

Accelerating Climate Resilience (ACR) Municipal Grant Program FY24

Questions & Answers (Q&A) Document August 28, 2023

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 within the MAPC region 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: Can an MAPC municipality apply for a project that involves other communities outside of MAPC region?

Answer: Municipalities in MAPC region may apply, as lead applicant, for regional or multi-jurisdictional project(s) that involve other communities outside of the MAPC region, as long as there is at least one or more partners representing municipalities in the MAPC region.

Question: Can a municipality submit multiple project proposals, like from different departments, or just one?

Answer: Yes, different departments from the same municipality could submit their own project proposals and/or participate on different project proposals.

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?

Question: Is a public school district eligible to apply as a municipal organization?

Answer: Yes, like other municipal departments, a municipal library, public school/school districts are eligible to be a lead applicant.

Question: 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: Can one project address multiple project types? For example, selecting both capacity building and technical assistance?

Answer: Yes, make sure to describe how the proposed project types are applicable (e.g., project timeline and phases, etc.).

Question: Is a municipality less competitive in the FY24 round of applications if they have received funding through the ACR program in previous grant rounds?

Answer: No, being a previous grantee does not disadvantage a municipality applying for the current round of grant funding. We encourage all project ideas, including if they build off projects completed in previous grant rounds.

PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

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

Question: Are soil and carbon sequestering projects eligible?

Question: Have you ever funded a Miyawaki Forest project?

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: Are sustainable transportation systems an eligible project type?

Answer: Yes, sustainable transportation systems could be considered eligible if they can be described in terms of the ACR program priorities.

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: 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/>

Question: Do you have to have submitted an Expression of Interest form to be eligible to submit a project proposal?

Answer: No, the Expression of Interest period was an optional process for applicants to get initial feedback on their project ideas. You can submit a grant application even if you did not participate in the expression of interest period.

NEXT STEPS & MORE INFORMATION

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

Answer: Yes, the PPT and a recording of the webinar are available on MAPC's 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: How much time might I have to dedicate to RCOP – is it flexible?

Answer: Grantees are expected to attend bi-monthly Resilience Community of Practice (RCOP) meetings and activities (e.g., presentations, site visits, etc.). RCOP meetings are designed to be flexible time for grantees to ask questions, share and hear project updates and connect with other grantees. Occasionally, RCOP meetings may include site visits to project locations.

Question: What is the proportion of applications received to grants awarded? How competitive is the grant?

Answer: We expect to fund approximately 10-12 proposals this year, but that number may vary depending on the number of proposals received and how much funding applicants will request.

Question: Can potential applicants contact previous grantees about their projects?

Answer: Absolutely! Applicants are welcome to reach out to previous grantees, who are likely happy to share their experience the ACR program and lessons learned. The ACR webpage lists previously funded projects.

Question: If granted, how are funds disbursed?

Answer: Grant funds are disbursed as reimbursement once project invoices and receipts are submitted during progress and final reporting periods.

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

Answer: Yes, please contact Assistant Director of Environmental Planning, Van Du, at vdu@mapc.org.