

The Resilient Communities Initiative

A Bay Area Coalition for Equity and Community Leadership in Resilience Planning

decision-making, execution and maintenance of the project. This includes job and skill training, and employment for project implementation and monitoring.

- Include language, such as, “Local Groups and/or Businesses of Color, encouraged to apply.”
- Include language encouraging collaboration.
 - Competitive applications should be inclusive of diverse groups with membership from churches, civic groups, public health groups, schools, child care centers, etc. To ensure that benefits to the community go beyond simple input and engagement, community leaders need to be part of the planning, design and implementation of the project.
- Structure the program to ensure that projects with community organizations or institutions, and that have clear, tangible and substantial community co-benefits are prioritized (not just as one in a list of many priorities)
- Throughout, clearly define “tangible and meaningful benefit” and “success” in relation to economically disadvantaged communities and their participation and long-term benefiting from the project.
- Scoring Criteria
 - Include a specific section about community engagement, process/partnership, co-benefits.
 - Define “success” in criteria III to include “co-benefits” to community, community participation in the project process, implementation, maintenance, monitoring and stewardship
 - Qualitative scoring - include a relation to environmental justice, community involvement and co-benefits.
- Grant agreements
 - Monitoring and maintenance - require community involvement, training and employment in project monitoring and maintenance.
 - Include community engagement and co-benefit in project evaluation and reporting requirements.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment on this RFP. While it is a rigorous effort, there are many improvements that could be made to the program going forward that would make more significant strides towards advancing inclusivity and equity in the face of climate change.

Sincerely,

RCI Coalition Members

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