



Responses to Q+A for Community Grants

1. Is the purchase of electric school buses (ESBs), with or without the purchase of associated infrastructure, an eligible cost and reimbursable under the grant program.
 - Electric school buses, with or without associated infrastructure, will be an eligible cost. The grant application will be amended to list electric vehicles and electric vehicle infrastructure as eligible costs.
2. Are cities ineligible to apply for this funding opportunity? Would a school district be able to partner with a city? Project example - installing public EV chargers at a Library where the land is owned by the school district.
 - This grant is not eligible for jurisdictions to apply. However, jurisdictions can partner with school districts as long as the school district is the primary applicant.
3. How can I confirm if a client has been an SVCE customer for more than 5 years?
 - If you are unsure if you (or your client if you are requesting information on their behalf) have been an SVCE customer for at least five years, you can contact staff at 1-844-474-SVCE (7823) or email solicitations@svcleanenergy.org with your organization name, address, and PG&E account number. Staff will confirm eligibility.
4. Are you planning on sharing the slide deck (for the pre-application webinar) through email or online?
 - The slide deck can be viewed via the webinar recording: https://svcleanenergy-org.zoom.us/rec/share/rh75zfoENwHsNbV8QsUyZ5Vj5ZQ_5SPNSWYXYk5i8Z-Q8bSnvV-y7Oru-yOWVb8w.gGRy1e7Y4UAXc-Uz
5. Can the education and engagement be sub-awarded to another CBO?
 - SVCE will manage the implementation of the Education and Engagement Plan, which will primarily involve communications and administrative work. SVCE will cover these outreach components, so it may not require a subcontractor.
6. Does the nonprofit have to submit the grant application, or can a developer submit the grant application as long as the developer and nonprofit have an agreement in place?
 - The application should be submitted by the nonprofit.
7. Does the construction portion of the project need to go out to bid? Or can the awardee choose their own contractor?
 - Please refer to Item 9: PROCUREMENT of the Grant Agreement (on page 15 of the grant application). The grant recipient can follow their own purchasing regulations and policies, and all California laws and regulations. Please refer to your attorney for further guidance.

8. Will this funding opportunities be available to San Mateo County?
 - This grant funding is for organizations and project sites located in SVCE's service territory. San Mateo County is not in SVCE's service territory; therefore, organizations located in San Mateo County will not be eligible for funding.
9. Are there any restrictions on the type of school district- such as low income?
 - There are no restrictions on types of school districts.
10. If the project is higher than the grant, can we use the grant to help with the cost of the project?
 - The grant can be stacked with other funding sources. In the grant application, please list any external grants, funds, and in-kind resources that will be used toward the project and what costs the Community Grants funds will be used towards. Also include the awarding agency, amount, and how the SVCE grant will be used in the budget narrative and table.
11. This funding can be stacked with ZESBI funding, but is there any other available funding to stack with?
 - Grant funding can be stacked with other SVCE programs and rebates (listed on page 6 of the grant application). Grant funding can also be stacked with regional, utility, state, and federal grants.
12. Will there be subsequent rounds of funding, and will applicants from this round receive priority for subsequent rounds?
 - As of now, there will be no subsequent round of funding.
13. Could you please clarify how third parties can manage applications on behalf of applicants? Can third parties apply on an organization's behalf.
 - Third parties can assist applicants with composing grant applications but cannot submit the application on behalf of the organization.
14. What does "SVCE has the right of refusal to obtain attributes like resource adequacy and renewal energy credits" mean?
 - If a customer (grant recipient) wants to join or enroll in a demand response program through an entity other than SVCE, they will need to first check with SVCE. Solar + battery projects and some demand response programs can create additional value, such as energy credits or other market benefits. Because SVCE purchases power (electricity) on behalf of the customer, SVCE would like the opportunity to review those benefits first

and decide whether it would like to keep them as part of its power supply operations (procurement). If SVCE decides not to keep those benefits (attributes), then the enrolled program participant (vendor, third party aggregator, or customer) can claim them instead.

15. Can you explain what external Demand Flexibility or Demand Response mean?

- Demand Flexibility - Demand flexibility is the capability to shape, shed, shift, or modulate electricity consumption in real time in a way that is beneficial to both consumers and the power system.
- Demand Response – Demand response is a type of demand flexibility where the customer responds to signals from their utility or the power grid to shed or shift load, often helping the power grid during an emergency.

16. Applicants will not receive final payment until all required outreach is complete” implies to me that for a \$500,000 project we have to come up with \$500,000 to pay the project expenses while in process then get reimbursed at the end.

- The grant funding will be disbursed through reimbursement. Applicants will pay project expenses up-front and SVCE will reimburse the funds following project completion.

17. “Grant funds will be disbursed in the full amount after project completion.” Contractors often ask for 50 percent down and the remainder upon completion. Similar to above, are we responsible for these payments while the project is in progress or is there the possibility of interim funding along the way?

- Grant awardees will be responsible for costs as the project is in progress; SVCE will reimburse these expenses following completion of the project and its required outreach components.

18. We desire to get Technical Assistance. Should we do preliminary research with Solar array vendors or does Tech Assistance do that or augment that?

- Organizations are welcome to conduct preliminary research if they would like but the technical assistance provider can offer this support after projects are awarded. Please indicate in the grant application that you would like to opt-in for technical assistance and list what components, or all components, you would like their assistance with.

19. Are electric lawnmowers and equipment an eligible project type and cost?

- Purchasing electric lawnmowers and equipment is an eligible project cost but not eligible as a stand-alone project type. Lawn equipment can be included as a cost associated with a proposed project that aligns with one of the categories listed in the grant application (ex. Building electrification project that includes purchasing induction cooktop + lawn equipment).