Welcome to the Webinar: Project Advancement Grants for Land Trusts and their Partners

August 28, 2024







Thank You to Our State Funding Partner



Block Grants: \$3.5M

Training/Mapping/Admin: \$1.5M

The California Onward Capacity Building and \$5M Grant Program: Accelerating Conservation to Reach 30x30



Project Advancement vs. Capacity Building

- Capacity and Partnership
 Project Focused
 - Indirect Acq. Costs
- 1-year projects
- Applications
 Due Oct. 18



 Have additional \$2.5M in funding for future rounds

- Capacity and Partnership
 Building Focused
- Up to 2-year projects
- Applications
 Due Sep. 20



Only 1 round of funding

Each land trust may only submit one (1) application (with or without partners) to each grant program.



Consultation and Application Assistance

 The Program Director is available for consultation with potential applicants prior to submittal. It is strongly recommended that prospective applicants schedule time via the link on the grant website:

Book a 15-minute meeting with Karin Winters, or reach out directly: grants@calandtrusts.org | 916-497-0272 x2

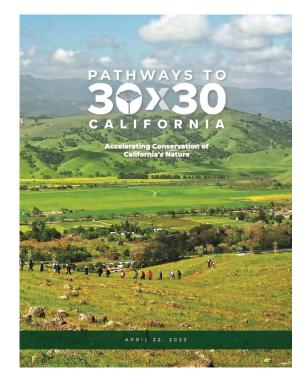
- Staff is available to assist applicants in completing the application as needed.
- Reach out to us early and often.
- We want to help and collaborate to make your application as strong as possible.

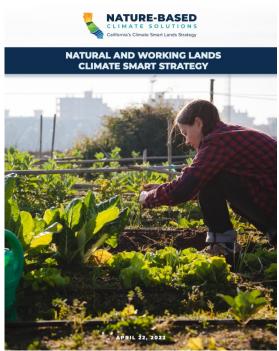


Project Advancement Block Grants

- To build the capacity of California's land trusts and their partners advance projects towards the goals of:
 - Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy (NWLCSS) and
 - Pathways to 30x30 (30x30)





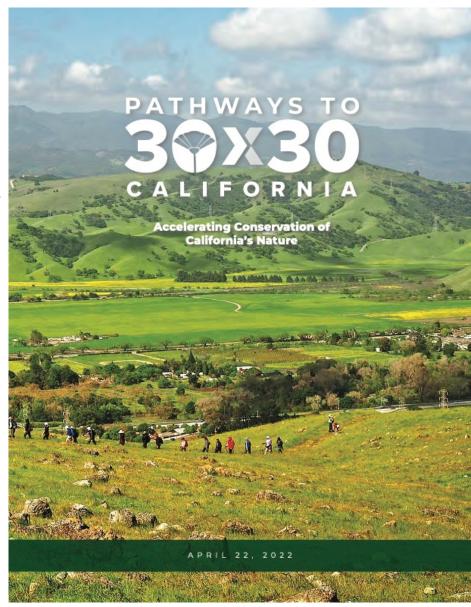




Pathways to 30x30

California's strategy to conserve an additional six million acres of land and half a million acres of coastal waters is organized into ten pathways:

- 1. Accelerate Regionally Led Conservation
- 2. Execute Strategic Land Acquisitions
- 3. Increase Voluntary Conservation Easements
- Enhance Conservation of Existing Public Lands and Coastal Waters



www.californianature.ca.gov/bit.ly/CCLT-Project

- 5. Institutionalize Advance Mitigation
- 6. Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship
- 7. Strengthen Coordination Among Governments
- 8. Align Investments to Maximize Conservation Benefits
- 9. Advance and Promote Complementary Conservation Measures
- 10. Evaluate Conservation Outcomes and Adaptively Manage

PATHWAYS TO CALIFORNIA Accelerating Conservation of California's Nature APRIL 22, 2022

Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy (NWLCSS)

Priorities to increase climate action on California's natural and working lands:

- 1. Accelerate on-the-ground projects that deliver climate benefits through nature-based solutions across California's diverse landscapes that state agencies and partners can learn from and that can be scaled-up over time.
- 2. **Invest in science** to improve our understanding of implementation pathways here in California and to help scale nature-based climate solutions around the world.

