

**2021 Wildfire Evacuation Route Planning and Development Grant
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**



ELIGIBILITY

Q: Can a county apply for this grant and in turn sub-grant the funds to the FSC's or cities or use for regional evacuation planning?

A: The Applicant must be a county. If the county decides to contract the work to another agency that is within their discretion.

Q: Can you apply if you have been awarded a CFSC grant in the past?

A: The grants are designated for counties. So yes, if a county government has received a grant from the CFSC in the past, it is eligible to apply for a Wildfire Evacuation Route Planning and Development grant.

Q: As a Regional Transportation Planning Agency, we work closely with the County and local transit agency in coordinating evacuation efforts. Does the County need to be the applicant, or would we be eligible to apply?

A: Yes, the Applicant must be a county government.

Q: If multiple entities applied within a county seeking the same end result, could they form a partnership and pursue a common project with shared interest in a common outcome? And, would the partnership need to be established (e.g. MOU) prior to application or could it be finalized after grant award?

A: Yes, that sounds like a great idea. The partnership should be established prior to submitting the application; the county government would need to be the lead applicant and submit the application.

Q: If the County engages a contractor, can the contractor complete and submit the application on behalf the County?

A: The applicant must be the County.

Q: Can a county designate a fire safe council as the submitter?

A: The County must be the applicant and receive the award.

Q: In the early October webinars, it was mentioned the county could provide a letter of authorization for another agency to act as submitter/project lead. Has that changed, or if not, how does that fit into the application process?

A: Yes, that was further clarified for us. The Legislation states the grants must be made to Counties only.

Q: Clarification - RCDs/FSCs cannot apply on behalf of the County to implement the work. (i.e., like the Fire Safe Coordinator Opportunity?) Only the County can apply here?

A: Correct, the County must be the applicant.

Q: Will there be a regional priority after applications have been submitted such as what happened with the county coordinators grant? In other words, will all counties be considered this round? or just a particular Cal Fire region?

A: All counties will be considered at this time. If this changes, we will send out an update.

PROJECT PLANNING AND USE OF FUNDS

Q: Could this grant be used to pay for a service such as Zonehaven?

A: Yes, software that is necessary for evacuation route planning and the product is public facing and will benefit the local agency and the public.

Q: Does the workplan need to cover the whole county or can it cover a high-risk area within the county?

A: The goal is to cover the whole county, but applications covering highest priority areas will also be accepted.

Q: If a planning project application spans the SRA and LRA, would it still be eligible?

A: Yes.

Q: If matching funds are available is it beneficial to list them?

A: Yes, please list or describe any matching funds and their source in the application. Again, they are not required.

Q: Can you share examples of successful projects?

A: Since this is a new program, we don't have any past examples. Planning, fuels, signage, and public education are all eligible activities.

Q: Is there a requirement that there be an analysis of the project impact prior to submission? If so, what criteria would you use to evaluate impact?

A: There is no requirement for an analysis of the project impact.

Q: Because this grant goes to counties does it kick in prevailing wages as a requirement?

A: CAL FIRE provides no opinion as to whether projects may be subject to prevailing wages. For determination for prevailing wages, please contact the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) at [DIR Prevailing Wage](#). It is the applicant's responsibility to budget for prevailing wages in their project cost when applicable.

Q: Are there any guidelines or requirements for how a County applicant prioritizes spending the grant award within its sub-contractors? In other words, if there are multiple Cities or organizations in the county that would like to be a sub-contractor for part of the award funds, are there any requirements or guidelines in the grant that the county needs to adhere to? Or is it totally up to the County how it disburses for projects?

A: It is up to the County to decide on how to disburse the funds.

Q: Does the county need to designate the sub-contractor(s) in the application?

A: It is not required.

APPLICATION INFORMATION AND KEY DATES

Q: When is the application due?

A: Our application schedule is as follows:

- November 15, 2021 – Application period opens
- **December 22, 2021 – Applications due at 11:59pm**
- February 14, 2022 – Announce awards (anticipated)
- March 1, 2022 – Project start date (anticipated)

Q: What is the performance period of the grant?

A: We anticipate the performance period will begin in March 2022 and go through March 2023. Specific dates are still being worked out and are subject to change.

Q: Where on your website are the application materials are located?

A: If you have not applied with us yet, you can create a new grant account at:
<https://cafiresafecouncil.org/2021-county-evacuation-route-grant-opportunity/>

Q: Will the slides be emailed right after this webinar?

A: The slides and a video of the webinar will be on our website:
<https://cafiresafecouncil.org/2021-county-evacuation-route-grant-opportunity/>

Q: Will there be a Grant Application Handbook developed, similar to what was produced for the County Coordinators grant application?

A: Yes. All the available resources will be posted on our website at:
<https://cafiresafecouncil.org/2021-county-evacuation-route-grant-opportunity/>

REIMBURSEMENT PROCESS AND REPORTING

Q: How long do you estimate it would take from the time a reimbursement request is submitted until payment is issued. This will be important when hiring sub-contractors to perform some of this work.

A: Since this is a new process, we don't have an exact time frame, but we will have more clear information when/if we issue you a subaward.

Q: Are there financial advances?

A: Grant payments to counties are on a reimbursement basis only.

Q: So, the county has to submit quarterly reports or the contractor?

A: The award goes the county and is responsible for all reporting and deliverables.

For more information, please contact:

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