

# EPA Community Change Grant Track II

## Information Session

Community Advisory Board  
July 24, 2024



Introduction

EPA Community Change Grant  
Information

Federal and State Grant Competitiveness

The Power of solid, legacy Community  
Engagement

Final tips & takeaways





# Introduction

- Michele Mora, Renne Public Policy Group, Grant Writing Associate
  - ▶ Over 16 years in interdisciplinary professional grant and technical writing
  - ▶ Over 10 years consulting for Federal, Department of Defense, State, Local, and Territorial governments
  - ▶ Over 10 years project management experience
  - ▶ Over 6 years working directly for local governments
  - ▶ Over 6 years managing Federal, State, and Local grants
  - ▶ Over 6 years supervisory responsibilities

# US EPA Community Change Grant



# EPA Community Change Grant

- Authorized by the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act creating the Environmental and Climate Justice Program
- EPA was allocated \$2.8 Billion to award grants to help disadvantaged communities address a wide range of environmental and climate justice issues and \$200 million for technical assistance
- This program will empower communities and their partners to design, develop, and implement multi-faceted community-driven projects.



# Information, Requirements & Deadlines

- EPA will accept applications through **November 21, 2024**
- Two Grant Tracks – Track I and Track II
- Track II – Planning / Meaningful Community Engagement
  - ▶ up to \$3 million in a single award, no match required
  - ▶ Period of performance: 3 years from award date
  - ▶ Technical Assistance is available
- 1 Lead applicant and at least, 1 CBO co-applicant
- If applying, then do so by September 2024





# Track II – Meaningful Community Engagement

- Eligible Activities
  - ▶ Educational and Training Programs
  - ▶ Environmental Advisory Boards (EABs)
  - ▶ Collaborative Governance Activities
  - ▶ Participation in Governmental Funding and Budgeting Processes



# Educational and Training Programs

- ▶ EPA Environmental Justice Academy



# Environmental Advisory Boards (EABs)

- ▶ Projects that facilitate the engagement of disadvantaged communities in environmental decision-making by establishing advisory councils, taskforces, or similar bodies to engage with government.
- ▶ EABs should include members from disadvantaged communities that can effectively represent important and relative perspectives (including Tribal, academia, youth / elderly / disability populations, government, etc.)
- ▶ Examples include permitting decisions for certain land uses, community infrastructure upgrades, zoning and siting guidance, etc.

# PLAN THE FUTURE OF SOUTH SANTA ROSA

## Join Santa Rosa's Engagement Advisory Committee

### Shape Tomorrow, Starting Today! Join the EAC!

✦ We are looking for 10 to 15 members to gather community & stakeholder feedback, discuss Plan options, and ensure the Plan represents the community. 🌈 We welcome a diverse committee! People of color, youth, renters, public transit users, homeowners, businesses, property owners, and shoppers are all invited. Role involves 3 EAC meetings, & attending Plan related events. Apply **NOW!** ✦

#### Help to Plan:

- Housing, parks, schools, libraries
- Community and health & equity policies
- Roads & transportation improvements
- Businesses & infrastructure growth



[SRCITY.ORG/SSRSP](https://srcity.org/ssrsp)

Questions? Please contact Amy Nicholson, Supervising Planner  
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SCAN ME

## Collaborative Governance Activities

- ▶ Projects that facilitate the process of providing recommendations and implementing decisions that will benefit disadvantaged communities.
- ▶ Jointly producing solutions with disadvantaged communities to identify and address environmental issues; obtaining multi-stakeholder meaningful feedback across multiple disciplines including those working in public health, housing, economic development, and environmental justice; developing solutions and implementation of the ideas with the necessary stakeholders.
- ▶ Examples include participating in the development of community agreements, creating a source water protection plan, and recommending organizational changes to government entities, etc.



# Participating in Governmental Funding and Budgeting Processes

- ▶ Community Advisory Board
- ▶ The City gives the public the opportunity to provide public comment about budgetary matters during its public process prior to approving the annual budget.

# Federal and State Grant Competitiveness

**ROBUST, FOCUSED, LEGACY COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**





# Does Community Engagement Matter for Grants?

**YES!!!**

- Unequivocally, YES!!!
- **Recent (last 3-5 years), focused** community support for a project to provide assurances the project will be used consistently, will be cared for and maintained by the community, not just the government entity,...in other words, a measure of return on investment.
- Public involvement and support throughout the planning, design, and implementation of the project(s).
- How the local government and public collaboratively manage issues and challenges—this all addresses and speaks to the strong desire of the community as a whole to unite to solve problems and implement desired project(s).

# Community Engagement Heavily Weighted...



- EPA's Community Change Grant - Track II Grant Scoring Criteria Summary
  - ▶ **Program Objectives – 35 points**
  - ▶ **Project Collaboration and Participation – 20 points**
  - ▶ Project Linkages – 4 points
  - ▶ Budget – 8 points
  - ▶ Environmental Results – 6 points
  - ▶ **CBO Experience and Commitment – 5 points**
  - ▶ **Programmatic and Managerial Capability and Resources – 16 points**
  - ▶ Past Performance – 6 points
- **Over HALF** of the points are derived from various elements of community engagement.



