ICLEI USA Action Fund | TERMS AND CONDITIONS
USING DATA FOR INCLUSIVE CLIMATE ACTION

The following document outlines the terms and conditions associated with the 'ICLEI USA Action Fund - using data for inclusive climate action'. By submitting an application, participants agree to these terms and conditions. Decisions made by the organizers are final and cannot be appealed.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Action Fund includes grant funding and is led by ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability USA, with grant support from Google.org, to boost the implementation of data-driven climate action in selected U.S. cities.

Civil society[1] organizations, academic institutions, and non-profit research institutes are invited to participate and develop innovative projects.

This grant will provide financial support of up to $1,000,000 to projects that use data from private and public sources, including the [Google Environmental Insights Explorer (EIE)](#), to foster inclusive climate action at the local level. We anticipate two awards of $1,000,000 each in Round 2.

Project topics must support the implementation of a specific strategy contained in the city's climate action plan. Projects should contribute to enhancing social and climate justice in the city of implementation.

2. GRANT OBJECTIVES

The ICLEI USA Action Fund aims to implement projects that leverage the use of data to drive local climate action, sustainability, and resilience.

3. REQUIREMENTS TO PARTICIPATE

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[1] 1 Civil society refers to all forms of social action carried out by individuals or groups who are neither connected to, nor managed by, the State. A civil society organization is an organizational structure whose members serve the general interest through a democratic process.

Eligible applicants are established non-profit organizations, civil society organizations, academia and research institutions operating in the following cities (or consortiums of cities):

Ann Arbor, MI	Berkeley, CA	Boulder, CO	Broomfield, CO	Charleston, SC
Chula Vista, CA	Columbia, SC	Denver, CO	Detroit, MI	Durham, NC
Fremont, CA	Hayward, CA	Lakewood, CO	Long Beach, CA	Los Angeles, CA
Oakland, CA	Pittsburgh, PA	Portland, OR	San Jose, CA	

Participating organizations must have the operational capacities to effectively execute, implement, and to monitor and evaluate the results of the project. Organizations can team up with partners to structure, implement, and deliver the project.

Local governments, public institutions, and for-profit organizations or private companies are not eligible to receive funding directly. However, they may be involved as project supporters, partners, and/or subcontractors, therefore receiving funding through the granted organization.

The duration of the proposed project should be between 18 and 24 months.

4. ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

The project can be in the planning or implementation phase as detailed below:

- **Planning Stage**: Your project's goals are defined and developed into a specific and workable plan ready to be carried out. The plan includes the project's scope and an appropriate approach, a schedule for the tasks involved, and an estimate of necessary resources. You have identified your key stakeholders and have a detailed plan for implementation. Your project plan is aligned with the objectives of the Action Fund. The Action Fund gives you the possibility to adjust your project plan to create more impact.

- **Implementation Stage**: You have an ongoing project aligned with the objectives of this grant. You are coordinating project work, people and resources, and resolving conflicts and issues. You are producing the project deliverables in accordance with the project plans. Through the Action Fund you can scale up your activities and deliverables and thereby generate more impact.

Examples of eligible projects:

- **Sustainable Mobility**: projects that contribute to the reduction of transport-related GHG emissions and improve the efficiency of local transport systems, fostering multimodality and sustainable mobility patterns. Examples of these types of projects include: mobility as a service and strategies to address first / last mile.

- **Sustainable and Energy-Efficient Buildings**: projects that reduce energy consumption and promote energy efficiency in public, private, commercial or industrial buildings. Examples include: energy savings competitions such as a Green Building Challenge, smart building applications.

- **Neighborhood or District Development**: Projects fostering the use and development of distributed renewable energy. Examples include: Modular system to right-size neighborhood microgrids; neighborhood geothermal heating; tools to evaluate cost-effectiveness of district geothermal vs individual building air-source systems.

- **Climate Adaptation and Resilience**: Projects that help cities and citizens adapt to the effects of climate change and enhance local resilience. Examples include: nature-based solutions projects, green infrastructure developments, climate monitoring tools.

- **Decarbonizing the Electric Grid and Pre-Wiring Cities**: Developing local sustainable utilities or advanced approaches to influence the elimination of fossil fuels used in preparing cities for a future in which transportation and buildings are electrified.

