

# Equity & Access Grant Program

## Clean Energy Access: Los Angeles County TECH (CEA-LAT) Grant Application Webinar

April 23, 2025

External Affairs Division



California Public  
Utilities Commission

# Tentative Agenda

Schedule	Topic
10:00 – 10:02 a.m.	Welcome, WebEx, Agenda, Q&A Functionality
10:05 – 10:13 a.m.	E&A Grant Program Background, CEA-LAT Overview
10:13 – 10:25 a.m.	CEA-LAT Grant Eligible Activities, Application, Submission, and Post-Application Process
10:25 – 10:35 a.m.	Q&A
10:35 – 10:50 a.m.	Technology and Equipment for Clean Heating (TECH) Initiative
10:50 – 10:59 a.m.	Q&A
10:59 – 11:00 a.m.	Closing

# E&A Grant Program Background

- In the Budget Act of 2022 (AB 179), the Legislature appropriated General Fund for capacity grants to Tribes and CBOs for participation in CPUC decision making processes and clean energy programs.
- The Equity and Access (E&A) Grant Program was created in 2023 with 3 separate grant accounts to implement this legislation.
- In late 2023 & early 2024, the Commission awarded \$1,556,269.50 in grants.
- In June 2024, the Legislature returned the remaining funds allocated to the E&A Grant Program back to the State.
- In September 2024, through the Budget Act of 2024 (AB 157), the Legislature appropriated \$2,000,000 from the Aliso Canyon Recovery Account for outreach and education for LA County residents.

# **Clean Energy Access: LA County TECH (CEA-LAT) Grant Overview**

# CEA-LAT Grant Account Summary

**Total Funding:** \$ 1,900,000

**Maximum Award:** \$ 200,000

**Award Selection:** Competitive

**Application and Funding Cycle:**

- Cycle 1: May 1, 2025 – June 30, 2025
  - Cycle 2: TBD, based on outcome of first cycle
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- For CBOs that provide **outreach and education on the TECH Clean California Initiative**, especially its health benefits, and make TECH more accessible to those who would like to participate.
  - Funded activities must include **education and outreach** and **data collection and evaluation** of project impact, and can also include staff training, coordination with the TECH Initiative implementer, and supporting program participants.
  - Projects must serve LA County residents. Organizations located in the Aliso Canyon Disaster Area and San Fernando Valley will be prioritized for funding.



# Funding Breakdown

Maximum Grant Award	Maximum Ministerial Grant Award	Total Available for Grants
\$200,000	\$149,999.99	\$1,900,000

# Eligibility

## Organization Type

- California tax-exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- No local governments or fiscal sponsorships.

## Target Location

- Los Angeles County
- Priority given to Aliso Canyon Disaster Area\* and San Fernando Valley.

\*City of Los Angeles communities of Porter Ranch, Granada Hills, Northridge, Chatsworth, North Hills, Canoga Park, Reseda, Winnetka, West Hills, Van Nuys, and Lake Balboa.

## Activities

- Education and outreach on the TECH Initiative.
- Activities that enrich education and outreach activities:
  - Project evaluation
  - Staff training
  - Coordination with TECH
  - Participant support

# CEA-LAT Eligible Activities



# Eligible Activities

- **Outreach and Education**

- Develop an outreach and education strategy that creates awareness about TECH and heat pumps, explaining their benefits, especially health benefits, and encouraging program participation.
- Examples: holding education webinars or workshops, demonstrations, door-to-door outreach

- **Evaluating Impact**

- Setting metrics of success and measurement tools before starting education and outreach, then collecting data throughout the project, and finally analyzing that data and preparing reports on successes and challenges for the CPUC.
- Examples: tracking RVSPs and attendees, measuring reach of promotional materials, conducting surveys, following up to track installment

- **Staff Training**

- Training staff to get them up-to-speed on building decarbonization, healthy homes, and TECH or CBO outreach and education practices.

