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Answers

General

1) **Is the August 9, 2023, Equity and Access (E&A) Grant Program Application Webinar presentation on the Public Participation and Equity, Engagement, and Education grants available online?**
Yes. You can find a video recording of the webinar and a copy of the slides presented at: http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/capacitygrants.

2) **Can my organization apply to more than one grant?**
Yes! Each of the three grants within the E&A Grant Program are considered separate for application and funding purposes, as they are each intended for different purposes.

3) **Do all the grant accounts have the same application windows?**
No. The application windows for the three grant accounts vary. Please refer to the application window questions for each respective grant account in this FAQ or the program website at: http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/capacitygrants.

4) **How long does a project funded by the E&A Grant Program need to be?**
Grant funds need to be allocated no later than June 30, 2025, and expended by June 30, 2027. Although there is no required project length, grant projects need to be awarded by June 30, 2025, and completed by April 15, 2027 to allow time for final invoice processing.

5) **How does an organization who has never participated in CPUC matters become familiar with the CPUC and its work?**
Please visit the program website for a list of resources on becoming familiar with the CPUC: http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/capacitygrants. Additionally, the CPUC's Daily Calendar for day-to-day activities can be viewed here and the CPUC's Newsroom here. The public may also read and/or subscribe to the CPUC's newsletter, Working for California, here. The newsletter publishes a list of all new filings for that month. The public may also search the CPUC's docket, by clicking here and learning about the industries under the CPUC's jurisdiction here. You may also wish to view our past informational webinars including a webinar on understanding and interacting with the CPUC.

6) **Is there a tribal liaison for the CPUC who provide me more information on how my tribe can participate in CPUC matters?**
Yes, the Office of the Tribal Advisor is a resource to improve government-to-government relationships and communication between Tribes and the CPUC. CPUC Tribal Advisor Kenneth Holbrook serves the CPUC through his advisory role within the agency and as the CPUC's main point-of-contact with the Native American Tribes of California.
For specific information on the E&A Grant Program, Tribal organizations may contact capacitygrants@cpuc.ca.gov.

7) **It was mentioned in the application webinar that there would be an online grants portal to upload our documents and submit our grant application online. When will this grant portal be available to use?**
The application portal is available here: https://cpuc.smapply.io/.

Eligibility

1) **Who is eligible to apply for the E&A Grant Program?**

   To apply for any of the three grant accounts of the E&A Grant Program, an entity must be one of the following types of Eligible Applicants:

   Type 1: California tax-exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

   Type 2: California Native American Tribes, including all Federally Recognized Tribes and non-federally recognized tribes California Native Americans as defined in Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 21073. PRC Section 21073 defines a California Native American Tribe as a Native American Tribe located in California that is on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission for the purposes of Chapter 905 of the Statutes of 2004.

   Type 3: Non-federally recognized California Tribes and Tribal entities, including organizations incorporated under Tribal law and wholly owned by the Tribe, Tribal Section 17 Corporations, and Tribal utilities and authorities operated under Tribal law.

2) **My organization is not a registered 501(c)3 but uses a fiscal agent. Can the fiscal agent apply on our behalf?**

   No. Grantees may use sub-grantees to carry out work described in an application, but the grantee must be a 501(c)3 or Tribal organization. The grantee serves as the primary interface with CPUC staff and is also responsible for grant reporting. See the grant program Terms and Conditions for guidance, especially Grantee Accountability and Third-Party Rights provisions.

3) **My Tribe is a federally recognized Tribe. Are we eligible to apply?**

   Yes. California Native American Tribes, including all Federally Recognized Tribes and non-federally recognized tribes are eligible to apply. Proof of tribal status will be required with your application package.

4) **My organization is based within the jurisdiction of a publicly owned utility. Is it eligible for the E&A Grant Program?**

   Yes. The E&A Grant Program is paid for through the General Fund and there is no requirement that the applying organization be within an investor-owned utility territory. However, consideration to utility jurisdiction should still be considered when grant funded work will involve specific programs or initiatives that are restricted to investor-owned utility jurisdiction.

