

Great Communities Collaborative

Great Communities Collaborative (GCC) envisions a socially equitable, economically prosperous, and environmentally sustainable Bay Area where communities are engaged in shaping their own future. GCC believes that multi-sector collaboration is required in order to address the challenges of climate change and equity and that by working together across sectors we can build a region that is made up of healthy, thriving neighborhoods that are affordable to all and well connected to regional opportunities.

GCC's goal is to create healthy, thriving and climate-smart communities that are anchored by an equitable, affordable and sustainable built environment. To meet this goal, we are focused on policy advocacy, community engagement and investment that create greater housing affordability, more accessible and affordable transit and infrastructure, and equitable and sustainable land use.

In 2017, GCC is implementing a new structure to support and coordinate our grant partners. We will host convenings, support Working Groups, staff Funder Network meetings, and organize additional events as needed to advance our goals. To learn more about our emerging structure, please visit our website: [GCC Network Structure](#).

GCC is co-chaired by The San Francisco Foundation and Silicon Valley Community Foundation, and is governed by our Funders Network which also includes: The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, The Wallace Alexander Gerbode Foundation, Ford Foundation, The California Endowment, The Kresge Foundation, and Lisa and Douglas Goldman Fund.

GCC is pleased to offer its first open cycle of grantmaking and has prepared these guidelines to support your application efforts.

GCC Open Call for Proposals

GCC is seeking proposals that are clearly aligned with our core values to build regional equity, address climate change, work collaboratively, and put communities in the center of the work. We are requesting proposals that will help advance our goals and outcomes, and that employ the strategies outlined below.

Grantmaking guidelines

GCC recognizes that the **policies** and **practices** that shape the built environment – how land is used, how transportation and infrastructure investments are **funded**, how development is **financed**, how communities are **engaged** – impact the ability of low-income communities of color to thrive. How communities are impacted and benefit from land use and transportation decisions is especially important to GCC, as we aim to expand access to opportunities and create long-term prosperity for low income communities and people of color. Our commitment to an equitable, transit-oriented built environment also includes efforts to reduce greenhouse gases and prepare for a changing climate.

In this grant cycle, GCC is seeking applications that will help us reach the following **outcomes**:

- Increased affordable housing and community services near transit
- Reduced vehicle miles traveled and greenhouse gas emissions
- Increased stability of low-income communities of color near transit, from both housing and economic pressures and climate impacts (reduced displacement near transit)

- Increased local, regional, and state funding for affordable housing, community services and equitable transportation investments in low-income communities of color
- Increased local civic engagement and organizing, especially engagement with residents and community
- Increased community-driven or community-owned investments near transit
- Increased resilience of low-income communities and communities of color to be able to stay in their homes, be climate-smart, and experience healthy outcomes
- Equitable, climate-smart TOD is the new growth model in the Bay Area
- Neighborhoods near transit maintain their racial and economic diversity

Priority will be given to projects that advance equitable and sustainable policies and practices, help direct public investment toward equitable and resilient projects, and expand finance tools for affordable housing and infrastructure. Work that advances our goals in places GCC has invested in previously is preferred, but not required. [See GCC website here](#) for where GCC has invested locally in the past.

More specifically, we are seeking proposals that:

Change local or regional policies and practices to:

- Align the use of publicly owned land with community priorities, including affordable housing, increased access to good jobs, etc.
- Keep communities in place, via tenant protections, affordable housing preservation, etc.
- Protect communities from climate impacts, including integrating green buildings and infrastructure into the built environment.
- Advance the implementation of equitable outcomes in station area planning efforts.
- Influence climate projects, policies, and regulations to direct resources towards equitable, climate-smart development.
- Build equity and/or climate resilience into investments in transit, transportation and infrastructure.

Develop local or regional funding and financing tools to:

- Create additional local and regional sources for affordable housing, like housing or commercial impact fees.
- Develop tools and financing strategies to make equitable climate-smart development more feasible. This could include tools that: 1) promote more affordable housing near transit, 2) advance community-driven development and investment, 3) create more water and/or energy efficient affordable housing, 4) integrate green infrastructure into the built environment.

Create research or technical assistance that:

- Serve all or some GCC partners in the above activities and/or achieving equitable, climate smart development in the Bay Area.
- Advance GCC's and our partners' ability to integrate climate-smart solutions into the above activities, including addressing climate change vulnerabilities.

Application details

GCC expects to award approximately 10 - 20 grants in this round of grantmaking. Grants will be awarded in a range of \$10,000 - \$60,000 per organization. Coalitions are eligible to apply for grants up to \$100,000. GCC will fund work across the 9-county Bay Area, which includes Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, and

Sonoma counties. Applicants may receive a site visit, telephone call and/or other communication from GCC staff as part of the proposal review process.

Key Dates

Guidelines Available	March 20
Application Opens on Grantee Center	April 3
How to Apply Session	April 11
Application Submission Deadline	April 21
Notification of Grant Decisions	July 3

Eligibility Criteria

- 501 (c)3 status or a fiscal sponsor with 501 (c)3 status.
- GCC encourages collaborative applicants. An organization can apply on its own, or in close coordination with another applicant or applicants; or two or more organizations can apply as a collaborative or coalition. Group applications should be submitted by a lead organization who will act as the main GCC liaison. Collaborations that cross sectors or issue areas are a plus, but not required.
- Geographical grounding in the 9-County Bay Area, either in region-wide, sub-regional or specific local work. Some state-wide initiatives may be considered.
- Clarity of an equity strategy that details what racial, economic, and geographic populations will be engaged and directly benefit from the proposed work. Specific numeric outcomes a plus, but not required.
- Work that advances our goals in places GCC has invested in previously is preferred, but not required. [See GCC website here](#) for where GCC has invested locally in the past.
- Achievable, manageable timeline (12-months) that corresponds to key activities and aligns with GCC's priorities, as laid-out in this document.
- Meaningful benchmarks and indicators of success that align with GCC's priorities.
- Established track record in content area or potential to achieve needed content expertise.
- Previous GCC grantees will not be given preference.
- Proposals will be given preference to organizations that actively participate with the GCC network, including but not limited to:
 - Participate in regular GCC working group meetings.
 - Provide brief, quarterly updates on the progress of the work.
 - Write a communication piece in coordination with GCC.

To be considered, please fill out the GCC application [on Grantee Center](#). The application will be available on Monday, April 3. The submission deadline is Friday, April 21.

For questions regarding the content of proposals, please contact [Elizabeth Wampler](#). For questions regarding Grantee Center or application requirements, please contact [Taina Estevez](#).