Lead Applicant is responsible for compiling all invoices, supporting documentation, and reporting materials for themselves and all partners into a single package for submission. Once approved, funds will be disbursed to the Lead Applicant, who is then responsible for disbursing payment to partners.

LCI will provide all necessary grant awards and invoicing documents to support the reimbursement process.

**9.4 Post-Award Supporting Activities:** Grantees will have access to a range of post-award support activities designed to build short-term capacity for grant implementation and long-term capacity for resilience planning. Applicants must set aside budget to participate: \$25,000 for Early Infrastructure Projects and \$50,000 for Advanced Infrastructure Projects. Activities include:

- **Program Activities:** Quarterly check-ins with program staff and access to individual and group support from a third-party provider. Ten sessions are mandatory; additional sessions are encouraged.
- **Technical Assistance:** Program staff and third-party providers will offer assistance with project monitoring, evaluation, and implementation support. Optional but strongly encouraged.
- **Peer-to-Peer Learning:** Program staff and partners will facilitate opportunities for grantees to connect and exchange knowledge with one another and with peers leading similar projects. Quarterly sessions are mandatory; additional sessions are encouraged.
- **Experiential Learning:** Grantees are encouraged to self-direct additional learning activities that add value to their projects, such as attending network sessions, participating in third-party learning opportunities, or visiting peer projects. Optional.

## 10. Legal Notes

**10.1 Guidelines and Contract Agreement:** These guidelines govern the application process and will be incorporated by reference into the final grant agreement. Applicants are responsible for reading the entire solicitation, submitting complete responses by the required date and time, and following all procedures outlined. LCI reserves the right to negotiate modifications to the project workplan, funding level, or both. If LCI is unable to successfully negotiate and execute a funding agreement with a selected recipient, LCI reserves the right to cancel the pending award and fund the next highest ranked eligible project.

**10.2 Errors:** If an applicant encounters any ambiguity, conflict, discrepancy, or omission in the solicitation, they should notify LCI in writing immediately and request clarification. Clarifications will be shared with all parties without divulging the source of the request. LCI is not responsible for failure to correct errors, including immaterial defects or deviations, which LCI may waive at its discretion without modifying the proposal or excusing the applicant from full compliance.

**10.3 Modification or Withdrawal:** Applicants may withdraw or modify a submitted proposal before the submission deadline by emailing at [Extreme.Heat@lci.ca.gov](mailto:Extreme.Heat@lci.ca.gov). Proposals cannot be changed after the deadline and cannot be conditioned to expire on a specific date.

**10.4 Confidential Information:** All applications and submitted materials are subject to the Public Records Act (PRA) (Government Code, §§ 7920.000 et. seq.) requirements and information may be publicly disclosed pursuant to those requirements. Application materials shall remain confidential through the evaluation process; however, all submitted documents will become publicly available after LCI posts awards or cancels the solicitation. Materials submitted post-award may also be subject to public disclosure. Applicants should take special care not to include any sensitive, confidential, proprietary, or culturally sensitive information in their application or in any communications with LCI.

**10.5 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. The specific terms of intellectual property rights will be defined in a grantee's specific Grant Agreement and, in some cases, may depart from the above conditions at LCI's discretion.

# 11. Appendix

## Appendix A: California Native American Tribes – FAQs

This quick-reference appendix reflects what program staff have heard from Tribes about what matters most when deciding whether to apply to funding. It is shared in the spirit of transparency and ongoing dialogue. Contact us with questions at [Extreme.Heat@lci.ca.gov](mailto:Extreme.Heat@lci.ca.gov).

**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).

**Set-Asides:** The Extreme Heat Program does not have set-asides for Tribes, but projects that provide direct and meaningful benefits to a federally or non-federally recognized Native American Tribe (as listed on the [California Tribal Consultation List](#) maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission) receive 15 additional points. See [Appendix F: Scoring Criteria](#).

**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 with Tribal communities throughout the application process and grant implementation to ensure Tribal data is governed consistently with Tribal rights and governance, to the extent allowed under California's public records laws. LCI will work with the lead grantee to establish a clear process for protecting confidential Tribal data in the grant agreement where possible.

**Consent to Suit:** Tribes receiving grant payments on a reimbursement basis will not be required to sign a limited waiver of sovereign immunity; Tribes receiving advance pay may be. LCI is committed to working collaboratively with Tribes to tailor any waiver terms to support Tribal priorities while meeting the state's legal obligations.

**Indirect Cost Rate:** The Extreme Heat Program will honor approved indirect cost rate (IDC) agreements from the National Business Center in lieu of the program's standard 15% cap. Tribes without an approved IDC may obtain one prior to the contract agreement deadline or apply the program's 15% rate.

**Funding Distribution and Advanced Pay:** Fund distribution occurs on a cost-reimbursement basis: grantees submit invoices after work is completed and are reimbursed for approved costs. Tribes interested in advance pay may work with program staff to explore this option

during contracting, though it cannot be guaranteed and depends on administrative readiness.

**Payment Wait Time:** State payment processes include checks and balances to ensure accurate payment, which may result in longer processing times than expected. Invoices are processed by the Grants Administration Unit, which aims to issue payment within 45 days of receipt. Processing time may vary depending on invoice complexity and any follow-up questions.

**Reporting and Invoicing Support:** Grantees submit brief quarterly reports, a mid-term report, a final report, and a case study, all using program-provided templates. Invoicing is managed by the Grants Administration Unit, which provides templates, an onboarding tutorial, and feedback on the first invoice. Support is available throughout the grant period.

**California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA):** Projects on land under the control of a federally recognized Tribe fall under federal jurisdiction and are likely subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) rather than CEQA. For projects on other lands, whether a CEQA analysis is required depends on the nature of the proposed project.

**Matching Funds:** Matching funds are not required to apply. If additional funding beyond the program grant is needed to execute the project, details must be provided in the budget and workplan.

**Eligible Staff Costs:** Staff time required to complete a proposed project is an eligible cost. The program has no minimum or maximum limits on staff costs, though limits do apply to other budget categories such as infrastructure and partnerships. Eligible staff time covers project implementation only and does not include time spent preparing or applying.

**Previous Tribal Grantees:** Round 1 included two Tribal grantees: one Tribe-led and one Tribal Co-Applicant partnered with a CBO. Project summaries are available on the Extreme Heat Program's website. Tribes interested in connecting with previous grantees may contact us via email, though any engagement depends on grantee capacity.

**Repeat Funding:** Previous grantees are welcome to apply, including with proposals that expand on completed work.

## Appendix B: Belonging Guide

### **Why is Belonging a core value of the Extreme Heat Program?**

This round focuses on deploying infrastructure that protects people from the impacts of extreme heat. However, infrastructure can only reduce harm if people are willing and able to use it. Cooling centers, shaded plazas, and other heat resilience investments may go underutilized if community members do not feel welcome or safe in those spaces. In some communities, reluctance to use public infrastructure may be rooted in historical harm or exclusion that has eroded trust in public spaces and institutions. In these instances, infrastructure fails to deliver the protection it was designed to provide.