5) **My local government has a 501(c)3. Are they eligible to apply?**

   The Equity and Access Grant Program was developed for community-based organizations that conduct outreach and provide services to the local community. It is not intended for local governments or associated organizations. Local governments may be part of a collaborative with other applicants but cannot be lead applicants. Please contact grant staff at capacitygrants@cpuc.ca.gov to discuss a particular situation.

6) **If a 501(c)3 is active in California, but incorporated in another state, is it eligible to apply?**

   Yes.

Public Participation Grant Account

1) **When does the application window open and close?**

   The application window opened on Monday, September 8, 2023. The Public Participation Grant Account application will remain open until funding has been exhausted.

2) **Can I submit one application for multiple activities I participated in?**

   Yes. You can include the hours for more than one eligible activity on a single application package. You will be awarded for the total reimbursement amount for all eligible hours and travel indicated in your application.

3) **Is travel time compensated?**

   No, travel time is not compensated. However, there is a travel reimbursement available for up to $450 for eligible travel expenses (transportation, accommodations, etc.) per eligible activity. Applicants must follow all state rules, maximums, and rates on Travel Reimbursements - CalHR and submit a STD. 262A (ca.gov) Travel Expense Claim Form. Receipts must be provided for all travel expenses.

4) **Is there a limit to the amount of travel expenses I can claim?**

   Yes. The maximum travel reimbursement amount is $450 per eligible activity. Additionally, there are rates and maximum reimbursement for each type of travel expense, such as meals, lodging, and mileage. Please consult the rules on Travel Reimbursements - CalHR before submitting your application.

5) **Where can I get the travel expense claim form that I need to submit for my travel?**

   If travel was involved in the course of your participation in a CPUC activity, you must submit **Travel Expense Claim Form STD262A** to request reimbursement. This form must be included in your grant application.

6) **Does being present at a public meeting or speaking during a public comment session count as an eligible activity?**

   No. Participation within CPUC matters as a member of the public are not considered eligible activities for the Public Participation Grant. Only participation in an official capacity will be eligible.

7) **I was invited by the CPUC to participate in an activity that is not listed in the application. Can I still receive compensation for my participation?**

   Yes. Please select the "other" option on the application checklist and describe the activity you participated in.

8) **How do I know that the meeting I attended is eligible for compensation?**

   If you were invited by a CPUC staff member to participate in an activity in an official capacity on behalf of your organization, community, or Tribe, then you will be eligible for compensation.

9) **Can multiple individuals participate in eligible activities on behalf of an organization and be compensated for each participant's time?**

   Yes, as long as each individual has been invited to participate in the eligible activity in an official capacity.

10) **The Working Group I participate in provides compensation for my participation. Am I able to apply for additional compensation through the Public Participation Grant?**

    Simultaneous compensation for the same activities such as meeting participation is not allowed. There may be situations where a Working Group may not compensate members for other types of activities, such as participating in sub-committees. Those activities may be eligible for compensation under this

grant program.

11) **The Working Group I participate in provides compensation for up to a certain number of members. I don't receive compensation for my participation. Can I apply for a Public Participation grant?**

    Yes. However, you should contact the CPUC before applying to verify your specific situation.

12) **The Advisory Board that I serve on gets a small stipend that is less than what is offered by the Public Participation grant. Can I forgo that compensation and apply for this grant?**

    No, if there's an opportunity to receive funding from another source for the same activity, an applicant would not be eligible.

13) **My organization has received Intervenor Compensation previously, do we still qualify for a Public Participation grant?**

    Yes.

14) **My organization's Intervenor Compensation claim was denied, are we still eligible to apply?**

    An organization is not eligible to apply if their Intervenor Compensation claim was denied due lack of significant financial hardship. Otherwise, an organization would be eligible to apply.

15) **"Activity Invitation" is noted in three different instances along with another form of Proof of Participation. Does that mean that a meeting invitation that includes my name as a speaker is not sufficient?**

    A meeting invitation does not show proof of attending an event. In addition to an invitation, you must also provide an attendance log, a photo of you participating at an event, or a virtual screenshot of you or your avatar attending the event.

