



THE BUREAU OF  
**PLANNING &  
SUSTAINABILITY**

# 2026 Community Grants Draft Scoring Criteria

---

## Contents

Implementation Applications - Scoring Criteria .....	2
Type of Grant .....	2
Scoring Criteria .....	2
Organization and Project Team (30) .....	3
Overall Project Description and Plan (25) .....	3
Project Benefit (CE, RAGI, TD, Other) (30) .....	4
Project Benefit (WCD) (30) .....	5
Workforce Benefit (5) .....	6
Budget and Leverage (10) .....	6
Planning Applications - Scoring Criteria .....	7
Type of Grant .....	7
Scoring Criteria .....	7
Organization and Project Team (40) .....	8
Overall Project Description and Plan (50) .....	8
Budget (10) .....	8

# Implementation Applications - Scoring Criteria

## Type of Grant

Implementation grants are intended for projects that advance economic, social, and climate justice. Projects can include physical improvements (e.g., weatherization, solar installations, purchasing EVs, tree planting, or regenerative agriculture) and/or non-physical activities (e.g., workforce training, educational programs). Ways that grant funds can be used include:

- Pay for staff time
- Contracted work
- Purchasing equipment
- Purchasing materials and supplies
- Costs associated with fulfilling program requirements (e.g., additional insurance or reporting)
- Other items needed to complete the project

Some planning can be a part of an implementation grant application, but implementation must be the primary focus of the application. Implementation grants should be completed within five years.

## Scoring Criteria

There are six sections to the implementation scoring guidance tables.

- **Organization and Project Team** – these criteria are worth 30 points total and apply to all project types regardless of funding area.
- **Overall Project Description and Plan** - these criteria are worth 25 points total and apply to all project types regardless of funding area.
- **Project Benefit for Clean Energy, Regenerative Agriculture, Green Infrastructure, Transportation Decarbonization, and Other projects** – these criteria are worth 30 points and apply to all projects with elements from one of the listed funding areas. These criteria do not apply to applications that are purely for Workforce and Contractor Development.
- **Project Benefit for Workforce and Contractor Development projects** – these criteria are worth 30 points and apply to all projects with Workforce and Contractor Development elements. These criteria do not apply to applications that are purely for Clean Energy, Regenerative Agriculture, Green Infrastructure, Transportation Decarbonization, and/or Other projects.
- **Workforce Benefits** - these criteria are worth 5 points total and apply to all project types regardless of funding area.

- **Budget** - these criteria are worth 10 points total and apply to all project types regardless of funding area.

Please note that projects that include elements of both workforce and contractor development and one or more of the other funding areas (e.g., energy efficiency and renewable energy, transportation decarbonization, regenerative agriculture and green infrastructure, other GHG-reducing projects) will be scored on all applicable criteria with final score weighted based on amount of budget allocated to each funding area.

<i>Organization and Project Team – (30)</i> <i>Applies to all implementation applications.</i>	
<i>Criterion</i>	<i>Points</i>
Organization has a track record of delivering programs that benefit PCEF priority populations. Organization is well positioned to deliver benefits to PCEF priority populations.	10
Project team, including non-profit staff, contractors, and other partners, have demonstrated experience that will support project success.	10
Application demonstrates strong understanding and practice around community organizing, outreach, and/or stakeholder engagement, particularly focused on one or multiple PCEF priority populations.	10

<i>Overall Project Description and Plan (25)</i> <i>Applies to all implementation applications.</i>	
<i>Criterion</i>	<i>Points</i>
Project description is complete and intended outcomes are clear. Services, activities, and timeline described in scope will result in intended outcomes.	10
Project will benefit PCEF priority populations.	7

<p>Alignment with PCEF guiding principles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focused on climate action with multiple benefits</li> <li>• Community powered</li> <li>• Justice Driven</li> <li>• Accountable</li> </ul>	8
---	---

<p><b>Project Benefit (CE, RAGI, TD, Other) (30)</b></p> <p><i>This table applies to applications with project elements in these categories: Clean Energy, Regenerative Agriculture and Green Infrastructure, Transportation Decarbonization, Other. This section does not apply to applications that are entirely focused on Workforce and Contractor Development programming. If the project elements include Workforce and Contractor Development <u>and</u> additional funding categories, the application will be scored on all applicable criteria with final score weighted based on amount of budget allocated to each funding area.</i></p>	
<i>Criterion</i>	<i>Points</i>
GHG emissions reduction (including sequestration) cost effectiveness and/or impact	8
Appropriate plan to maintain project GHG emissions reduction for its full useful life (beyond the life of grant).	2
<p>Project provides meaningful additional non-GHG environmental benefits as a result of project activities listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planting and establishing trees for shade/reduce heat islands; excluding planting of street/public right-of-way trees.</li> <li>• Improving natural areas that support biodiversity, maintain ecological processes, and sustain air and water resources.</li> <li>• Removing pavement, replacing with permeable material/plants.</li> <li>• Conserving or otherwise managing water.</li> <li>• Improving air quality through mode switching from gas/diesel to electric vehicles.</li> </ul>	4