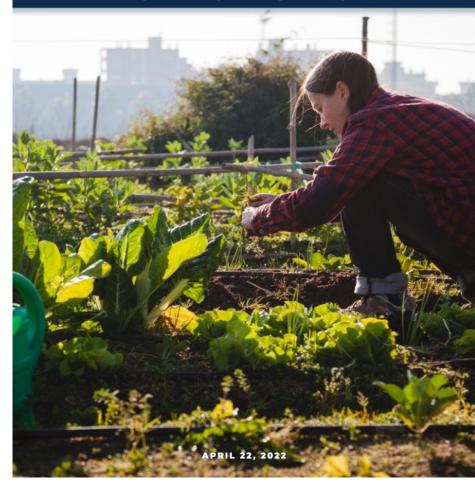
NATURAL AND WORKING LANDS CLIMATE SMART STRATEGY

https://resources.ca.gov/Initiatives/Expanding-Nature-Based-Solutions https://calandtrusts.org/project-advancement-grants-for-land-trusts /

- 3. Prioritize equity to drive solutions that help those residents and communities hit first and worst by climate change impacts, including through targeted funding, workforce development, capacity building, and support for tribally-led nature-based solutions.
- 4. Scale investment to support climate action in the natural working lands sector, including through public-private partnerships, demonstration projects, and leveraging federal funds.
- **5. Build capacity** of implementation partners through approaches including technical assistance and focused support, grant funding opportunities, and partnering with California Native American tribes.



NATURAL AND WORKING LANDS CLIMATE SMART STRATEGY

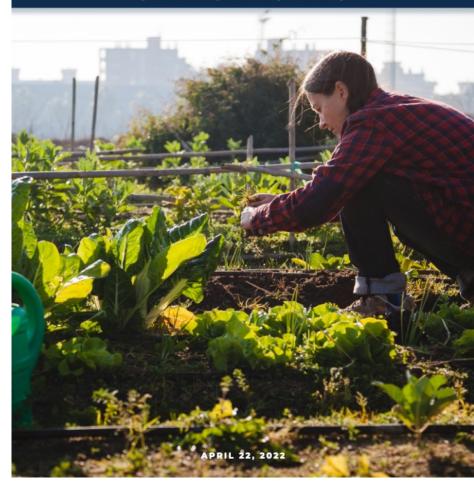


https://resources.ca.gov/Initiatives/Expanding-Nature-Based-Solutions https://calandtrusts.org/project-advancement-grants-for-land-trusts /

- 6. Improve internal coordination among state agencies to align and leverage funding, authorities, and programs to accelerate implementation of nature-based solutions.
- 7. Strengthen collective action by **advancing new and innovative partnerships** with nonstate government groups and leaders, and through organizing annual updates and periodic convenings on implementation.



NATURAL AND WORKING LANDS CLIMATE SMART STRATEGY



https://resources.ca.gov/Initiatives/Expanding-Nature-Based-Solutions https://calandtrusts.org/project-advancement-grants-for-land-trusts /

CCLT Goals:



- 1. <u>Build a pipeline</u> of over 1 million acres of conservation projects that directly contribute to the goals of 30x30 and the NWLCSS
- 2. Support projects that provide a <u>direct benefit</u> to underserved communities
- 3. <u>Support partnerships</u> between land trusts and Native Tribes/organizations
- 4. Support land trusts and partners to <u>leverage</u> \$7 million in non-state funding toward projects

What does "leveraging funding" mean?

- What outcomes will your project lead to?
- How many community partnerships will you be able to build?
- Of those partnerships, how many are underserved or disadvantaged?
- What other funding in kind or \$\$ will you be able to access when you have more capacity?