16) **I submitted my application over email, when will I hear back?**

    Applicants will likely hear back from CPUC staff within 14 days with an application status update.

17) **After my application is approved, is there anything else I need to do?**

    Yes, a completed Payee Data Record, STD. 204 is required for payment processing for the first grant disbursement. For subsequent disbursements, payment will be automatically processed. Any change of CBO/Tribal organizational information will require a new Payee Data Record, STD 204.

18) **Can an eligible activity be reimbursed through the Public Participation Grant retroactively?**

    Only if the activity took place during the grant period, which began on September 8, 2023, and as long as funds still remain in the grant account. Activities that took place prior to that date are not eligible.

19) **Do I apply for the Public Participation Grant before or after completing an eligible activity?**

    After. Participants of an eligible activity can apply to be reimbursed for their time and up to $450 for travel expenses.

20) **If I participate in multiple eligible activities, do I apply to the Public Participation Grant more than once?**

    It is possible to engage in multiple activities and apply just once or multiple times. An applicant may identify more than one eligible activity on an application or submit separate applications for each eligible activity. Please note that the grant account is "first come, first served" and waiting to submit an eligible activity may result in non-reimbursement due to the exhaustion of grant account funds.

21) **Are individuals representing an organization or the organization itself awarded grant funds?**

All award payments are made to the organization and only the organization's payee information will be collected by the CPUC.

22) If a member of our organization receives compensation for participation in an eligible activity personally, but the organization does not receive any compensation, are we ineligible to apply?

If the individual is being compensated as a formal representative of your organization, then your organization will not be eligible to be compensated through the Public Participation grant for the same activity.

23) How does an organization become aware of and get involved in an eligible activity? Where can I find a list of current eligible activities?

The CPUC's Daily Calendar lists day-to-day activities here the CPUC's Newsroom is also a good source of information here. The public may also read and/or subscribe to the CPUC's newsletter, Working for California, here. The public may also search the CPUC's docket, by clicking here and learning about the industries under the CPUC's jurisdiction here.

To be invited to serve an official role in eligible activity, please contact the organizers of boards, committees, panels, or groups that your organization could offer its expertise to. Ask when and how a member of your organization could become a member of that activity, and what the responsibilities and requirements of that role would be.

Opportunities may be posted on the program website at http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/capacitygrants, but it is recommended that potential applicants do their own research.

24) Can an eligible applicant recruit a community member to represent their community in a CPUC eligible activity and use the Public Participation award to compensate the community member?

Yes. However, all award payments are made to the organization and only the organization's payee information will be collected by the CPUC.

25) How long after participation in an eligible activity does an applicant have to apply to the Public Participation Grant?

Grant funds need to be allocated no later than June 30, 2025, and expended by June 30, 2027. As such, Public Participation grant applications will no longer be considered after April 1, 2025 to allow time for invoice processing. However, it is expected that the grant account will run out of funds prior to that date. As the grant account is "first come, first served", waiting to submit an application may result in non-reimbursement due to the exhaustion of grant account funds.

26) Is it possible that an applicant who completes an eligible activity is not compensated due to Public Participation funds being exhausted?

As the grant account is "first come, first served", an application may result in non-reimbursement due to the exhaustion of grant account funding. Funding awarded and remaining funds will be periodically updated online at: http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/capacitygrants.

27) Can I sign up to receive email updates on the Equity and Access Grant Program?

An Equity and Access Grant Program email subscription form for updates on the program can be found on the www.cpuc.ca.gov/capacitygrants web page.

28) Are there any activities through other state agencies, such as the California Energy Commission, that would be eligible for reimbursement through the Public Participation Grant?

Organizations will be compensated for participation in day-to-day CPUC activities only. There may be some scenarios where CPUC-related activities overlap with the work of other agencies. We will take

those situations on a case-by-case basis. Please contact capacitygrants@cpuc.ca.gov to inquire about your specific situation.