Project reduces cost for members of PCEF priority populations through savings in electricity, natural gas or other fuel used for space heating, transportation fuel, and/or food expense.	8
Project provides health benefits as a result of project activities listed below. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Removing gas and oil from a building</li> <li>• Improving building ventilation</li> <li>• Improving building filtration</li> <li>• Adding cooling to a building</li> <li>• Promoting active transportation</li> <li>• Providing access to healthy local food</li> <li>• Making a direct connection to health and healing through farming or other horticultural therapy practices</li> </ul>	5
Project improves resiliency through project activities listed below. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving indoor air quality through building filtration</li> <li>• Adding cooling to a building</li> <li>• Adding storage for a renewable energy source, e.g., solar + storage</li> <li>• Planting and establishing trees for shade/reduce heat islands</li> </ul>	3

<p><b>Project Benefit (WCD) (30)</b>  <i>This table <u>only</u> applies to applications with project scope related to Workforce and Contractor Development. This section does not apply to applications that are entirely focused on the other funding areas. If the project elements include Workforce and Contractor Development <u>and</u> additional funding categories, the application will be scored on all applicable criteria with final score weighted based on amount of budget allocated to each funding area.</i></p>	
<i>Criterion</i>	<i>Points</i>
<p>Program will support PCEF goals of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Diversifying <b>workforce</b> in the green economy through appropriate training, job placement and support.</li> <li>2. Diverse <b>contractor</b> start-up, stabilization, growth, pivot in businesses focused on climate related goods and services.</li> <li>3. <b>Education/exposure</b> – improved youth knowledge of, and readiness for, careers in climate work.</li> </ol>	15

Project outreach, engagement and retention strategies are informed by deep understanding of culture, opportunities, and barriers of the PCEF priority population the project is intended to serve.	10
Project provides other social benefit(s) not already included in other criteria.	5

<i>Workforce Benefit (5) Applies to all implementation applications.</i>	
<i>Criterion</i>	<i>Points</i>
Hiring and recruitment practices will support PCEF workforce and contracting goals.	5

<i>Budget and Leverage (10) Applies to all implementation applications.</i>	
<i>Criterion</i>	<i>Points</i>
Project budget is complete and reasonable for the project proposed.	7
Project leverages resources, such as other funding sources or in-kind services.	3

# Planning Applications - Scoring Criteria

## Type of Grant

Planning grants are intended to support organizations in conducting assessments or planning processes needed to develop a full project proposal. Eligible activities may include:

- Research and learning
- Feasibility/technical evaluation and consultation
- Community outreach and education
- Collaboration and partnership building

Planning grants cannot be used for costs associated with project implementation activities, like training community members on how to reduce their energy usage, completing construction activities, or purchasing equipment. Receiving a planning grant does not guarantee future project funding. Planning grants should be completed within two years.

Planning grants have the following funding thresholds:

- Up to \$100,000 for planning activities such as community engagement, general research, or curriculum development.
- Up to \$200,000 for proposed projects that include highly technical planning activities such as construction feasibility studies, energy modeling, or fleet assessments. This higher cap reflects the additional cost and expertise often required for in-depth technical planning.

## Scoring Criteria

There are three sections to the planning scoring guidance tables. All criteria apply to all planning applications, regardless of funding area.

1. Organization and Project Team – these criteria are worth 40 points total.
2. Overall Project Description and Plan - these criteria are worth 50 points total.
3. Budget - these criteria are worth 10 points total.

<i>Organization and Project Team (40) - Applies to all planning applications.</i>	
<i>Criterion</i>	<i>Points</i>
Organization has a track record of delivering programs that benefit PCEF priority populations. Organization is well positioned to deliver benefits to PCEF priority populations.	10
Project team, including non-profit staff, contractors, and other partners, have demonstrated experience that will support project success.	10
Application demonstrates strong understanding and practice around community organizing, outreach, and/or stakeholder engagement, particularly focused on one or multiple PCEF priority populations.	10
Applicant is a small or emerging organization.	10

<i>Overall Project Description and Plan (50) - Applies to all planning applications.</i>	
<i>Criterion</i>	<i>Points</i>
Alignment with PCEF guiding principles. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focused on climate action with multiple benefits</li> <li>• Community powered</li> <li>• Justice Driven</li> <li>• Accountable</li> </ul>	10
The opportunity statement demonstrates understanding of issue and addresses climate and racial and social justice.	15
Scope of planning process is clear, manageable, and likely to succeed.	15
Percent of benefits for project(s) that will be developed as a result of the planning process that will go to specific PCEF priority populations.	10

<i>Budget (10) - Applies to all planning applications.</i>	
<i>Criterion</i>	<i>Points</i>
Project budget is complete and reasonable for the project proposed.	10