# Community Engagement Heavily Weighted in other grants...

- SGC's Transformative Climate Community Grant (Annual grant depending on Budget Allocation)
  - ▶ Implementation Grant Scoring Criteria Summary
    - ▶ Objectives and Vision – 45 points
    - ▶ Capacity – 30 points
    - ▶ Transformative Elements – 75 points
    - ▶ Projects – 50 points
    - ▶ Prohousing Policy Incentive – 5 points
  - ▶ **Over HALF** of the points are derived from various elements of community engagement.

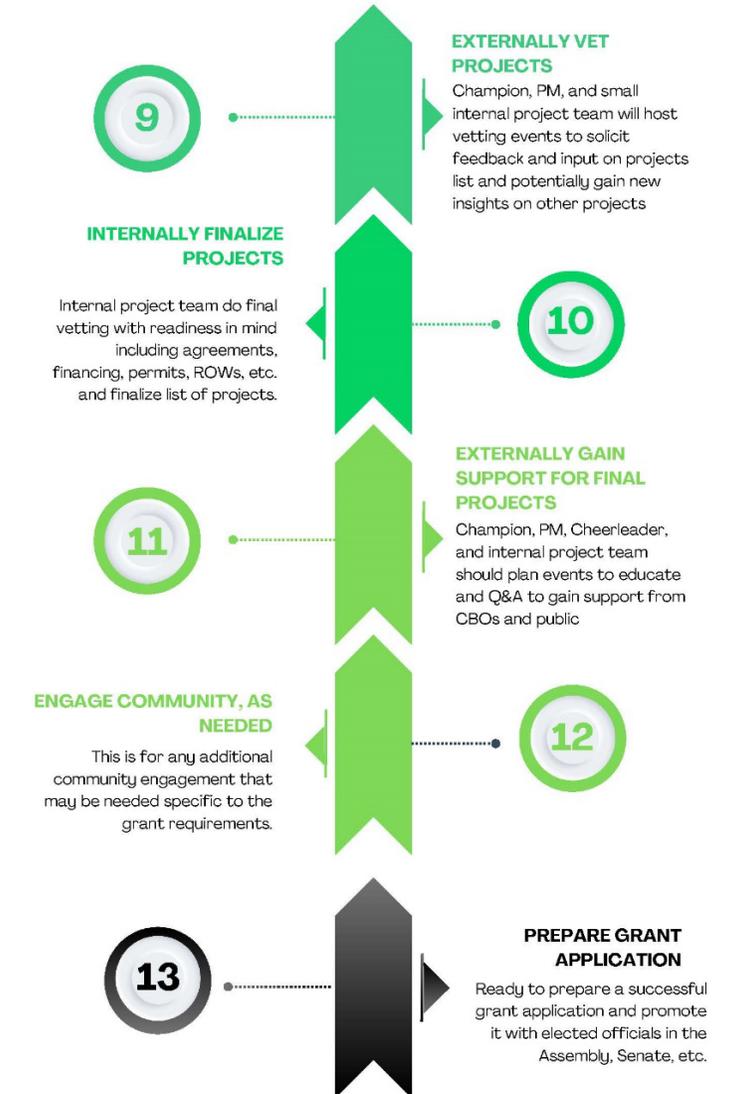
# EPA/ TCC Grants Roadmap

## Roadmap to be Successful in Positive Climate Community Change Impact



# Roadmap to be Successful in Positive Climate Community Change Impact *(continued)*

## EPA/ TCC Grants Roadmap



# The Power of Solid, Long-term Community Engagement

**SECURING SANTA ROSA'S FUTURE THROUGH STRONG, FOCUSED  
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**





# Why Solid, Long-term Community Engagement?

- Open exchange of information, ideas, and coordination
- Focused, informed, and persuasive community advocacy and support
- Transparent trust-building between local governments and the public
- Competitive edge for securing Federal and State discretionary funding (grants)

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IMPACT

Your ability to COMMIT and DEDICATE resources to ongoing, project-specific community engagement effectively will leave a lasting impact on the funder / agency / grant review committees, and your community

Effective community engagement involves not only delivering information but also resonating with the experiences, values, and emotions of the citizenry listening, especially vulnerable populations and marginalized / underserved community members



# FINAL TIPS & TAKEAWAYS

KNOW and UNDERSTAND grant requirements for community engagement

- ▶ How recent must community involvement be?

KNOW importance of community engagement to the grant?

- ▶ Review scoring criteria to understand the weight of community engagement
- ▶ Determine if there is strong evidence of recent, project-specific community engagement

UNDERSTAND timeline to carry out engagement

- ▶ Can additional engagement reasonably occur?

DECIDE to ACT and APPLY soon

- ▶ For this EPA Grant, should apply and submit application by September 2024

Ongoing community engagement

- ▶ Determine projects that would benefit from ongoing engagement for various grant opportunities

# THANK YOU



US EPA Inflation Reduction Act Community Change Grants Program

<https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/inflation-reduction-act-community-change-grants-program>

City of Santa Rosa

Points of Contact

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QUESTIONS?