



# GFO-23-403 Pre-Application Workshop

Local Government Building Decarbonization Challenge

Efficiency Division, California Energy Commission

Presenter: Lien Huynh, Grants Analyst

Date: March 22, 2024



# Welcome and Introductions

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## Efficiency Division

- **Lien Huynh**, Grants Analyst
- **Elizabeth Butler**, Contract and Grant Manager
- **Vanessa Durant**, Decarbonization Incentives Specialist
- **Heather Bird**, Load Management and Local Support Supervisor

## Contracts, Grants, and Loans Office

- **Marissa Sutton**, Commission Agreement Officer



# Agenda

TIME	TOPIC
1:30 p.m.	Welcome and Introductions
1:40 p.m.	Solicitation Overview
1:50 p.m.	Eligibility Requirements
2:05 p.m.	Application Format and Method for Delivery
2:15 p.m.	Evaluation Process and Criteria
2:30 p.m.	Questions and Answers (Q&A)

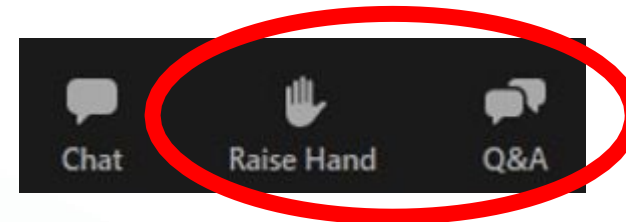




# Housekeeping Items

- Workshop is being recorded
- Participants are muted during presentation
- Virtual participation options during Q&A period:

- Enter questions in Q&A window
- Raise hand
- Press \*9 on telephone



- Solicitation updates will be posted to GFO webpage:  
<https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-03/gfo-23-403-local-government-building-decarbonization-challenge>



# Commitment to Diversity

## CEC staff conducts outreach efforts and activities to:

- Engage with disadvantaged and underrepresented groups
- Notify potential new applicants about funding opportunities
- Assist applicants in understanding how to apply
- Survey participants to measure progress

## CEC adopted the JAEDI Framework:

- Address climate change
- Ensure all Californians have dignity, health, and prosperity



# We Want to Hear from You!

## One Minute Survey

- Anonymous and voluntary
- Used for public reporting purposes
- To access:
  - Use the survey link in the chat on Zoom
  - Scan the QR code with a phone or tablet
- Survey will be closed at the end of the day
- <https://forms.office.com/g/WWHkYi97zz>

Workshop Diversity Survey  
(GFO-23-403)