- **Coordination with TECH Initiative Implementer**

- Coordination necessary with the TECH Initiative implementer, Energy Solutions, or their subcontractors to ensure accurate education and outreach about program rules, heat pumps, and benefits to communities.

- **Program Participant Support**

- Provide support, including initial consultation, contract signing, installation, incentive claims, or other program processes.

# CEA-LAT Application Process

# Application Packet Checklist

☐ CEA-LAT Grant Application Coversheet (signed PDF)

☐ IRS Letter confirming status as a 501(c)(3) entity.

\*The IRS letter must also include the applicant's Tax Identification Number.

☐ Workplan Table (spreadsheet)

☐ Budget Table (spreadsheet)

☐ 2 Letters of Support (PDF)

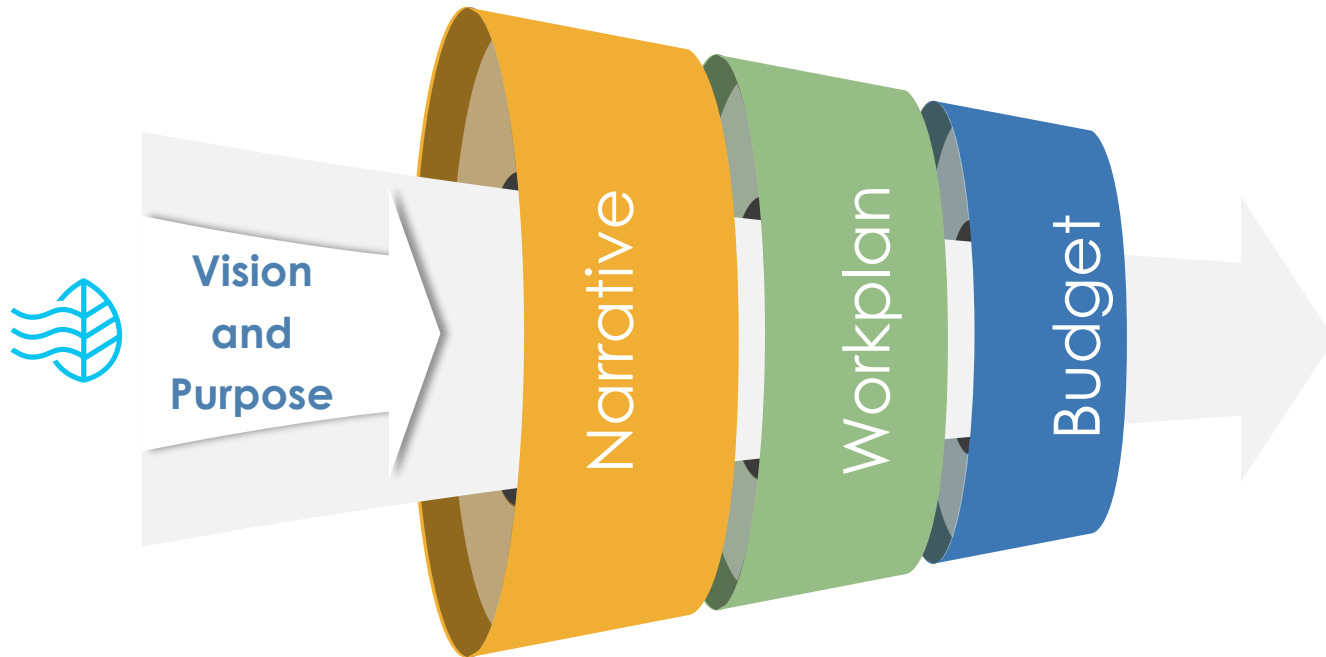
☐ Project Narrative (15 pages maximum) (PDF)

