

June 4, 2020

TO: All Interested Parties

SUBJECT: GRANT SOLICITATION FOR THE SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION
EQUITY PROJECT (STEP)

You are invited to apply for funding through the Sustainable Transportation Equity Project (STEP). CARB has up to \$22 million available to fund planning, clean transportation, and supporting projects for multiple grantees across the State.

STEP is a new pilot that takes a community-based approach to overcoming barriers to clean transportation. STEP's overarching purpose is to increase transportation equity in disadvantaged and low-income communities throughout California via two types of grants: Planning and Capacity Building Grants and Implementation Grants. STEP aims to address community residents' transportation needs, increase residents' access to key destinations (e.g., schools, grocery stores, workplaces, community centers, medical facilities), and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

This solicitation is open to community-based organizations, federally recognized tribes, and local governments interested in implementing community-driven clean transportation projects. Applications submitted via email, in person, or via a delivery service provider (U.S. Postal Service, UPS, FedEx, etc.) must be delivered to CARB no later than **5:00 p.m. (Pacific Time), Monday, August 31, 2020**. The grant solicitation and all associated documents can be found on CARB's webpage at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/aqip/solicitations.htm>.

Please note that these funding amounts are not guaranteed and are subject to change. The final funding amount will be determined through a public work group meeting during the solicitation period and the resulting determination will be posted on CARB's website. For future information about the public work group meeting, see: <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/programs/low-carbon-transportation-investments-and-air-quality-improvement-program/low-0>

CARB will hold four Grant Applicant Teleconferences, at which time staff will be available to answer questions potential applicants' questions regarding eligibility thresholds, proposal components, solicitation processes, and anything else related to the current STEP solicitation. The first and final teleconferences will be open to applicants of both the STEP Planning and Capacity Building Grant and the STEP Implementation Grant. Please see details for Grant Applicant Teleconferences below:

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First Applicant Teleconference:

Date: June 30, 2020
Time: 3:00 pm
Webinar registration:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3438438249644849933>

Mid-solicitation Planning and Capacity Building Grant Applicant Teleconference:

Date: July 22, 2020
Time: 10:00 am
Webinar registration:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6139653545578850573>

Mid-solicitation Implementation Grant Applicant Teleconference:

Date: July 22, 2020
Time: 2:00 pm
Webinar registration:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5244172793011062285>

Final Applicant Teleconference:

Date: August 13, 2020
Time: 3:00 pm
Webinar registration:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1793756870980326669>

The questions and answers from the Grant Applicant Teleconferences and any questions received via email will be posted on the CARB website at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/aqip/solicitations.htm>. CARB may collect questions via email; however, staff will only respond to questions regarding this solicitation during the Grant Applicant Teleconferences. In addition, CARB will not respond to questions after the final teleconference has taken place.

Background

STEP is a new pilot project within Low Carbon Transportation Investments and is part of the Fiscal Year 2019-20 Low Carbon Transportation Funding Plan approved by the Board in October 2019. Low Carbon Transportation Investments is part of California

Climate Investments, a statewide initiative that puts billions of Cap-and-Trade dollars at work reducing greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening the economy, and improving public health and the environment – particularly in disadvantaged communities. Low Carbon Transportation Investments also includes other pilot projects, such as the Clean Mobility Options voucher pilot, which funds smaller-scale shared mobility projects.

Based on environmental justice principles, STEP funds projects that are priorities for historically under-served and over-burdened residents by requiring that projects center the knowledge and expertise of residents through all phases of project design, implementation, and evaluation. STEP has the flexibility to fund many different types of projects to ensure that STEP funds can help meet the needs of each community within that community's context.

- STEP has up to \$2 million available for **planning and capacity building grants** to help identify community resident's transportation needs and prepare to implement clean transportation and supporting projects.
- STEP has up to \$20 million available for one to three **implementation grants** to fund clean transportation and supporting projects. Funded projects will work together to increase community residents' access to and use of their transportation system without a personal vehicle. For example, one grant may fund a variety of clean transportation and supporting projects, including but not limited to zero-emission buses, a new vanpool service, bike and pedestrian paths, transit passes, parking management strategies, and an outreach and education campaign to encourage active transportation.

STEP supports the goals of Senate Bill (SB) 1275 (De León, Chapter 530, Statutes of 2014) for prioritizing low- and zero-carbon transportation alternatives; SB 375 (Steinberg, Chapter 728, Statutes of 2008) for reducing greenhouse gas emissions through more integrated transportation, housing, and land use planning; and SB 350 (De León, Chapter 547, Statutes of 2015) for overcoming barriers for low-income consumers and disadvantaged communities to access clean transportation options. Disadvantaged and low-income communities are identified per Assembly Bill 1550 (Gomez, Chapter 369, Statutes of 2016).

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Contact

If you have any questions regarding STEP, please contact Bree Swenson, Air Pollution Specialist, by email at step@arb.ca.gov. Staff will answer your questions during the Grant Applicant Teleconferences.

Special Accommodations

If you require a special accommodation or need this document in an alternate format (i.e., Braille, large print) or another language, please contact Ms. Stella Ling-Taylor, Air Pollution Specialist, at (916) 322-6369 or by email at stella.lingtaylor@arb.ca.gov as soon as possible, but no later than ten business days before the scheduled meeting. TTY/TDD/Speech to Speech users may dial 711 for the California Relay Service.

Consecuente con la sección 7296.2 del Código de Gobierno de California, una acomodación especial o necesidades lingüísticas pueden ser suministradas paracualquiera de los siguientes:

- Un intérprete que esté disponible en la audiencia.
- Documentos disponibles en un formato alternativo u otro idioma.
- Una acomodación razonable relacionados con una incapacidad.

Para solicitar estas comodidades especiales o necesidades de otro idioma, por favor llame a la oficina del Consejo al (916) 324-0342 o envíe un fax a (916) 327-8524 lo más pronto posible, pero no menos de 10 días de trabajo antes del día programado para la audiencia del Consejo. TTY/TDD/Personas que necesiten este servicio pueden marcar el 711 para el Servicio de Retransmisión de Mensajes de California.

Sincerely,

/s/

Jennifer Gress, Chief
Sustainable Transportation and Communities Division

cc: Bree Swenson
Air Pollution Specialist
Sustainable Transportation and Communities Division