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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

2023 COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

DRAFT GUIDELINES

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CTC PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM OVERVIEW

SCAG is anticipating funding from the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) through the [Regional Early Action Planning Grants of 2021](#) ('REAP 2.0') and this funding is a key part of the state's strategic investments toward a more sustainable, resilient, and inclusive future. SCAG is in a unique position to utilize this resource and build upon REAP 1.0 efforts, allowing for broader planning and implementation investments, including those which focus on transportation initiatives and future housing development. REAP 2.0 funds come from the State General Fund. As part of its implementation of REAP 2.0, SCAG is issuing this Call for Applications for a County Transportation Commission (CTC) Partnership Program to support transformative planning and implementation as described below.

The purpose of the CTC Partnership Program is to provide immediate benefit to the region by supporting transformative planning activities aligned with Key Connection strategies identified in Connect SoCal, which can be implemented quickly to advance new concepts for reducing VMT while simultaneously achieving other program goals for REAP 2.0. Key Connection strategies focus on innovative policies and/or technologies together with expanded mobility offerings to realize regional planning goals.

SCAG has allocated $100 million to REAP 2.0 transportation initiatives and is developing two programs to implement projects. The first is this $80 million CTC Partnership Program, focused on a robust partnership program between SCAG and County Transportation Commissions (CTCs) to fund county-specific pilots and projects. The second is a $20 million Regional Pilot Initiatives Program (RPI Program), which will identify, evaluate, and award funding for regional or local pilots and projects that that achieve regional transportation goals and objectives. SCAG plans to procure a consultant team to help research, define, and guide the RPI Program. SCAG anticipates that this may present further opportunities for CTCs to collaborate with SCAG on potential joint efforts.

REAP 2021 PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

Following a seven-month outreach and engagement process with elected officials and stakeholders, SCAG presented its draft REAP 2021 Program Development Framework to the Regional Council on April 7, 2022, outlining the core objectives, guiding principles, programmatic areas, major milestones, and schedule for allocating SCAG's share of REAP 2.0 funds. The final Framework was presented to the SCAG Regional Council for approval in July 2022. Core Program Objectives include:

- Support transformative planning and implementation activities that realize Connect SoCal objectives
- Leverage and augment the Connect SoCal Implementation Strategy to support activities that can be implemented quickly and in line with community-driven, pandemic recovery priorities
- Build regional capacity to deliver housing that realizes 6th cycle RHNA goals
- Represent best practices in vehicle miles traveled reduction
- Demonstrate consistency with the Racial Equity Early Action Plan
- Promote infill development in Connect SoCal identified Priority Growth Areas

The Framework proposes that SCAG's REAP 2.0 funds will be administered across three (3) programmatic areas, Early Action Initiatives, Housing Supportive Infrastructure Program, and CTC Partnership Program. The Programs shall include regional initiatives and technical assistance led by SCAG to advance regionally

coordinated and significant solutions as well as county-specific or geographically targeted programs that advance best practices reflecting the unique opportunities in the region.

SCAG is committed to a future where we all have the option to live closer to our jobs, services, and daily destinations with transportation options so we can walk our kids to school, ride our bikes to work, or take transit. Infill housing, combined with transportation network improvements and strategies, results in improved multimodal access to community amenities, lowers average trip length and reduces vehicle miles traveled.

SCAG's REAP 2.0 program framework combines coordinated and transformative housing development and finance, land use and transportation strategies to help achieve California's housing and greenhouse gas emission reduction goals. The Partnership to Affirmatively Transform Homes (PATH) Program will support strategies to accelerate infill development leading to increased housing supply, choice, and affordability. The CTC Partnership Program and Regional Pilot Initiative Program will connect infill housing to daily services and increase travel options that support multimodal communities to shift travel modes. The Early Program Initiatives tie this work together by implementing elements of the RTP/SCS and furthering SCAG as a leader in data driven decision making. All strategies will reduce VMT and will affirmatively further fair housing by fostering racially equitable and inclusive communities; retaining and increasing affordability, especially in high-resource areas; and protecting existing residents, especially lower- or moderate-income residents from displacement. All programs will support the needs of residents in disadvantaged communities and communities that have been historically left behind including in areas of high segregation and poverty. The strategies funded through SCAGs REAP 2.0 programs will help achieve the state planning goals, implement the 6th Cycle housing elements, meet RHNA goals, and move the region toward achieving the Sustainable Community Strategy in SCAG's Connect SoCal Plan. The strategies will also help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, support the development of more livable communities that provide lower-cost housing choices, conserve natural resources, offer transportation options, and promote a better quality of life.

CTC PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM GOALS

The CTC Partnership Program is intended to implement Key Connection strategies included in Connect SoCal and support new concepts for reducing VMT. Of critical importance to SCAG is to demonstrate VMT reduction to meet our climate commitments, particularly in ways that advance equity and improve underlying social and health vulnerabilities. SCAG is also prioritizing project concepts that are regionally significant and can be scalable with long-term viability.