29) **Is it possible for my Public Participation Grant to be denied if I already participated in an eligible activity?**

An application may be denied for non-completeness, such as no eligible proof of participation or incomplete application coversheet. Staff will attempt to rectify incomplete applications with applicants. Applications may also be ineligible for review if grant funding becomes exhausted.

Equity, Engagement, And Education Grant Account

1) **When does the application window open and close?**

The application window for the Equity, Engagement, and Education (EEE) Grant Account opened on September 8, 2023, and closed on October 31, 2023. Cycle 2 will open on May 1, 2024, and close on June 30, 2024.

2) **When will the CPUC announce the awards for the EEE Grant Account?**

Awards will be announced 30 to 90 days after the closure of an application window.

3) **Is it acceptable to collaborate with another party to apply for the grant?**

Yes, if the lead applicant is a 501(c)(3) or Tribe. Collaboration within the project can be with non-501(c)(3) and non-Tribal partners or sub-contractors.

4) **My organization plans to apply for an EEE grant to educate the community on a specific proceeding and mobilize them to advocate for their interests. If we later realize we need to hire legal help, can we modify our grant to include legal help?**

Modifications to a workplan will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Please work with CPUC staff to get approval before making any changes. Please note that grant amounts will not be increased from the original amount stated in the Grant Agreement.

5) **My organization is well versed in CPUC decision-making processes but is statewide and does not focus on a specific geographic disadvantaged community. Can we form a coalition with a local organization and assist them in applying for the EEE grant?**

Yes. However, the lead applicant must be an eligible entity to apply. The lead applicant can then use EEE funds to employ subgrantees or contractors.

6) **The EEE grant allows funding for Education and Training, Network and Collaboration, and Resource Development. Are we restricted to choosing one of these focus areas for our grant application?**

No. You may develop a project that encompasses one, multiple, or all focus areas.

7) **Is it a requirement to use one of the community data resources mentioned in the "Project Need" question in the EEE application guidelines (CalEnviro Screen, Census data, etc.)?**

No, but the source must be credible and not anecdotal. Academic papers/studies and community reports published by local economic development corporations and community foundations could be used as sources of data.

8) **Do I need to identify performance measures and expected outcomes for each goal in my EEE application workplan?**

Yes.

9) **When proposed new staff is identified in our budget table, do I need to account for benefits and other overhead employee expenses in addition to salary?**

   Applicants should budget for any new expenses incurred for hiring a new employee.

10) **If my application is not accepted, is there an appeal process to reconsider my application?**

    No, all decisions are final. However, applicants may apply again during cycle 2. Please refer to Question 16 for feedback.

11) **Can EEE funds be used to procure a subject matter expert to train staff in ways to participate with the CPUC?**

    Yes.

12) **Does a 501(c)3 need to provide audited financials with their EEE grant application?**

    No.

13) **What are some examples of topic areas related to the CPUC that eligible organizations could perform outreach on?**

    It's important to assess the issues that matter to your community and examine which ones intersect with issues/industries under the CPUC's jurisdiction. Here are some examples of key topics: utility General Rate Cases, Wildfire Mitigation, Transportation Electrification, Building Decarbonization, High Distributed Energy Resources, Demand Flexibility and income-graduated fixed charges, Summer Reliability, Energy Efficiency, California Lifeline, Affordability, Ridesharing and New Online-Enabled Transportation Services, Railroad Safety, and Long-Term Gas System Planning. Applicants may also look at issues holistically, such as addressing impact of climate change in disadvantage communities or work to improve the California Lifeline program and expand broadband in underserved communities by coordinating work on multiple proceedings/issues that are related to these broader issues.

    This is not a comprehensive list. Please refer to the CPUC website and resources listed in this FAQ document for more information.

14) **Can EEE funds be used to educate and organize community-based organizations to educate and organize their communities to participate in the CPUC matters?**

    Yes.