The Extreme Heat Program recognizes these risks can be reduced when infrastructure fosters a sense of belonging. When projects are designed with and by the people they are intended to serve, community members are more likely to see the resulting infrastructure as a trusted and meaningful part of their community. Infrastructure that is community-informed, culturally relevant, and trusted by residents creates a sense of belonging that empowers people to use the infrastructure when they need it most.

### **How can Belonging be incorporated into infrastructure design and planning processes?**

There is no single formula for creating belonging. Strategies will vary depending on the community, project type, and local context. However, all strategies must include processes that promote the centering of community voices and that are responsive to the needs of those most vulnerable to extreme heat.

Meaningful community engagement is foundational to this work. Thoughtful facilitators, such as community engagement professionals and social workers, are instrumental in guiding a process that sparks robust community dialogue and participation. Artists and culture bearers can integrate community needs, identity, and culture into infrastructure, ensuring people are empowered to use it and feel security and inclusion when they do. Through these processes, communities can identify the relevant values, histories, cultural practices, and lived experiences to inform the infrastructure design.

For many communities, disproportionate exposure to extreme heat is connected to broader patterns of historic institutional racism, under-investment, and environmental injustice. Approaches, such as community-based design and trauma-informed engagement, can help acknowledge these contexts while creating conditions that support participation and trust. These practices prioritize intentional engagement processes, such as meeting people in accessible and familiar spaces, conducting outreach in community languages, and partnerships with trusted organizations. Processes that promote healing and inclusion can center history, stories, people and cultural practices that can all inform infrastructure design.

Applicants are expected to work with the communities their infrastructure will serve to ensure that the spaces they create are welcoming, safe, and reflective of the people who will use them.

### **How can Belonging be experienced in the resulting infrastructure?**

Belonging is ultimately experienced through the physical space itself. When people use the proposed infrastructure and surrounding space, they may see, touch, and engage with elements that reflect their identity and make the space feel like it was built with them in mind. This might include murals that reflect local history, community heroes, or locally significant arts and cultural practices; signage in community languages; landscaping with native plants; lighting that makes people feel safe; or equipment that accommodates functional needs. These elements welcome the community and signal to intended users that the space was built with them in mind.

There is no universal design feature that creates Belonging. Rather, Belonging emerges when communities help define what makes a place feel welcoming and meaningful. Ultimately, a strong engagement process can identify the stories, identities, and priorities that should shape the project, ensuring the resulting infrastructure resonates with the people it is intended to serve.

### **Case Study: Splash! at Charles Young Park, Lexington, Kentucky**

In 2014, the City of Lexington announced plans to build an interactive water play area, later named Splash! at Charles Young Park. For years, nearby families and children played among the park's existing water features, which were later deemed unsafe. Splash! was an opportunity to address real community needs, but residents felt excluded from the engagement process and unheard in the redesign.

In response, the city reimaged their process by prioritizing building trust with the community. Rather than moving straight to construction, the city focused on smaller improvements, a collaborative design process, and partnerships with local organizations. They also made a deliberate choice to center their key users - children - in the redesign process. The project team established the Colonel Club, a youth ambassador program consisting of children in 2nd-6th grade. The city hosted events with slip-and-slides and other kid-friendly activities while children envisioned their ideal playgrounds and selected amenities, directly shaping what the space would become.

Belonging also shows up in the physical design of Splash! Interpretative signs tell the story of Brigadier General Charles Young, the first African American to achieve the rank of Colonel in the U.S., and the broader history of the East End neighborhood. An etched timeline of Young's life borders the perimeter of the splash pad. These elements ensure the space is unmistakably rooted in the history and identity of the community it serves.

The result of this investment in Belonging was meaningful and measurable. The playground near Splash! saw a 1,000% increase in use, making it a powerful demonstration that infrastructure people feel reflected is infrastructure that people use.

## Appendix C: Eligible Projects Examples

### **Built Environment Solutions:**

- Cool pavements to make streets and sidewalks more comfortable to use on 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 cool 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, including shade, misting, and cooling surfaces at transit stations.
- Passive and active cooling solutions across households, including multifamily housing developments, to protect families during extreme heat, prioritizing low-income and underserved households, including solar-powered ventilation, insulation, fans, evaporative coolers, and air conditioning.
- Enhanced recreational areas to make them more resilient to extreme heat, including adding constructed shade at playgrounds, parks, plazas, and other outdoor public spaces, while prioritizing underserved communities.
- Cool roofs and walls, including reflective coatings or paints, heat-reflecting pavement surfaces, or heat-reflecting glass.
- Essential amenities in public spaces to ensure safe use during extreme heat days, such as temperature-regulated restrooms and lactation rooms.
- Cooling infrastructure for agricultural workers and rural communities to reduce heat exposure in outdoor work settings, including permanent shaded rest structures, hydration and misting stations, and on-site cooling facilities.
- Passive and active cooling solutions in public buildings, including schools, libraries, and community buildings such as senior centers, community health clinics, and food banks, using reflective surfaces, enhanced shade, natural ventilation, or mechanical systems such as HVAC or mini splits.
- Microgrids or small-scale renewable energy systems, including solar photovoltaic systems paired with battery storage, for critical facilities, such as emergency response centers, cooling centers, and other essential buildings, particularly to maintain cooling capacity during grid instability and peak demand heat emergencies.
- Dedicated cooling centers and heat-resilient community hubs in accessible locations that combine cooling with services such as clean energy, emergency communications, and community programming to provide protection during extreme heat events and year-round community needs.

- Water-based strategies to provide cooling through immersive features, such as public splash pads and swimming pools.
- Indoor air quality in households and public buildings as part of passive and active cooling upgrades to protect vulnerable populations during extreme heat events.

**Nature-Based Solutions:**

- Urban forestry and tree planting initiatives to increase shade canopy cover and reduce temperatures, prioritizing high-heat and high-vulnerability areas, underserved communities, and species that are climate-ready and meaningful to the community.
- Cool corridors using nature-based solutions that make highly trafficked areas safer to use during extreme heat days, including continuous tree cover over walking and biking paths.
- Green stormwater management systems, such as bioswales, rain gardens, and permeable pavements, that address water quality and flood mitigation while also delivering urban heat reduction benefits.
- Water-based strategies that give residents opportunities to cool down in water, including access to natural water features, such as lakes and beaches.
- Restoration of green and blue spaces, including urban parks, creeks, lakes, and other natural swimming areas.
- Guiding documents, plans, roadmaps, and other planning products that apply Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) and Tribal land stewardship to address extreme heat, including Indigenous practices for managing natural shade, vegetation, and water systems to cool communities.
- Reduction of heat-absorbing surfaces across multiple sites by replacing asphalt, artificial turf, rubberized surfaces, and other hard surfaces with green infrastructure designed to provide cooling benefits, especially in key gathering areas, such as schools, senior centers, and other public spaces.
- Green and living roofs and walls and other vegetated building surfaces in schools, libraries, and community centers.
- Cooling amenities in green spaces, such as hydration stations, shade sails, and misting infrastructure, to support safe use during extreme heat days.

