Frequently Asked Questions

Contents

1. **What is the date for the CEA-LAT Grant Webinar?**
   Answer:
   The webinar is scheduled for April 23, 2025. To register, please visit the following link: https://cpuc.webex.com/weblink/register/r0c56783530a3ab150652357503f4b06b.

2. **Who is eligible to apply for the CEA-LAT Grant?**
   Answer:
   Only California tax-exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code may apply for the CEA-LAT Grant. However, 501(c)(3) organizations operated by local governments or those operating as fiscal sponsors are **not** eligible to apply.

3. **Can a 501(c)(6) apply for the CEA-LAT Grant?**
   Answer:
   No. Non-501(c)(3) CBOs may not apply for any Equity and Access Grant, including the CEA-LAT Grant.

4. **Are there any restrictions on the types of 501(c)(3) organizations that can apply?**
   Answer:
   Yes. 501(c)(3) organizations operated by local governments or those functioning as fiscal sponsors are not eligible to apply for the CEA-LAT Grant.

5. **Is it acceptable to collaborate with another party to apply for the CEA-LAT grant?**
   Answer:
   Yes, if the lead applicant is a 501(c)(3). Lead applicants must do a majority of the work on the CEA-LAT Grant project. Collaboration within the project can be with non-501(c)(3) partners or sub-contractors.

6. **Where can CEA-LAT Grant projects be located?**
   Answer:
   The projects funded by the CEA-LAT Grant must serve residents of Los Angeles (LA) County exclusively.

7. **Is there any preference for specific geographic areas within Los Angeles County?**
   Answer:
   Yes, priority will be given to organizations that are located in, or directly serve, the Aliso Canyon Disaster Area (ACDA) and the San Fernando Valley (SFV). "Aliso Canyon Disaster Area" means the City of Los Angeles communities of Porter Ranch, Granada Hills, Northridge, Chatsworth, North Hills, Canoga Park, Reseda, Winnetka, West Hills, Van Nuys, and Lake Balboa. San Fernando Valley means Sylmar, Granada Hills, Porter Ranch, Chatsworth, West Hills, Canoga Park, Winnetka, Woodland Hills, Reseda, Northridge, North Hills, Mission Hills, San Fernando, Pacoima, Lakeview Terrace, Arleta, Panorama City, Van Nuys, Lake Balboa, Tarzana, Encino, Sepulveda Basin, Shadow Hills, Sun Valley, Valley Glen, Sherman Oaks, Valley Village, Studio City, Toluca Lake, and Burbank.

8. **Can an organization outside of Los Angeles County apply for the grant?**
   Answer:
   Organizations may be based outside of Los Angeles County. However, CEA-LAT Grant funding is strictly for organizations that will serve Los Angeles County residents. Organizations must be able to demonstrate their history of working with and serving the target communities and populations.

9. **What types of activities can be funded under the CEA-LAT Grant?**
   Answer:
   The CEA-LAT Grant will fund projects that advance the goals of the Commission's TECH Clean CA Initiative, which aims to accelerate the adoption of clean space and water heating technology through heat pump installation in California homes. The grant must include outreach and education related to building decarbonization, healthy homes, electrification technologies, and other related health impacts as these topics relate to TECH Clean CA Initiative. Grant project impact evaluation is also a required activity. Activities that enrich outreach and education, such as staff training, participant support, and implementer coordination can also be funded.

10. **What is the [TECH Clean CA Initiative](#) and how does it relate to the CEA-LAT Grant?**
    Answer:
    The [TECH Clean CA Initiative](#) is a statewide effort to promote the use of clean space and water heating technology, specifically heat pumps, to help California meet its carbon-neutral goals by 2045. The CEA-LAT Grant funds projects that educate about and promote the TECH Initiative, particularly the health benefits and building decarbonization benefits of heat pump technologies.

11. **What should be the topics of focus of applicant outreach and education efforts?**
    Answer:
    The program's outreach and education efforts will focus on the following topics in relation to TECH: building decarbonization, healthy homes, electrification technologies, accessing funds from the Aliso Canyon Recovery Account, and related health impacts.