15) **Can EEE funds be used for research that would later inform Intervenor Compensation-funded activities?**

    Yes. However, the same work cannot be funded by both the grant and Intervenor Compensation. Once grant funded work has been fulfilled, an applicant may use the final work product that was completed under the EEE grant to inform future work that is eligible to be compensated under Intervenor Compensation.

16) **If I applied for EEE funding previously and was declined, how can I improve my proposal to obtain funding for future cycles?**

    Please provide detailed information about the expected outcome of your project. Describe how your proposal aligns with the long-term goals and aims of your organization. Also ensure that each aspect of your project description is directly linked to the goals outlined in the **ea-grant-guidelines-112023.pdf (ca.gov)**.

In the "Project Narrative: Ability To Represent Community" section, you can provide concrete demographic statistics or case studies with citations on your target demographic.

In the "Project Narrative: CPUC Participation" section, be specific about the issues under the CPUC's purview that you would like to address. Reference specific proceedings that are relevant to the work you are engaged in currently in your community. Describe how an EEE grant would build capacity to expand efforts to amplify the voices of impacted communities before the CPUC on these specific issues. We suggest evaluating how your organization's current work and programs align with specific issues and/or proceedings before the CPUC. This page provides information about CPUC **Proceedings and Rulemaking (ca.gov)**.

If you cannot identify specific proceedings of interest to your organization at the time of application, you can still strengthen your application by mentioning specific issue areas under the CPUC's influence. Describe how an EEE grant would build organizational capacity to engage in those specific issue areas. Make a clear connection between the work you do now with issues under the CPUC's regulatory authority.

In the Work Plan and Budget, be detailed and carefully break down how the grant funds will be used and the timeline for completing your project. Ensure measurability. Try to provide concrete numbers for Performance Measures and be specific with Expected Outcomes. If awarded the grant, after project completion, anyone looking to evaluate your project's success should easily be able to identify if actual, tangible outcomes fall within a reasonable distance of your proposed Performance Measures and Expected Outcomes.

17) Will applications granted an EEE award be made public for review?

The organizations granted, brief summaries of proposals, grant amount, and the scoring of awarded proposals will be made public through a Resolution process. A table of grant award recipients will also be made available on our website after all grant agreements are signed or declined.

Clean Energy Access Grant Account

1) What is the date for the Clean Energy Access Application Webinar?

The webinar took place on February 7, 2024. The registration link and recording is available at: http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/capacitygrants.

2) When does the application window open and close?

The application window for Cycle 1 opened on March 1, 2024, and close April 30, 2024. Cycle 2 will be later in 2024 or early 2025. The specific dates will be published online when available at: http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/capacitygrants.

3) Can a 501(c)(6) apply for the Clean Energy Access Grant?

No. Non-501(c)(3) CBOs may not apply for any Equity and Access Grant, including the Clean Energy Access Grant.

4) Do projects have to serve underserved communities?

The Equity and Access Grant Program's general objective is to bridge gaps and connect Tribal and underrepresented communities to CPUC programs and processes. The MIP, SGIP, and TECH Initiative were chosen because of known barriers for underrepresented communities to access these programs. If your community does not fall under the CPUC definition of an underserved community

(see page 36 of the Grant Guidelines), focus more intently on the Project Need portion of your application and provide thorough reasoning for why the targeted community requires additional aid in accessing the chosen clean energy initiative.

5) **Can the CEA Grant fund activities have focused on CPUC programs, state programs, or clean energy opportunities other than MIP, SGIP, or TECH?**

No.

6) **How related must proposals be to SGIP, TECH, or MIP?**

All proposals must directly relate to and focus on one or multiple of the following three programs: SGIP, TECH, and MIP.

7) **Can a CEA Grant pay for work that has already been done before being awarded a CEA Grant?**

Any expenses incurred prior to the start date of the CEA Grant Agreement will not be eligible for reimbursement by the CEA Grant. Please note that while you can request a Grant Advance of up to 25% of your awarded amount, this is not meant to reimburse work carried out in "advance" of the Agreement start date. It is just upfront capital to help get projects started. Advances will be reconciled against actual costs before additional funding is disbursed.

