

Draft Requirements and Criteria for Fiscal Year 2023-24 Planning and Capacity Building Request for Applications

Summary of Public Comments

This document includes a summary of the comments received during the public comment period from July 30, 2025 to August 29, 2025, for the Draft Requirements and Criteria for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-24 Planning and Capacity Building (Planning or PCB) Request for Applications (RFA) along with the associated actions/responses from the California Air Resources Board (CARB) addressed in the final *Community Planning and Capacity Building Grants: 2025 Request for Applications* (RFA). Thank you to all who provided comments.

The comments received by CARB have been modified for clarity and concision and aggregated. If you do not see your submitted comments reflected in the aggregation, please contact CARB staff at cleanmobility@arb.ca.gov.

Note: If you require this document in an alternative format or language, please contact Violet Martin at (279) 842-9962 or violet.martin@arb.ca.gov. TTY/TDD/Speech to users may dial 711 for California Relay Service.

January 16, 2025

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I. Comments on Technical Assistance

Public Comment Received	Action/Response
<p>Tribes should be afforded more Technical Assistance into, through and beyond the grant phase as tribes have more of a learning curve but just as much need as any other community. Although Tribes are very grateful for being included in many of these recent grant opportunities, tribes have been left out these types of discussions and processes many decades' prior and have a lot of catching up to do. Having a grants manager come out and work with a tribe on writing a mock grant prior to submission and identify the key components and how to access additional information needed to create a clear picture of the need.</p>	<p>The final RFA expands and clarifies available technical assistance, including one-on-one support, Question and Answer (Q&A) sessions, and access to the PCB Administrator across the full grant cycle. While CARB cannot commit to all requested enhancements in the RFA itself, CARB acknowledges the importance of Tribal accessibility and will continue working with the PCB Administrator and Tribal partners to design Technical Assistance offerings that reflect Tribal capacity and governance considerations. Relevant updates appear in the Summary and Application Technical Assistance sections of the final RFA.</p>
<p>Technical assistance should include webinars, information sessions and one-on-one consultation.</p>	<p>The final RFA reflects this recommendation. The PCB Administrator will provide technical assistance through information sessions and one-on-one support. These offerings are highlighted in the Technical Assistance section of the final RFA.</p>
<p>Provide sample completed applications to guide first time Tribal and community-based applicants.</p>	<p>CARB cannot share completed applications due to privacy and confidentiality requirements. The final RFA includes expanded guidance on required components, scoring criteria, and application expectations to support first-time applicants. Guidance from the PCB Administrator may include support in this area—such as examples of strong responses or application walkthroughs—if requested and as capacity allows.</p>

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Public Comment Received	Action/Response
Expand office hours and one-on-one technical assistance beyond traditional work hours to account for small tribal staff and rural communities with limited capacity.	The PCB Administrator is available for one-on-one support and can provide individualized assistance to applicants. While standard office hours apply, the team is flexible and can accommodate additional sessions as needed, particularly for small Tribal staff or rural community applicants with limited capacity.
Offer pre-application workshops specifically for Tribal Governments, recognizing unique governance and administrative structures.	The PCB Administrator team will provide Tribal-specific technical assistance options. In addition, CARB will host dedicated Q&A sessions for Tribal applicants to address governance and administrative considerations unique to Tribes.

II. General Comments

Public Comment Received	Action/Response
Overall, program is well-structured. However, barrier may remain in understanding of grant purpose/applicability. Recommend changing title, intro, and descriptions. Suggest naming 'Community Capacity-Building Grant: 2026 Call for Applications.' Confusion on referencing RFA as 'Fiscal Year 2023-24' given it's now 2025.	CARB revised the title and introductory sections of the RFA to improve clarity and accessibility. The solicitation is now framed as the 2025 Community Planning and Capacity Building Grants RFA, with the Summary section explaining that funding comes from Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-24.
Recommend upfront overview page outlining grant opportunity - what it is, who may apply, eligible activities funded, amount available, support available, overview of application process, and how this grant fits into CARB's other clean mobility grants.	CARB incorporated a full Summary section at the beginning of the RFA describing who may apply, eligible activities, funding amounts, support available, and how this RFA aligns with CARB's clean mobility programs.

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Public Comment Received	Action/Response
Proposed text edits/additions to better clarify CARB mission, clean mobility initiatives and how Planning grants may lead to implementation funding, including infographic.	CARB incorporated several of the suggested text edits and added specific language describing how Planning grants support future implementation opportunities. The suggested graphic was not included for formatting and accessibility reasons.
More clearly state the goals of the program, including suggested language.	CARB incorporated additional language in the Goals and Objectives section, reflecting community and Tribal priorities and emphasizing transportation equity, capacity building, and readiness.
Recommend Terms and Definition to end of document.	CARB relocated the Terms and Definitions section to the beginning of the RFA for improved readability and reference.
Suggested text clarifications related to scope of work.	CARB strengthened descriptions of required deliverables (e.g., data collection plans, outreach plans, reporting) and aligned them with the Sample Scope of Work in the final RFA (Appendix A, Attachment III, Scope and Timeline).
Request for links to be added.	CARB added relevant links throughout the Application Process, Q&A Sessions, and Application Technical Assistance sections of the final RFA.
Should a minimum grant amount be identified for available funding?	No minimum amount was set, as CARB seeks to maintain flexibility for communities of varying sizes and scopes.