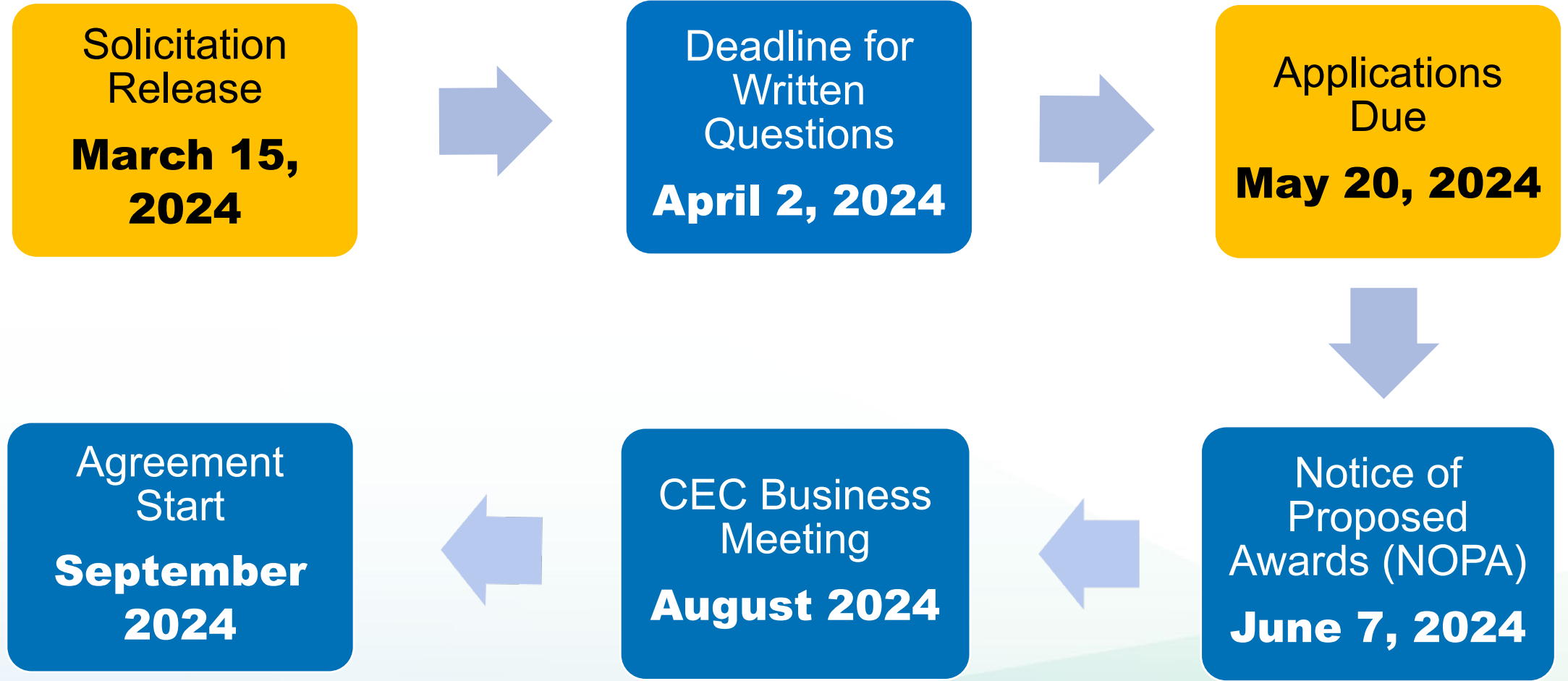


# **Solicitation Overview**

## **GFO-23-403: Local Government Building Decarbonization Challenge**



# Solicitation Process







# Note About Signatures

- Applicants are expected to adhere to the requirements of this solicitation as if they had signed even if the requirement for signatures has been waived
- <https://www.energy.ca.gov/funding-opportunities/solicitations>





# Background Information

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- Warren-Alquist Act established CEC as primary energy policy and planning agency
- Solicitation aligns with and advances the requirements of climate and energy legislation
- Local governments play a critical role in helping California meet its energy and climate goals



# Purpose of this Solicitation

- Competitive grant solicitation
- Provide grants to local governments
- Awarded for eligible project activities, including:
  - Community and municipal building decarbonization planning
  - Developing local codes, ordinances, and voluntary decarbonization measures
  - Workforce development activities related to building decarbonization
- Prioritizes rural, low-income, and disadvantaged communities



# Key Activities and Dates

ACTIVITY	ACTION DATE	TIME
Solicitation Release	March 15, 2024	N/A
Pre-Application Workshop	March 22, 2024	1:30 p.m.
<b>Deadline for Written Questions</b>	<b>April 2, 2024</b>	<b>5:00 p.m.</b>
Anticipated Distribution of Questions/Answers	April 23, 2024	N/A
<b>Deadline to Submit Applications</b>	<b>May 20, 2024</b>	<b>11:59 p.m.</b>
Anticipated Posting of NOPA	June 7, 2024	N/A
Anticipated CEC Business Meeting	August 14, 2024	N/A
Anticipated Agreement Start Date	September 1, 2024	N/A
Agreement End Date	June 30, 2027	N/A



# Time is of the Essence

- Start dates must be within 180 days of the DOE award
- May be as early as September 2024
- Must approve at a business meeting and fully execute/sign agreements prior to that time





# How Award is Determined

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- Pass administrative and technical screening
- Minimum passing score in ranked order
- Partially funded proposal may be recommended





# Availability of Funds

**A total of \$4,070,070 is available for awards under this solicitation**

- Minimum award: \$250,000
- Maximum award: \$400,000



## **Funding groups**

- Group 1: Up to \$2,713,380 available
- Group 2: Up to \$1,356,690 available

**No match funding is required**



# Eligibility Requirements

## GFO-23-403: Local Government Building Decarbonization Challenge



# Applicant Requirements

- **California local government entities**
  - City governments
  - County governments
  - Joint Power Authorities
  - Councils of governments
- **Commitment letters**
- **Authority to apply on behalf of the jurisdiction**





