



Partnership for Resilient Communities FAQ Not Addressed in the RFP Package

This document is not intended to answer questions already addressed in the RFP package; please **read the RFP package thoroughly first. If you have a question that is not addressed in the RFP package or this FAQ document, you may submit it to cjohnson@sustain.org for a response.*

ABOUT THE RFP

Do proposals have to be working toward the implementation of a project (i.e., energy infrastructure), or can it focus on planning and community engagement?

See the RFP.

Does a proposal need to identify a specific project? Or can the project objectives include human-centered design sessions that involve the community to conceptualize a collaborative implementation project that addresses resilience, climate, etc.?

Proposals should identify a specific project or set of project ideas that will be the focus of the implementation plan. You may use the six-month planning phase for community engagement activities and other community planning processes to further inform and/or finalize your project, and to determine your project approach.

Where will the winter 2020 peer learning event be held?

The location for the winter 2020 peer learning event has not been decided, but it will be held in the domestic U.S.

Does ISC expect any particular performance outcomes from the planning phase? If so, are you more interested in policy outcomes or boots-on-the-ground outcomes like green infrastructure installations and new programs?

There are no particular “performance” outcomes for the six-month planning phase except to produce an implementation plan and to participate in all required activities as addressed in the RFP. That said, it is expected that PRC partners will achieve self/community-identified objectives.

Would a green affordable housing project led-by community residents count as green infrastructure?

Green affordable housing projects that include the installation of green infrastructure and/or clean energy infrastructure in a common space and/or on the housing itself, and that incorporates all other required project aspects would be eligible.

Do energy efficiency programs qualify as clean energy under ISC’s standards?

Not in and of themselves, however energy efficiency programs that include the installation of clean or renewable energy and/or green infrastructure, and incorporate all other required PRC program elements are eligible.

Does ISC consider social cohesion to be part of a community’s climate resilience infrastructure (i.e., a community’s ability to quickly deploy support to high risk populations in the neighborhood during a heat wave)?

Yes. However, social networks and cohesion cannot take the place of green and/or clean energy infrastructure or any other required aspect as outlined in the RFP.

Will disaster preparedness, response and recovery projects be considered?

Yes, if those projects include all required aspects as outlined in the RFP.

We organize in frontline communities impacted by cumulative impacts, some of our campaigns include phasing out fossil fuels. When talking about resiliency, we incorporate this conversation, would that layered lens of climate resilience be considered?

Climate resilience organizing that includes phasing out fossil fuels is acceptable - however, this organizing cannot replace education and engagement regarding climate resilience. Also proposal should address community education related to the clean energy and/or green infrastructure aspects of the PRC plan. As well, all other required aspects of the program as outlined in the RFP must be met.

Is there a specific scale of people served through project activities that ISC is looking for?

No. However, PRC project activities should serve people living in historic neighborhoods and communities of color in urban cities. Scale and impact will be weighed against other proposed projects.

Do physical projects need to be proposed as part of this initial application or will they be proposed after the planning phase?

See the RFP.

Must the physical infrastructure projects focus on clean energy or green infrastructure?

See the RFP.

Will workforce development efforts using green infrastructure be considered?

Yes, special consideration will be given to proposals that foster economic opportunities such as workforce development in their target community.

Is it possible to plan for an infrastructure project that is larger than \$175,000 if we secure additional funds? Or are you prioritizing the 175K scale?

Yes, ISC encourages leveraging additional resources to achieve broader outcomes than what the PRC alone can help organizations accomplish.

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

Can a national organization form a new entity in the target community to qualify?

The purpose of the PRC is catalyze the number of long-standing community-based organizations and leaders that are driving urban climate resilience work and have an authentic connection with the communities they serve.

If a national organization partners with a CBO in the target community, are they eligible for the opportunity?

The PRC is seeking to build the influence and capacity of community-based organizations and leaders of color that are working within communities of color. If the community partner is the lead applicant and it's Executive Director or CEO will be leading implementation of the work, and the national organization is working in service of the self-defined needs of that community, and the outcomes of the proposal have articulated the need for this type of partnership, this partnership would be eligible. However, a national organization serving as the lead applicant and leading the initiative with support from a CBO would not be eligible.

If our organization has a budget over \$3,500,000, are we eligible for this opportunity?

See the RFP.

If our budget is below \$3,500,000 this year, but may increase to just above that amount next year, are we eligible to apply?

The annual organization budget will be considered at the time of proposal review e.g. if you apply in 2019, your budget meets the maximum requirement in 2019, you are eligible to apply.

If an organization's budget exceeds the maximum, can we partner with an organization that has a lower budget and qualify for the opportunity?

