



# San Diego Community Power Community Clean Energy Grant Program

## The Funding Opportunity

San Diego Foundation (SDF) and San Diego Community Power (SDCP) share a vision of a just, equitable, and resilient San Diego. The Community Clean Energy Grant Program creates a collaborative pathway for SDCP funds to be reinvested back into the San Diego community to advance a just transition towards a greener economy.

Together, SDCP and SDF, with support from Calpine Energy Solutions, will award funding to new and existing projects that move communities towards a healthier, more sustainable, clean energy future. Grants will be made to support local clean energy projects and programs that provide economic, environmental, and health benefits to SDCP's communities.

The Community Clean Energy Grant Program is expected to award upwards of \$1 million in grants, with grant sizes ranging from \$25,000 to \$100,000. Grant funds must be expended within 24 months from their award date. Grant funds may be used for personnel, supplies, equipment, capital purchases, administrative or indirect costs, and any other program costs tied to effectively executing the proposed project.

## Grant Eligibility

To be eligible to apply for the grant funding, applicants must meet the following criteria:

1. Applications must be led by a nonprofit with 501(c)(3) public charity status.
  - A 501(c)(3) public charity may serve as a fiscal sponsor for another applicant to administer the grant and provide regular financial reporting to SDF.
  - Any organization may be part of more than one proposal but may only serve as the lead applicant for one proposal.
2. Applicants must have proven experience serving community members through projects or programs.

**To be eligible to apply for the grant funding, proposals must meet the following criteria:**

3. Proposed projects or programs must serve SDCP customers (cities of Chula Vista, Encinitas, Imperial Beach, La Mesa, National City, San Diego, and the unincorporated communities of San Diego County).

4. Proposed projects or programs must be directly related to clean energy and advance one or more of the following focus areas:

- Increasing overall energy literacy of SDCP customers.
- Energy focused educational programming that encourages clean energy use, particularly for youth.
- Improvements in indoor and/or outdoor air quality related to electrification.
- Workforce development opportunities that support careers in the clean energy industry.
- Improved energy resilience to ensure communities can avoid, prepare for, minimize, adapt to, and recover from energy disruptions.

## Partnerships and Collaboration

We believe that intentional, strategic partnerships can be essential to maximizing the impact and value of this grant funding. As part of this commitment, we encourage applications with thoughtful collaborations and partnerships in place. Please be sure to demonstrate in your application how any partnerships and roles will be complementary and additive.

## Application Process

Applicants must submit all application materials using SDF’s grants management system—[Foundant](#). If this is your first time submitting an application through this system, you will need to create a user profile for your organization. For guidance on setting up your account and navigating your applicant profile, please follow this [tutorial](#).

## Application Technical Assistance

SDF wants all applications to be as strong and successful as possible. To that end, a pre-recorded grantseekers webinar providing an overview of the grant guidelines and application questions is available—[click here](#) to access it. If you have questions that are not answered in the pre-recorded webinar, or would like to set up a time to discuss your application with SDF staff, please reach out to [environment@sdfoundation.org](mailto:environment@sdfoundation.org) or call (619) 235-2300. SDF staff will be available to provide technical assistance throughout the application period ending on April 5, 2024.

## Application Deadline and Important Dates

All applications must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. PDT on Friday, April 5, 2024. If you encounter any issues, please reach out to [environment@sdfoundation.org](mailto:environment@sdfoundation.org) or call (619) 235-2300. [Click here to apply](#).

Dates	Descriptions
<b>February 26, 2024</b>	Application period opens
<b>April 5, 2024</b>	Proposals due via Foundant by 5:00 p.m. PDT
<b>Early June 2024</b>	Grant awardees notified and grant agreements executed

## About the Review Process

All applications will be reviewed and selected by a collaborative evaluation committee comprised of representatives from SDCP, Calpine Energy Solutions, and SDF. Evaluators will adhere to a strict conflict of interest policy and other internal controls to ensure that grant funding is distributed in an objective manner based on the merits of each proposal.

## Expected Reporting

Grant recipients will be expected to provide a progress report halfway through the project as well as a narrative and financial final report at the end of the project. These reports will serve to provide insight into project progress and an opportunity to uplift your stories of impact. Grantees will be expected to report on project progress, any adjustments to project, accomplishments, impact metrics, and challenges experienced over the course of the project.

## Evaluation Criteria

Each application will be evaluated upon the criteria below (out of 50 points).

