



CIRCA OVERVIEW

CLIMATE AND EQUITY GRANT PROGRAM

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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 unless asking a question during the Q&A.
- 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
- Eligibility
- Funding amounts
- 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 was tasked by DEEP to create this pilot program
- CIRCA inventory of similar grants and best practices
- Establishment of Grant Advisory Committee
- Launch of pilot program for first round and feedback

Background Information: Grant Advisory Committee Members

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

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

There are presently multiple climate-related funding opportunities 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

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, and

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

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 - \$10,000

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

CIRCA expects to award \$150,000 total for this pilot program.

There is no match required.

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

Examples of Eligible Costs

- Staff time / salary (including organization employees and/or sub-contractors)
- Materials / supplies
- Food for community events
- Travel expenses
- 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
- 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, records of attendance at climate planning trainings or GC3 meetings, site visits, workshops, presentations of lessons learned and next steps, etc.

How to Apply

Deadline: November 18 at 5pm

All materials should be submitted through the online application form.

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

UConn

Connecticut Institute for Resilience & Climate Adaptation (CIRCA)



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Climate and Equity Grant Program

Overview of Climate and Equity Grant Program

In collaboration with CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), the Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation (CIRCA) is requesting 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 organizations, and tribal governments. Funds can be used for planning, capacity-building, or education projects that advance community-scale climate adaptation and/or climate mitigation efforts. **Applications are due November 11th, 2022.**

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](#)

There will be a webinar about this grant opportunity on Tuesday, October 25th, 2022 at 12 pm, with a recording available afterward. You can register for this webinar below.

[Register Here](#)

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 for the Climate and Equity Grant program. 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 to the Climate and Equity Grant Program](#)

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

Evaluation Criteria	Points
<p>Eligibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant is a community-based organization, tribal government, or tribal organization in CT • Project can be completed within the 12-month grant period 	Pass/Fail
<p>Project Need and Relevance to Climate Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed project clearly identifies and addresses a concern caused/worsened by climate change. (10) • The proposed 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 or to 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 	30
<p>Community Engagement and Equity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members of the community to be served are involved in designing / carrying out the proposed project. (20) • The proposed project will address the uneven impacts of climate risks, bring attention and/or resources to an area that has experienced past environmental injustice, or otherwise advance equity for vulnerable communities in Connecticut. (20) 	40
<p>Demonstrated Potential for Success and Work Plan</p> <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 on time and within budget. (10) • The people responsible for completing the work plan tasks have a successful track record of similar projects (10) • The proposed project has at least one well-defined and measurable goal. (10) 	30
Total	100

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:** November 18th, 2022
- **Grantees notified:** Mid-December 2022
- **Project Period:** January - December 2023

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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QUESTIONS?

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