8) **Do all project activities have to take place only after the grant is awarded?**

No. The CEA Grant can support ongoing projects. However, it cannot provide funding for activities that occurred or costs that were incurred before the Grant Agreement start date.

9) **Can applicants focus on more than 1 of the 3 clean energy programs?**

We expect most applications to focus on 1 of the 3 programs. It is possible for one CEA project to focus on multiple programs; however, the quality and depth of the application may suffer. We recommend that an entity submits separate proposals focused solely on 1 clean energy program.

10) **Do you have to apply for TECH, SGIP, or MIP funding *before* applying for a CEA Grant?**

No. The CEA Grant can fund activities at any stage of involvement in the 3 programs, such as activities that will help create a successful energy program application, that support execution of a successful energy program application, and/or provide education on energy programs.

11) **Do you need plans to apply to MIP, SGIP, or TECH at all?**

No. However, your Project Narrative will need to make a strong case for how your proposed work will directly lead to tangible benefits for the targeted community. This may be possible for TECH or SGIP, but MIP-related CEA Grant applications without plans for a MIP Grant application may not be as competitive.

12) **Can CEA Grants fund installation costs?**

No. CEA funding is to be used to conduct complementary, non-construction and non-installation-related activities only. It is important to note that grants from this account do not cover infrastructure build-outs, such as hardware or equipment.

13) **What type of expenses are typically involved when coordinating with Program Administrators on a clean energy program?**

Potential expenses that may arise include meetings, travel, consulting, and more.

14) If we apply for this grant for workforce training, do we also have to conduct education/outreach activities in the community in order to qualify for the grant?

No, although including outreach and educational programs for your target communities could potentially enhance your application. We recommend referring to the CPUC white paper released in October, "Advancing California's Workforce for a Clean Energy Future."

15) If applying for multiple grants, must the projects be in the same site location or a different site location?

Either is fine. For example, if you are interested in applying for a Microgrid Incentive Program (MIP) Grant in Los Angeles and also want to conduct TECH outreach in San Diego, this is allowed. However, it is crucial to demonstrate experience and the ability to administer projects in both communities.

16) Is it acceptable to collaborate with another party to apply for the CEA grant?

Yes, if the lead applicant is a 501(c)(3) or Tribe. Collaboration within the project can be with non-501(c)(3) and non-Tribal partners or sub-contractors.

17) Is formal engagement with CPUC required as a part of the deliverables?

While no formal engagement is necessary, it could strengthen your application.

18) Do we need a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with or letter of support from TECH, SGIP or MIP or collaborating organizations?

No. An MOU is not required. It *is* necessary for the applicant to submit two letters of support, but these should come from partner organizations or local community leaders that work in or are a part of the communities or populations that the applying organization intends to serve. However, it could be beneficial to explain how you are prepared for or experienced with coordinating with the program administrators or organizations involved in your project; this could include an MOU.

19) Is technical assistance available?

Unfortunately, due to budget cuts, we are no longer able to provide a dedicated CEA Subject Matter Expert. Please review our website for more detailed information on the CEA Grant, through guidelines, fact sheets, flowcharts, and webinar slides and recording. If you require any additional help, please do not hesitate to contact us at capacitygrants@cpuc.ca.gov. Technical questions on the MIP and SGIP are best directed to the Program Administrators. Please see the contact information for SGIP and MIP (PG&E, SCE, SDG&E). The CPUC provides oversight over the utilities; if you have trouble reaching the program administrators or getting an appropriate answer, please contact CPUC staff.

20) Since a CEA Subject Matter Expert will no longer be provided, would my organization be able to use grant funds to hire our own SME?

Yes. There are some tasks that might require the use of a subject matter expert or consultant. Make sure to justify the use of one and explain what areas of your project they will address.

21) Does it matter if you submit at the beginning or end of the application window?

No. Our staff will only start evaluating applications once the window has closed.

22) Does the maximum grant award of $500,000 apply per year?

