

DOCKETED	
Docket Number:	16-OIR-06
Project Title:	Senate Bill 350 Disadvantaged Community Advisory Group
TN #:	257780
Document Title:	Item 08 - Equity and Access Grant Program 20240719
Description:	N/A
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Organization:	California Energy Commission
Submitter Role:	Commission Staff
Submission Date:	7/17/2024 12:29:03 PM
Docketed Date:	7/17/2024



California Public Utilities Commission

Equity and Access Grant Program

DACAG Meeting

July 2024

Important Update

- Governor Newsom's 2024-25 budget reallocations include the defunding of the Budget on Equity and Access Program.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GRANT ACCOUNT

- The Public Participation Grant Account aims to foster greater participation by Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) and Tribes in the decision-making processes of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC).
- Individuals and organizations meeting the eligibility criteria received funding.
- Participants in working groups, panels, or focus groups received a compensation rate of \$150 per hour.
- The total funding amount available was \$100,000, with a proposed spending limit of \$15,000 per organization and a tribal reserve allocation of \$9,677.
- We awarded the grant to six of the eleven grant applications we received.
- As grant program was defunded no new grants will be awarded.

EQUITY, ENGAGEMENT, AND EDUCATION GRANT ACCOUNT (ROUND-ONE)

- EEE Account to facilitate, encourage and support organizations in their efforts to reach out and acquire technical support in engaging with CPUC's decision-making procedures.
- Applicants was required to demonstrate, through the application process, that their proposed efforts will involve educating and/or conducting outreach in an underserved community regarding a CPUC matter.
- Each application qualified for a grant of up to \$200,000.
- 47 applications were received, resulting in 9 awards totaling 1.5 million dollars from the 3.6 million dollars allocated in round one.

Continuation- EEE (ROUND-ONE)

- The nine awards will support advocacy, training and outreach efforts in the following counties: San Diego, Riverside, San Bernardino, Imperial, Fresno, Tulare, Madera, Kern, Stanislaus, Merced, Orange.
- Two tribes were among the nine awardees who received funding in the first round of the EEE round.
- Tribes aim to perform regulatory support, administer a stipend program for tribal involvement, conduct training sessions, and disseminate educational materials. plans to utilize EEE funding to establish an inter-Tribal partnership focused on improving energy sustainability, resilience, and affordability.
- Key focus areas include solar-related proceedings, utility rate cases affecting Southern California tribes, and the implementation of AB 2143 concerning prevailing wages for renewable energy projects with battery storage.
- As grant program was defunded no additional EEE grants will be awarded.

CLEAN ENERGY ACCESS GRANT

(March 1, 2024, to April 30, 2024)

- The Clean Energy Access Grant, one of three accounts, was established with the goal of promoting accessibility to three clean energy initiatives in underprivileged communities.
- Applicants are required to demonstrate how their proposed projects will improve access to, or educate people about, CPUC's clean energy programs in order to be considered for the grant.
- The Clean Energy Access (CEA) Grant Account, grants are offered up to **\$500,000** to support projects related to the CPUC's Microgrid Incentive Program (MIP), Self-Generation Incentive Program (SGIP), and Technology and Equipment for Clean Heating Initiative (TECH).

Continuation- CEA

- A total of \$5,790,400 was allocated, with \$721,488 reserved for tribal entities.
- 37 organizations from 17 California counties submitted applications seeking \$12.9 million in funding.
- A total of \$5 million in awards was allocated to 16 recipients out of 37 applications for the CEA grant.
- Sixteen organizations across California, including Los Angeles, San Francisco, and San Diego, received grants to support key areas: marketing, education and outreach, and customer enrollment assistance. These grants will help the organizations focus on workforce training, microgrid design, and program coordination.

The key focus areas include (CEA)

- Project connects disadvantaged communities to a clean energy program, offering energy resiliency, affordability, and improved environmental quality through on-site energy storage and reduced fossil fuel use.
- Project aims to promote local electrification by building partnerships, training a local workforce, engaging the community, and providing household-level support for accessing TECH incentives.
- Project educates and empowers underrepresented communities with energy efficiency measures. It promotes heat pumps, improves indoor air quality, reduces natural gas dependency, and integrates solar and storage solutions to lessen energy bills.
- As program was defunded no CEA grants were awarded.

Assessing Progress and Impact: Equity and Access Grant Program Status and Outcomes

- Due to the recent commencement of the project, there are currently no status reports or outcomes available.
- A grant agreement was signed with the awardees 6-8 weeks prior.

Reviewing the Program's Conclusion

- Equity and Access Program is defunded.
- No new awards, including CEA or EEE round 2, or any new Public Participation, will be granted at this time.
- The grant application portal is now closed.
- We will be focusing on executing existing EEE round 1 grant and managing those award recipients.
- The CPUC will no longer be accepting applications for the Equity and Access Grant Program, due to budget reallocations in the 2024-25 California State Budget.

Thank you!



California Public Utilities Commission

Questions? Capacitygrants@cpuc.ca.gov

www.cpuc.ca.gov/capacitygrants