



Climate Smart Communities Initiative Grant Application

Application Instructions

The CSCI grant application is to be completed by a climate adaptation and resilience professional ("adaptation professional") in collaboration with a community-based organization (CBO) and a local, regional or Tribal government ("government partner"), which together comprise an "Applicant Team."

The CSCI recommends that the adaptation professional take the lead in completing this form; however, another member of the Applicant Team may choose to do so.

In addition to completing this form, the CBO or government partner also must submit the [community sign-up form](#), and the adaptation professional's organization needs to have been accepted into, or have applied to join the [Registry of Climate Adaptation and Resilience Professionals](#). Please note that all three - this form, the sign-up form, and acceptance into the Registry - are required for an application to be considered complete, and that incomplete applications will not be reviewed.

If you have questions about the application process or the grants program, please visit www.climatesmartcommunity.org/funding. If you have additional questions or require further assistance, please email info@climateresiliencefund.org.

In response to requests received, all applicant teams now have until 8:00pm ET on Friday, March 21, 2025 to submit their Grant Application.



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Adaptation Professional Contact Information

Please enter contact information for the adaptation professional that will be leading this project.

* 1. Name

First name

Last name

* 2. Organization

The adaptation professional's organization will serve as the recipient of a CSCI grant, if awarded.

* 3. Position

4. Organizational Federal Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number (optional)

A UEI number is not required to apply, but if selected, awardees will be required to obtain a federal UEI number in order to receive funds from the CSCI. Obtaining a UEI is simple and takes ~15 minutes, click [here](#) to learn how. Note that CSCI awardees are not subject to any federal audit risk when expending less than \$750,000 in federal funds annually.

* 5. Email

Email address

* 6. Phone number

Country code

Phone number

7. Did this application team use the [Registry of Adaptation Practitioners](#) or request CSCI to send referrals from the Registry to find a practitioner?

Select "Yes" if the Registry or referrals from CSCI were used to find a practitioner to submit this application with.

Select "No" if this application team found the adaptation practitioner another way.

This question is to track usage of the Registry only and does not impact the evaluation of your application.

☐ Yes

☐ No



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Community Point of Contact

The community point of contact can be an individual from either the community-based organization (CBO) or the government partner.

* 8. Name

First name

Last name

* 9. Affiliation

* 10. Position

* 11. Email

Email address

* 12. Phone

Country code

Phone number



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Community Details

The following questions refer to the geographic area on which the climate resilience plan or project will be focused.

* 13. Name of community or region

* 14. Local/regional government partner name

* 15. The local/regional government partner is a...

- ☐ Municipal government
- ☐ County government
- ☐ Tribal government
- ☐ Regional government/planning authority

* 16. Community-based organization (CBO) partner name

* 17. The CBO partner is a...

- ☐ Local non-profit organization
- ☐ Local university
- ☐ Other non-governmental or community-serving organization (please specify)

* 18. State or U.S. territory included in the project area (please select all that apply)

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alabama | <input type="checkbox"/> Maine | <input type="checkbox"/> Pennsylvania |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alaska | <input type="checkbox"/> Maryland | <input type="checkbox"/> Rhode Island |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arizona | <input type="checkbox"/> Massachusetts | <input type="checkbox"/> South Carolina |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arkansas | <input type="checkbox"/> Michigan | <input type="checkbox"/> South Dakota |
| <input type="checkbox"/> California | <input type="checkbox"/> Minnesota | <input type="checkbox"/> Tennessee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Colorado | <input type="checkbox"/> Mississippi | <input type="checkbox"/> Texas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Connecticut | <input type="checkbox"/> Missouri | <input type="checkbox"/> Utah |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Delaware | <input type="checkbox"/> Montana | <input type="checkbox"/> Vermont |
| <input type="checkbox"/> District of Columbia (DC) | <input type="checkbox"/> Nebraska | <input type="checkbox"/> Virginia |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Florida | <input type="checkbox"/> Nevada | <input type="checkbox"/> Washington |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Georgia | <input type="checkbox"/> New Hampshire | <input type="checkbox"/> West Virginia |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hawaii | <input type="checkbox"/> New Jersey | <input type="checkbox"/> Wisconsin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Idaho | <input type="checkbox"/> New Mexico | <input type="checkbox"/> Wyoming |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Illinois | <input type="checkbox"/> New York | <input type="checkbox"/> American Samoa |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Indiana | <input type="checkbox"/> North Carolina | <input type="checkbox"/> Guam |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Iowa | <input type="checkbox"/> North Dakota | <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Mariana Islands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kansas | <input type="checkbox"/> Ohio | <input type="checkbox"/> Puerto Rico |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kentucky | <input type="checkbox"/> Oklahoma | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Virgin Islands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Louisiana | <input type="checkbox"/> Oregon | |

* 19. County or Parish (or counties/parishes, where work covers more than one county)

Correct spelling of County names is critical to an automated step in the review process.

