

Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy

Climate Resilience & Community Access Grant Program



Request for Proposals

No. CRCA-01

November 8, 2021

Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy
73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 112
Palm Desert, CA 92260
(760) 776-5026
www.cvmc.ca.gov

The Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy ("Conservancy") is pleased to announce the launch of its Climate Resiliency & Community Access Grant Program ("Program"). Proposals for projects that best fulfill the objectives and criteria of the Program and the relevant portions of the Conservancy's 2020-2025 Strategic Plan ("Strategic Plan") will be accepted until 5 p.m. on February 11, 2022.

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants include state and local public entities, nonprofit organizations and Indian tribes within the Coachella Valley or its surrounding mountains.

Program Objectives

The Program seeks to invest in the local conservation community by creating new programs or developing organizational or agency capacity to:

1. Enhance desert resilience to climate change and foster conservation of the desert as a carbon sink;
2. Promote equity in access to outdoor recreation throughout the Valley; or
3. Improve natural resources management on existing conservation lands.

Further details on these objectives can be found in Goals 2, 4 and 5 of the Strategic Plan.

Methods

- Use of the funds is NOT limited to capital improvements, so projects should address existing needs that the Conservancy historically has not been able to fund, such as:
 - Planning or designing new programs;
 - Developing or expanding staff capacity and expertise;
 - Creating sustainable land management methods and programs;
 - Devising and implementing public educational programs; and
 - Undertaking outreach to underserved parts of the Valley and especially economically disadvantaged communities.

- Projects should have an investment focus and build for the future by:
 - Developing or incubating capacity and expertise in local conservation community agencies and nonprofits;
 - Creating new programs that will be competitive for funding from other sources in future; or
 - Establishing a change in community behavior or attitudes toward open space that will continue after the grant work is complete.
- Preference for innovative projects that:
 - Promote or apply emerging climate change research;
 - Reflect environmental justice principles and demonstrate cultural competence and relevance to historically underserved communities; or
 - Enhance equity in access to conservation and recreation amenities for economically disadvantaged populations.
- Capital projects that are eligible for Conservancy Proposition 1, 68 or 84 grants should not apply for this Program.

Other Limitations:

- Total amount of funding available is \$2.5 million.
- Minimum grant amount \$100,000; maximum \$400,000.
- Grant term up to 24 months.
- While there is no minimum requirement, use of matching funds to leverage the effectiveness of Conservancy funds is encouraged.

Application Process and Deadlines

Complete the Application for Local Assistance Grant with its exhibits (see attached) and submit it, together with a Project Narrative (of no more than ten pages) that addresses the following:

1. **Project Description.** Explain the work or activities to be undertaken with the grant funds.

2. **Service Area/Location.** Describe or show on a map what parts or communities in the Coachella Valley will be served by the project.
3. **Schedule.** Include a chart setting forth the proposed schedule. Explain why you think it is feasible and identify significant milestones or time periods required for each stage.
4. **Budget and Cost Effectiveness.** Include a table the details funding by quarter and purpose of expenditure. Explain any other sources of funds. Describe any use of subcontractors, conservation corps, volunteers or similar resources. Include any matching funds or in-kind contributions.
5. **Organizational Capacity.** Describe the applicant's staff capacity and record of accomplishing similar projects, highlight achievements related to climate resiliency or community outreach. To the extent the grant is being sought to build or enhance organizational capacity, explain how you believe that will occur.
6. **Benefits to Underserved Communities.** If applicable, explain how the project will serve disadvantaged communities, severely disadvantaged communities or areas otherwise documented to be underserved by outdoor access or recreational amenities. Projects that will serve, a disadvantaged or severely disadvantaged community as defined by [CalEnviroScreen 3.0 tool](#) should document that in their application.
7. **Environmental Review.** If you have considered whether the project or qualifies for exemption under CEQA or has already been subject to environmental review for a larger project, provide the relevant exemption or project information.
8. **Sustainability.** Describe how the project or program provides an investment that will contribute to the ongoing achievement of the Program objectives described above.
9. **Project Support.** Describe support anticipated from interested stakeholders, such as public agencies, nonprofit organizations, community groups, local businesses or landowners.
10. **Justification.** Explain how the project will further the objectives of the Program and Strategic Plan.

Please submit the application and narrative electronically to jkarpiak@cvmc.ca.gov no later than 5 p.m. on February 11, 2022. Earlier submissions are encouraged to allow staff to begin review so that all applications can be considered by the Conservancy board at its meeting on March 7, 2022. Funding decisions will be made in the discretion of the

Conservancy board. If funding remains after the board considers responses to this RFP, the Conservancy will issue an additional RFP or RFPs. Successful applicants will be required to enter into a grant agreement with the Conservancy that requires them to comply with applicable Program and state law requirements. applications will be accepted so long as appropriations for the Grant Program remain available.

Further Information

If you have questions, please contact Jim Karpiak, CVMC Executive Director at (760) 776-5026 or jkarpiak@cvmc.ca.gov.



State of California - The Resources Agency
COACHELLA VALLEY MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY

APPLICATION FOR LOCAL ASSISTANCE GRANT (CRCA Grant Program)

PROJECT NAME:

AMOUNT OF GRANT REQUESTED

ESTIMATED TOTAL PROJECT COST

GRANT APPLICANT (agency and address, include zip code)

COUNTY: Riverside

PROJECT LOCATION OR SERVICE AREA

SENATE DISTRICT
NO.

ASSEMBLY DISTRICT
NO.

GRANT APPLICANT'S REPRESENTATIVE
AUTHORIZED IN RESOLUTION

TITLE

PHONE

PERSON WITH DAY-TO-DAY RESPONSIBILITIES FOR
PROJECT IF DIFFERENT FROM AUTHORIZED
REPRESENTATIVE

TITLE

PHONE

SUMMARY PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Communities to be served by Project: _____

Identify any economically disadvantaged areas that will benefit from the Project: _____

I certify that the information contained in this project application form, including required attachments, is accurate.

SIGNED

Grant Applicant's Authorized Representative

DATE

, 20__

CERTIFICATION

Applicant possesses legal authority to apply for the grant, and to implement the proposed project described in the project proposal submitted to the Conservancy. A resolution, motion or similar action has been duly adopted or passed as an official act of the applicant's governing body authorizing the filing of the application, including all understandings and assurances contained therein, and directing and authorizing the person identified as the official representative of the applicant to act in connection with the application and to provide such additional information as may be required.

Applicant will cause the project to be implemented in accordance with the schedule, budget and conditions contained in its grant proposal.

Applicant will give the Conservancy's authorized representative access to and the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents related to the grant.

Applicant will comply where applicable with provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act and the California Relocation Assistance Act, any other state, and/or local laws, and/or regulations.

Applicant provides the foregoing assurances as witnessed by the signature of applicant's authorized representative below.

Name, Title

Date