SCAG seeks applications for the following four categories:

1. **Transit Recovery** – examples include capital improvements to increase bus speed and reliability and improve customer experience
2. **Mobility Integration & Incentives** – examples include mobility wallets, pricing, universal basic mobility, and fare integration.
3. **Shared Mobility & Mobility Hubs** – examples include micromobility programs, mobility hubs, first/last mile services, wayfinding systems, and multimodal access plans.
4. **VMT Bank & Exchange Programs**

CTC CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

SCAG is releasing this Call for Applications specifically among the region's County Transportation Commissions (CTCs) to competitively suballocate funds from the REAP 2.0 Program through HCD. The funds from this program shall be used for transformative planning and implementation activities. Program guidelines are subject to change, per HCD direction.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The CTC Program Call for Applications prioritizes projects that aspire to integrate and align Southern California's mobility and housing opportunities, especially with respect to Connect SoCal, the region's adopted Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS). Applicants are encouraged to review strategies included within [Connect SoCal](#) to align project applications with regional planning priorities and concepts. Funds shall be used on planning or implementation efforts that can establish a strong nexus to housing and infrastructure to support new housing.

While the CTC Partnership Program focuses on innovative mobility initiatives that can reduce VMT, proposed uses must demonstrate a nexus to all REAP 2021 objectives:

1. Accelerating Infill Development that Facilitates Housing Supply, Choice and Affordability
2. Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing
3. Reducing Vehicle Miles Traveled

All proposed uses will be required to meet the statute and program requirements, including the REAP 2.0 infill objectives. In the SCAG region, infill areas may also include 2020 Connect SoCal Priority Growth Areas. Applicants are encouraged to view the interactive map[1] prepared by SCAG that emphasizes geographic need based on a variety of variables.

For more information, please refer to the [HCD REAP 2.0 Guidelines](#). Eligible projects must have a significant geographic or region-wide benefit, as the REAP 2.0 Program is not intended to fund individual projects which are small in scope. The CTC Partnership Program guidelines include the following eligible activities and uses that meet REAP 2021 goals:

1. **Realizing Multimodal Communities:**
   a. Establishing and implementing a vision-zero policy and program, a safety plan, and a slow streets program.
   b. Developing bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure plans and other multimodal plans or policies.
   c. Investing in infrastructure projects and other programs to expand active transportation and implement bicycle or pedestrian plans.
   d. Producing multimodal corridor studies associated with developing specific planning documents or implementation actions.
2. **Shifting travel behavior through reducing driving:**
   a. Studying roadway pricing feasibility and implementing road pricing programs.
   b. Funding the establishment of a local VMT impact fee or catalyzing a regional VMT mitigation bank.

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[1] Link to interactive map will be made available with final guidelines.

  c. Funding and implementing parking and transportation demand management programs or ordinances.

3. **Increasing transit ridership:**

  a. Funding and implementing actions to establish more seamless regional transit systems between and across communities, including establishing common fares systems, sync transit routing systems and schedules, service design, and wayfinding to connect residential neighborhoods with employment centers and other key destinations.

  b. Developing and implementing multimodal access plans to and from transit facilities

  c. Planning for additional Housing near transit.

The above list of projects encompasses the full REAP 2.0 program. Projects must show a connection to accelerating housing implementation to meet eligibility requirements. Please contact SCAG with any questions regarding grant dollars and funding eligibility.

PRIORITIZING STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Partnerships and community engagement is essential in all SCAG programs, and the intent of the REAP funding is to engage with local communities and implement projects "on the ground." SCAG strongly encourages each CTC applicant to partner with relevant stakeholders to maximize project impact and further collaborative policy goals. Applicants must develop engagement plans prioritizing impacted communities and other relevant stakeholders, such as local jurisdictions and community-based organizations (CBOs), during the project to help achieve equitable project outcomes. Commitment letters from stakeholders, CBOs, community partners, local transit operators, or local jurisdictions may be included in each application, but these letters are optional, not required.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Eligible applicants are encouraged to apply to the CTC Partnership Program by completing an application. One application is required per project and entities may submit multiple project applications. **Applicants must complete and submit their application by Friday, February 3rd, at 5:00 p.m.**

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Eligibility in this program is limited to County Transportation Commissions (CTCs) within the SCAG region. CTCs are strongly encouraged to develop partnerships with local agencies and jurisdictions and include these partnerships in their respective applications.

SUBMITTAL INFORMATION

Applications must follow the instructions provided in the application. Applications should include all supporting documents in the online application. Applicants are not required to demonstrate that a governing body has taken official action to apply, but a supporting resolution from the governing body or a letter of intent in support of the project from the appropriate executive officer will be required prior to project initiation. Questions about applications should be emailed to the contact person listed below.

