

Youth Community Access Grant Program Frequently Asked Questions

Priorities & Eligibility

How do I show that at least 80% of youth served through a project live within a low-income community?

A low-income community is a community with a median household income less than 80% of the statewide average. Either the [Community Fact Finder](#) tool or the [Department of Water Resources DAC Mapping Tool](#) *must* be used to determine at a high level if youth come from a low-income community. A location that falls within a shaded area of any color on either mapping tool qualifies as low-income. If physical addresses are not available to demonstrate low-income eligibility, you may reference and explain other specific location(s) that can be verified as low-income using the mapping tools (i.e., describe and show neighborhood boundaries, school communities, landmarks, etc. that are located within a low-income community).

What are grant requirements for a clean vehicle acquisition?

Acquiring a clean vehicle to transport youth to access a cultural or natural resource is an eligible project cost. The definition of a clean vehicle can be found in the Grant Guidelines in Appendix M. A project can include the acquisition of a clean vehicle combined with a programming and/or development element if they relate to the same project. Grant funds can support operational, care, and maintenance costs for a clean vehicle during the performance period of the grant. Elements such as electric charging stations or other installations are considered a development component and are subject to all requirements of a development project. Vehicles must be maintained and operated for a period of at least eight years.

What are grant requirements for a development project?

A development project means a project that physically improves, builds, or changes land or structures to support youth access to natural or cultural resources. Development or construction elements may be combined with a programming element if both elements relate to the same project. At least 80% of the physical footprint of a development project must be *located within* and *provide access to* a low-income community. Development projects must be

maintained and operated for at least 10 years. Additional development project requirements are listed in the Grant Guidelines in Appendix M.

What are grant requirements for a program project?

A program project means a planned and coordinated group of activities or procedures, often with a common goal. Eligible programming includes activities that directly support youth access to natural or cultural resources and incorporate planned or coordinated trips or events. Projects can request grant funds to support and/or expand existing programs or develop new ones. Programs must serve low-income and underserved youth as outlined in the Grant Guidelines.

What should I do if I am not sure if my project is eligible?

If you have reviewed the Grant Guidelines and these Frequently Asked Questions and are still uncertain about eligibility, please contact CNRA's Youth Community Access team at bondsandgrants@resources.ca.gov.

Competitive Review Process

What steps does the competitive grant process include?

Grants are awarded competitively based on a three-step review and evaluation process. In Step One, project proposals submitted online prior to the deadline will be reviewed for completeness and eligibility. Complete and eligible projects are evaluated, and the most competitive projects will be invited to a Step Two Virtual Field Visit. Step Two visits will be conducted via a teleconference format. Applicants may invite their project team members and partners to participate in the visit. The most competitive projects advance to Step Three, where applicants are required to submit additional project documentation online. Once Step Three evaluations are completed, funding recommendations are submitted to the California Secretary for Natural Resources for approval.

Is there a target age-range for youth who are served through a project?

Project must serve youth between the ages of 0-26 and demonstrate that at least 80% of youth served in the project come from underserved and low-income communities.

What level of detail is required in the 'Cost Estimate'?

The Cost Estimate helps reviewers understand the financial structure of a project, such as what is specifically needed to deliver the project (i.e., materials, supplies, transportation, staffing, etc.), including additional funding sources. Line items funded by the grant should not be split with other funding sources.

Are matching funds required?

No, however projects may be more competitive when leveraging funds. When a match or other sources of funds are applicable to the project, applicants are required to indicate the sources in the Cost Estimate.

Are Authorizing Resolutions required of all applicants?

Yes, all applicants are required to submit an authorizing resolution in Step Three of the competitive process. A Certification Letter can be submitted for applicants without a governing board. The Resolution appoints a specific title or position (not an individual) to serve as a project's Authorized Representative. The Authorized Representative will conduct all negotiations and execute all project documents. The Proposal Form Signature Page, submitted in Step One, should be signed by the same Authorized Representative identified in the Authorizing Resolution or Certification Letter.

Is the "Senate/Assembly/Congressional District" information requested in the Project Proposal based on the location of the applicant, or based on the location of youth served through the project?

Applicants should use their organization's primary address to determine elected representative districts for the project. If a project includes a development (i.e., construction) component, applicants should also list the districts where those development sites are located.

Project Implementation

What is the timeline to implement a project and receive grant funds?

Following the competitive review process, award announcements are anticipated in August 2023. Once awarded, grantees will begin working with a CNRA Grants Administrator to develop a Grant Agreement. On average, it takes three to four months to develop and finalize Agreements after awards are announced. Projects cannot incur costs prior to the Project Performance Period

start date listed in the executed Grant Agreement. Grant payments are made on a reimbursement basis and cannot be disbursed until a Grant Agreement is in place. Project funds must be expended by March 2026.

What are funding acknowledgement requirements?

Projects must acknowledge use of public funds from the Proposition 64 Youth Community Access Program. Funding acknowledgement must be included on all produced program materials, acquired vehicles, and publicly visible signs should be installed at each construction site. The cost of funding acknowledgement is an eligible grant expense and should be listed as a project cost in the Cost Estimate. Further signage and recognition details are described in the Grant Guidelines in Appendix G.