- What other funding will you be able to access through your partnerships?
- What planning processes will lead to future expansion or capacity?
- What new grant applications will you be able to access?

Think expansively throughout your organization about both direct and indirect benefits.



Funding



- Maximum of \$1.0 million in this first round
- Reserve Funding
 - 40% (\$400,000) reserved for projects located in or directly benefiting Underserved Communities and/or Native-led land trusts or projects that include authentic partnerships with Tribes or Native-led organizations
 - Deadlines can be extended for Reserve Funding applications, but <u>you must contact us</u> <u>by October 18 to alert us</u> of your intent to apply

Most awards will be between \$25,000 - \$150,000 (contact us for projects outside of this range).

Each land trust may only submit one (1) application (with or without partners).



Eligibility

- California Land Trusts
- California Land Trusts in partnership with:
 - Tribes
 - Native-led Organizations
 - Community Based Partners
 - California 501(c)3 non-profit organizations
 - Government agencies/Special Districts
 - Resource Conservation Districts (RCD)
 - Universities/Colleges
- Applicants do not need to be members of CCLT
- Non-member land trusts are encouraged to learn more about the benefits of membership on the CCLT website (calandtrusts.org)

Each land trust may only submit one (1) application (with or without partners). Projects must be located within the State of California.



Grant Timeline

PROGRAM TIMELINE

July 19, 2024	Grant Applications Open
July 19 – Oct 18, 2024	Program Director Available for Consultations
Aug 28, 2024	Virtual grant webinar
Oct 18, 2024	Applications Due/Notification of intent to apply
Oct 18, 2024 Nov 22, 2024	Applications Due/Notification of intent to apply Grant Decisions (estimated)



- Rolling Deadline for Partnership Proposals or Proposals from Native-led Land Trusts
 - Applications from Native-led land trusts, or applications that include partnerships with underserved community organizations and/or Tribes or Native-led organizations have a rolling deadline and may be submitted any time.
 - Funding is limited and will be provided as applications are received.
 - You <u>must contact the Program Director by October</u>
 18, 2024 to inform us of your intent to apply.





Grant Categories

- 1. Transaction, Project Development, and Permitting
- 2. Organizational Capacity Building
- 3. Building and Sustaining Partnerships
 - Indirect Transaction Costs
 - Legal fees, appraisals, due diligence
 - Capacity Building/Staffing project
 - Baseline Documentation
 - Organizational Policy Dev.
 - Expanding GIS capacity
 - Permits/CEQA/NEPA documentation
 - Preparing non-state grant applications

- Strategic or Organizational Planning
- Regional Conservation Implementation
- Regional Collaboration Project
- Planning or implementation of TEK, cultural access, land return
- Community Outreach Project
- Project Development
- Resources Surveys/Studies



Requirements

- Reporting
 - · Quarterly meetings, invoices, reports
 - Final report
 - Pre- and post-grant surveys
- Quarterly Cohort Meetings
 - · Virtual cohort meetings for training, networking
- Grant Agreement
 - Required Grant agreement
 - Review template prior to applying
- Payment
 - Projects funded in arrears
 - Eligible for up to 25% advance funding
 - 10% retention until project completion



California Council of Land Trusts Grant Agreement

Grantee: Amount: Grant Period:

This Grant Agreement ("Agreement") is made and entered into as of the last date signed below (the "Effective Date") by and between California Council of Land Trusts ("CCLT") and [Insert Grantee Name] ("Grantee"), collectively the "Parties" and individually, a "Party."

