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CLIMATE AND EQUITY GRANT PROGRAM

August 13, 2024

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UConn



Housekeeping

- This webinar is being recorded. The recording and slides will be available afterward on CIRCA's website.
- The chat is public record. Please be respectful and avoid off-topic conversations.
- Please be sure to stay on mute.
- If we encounter a disruption and need to restart the meeting, you will be able to use the same link to re-enter.

Overview

- Welcome and housekeeping
- Background information
- Purpose and Eligibility
- Funding amounts and optional participation add-on to support engagement in state planning
- Eligible costs and project examples
- Deliverables
- How to apply
- Application evaluation
- Logistics and timeline
- Additional resources
- Questions

Background Information: Origins of the Climate & Equity Grant Program

Recommendation #1 from the Governor's Council on Climate Change Phase I Report:

"Develop and identify funding for a community engagement strategy to inform the 2021 GC3 planning process and implementation, including support in the form of grants for partnering community-based, non-governmental organizations to design the community engagement process, receive training, and co-develop recommendations to ensure meaningful input and equitable approaches to mitigation and adaptation."

- CIRCA/DEEP partnership
- Pilot round in 2023, funded 6 projects
- This is now the second round

Background Information: Grant Advisory Committee

- Mark Mitchell, MD, MPH, Associate Prof. of Climate Change, Energy & Environmental Health Equity at George Mason University; Co-chair of the CT Equity and Environmental Justice Advisory Council (CEEJAC)
- Hermia Delaire, MS, Disaster Recovery Program Manager for the CT Department of Housing
- David Embrick, PhD, Associate Prof. of Sociology & Africana Studies at UConn; Director of CT Center for Research on Resilient Cities, Racism, & Equity
- Edith Pestana, MS, MPH, Administrator for DEEP's Environmental Justice Program
- Sarah Huang, PhD, Director of DEEP's Office of Equity & Environmental Justice
- Bessie Wright, EPA Region 1 Program Coordinator for Long Island Sound Study
- Jennifer O'Brien, Program Director for Community Foundation of Eastern CT
- Ellen Carter, MPA, Vice President of Program, for the CT Health Foundation

Background Information: How does the Climate & Equity Grant Program fit into the larger state funding picture?

There are multiple climate-related funding programs in Connecticut, all of which are pushing in the same direction and guided by the directives of the Governor's Council on Climate Change.

Key characteristics of the Climate & Equity Grant Program:

- Program focus on community-based organizations, tribal governments, and tribal organizations
- Program focus on building capacity in vulnerable communities for climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Open to smaller projects
- Administered by CIRCA through UConn

Purpose of the Climate & Equity Grant Program

To fund projects that increase the capacity of vulnerable communities to mitigate, plan for, and respond to climate change impacts.



What do we mean by “vulnerable community”?

Populations that may be disproportionately impacted by the effects of climate change, including, but not limited to the following:

- Low- and moderate-income communities,
- Environmental justice communities
- Communities eligible for community reinvestment
- Populations with increased risk and limited means to adapt to the effects of climate change, including:
 - Communities of color
 - Children and seniors
 - Low-income communities
 - People with disabilities
 - Pregnant people
 - People with Limited English Proficiency (LEP)
 - Other historically disadvantaged people
 - People impacted by the social determinants of health
 - Populations identified by the American Public Health Association
- Or as further defined in consultation with community representatives

What do we mean by “increase the capacity”?

Capacity-building activities are activities that will help an organization become more effective at achieving its mission and sustaining its work into the future – such as supporting staff time, providing training or other skills development to staff members or volunteers, collaborating with other organizations and network-building, etc.

These are all allowable expenses under this grant program, as long as they are associated with a larger goal of empowering vulnerable communities to mitigate, plan for, and respond to climate change impacts.

Eligibility

Community-based organizations (CBO), tribal organizations, and tribal governments are eligible to apply to this grant program.

Community-Based Organization (CBO) - a private non-profit (incorporated or unincorporated) or for-profit organization that...