County or Parish

optional: additional
County or Parish

optional: additional
County or Parish

* 20. Zip code for the community where the climate resilience plan or project will focus (5 digits)

Optional: add more than one zip code if the work covers an area across multiple zip codes.

Zip code (5 digits)

optional: additional
zip code

optional: additional
zip code

21. City or cities (leave blank if the applying community covers an entire county or group of counties)

22. Tribal nation or territory name (if applicable)

* 23. Community population (number of people within the geographic area that is the focus of the proposed climate resilience project)

☐ Under 10k

☐ 10k-50k

☐ 50k-100k

☐ 100k-200k

☐ 200k-300k

☐ 300k-500k (eligible for regional-scale projects only)



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Climate Change and Your Community

* 24. Briefly describe climate change-related impacts on community members and/or local natural environments, buildings, infrastructure, etc. (up to 250 words)

For question 24, please note that CSCI prioritizes historically-disinvested populations, defined here as those where income and/or wealth is low (because residents live below the poverty line or cope with financial insecurity or debt), communities of color, and other communities that may lack political support and resources to advance adaptation solutions. Reviewers are assessing your community's vulnerability to climate change-related hazards, especially of historically-disinvested populations.

* 25. Describe historically-disinvested populations in the community where the proposed climate resilience work will focus that may be vulnerable to climate change-related impacts (up to 350 words)

* 26. What activities has your community completed on its path to climate resilience?

Understanding where a community is beginning their work will help reviewers determine where the proposed climate resilience work falls in the [Steps to Resilience \(StR\) framework](#) - note that any starting point is acceptable

- ☐ Climate resilience has not yet been discussed in the community
- ☐ Have had one or more community conversations (formal or informal) about climate resilience but no action to date (Get Started step in the StR)
- ☐ Identified climate change-related hazards that affect the community (Understand Exposure step in the StR)
- ☐ Assessed community vulnerability to climate change (Assess Vulnerability and Risk step in the StR)
- ☐ Developed climate resilience objectives and researched strategies that can reduce community vulnerability to climate change (Investigate Options step in the StR)
- ☐ Prioritized interventions or projects or other adaptation actions to reduce climate vulnerabilities (Prioritize & Plan step in the StR)
- ☐ Implemented interventions or projects or other adaptation actions to reduce climate vulnerabilities (Take Action step in the StR)
- ☐ Identified options for financing climate resilience projects or plans (Take Action step in the StR)
- ☐ Other (please specify)

27. Please provide a URL to share documentation or examples of the activities selected above that your community has completed on its path to climate resilience (optional)

Be sure to identify which step or what prior activity each URL is relevant to.



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Proposed Climate Resilience Plan or Project

28. Project start and end dates

Start date

Date

MM/DD/YYYY

End date

Date

MM/DD/YYYY

* 29. Briefly summarize the climate resilience work that is proposed for the 12-month CSCI grant period (up to 350 words)

Be sure to include whether and how climate change, equity, and nature factor into the proposed work

* 30. Provide a goal statement for the climate resilience plan or project over the 12-month grant period (up to 100 words)

* 31. Provide a goal statement for the community's longer-term climate resilience goal(s) i.e., beyond the grant period (up to 100 words)

32. What climate change-related hazards will be addressed by the proposed climate resilience project?

☐ Air quality

☐ High winds

☐ Changing seasons

☐ Landslides

☐ Drought

☐ Severe winter weather

☐ Erosion and shoreline recession

☐ Shifting species/habitats/ecosystems

☐ Extreme cold

☐ Vector-borne disease

☐ Extreme heat

☐ Water quality

☐ Flooding - coastal

☐ Wildfire

☐ Flooding - general

☐ Flooding - rainfall-induced

☐ Other (please specify)

☐ Climate change-related hazards have not been identified yet

* 33. What actions are you planning to undertake during the 12-month grant period?
(check all that apply)

- ☐ Coordinate with community leaders to assemble a planning team and establish climate resilience goals (Getting Started step in the StR)
- ☐ Evaluate community assets (people or natural systems or infrastructure etc.) to document their exposure to climate change-related hazards (Understand Exposure step in the StR)
- ☐ Identify climate hazards and assess community vulnerabilities to climate change (Assess Vulnerability & Risk step in the StR)
- ☐ Investigate adaptation actions designed to reduce community vulnerability to climate change (Investigate Options step in the StR)
- ☐ Prioritize interventions or projects or other adaptation actions to reduce climate vulnerabilities (Prioritize & Plan step in the StR)
- ☐ Implement adaptation solutions aimed at reducing community vulnerability to climate change (e.g. expanding or creating programmatic activities or developing nature-based solutions or building physical infrastructure or revising policies) (Take Action step in the StR)
- ☐ Integrate equity by explicitly incorporating equity into climate resilience goals or projects or plans or planning and engagement processes and policies (any or all steps in the StR)
- ☐ Leverage or obtain public or private funding sources to finance adaptation actions in the community (Take Action step in the StR)
- ☐ Revise or create new laws or policies or regulations that require or incentivize adaptation action and penalize maladaptation
- ☐ Effectively communicate about climate risks and potential solutions with community members and institutions with the goal of increasing community preparedness for climate change and ensuring effective and equitable benefits of adaptation actions
- ☐ Other (please specify)