WHEREAS, CCLT desires to provide technical assistance and support capacity building for land trusts through its CA Onward Grant Program;

WHEREAS, in pursuit of that goal, CCLT has obtained a grant from the Wildlife Conservation Board to fund subgrants as part of the CA Onward Grant Program;

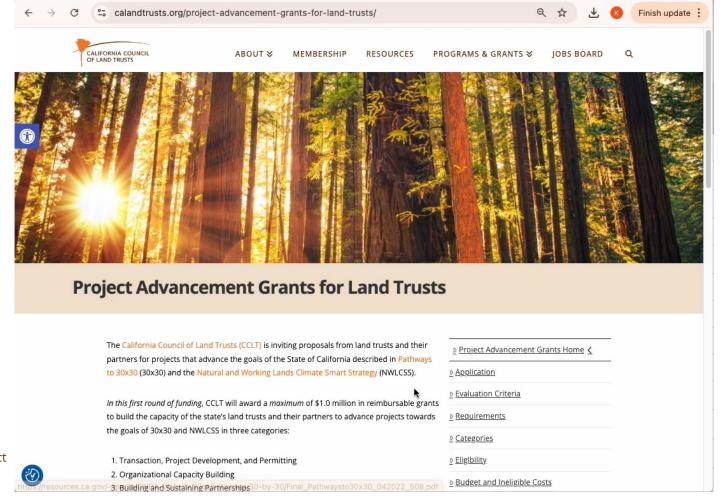
NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of their mutual promises set forth in this Agreement, and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the Parties, intending to be legally bound, hereby agree as follows:

1. **DEFINITIONS**

- 1.1 The following capitalized terms used in this agreement shall have the meanings defined in this section:
 - Final Report means the report described in Sections 7.2(b) and (c) of this Agreement.
 - Funding Agency means the Wildlife Conservation Board, which provided all or a portion of the funds granted pursuant to this Agreement.
 - Grant Project Description means the description and scope of the work funded by the grant under this Agreement, as set forth in Exhibit A.
 - Project means the work described in the Grant Project Description.
 - e. <u>Progress Report</u> means the quarterly report described in Sections 7.2(a) and (c) of this Agreement.

2. PURPOSE OF THE GRANT

Grant Portal





bit.ly/CCLT-Project

Application

- Applicants will apply using the online application https://bit.ly/CCLT-Project
- Four parts to the application:
 - 1. Application Form
 - 12 Questions
 - 2. Work Plan must use provided template
 - 3. Budget Worksheet A must use provided template
 - 4. Budget Worksheet B must use provided template







PROJECT SUMMARY

Please provide a summary of the project in one or two sentences.

PURPOSE, NEED, AND IMPACT (SUGGESTED WORD LIMIT: 500) (20 points)

- 1. Describe the proposed project, why it's necessary, and how your project will advance the pace and scale of conservation and/or stewardship in your community and/or California.
- 2. Describe the specific problems (current conditions, limiting factors, etc.), issues, or unserved needs the project will address.

ADVANCING CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION (SUGGESTED WORD LIMIT: 250) (10 points)

Describe how this project will increase the pace of land conservation in California and how it quantitatively and qualitatively supports statewide environmental priorities, <u>Pathways to 30x30</u>, and/or the <u>Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy (NWLCSS)</u>.



ADVANCING OBJECTIVES OF CAPACITY BUILDING GRANT PROGRAM FOR LAND TRUSTS (SUGGESTED WORD LIMIT: 250) (10 points)

Describe how the proposed project will quantitatively and qualitatively advance the following objectives of the Capacity Building Program for Land Trusts:

- 1. Build a pipeline of 1 million acres toward the goal of 30x30 and NWLCSS.
- Support projects that provide a direct benefit to disadvantaged communities.
- 3. Support partnerships between land trusts and Native Tribes or Native-led organizations.
- Support land trusts and partners to leverage \$7 million in non-state funding toward projects.

PROJECT READINESS AND DEFINING SUCCESS (SUGGESTED WORD LIMIT: 400) (20 points)

- Describe the project status feasibility and the preparations undertaken to ensure prompt project completion.
- What does success in this project look like one year after completion? How will you measure success, and what are distinct benchmarks for short-term and long-term success?