... is aimed at making desired improvements to a community's social health, wellbeing, and overall functioning

... is representative of a community or significant segments of a community,

... provides services to individuals in the community based on input from community members, and

... has existing relationships within a community prior to the start of the grant.

Community-based organizations may be 501(c)3 organizations, religious organizations, neighborhood revitalization groups, and other non-governmental organizations.

Funding Amounts

Track 1 (Small Grants): \$2,000 - \$9,999

Track 2 (Large Grants): \$10,000 - \$50,000

CIRCA expects to award \$200,000 total for this year's program.

There is no match required.

Optional Participation Add-on

The ***optional participation add-on*** is an extra amount of funding that applicants can choose to add onto their project budget to support their organization's participation in state planning meetings (GC3, CEEJAC, etc.). Applicants who choose the optional participation add-on will receive a bonus +2 points on their application evaluation rubric.

Applicants may choose (on top of the project award):

- \$2,500 (5 meetings) add-on ***or***
- \$5,000 (10 meetings) add-on

What Types of Projects Can Be Funded?

Planning, capacity-building, or education projects that advance community-scale climate adaptation and/or climate mitigation efforts.

By “community-scale project”, we mean a project that is rooted in a specific place – this place could be a neighborhood, a school, the service area of a CBO, tribal lands, etc. – and that involves a group of people with a shared concern or need. Importantly, input and involvement from community members should be central to the project.

All proposed projects should include at least one well-defined and measurable goal.

Examples of Eligible Costs

- Staff time / salary
- Materials / supplies
- Food for community events
- Travel expenses
- Participation incentives for community engagement
- Stipends to partnering CBOs
- Indirect admin costs (up to 10% of total grant request)

More project examples are listed in our FAQ document.

Examples of Eligible Projects

- Develop a climate action or climate resilience plan
- Participate in training for climate planning, mitigation, or adaptation
- Participate in GC3 or other climate-related planning initiatives
- Community outreach, education, and awareness campaigns
- Outreach to connect community members to existing resources for climate adaptation and/or mitigation activities
- Build-a-bike workshops and other projects to increase carbon-neutral mobility
- Develop a proposal to seek additional funds, such as a state or federal grant.

Deliverables

- Brief final report at the end of the grant period summarizing project activities and outcomes as well as a brief account of project expenditures.
- Additional grantee deliverables will vary by project and should be indicated in the project work plan.
- Examples may include completed community climate action or resilience plans, workshops, presentations of lessons learned and next steps, etc.
- Grantees who choose the optional add-on funding for participation in state planning meetings should include a record of attendance at these meetings in their final report.

How to Apply

Deadline: September 30th at 5pm

Connecticut Institute for Resilience & Climate
Adaptation (CIRCA)

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Climate and Equity Grant Program

Overview of Climate and Equity Grant Program – Now Open for 2024

[Español](#)

In collaboration with CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), the Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation (CIRCA) requests grant proposals for projects that increase the capacity of vulnerable communities to mitigate, plan for, and respond to climate change impacts. This funding supports the recommendations of the Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3).

This grant program is open to community-based organizations, tribal governments, and tribal organizations. Funds can be used for planning, capacity-building, or education projects that advance community-scale climate adaptation and/or climate mitigation efforts. Applications close September 30th, 2024.

A webinar about this grant program will be held on August 13th, 2024 from 12 pm - 1 pm, with a recording available afterward. [Register for the webinar here.](#)

Full Request for Applications and Helpful Documents

To read or download the full Request for Applications, which contains more detailed information on program goals, eligible project activities, application evaluations, and more, please click the button below.

[Climate and Equity Request for Applications](#)

Questions? Check out our FAQ document below:

[Climate and Equity FAQ](#)

Working on your application and want to know more about what we're looking for in each section of the application? Below you can find an explainer document walking you through the application, a work plan template, and a budget template.

[Climate and Equity Explanations and Examples](#)

[Work Plan Template](#)

[Optional Budget Template](#)

Still have questions? Please contact CIRCA Community Resilience Planner Mary Buchanan at mary.buchanan@uconn.edu

Ready to Apply?