## Appendix D: Workplan Examples

### Early Infrastructure Example

**Project Title:** *Chill Out, City of Seasons! From Riverside Street to the City: A Cool Corridor Demonstration and Master Plan*

**Task 1. Project Initiation:** Following contract execution, the City of Seasons and its CBO Co-Applicant develop a detailed workplan and budget outlining the steps needed to produce the Cool Corridor Master Plan (Master Plan) and deploy the demonstration project on Riverside Street. The city and the CBO finalize their partnership agreement, and the project initiates procurement planning for the contractors needed to support the demonstration project.

**Task 2. Community Assessment and Engagement:** The project team conducts a broad community-level assessment of the City of Seasons, mapping heat vulnerability, identifying neighborhoods with the greatest heat exposure and least shade coverage, documenting key pedestrian connections, and assessing existing cooling assets. Along Riverside Street, the assessment identifies the specific locations within the corridor where the demonstration infrastructure projects – cool pavement, build shade structures, and misting stations – will have the greatest impact. The team, with the help of the CBO Co-Applicant and other organizations active along the corridor, uses the assessment findings to work with the community and identify citywide priorities for the Master Plan.

**Task 3. Infrastructure Readiness:** The project secures site control documentation, confirming the right to install in the public right-of-way, completes any required environmental review, and advances contractor procurement. A social worker facilitates community conversations on extreme heat and inequity in the city, and with the support of a local artist, the team develops Belonging design elements for the Riverside Street cool corridor. This includes bilingual signage that explains the cool corridor and the community's role in shaping it. By month twelve, the team receives Readiness Review approval to move into infrastructure deployment.

**Task 4. Infrastructure Deployment:** The project team installs the demonstration projects on Riverside Street, including cool pavements, shade structures, and misting stations, along with the bilingual signage. Ongoing maintenance and operations responsibilities are shared between City of Seasons and the CBO Co-Applicant to ensure the infrastructure continues to serve the community beyond the grant term.



**Table 4. Early Infrastructure Project Task Timeline:** Block size reflects relative time per task. Infrastructure Deployment is the shortest, covering only the demonstration project, while Planning and Policy is the longest.

**Task 5. Planning and Policy:** With the infrastructure complete, the project team develops the Master Plan for the City of Seasons, drawing directly on lessons learned from the Riverside Street demonstration projects. Some of the lessons learned include technical findings, community engagement insights, and Belonging design best practices to propose a city-wide network of cool corridors that protect residents from extreme heat.

The Master Plan identifies priority corridors, recommendations for potential infrastructure types, outlines partnership and governance structures for future implementation, establishes design principles grounded in the Riverside Street experience, and provides preliminary cost estimates for scaling the approach city-wide. The Belonging design guidelines developed through the demonstration project are incorporated in the Master Plan as a replicable model for future cool corridor projects.

The draft Master Plan is shared with the CBO Co-Applicant and community members for review and validation. In parallel, the project team tracks the performance of the Riverside Street demonstration project through temperature sensor readings, utilization data, and community feedback to strengthen the evidence base for the Master Plan's recommendations.

**Task 6. Project Administration:** Throughout the grant term, the City of Seasons submits quarterly reports, a mid-term progress report, a final report, and a case study documenting lessons learned from the Riverside Street demonstration project and the Master Plan development process. The project team participates in Post-Award Activities with other grantees to exchange knowledge and build capacity.

## **Advanced Infrastructure Example**

**Project Title:** *Beating the Heat on Maple Avenue: A Cool Corridor for the City of Seasons*

**Task 1. Project Initiation:** Following contract execution, the City of Seasons and its CBO Co-Applicant develop a detailed workplan and budget outlining the steps needed to finalize the design and construct the Maple Avenue Cool Corridor, building upon preliminary designs and cost estimates already in-hand. The city and the CBO finalize their partnership agreement by the end of the first quarter, and the project team initiates plans for procurement for the contractors and materials needed for construction.

**Task 2. Community Assessment and Engagement:** The project team conducts site-specific assessments to optimize the configuration of the Maple Avenue Cool Corridor elements: cool pavement, shade structures, street trees, and permeable pavement. Technical assessments confirm shade angles for shade structures, identify site locations for cool pavement based on surface temperature mapping, and assess soil conditions and utility requirements for street tree planting. Alongside technical assessments, the CBO engages organizations active along Maple Avenue to map pedestrian flow patterns, key gathering points, peak use times, and access barriers, ensuring the infrastructure is configured to benefit the most vulnerable residents.

**Task 3. Infrastructure Readiness:** Building on Task 2 findings, the project team completes all pre-construction activities in parallel with Belonging design. On the technical side, structural assessments confirm shade structure locations and utility requirements for tree planting along the corridor, which are incorporated into the corridor design. The team finalizes contractor agreements, confirms material orders, and secures permits and evidence of site control through coordination with the city and relevant agencies.

Alongside pre-construction activities, the project team engages local artists and community members in a co-design process to create mosaic artwork reflecting the identity of the Maple Avenue neighborhood and multilingual wayfinding that directs residents to nearby cooling assets, including hydration stations, community centers, and connected cool corridors. The community validates the final Belonging design before it is incorporated into the corridor plans.

By month twelve, the team presents finalized construction documents, contractor agreements, material procurement confirmation, Belonging design, permits, and evidence of site control to Extreme Heat Program staff and receives Readiness Review approval to move into infrastructure deployment.

**Task 4. Infrastructure Deployment:** The project team constructs and installs the Maple Avenue Cool Corridor. The project team installs cool pavement at pre-identified key intersections and pedestrian plazas, builds shade structures at bus stops and school entrances, plants street trees along the full corridor for long-term canopy shade, and replaces asphalt with permeable pavement at playgrounds and gathering areas. The team installs the mosaic tile installations and multilingual wayfinding signage alongside the cooling infrastructure.

Following installation, the project team finalizes detailed operations and maintenance plan, identifying the entities responsible for long-term stewardship of each infrastructure element.



**Table 5. Advanced Infrastructure Project Task Timeline:** Block size reflects relative time per task. Infrastructure Deployment receives the greatest share of time, reflecting the focus of the project type.

**Task 5. Planning and Policy:** The team sets up an approach to track corridor performance through temperature sensors, utilization data, and community feedback. Finally, the team develops the Future Implementation Playbook: a financing and funding strategy to advance the next priority corridor connecting a key pedestrian route between a park, two schools, and a senior center. The Playbook provides cost estimates informed by the Maple Avenue project to support a future grant application or capital improvement budget request.