- **Scope 3 Emissions:** Projects that help cities and citizens to better understand and act on Scope 3 emissions. Examples include: applications to collect and analyze household and business consumption data.
  - The US community protocol for GHG emissions accounting is begin updated to provide more detail on Scope 3 emissions. Meanwhile, applicants should refer to USCP Appendix H: Emissions Associated with the Community's Use of Materials and Services: Accounting for Trans-boundary Community-Wide Supply-Chains and Appendix I: Consumption-Based Emissions

- This is not an exhaustive list. Projects must relate to strategies as stated in a local **climate action plan**.

5. PARTICIPANTS AND OBLIGATIONS

Project applications must be original, owned by the organization, and must not violate the intellectual property rights of other parties. Submissions must not be illegal under applicable national and international laws; depict or incite hatred, defame, abuse, harass, promote violence or conflict, stalk, threaten a specific person or social group, or otherwise violate the legal rights of third parties (including those of privacy and publicity).

No purchase or payment of any kind is required to apply or receive grant funds. Participants are responsible for any expenses incurred when preparing the application(s).

ICLEI and Google.org staff are not eligible to participate.

6. APPLICATION DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

6.1 Application Process

Competing organizations and institutions must fill in the application form according to these terms and conditions. By participating, applicants accept these terms and conditions.

Submissions should be made online. Organizations may submit only one application.

The submission period begins on July 22, 2022, and ends on September 15, 2022, at 5:00 PM Mountain Time ("MT"). Only complete submissions entered during this period will be accepted. Submissions made outside of this time frame will not be accepted. After an application is submitted, the participant cannot make any changes or alterations to it.

ICLEI will acknowledge receipt of the submission by email. For more information, or if you have questions about the submission procedure, please email: ActionFundUSA@iclei.org.

6.2 Project Selection

Application forms will be received and evaluated by a Selection Committee formed of representatives from ICLEI USA Board members and others identified by ICLEI USA. This Committee will assess submissions on a rolling basis until the deadline for the call has expired. The Selection Committee will officially communicate its final decision to the selected applicants.

7. SELECTION CRITERIA OF PROJECTS

The criteria to evaluate and select the awarded projects include:

- **Complete Proposal Submission**: Whether or not the organization or institution meets all of the necessary requirements, project information and details as established in these rules and the application form.

- **Strategic Vision and Impact of the Project**: Alignment with the goals of the call and contribution to environment and climate change action on a local level. Alignment of the organizations aims with the aims of the project.

- **Data-driven Project**: Level of usage and applicability of existing data sources, including data from Google's online tool, the Environmental Insights Explorer (EIE).

- **Innovation**: Degree of originality and innovation of the proposal.

- **Climate Justice**: The project explicitly endeavors to engage with injustices/ inequalities linked to climate change. This may include direct or indirect support to vulnerable communities, neighborhoods and districts, as well as approaches that seek to make visible and address existing patterns of exclusion. The project also considers its potential negative impacts in terms of climate justice and puts in place measures to mitigate these risks.

- **Experience**: Skills and abilities of the applicant organization or institution and its team. Demonstrated experience working on similar projects, and the organization's knowledge of the city.

- **Suitability and Replicability**: The project solves a real local environment or climate change challenge. The project can be scaled up or replicated after funding under the grant has been completed.

- **Clarity and Consistency of the Project**: Consistency on project goals versus defined activities and clear description of how budget and expenses are linked to project outcomes.

- **Implementation**: How feasible and coherent is the plan to implement the proposed project.

8. REQUIREMENTS TO RECEIVE THE GRANT

The grant must only be used for charitable and non- profit purposes and in accordance with the terms and conditions set out in this document. Subgrantee institutions and organizations should have the necessary legal status (non-profit status in the case of CSOs and NGOs, and research institute status in the case of academic and research institutes) to receive funding under this scope.

After selection, the applicant will have a period of up to 60 days to prepare a detailed project plan. ICLEI USA will provide technical support to the applicant for the planning, development and implementation of the project.

The selected subgrantees commit to finalize the project in a maximum of 24 months and to sign a grant agreement that will include, among others, the following requirements:

1. Submit regular periodic reports on the activities developed and the expenditure of the grant resources.

2. Use the funds only for the stated purpose and objectives of the project, meaning non-profit, charitable or educational purposes.

3. Deliver the results expected in the project planning and any change in this process must be communicated and agreed with ICLEI in writing.

4. Use data mainly from public sources to develop the project.

9. DATA PROTECTION

ICLEI USA respects the privacy of all applicants and ensures that any personal data that we collect is processed in a secure, responsible manner. ICLEI USA only collects personal data that we need in order to operate and administer the Action Fund.

Contact email: actionfundusa@iclei.org