12. **Can you provide more specific examples of eligible activities under CEA-LAT Grant?**
    Answer:
    Some examples of eligible activities include:
- Outreach and Education: Creating materials, organizing workshops, presentations, webinars, and community events to raise awareness about the TECH Initiative and its benefits.

- Staff Training: Training community-based organization (CBO) staff on TECH rules, health homes, building decarbonization, and related topics.
- Program Participant Support: assisting participants with the income verification process, providing guidance on incentives, and offering technical support.
- Impact Evaluation: Setting metrics, tracking outreach effectiveness, and preparing reports to measure and analyze program impact.
- Coordination with Program Implementer: potential expenses that may arise include meetings, travel, consulting, and more.

13. **How much funding is available for CEA-LAT Grants?**
    Answer:
    A total of $1.9 million is available for grants.

14. **How long should CEA-LAT projects last?**
    Answer:
    There is no required project length. However, projects must be completed by April 1, 2030, due to statutory liquidation deadlines and state invoicing processes.

15. **What happens if my application requests more than $150,000?**
    Answer:
    Applications requesting $150,000 or more will be reviewed through the Commission's Resolution process, which involves a more detailed evaluation by the CPUC and takes 2-3 months. Those requesting under $150,000 will undergo ministerial review for a quicker approval process.

16. **What is required for reporting and evaluation of the program?**
    Answer:
    Grantees must submit reports every 6 months. Reports will require both quantitative data and analysis of impact in the past 6 months. These reports are public records and will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the grant in achieving its goals. Grantees must also track costs and hours spent by staff by each task in their workplan as supporting document/proof of expense for their grant payment requests.

17. **What happens if a grantee does not report their progress?**
    Answer:
    Grant team will work with awardees to facilitate reporting compliance. If grantees fail to report their progress, the CPUC will track and present this information during their evaluations. The number and percentage of grantees who do not submit reports will be included in the tabulated results, alongside the remaining funds in the grant account. Failure to meet reporting requirements could result in the termination of the grant and affect future grant eligibility.

18. **Can the CEA-LAT Grant be used for infrastructure buildout?**
    Answer:
    No, the CEA-LAT Grant cannot be used for infrastructure buildout, such as purchasing hardware or equipment. The funding is intended to facilitate connections between eligible households and the TECH Clean CA Initiative, and to increase participation in equity communities.

19. **How will the application process work?**
    Answer:
    The CEA-LAT Grant program will accept applications in one or two cycles, depending on the quantity and quality of applications received in the first cycle. The application windows will be set by CPUC staff, and applicants must follow the application guidelines and timelines provided. Application selection will be competitive.

20. **Does it matter if you submit at the beginning or end of the application window?**
    Answer
    No. Our staff will only start evaluating applications once the window has closed.

21. **Is the CEA-LAT Grant competitive?**
    Answer:
    Yes, the CEA-LAT Grant Account is competitive. Applicants will be scored and ranked on their ability to effectively engage with their communities and facilitate access to the TECH Initiative.

22. **When will the CEA-LAT Grant begin accepting applications?**
    Answer:
    The CEA-LAT Grant will begin accepting applications on May 1, 2025 and remain open until June 30, 2025.

23. **How will the grant applications be evaluated?**
    Answer:
    Applications will be scored competitively by the CPUC against the rubric outlined in the CEA-LAT Grant Guidelines.

24. **How exactly will the Aliso Canyon Disaster Area and San Fernando Valley be prioritized for funding?**
    Funding will primarily support Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) serving communities in the Aliso Canyon Disaster Area and the broader San Fernando Valley—areas disproportionately affected by the long-term health and environmental impacts associated with the incident. Preference will be given to applicants that demonstrate a strong capacity to engage these communities through targeted outreach and education efforts that support community recovery and resilience.

    Projects that address needs in these areas are expected to score higher in both the Background and Project Need sections of the evaluation criteria. Final rankings will also be reviewed to ensure alignment with the statutory purpose of AB 157 and the intended use of Aliso Canyon Recovery Account funds.

25. **How long will application evaluation take?**
    Answer:
    The scoring process may take 1 to 2 months, depending on the volume of applications received.

25. **Will there be one application cycle or multiple cycles?**
    Answer:
    The Commission intends to allocate all funds in the first cycle, but the number of cycles will be

determined based on the quantity and quality of applications received in the first cycle.