Criteria	Description	Scoring
<b>Funding Priority Alignment and Program Design</b>	<p>Project/program is designed to meet community needs while advancing one or more of the following focus areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increasing overall energy literacy of SDCP customers.</li><li>• Energy focused educational programming that encourages clean energy use, particularly for youth.</li><li>• Improvements in indoor and/or outdoor air quality related to electrification.</li><li>• Workforce development opportunities that support careers in the clean energy industry.</li><li>• Improved energy resilience to ensure communities can avoid, prepare for, minimize, adapt to, and recover from energy disruptions.</li></ul>	20 Points

Criteria	Description	Scoring
<b>Feasibility</b>	Application demonstrates having the staffing capability, timing, partnerships, and applicable skills to successfully implement the project/program. Budget is within the allowable grant range and is reasonable for the project/program's scope.	13 Points
<b>Communities Served</b>	Project/program demonstrates a comprehensive understanding of the population to be served and focuses on Communities of Concern in SDCP's service territory.	12 Points
<b>Impact and Growth</b>	Project/program is impactful with the potential to be replicated and/or expanded to other communities in SDCP's service territory.	5 Points

## Frequently Asked Questions

### General

#### How do I apply?

All applications must be submitted via [Foundant](#) by **5:00 p.m. PDT on Friday, April 5, 2024**. If you encounter any issues, please reach out to [environment@sdfoundation.org](mailto:environment@sdfoundation.org) or call (619) 235-2300.

#### How much funding is available?

SDF anticipates granting upwards of \$1 million in this grant cycle.

#### How much funding can an applicant receive?

Grant sizes will range from \$25,000 to \$100,000. Grant funds must be expended within 24 months from their award date.

#### Who is eligible to apply for funding?

- Applications must be led by a nonprofit with 501(c)(3) public charity status.
  - A 501(c)(3) public charity may serve as a fiscal sponsor for another applicant to administer the grant and provide regular financial reporting to SDF.
  - Any organization may be part of more than one proposal but may only serve as the lead applicant for one proposal.
- Applicants must have proven experience serving community members through projects or programs.

**Are fiscal sponsors required to meet the applicant eligibility requirements?**

The fiscal sponsor must be a 501(c)(3) public charity but does not need to adhere to the other eligibility requirements.

**What regulations will the evaluation committee be held to?**

All evaluators will adhere to a strict conflict of interest policy, evaluation criteria, and process to ensure that grant funding is distributed in an objective manner based on the merits of each proposal.

**Program Design**

**Can organizations partner on multiple applications?**

Yes. An organization can be a partner/collaborator on more than one application but can only serve as the lead applicant on one application. The organization serving as the lead applicant will be responsible for receiving grant funds, upholding the grant agreement, any reporting requirements, distribution of grant funds to its partner organizations, and the overall use of grant funds.

**Do partnerships need to be in place before submitting the application?**

While any partnership can still be developed beyond the application period, it is highly recommended to have partners in place with clearly defined roles and expectations so that reviewers can appropriately assess and score your application.

**Can I receive support developing my application?**

SDF staff are available to provide technical assistance in an effort to ensure the applications received align with funding priorities and are strong candidates for funding. While SDF staff cannot provide explicit direction on program design, they can provide feedback to ensure alignment with the grant guidelines.

**What is a definition applicants can reference for Communities of Concern?**

SDCP defines Communities of Concern as communities identified by [California Climate Investments](#) (Assembly Bill 1550 and Senate Bill 535). These include disadvantaged communities identified by CalEnviroScreen 4.0 and low-income communities and households with incomes at or below 80% of the statewide median or below a threshold designated as low-income by the California Department of Housing and Community Development. SDGP also recognizes additional census tracts identified by member agencies as Communities of Concern. Currently, only the cities of [Chula Vista](#) and [San Diego](#) have identified additional census tracts through their Climate Equity Index reports. If other member agencies were to identify additional census tracts in the future, SDGP would recognize those designations under the umbrella of Communities of Concern.

**Budget and Financials**

**What can grant funds be used for?**

Grant funds may be used for personnel, supplies, equipment, capital purchases, administrative or indirect costs, and any other program costs tied to effectively executing the proposed project.

**What are 'Indirect Costs'?**

Indirect costs are overhead expenses incurred by the applicant organization as a result of the project but that are not easily identified with the specific project. Generally, indirect costs are defined as administrative or other expenses that are not directly allocable to a particular activity or project; rather they are related to overall general operations and are shared among projects and/or functions. Examples include executive oversight, accounting, grants management, legal expenses, utilities, technology support, and facility maintenance.

**Is there a required template for the budget?**

Applicants must submit a budget based off the template provided in Foundant.

**Grant Awards****When will grant awards be made?**

Applicants will be notified of their grant award by early June. In addition, the team anticipates making a public grant announcement in June. Please note that this is a tentative timeline.

**What happens to any remaining grant funds that are unused after the grant period ends?**

Unused funds at the close of your project must be returned to SDF. If your organization anticipates needing a grant extension or an adjustment of funding used, please communicate this as soon as possible with your SDF staff liaison to coordinate around any needed adjustments.