**Task 6. Project Administration:** Throughout the grant term, the City of Seasons submits quarterly reports, a mid-term progress report, a final report, and a case study documenting lessons learned from the Maple Avenue Cool Corridor installation. The project team participates in Post-Award Activities with other grantees to exchange knowledge and build capacity.

## Appendix E: Guide to Assessing Funding Priority Points

This appendix provides applicants with guidance in determining whether their project benefits Severely Disadvantaged Communities (SDACs), Disadvantaged Communities (DACs), or Vulnerable Populations. Qualifying for one of these classifications is required to receive funding priority points.

Applicants should start by reviewing meaningful and direct benefits criteria in the guidelines (see [Section 7. Funding Priorities](#)). To receive funding priority points, applicants must demonstrate that the project provides meaningful and direct benefits to at least one of the Funding Priority Groups:

### **Severely Disadvantaged Communities (SDACs) or Disadvantaged Communities (DACs):**

1. **Identify the communities that will benefit from the project:** This could be the community where the infrastructure will be located and/or nearby communities that will use it. If the project serves multiple communities, focus the evaluation on those that will have the greatest meaningful and direct benefits.
2. **Go to the Climate Bond (S)DAC Tool:** Access the Climate Bond (Proposition 4) (S)DAC Status tool here: [Climate Bond \(Proposition 4\) \(S\)DAC Status](#)
3. **Locate the community on the map:** Using the map, click on the community to identify its (S)DAC status. The status will appear in the upper left corner of the window. See Figure 1 below.
4. **Identify the Census Tract GEOID:** Scroll to the bottom of the same pop-up window on the left side of the screen.



Figure 1. The area outlined in light blue is the selected community. The pop-up window on the left-hand side reports the overall (S)DAC status at the top. The Census Tract GEOID is found by scrolling down to the row labeled “Census Tract GEOID”.

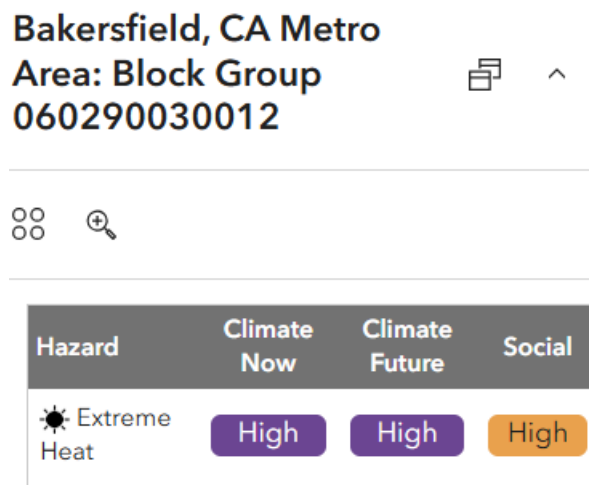
5. **Record the Census Tract GEOID and (S)DAC status in the application:** Limit your response to the five communities expected to receive the greatest meaningful and direct benefits.

### Vulnerable Populations:

1. **Identify the communities that will benefit from the project:** This is ultimately up to the applicant to identify. This could be the community where the infrastructure will be located and/or nearby communities that will use it. If the project serves multiple communities, focus the evaluation on those that will have the greatest meaningful and direct benefits.
2. **Determine the Climate Vulnerability Status for Extreme Heat** using one of the following options:

#### Option 1: Use the Vulnerable Communities Platform (VCP) Map:

- Go to the Vulnerable Communities Platform Map, located here: [Vulnerable Communities Platform](#).
- Ensure the “Now” time frame is selected in the top left.
- Select the Extreme Heat Hazard from the top menu.
- Click on the community to identify its Climate Vulnerability status for Extreme Heat. The status will appear in the pop-up window. See Figure 2 below.
- Identify the Block Group number. This information appears at the top of the pop-up window.



*Figure 2. The Vulnerable Communities Platform pop-up reports the GEOID in the bolded title. Social and climate vulnerability status for extreme heat can be found in the first table and first row.*

- **Record the Block Group number and Climate Vulnerability status** (Climate Now = XX, Social = YY) in the application. Limit your response to the five communities expected to benefit most from the project.

**Option 2: Use the Report Generator:**

- Go to the Vulnerable Communities Platform Report Generator, located here: [VCP Report Generator](#).
- Locate the community on the map. Select block groups or tracts as your geography, click on the community(ies) on the map, and record the ID at the top of the pop-up window. Paste the ID into the generator tool on the left-hand side of the screen and wait approximately one minute for the reports to generate.

- Review the report for climate vulnerability status for extreme heat. The information appears on the second page of the report.
- Identify the Tract or Block Group name. This information appears above the vulnerability status on the same report page. See Figure 3 below.

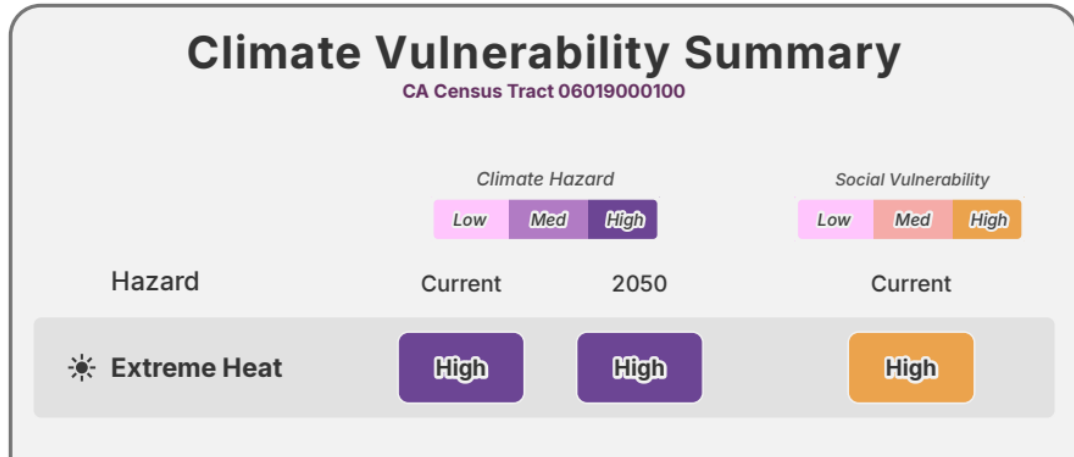


Figure 3. The GEOID and extreme heat vulnerability status can be found on the second page within the Climate Vulnerability Summary box. The GEOID is found under the header. Social and climate vulnerability for extreme heat can be found in the first row.

- **Record the Tract or Block Group name and Climate Vulnerability status** (Climate Now = XX, Social = YY) in the application. Limit your response to the five communities expected to benefit most from the project.