# Project Requirements

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## All project activities must:

- Be located and conducted within California
- Benefit the jurisdiction

## Applicants may:

- Only participate in or submit 1 application
- Propose 1 or more eligible project activities

**All work must be completed, and the final invoice submitted to the CEC by June 30, 2027**



# Project Activities

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1. Community Building Decarbonization Planning
2. Municipal Building Decarbonization Planning
3. Advanced Municipal Operations to Support Building Decarbonization
4. Codes, Ordinances, and Voluntary Measures
5. Workforce Development



# Federal Requirements and Priority Populations

## Justice40

- Directs 40% of overall benefits to DACs
- Must comply with requirements:
  - Identifying Justice40 benefits of the program
  - Determining how the program distributes benefits
  - Calculating and reporting on reaching the 40% goal





# California Priority Populations

## DACs

- **“Communities disproportionately burdened by multiple sources of pollution and with population characteristics that make them more sensitive to pollution”**
- Designated by CalEPA per Senate Bill 535
- Assembly Bill 1550 defines low-income communities



# Allowable Project Costs

- Staff
- Program Meetings/  
Workshop Attendance
- Travel
- Language Access
- Evaluation Activities
- Administrative Costs
- Operating Expenses
- Subscriptions and Software
- Engagement, Outreach,  
Education, and Training
- Access to Proprietary Data  
or Research Materials
- Meeting Facilitation



# Unallowable Costs

- Costs occurring outside of the grant agreement term
- Direct lobbying
- Environmental studies, plans, or documents normally required for project development under CEQA or NEPA
- Equipment purchases
- Direct cash benefits or subsidies to participants
- Food or beverages
- Participant incentives, such as door prizes, which are unrelated to specific community work
- General meetings that do not specifically discuss or advance the implementation of the project



# Invoicing and Payment

- First Advance Payment (50%)
- Second Advance Payment (25%)
- Quarterly Invoicing (15%)
- Retention (10%)





# Terms and Conditions

## Federal

- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- Davis-Bacon Act (Federal Prevailing Wage Requirements)
- National Historic Preservation Act
- Single Audit Act
- System for Award Management (SAM)
- Reporting

## State

- California Secretary of State Registration
- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
- California Prevailing Wage Law



# **Application Format and Method for Delivery**

## **GFO-23-403: Local Government Building Decarbonization Challenge**

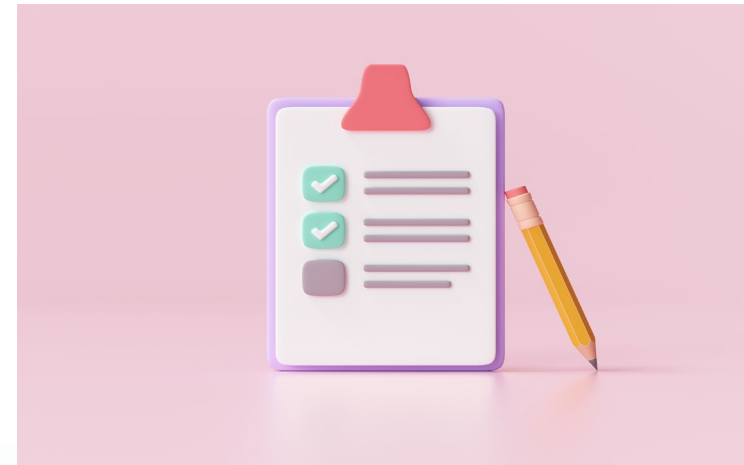




# Application Format

**Applications must adhere to the following formatting requirements:**

- **Format:** Typed or Printed
- **Font:** Standard 11-point font
- **Margins:** 1” on all sides
- **Spacing:** Single with a blank line between paragraphs
- **Other:** Pages numbered, and sections titled





# Method for Delivery

- **Start the process early!**
- GSS Link: <https://gss.energy.ca.gov/Login.aspx>
- **Automatically closes on May 20<sup>th</sup> at 11:59 p.m.**
- Applications in the process of being submitted prior to the deadline will NOT be accepted after the deadline
- “GSS How to Apply: Tutorial and Tips for Applicants”  
Document Link: <https://www.energy.ca.gov/media/1654>