* 34. Using your selection(s) in Question 33 as a guideline, please outline the main activities your team will undertake to make progress in its climate resilience journey during the 12-month grant period. What are the desired outcomes of each and how will they serve your goal statement(s)? (up to 500 words)

Please structure your response by associating each listed activity with the desired outcome and how it will support your goal statement(s). Please indicate if any of the actions will directly address the climate change-related hazards selected in Question 32. This list of activities does not need to include fine details.

* 35. Please describe if and how nature-based solutions (NbS) will be considered as part of any efforts to address the climate change-related hazards impacting your community (up to 350 words)

Note that inclusion of NbS or consideration of climate-related impacts to natural systems is encouraged but not required

* 36. Describe how future climate conditions will be factored into the proposed climate resilience plan or project (up to 250 words)

Please reference relevant data sources and methods in your response

* 37. Are there potential unintended consequences and/or maladaptive impacts of climate resilience programs or projects that are anticipated or planned for the community? If so, how do you plan to address them? (up to 250 words)



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Community Engagement and Equity

The following questions reference historically-disinvested populations and communities who are on the front lines of the climate crisis. Historically-disinvested populations include those with low-income (living below the poverty line) and/or communities of color. Frontline communities are those which are historically marginalized and therefore likely to experience first and worst the consequences of climate change and other injustices).

* 38. Describe your team's approach to incorporate principles of diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice to ensure the participation or representation of historically-disinvested populations and frontline communities in the planning and/or implementation process of the proposed project (up to 350 words)

* 39. Describe your team's plans to engage the broader community as part of the proposed climate resilience plan or project (up to 350 words)



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Partnerships

The CSCI funds climate resilience-building efforts by investing in partnerships that include a local or regional government (e.g., city, county, tribal, regional) and a community-based organization (e.g., a non-profit organization, local university, or other non-governmental or community-serving institution). This is designed to ensure 1) participation by a governmental entity that can authorize funding for the implementation of projects and programs and 2) meaningful engagement of one or more community-based organizations that can represent community perspectives.

* 40. Describe the previous work the CBO and local/regional government partners have done together (up to 250 words)

Please include relevant details about the nature or structure of the proposed partnership for this application

* 41. Upload a letter of support from the CBO partner These answers have logic applied

Choose File

Choose File

No file chosen

* 42. Upload a letter of support from the local or regional government partner These answers have logic applied

Choose File

Choose File

No file chosen

43. List the names and roles of any other partner organization that is directly involved with the proposed project (optional)

44. Upload letters of support from additional partners (optional) These answers have logic applied

Choose File

Choose File

No file chosen

* 45. Please provide a brief overview of each proposed partners' relevant experience working with historically-disinvested populations and frontline communities (up to 400 words)

* 46. Please provide a brief overview of each proposed partners' relevant experience evaluating and/or implementing NbS as climate resilience and adaptation solutions (up to 400 words)



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Existing Resources and Capacity

* 47. How many staff hours per week can the government partner commit to this project over the next year?

Enter a number only.

* 48. How many staff hours per week can the CBO partner commit to this project over the next year?

Enter a number only.

* 49. What additional resources and capacity, if any, can the CBO partner, government partner, and/or adaptation professional contribute to this next phase of climate resilience building? (e.g. funding, staff time, community support, etc.)

* 50. What plans or mechanisms are in place for building and sustaining relationships between community partners and government leaders beyond the 12-month grant period?

* 51. What skills, resources, or abilities can the CBO and/or government partner expect to gain from this grant that will help them pursue their community's climate resilience needs and goals more effectively in the future?



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Budget

Applicants are encouraged to include in their budgets some pass-through funding to provide for CBO community partner participation and/or funding for local/regional government staff "release time". The amount of pass-through funds is at the mutual discretion of the adaptation professional and the CBO and/or government partner based on their plan, needs, and the best way to allocate grant resources to implement the proposed climate resilience plan or project successfully.

* 52. What is the anticipated total budget for the 12-month proposed climate resilience plan or project?

A detailed budget will be requested if your application advances in the selection process

* 53. Estimated total amount anticipated to fund the adaptation professional

54. Estimated total amount of funds for other purposes (If applicable)

55. Is there anything else you would like to share about your estimated budget? (optional)