CNCA
CARBON NEUTRAL CITIES ALLIANCE

CLIMATE JUSTICE GRANT PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Prepared by N Huizar Consulting

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ABOUT CNCA & THE CLIMATE JUSTICE GRANT

The Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance's (CNCA) mission is to mobilize transformative climate action in cities to achieve prosperity, social equity, resilience and better quality of life for all on a thriving planet.

CNCA is seeking proposals prioritizing collaboration between city staff and priority community organizations or Indigenous governments to deepen their relationships, build staff understanding of climate justice and skill and experience working in collaboration with priority communities, to advance climate action.

Grants will be for $40,000 USD per city for projects up to one year. CNCA plans to make approximately 4 awards in this funding cycle.

NEW: Community organizations are now eligible to be the lead applicant. Cities are also still eligible to apply. **Successful proposals will include the full participation of both community representatives and city staff.**

Priority Communities are defined as low-income people, Indigenous Peoples, people of color, immigrants and refugees, non-english speakers, disabled people, youth and older people, previously incarcerated people, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual (LGBTQIA+) people, and others who experience marginalization due to gender, ethnicity, religion, citizenship status, or other factors.

WHO SHOULD APPLY

- **Cities** committed to advancing climate justice with identified community organization partners that are led by and serve priority communities

- **Community organizations** partnering with city departments to advance climate justice

HOW TO APPLY

Proposals must be submitted in English using <u>THIS</u> form as a Word document.

You will need to attach the following to your proposal:
- Letters of Commitment from partnering organizations or cities
- Project budget (see template **here**)

Awards are first come, first served until this RFP's budget is expended. Proposal reviews will begin on **March 10th**.

To help you develop a strong proposal, you are encouraged to reach out to Tracy Morgenstern and schedule a consultation to discuss your idea and how to best share power while carrying it out. tracymorgenstern@carbonneutralcities.org

IMPORTANCE OF POWER SHARING

CNCA is committed to a just carbon neutral future that recognizes and redresses the disproportionate burdens and benefits of the fossil fuel economy by prioritizing climate action that advances the well-being of low-income people, Indigenous Peoples, communities of color, immigrants and refugees and other historically marginalized communities.

For CNCA's full Climate Justice statement, please visit:
https://carbonneutralcities.org/climate-justice/

Power Sharing is key for institutions holding power in their efforts to support movement building and the organizing efforts of community-led organizations. It orients towards relationship-building, involves thoughtfully creating space for shared decision-making, and centers the expertise and knowledge of the priority community served.

Recognizing the power and resource imbalance that exists between city governments and community organizations, power sharing does not necessarily mean equal distribution of labor, as community organizations often have limited capacity while holding key insights to community needs. Therefore, cities may undertake more labor in the project (e.g. scheduling meetings, etc.) while community organizations focus their capacity on sharing priorities and influencing decision making.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES THAT CENTER POWER SHARING

for cities as lead proposer

A core focus of this work is to move from consultative processes toward power sharing models for the co-creation of policy. CNCA anticipates this approach leading to climate policies / programs that maximize benefits to priority communities while mitigating unintended impacts. Project examples can be found in the appendix.

Activities eligible for funding include, but are not limited to:

- Developing new participatory planning and policy-design processes to better respond to the needs and aspirations of priority communities
- Developing planning / policy tools to support cities in collaborating with priority communities to ideate climate action and understand how to design actions that increase benefits to and mitigate burdens on priority communities
- Conducting participatory and other research that seeks to create greater understanding of the diversity of local communities and their perspectives, including participatory research by priority communities
- Implementing pilot projects designed to experiment with shifting power to priority communities to define and design projects that advance climate justice
- Investing in relationship-building between priority community members and organizations and city staff, including support to community for their participation

PROJECT ACTIVITIES THAT CENTER POWER SHARING

for community organizations as lead proposer

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CNCA recognizes the most burdened communities are often left out of decision making for policies and programs at the government level. With this understanding, CNCA aims to support community organizations and cities to move from consultative processes towards power sharing models for the co-creation of policy. Project examples can be found in the appendix.

Activities eligible for funding include, but are not limited to:

- Strategically collaborating with local city leaders to more effectively align community needs with opportunities and resources.
- Co-developing shared principles and values to establish quick progress by developing agreements for how to operate as partners
- Building relationships with key partners in city government roles to better uplift community voices and needs in decision-making spaces that set the foundation for longer-term change
- Partner with city government to implement pilot projects designed to shift power to priority communities to define and design projects that advance climate justice
- Developing new participatory planning and research processes to elevate community priorities and leadership

SCENARIOS FROM GOOD TO BEST

The following chart is intended to assist proposers in developing a successful project proposal. These are examples and are not required project ideas.

