



# Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grants Fiscal Year 2025-26 Fact Sheet

## Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grants

The Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program was created to support the California Department of Transportation's (Caltrans) Mission: Provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment. Eligible planning projects must have a transportation nexus per Article XIX Sections 2 and 3 of the California Constitution. Therefore, successful planning projects are expected to directly benefit the multi-modal transportation system. These grants will also improve public health, social equity, environmental justice, the environment, and provide other important community benefits. The period of grant fund availability spans over three fiscal years and approximately 31 months for grant project activities after the grant agreement is executed and Caltrans issues a Notice to Proceed.

The Sustainable Transportation Planning Grants includes:

- **Sustainable Communities Grants** (\$29.5 million) to encourage local and regional planning that furthers state goals, including, but not limited to, the goals and best practices cited in the Regional Transportation Plan Guidelines adopted by the California Transportation Commission.
- **Climate Adaptation Planning Grants** (\$3.7 million) support local and regional identification of transportation-related climate vulnerabilities through the development of climate adaptation plans, as well as project-level adaptation planning to identify adaptation projects and strategies for transportation infrastructure.
- **Strategic Partnerships Grants** (\$4.5 million) to identify and address statewide, interregional, or regional transportation deficiencies on the State highway system in partnership with Caltrans. A sub-category funds transit-focused planning projects that address multimodal transportation deficiencies.

## FY 2025-26 Grant Cycle Schedule

The FY 2025-26 Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant schedule is outlined below. Applicants are encouraged to visit the [California Grants Portal](#) and subscribe to receive notifications about State funding opportunities.

- **October 24, 2024** – Grant Application Guide call-for-applications and virtual grant application workshops
- **January 8, 2025** – Grant application deadline
- **Spring 2025** – Application evaluation and management approval of grant recommendations
- **Summer 2025** – Grant announcements
- **Fall 2025** – Grant recipients begin project activities
- **June 2028** – Grant projects are completed, and grant funds expire

## Caltrans Headquarters Contact

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[Sustainable Transportation Planning Grants Website](#)

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[Sustainable Transportation Planning Grants Mailing List](#)



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Grant	Fund Source	Purpose	Who May Apply	Local Match
<b>Sustainable Communities Competitive</b>	<p><b>Budget</b></p> <p>RMRA and SHA</p> <p>State funds</p> <p>Approx. \$17 million</p> <p>Approx. \$3 million set-aside for technical projects</p> <p>Up to \$2 million set-aside for Native American Tribal Governments</p> <p>Goal: 50% of grants should benefit Under-Resourced Communities***</p> <p><b>Grant Minimum</b></p> <p>\$50,000 for Under-Resourced Communities, including Native American Tribal Governments and rural communities;</p> <p>\$100,000 for all others</p> <p><b>Grant Maximum</b></p> <p>\$700,000</p>	<p>Funds local and regional multimodal transportation and land use planning projects that further the region's RTP SCS/APS (where applicable), contribute to the State's GHG reduction targets, address the needs of under-resourced communities, and assist in achieving the Caltrans Mission and Grant Program Objectives (See Chapter 1.2).</p>	<p><b>The following are eligible to apply as a primary applicant:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MPOs <b>with sub-applicants</b></li> <li>• RTPAs</li> <li>• Transit Agencies;</li> <li>• Cities and Counties with compliant Housing Elements and completed Annual Progress Reports;</li> <li>• Native American Tribal Governments</li> <li>• Other Public Transportation Planning Entities</li> </ul> <p><b>The following are eligible to apply as a sub-applicant:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MPOs/RTPAs</li> <li>• Transit Agencies</li> <li>• Universities and Community Colleges</li> <li>• Native American Tribal Governments</li> <li>• Cities and Counties with compliant Housing Elements and completed Annual Progress Reports</li> <li>• Community-Based Organizations</li> <li>• Non-Profit Organizations (501.C.3)</li> <li>• Other Public Entities**</li> </ul>	<p>11.47% minimum* (in cash or an in-kind contribution); not required for Native American Tribal Governments</p>
<b>Sustainable Communities Formula</b>	<p><b>Budget</b></p> <p>RMRA</p> <p>State funds</p> <p>\$12.5 million</p>	<p>Funds local and regional multimodal transportation and land use planning projects that further the region's RTP SCS/APS (where applicable), contribute to the State's GHG reduction targets, and assist in achieving the Caltrans Mission and Grant Program Objectives (See Chapter 1.2).</p>	<p><b>The following are eligible to apply as a primary applicant:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MPOs</li> </ul>	<p>11.47% minimum* (in cash or an in-kind contribution).</p>

\* For local match requirements, refer to Chapter 6.5 of this Guide.

\*\* Public entities include state agencies, the Regents of the University of California, district, public authority, public agency, and any other political subdivision or public corporation in the State (Government Code Section 811.2).

