



Final Guidelines Released for \$145 Million California Sustainable Communities Grant

The Sustainable Communities Grants, funded by California Proposition 84, will provide funding to cities, counties, metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs), councils of government (COGs), joint powers authorities, and nonprofits for climate action planning and urban greening activities. The California Strategic Growth Council has finalized the guidelines for the three new grant programs available this spring, including:

- 1) Planning Grants and Incentives Program – \$60 million
- 2) Urban Greening Plans – \$17.5 million
- 3) Urban Greening Projects – \$70 million

The grants will fund a range of plans and projects, including general plan elements, climate action plans, blueprint plans, zoning codes, urban greening plans, urban forestry projects, and urban park projects. This document summarizes key eligibility criteria and requirements of each grant program. For more information, please contact the PMC Grants Team at 1-866-828-6PMC or Grants@pmcworld.com.

A similar grant program will be released by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in spring 2010. HUD is requesting comments on the proposed grant purpose, timeline, and application requirements. Visit www.carbonconscious.us/funding for more information.

Planning Grants and Incentives Program – Applications due May 2010

A total of \$60 million will be made available in three funding cycles for local and regional climate action and sustainability planning. The funding has been separated into three categories for application.

1. **Local Sustainability Planning** – Seventy percent of the funding is dedicated to cities and counties applying for climate action plans, general plan elements, zoning ordinances, specific plans, infill plans, and other implementation instruments of AB 32 and SB 375.
2. **Regional SB 375 Plus** – Twenty percent of the funding is dedicated to MPOs to work with local governments to develop and implement plans (e.g., blueprint or other outreach plans, targeted general plan updates) that support SB 375 and AB 32 GHG reduction.
3. **Regional Planning Activities with Multiple Partners** – Ten percent of the funding is dedicated to transportation authorities, counties, and cities for countywide climate action plans, regional cap and trade or offset programs, rural blueprints, or voluntary SB 375 compliance.

A notice of funding availability will be released in late April, with applications due in late May.

Urban Greening Plans – Applications due April 2010

Funding in the amount of \$17.5 million is dedicated to COGs, MPOs, local governments, and nonprofits for urban greening plans. Plans are required to serve as a master document guiding and coordinating urban greening projects within or adjacent to an urban area, which is defined as at least 10 dwelling units per acre. The plans must also be consistent with the jurisdiction's general plan or regional plan where one exists. A notice of funding availability will be released in February, with applications due in April 2010.

Urban Greening Projects – Applications due April 2010

Three funding cycles totaling \$70 million will be made available for urban greening projects, including urban forestry projects, urban parks projects, wetlands, green roof projects, and more. Urban is defined as an area of at least 10 dwelling units per acre. Cities, counties, and nonprofits are eligible. Projects must provide for public access, promote infill development, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. A notice of funding availability will be released in February, with applications due in April 2010.

For more information, contact Kevin Grant, Christina Ratcliffe, or Michael McCormick at (866) 828-6PMC or email grants@pmcworld.com

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