# Scoring Criteria

Supporting Documents – 35 Points	Project Narrative* – 65 Points
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Application Coversheet (not scored)</li><li>• IRS Letter confirming 501(c)(3) status (not scored)</li><li>• Workplan Table (15 Points)</li><li>• Budget Table (15 Points)</li><li>• Two Letters of Support (5 Points)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Executive Summary</li><li>• Organization Background and Qualifications</li><li>• Project Need</li><li>• Strategic Outreach, Education, and Evaluation Plan</li></ul> <p>*Applicants must cite their sources throughout the narrative.</p>
Formatting Requirements	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No page limit</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 15-page limit for Project Narrative</li><li>• No less than 10-point font</li><li>• 8 ½" X 11" paper with consecutively numbered pages</li></ul>

\* **Details on Project Narrative questions can be found in the Application Guidelines.**

# Application Consistency



## Narrative

The project narrative must include sections on: Executive Summary, Organization Background and Qualifications, Project Need, Strategic Outreach, Education, and Evaluation Plan.

## Workplan

Workplan lays out your plan to execute your vision and purpose.

## Budget

Your budget states how you will fund the various elements in your Workplan.

# Application Submission

- The program guidelines, application forms, and more information are available at: <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/capacitygrants>
- **Applications by Email:** Email completed forms and required documents to: [capacitygrants@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:capacitygrants@cpuc.ca.gov). Include the name of the grant account in the subject line.
- **Applications by U.S. Mail:** Mail completed forms and required documents to:  
Business and Community Outreach  
Attn: Equity & Access Grant Program  
California Public Utilities Commission  
505 Van Ness Ave.  
San Francisco, CA 94102

**Deadline**  
**11:59 pm**  
**June 30, 2025**

# Post-Application Process

# Application Review and Award

- Staff will check for eligibility and completeness, and rank applications based on scoring criteria.
- Review and scoring will take between 30-45 days, depending on the number of applications we receive.
- Applications under \$150,000 will undergo **ministerial** review and be approved by staff. Applications requesting more than \$150,000 and up to the maximum \$200,000 will be decided **via Resolution**.
- Resolution award process will take 2-3 months.
- Workplan Adjustment and Grant Agreement signing process will take 1-2 months.
- Advance payments of up to 25% of award



# Questions?

For detailed or organization-specific questions specific,  
please contact us directly via email after the webinar.

[capacitygrants@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:capacitygrants@cpuc.ca.gov)

# TECH Initiative Overview

Sebastian Sarria, Senior Regulatory Analyst  
Building Decarbonization and Renewable Gas Section  
Energy Division, California Public Utilities Commission  
April 23, 2025



California Public  
Utilities Commission

# TECH Initiative Background

## **SB 1477 (Stern, 2018):**

- Required the Commission to create two programs designed to test approaches to building decarbonization: the Building Initiative for Low Emissions Development (BUILD) & the Technology and Equipment for Clean Heating (TECH) Initiative. The Commission opens Rulemaking 19-01-011.
  - D.20-03-027:
    - Authorized \$120m in gas investor-owned utilities cap-and-trade dollars from SB 1477 to the TECH Initiative.

## **AB 179 Budget Act of 2022:**

- Provided \$50m in general fund dollars for the continued implementation of the TECH Initiative.
  - D.23-02-005:
    - Authorized \$50m in funding from AB 179 to TECH Initiative. Also authorized future funding in 2023.

## **AB 102 Budget Act of 2023:**

- Provided \$95m in funding from the CARB's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) to the TECH Initiative through 2027. D.23-02-005 was utilized for its implementation.

## **AB 157 Budget Act of 2024:**

- Provided \$40m in funding from Aliso Canyon Settlement Proceeds to the TECH Initiative through 2030. Phase 4A PD seeks to implement AB 157.