Click the button below to access the online application form. The application can be viewed ahead of time and saved to work on later. After you submit your application, you should see a confirmation message. If you do not see this message or if you have other questions, please contact mary.buchanan@uconn.edu

[Apply Now](#)

Climate and Equity 2022 Grantees

<https://circa.uconn.edu/environmental-justice/climate-and-equity-grant-program/>

UConn

Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation

Required Information

A complete application includes:

- A. Organization information, contact information, and grant request amount
- B. Brief questionnaire for tracking progress toward the goals of the Climate Funders Justice Pledge
- C. Narrative document as described in the Request for Applications
- D. Budget document as described in the Request for Applications

Application Evaluation

There is a two-stage process for evaluating applications.

1. CIRCA staff will review every application received and will evaluate each application based on the scoring rubric (on the next slide).
2. The top-scoring applications will then be reviewed by the external grants advisory committee, who will select the final grantees. During the final evaluation by the grants advisory committee, the scoring rubric will be considered alongside additional factors such as diversity of geographic location, diversity of organization leadership, and diversity of project size.

DEEP staff will also provide review and comment on the selected projects before any awards are announced. Written feedback may be provided to unsuccessful applicants upon request for full transparency about selection decisions.

Evaluation Criteria	Points
Eligibility (based on question 1 and organization information): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicant is a community-based organization, tribal government, or tribal organization in Connecticut 	Pass/ Fail
Project Need and Relevance to Climate Goals (based on question 2): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project clearly identifies & addresses a concern caused or worsened by climate change. (5) Project has the potential to achieve at least one of the following (20): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase community resilience to climate change/concerns caused or worsened by climate change Reduce emissions or otherwise mitigate the impacts of climate change Increase community knowledge of climate change mitigation or adaptation activities and resources 	25
Community Engagement and Equity (based on questions 3 and 4): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members of the community to be served are involved in designing/carrying out the project. (20) Project will address uneven impacts of climate risks, bring attention/resources to an area that has experienced environmental injustice, or otherwise advance equity for vulnerable communities. (20) 	40
Demonstrated Potential for Success and Work Plan (based on question 5): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The work plan has clearly defined tasks and the applicant has the demonstrated readiness and capacity to carry out these tasks within the grant period and within budget. (10) The people responsible for completing the work plan tasks have a successful track record of similar projects. Any partners are clearly identified and their roles in the project are explained. (10) The proposed project has at least one well-defined and measurable goal. (10) The project budget is appropriate for the project scope. (5, based on budget) 	35
Total Points	100
Participation Bonus (based on whether optional participation add-on is selected)	+2

Required Contracting Procedures

The funding structure for this grant will be flexible to match the needs of the project, although UConn award procedures must be followed.

Projects that involve regular staff time or attending trainings may receive the funds in the form of a monthly stipend, while projects that require expenditures upfront may receive up to 25% of the total grant award as an advance, with additional funding at later project milestones. Grantees will be expected to provide an accounting of expenditures before additional funds can be released. In cases where grant funds are spent on community meetings or events, grantees should count attendance and include attendance numbers in their final report.

CIRCA staff will work with grantees and the UConn Procurement Office to set payment terms at the time of award and to provide guidance throughout the grant period. Participants must submit a W-9 form to receive payment.

Timeline

- **Applications due:** September 30th, 2024
- **Grantees notified:** Early November 2024
- **Project Period:** January - December 2025

Helpful Resources

Climate and Equity Grant Program Webpage:

<https://circa.uconn.edu/environmental-justice/climate-and-equity-grant-program/>

- Full Request for Applications
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Explanations and Examples
- Work Plan Template
- Budget Template (optional)
- Online application form

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[Apply Now](#)

Climate and Equity 2022 Grantees

Upcoming Office Hours

Virtual drop-in office hours will be held on the following dates for anyone with questions about the program or their application.

- August 22nd, 11 am - 12 pm
- August 22nd, 6 pm - 7 pm
- September 19th, 11 am - 12 pm
- September 19th, 6 pm - 7 pm

QUESTIONS?

mary.buchanan@uconn.edu