	Good	Better	Best	Key Activities
Project Focus	City policy, plan, or program which could/would impact Community.	City initiative that aligns closely with Community goals.	The focus is a Community priority and the community organization is already investing resources in the issue area or has prioritized the topic for future investment.	centering expertise and knowledge of community
Project Design	City sketches out a plan and engages priority community feedback on the project.	City and Community leads scope out the project design together.	Community leads the design and the City responds with policies, programs, and resources that can be leveraged to support the project.	listening to community stories, capacity building
Power Sharing	Community and City leads define power sharing and processes to achieve power sharing	Community leads facilitate a workshop for City leads to better understand community priorities	Community and City leads develop learning series for community members and stakeholders to identify priorities together and then City leads align resources to advance solutions addressing priorities.	bringing diverse perspectives together, centering relationships
Benefit	The main outcome of the project is that the City is better informed and creates a policy or program that minimizes harm/maximizes benefit to Community.	Relationships are built between City and Community. City understanding of Community vision and priorities is increased, and/or new ways of working together are explored.	Community will realize direct economic, social, and environmental benefits from the project. For pilot projects or scoping projects, the envisioned benefits would be primarily realized by Community.	centering community needs

Reference "The Spectrum of Community Engagement to Ownership" a guiding tool kit from Facilitating Power
https://www.facilitatingpower.com/spectrum_of_community_engagement_to_ownership
(Table included in Appendix)

SCENARIOS FROM GOOD TO BEST

	Good	Better	Best	Key Activities
Decision Making	Community and City leads identify equitable decision making process	Community and City leads co-create a guide on community led approaches for addressing climate justice work.	Community and City leads co-create a guide on community-led approaches for addressing climate justice work and the City establishes a framework for a grant fund to pilot future projects	capacity building, centering community needs
Research	City or consultant designed with input from Community lead.	City or consultant designed with Community lead input and community members are engaged in data collection and analysis.	Community lead designs the research approach and leads data collection and analysis, with City lead support to reduce workload.	capacity building, centering expertise and knowledge of community
Workload	City and Community leads discuss the workload and splits the work 60/40	City takes on much of the work that supports the project execution, both leads discuss decision-making approach without a clear implementation plan	City is taking on as much of the workload as desired by the community org to help enable a successful project, in ways that don't dilute community leadership in decision making.	capacity building, centering expertise and knowledge of community

WHAT TO EXPECT IF AWARDED

Fund disbursement can be made in one lump sum payment at the beginning of the project or tied to deliverables - with no more than two payments per project. Specific information on how fund disbursement process is included in the CNCA Award Guideline and Policies under "Key Documents".

Agreements: Cities will sign an MOU. Community organizations and consultants will sign contracts. This process will be facilitated by the Fund Manager, Sutherland & Associates.

Reporting Requirements:
- quarterly progress updates
- final report
- project photos
- post-grant survey (stipend to be included in budget)

