

2016 SCAG Sustainability Planning Grants

Frequently Asked Questions

What is this program?

Since 2005, the SPG (formerly known as Compass Blueprint) has strengthened partnerships with cities and local municipalities by providing consultant services as well as financial and technical resources to selected projects, free of charge. This program recognizes sustainable solutions to local growth challenges, and has resulted in local plans that promote sustainability through the integration of transportation and land use.

The 2016 SPG Call for Proposals continues the themes of the previous 2013 call, with application categories in Active Transportation, Integrated Land Use, and Green Region Initiative. In addition, this year's call updates the program application and guidelines to promote the implementation of the goals, objectives and strategies of the recently adopted 2016 Regional Transportation Program/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS), and incorporates the planning components of SCAG's 2017 Regional Active Transportation Program (ATP).

What are the goals of this program?

The SPG Call for Proposals seeks to support the following goals:

- Provide needed planning resources to local jurisdictions for sustainability planning efforts
- Develop local plans that support the implementation of the 2016 RTP/SCS
- Increase the region's competitiveness for federal and state funds, including the California Active Transportation Program and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funds.

What is the difference between the categories?

The 2016 SPG is comprised of 3 main project proposal categories that meet the goals of the overall program. Each category is detailed further in the category guidelines.

Active Transportation (SPG-AT)

In the active transportation category, SCAG will support the development of plans and programs that promote safety and encourage people to walk and bicycle. These projects will be designed to enhance local interest in active transportation and/or capacity to build safe, efficient active transportation networks. Examples include bicycle, pedestrian and safe routes to school plans. Resources are also available to expand the region's successful Go Human campaign by partnering with local agencies to implement events, educational programs, and temporary roadway installations that result in more people walking, biking and taking transit.

Three unique applications have been developed based on the type of project and level of funding being requested. These include applications for: 1) Community or Area -Wide Active Transportation Plans (including First-Last Mile Plans) 2) Non-Infrastructure/Go Human Projects, and 3) Capacity Building Mini-Grants.

Integrated Land Use & Green Region Initiatives (SPG-ILU/GRI)

This category includes planning, visioning, and capacity building projects or programs that promote sustainable development, transportation/land use integration, resource efficiency, climate action, and adaptation/resiliency studies. SPG-ILU/GRI specifically seeks to implement SCAG's 2016 RTP/SCS and fulfill SCAG's responsibilities to achieve the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions called for in Senate Bill 375 (SB375).

The SPG-ILU/GRI will fund three types of projects 1) Integrated Shared Vision Proposals 2) Focused Purpose Plan, and 3) Capacity Building Mini-Grants.

There are two sub-categories:

Integrated Land Use (ILU)

Examples include sustainable land use planning, Transit Oriented Development (TOD) and land use & transportation integration.

Green Region Initiatives (GRI)

Examples include natural resource plans, climate action plans (CAPs), green street plans, and greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction programs.

Who is eligible to apply?

All applying entities must be from within the SCAG region. Eligibility varies slightly between SPG-AT and SPG-ILU/GRI:

SPG-AT Eligibility

- Local or Regional Agency - Examples include cities, counties, councils of government, Regional Transportation Planning Agency and County Public Health Departments.
- Transit Agencies - Any agency responsible for public transportation that is eligible for funds under the Federal Transit Administration.
- Public schools or School districts
- Tribal Governments - Federally-recognized Native American Tribes.

SPG-ILU/GRI Eligibility

- SCAG member jurisdictions
- Tribal Governments
- County Transportation Commissions
- Councils of Governments (Must apply in partnership with a SCAG member jurisdiction.)

Non-profit groups, community based organizations and non-member government agencies may apply if a dues-paying member agency sponsors their application. These applications must identify both a sponsoring agency project manager as well as a Managing Organization project manager.

Can a jurisdiction submit more than one application?

Yes. Applicants may apply in more than one category and may submit multiple proposals within a single category. SCAG staff is available to support applicants in determining the most appropriate category for their project(s).

Can jurisdictions submit a joint application?

Yes, multi-jurisdictional efforts are encouraged. Multi-jurisdictional efforts that will exceed the funding cap must apply separately and reference project coordination in their respective applications.

Is there a local match requirement?

Project sponsors are not required to provide match to receive funding. However, project proposals that include a hard match or leveraging through in-kind efforts will receive extra consideration.

Is there a maximum amount of funding a project can receive?

Funding maximums vary depending on the project category. Please see the chart below.

	Project Categories		
Project Types	AT	ILU	GRI
Shared Vision		\$1M max	
Focused Purpose	\$200K max	\$200K max	
Non-Infrastructure	\$200K max		
Capacity Bldg.	\$50K max	\$50K max	

How long do awardees have to complete their project?

All work must be completed within 12 to 36 months of project initiation, depending on project complexity.

How are applications evaluated?

Proposals in each of the three categories will be evaluated based on project need (50 points); goals, objectives, and anticipated outcomes (35 points); and community support (15 points).

Application questions vary by category within each topic area depending on the types of projects eligible. The potential points to be awarded for responses to each question are noted in each application. Further clarification regarding how points are awarded will be provided in the project application forms.

When and how will applicants be notified of their award status?

The Regional Council is scheduled to approve the Proposal Rankings at their February 2, 2017 meeting. Project sponsors will be contacted via email following the RC action regarding the status of their application. At that time, unsuccessful applicants will have the opportunity to schedule a debrief to discuss ways to improve the proposal for future funding cycles or other grant programs. Successful

project sponsors will receive additional information on the timing of their award and next steps for initiating the project.

When can work commence?

All project sponsors must be prepared to initiate their projects in Spring 2017. A more exact period of performance will be determined at the time of project initiation based on project complexity and funding source.

Can the grant agreement be modified?

Modifications to the grant agreement will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Extensions and scope changes must be in letter format. All requests must include an explanation of the issues and actions the agency has taken to correct the issues. All extensions will be contingent on funding availability and the program requirements of the funding source assigned to the project when awarded.

Where can I find some good examples of eligible projects?

Overviews of completed projects from previous Sustainability Planning Grant Programs can be found here: <http://sustain.scag.ca.gov/Pages/Demonstation%20Projects/DemonstrationProjects.aspx>. Examples of past Go Human events can be found at: <http://gohumansocal.org/Pages/Events/Past-Go-Human-Events.aspx>. Example scopes of work are also provided on the website to support proposal development.

Need additional information?

Questions regarding the SPG application or application process should be directed to:

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