

LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND POWER GRANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Non-Profit Community Partnership Grants

December 10, 2020

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) is pleased to open the application period for an eighth general round of Community Partnership grants to local 501(c)3 non-profit organizations for new community outreach and public education activities to improve energy efficiency and water conservation. Seventeen (17) grants totaling \$860,000 are proposed to be funded by LADWP. This round also features an opportunity for additional incremental funding to enroll and provide support to customers in our financial assistance programs and pilots.

Applications are available at www.ladwp.com/np.

Background

Building upon the success of the previous seven grant cycles, this eighth round of funding will further engage City of Los Angeles residents and businesses in reducing their energy and water use and allow them to save money on their utility bills. The eighth round of grants will be issued in **two phases**, with the current phase focusing on Council District areas and a subsequent phase focusing on special categories. The program will assist non-profit organizations to affect behavior change in populations that may not be adequately addressed through more traditional communication strategies.

Round Eight Applications – Phase I

Grants will be offered in the following categories:

- Council District areas and Owens Valley (16) at \$50,000 each, totaling \$800,000. Additional incremental funds up to \$35,000 on top of each grant.
- Peer Facilitator (1) at \$60,000 for an 18-month grant period

Applications should describe the organization's proposed approach to promote LADWP's programs and change customers' energy and/or water use behavior. Describe the outreach strategy to reach and educate residents and businesses, particularly underserved populations, inform them about programs and services, and prompt them to participate. The outreach plan should use locally prominent languages and implement appropriate engagement strategies, including in-person methods, web-based methods, social media messaging, and other innovative methods to promote program participation. Applicants should also include details about how they will measure, track, and report successes. Collaborations among organizations and innovation are encouraged.

Applications requesting incremental funds to enroll and support customers in our financial assistance programs and pilots (overview of financial assistance programs are available at: www.ladwp.com/financialassistance) should separately describe:

- How funding will support applicants' current/prospective activities focused on low-income customers, senior citizens, and customers with disabilities, among others
- How enrollment and support, as well as impact and effectiveness of activities will be measured and tracked over the grant period (both quantitative and qualitative)
- How feedback will be gathered from customers who are enrolling or considering to participate in the assistance programs

As necessary, LADWP will provide grant recipients with content language and guidelines for energy efficiency and water conservation messages, including information and relevant services, incentives, rebates, financing, and tips for residents and businesses. All proposed new communication materials must be reviewed and approved by LADWP.

All applicants must meet the following Eligibility Criteria:

- Maintained 501(c)3 status continuously for the past three (3) years while located in the City of Los Angeles; this location criterion can be shown through IRS registration at the office address and/or maintenance of a publicly accessible office in the City of Los Angeles that is staffed regularly and exhibits the organization's signage and office hours
- Have an established track record of providing services to the community – especially relating to education, energy, water, or economic-related issues
- Demonstrate a commitment toward encouraging energy efficiency and water conservation through its current and/or future programs and structure
- Have the capacity to track numbers of constituents reached, engaged, and referred; labor costs and other expenditures; energy/water savings achieved; and maintain records acceptable for a City financial audit
- Propose activities that are at least 50% and up to 100% focused on energy efficiency versus water conservation. Retrofits for organizations' own facilities will not be funded; however, retrofits and/or physical demonstrations at other locations that serve as outreach/education tools for the program may comprise up to 1/3 of the proposed budget.
- Research activities may be allowed only if they inform the education and outreach portion of the project and may comprise up to 1/3 of project activities.

Application and Selection Process:

- All applications must be sent to nonprofitgrants@ladwp.com by **3:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 21, 2021.**
- Applications with multiple partners must indicate the lead organization that is authorized to represent and be responsible for the project on behalf of all partner organizations. The lead organization must meet all eligibility requirements listed above.
- LADWP staff will initially score all proposals received and will seek input from City Council and Mayor's office staff as applicable regarding local area needs.
- LADWP staff will follow-up with candidates to confirm eligibility criteria and will make the final award selections.
- **Evaluation criteria** will include (100 points possible):
 - Responsiveness to application requirements (10 points)
 - Addressing local area needs (20 points)
 - Past performance with behavior impacting programs (10 points)
 - Cost-effectiveness and viability of proposal (25 points)
 - Energy and/or water savings and/or other related benefits of the proposal (20 points)
 - Proposed tracking and quantification methods (10 points)
 - Innovation (5 points)

Grant Categories:

An organization may apply to work in more than one Council District using the same proposed scope of work. LADWP reserves the right to award less or more than the advertised amount of funds and to offer awards in different geographic areas of the City, as needs dictate. Matching funds are welcomed but not required.

Council District and Owens Valley Area Grants (16)

- Organizations must identify which City Council District(s) they propose to serve. Organizations are not limited to serving the district in which their offices are located.
- Owens Valley Area Grant. For this grant only, the location requirement for applicants is modified to be the Owens Valley area (Inyo or Mono County) and applicants must describe their recent work experience in the area. Applicants are encouraged to partner with Owens Valley area Tribal organizations.

- Grant applications in this category must total **\$50,000**. If you are applying for incremental funds, please indicate those activities and costs separately in your application.

Peer Facilitator Grant (1)

- One awardee will be selected as a peer facilitator for the entire eighth round grant cycle and will work directly with LADWP grants staff and with all other grantees to varying degrees. The Peer Facilitator grant period shall be 18 months.
- Applicants for the Peer Facilitator role should describe their organization's experience with coordinating multiple organizations toward a common goal, and their ability to develop networks, provide technical energy/water efficiency assistance, evaluate and provide guidance on evaluation and tracking methods, and prepare summary activity reports.

Implementation and Payment Process:

- Awardees will be required to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with LADWP that will include the scope of work, schedule, and budget. Note: insurance requirements may apply depending on the type of activity proposed.
- Once the MOUs are executed, LADWP will meet with recipients to further develop content messages on energy efficiency and water conservation.
- Progress payments will be made on a reimbursement basis upon completion of milestones designated in each MOU. A grant installment request (GIR) form will be provided to each grantee to complete; GIRs must be approved by LADWP prior to each payment. A final evaluation report must be submitted and approved prior to final payment.
- All activities must be completed within one year (12 months) of MOU execution date, unless otherwise noted.