



2020-2021

Sustainable Communities Program

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS



Call for Applications #4: Civic Engagement, Equity & Environmental Justice

Listening Session
July 13, 2021



INNOVATING FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

WWW.SCAG.CA.GOV

1. Meeting length: approximately 1.5 hours
2. Please take care to mute your audio/phones
3. At the end of the presentation, there will be an open Q&A session then breakout rooms
4. If you have a question during the presentation, please type it into the chat box
5. We will log all questions as they come in and will do our best to address all remaining questions during Q&A and in the breakout rooms
6. If you need Spanish interpretation, please click the interpretation icon and select "Spanish"
7. Think of something later? Email au@scag.ca.gov
8. Presentation slides and Q&A summary will be emailed to those who registered to participate in the listening sessions

Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Listening Session Anticipated Outcomes
3. Environmental Justice Imagery Activity
4. Call for Applications Overview + Q&A
5. Breakout Discussion
6. Breakout Discussion Summary
7. Conclude Session

Listening Session Outcomes

- **Participants** will learn about the goals and preliminary structure of the Sustainable Communities Program Call for Applications #4.
- **SCAG** will learn about potential projects and funding needs for organizations to do civic engagement, equity, and environmental justice work.
- **SCAG** will learn about how technical assistance can be structured to better serve local jurisdictions and community-based organizations.

Proposed Community Agreements for this Listening Session



- Respect the mic
- Move up, move up
- Co-op, not Co-opt
- Approach with curiosity

Learned from Design as Protest.

Environmental Justice Imagery Activity

Question: What images come to mind when you think of Environmental Justice in your community?

Share your ideas on this [Jamboard](#) using words, drawings, Google Image Search, etc. according to the counties where you live or work!

Sustainable Communities Program Overview

Since 2005, the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) has provided resources and direct technical assistance to local jurisdictions via the Sustainable Communities Program (SCP).

The 2020/21 SCP provided local agencies with three opportunities to access 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 a fourth Call for Applications for programs and projects centered on **Civic Engagement, Equity & Environmental Justice** in Fall 2021.

Sustainable Communities Program Goals

- Provide needed planning resources
- Promote, address and ensure equity
- Encourage strategies to reduce VMT and GHG emissions
- Implement strategies in Connect SoCal
- Support Connect SoCal Key Connections
- Support regional resiliency
- Increase funding to the region

Learn more about the SCP on [SCAG's website!](#)

SCP Call for Applications #4 Goals + Objectives

Goals

- Center and prioritize racial and social equity
- Address the pervasive and deep inequities experienced in historically disinvested communities
- Include a broad range of project types
- Support the development of plans to close the gap of racial inequities
- Support the goals in SCAG's Equity Early Action Plan, Connect SoCal, SCAG's Public Participation Plan

Objectives

- Focus support in SCAG's Communities of Concern, and SB 535 Disadvantaged Communities
- Support local planning efforts focused on eliminating barriers to civic engagement
- Build community capacity, trust, and sustainable relationships with stakeholders
- Prioritize community identified and implemented projects

Call for Applications Structure

The program prioritizes projects focused on equity and environmental justice with robust civic engagement and meaningful partnerships

Planning for Civic
Engagement, Equity,
Environmental
Justice

Meeting community needs

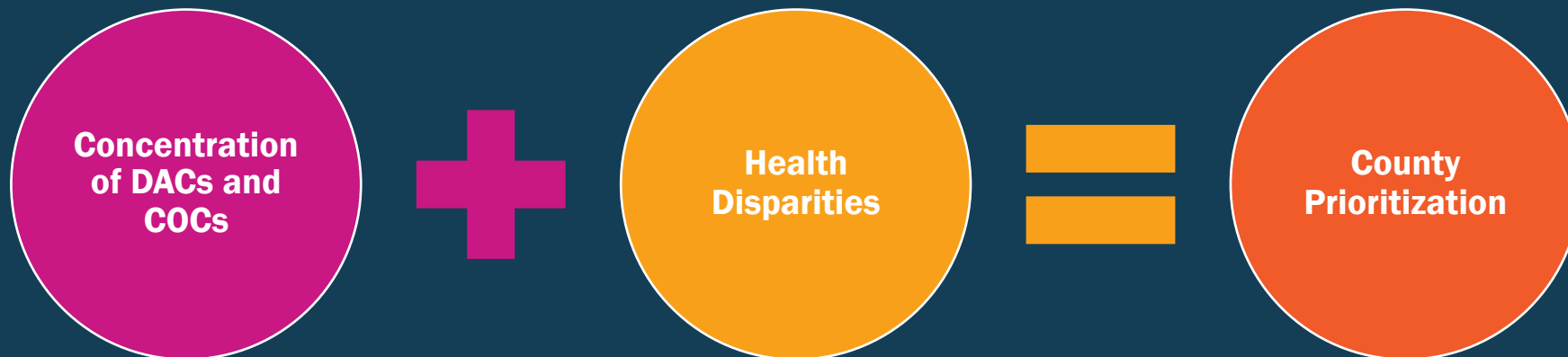
- Local agency could apply with CBO sub-applicant partnership.
- Under an agency and CBO partnership, CBOs would be compensated to lead key elements of the project.
- In addition, Consultant team would perform identified work on behalf of the local agency and/or agency & CBO partnership.