COMMUNITY SUPPORT (SUGGESTED WORD LIMIT: 150) (5 points)

Describe the public and institutional support for the project and any efforts to include the local community and/or Native Tribe or Tribal organization or stakeholders. (*Please do not include any support letters unless this is a partnership project.*)

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION AND ENGAGEMENT (SUGGESTED WORD LIMIT: 250) (5 point bonus, if applicable*)

If applying with a community partner, please explain how the organizations will work together, how grant resources will help strengthen and/or formalize the partnership, and how the resources will be allocated between partners. If the project benefits or serves a historically underserved or California Disadvantaged/Severely Disadvantaged Community (DAC/SDAC), please provide the location of the project and documentation demonstrating that it is located within or providing direct benefit and describe the services and/or benefits provided.

CALIFORNIA COUNCIL
OF LAND TRUSTS

bit.ly/CCLT-Project

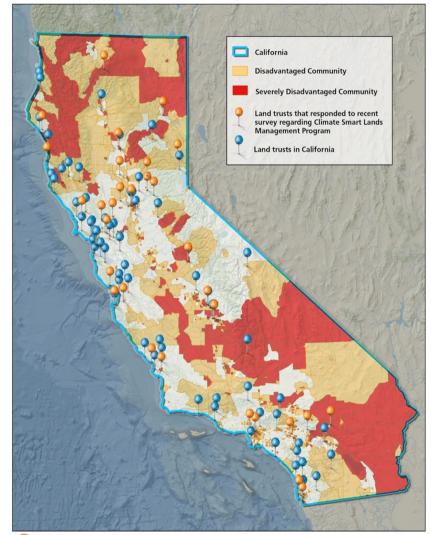
^{*}Bonus points will only be applied to projects with partners. Land Trusts that are submitting proposals without partners will not be penalized.

Defining Underserved/DAC/SDAC

DEFINING UNDERSERVED/DAC/SDAC

If the project is in and/or directly benefits a historically underserved or California designated Severely Disadvantaged Community (SDAC) or Disadvantaged Community (DAC), please document by using one of the following tools:

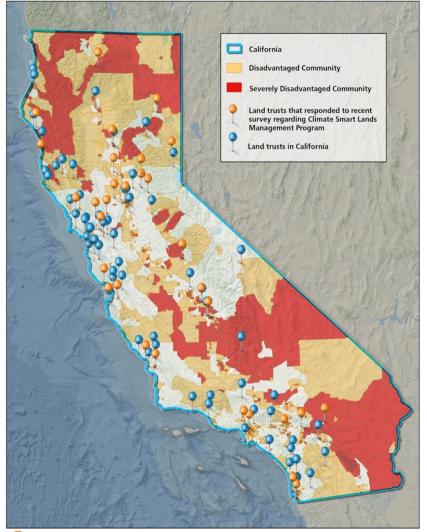
- Department of Water Resources Disadvantaged Community Mapping Tool (https://gis.water.ca.gov/dacs/)
- Cal Enviro Screen 4.0
 (https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/6b86
 3505f9454cea802f4be0b4b49d62/)





*Land trusts typically serve large geographic areas often including multiple counties, an entire region, or the entire state. The pins on the map are representative of land trust office addresses and do not necessarily convey the full service areas of any Map date: 5/4/20 ources: ESRI, American Corrmunity Sun 115-2019 5-Year Estimates and TIGERw U.S. Census Bureau, Midpen Open Spa Climate and Economic Justice mapping tool (https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/#3/3 3.47/-97.5)

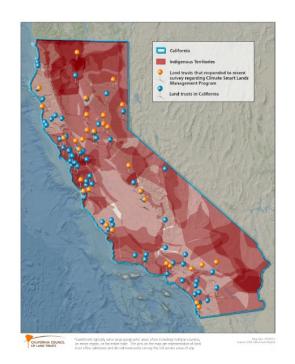
Direct benefits include training and workforce education, job opportunities, or cultural recreational, and educational opportunities.





