

# 5 Things Cities Should Know About Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG)

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## #1 Cities should engage with planning grant recipients now as they develop their priority climate action plans

Every state except Iowa, Florida, South Dakota, and Kentucky and over 75 metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) received [CPRG planning grants](#). Those that received planning grants are now working on Priority Climate Action Plans (PCAP), due March 1, in advance of the April 1 application deadline for implementation grants.

Any application for an implementation grant must be for a project included in a PCAP. For this reason, cities need to work now with their state and MSA partners that received planning grants to ensure that projects that they want to implement are included in PCAPs and are thus eligible for implementation grants.

## #2 The CPRG competition is designed to encourage multi-jurisdiction applications and regional collaboration

The CPRG general competition is designed to incentivize applying for funding as a coalition with multiple municipalities in order to maximize the potential for greenhouse gas and air pollution reduction. In fact, during the [December 14th LIH webinar on CPRG](#), Julia Peek, Director of Communications and Mobilization for the Urban Sustainability Directors Network emphasized that single jurisdiction applications would likely not be competitive for an implementation grant.

Because of this, collaboration between lead applicants and other eligible applicants is essential for creating coherent and coordinated multi-jurisdictional proposals. The list of [Planning Grant recipients](#) is a good place to start if your city is looking to plug into the existing efforts of nearby MSAs or in your state.

## #3 The CPRG competition is open to a variety of “public bodies” in addition to city governments, which can be valuable partners in planning for an application

CPRG defines municipality as a city, town, borough, county, parish, or district. But other municipal agencies, departments, or other municipal government offices; councils of government, metropolitan planning commissions, or other regional organizations comprised of multiple municipalities are also eligible to apply. Other municipal entities such as regional transit authorities; public housing authorities; port authorities; water, sanitation, and waste districts; public school districts; and flood authorities can also be eligible to apply if they constitute a public body created by or pursuant to State law, and they are accountable to municipal or state units of government. Working with these types of partners can help expand the scope of potential projects and also provide valuable insight into the implementation and execution needed for many eligible projects.

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## #4 Take advantage of available resources for developing applications

Peter Hansel, Special Advisor for Implementation at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) shared resources to help cities calculate greenhouse gas reductions, including [trainings and webinars](#), and [NOFO Q&As](#). Applicants should also look at the [NOFO's](#) scoring criteria to get a sense of what EPA reviewers will be looking for in applications. The section with the most points in the application is the greenhouse gas reduction impact. Applications will be evaluated on the extent of emission reductions in the short and long-term and also their efficiency and cost-effectiveness.

Julia Peek, also shared USDN's [CPRG Assistance Project](#), a collaboration of several organizations to provide free support to help MSA Leads navigate the CPRG program, including the development of PCAPs, with technical assistance, program design, implementation grants, and more.

In addition, the Local Infrastructure Hub will be offering a [Climate Action](#) bootcamp, which will include CPRG support and technical assistance, for communities of 150,000 or less.

## #5 Keep environmental justice top of mind when strategizing how to reduce greenhouse gas and air pollution

While the primary scoring criteria for CPRG are related to greenhouse gas and air pollution reduction, the NOFO also takes into account equity and environmental justice by including scoring criteria for how your project impacts low-income and disadvantaged communities. Points can be earned for community benefits, based on how well an application discusses and assesses expected benefits and/or avoids harm to low-income and disadvantaged communities from the GHG reduction measures, and how meaningful community engagement was incorporated into the application process. Furthermore, applicants will also be scored based on concrete strategies and commitments to ensure job quality, strong labor standards, and a diverse, highly skilled workforce for the implementation of the GHG reduction measures.

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**NOFO application deadline: April 1, 2024**