# Application Content

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- Application Form
- SOW Template
- Schedule of Products and Due Dates
- Budget Worksheet
- CEQA Compliance Form
- Applicant Declaration
- Evidence of Eligibility
- Applicant Certification
- Commitment Letters



# Confidential Information

- **Applications that have any portion marked confidential will not be accepted**





# **Evaluation Process and Criteria**

## **GFO-23-403: Local Government Building Decarbonization Challenge**



# Application Evaluation

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## Stage One: Administrative Screening

- Pass/fail
- Must pass all criteria

## Stage Two: Technical Screening

- Pass/fail
- Must pass all criteria





# Grounds for Rejection

- Contains false or intentionally misleading statements
- Intended to mislead the State in its evaluation
- Does not comply or contains caveats that conflict with the solicitation or is otherwise non-responsive
- Previously received and has not responded to a PIER or EPIC Royalty Review Letter



# Technical Evaluation

- Applications passing initial administrative and technical screenings will be reviewed and scored
- Clarification interviews may be scheduled
- A minimum score of 70% is required
- Recommend awards to the highest-ranked projects



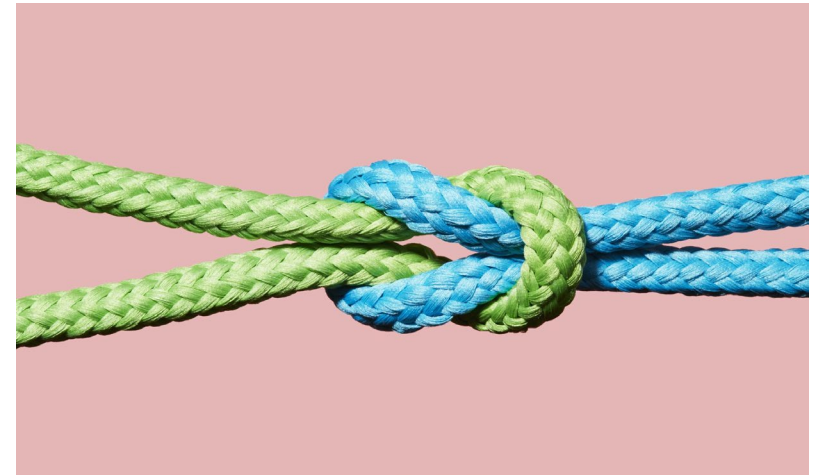
# Evaluation Criteria

CRITERIA	MAX POINTS
1. Demonstrated Need or Value	20
2. State Energy Goals and Local Planning	20
3. Methodology, Technical Approach, Scope of Work, and Proposed Tasks	30
4. Team Qualifications	15
5. Budget and Cost Effectiveness	15
<b>Total Possible Points (Minimum Passing Score 70%)</b>	<b>100</b>
6. Priority Populations (Preference Points)	5
7. Additional Outreach (Preference Points)	5
<b>Final Score (Maximum Points Possible)</b>	<b>110</b>



# Tie Breakers

- Applications with a higher score in the Project Budget and Cost Effectiveness criterion will be ranked higher
- If still tied, CEC will use an objective tiebreaker





# Next Steps

- **NOPA: Posted results of the evaluation process**
  - Proposed funding amount
  - Applicant score
  - Amount of each proposed award
  - <https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-03/gfo-23-403-local-government-building-decarbonization-challenge>
- **Agreement development**
- **Failure to execute**



# Written Questions

- **Submit written questions to:**
  - [Marissa.Sutton@energy.ca.gov](mailto:Marissa.Sutton@energy.ca.gov)
  - Subject line: GFO-23-403
- **Deadline to submit:**
  - Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5:00 p.m. (PDT)
- **Q&A document will be posted on April 23<sup>rd</sup>**
  - <https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-03/gfo-23-403-local-government-building-decarbonization-challenge>



# Question and Answers

## 1. Use the raise hand function in Zoom

Zoom Phone Controls:

- \*6 – Toggle mute/unmute
- \*9 – Raise hand

## 2. Type questions in the Zoom Q&A Box

## 3. Submit written questions

- Send written questions to [Marissa.Sutton@energy.ca.gov](mailto:Marissa.Sutton@energy.ca.gov)
- Deadline: April 2, 2024, 5:00 p.m. PDT



# Thank You!

**Applications due May 20th by 11:59 p.m. (PDT)**