*Land trusts typically serve large geographic areas often including multiple counties, an entire region, or the entire state. The pins on the map are representative of land trust office addresses and do not necessarily convey the full service areas of any Map date: 5/4/20 ources: ESRI, American Community Sun 015-2019 5-Year Estimates and TIGERwe U.S. Census Bureau, Midpen Open Spa

Native Land Trusts and Partnerships with Tribes or Native-led Organizations



NATIVE TRIBE OR NATIVE-LED ORGANIZATION (SUGGESTED WORD LIMIT: 250) (5 point bonus, if applicable*)

If applying with a Native Tribe or Native-led organization, describe and provide evidence that this project is engaging authentically with or directly benefiting Native communities, Tribal Nations, Native Tribes (does not need to be federally recognized), or Native-led organizations through an MOU, MOA, or letter of support.

*Bonus points will only be applied to projects with partners. Land Trusts that are submitting proposals without partners will not be penalized.



Application

PROJECT TEAM AND CAPACITY (SUGGESTED WORD LIMIT: 200) (5 points)

Describe the project team and their roles for this project and describe your organizational capacity and commitment to complete and sustain the proposed activities.

GRANT ACTIVITIES (SUGGESTED WORD LIMIT: 500) (15 points)

List and describe the grant activities by task. Please include no more than five (5) tasks. Tasks should align with the Project Work Plan and Budget task list.

PROJECT WORK PLAN (5 points)

Provide a realistic timeline for project activities over the course or the grant period. (Applicants must use the provided Project Work Plan template.)

BUDGET (10 points)

Attach completed Budget Worksheets A & B.



Project Advancement Grant Application

Applicants will apply using the online application form below. A completed application form, Work Plan, Budget Worksheet A, and Worksheet B must be submitted with the application.

Preview the Application

Consultation with Program Staff

The Program Director is available for consultation with potential applicants prior to submittal. It is strongly recommended that prospective applicants schedule time via this link.

Staff is also available to assist applicants complete the Application as needed.

Review Process

Applications will go through an administrative review for eligibility.

Eligible applications will then be reviewed by a Grant Review Committee (GRC) composed of representatives from CCLT and other key partners and peers with relevant expertise and experiences. The GRC may request applicants to revise and resubmit applications, as necessary. However, applicants are strongly encouraged to consult with the Program

D Project Advancement Grants Home

▶ Application <</p>

D Evaluation Criteria

D Requirements

D Categories

D Eligibility

D Budget and Ineligible Costs

Grant Guidelines

Resources and FAQs - updated





Work Plan



Project Title:	<< Insert Project Title >>			
Applicant:	APPLICANT:			
Task Number and Name*	Subtask Number and Name	Timeline (Start Date - End Date)	Deliverables	Description of Task
Task 1	Subtask A: Subtask B: Subtask C:			
Task 2	Subtask A: Subtask B: Subtask C:			
Task 3	Subtask A: Subtask B: Subtask C:			
Add or delete rows as necessary				
Task_: Project management				Reporting, invoicing, meetings, surveys, cohort meeting
	Subtask A: Invoicing and Reporting Subtask B: Quarterly Meetings Subtask C: Cohort Meetings			

^{*}Task numbers/names should be consistent with those presented in the application form.



Budget Worksheets



<< Insert Project Title >>							
APPLICANT:							
Grant Period:							
DIRECT COSTS							
	Hourly Rate/Unit Costs	Number of Hours/Units	fror	t Requested m Grant ogram	Cost Sha	unding or ire (please sether funding is	Notes
land trust staff	0.00	-	\$	-	\$	-	
partner staff	0.00	-	\$	-	\$	-	
subcontracts	0.00	-	\$	-	\$	-	
supplies/materials	0.00	-	\$	-	\$	-	
travel costs	0.00	-	\$	-	\$	-	
<insert as="" delete="" items="" line="" needed="" or=""></insert>	0.00	•	\$	-	\$	-	
	SUBTOTAL: DIR	ECT CHARGES	\$		\$	-	
NDIRECT CHARGES (no more than 10%; exclude	s capital equip., out of stat	e travel, & out	side ser	vices)			
-		Indirect Rate		0%			
			\$	-			
SUBTOTA	L: INDIRECT CHARGES		\$	-			
		TAL REQUEST	_	-	1		