\*\*\* For purposes of this grant program, under-resourced communities are the most vulnerable places that are facing disproportionate rates of economic, environmental, and health burdens, and are defined according to the tools in Appendix A.



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Grant	Fund Source	Purpose	Who May Apply	Local Match
Climate Adaptation Planning	<p><b>Budget</b></p> <p>State funds</p> <p>Cycle 3: \$3 million total</p> <p>Up to \$1 million set-aside for Native American Tribal Governments</p> <p>Goal: 50% of grants should benefit Under-Resourced Communities***</p> <p><b>Grant minimum</b></p> <p>\$100,000</p> <p><b>Grant maximum</b></p> <p>\$1 million (single organization); above</p> <p>\$1.5 million to be considered for partnership applications</p>	<p>Funds local and regional identification of transportation-related climate vulnerabilities through the development of climate adaptation plans, as well as project-level climate adaptation planning to identify adaptation projects and strategies for transportation infrastructure.</p>	<p><b>The following are eligible to apply as a primary applicant:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MPOs</li> <li>• RTPAs</li> <li>• Transit Agencies;</li> <li>• Cities and Counties</li> <li>• Native American Tribal Governments</li> <li>• A joint exercise of powers authority established pursuant to Chapter 5 of Division 7 of Title 1, with the consent of a transportation planning agency or a county transportation commission for the jurisdiction in which the transportation project will be developed.</li> <li>• A local transportation authority created or designated pursuant to Division 12.5 or Division 19 of the Public Utilities Code.</li> </ul> <p><b>The following are eligible to apply as a sub-applicant:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MPOs/RTPAs</li> <li>• Transit Agencies</li> <li>• Universities and Community Colleges</li> <li>• Native American Tribal Governments</li> <li>• Cities and Counties</li> <li>• Community-Based Organizations</li> <li>• Non-Profit Organizations (501.C.3)</li> <li>• Other Public Entities**</li> </ul>	<p>11.47% minimum* (in cash or an in-kind contribution); not required for Native American Tribal Governments</p>

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\*\* Public entities include state agencies, the Regents of the University of California, district, public authority, public agency, and any other political subdivision or public corporation in the State (Government Code Section 811.2).

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Grant	Fund Source	Purpose	Who May Apply	Local Match
Strategic Partnerships	<p><b>Budget</b></p> <p>FHWA SPR, Part I</p> <p>Federal funds</p> <p>\$1.5 million</p> <p><b>Grant Minimum</b></p> <p>\$100,000</p> <p><b>Grant Maximum</b></p> <p>\$500,000</p>	<p>Funds transportation planning studies in partnership with Caltrans that address the regional, interregional, and statewide needs of the State highway system, and also assist in achieving the Caltrans Mission and Grant Program Objectives (See Chapter 1.2).</p>	<p><b>The following are eligible to apply as a primary applicant:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MPOs</li> <li>• RTPAs</li> </ul> <p><b>The following are eligible to apply as a sub-applicant:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MPOs/RTPAs</li> <li>• Transit Agencies</li> <li>• Universities and Community Colleges</li> <li>• Native American Tribal Governments</li> <li>• Cities and Counties</li> <li>• Community-Based Organizations</li> <li>• Non-Profit Organizations (501.C.3)</li> <li>• Other Public Entities**</li> </ul>	<p>20% minimum* (in non-federal funds or an in-kind contribution).</p>
Strategic Partnerships – Transit	<p><b>Budget</b></p> <p>FTA Section 5304</p> <p>Federal funds</p> <p>\$3 million</p> <p><b>Grant Minimum</b></p> <p>\$75,000 for RTPAs and transit agencies;</p> <p>\$100,000 for MPOs</p> <p><b>Grant Maximum</b></p> <p>\$500,000</p>	<p>Funds multi-modal planning studies, with a focus on transit, in partnership with Caltrans, of regional, interregional and statewide significance, and also assist in achieving the Caltrans Mission and Grant Program Objectives (See Chapter 1.2)</p>	<p><b>The following are eligible to apply as a primary applicant:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MPOs</li> <li>• RTPAs</li> <li>• Transit Agencies</li> </ul> <p><b>The following are eligible to apply as a sub-applicant:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MPOs/RTPAs</li> <li>• Transit Agencies</li> <li>• Universities and Community Colleges</li> <li>• Native American Tribal Governments</li> <li>• Cities and Counties</li> <li>• Community-Based Organizations</li> <li>• Non-Profit Organizations (501.C.3)</li> <li>• Other Public Entities**</li> </ul>	<p>11.47% minimum* (in non-federal funds or an in-kind contribution).</p>

\* For local match requirements, refer to Chapter 6.5 of this Guide.

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