III. Comments on Eligible Costs and Activities

Public Comment Received	Action/Response
Should funding outreach and engagement efforts be prioritized/listed given Access Clean California (informally referred to as ACCess) funding?	CARB clarified that outreach and engagement related to scoping and planning are core eligible activities under this RFA. Access Clean California serves a different purpose.
Should implementation, e.g. proofs of concept, minimum viable product demonstrations, and other activities be listed?	CARB did not expand the RFA to list additional implementation activities, as Planning funds are designed for early-stage planning work. These activities may still be allowable if they support planning objectives.
Explicitly include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Cultural and Traditional Ecological Knowledge integration and to transportation planningCapacity support for Tribal environmental and planning staff who may hold multiple responsibilities within small governmentsTravel flexibility, including the possibility of limited out-of-state travel when required to coordinate with federally recognized tribes or regional inter-tribal associationsReconsider exclusion of childcare and ceremonial expenses, which are critical to ensuring full community participation in Tribal and rural contexts.	CARB incorporated many Tribal-specific considerations into eligible activities and costs (e.g., Tribal staff capacity, culturally appropriate outreach). Some cost categories (such as childcare or ceremonial expenses) remain ineligible due to statewide grant standards, but CARB recognizes their importance and will continue evaluating alternative options to support inclusive participation.
Flexibility for smaller Tribes on insurance costs and caps.	CARB reduced and streamlined the insurance requirements for all applicants in this RFA (see Appendix B, Sample Grant Agreement), compared to prior Planning RFAs. This includes removing or lowering certain coverage types and limits to better align with the scale of Planning projects. These updated requirements apply across all applicants, including Tribal Governments, to reduce administrative burden and improve program accessibility.

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Public Comment Received	Action/Response
Allow Tribes to apply their federally negotiated indirect cost rates consistent with federal grantmaking standards.	CARB significantly increased the allowable indirect cost rate for all applicants – from 15% in prior Planning RFAs to 30% in the 2025 RFA – to better reflect administrative and overhead costs. This change provides additional flexibility and support, particularly for Tribal Governments, small rural agencies, and other under-resourced applicants.
Tribes could really benefit from the community outreach and education portion, early-stage collaboration and partnership building, connecting clean mobility to housing, land use or public health.	CARB agrees that early-stage collaboration, outreach, and cross-sector planning are critical for Tribal Governments. The final RFA maintains broad flexibility for applicants—including Tribes—to design projects that integrate community outreach, education, partnership building, and connections to housing, land use, and public health. These activities are explicitly eligible within the Planning grant and may be incorporated into the project scope as determined by the applicant.
Food and beverages should be an allowable cost. The grant allows for meeting space rentals and supplies. Culturally, tribes provide food and beverages at every event, gathering, meeting, training, etc. For tribes, offering up a meal/snacks at an event are a cultural offering and many tribes located in rural areas lack the economic infrastructure to pay for these necessary extras when hosting a gathering.	CARB recognizes that providing food and beverages is an important and culturally grounded element of equitable outreach and engagement, particularly for Tribal and rural communities. While CARB does not have the legal authority to cover these costs with Planning grant funds, the RFA allows applicants to use optional resource contributions or other funding sources to support these activities. CARB encourages applicants to incorporate such contributions where feasible to ensure inclusive and accessible community participation.
Suggested language to account for increasing costs.	CARB added clarifying language to help applicants prepare realistic budgets and emphasized that required insurance and administrative costs must be included.

IV. Comments on Eligible Communities, Applicants, and Partnership Structure

Public Comment Received	Action/Response
Request for more specificity on map requirements and links/reference to mapping tools.	CARB added links and clarified mapping expectations within the Application Components section of the final RFA.
It appears that Community Project Description and Project Community Map can be combined to better demonstrate the overall intended impact.	CARB kept these as separate required components to maintain clarity for reviewers, but applicants are encouraged to align these sections to tell a cohesive project story.
Clarification needed on who must submit letter of support and commitment, lead applicants, sub-applicants, and/or just community partners.	CARB added the requested clarifications in the final RFA.
Most of California's tribes are located in rural areas and have the ability to make a huge impact when working collectively with local government in unincorporated areas. It would be nice if tribes could include the neighboring towns as partners and be allowed to access additional funding to include them as well.	Applicants may include neighboring communities and regional partners where beneficial, provided the Project Community meets eligibility requirements as set out in the final RFA. CARB also added clarifying language to the final RFA to maintain flexibility within statutory constraints.
Clarification needed on whether one CBO can submit more than one application as lead applicant	CARB added the requested clarification in the final RFA.
Concern with requirement that Tribal Governments execute limited waivers of sovereign immunity in order to participate as lead applicants. Please reconsider this requirement and consider alternative mechanisms to ensure program compliance.	CARB incorporated the suggestion and removed the limited waiver of sovereign immunity requirement from Planning grants under the final RFA, further reducing barriers for Tribal applicants.

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Public Comment Received	Action/Response
Work directly with Tribal Leaders, Tribal Organizations and the Governor's Tribal Advisor to design an alternative compliance framework.	

V. Comments on Review and Scoring

Public Comment Received	Action/Response
Suggestion to add relevant scoring criteria to Table 5.	CARB included an updated table linking application components to scoring criteria in the final RFA (See Table 7, page 27).
Clarify how "meaningful engagement" and "Sharing power with the community" will be measured for Tribal Governments, where community engagement maybe structured differently than non-Tribal contexts.	CARB added clarifying language acknowledging that Tribal community engagement may differ structurally from non-Tribal contexts and will be evaluated accordingly. This is located in the final RFA at <i>Appendix A, Attachment II, Narrative Questions.</i>
Recommendation to make criteria more granular, specific text suggestions.	CARB expanded the scoring rubric and added additional detail to the scoring criteria.
Clarifications requested on scoring entity and timing of Q&A sessions and when applicants will be notified.	CARB added clarifications to the Application Review Process and Scoring section and the Q&A Sessions section, specifying reviewer composition, final RFA timeline, and expected notification dates.