Project Advancement	Grant Pro	gra	m Appli	icant	Bud	lget Wor	'ks	sheet B - Costs By Task
Project Title:	<< Insert Pro	ject 1	Γitle >>					
Applicant:	APPLICANT:	•						
Task Number and Name*	Program Requested (Total C Share or		То	tal Cost by Task		Description of Task
Task 1	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-		
Task 2	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-		
Add or delete rows as necessary	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-		
	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-		
Project management	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-		Reporting, invoicing, meetings, surveys, cohort
Indirect Costs (no more than 10%)	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-		
TOTAL	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-		(should match totals on Budget Worksheet A)

^{\$ - \$ -} Check line (these numbers should equal zero if budget worksheets match)
*Task numbers/names should be consistent with those presented in the application form. Do not merge costs across multiple tasks.

Please complete all three worksheets in the tabs below



Ineligible Costs

Grant funding may <u>not</u> be used for the following:

- all costs incurred outside of the grant agreement term
- general operating support, including rent or other office expenses (unless part of budgeted indirect rate)
- accreditation or membership fees
- insurance premiums, property taxes, or other state/local/federal taxes
- land or easement acquisition costs
- endowments, legal defense, or reserve funds
- restoration costs and ongoing management/stewardship costs

- projects mandated to address a violation of, or an order to comply with, a law or regulation
- event sponsorship or event fundraising
- travel costs that do not adhere to state guidelines, out-of-state travel costs
- food, beverage, or entertainment costs
- fines, penalties, damages, and other settlements resulting from violations or noncompliance
- buildings and heavy equipment



Review Process

- Applications will go through an administrative review for eligibility
- Eligible applications will then be reviewed by a Grant Review Committee (GRC)
- The GRC may request applicants revise and resubmit applications
- Applicants are strongly encouraged to consult with the Program Director prior to submitting applications to minimize necessary revisions
- Proposals will be scored by multiple reviewers in accordance with the grant evaluation criteria

- Other aspects used to determine final grant decisions
 - Geography
 - Focus areas
 - Impact on Native and/or underresourced, underserved, disadvantaged, and severely disadvantaged communities
- May be recommendations for partial funding
- CCLT will notify all applicants of final decisions



Appendix A: Grant Evaluation Criteria

Category	Criteria	Max Points
Purpose, Need, Impact	Project addresses a specific problem or need, goals and benefits are clearly described, project aligns with land trust's mission/purpose, goals, and priorities.	20
Advancing California Conservation	Project is aligned with the goals of California's NWLCSS and/or the Pathways to 30x30 and applicant can qualitatively & quantitatively describe how funding request would support goals and objectives in the NWLCSS and/or Pathways to 30x30	10
Advancing Objectives of Project Advancement Grant Program	Project is aligned with the objectives of the Project Advancement Grant Program and applicant can quantitatively and qualitatively describe how funding request would support those objectives.	10
Readiness and Success	Project has well defined metrics for success. Applicant demonstrates that the project is feasible. Proposal demonstrates that necessary preparations for the project are sufficient for prompt project completion.	20
Community Support	Project has public and institutional support and includes stakeholder input as appropriate.	5



Community Collaboration and Engagement (if applicable)	Project advances broader community needs, programs, and objectives, and demonstrates broad community benefit. If applicable, partners are involved in defining the problem and solutions and analysis of relevant data and planning documents. Project is in and/or demonstrates direct benefits to a California underserved or designated Severely Disadvantaged or Disadvantaged Community.	5 (bonus if applicable)
Native Tribe or Native-led organization (if applicable)	Project is on Native land or otherwise demonstrates direct benefits to Native communities.	5 (bonus if applicable)
Project Team	Project team demonstrates sufficient organizational capacity to complete and sustain the proposed grant funded activities.	5
Grant Activities	Grant tasks and activities are clearly described.	15
Project Work Plan	Project can be accomplished within the stated grant period of 6-23 months. Proposal demonstrates a reasonable schedule and is consistent with the tasks shown in the project narrative.	5
Budget	Project budget only includes allowable expenses and is within the range of \$25,000-\$150,000 or has received written approval for a higher budget. Proposed budget is appropriate to the work proposed and is consistent with the tasks shown in the project narrative. If applicable: match or cost share is secured and demonstrated.	10