No, the maximum amount that can be requested under the CEA Grant Account is $500,000 per

application.

23) Is SGIP restricted to only behind-the-meter projects?

Yes.

24) Have SGIP guidelines been updated to reflect the incorporation of AB 209?

June 28, 2023: SCE and the other Program Administrators (PAs) host the 2nd Quarterly Public Workshop for the Self-Generation Incentive Program (SGIP). The final presentations are available here. The agenda includes Program Metrics, Regulatory Updates, Measurement and Evaluation, SGIP Handbook Streamlining, and AB 209 Implementation Discussion.

25) The SGIP proceeding is involved with the Heat Pump Water Heaters that are administered by the TECH program. Which program should the CEA application be associated with for these funds?

It depends on what activities your project supports and in which program (SGIP or TECH).

26) Can a CBO take on the role of the Designated Applicant in the TECH program to help contractors and residents apply to the TECH program and submit claims?

Yes.

27) Does contractor training qualify as workforce training for the TECH program?

Yes. Our main priority is providing training for contractors. Additional information on this topic specifically for HPWHs can be found in D.22-04-036. For HP HVAC, refer to D.20-03-027 and D.23-02-005. Alternatively, you can visit TECH Public Reporting Home Page (techcleanca.com) for further details.

28) At what stage of the Microgrid Incentive Program can we apply for the Clean Energy Access Grant?

Any stage. It should be noted that any activities or expenses that occur before the start date of the CEA Grant Agreement will not be covered by the CEA Grant.

29) How many grantees will be selected for the grants?

The number of grantees will vary depending on the number of quality applications received. It is not uncommon for there to be far more applicants than grantees selected.

30) When will applicants be notified if they did or did not receive a CEA Grant award?

Please see the flowchart detailing the timeline. Staff will take 30-45 days to review applications depending on how many are received. Applicants will be notified 2 weeks later of staff's decision. However, those requesting over $200,000 in funding must also be approved via Resolution. The Resolution process will take 2-3 months.

31) If my organization is awarded a grant, will we receive exactly the amount requested?

Not necessarily. Staff may award amounts adjusted from the amount applicants originally requested. In this case, we will work with applicants to adjust their Work Plan and Budget minimally to match the adjusted grant award.

32) How long will it take to start the project after being notified of award?

Some awardees will need to adjust their Work Plan. Once adjusted appropriately, we will send out the

awardee package. Awardees will have 30 days maximum to review and return the awardee package. Within 2 business days, the CPUC will return the finalized Grant Agreement and issue a Notice to Proceed. Applicants must start their project within 6 months of the Grant Agreement start date and finish before the end date of the Grant Agreement.

33) How long will reimbursements for awardees take?

Once awardees submit all necessary cost documentation, disbursement will take approximately 5-6 weeks.

34) What commitments would awardees have?

Awardees must submit grant payment requests with supporting cost documentation in order to reconcile their grant advance and receive their grant award in installments during the duration of their project. Additionally, awardees must submit progress reports every six months, addressing specific inquiries from staff regarding tasks accomplished, difficulties encountered, and impact on the target communities.

35) What if we receive a Clean Energy Access grant, but we are not granted, given a rebate, or able to become involved for one of the three energy programs as we had planned in our CEA Work Plan? We would have budgeted expenses for activities that would be incurred if we had been selected. Do we have to return the grant funds?

Yes. We will work with applicants to maintain as much of their CEA project and grant funds as possible, but this is an unfortunate possibility due to the interconnected nature of the CEA Grant with these 3 clean energy programs. Work that was already completed is eligible for funding. Any part of the grant advance that can no longer be spent on CEA project activities must be returned. The rest of the CEA funds are disbursed as the applicant completes activities; if these activities are no longer possible, funds will not be disbursed.

36) Will small and large organizations or proposals asking for large and small amounts of funding be scored differently?

Resolution M-4868 established the scoring criteria for the CEA Grant and we must evaluate all applications against those criteria. Organizations of different sizes and proposals requesting different amounts will not be scored against different standards.