KEY DOCUMENTS

CNCA Climate Justice Project Proposal Form

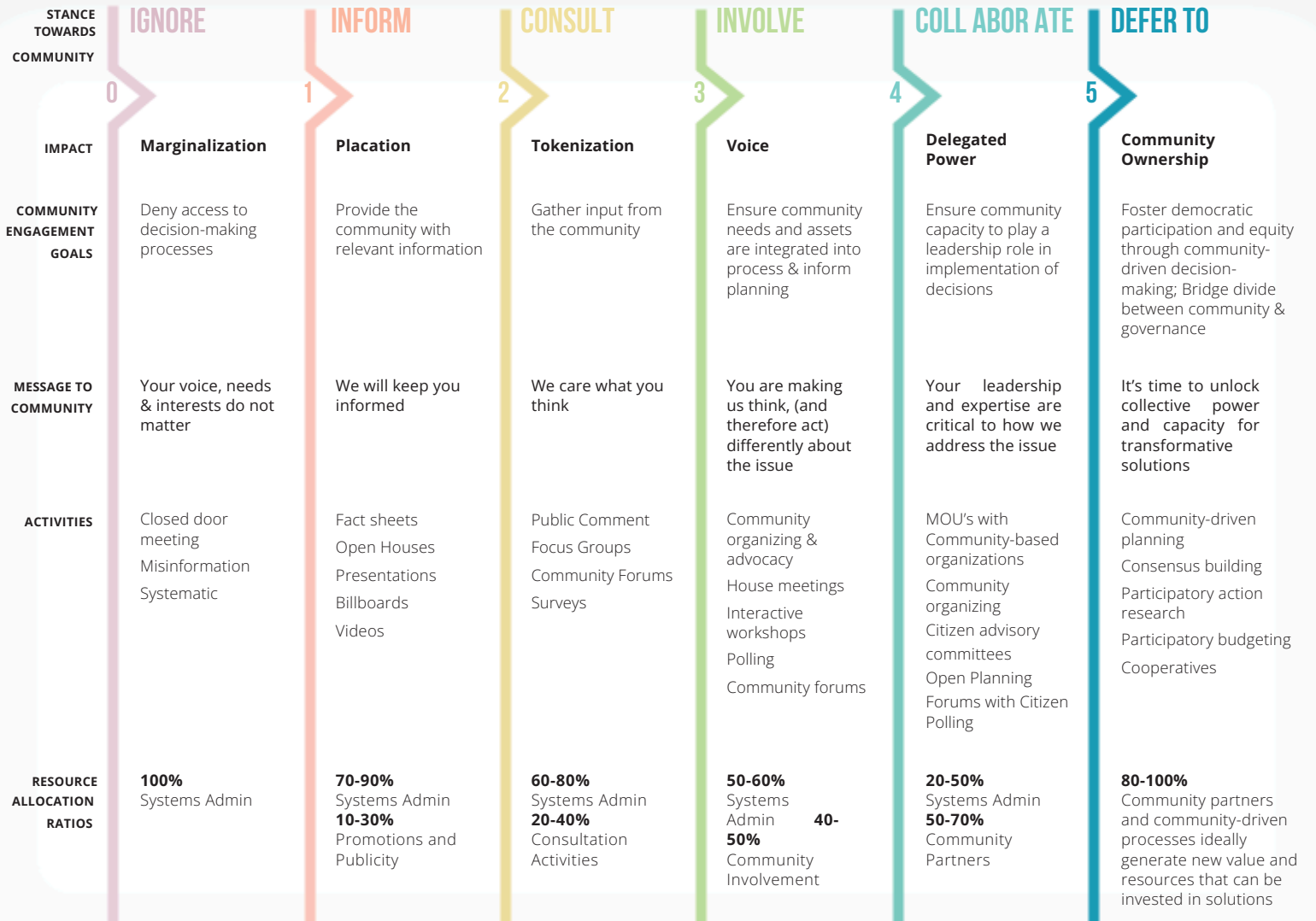Sample Budget Template

CNCA Award Guideline and Policies

Submit questions to **Tracy Morgenstern**
tracymorgenstern@carbonneutralcities.org

APPENDIX

THE SPECTRUM OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TO OWNERSHIP

Facilitating Power

STANCE TOWARDS COMMUNITY	IGNORE 0	INFORM 1	CONSULT 2	INVOLVE 3	COLLABORATE 4	DEFER TO 5
IMPACT	**Marginalization**	**Placation**	**Tokenization**	**Voice**	**Delegated Power**	**Community Ownership**
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GOALS	Deny access to decision-making processes	Provide the community with relevant information	Gather input from the community	Ensure community needs and assets are integrated into process & inform planning	Ensure community capacity to play a leadership role in implementation of decisions	Foster democratic participation and equity through community-driven decision-making; Bridge divide between community & governance
MESSAGE TO COMMUNITY	Your voice, needs & interests do not matter	We will keep you informed	We care what you think	You are making us think, (and therefore act) differently about the issue	Your leadership and expertise are critical to how we address the issue	It's time to unlock collective power and capacity for transformative solutions
ACTIVITIES	Closed door meeting Misinformation Systematic	Fact sheets Open Houses Presentations Billboards Videos	Public Comment Focus Groups Community Forums Surveys	Community organizing & advocacy House meetings Interactive workshops Polling Community forums	MOU's with Community-based organizations Community organizing Citizen advisory committees Open Planning Forums with Citizen Polling	Community-driven planning Consensus building Participatory action research Participatory budgeting Cooperatives
RESOURCE ALLOCATION RATIOS	**100%** Systems Admin	**70-90%** Systems Admin **10-30%** Promotions and Publicity	**60-80%** Systems Admin **20-40%** Consultation Activities	**50-60%** Systems Admin **40-50%** Community Involvement	**20-50%** Systems Admin **50-70%** Community Partners	**80-100%** Community partners and community-driven processes ideally generate new value and resources that can be invested in solutions

PROJECT EXAMPLES

The following examples are summaries of successful projects. If you are interested in learning more about past projects, you can view overviews and reports **here**.

Example #1 Convene key stakeholders (community organizers, artists, planners, policy makers, designers, academics) to define power sharing with priority communities. Participants experience immersive learning through workshops, site visits, and walking tours across various sites important for the priority community of the project. Participants left with insightful reflections and renewed clarity on intentions to move climate justice forward especially around sharing power with most impacted communities.
Keys to Success: power sharing, bringing diverse perspectives together, centering relationships

Example #2 City collaborates in a pilot to create an arts based project to empower the priority community's narrative of climate justice. The project leads worked with marginalized youth and artists of color to learn of barriers like lack of studio space, housing insecurity, limited access to resources like computers, high child care needs. The project aimed to reduce these barriers while uplifting community experiences and stories
Keys to Success: Listening to community stories, capacity building

PROJECT EXAMPLES

Example #3 Co-creating a guide on how community-led approaches can be implemented in climate justice work. The guide proposes taking a collaborative place-based approach to bring together a diverse set of stakeholders. It also describes the role of local government as protecting, improving and promoting public health within their city, which is to help communities build capacity and strengthen resilience for future impacts of climate change.
Keys to Success: community-led at every phase, capacity building, centering community needs

Example #4 City, community, and nonprofit partners co-design a program to equip priority communities with resources and plan to prepare for the impacts of climate change and build community resilience. Program workshops were designed with residents of social housing to identify risks and challenges for people living in social housing. Workshop activities include community mapping to identify local assets, resources, and gaps. Community partners also recommended curation of go-bags which were later distributed. Project outcomes were the development of a local resilience plan with three top priorities and a heatwave specific workshop for the wider community.
Keys to Success: flexibility to respond to community direction, co-design between key partners, shared understanding of challenges