Project Advancement vs. Capacity Building

- Capacity and Partnership
 Project Focused
 - Indirect Acq. Costs
- 25% Advance
- 10% Retention
- 1-year projects
- Maximum 10% O/H
- Have additional \$2.5M in funding for future rounds

- Capacity and Partnership Building Focused
- 20% Advance
- No Retention
- Up to 2-year projects
- Up to 20% O/H or NiCRA
- Only 1 round of funding



Consultation and Application Assistance

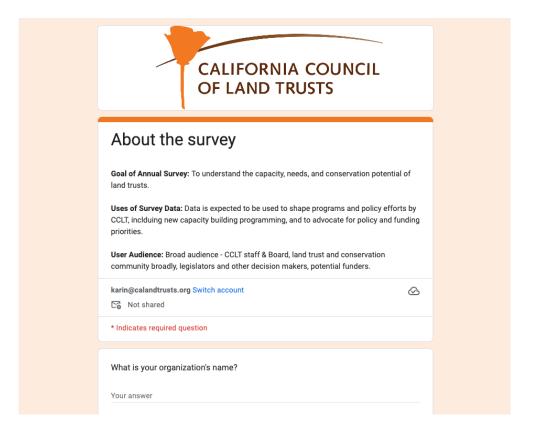
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- Staff is available to assist applicants complete the Application as needed.
- Reach out to us early and often.
- We want to help and collaborate to make your application as strong as possible.



Land Trust Survey and Mapping





Questions? Need more information?

Karin Winters, Program Director

916-497-0272 x2

grants@calandtrusts.org

<u>calandtrusts.org</u> | <u>calandtrusts.org/programs-for-land-trusts/</u>

Facebook: @calandtrusts | Instagram: @calandtrusts

Linkedin: @calandtrusts | TikTok: @cacounciloflandtrusts

X / Twitter: @CALandTrusts

YouTube: California Council of Land Trusts





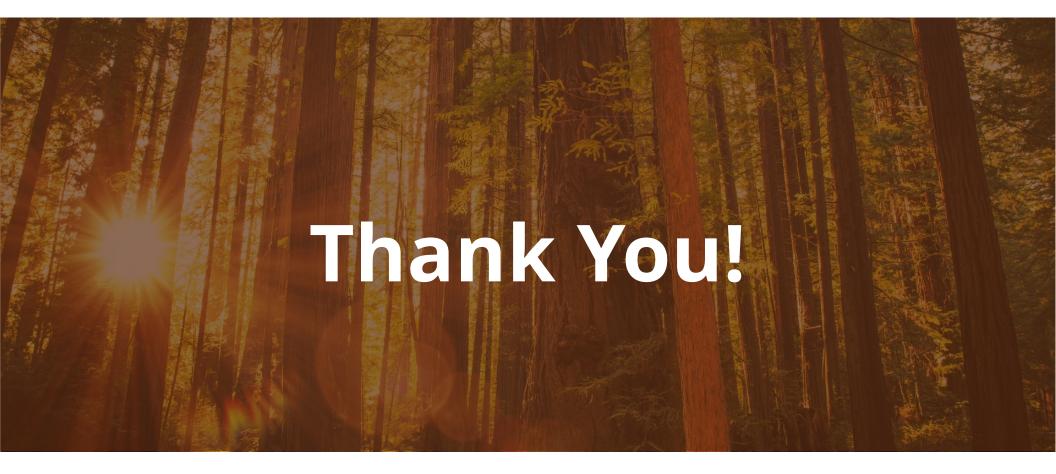
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Capacity Building Grants bit.ly/CCLT-Capacity