No, the lead applicant must fall within the budget guidelines - unless they do not meet the annual budget minimum, in which case a fiscal agent may be used for eligibility.

How does ISC define "long-standing"? Is there a minimum amount of years required an organization must have been in practice in order to be eligible?

Long-standing refers to organizations that have significant, proven experience working in their target community. While there isn't a minimum amount of years, your organization and/or leadership (in the case of newer organizations) should be able to explain and highlight what you've done in your community and how what you've done has made a difference in the lives of the residents in that community -- including projects, plans and programs. An eligible program will also be able to explain why your experience makes you best suited to serve the needs of your community.

Does communities of color include Latinx, Native American, Hawaiian, and Alaskan Native communities?

Yes.

If we have board members and staff directors that are people of color, but our executive director is not a POC, is our organization eligible?

No. A pertinent goal of the PRC is to build the capacity and influence of community-based organizations led by People of Color in the urban climate resilience field. In order to achieve that goal, PRC works with community-based organizations that have people of color at the helm.

Would a college or university department that works in and serves a community of color meet ISC's CBO standards or apply with a community partner be eligible?

A college or university department that meets the other requirements of a CBO (see, RFP package) would be eligible for the PRC.

GEOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS

How do you define urban?

We define “urban” based on the Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) standards. Please review those standards to determine if your city falls within that definition.

Do unincorporated communities meet the definition of urban?

Yes, the community is meets the MSA guidelines.

Does ISC have a geographic preference for certain regions?

There is no preference for certain regions, however, the PRC does prioritize communities that are at significant risk and exposure for climate change events.

Are organizations that are based in cities or suburbs that are in close proximity to Detroit, Baltimore, Baltimore County, Milwaukee, New Orleans and Kansas City (e.g., Hamtramck, MI; Baton Rouge, LA; Kansas City, KS) eligible for this opportunity?

Organizations based in the broader urban areas of the MSA of these cities are eligible to apply for this opportunity, and, the goal of the PRC is to have deep impactful work across a broad geographic representation of the U.S.

Are projects that will be implemented in Puerto Rico limited to San Juan, or will organizations working in smaller towns also be eligible?

Projects implemented in Puerto Rico must still serve urban communities of color. The PRC does not focus on small towns and rural areas. Please review the MSA standards for further direction.

FISCAL AGENT REQUIREMENTS

Does the use of a fiscal agent excuse the budget requirements for the lead applicant?

Organizations with an annual budget that is less than \$225,000 may use a fiscal agent in order to qualify for this PRC funding opportunity. The fiscal agent’s budget may exceed the maximum requirement so long as the role of that organization is purely as a fiscal agent.

Can an organization’s fiscal agent be a municipality or department of city government?

No.

Do fiscal sponsors/agents need to meet the leadership of color requirement?

No, however the lead applicant that the fiscal agent is sponsoring must meet the requirement.

Can an organization that does not have 501(c)(3) status, but has a fiscal agent that does have that status apply for the RFP?

Yes, a community-based organization that does not have 501(c)(3) status may use a fiscal agent in order to apply for the RFP.

USAGE OF FUNDS

Is there a limit on indirect costs, such as staff time, in the budget?

Indirect/admin costs are limited to 10%. All expenses except consulting expenses are eligible for the indirect calculation.

501(c)(3)'s are allowed to spend up to 10% of their budgets on lobbying without losing their status. Our organization does a lot of climate legislation advocacy; where does ISC draw the line on permitted activities, for example, with the state legislature?

PRC funds cannot be used for lobbying. Educating about policy needs and solutions and building the community's capacity to advance civic engagement, all with the goal of advancing equitable climate solutions, are acceptable activities for the use of PRC funds.

Can the PRC funding be used for lab equipment and expenses needed for training?

Yes, funds may be used for supplies and training-related expenses.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION

For the required materials, if you are submitting as part of a partnership - do you submit them for all organizations in the proposal or just the lead organization?

In the case of a partnership, your application only needs to include the required materials for the lead applicant/organization. The application must identify one lead applicant.

Do the supporting documents count as part of the 10 page limit?

See the RFP.

For the application, are we submitting a proposed budget for the planning phase or a project budget for the implementation project?

For this RFP, applicants are submitting a proposed project budget for the planning phase of the PRC.

If I forget to include a required attachment in my application package, can I send it afterward?

Please send all attachments and required materials with your completed proposal. However, applicants can send missing attachments before the submission period ends. Missing attachments and required materials will not be accepted after the RFP closes on July 19, 2019 at 5:00PM PDT.