Call for Applications Structure

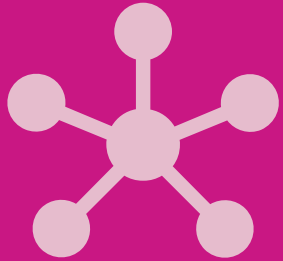
SCAG will establish funding goals for counties with consideration for air quality-related negative health outcomes and concentration of residents in SB 535 Disadvantaged Communities (DACs) and Communities of Concern (COCs) by county.

Proposed Funding Goals:

- Imperial and Los Angeles Counties – \$600,000 to \$850,000
- Riverside and San Bernardino Counties – \$400,000 to \$600,000
- Orange and Ventura Counties – \$250,000 to \$400,000



Proposed Application & Evaluation Process



SCAG develops guidelines and eligible project types with regional partners



Applicants submit proposals to the program. ***Potential for Letter of Interest Process to inform applications.**



SCAG staff assists in application development via office hours and webinars



Proposals are evaluated on a set of pre-determined criteria, co-developed with SCAG staff, regional partners, and stakeholders



Potential Two-Step Proposal Concept

To support project shaping and partnership building, applicants could be invited to submit an optional letter of interest (LOI):

- LOI would be evaluated by an advisory committee comprised of SCAG staff, government partners, and other partners
- Evaluation would be based on pre-determined, publicly available evaluation criteria. SCAG would review and discuss LOIs with applicants.
- Once LOIs are reviewed, applicants would be invited to submit an application.
- LOI process would be optional

Proposed Scoring Rubric and Criteria



Scoring Criteria
Focus Area 1: Project Need
Civic Engagement, Equity & Environmental Justice Need
SCS Implementation Need
Priority Populations Benefits & Need
Level of funding from previous SCP cycles
Focus Area 2: Project Design & Outcomes
Scope of Work & Project Benefits
Supports SCS Implementation
Clear & Effective Use of Tools & Strategies
Focus Area 3: Partnerships & Engagement
Partnerships for Planning & Implementation
Inclusive, Diverse, & Equitable Stakeholder Engagement

Applicants are encouraged to apply to the SCP by completing an application

While one application is recommended, jurisdictions may submit **multiple** project applications

Example Project Types



AB 617 Implementation



Resilient Communities



SB1000 EJ Elements/Policies



Connected Communities



Arts, Culture & Design



Safety & Community



Local Campaigns & Organizing



Parks, Green, Open, and Public Space

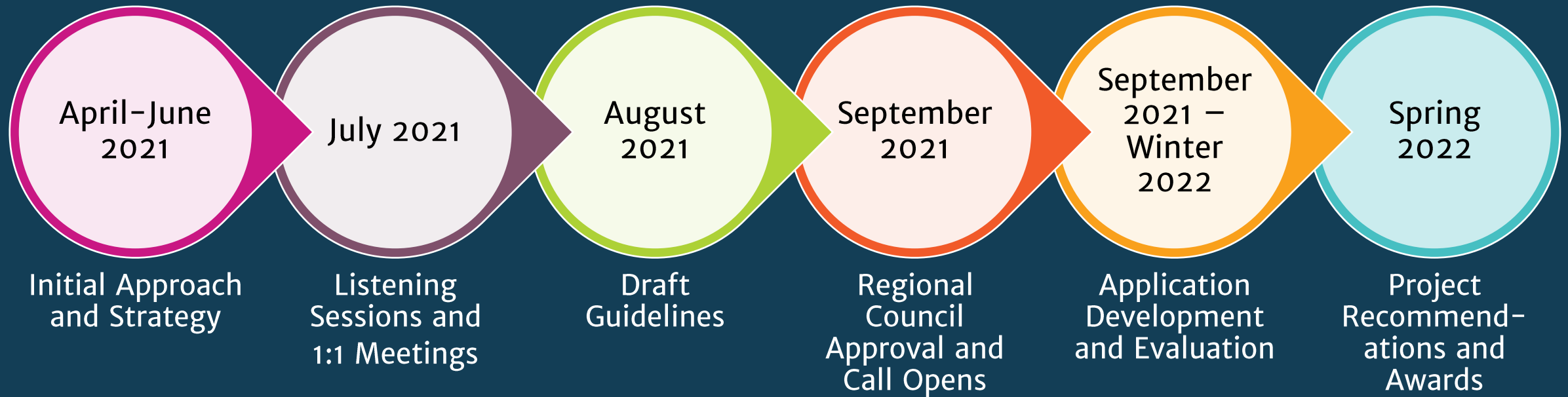


Climate Action & Resilience



Community Healing & Repair

SCP Call 4 Timeline*



*subject to change upon feedback

Next Steps



Based on feedback received from the listening sessions, SCAG will continue to develop the Call for Application Guidelines.

SCAG will share the final guidelines with all Listening Session attendees and publicize the opportunity widely.

SCAG will open the Call in early Fall 2021 following Regional Council approval of the program guidelines.

Breakout Session Questions

1. A proposed application structure is that CBOs could serve as a sub-applicant alongside a public agency or jurisdiction. What are the challenges? What are the opportunities?
2. How can the application process be more accessible?
3. How do you feel about the project types & categories? Do they capture projects that you would be seeking funding for?
 - For example: The project types range from Arts, Culture & Design to Community Healing & Repair.
4. What remains unresolved for you in terms of application process? How can we address your remaining questions and/or concerns?

Thank You

Anita Au

au@scag.ca.gov

(213) 236-1874

www.scag.ca.gov

Hannah Brunelle

Brunelle@scag.ca.gov

(213) 236-1907