26. **When will successful applicants receive the Grant Agreement?**
    Answer:
    Applicants who are awarded a grant will receive a Grant Agreement in the latter part of 2025. They must sign and return the agreement to the CPUC within one month.

27. **What are evaluators looking for when reviewing the Project Narrative and Supporting Documents?**
    Answer:
    Evaluators will review applications based on how well they address the following:

- Clear, Comprehensive Narrative: Ensure that your project's goals, needs, and strategies are explained in detail. A thorough and well-organized narrative will score higher.
- Alignment with CEA-LAT Grant Goals: Your project should align with the objectives of the CEA-LAT Grant, focusing on increasing access to the TECH Initiative and addressing underserved communities' needs.
- Impact Metrics: Evaluators will assess whether you've identified concrete, measurable outcomes for your project and have a plan to collect data and analyze it. Clear, quantifiable metrics show that your project is trackable and its success can be evaluated.
- Feasibility and Capacity: Demonstrating that your organization has the experience, qualifications, and capacity to implement the proposed activities is critical to scoring well. Include relevant examples from past successful projects.
- Strong Supporting Documents: Ensure that the workplan, budget, and letters of support are detailed, realistic, and demonstrate broad community support.

28. **How do I ensure my proposed expenses are eligible?**
    Answer:
    To ensure your proposed expenses are eligible, carefully review the CEA-LAT Grant guidelines and the specific categories of allowable costs listed. If you're unsure whether an expense qualifies, you can always reach out to the CPUC grants team at capacitygrants@cpuc.ca.gov for clarification.

29. **Are costs outside of the Grant Agreement term eligible?**
    Answer:
    No, costs incurred outside the Grant Agreement term are not eligible for funding. All expenses must occur within the timeframe specified in the grant agreement.

30. **How much of the grant can be allocated indirect costs?**
    Answer:
    Indirect costs that exceed 25 percent of the awarded funds are not eligible for reimbursement. Applicants must ensure their indirect costs stay within this limit to comply with the grant guidelines.

31. **Are there any other ineligible expenses not listed in the guidelines?**
    Answer:
    In addition to the expenses mentioned in the guidelines, other costs may be deemed ineligible during the application review process. Applicants should always refer to the full CEA-LAT Grant guidelines and reach out to the CPUC grants team at capacitygrants@cpuc.ca.gov for further clarification.

32. **How do I submit my application documents?**
    Answer:
- You may submit the application packet via electronic or paper submission. We strongly encourage electronic submission.
- For paper applications, make sure to staple the documents (upper left-hand corner) and follow the required formatting guidelines.
- For electronic submissions, ensure all files are named clearly and submitted via email as per the instructions provided in the guidelines.

34. **Do we need a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with or letter of support from TECH Initiative?**
    Answer:
    No. An MOU is not required. It is necessary for the applicant to submit two letters of support, but these should come from partner organizations or local community leaders that work in or are a part of the communities or populations that the applying organization intends to serve. However, it could be beneficial to explain how you are prepared for or experienced with coordinating with the program administrators or organizations involved in your project; this could include an MOU.

35. **If my organization is awarded a grant, will we receive exactly the amount requested?**
    Answer:
    Not necessarily. Staff may award amounts adjusted from the amount applicants originally requested. In this case, we will work with applicants to adjust their Work Plan and Budget minimally to match the adjusted grant award.

36. **How long will it take to start the project after being notified of award?**
    Answer:
    Some awardees will need to adjust their Work Plan. Once adjusted appropriately, we will send out the awardee package. Awardees will have 30 days maximum to review and return the awardee package. Within 2 business days, the CPUC will return the finalized Grant Agreement and issue a Notice to Proceed. Applicants are expected to commence work promptly upon receipt of the Notice to Proceed and must start their project within 6 months of the Grant Agreement start date in order to maintain their award.

37. **How long will reimbursements for awardees take?**
    Answer:
    Once awardees submit all necessary cost documentation, disbursement will take approximately 5-6 weeks.

38. **How can I contact the grant team for further assistance?**
    Answer:
    If you have questions or need additional guidance, you can contact the Equity and Access Grant team at capacitygrants@cpuc.ca.gov.