



Accelerating Climate Resilience (ACR) Municipal Grant Program FY23

Questions & Answers (Q&A) Document September 23, 2022

PROCESS & LOGISTICS

Question: Are you limited to only one application, or can you apply for multiple projects?

Answer: Yes, a municipality can submit more than one application.

Question: In addition to municipalities, are nonprofits and grassroots coalitions eligible to apply, and if so, are there stipulations (for example, do they need to have a signed MOU with a city)?

Answer: At this time, only municipalities are eligible applicants. We strongly encourage municipalities to partner with community-based organizations, so please reach out to your municipality to discuss project ideas and formulate a partnership. The grant application doesn't require submission of formal MOUs/agreements; we would like to leave that up to municipalities and their community partners to make those arrangements as appropriate.

Question: In the Application question #1, please clarify your definition of "Staff Project Manager" and "Chief Executive Officer".

Answer: The Staff Project Manager should be the municipal point of contact who will manage the project and serve as the grant coordinator with MAPC. This person can hold any relevant position on staff and in most cases is the Town/City Planner, Sustainability Director, or Municipal Engineer, depending on the project. The Municipal Staff Project Manager does not need to be the Chief Executive Officer.

The Chief Executive Officer must attach a signed authorization to the ACR grant application identifying the lead municipal Staff Project Manager. The Chief Executive Officer must also have authority to sign off on contract agreements and grant expenses/reimbursement requests. Examples of a Chief Executive Officer include a Mayor in a City, a Town Manager/Administrator in a Town, or other municipal staff with the authority described above.

Question: Do Staff Manager and Chief Executive Officer roles need to be municipal, or can one (or both) be from partnering non-profit?

Answer: Yes, identifying a municipal Staff Project Manager and Chief Executive Officer is required, as they will serve as the fiscal agent for the grant. The application also includes a section to identify and describe proposed community partners, who can act as project co-leads or co-project managers.

Question: Is a town library eligible to be a lead applicant?

Answer: Yes, like other municipal departments, a municipal library and/or school is eligible to be a lead applicant.

Question: Small question, but can there be two joint points of contacts/project managers?

Answer: Yes, applicants can propose joint project managers/points of contact, especially when pursuing a multi-jurisdictional project. However, for grant contracting purposes, only one of the municipalities (and its staff) in a joint project will serve as the lead applicant and fiscal agent.

Question: When you recommend having other sources of funding – state or federal grants – does that mean funding sources we're considering, or funding sources that we have secured before submitting the ACR proposal?

Answer: Ideally, other funding sources should be secured if the ACR grant only contributes to a portion, or a phase, of the project's overall budget. MAPC wants to ensure that the project is sustainable beyond ACR funding. When reviewing grant applications, it is helpful to know when there are matching funds, in-kind staff time, or other resources committed to support the project; but MAPC will not penalize applicants that do not have matching funds. Matching funds are not required for the ACR grant program.

Question: Is there a preference for 1-year projects versus 2-year projects? Are they weighted differently in your scoring rubric when evaluating proposals?

Answer: There is no preference for one-year versus two-year projects. MAPC does prefer for capital/construction projects to be two years. All proposals will be reviewed using the same evaluation criteria.

PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

Question: Are community or school composting programs eligible for this grant?

Question: Could two towns collaborate to provide financial assistance to low income and EJ residents for curbside compost pick up? Along with the financial assistance we would have informational sessions for the residents about the impact of food waste, the importance of composting, gardening, and utilizing fertilizer.

Question: Would a town-wide climate fair, like a science fair, be applicable for funding?

Answer: Please refer to the nine priorities of the ACR program. A project is eligible for the grant if we can clearly understand the connection between the project's outcomes and the community's overall climate resilience efforts (i.e., how will this project prepare for, or strengthen the community's/residents' readiness to, the impacts of climate change).

Question: Can these Grants be used to assist a Town for consultancy in developing a Climate Action Plan?

Answer: The Accelerating Climate Resiliency grant program aims to support projects that implement existing plans or planning efforts or build new capacity or networks during a planning process. Priority recommendations from the community's climate action planning processes may be good candidates for the ACR grant program.

Question: For an example like the municipal resilience zoning, would the money be used to hire a staff person to focus on these issues? Or would the funding have to be used for a consultant? Temporary staff time is a lot more cost effective.

Answer: Yes, the grant can be used to hire a staff person and/or consulting service to support your project.

Question: Is the policy of a one-year grant for staff capacity to address zoning policy and regulation a hard rule? We believe that with the extensive climate & comprehensive plans recently developed..., we would benefit from someone working with the staff and City Council for two years to work out new zoning policy and regulations. Is it possible that MAPC might choose to only partially fund a request? For example, funding one year instead of two, or part of a salary instead of a full salary?

Answer: It is not a hard rule to fund only one year for staff capacity. In this case, if it involves getting approval/adoption from City Council, the program can consider the proposal for two-year timeframe. We recommend being very clear of your requests and justification for why you need one or two years; that includes laying out an anticipated timeline for the proposed project. The more information you can provide to clarify and justify why you're asking for the proposed project budget and timeline, the better prepared our Technical Review Team will be to evaluate proposals and make final decisions.

Question: If a Town is interested in more green space, do you pay for staff positions (or stipends for interns and students) and materials? Do you pay for trees and plants and compost?

Answer: Yes, the grant can be used for staff positions, stipends for interns/students and community volunteers to participate in the project, as well as materials.

Question: Is there a link available to the entirety of the Cool it With Art project and/or Arlington Projects?

Answer: Yes, more information about these two projects is available at the links below:

- Cool it with Art Project: <https://www.mapc.org/resource-library/cool-with-art/>
- Arlington Project: <http://artsarlington.org/remembrance-of-climate-futures/>

NEXT STEPS & MORE INFORMATION

Question: Will this slide deck be available after the webinar?

Answer: Yes, the slide deck will be available on MAPC's ACR webpage, along with a recording of the webinar. A follow-up email will also be sent to those who registered for the webinar, with a link to the ACR webpage (<http://www.mapc.org/acceleratingresiliency>).

Question: Where can I view the full RFP?

Answer: The full Invitation for Proposals, and related resources, are available on MAPC's ACR webpage: <http://www.mapc.org/acceleratingresiliency>.

Question: Do you anticipate similar rounds of grant funding for 2023 and 2024?

Answer: Yes, there will be another round of ACR Grant funding released next year for FY24. However, the ACR grant funding available during the FY24 round will be for 1-year projects only. For applicants considering a 2-year project idea, it is recommended to submit a proposal during the current FY23 round of grant funding.

Question: Is there a grants manager at MAPC that we can call with specific questions?

Answer: Yes, please contact Senior Environmental Planner Van Du at vdu@mapc.org.