EVALUATION PROCESS, SCORING RUBRIC & CRITERIA

An evaluation team will review the applications. Recommendations will be made to the Regional Council in April 2023. Project award announcements will be made following the State's release of REAP 2.0 funding and authorization to move forward with selected projects.

The scoring criteria for all projects funded through the CTC Partnership Program Call will be the same. Question topics and their relationships to the scoring criteria are outlined below. Further clarification about how points are awarded is provided in the project application forms.

Scoring Criteria	
Focus Area 1: SCAG Goals & Connect SoCal Implementation	**40 Points**
Project Readiness and Approach	**14 Points**
Supports Connect SoCal Implementation	**14 Points**
Partnerships and Engagement	**12 Points**
Focus Area 2: Infill Development that Facilitates Housing Supply, Choice, Affordability	**20 Points**
Location Eligibility	**6 Points**
Proposed Use	**7 Points**
Proposed Evaluation Metrics	**7 Points**
Focus Area 3: Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing	**20 Points**
Location Eligibility	**6 Points**
Proposed Use	**7 Points**
Proposed Evaluation Metrics	**7 Points**
Focus Area 4: Reducing Vehicle Miles Traveled	**20 Points**
Location Eligibility	**6 Points**
Proposed Use	**7 Points**
Proposed Evaluation Metrics	**7 Points**

FUNDING AND SCHEDULE

Funding for the CTC Partnership Program will be provided through SCAG's share of the REAP 2.0 Grant. SCAG will competitively suballocate funding for project applications based on the overall scoring rubric and criteria including the eligibility of each funding source and the applicant's readiness. The competitively suballocated funding share for the CTC Partnership Program Call for Applications will be approximately $80 million. An additional $20 million is anticipated through SCAG's Regional Pilot Initiative Program led by SCAG to advance regionally coordinated and significant solutions.

REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION

Given the locational constraints imposed by REAP 2.0, the priority in awarding funding will be for projects that meet the eligibility criteria determined by REAP 2.0 guidelines, in Section 405 and furthering SCAG's goal to implement Connect SoCal. Applications should include the locational considerations, supporting attributes, and measurable outcomes that support a Proposed Use as eligible for each the following:

1. Infill Development that Facilitates Housing Supply, Choice, and Affordability
2. Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH)
3. Reducing Vehicle Miles Traveled

Efforts will additionally be made so that CTC Partnership Program projects are awarded in each county within the SCAG region and with regards to geographic diversity, but these efforts are second to the primary need to meet REAP 2.0 eligibility. For consistency with the statute, SCAG will use the State's 2030 population projections as a general guide, but proposals must first and foremost be competitive and address SCAG's program objectives. Proposed projects must receive a minimum of 75 points to be eligible. Please see attached scoring rubric for more information on eligibility.

COUNTY POPULATION PROJECTION AND REGIONAL SHARE, 2030

Imperial	206,486	1.0%
Los Angeles	10,322,678	52.2%
Orange	3,291,863	16.6%
Riverside	2,728,068	13.8%
San Bernardino	2,368,002	12.0%
Ventura	872,856	4.4%
Total SCAG Region	**19,789,953**	**100%**

Source: California Department of Finance. Demographic Research Unit. Report P-2A: Total Population Projections, California Counties, 2010-2060 (Baseline 2019 Population Projections; Vintage 2020 Release). Sacramento: California. July 2021.

MATCH REQUIREMENTS

There are no local match requirements for projects proposed through the CTC Partnership Program.

PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE AND TIME EXTENSIONS

A project initiation schedule and expectations regarding period of performance will be determined within sixty days of project award announcements, and will be based on project complexity, funding source, and agency capacity. Once the project schedule has been established, extensions will be considered only under extraordinary circumstances, on a case-by-case basis. Extensions and scope changes must be requested

in letter format. All requests must include an explanation of the issues and actions the agency or local jurisdiction has taken to correct the issues. All extensions will be contingent on funding availability and the program requirements of the funding source assigned. Program completion is based on statutory provisions and SCAG expects all selected projects to be completed in a timely manner and requires that applicants coordinate internal resources to ensure timely completion of the projects.

SCHEDULE

The following schedule outlines important dates for the CTC Program Call for Applications. Program timelines are subject to change, per HCD direction.

CTC CALL MILESTONES	DATE
State Approval of SCAG Reap 2.0 Application	TBD
Call For Applications Opens and Adoption of Guidelines	January 5, 2023
Application Workshop	TBD
Call For Applications Submission Deadline	February 3, 2023 (5:00 p.m.)
Regional Council Approval	April 2023
Final Work and Invoices Submitted	January 30, 2026

CONTACT INFORMATION

Questions regarding the CTC Partnership Program application process should be directed to:

Kate Kigongo
Department Manager, Partnerships for Innovative Deployment
Telephone: 213-236-1808
Email: kigongo@scag.ca.gov