

Jan. 21, 2015
Issue #6

Race on for Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Funding

The Strategic Growth Council (SGC) on Tuesday approved [final guidelines](#) for the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Program, through which \$120 million in cap-and-trade funding will be doled out in a competitive process.

Cities will have little time to prepare: concept proposals are due Feb. 19, following the Jan. 30 release of the notice of funding availability.

SGC is set to host a series of six workshops Feb. 4-11 to help cities assemble proposals.

The AHSC program will provide grants and/or loans to projects intended to achieve greenhouse gas reductions by increasing accessibility of affordable housing, employment centers and key destinations via low-carbon transportation options like walking, biking and transit.

The guidelines have identified two project types:

- transit-oriented development project areas that improve access to public transit, biking or walking infrastructure and affordable housing or mixed-use areas, all with the aim of better connecting residents to key destinations, like schools and businesses;
- integrated connectivity projects, which must: include a transit stop within 1/2 mile of affordable housing, be served by transit not meeting high quality standards and either two capital projects or a capital project and planning costs.

Half of the program's funding must be used for affordable housing and half must benefit disadvantaged communities.

For a full timeline and technical assistance workshop schedule, see the League's AHSC program information sheet under the housing tab on [Cap-and-Trade](#) hot issues webpage.

SGC also approved final guidelines for the Sustainable Agricultural Land Conservation Program, a spin-off of the AHSC program slated to receive up to \$5 million in FY 2014-15 funding.

The land-conservation program will provide grants and/or loans to projects that will achieve greenhouse gas reductions by protecting agricultural lands through investments in strategic planning and agricultural easements.

Pre-proposal summaries for conservation easement grants are due Feb. 6. Applications for agricultural land strategy plan grants are due March 20.

The League's SALC program information sheet can be found under the natural resources tab on [Cap-and-Trade](#) hot issues webpage.

Cities with transportation-related questions can contact League's Assistant Legislative Director [Jennifer Whiting](#). For housing questions, contact League Legislative Representative [Kirstin Kolpitke](#).

For more full guidelines for both programs, see <http://sgc.ca.gov/>.