## Appendix F: Scoring Criteria

### 1. Scoring Overview:

The table below summarizes the points available across each section of the application.

Application Section	Total Points Possible
<b>Narrative</b>	<b>55</b>
Project Overview	7
Harm Reduction	12
Partnership	12
Belonging	12
Lasting Community Benefits	12
<b>Funding Priorities<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>15</b>
California Native American Tribes (15)	
Severely Disadvantaged Communities (15)	
Vulnerable Populations (12)	
Disadvantaged Communities (10)	
<b>Workbook</b>	<b>20</b>
Workplan	10
Budget	10
<b>Interview</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Total Points Possible</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 6. Application Scoring Overview

### 2. Narrative Section (55 Points):

#### 2.1 Narrative Section: Project Overview (7 Points):

**Project summary:** Summarize your project, including what infrastructure will be built, what deliverables will be produced, and the key tasks required to complete the project within the contract period (30 months for Early Infrastructure Projects and 48 months for Advanced Infrastructure Projects). **[Limit: 300 words]**

#### Scoring Criteria:

- **High (5-7 points):** The project description is strong, offering a detailed and clear description of the proposed infrastructure solution, the deliverables that will be produced, and the key tasks and sequence needed to complete the project within the contract period. Overall, the summary provides a complete picture of the project proposed.

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<sup>4</sup> Applicants may qualify for only one Funding Priority Group. If eligibility requirements are fulfilled, full points will be awarded.

- **Medium (3-4 points):** The project description provides an adequate overview of the proposed infrastructure solution, deliverables that will be produced, and the key tasks and sequence needed to complete the project. Even though the response provides a clear summary of the project, one or more elements are missing or only partially described.
- **Low (1-2 points):** The project description is limited and lacks clarity on the proposed infrastructure solutions, expected deliverables, or key tasks and sequence needed to complete the project. Significant improvements are needed for a more comprehensive understanding of the project's vision.

## 2.2 Narrative Section: Harm Reduction (12 Points):

**Question 1. Extreme heat in your community.** Which heat-vulnerable community will your project serve, how are they exposed to extreme heat, and what harms result? Describe how you know, drawing on community knowledge, lived experience, and relevant data. **[Points available: 6; Limit: 250 words]**

*We encourage you to use the [Vulnerable Communities Platform](#) to add insights from data to your response and complement your own knowledge.*

### **Scoring Criteria:**

- **High (5-6 points):** The response demonstrates a strong understanding of how extreme heat affects the specific heat-vulnerable community served. It integrates direct community experience with data to identify who is most vulnerable, how exposure occurs, and what harms result. Community voices are clearly present, and quotes or stories strongly reflect a nuanced understanding of lived experience.
- **Medium (3-4 points):** The response demonstrates an adequate understanding of how extreme heat affects the community the project intends to serve. The applicant draws on some direct experience but describes vulnerabilities and exposures in broad terms that could apply to many communities rather than this one specifically. Data and/or community voices may be present but are not integrated in a way that clearly shows who is harmed by extreme heat and why.
- **Low (1-2 points):** The response demonstrates a limited understanding of how extreme heat affects the community the project intends to serve. It relies on general statements about extreme heat rather than insights grounded in direct experience or engagement with the community. There is limited evidence that the applicant understands the specific factors that make this community particularly vulnerable to extreme heat.

**Question 2. How will this project help?** How will the proposed infrastructure reduce extreme heat exposures and vulnerabilities described in Question 1? Be specific about the pathways through which the project will improve conditions for the community it serves.

**[Points available: 6; Limit: 250 words]**

**Scoring Criteria:**

- **High (5-6 points):** The response offers a strong justification for how the proposed infrastructure will protect the community from extreme heat, directly addressing specific exposures, vulnerabilities, or harms. It demonstrates a strong understanding of community needs and lived experiences and provides a compelling rationale for why the proposed infrastructure is an effective and appropriate solution.
- **Medium (3-4 points):** The response provides an adequate justification for how the proposed infrastructure could help protect the community from extreme heat and generally addresses heat-related exposures, vulnerabilities, or harms identified. However, the connection between the infrastructure and community needs lacks detail, specificity, or supporting rationale, and demonstrates only a moderate understanding of the community's lived experience and why the proposed solution was selected.
- **Low (1-2 points):** The response provides a limited justification for how the proposed infrastructure will protect the community from extreme heat. The answer is unclear or uses generic information to explain the infrastructure selection in relation to the specific exposures, vulnerabilities, or harms it is meant to address, demonstrating little understanding of community needs, lived experiences, or why the proposed solution was selected.

**2.3 Narrative Section: Partnership (12 Points):**

**Question 1. Who is at the table?** Who are the Lead and Co-Applicants, and why is this partnership well-positioned to deliver the proposed infrastructure project? **[Points available: 6; Limit: 250 words]**

**Scoring Criteria:**

- **High (5-6 points):** The response clearly identifies the Lead Applicant and Co-Applicant(s) and makes a strong case for the partnership structure. It clearly explains the unique expertise each partner brings, why the partnership is necessary, and why the project could not succeed with a single organization. Together, the partners demonstrate a strong and appropriate balance of community knowledge and relationships with the institutional capacity needed to deliver the infrastructure.
- **Medium (3-4 points):** The response identifies the Lead Applicant and Co-Applicant(s) and provides adequate explanation for why the partnership was formed. It suggests a

general balance between community experience and institutional capacity, but the justification is underdeveloped. It is not fully clear why these specific organizations are the best fit for the project or how well positioned they are to deliver the infrastructure.

- **Low (1-2 points):** The response names the Lead Applicant and Co-Applicant(s) but provides a limited explanation for why these partners were selected or how they complement each other. Any balance between community engagement and institutional capacity is unclear, unsupported, or missing. The partnership appears insufficiently justified and may seem assembled to meet requirements rather than designed to strengthen project delivery.

**Question 2. Partnership readiness.** What experience demonstrates that each partner can successfully fulfill its role on this project? If the partnership has worked together previously, describe how that experience informs your approach. If not, provide examples that demonstrate each partner's capacity to contribute effectively. **[Points available: 6; Limit: 250 words]**

**Scoring Criteria:**

- **High (5-6 points):** The response is strong and provides evidence that the proposed roles and responsibilities are based on demonstrated experience. For established partnerships, the response includes specific examples, milestones, or lessons learned from prior collaboration demonstrating how the partners have successfully worked together and are prepared to manage challenges. For new partnerships, the response provides concrete examples from each partner's track record that demonstrate their capacity. Overall, the response effectively demonstrates that the partnership is grounded in proven capacity and tangible results, not solely in shared values or complementary expertise.
- **Medium (3-4 points):** The response is adequate. For established partnerships, it describes previous collaboration and accomplishments but provides incomplete details about how the partners worked together and what specific experiences have prepared them to lead this project. For new partnerships, the response includes general examples from the partners' past work but does not fully demonstrate their ability to fulfill their proposed roles. Overall, the response suggests a functional partnership and capacity to complete the project, but lacks the detailed evidence needed to demonstrate proven collaboration, role readiness, or partnership effectiveness.

