

Q&A Summary

Funding Opportunity CAG2024-4

Community Resilience Partnership Community Action Grant Program

Updated February 26, 2024

I see that applicant(s) should develop and track metrics, both for success of the project and progress toward long-term community goals. The [Maine Won't Wait Climate Action Plan](#) has a list of metrics the state will track, should the community need examples. I did find some general guidance, (case studies, best practices, lessons learned, peer to peer learning opportunities, equity assessment). Is there some other info you can point me towards, especially for strategy area "F"?

Community Action Grant funds support actions that reduce carbon emissions, transition to clean energy and increase resilience to climate change effects such as to extreme weather, flooding, rising sea levels, public health impacts, and more. Given the breadth of these actions, there are a number of ways to track metrics to measure whether these goals are being met. For example, if a community is interested in installing energy efficient heat pumps/LED lighting/weatherization/etc., an applicant could track the reduction in fossil fuel use and cost savings for the Town. Measuring resilience can be a bit more nuanced and specific to each community. For example, implementing a community education program on the impacts of climate change can increase resilience. To measure the reach of such a program, an applicant could report on education/outreach efforts completed, number of residents that were reached/engaged, new connections that were made, etc. Overall, GOPIF is interested in learning about how an applicant plans to track how their specific project is achieving the state's carbon emission reduction and resilience goals, and this can look different for every community.

Can CAG funds go toward funding non-municipal infrastructure such as school district buildings, nonprofit owned libraries and quasi-municipal sewer and water districts?

School districts, water and sewer districts, neighborhood associations, and similar entities are not eligible to be primary applicants but are encouraged to partner with a municipality or other eligible entity as described in Section 1.2 in the Program Statement. Based on this, the eligible entity would need to be the primary applicant and the non-municipal entity can be a partner, and the proposal must supply a detailed description of public benefit of the project and include a letter(s) of support.

What is the difference between a tier, 1, 2, and 3 community?

- **Tier 1:** Communities with populations less than 4,000.
- **Tier 2:** Communities with either populations from 4,000 to 10,000 or a [state tax assessment of less than \\$25 million](#).
- **Tier 3:** Communities with populations greater than 10,000 and [state tax assessments](#) higher than \$25 million.

Are applicants allowed to include vendor estimates as an attachment to supplement the budget narrative and table?

Yes, applicants are encouraged to include vendor estimates to show how proposed budgets were derived.

Could you speak to the standards for including additional materials beyond the program statement prompts?

Applications must be submitted in a single PDF file, including all appendices. The maximum attachment size is 20MB. Applicants may submit letters of support as part of the application appendices. These could be from project partners, key people in the community involved in the project, or legislative leaders. Applicants may also provide reports and/or vendor estimates that led up to the proposed project to give additional context.

Can a food bank partner with a Town to apply for grant funds?

School districts, water and sewer districts, neighborhood associations, and similar entities are not eligible to be primary applicants but are encouraged to partner with a municipality or other eligible entity described in Section 1.2 in the Program Statement. The application must provide a detailed description of public benefit of the project and include a letter(s) of support.

Can the projects proposed in a joint community application be different for each community or do they have to be on the same theme or set of actions?

Multiple communities may apply jointly for projects that address mutual goals and have interrelated scopes of work. See Section 1.2 in the Program Statement for more information on joint applications.

If a study is currently underway, does that study need to be complete before an applicant can apply for funding for the recommended actions?

A proposal must demonstrate the project need, which may be provided by a study. The scope of work must include specific tasks, deliverables, timeline, and budget. Once an applicant has that information from a recent study, they can apply for funds to implement those recommendations.

Are generators eligible?

Generators powered by fossil fuels are not an eligible activity. See the [List of Community Actions](#).

Are comp plans eligible?

Resilience planning efforts are eligible activities, such as conducting a community vulnerability assessment or a developing a resilience chapter that will be incorporated into a comprehensive plan. See the [List of Community Actions](#) for all eligible activities.

What can fire departments do with a community action grant?

There are many eligible actions that can be applied to fire department buildings and/or capacity. Examples include increasing the energy efficiency of the fire department's buildings to reduce carbon emissions, retrofitting a fire department building to be an emergency community warming/cooling center, or updating the local or county EMA hazard mitigation plan to address changing/future conditions and identify specific strategies to reduce vulnerability and increase resilience to climate change impacts.

Can funds be used for a sewer/septic study? If wastewater is polluting a river, can we use grant funds to help resolve that issue?

Grant funds can be used to conduct a climate vulnerability assessment to identify vulnerable community infrastructure and develop a capital investment plan that identifies vulnerable assets and prioritizes resilience in improvements. This includes improving drinking water, wastewater treatment, and stormwater facilities to reduce physical damage and sustain function during extreme weather events. A project focused primarily on pollution reduction and water quality may not align well with Partnership's climate resilience goals.

Can grant funds be used to address poor cell/phone service?

Grant funds can be used to conduct a vulnerability assessment to identify vulnerable community infrastructure, including communications infrastructure.

Would an emergency alert system for a warming/cooling center be eligible for the Partnership's action grant funding?

Yes, developing and implementing an extreme temperature emergency plan, including strategies that increase use of cooling center by residents, are eligible for grant funds (see action F14).

If our community partnered with another community to complete a joint project grant, would we also be able to apply for an individual grant as well?

Per the Program Statement a community may participate in no more than one (1) Community Action Grant application in a grant round.

