Housing and Sustainable Development (HSD)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

General

1. *What is the Sustainable Communities Program?*

   The Sustainable Communities Program (SCP) provides direct technical assistance and resources to local agencies to support local planning efforts in the areas of transportation, land use, housing, and sustainability, and enable implementation of the Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS), which today is called Connect SoCal. The SCP will provide local jurisdictions with multiple opportunities to seek funding and resources to meet the needs of their communities, address recovery and resiliency strategies considering COVID-19, and support regional goals. SCAG will release Calls for Applications throughout Fiscal Year 20/21 to select projects within different program areas and funding categories. The adopted Connect SoCal can be found here: https://www.connectsocal.org/Pages/Connect-SoCal-Final-Plan.aspx.

2. *What does it mean to say that successful applicants will receive "technical assistance" through the Sustainable Communities Program?*

   The Sustainable Communities Program does not provide grant funding. Instead, the program provides resources and direct technical assistance to complete projects. SCAG staff will work with the awarded agency to complete the procurement and contracting. SCAG staff will serve as the administrative project manager, managing the contract and

paying invoices. Agency staff will play a large role in the day-to-day management of the consultant.

3. *When is the HSD application due?*

The application deadline has been extended to Friday, January 29th, 2021 by 5:00pm.

4. *Who can I contact to follow up?*

Lyle Janicek, Associate Regional Planner – janicek@scag.ca.gov
Hannah Brunelle, Senior Regional Planner – brunelle@scag.ca.gov

Eligibility

5. *Who is eligible to apply?*
   - Incorporated Cities within the SCAG Region
   - Unincorporated Counties within the SCAG Region
   - Tribal Nations within the SCAG Region

6. *Can jurisdictions apply for more than one project type?*
Yes. Jurisdictions may apply for multiple project types, however, project priority should be indicated on the application.

7. *Do you need to be a SCAG member to apply for this program?*

No, provided applicant is located within the SCAG region.

8. *Can nonprofits apply for the funding?*

Although nonprofits are not eligible applicants, partnerships with cities, counties, and tribal nations are encouraged.

Application

9. *Is there a match requirement?*

No. There is no match requirement.

10. *When will successful applicants be notified about their project award?*

Staff recommendations for project awards are expected to be provided to the SCAG Regional Council for their consideration and action in April 2021.

11. *How long should it take to prepare and submit the application?*

Preparing the content for the application could take approximately 8-12 hours. Once the required documentation is assembled, filling out the application should take less than an hour.

12. *To whom should the letter of support/letters of commitment be addressed to?*

Letters should be addressed to Julia Lippe-Klein, Sustainable Communities Program Manager. All letters must be submitted electronically through the online application form.

13. *What are some examples of commitments from partners SCAG is looking for in the letters of support/letters of commitment?*

The letters of support and letters of commitment must outline specific, meaningful ways partners will be involved in the project. Letters of commitment must be specific in describing the activities the partner will carry out as part of the project.

Example commitments include the following: participating on a community advisory committee, participating in community engagement and/or leading community engagement tasks, reviewing and commenting on plans and deliverables, providing data or other resources, participation or collaboration in a temporary safety demonstration project, distribution of educational or outreach materials, etc.

14. *How long will it take for the project to be completed, and what is the deadline for the final project delivery? What is the time period to complete the project?*

Project timelines vary, but in most instances the duration will range from 12 to 18 months once procurement has been completed. All projects must be completed by June 30, 2023.

15. *Are the scoring criteria and points identical across all project types?*

Scoring varies and each project type has their own scoring rubric. Scoring rubrics can be found here:

- **Project Type 1**: Advancing Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Implementation

- **Project Type 2**: Housing Sustainability Districts, Workforce Housing Opportunity Zones, and Housing Supportive Tax Increment Financing Districts

- **Project Type 3**: Objective Development Standards for Streamlined Housing, Prohousing Designation Program and Parking Innovation

Project Type Specific Questions

16. *For the ADU Programs, can an application include an advertising campaign to promote ADU construction? Specifically, to advertise resources developed under this Program?*

Yes, marketing of best practices supporting ADU planning and development of existing best practices resources as well as those under development by this or other programs are eligible and encouraged.

17. *I applied for project resources from a similar state program and was approved, but the cost of the project is far more than what is available. Can I submit this same project to SCP - HSD to acquire additional technical assistance and resources?*

The SCP - HSD program will fund technical assistance benefiting multiple jurisdictions to achieve regional collective benefits. All applications are subject to the scoring criteria indicated for each eligibility category. Although the technical assistance and resources to be provided should not conflict with resources provided by other state programs, SCAG's HSD Program should not be considered a means to fill "gaps" from other related projects.

Commencing Work

18. *When and how will applicants be notified of their award status?*

SCAG anticipates that the Regional Council (RC) will consider the Project List at its April 2021 meeting. Project applicants will be contacted via email following the RC action regarding the status of their application and will be provided with additional information on the timing of their award and next steps for initiating the project.

19. Does a governing body need to take action prior to beginning work on the project?

Yes, SCAG will ask awarded applicants to have their governing body (i.e. City Council, Board of Directors, etc.) adopt a resolution of support/participation prior to beginning work on the project. If it is not possible for a governing body to adopt a resolution, SCAG will ask for a letter signed by the City Manager/Executive of the Agency.

20. *How long do awardees have to complete their projects?*

Project timelines vary, but in most instances the duration will range from 12 to 18 months once procurement has been completed. All projects must be completed by June 30, 2023.

21. *What resources and services are available?*

Selected projects from the Housing and Sustainable Development Call for Applications will be funded with approximately $5 million in AB101 funds to be made available as part of the Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) program established by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). Although individual direct grants are not offered, successful applicants will receive planning consultant services, SCAG staff resources, and technical assistance. Administrative procurement, contracting, and invoice processing will be handled by SCAG. Meaningful and consistent collaboration with applicants is essential to ensure project scopes of work are developed accurately and to support the successful delivery of planning projects. Applicants may choose to provide a non-binding project cost estimate at their discretion for informational purposes.

Other Questions

22. *Are there minimum or maximum Program amounts?*

The guidelines state that "The Sustainable Communities Program will not provide direct grant funding to applicants for HSD assistance, but will instead provide a combination of consultant services, SCAG staff resources, and direct technical assistance to complete planning projects."

23. *Are Environmental Justice Areas considered disadvantaged communities?*

Yes, Environmental Justice Areas are included as disadvantaged communities. To view eligible DACs based on SCAG's definitions, please view the online mapping tool.