- **Low (1-2 points):** The response provides limited evidence about the strength of partnership, intentions to collaborate, and organizational capacity. It does not provide specific examples of prior collaboration, concrete evidence that each partner has the experience and capacity to support the project or discuss how the partners plan to work together. Overall, the response does not establish confidence that the proposed partnership structure will be successful.

**Alternative Requirement for Applicants Without a Co-Applicant:** *Tribal applicants and CBOs applying for an Early Infrastructure grant without a Co-Applicant, must answer the following questions. These questions are intended to assess the applicant’s internal capacity to support project implementation, rather than their external partnerships.*

**Question 1. Who is at the table?** Which staff, leaders, or positions within your organization will be responsible for implementing the project, and how will they work together? **[Points available: 6; Limit: 250 words]**

**Scoring Criteria:**

- **High (5-6 points):** The response is strong and clearly identifies individuals or positions and their roles within the Tribe or CBO to support project implementation. Responsibilities are well-defined and clearly organized, demonstrating that the Tribe or CBO has a structured team and sufficient capacity to implement the project.
- **Medium (3-4 points):** The response is adequate; identifies some of the individuals or positions that will support the implementation of the project. Existing capacity is suggested but not fully demonstrated. The response leaves some doubt about whether the team is equipped to deliver the project.
- **Low (1-2 points):** The response is limited - vaguely describes individuals or positions that will support the implementation of the project. It is not possible to determine from the response whether the Tribe or CBO has structured its team in a way that will allow it to deliver the project.

**Question 2. Organizational Readiness:** Describe the project, program, or activity your organization has implemented that is closest in scope to the project proposed. What did you learn from that experience that will inform how you implement this project? **[Points available: 6; Limit: 250 words]**

**Scoring Criteria:**

- **High (5-6 points):** The response is strong and clearly demonstrates the Tribe's or CBO's readiness to implement a project of the proposed scope by providing specific examples from past projects. These examples reflect relevant experience in areas such as project management, staffing, and construction. The response clearly shows that the organization has the administrative and organizational capacity to successfully complete the project.
- **Medium (3-4 points):** The response is adequate and suggests the Tribe or CBO has relevant experience but relies on general descriptions rather than specific examples. While past projects may be mentioned, there is insufficient detail to confirm the administrative and organizational capacity needed for the project of this scope. While the applicant does demonstrate readiness, additional details would strengthen the response.
- **Low (1-2 points):** The response is limited, describing the Tribe's or CBO's organizational capacity only vaguely and without specific examples. It does not demonstrate that the Tribe or CBO has the administrative and leadership infrastructure this project requires, leaving it unclear whether the applicant has the experience or capacity to implement it successfully.

#### 2.4 Narrative Section: Belonging (12 Points):

**Question 1. Designing for Belonging:** What features, design elements or experiences do you envision incorporating into the infrastructure to help make intended users feel welcome, represented, and safe? **[Points available: 6; Limit: 250 words]**

##### **Scoring Criteria:**

- **High (5-6 points):** The response is strong and demonstrates a clear initial vision for how the infrastructure could feel welcoming, safe and reflective of the community it intends to serve. It identifies possible elements, such as murals, color palettes, cultural programming, plant species selection, or architectural features rooted in knowledge of the community's identity. Overall, the response reflects deep commitment to creating infrastructure that will feel like it belongs to the people it will serve.
- **Medium (3-4 points):** The response adequately describes how the infrastructure could feel welcoming, safe, and reflective of the people it intends to serve. Design elements and programming examples may be mentioned without fully explaining how they reflect the community. Overall, the response gives reasonable confidence that the infrastructure will promote a sense of belonging, but some elements remain underdeveloped.
- **Low (1-2 points):** The response shows little evidence of intentional thinking about how the infrastructure could feel welcoming, safe, and reflective of the people it intends to

serve. Elements are mentioned in ways that are too vague to paint a clear picture, suggesting that fostering a sense of belonging might not play a meaningful role in the project.

**Question 2. Co-Creating Belonging:** How will intended users co-create the infrastructure and elements described in Question 1? What strategies, techniques, and facilitators will you use to remove barriers to participation and ensure users are centered in the process?

**[Points available: 6; Limit: 250 words]**

**Scoring Criteria:**

- **High (5-6 points):** The response is strong and describes a clear and intentional process to ensure community members will inform and shape the design of the proposed infrastructure project. The response includes potential engagement strategies and approaches, such as trauma-informed engagement, participatory design, and community workshops, ensuring that lived experiences and the community's identity grounds all processes. Overall, the response provides a compelling case for how community voices will inform design and decision-making processes throughout the project.
- **Medium (3-4 points):** The response is adequate, describing some strategies for engaging community members in the design of the proposed infrastructure project, but the process lacks detail or clarity. While community input is acknowledged, the response provides incomplete information on how feedback will influence decision-making or shape project outcomes. Engagement approaches may be identified but are not fully explained or clearly connected to the community's identity, history, or needs. Overall, the response suggests community involvement but provides only moderate confidence that community voices will meaningfully guide project design.
- **Low (1-2 points):** The response provides limited or no detail on how community members will inform the design of the proposed infrastructure project. Engagement activities are vague, limited, or absent, and there is little evidence that intended users will have a meaningful role in shaping project decisions. The response does not clearly connect engagement efforts to the community's identity, history, or lived experiences. Overall, the response provides limited confidence that community voices will influence the development of the proposed infrastructure.

**2.5 Narrative Section: Lasting Community Benefits (12 Points):**

**Question 1. Resilience Outcomes and Sustained Momentum:** How will the Planning Document or Future Implementation Playbook support the development of additional

infrastructure for extreme heat beyond the grant term in a way that grows local support and creates funding pathways? **[Points available: 12; Limit: 350 words]**

**Scoring Criteria:**

- **High (9-12 points):** The response articulates a strong vision for how the Planning Document or Future Implementation Playbook will support the development of infrastructure for extreme heat in the community beyond the grant period. It clearly explains how the deliverable will build strong local support for future infrastructure that protects vulnerable populations, and it clearly articulates potential funding streams or revenue sources for additional investment. The response makes it clear the project is committed to building broad community support for additional infrastructure beyond the grant period.
- **Medium (4-8 points):** The response describes an adequate vision for extreme heat resilience beyond the grant period and identifies how the Planning Document or Future Implementation Playbook could support it. The vision is logical but either the plan for building local support or the identification of funding streams is underdeveloped. The response demonstrates forward thinking but does not yet make a fully convincing case that the project will generate the momentum needed for additional infrastructure investment beyond the grant period.
- **Low (1-3 points):** The response articulates a limited vision for how the Planning Document or Future Implementation Playbook will support the development of additional infrastructure beyond the grant period. The path to building local support and identifying funding streams is absent or too vague to be credible. The response suggests the applicant has not yet thought meaningfully about how the project will contribute to lasting change in the community.

