FAQs

General Questions

What types of organizations are eligible for Communities Grant funding?

All Washington Pacific Power non-residential service customers qualify to apply, provided their proposed project also meets project eligibility. All Pacific Power customers in Washington on a non-residential electric service schedule are eligible to apply for program funds with preference given to community-focused organizations, such as 501(c)(3); city, county, and regional governments.

What types of projects are eligible for funding?

Projects must promote electric transportation in Washington.

All projects must benefit named communities. **Named communities:** a term for both highly impacted communities and vulnerable populations.

Highly impacted community (HIC): a community designated with a score of 9 or 10 based on the DOH cumulative impact analyses or a census tract that is fully or partially on sovereign tribal territory. Scores are assigned based on several indicators that express: 1) environmental exposures, 2) environmental effects, 3) sensitive populations, and 4) socioeconomic factors. This information is available on the Washington Department of Health's Information by Location Environmental Health Disparities (EHD) map.

Vulnerable population: a community that experiences a disproportionate cumulative risk from environmental burdens due to: (a) Adverse socioeconomic factors, including unemployment, high housing and transportation costs relative to income, linguistic isolation, and access to food, education, technology, broadband, health care, capital and credit; and (b) Sensitivity factors, such as mental health, low birth weight, and higher rates of hospitalization.

Applications will be determined to benefit a named community based on either:

1) Whether the proposed location (as defined by census tract(s)[1]) is located within a Highly Impacted Community, or;

2) The project will deliver benefits to one or more vulnerable populations (based on the narrative response).

Projects that most strongly align with the evaluation criteria (see Overview) will be awarded grants. Even if a project is eligible, it may not receive funding.

How will projects be selected for a grant award?

Applications will be competitively reviewed with a scoring rubric by a third-party evaluator. The third-party evaluator may conduct interviews or request additional information during their initial evaluation. This evaluator will provide recommendations to Pacific Power based on their review.

Pacific Power will make final selection decisions based on the individual applicant scoring, as well as considerations to ensure a balanced selection of awards.

How long does it take until grants are awarded?

Formal review will be conducted in November with award announcements expected in January.

What is the range of a typical grant award? Is there a cap?

Awards will vary depending on the scope of the project and total available funds for all projects. Grants can range from $25,000 to $100,000. A good rule of thumb is the higher the award, the greater the need for justification and supporting documentation.

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[1] The following census tracts are Highly Impacted Communities as of March 18, 2024: 53077000700, 53077000200, 53077000100, 53077000300, 53077000600, 53077001501, 53077001502, 53077001202, 53077001201, 53077001400, 53077940002, 53077002200, 53077000500, 53077001100, 53077001800, 53077940003, 53077940001, 53077002701, 53077940004, 53077001300, 53077002802, 53077002801, 53077002102, 53077940006, 53077940005, 53077003001, 53077001702, 53071920000.

Application Questions

Are there minimum or maximum number of attachments I can include in my application?

There are no limitations on the number of application attachments.

Will the grant funding cover project management costs?

Yes, project management costs associated with the project are eligible if included in the application. Applications should include a breakdown of project management costs.

Does the grant cover the cost of installing solar and battery equipment?

No, these costs are not eligible for this grant.