# TECH Initiative Overview

- **Help the state reach its goal of 6 million heat pumps by 2030 by:**
  - Spurring the heat pump space and water heating market through statewide strategies
    - Activate the distribution and manufacturing supply chain in order to drive consumer demand
  - Creating scalable models through regional pilots
    - Test strategies to overcome market barriers
  - Inform long-term building decarbonization framework
    - Quantify impacts to share with policymakers, market actors, and the public



# Implementation of Assembly Bill (AB) 157: Aliso Canyon

## *Summary of AB 157 for the TECH Initiative Implementation*

- Disburse \$40 million in SoCalGas territory for Aliso Canyon Disaster Area communities in the City of Los Angeles. Those are:
  - Porter Ranch; Granada Hills, Northridge, Chatsworth, North Hills, Canoga Park, Reseda, Winnetka, West Hills, Van Nuys, and Lake Balboa.
- Extends the TECH Initiative to enable comprehensive building electrification, previously limited to just heat pump space and water heaters.
- Prioritize the reduction of gas demand from the Aliso Canyon Gas Storage Facility.
- Prevent the displacement of and cost impacts to tenants in upgraded rental units as a result of TECH Initiative participation.



# Phase 4A Proposed Decision (PD): AB 157 Portion\*

*The PD in the Building Decarbonization Proceeding (R.19-01-011) seeks to do the following:*

- Budgetary Considerations
  - Continue the same cost caps of 10% for admin, 2.5% for evaluation, and 1% for the contracting agent as previously established for the TECH Initiative.
- Equity Allocation
  - Sets a minimum 40% of program funds to be spent on qualifying low-income households.
- Authorization of New Measures
  - Authorizes the use of Meter Socket Adapters (MSAs) and other load-modifying technologies for the purpose of avoiding unnecessary panel upgrades for all market-rate and low-income customers under AB 157.
  - Allows whole home electrification for low-income households under AB 157.
- Programmatic Changes
  - Institutes tenant protections for all TECH Initiative participants, including outside of AB 157.
- Reporting Requirements
  - Requires the reporting of gas demand reduction from the Aliso Canyon Storage Facility on a quarterly basis by the TECH Initiative.

# Phase 4A Proposed Decision (PD)

*What are the next steps?*

- The PD is scheduled to be voted by the Commission at the May 15, 2025, voting meeting.
- If approved, the TECH Initiative program administrator (PA) will work with CBOs via the CEA-LAT grant to provide them with the resources needed to conduct outreach and education on the TECH Initiative for the purposes of furthering building electrification and healthy homes in the Aliso Canyon Disaster Area.





# TECH Initiative: Outside of Aliso Canyon Disaster Area

*Are there any differences between Aliso Canyon & everywhere else?*

- AB 157 provides specific direction to the TECH Initiative in benefitting Aliso Canyon Disaster Area communities. The same does not apply elsewhere.
- The TECH Initiative will be available statewide, but with key differences:
  - Only heat pump space and water heaters will be available – no whole home electrification or use of MSAs.
  - Tenant Protections Agreement will apply to all of TECH.
  - The definition of “low-income” is broader, known as “equity communities.”
    - Full definition is found here: [TECH Public Reporting Equity Budget Report](#).
- The TECH PA will also provide support to CBOs focused on the San Fernando Valley but outside of the Aliso Canyon Disaster Area communities.





Discussion/ Questions  
E-mail: [sebastian.sarria@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:sebastian.sarria@cpuc.ca.gov)



# Applicant Resources

[www.cpuc.ca.gov/capacitygrants](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/capacitygrants)



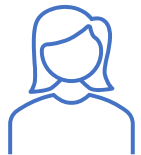
Website



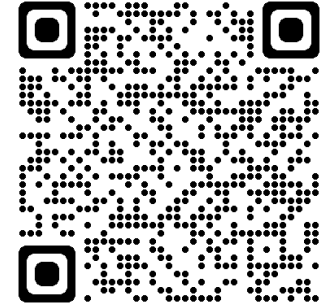
Guidelines



Workplan & Budget Template



Staff



# Thank you!



## California Public Utilities Commission

Questions? [Capacitygrants@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:Capacitygrants@cpuc.ca.gov)

[www.cpus.ca.gov/capacitygrants](http://www.cpus.ca.gov/capacitygrants)