**3. Funding Priorities (15 Points):**

Reviewers will address two questions regarding the identified funding priority:

1. Does the proposed community benefitting from the project qualify as a California Native American Tribe, (S)DAC, or Vulnerable Population?
2. Do the narrative responses demonstrate that claimed benefits are direct and meaningful to that community (see [Section 7. Funding Priorities](#))?

For example, if an applicant claims that a neighborhood adjacent to a park qualifies as a SDAC and will receive direct and meaningful benefits from a new shade structure, reviewers will:

- Confirm the neighborhood’s SDAC status, and
- Evaluate the following application questions to assess whether the benefits are direct and meaningful.

Direct and Meaningful Benefits Criteria	Application Question
1: The benefits are direct, tangible, and substantial.	Harm Reduction Question 2
2: The project protects or enhances resources and quality of life by building climate resilience.	Harm Reduction Question 2
3: Responds directly to expressed need or desired benefit.	Partnership Question 1 Belonging Question 1 Belonging Question 2
4: Does not result in long-term degradation or reduction of resources.	Belonging Question 2

*Table 7. Mapping Benefits Criteria to Application Questions*

### 3.1 Native American Tribes (15 points):

The project provides direct and meaningful benefits to a Native American Tribe.

**Scoring Criteria:** 15 points are awarded if the project provides meaningful and direct benefits to a federally recognized Native American tribe or a non-federally recognized Native American tribe listed on the California Tribal Consultation List maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission.

### 3.2 Severely Disadvantaged Community (SDAC) (15 points):

The project provides direct and meaningful benefits to an SDAC.

**Scoring Criteria:** 15 points are awarded if at least one community with SDAC status as determined by the 2024 Climate Bond ([see map](#)) receives meaningful and direct benefits from the project. Applicants should provide up to five communities with SDAC status that receive direct and meaningful benefits from the project. See [Appendix E: Guide to Assessing Funding Priority Points](#).

### 3.3 Disadvantaged Community (DAC) (10 points):

The project provides direct and meaningful benefits to a DAC.

**Scoring Criteria:** 10 points are awarded if at least one community with DAC status as determined by the 2024 Climate Bond ([see map](#)) receives direct and meaningful benefits from the project. Applicants will provide up to five communities with DAC status that receive direct and meaningful benefits from the project. See [Appendix E: Guide to Assessing Funding Priority Points](#).

### 3.4 Vulnerable Population (12 points):

The project provides direct and meaningful benefits to a Vulnerable Population.

**Scoring Criteria:** 12 points are awarded if the project provides direct and meaningful benefits to at least one community with the following vulnerability designation for Extreme Heat in the Vulnerable Communities Platform ([see map](#)):

- High Climate Hazard (Current Timeframe) and High Social Vulnerability
- High Climate Hazard (Current Timeframe) and Medium Social Vulnerability
- Medium Climate Hazard (Current Timeframe) and High Social Vulnerability

Applicants should provide up to five communities with the above designations that receive direct and meaningful benefits from the project. See [Appendix E: Guide to Assessing Funding Priority Points](#), for support with this process.

## 4. Workbook (20 Points):

### 4.1 Workplan (10 points):

#### **Scoring criteria:**

**High (8-10 points):** The workplan is strong, clear, detailed, and complements the narrative responses demonstrating the applicant can translate their narrative vision into action. The workplan clearly discusses the required six tasks, key activities, and deliverables in a logical sequence, with partners consistently assigned to appropriate tasks consistent with the narrative. Overall, the workplan demonstrates that the applicant can successfully complete all required tasks and deliverables within the grant term.

**Medium (4-7 points):** The workplan adequately outlines how the project will be implemented and generally aligns with the narrative. Most required tasks, activities, and deliverables are identified, though some lack detail or clear connections to project outcomes. Partner roles and timelines are provided but could be more consistently defined. Overall, the workplan demonstrates a reasonable approach to project implementation, but additional detail and stronger alignment with the narrative would increase confidence in the applicant's ability to successfully deliver all proposed activities and outcomes within the grant term.

**Low (1-3 points):** The workplan provides limited support for the narrative and lacks sufficient detail to demonstrate how the project will be implemented. Tasks are incomplete, overly broad, poorly sequenced, or missing key activities necessary to achieve project goals. Partner roles are unclear, inconsistent with the narrative, or not identified. Deliverables and timelines are vague, unrealistic, or absent. Overall, the workplan provides little confidence that the

applicant has a clear strategy for completing the proposed activities and achieving the intended outcomes within the grant period.

#### 4.2 Budget (10 points):

##### **Scoring criteria:**

**High (8-10 points):** The budget is strong, clear, detailed, and complements the narrative and workplan, demonstrating that the applicant understands the full costs required to deliver the project. It includes all necessary costs and expenses to support project implementation. The budget meets all minimum and maximum requirements, and task allocations and cost types are realistic and consistent with the scale and scope of the proposal. The total funding request is reasonable and proportionate to what is being proposed. Overall, the budget provides confidence that the applicant has carefully considered the financial requirements needed to successfully implement the project.

**Medium (4-7 points):** The budget is adequate. It generally aligns with the narrative and workplan and provides a reasonable overview of expected project costs. Most major cost categories are included, and the funding request appears generally adequate for the proposed activities. However, some cost allocations lack detail or clear justification, and alignment between certain budget items, tasks, and deliverables is not fully consistent. While the budget meets basic requirements, it provides only moderate confidence that all financial aspects of implementation have been fully planned.

**Low (1-3 points):** The budget is limited and does not clearly align with the narrative or workplan. Key cost categories may be missing, unclear, or insufficiently detailed. Cost allocations are unrealistic, inconsistent with the scale of proposed activities, or not clearly linked to specific tasks or deliverables. The total funding request may appear unclear, unbalanced, or not well justified. Overall, the budget provides limited confidence that the applicant understands the financial requirements needed to implement the project successfully.

#### **5. Interview (10 Points):**

The interview will assess how well the Applicant Team demonstrates alignment with the Extreme Heat Program's four values, as well as its knowledge, experience, and capacity to implement the proposed project. Questions will be based on the project narrative and workbook and will evaluate the team's ability to successfully bring its vision to reality.

##### **Scoring criteria:**

**High (8-10 points):** Through its interview responses, the Applicant Team demonstrates a strong, clear understanding of how the proposed project advances all of the Extreme Heat Program's core values. When asked detailed questions about the workplan and budget, the team answers in ways that reinforce this alignment. The team speaks effectively to its organizational capacity, experience, and deep understanding of working with vulnerable communities to successfully implement the project.

**Medium (4-7 points):** Through its interview responses, the Applicant Team demonstrates an adequate understanding of how the proposed project advances some of the Extreme Heat Program's core values. When asked about the workplan and budget, the team answers in ways that generally support this alignment, though several responses would benefit from greater detail. The team speaks to its organizational capacity and experience working with vulnerable communities but leaves some doubt about its ability to fully implement the project.

**Low (1-3 points):** Through its interview responses, the Applicant Team demonstrates a limited understanding of how the proposed project advances the Extreme Heat Program's core values. When asked about the workplan and budget, the team's answers reveal gaps or inconsistencies with the proposed project. Overall, the team does not speak convincingly to the organizational capacity or experience needed to successfully implement the project.

## Appendix G: Glossary of Terms

Unless otherwise stated, the terms used in these grant guidelines have the following meanings:

**Advanced Infrastructure Projects:** Projects that implement heat-related infrastructure identified through prior planning efforts and determined to be feasible. Advanced Infrastructure Projects must produce a completed infrastructure project and a Future Implementation Playbook and have a 48-month contract period. Awards range from \$3 million to \$4.5 million.

**Advance Pay:** A payment of up to 25% of the total grant award provided to eligible 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations before work is completed. Advance Pay is subject to program approval and cannot be guaranteed.

**Applicant Team:** The collective group of organizations involved in a grant application, including the Lead applicant, Co-Applicant(s), Contributor(s), and Supporter(s).

**Belonging:** A core program value ensuring that infrastructure is designed with and for the people who will use it. Belonging is achieved when intended users feel the infrastructure reflects their identity and culture and that they are safe and welcome in it.

**California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA):** A state law that requires land use decisions to consider impacts on natural and human environments. Some projects funded by the Extreme Heat Program may be subject to CEQA review before construction or installation can begin.

**California Native American Tribes:** Native American Tribes 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).

**Climate Bond (S)DAC Tool:** An online mapping tool used to identify whether a community has Disadvantaged Community (DAC) or Severely Disadvantaged Community (SDAC) status as defined by the 2024 Climate Bond (Proposition 4).

**Co-Applicant:** A required partner organization that works alongside the Lead Applicant to implement the project and receives funds through the Lead Applicant. Co-Applicants must enter into a formal Partnership Agreement with the Lead Applicant if awarded.

**Coalition:** A collaborative or association of nonprofit organizations fiscally sponsored by a 501(c)(3) nonprofit or academic institution.

**Community-Based Organization (CBO):** An entity qualified to do business in California and qualified under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, including nonprofit organizations, non-governmental organizations, philanthropic organizations, faith-based organizations, and community foundations.

**Contractor:** An entity paid by the grant to accomplish specific tasks. Contractors are separate from the Applicant Team and do not need to be identified at the time of application.

**Contributor:** An optional partner entity that can be included in the project proposal, workplan, and budget without detailed tasks. Contributors must enter into a formal Partnership Agreement with the Lead Applicant if awarded.

**Disadvantaged Communities (DACs):** Communities identified as disadvantaged under the 2024 Climate Bond (Proposition 4) as having a median household income of less than 80 percent of the area average or less than 80 percent of the statewide median household income. Projects that provide meaningful and direct benefits to DACs qualify for 10 funding priority points.

**Early Infrastructure Projects:** Projects that produce a planning document for future heat-related infrastructure, paired with a smaller-scale infrastructure demonstration project. Early Infrastructure Projects have a 30-month contract period. Awards range from \$750,000 to \$1.2 million.

**Funding Priority Groups:** The communities identified under the 2024 Climate Bond whose meaningful and direct benefit from a project qualifies the applicant for additional points in the scoring. Funding Priority Groups include California Native American Tribes, Severely Disadvantaged Communities (SDACs), Disadvantaged Communities (DACs), and Vulnerable Populations.

**Future Implementation Playbook:** A written deliverable required of Advanced Infrastructure Projects that supports future investment building on the completed infrastructure. The Playbook identifies opportunities to expand, replicate, sustain, or scale the project's impact and may take the form of a policy memo, implementation toolkit, financing and funding strategy, technical guide, or design guidelines.

**Harm Reduction:** A core program value referring to the reduction of physical and social harms caused by extreme heat. Projects must demonstrate a clear understanding of how extreme heat affects the community they serve and how the proposed infrastructure directly reduces those harms.

**Indirect Cost Rate (IDC):** An approved rate established through an agreement with the National Business Center that determines the percentage of indirect costs a grantee may charge to the grant. Applicants with an approved IDC may apply with that rate instead of the program's standard 15% cap.

**Infrastructure Demonstration Project:** A infrastructure project required of Early Infrastructure Projects that tests a proposed approach, delivers immediate cooling benefits, and generates

lessons to inform the planning document. The demonstration must be completed before the planning document is finalized.

**Indirect Costs:** Costs that are not directly tied to specific project activities but are necessary to support the organization's operations. Indirect costs may not exceed 15% of the total grant award across all parties, including the Lead Applicant, Co-Applicants, Contributors, and Subcontractors.

**Lead Applicant:** The entity responsible for submitting the application and, if awarded, receiving and managing grant funds. The Lead Applicant enters into a grant agreement with the State and is responsible for disbursing funds to partners.

**Readiness Review:** A required milestone for all projects by month twelve of the contract period, confirming that the project is ready to move into deployment and has received program approval to invoice for costs associated with deployment.

**Severely Disadvantaged Communities (SDACs):** Communities identified as disadvantaged under the 2024 Climate Bond (Proposition 4) as having a median household income of less than 60 percent of the area average or less than 60 percent of statewide median household income. Projects that provide meaningful and direct benefits to SDACs qualify for 15 funding priority points.

**Site Control:** Documentation confirming that a grantee has sufficient legal authority over the property where infrastructure will be installed and maintained. Acceptable forms of site control include proof of ownership, a lease, right-of-access agreements, or other legal instruments.

**Submittable:** The online platform through which all applications must be submitted, including the Pre-Application Interest Form, Full Application Form, and any other required materials. All submission-related communications will be conducted through Submittable.

**Supporter:** An optional partner organization included in the proposal to illustrate local support for the project. Supporters do not receive funding and may participate in some project activities without additional funds. Each application may include up to five supporters.

**Vulnerable Communities Platform (VCP):** An online mapping tool used to identify the climate and social vulnerability of communities to extreme heat. Used by the Extreme Heat Program to determine eligibility for Vulnerable Population funding priority points.

**Vulnerable Populations:** Communities with one of the following vulnerability designations for Extreme Heat in the Vulnerable Communities Platform: High Climate Hazard and High Social Vulnerability, High Climate Hazard and Medium Social Vulnerability, or Medium Climate Hazard and High Social Vulnerability. Projects that provide meaningful and direct benefits to Vulnerable Populations qualify for 12 funding priority points.

**End of document**