



Funding Research Memo Capacity Building and Organizational Development

September 2016

THIS MEMO WILL BE UPDATED PERIODICALLY. IF YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING RESOURCES, PLEASE CONTACT THE SNC FUND DEVELOPMENT TEAM: sncfundingteam@sierranevada.ca.gov.

CAVEAT – Grant guidelines and deadlines are subject to periodic change. Please check the program web sites for new information. The deadlines listed are projected from the last funding round and are particularly unreliable. Check the program’s web site!

FUNDING SUMMARY TABLE

(*Hyperlinks to more complete information later in memo, including links to program web sites)

Grant	Funding Range	Funding Focus	Estimated Deadline	Eligible Costs
U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Community Development Initiative	\$50,000 - \$250,000. 1:1 match required	Develop the capacity and ability of rural nonprofits, low-income communities, and federally recognized tribes to undertake housing, community facilities, or economic development projects.	Different each year	Technical assistance and capacity building, including staff assistance, training, predevelopment consultations, and some computer and software expenses.
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation – Sierra Nevada Meadow Restoration	Not stated. 1:1 match is preferred.	Implement Sierra Meadow Restoration Business Plan.	Pre-proposals are due October and May.	Can include on-the ground work, building organizational capacity, building stakeholder support, and monitoring/evaluation.
National Forest Foundation Community Capacity and Land Stewardship	Maximum \$12K or \$24K depending on status of organization’s development	Provide capacity-building support for local collaborative efforts that work toward achieving watershed and landscape-scale restoration while also furthering economic sustainability of communities.	There will not be a round of funding in 2016. See web site for future deadlines.	Outreach and communications, facilitation, workshops and training, dissemination of best practices and tools for community-based projects, organization and staff support, strategic plans, etc.
Department of Housing and Urban Development	Up to \$100,000. 5% local match required.	Planning and research	Changes each year	Research, analysis, and planning for community needs in regard to public improvements, community facilities, and local planning issues. Funding cannot be used for

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Grant	Funding Range	Funding Focus	Estimated Deadline	Eligible Costs
Community Development Block Grant Planning/ Technical Assistance				specific project feasibility study, but could analyze feasibility of a biomass business park, for example.
Healthy Watersheds Consortium Grant Program	\$50,000 - \$150,000 per year. Multiple-year awards are allowed. 25% of total program cost required as match.	Protection of healthy watersheds. Building watershed protection capacity is one of three areas of focus.	March	Expanding organizational infrastructure, staffing costs, increasing funding, outreach and education, and developing and sharing information about planning, implementing, and assessing healthy watershed protection.
National Park Service Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance	No funding provided, technical assistance only	Development of parks, trails, access to rivers, and other special places.	June, July, or August	Will provide staff assistance in form of planning, facilitation, design, outreach, etc.
CA State Parks Foundation	Up to \$7,500	Celebrate heritage, welcome visitors, teach Californians, safeguard resources, and connect individuals, organizations, and partners.	March and September	Services and amenities for visitors, transit initiatives, park interpretation and educational materials, preservation of historical/cultural artifacts, volunteer training, trail improvements, etc. Grants can also be for organizational capacity-building.
Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) Foundation	Usually below \$5,000, but there are exceptions	Programs designed to promote energy sustainability, environmental conservation, and stewardship of land and resources.	March through October	No specific limitations. Applications should be at invitation of PG&E staff.
Rose Foundation for the Community and the Environment	Usually around \$5,000	Supporting small-scale organizations in conducting environmental improvements in Northern California.	Multiple	Community-based advocacy, technical assistance, litigation, restoration projects, organizing expenses, grassroots campaigns, and environmental education.
The Strong Foundation for Environmental Values	\$2,000 - \$5,000. No match required.	Programs and education supporting ecological ethics in individuals and communities, and grassroots environmental action.	February and September	Program planning, implementation, education, training, capacity building, citizen participation, and land acquisition.

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Grant	Funding Range	Funding Focus	Estimated Deadline	Eligible Costs
Teichert Foundation	\$3,500 to \$7,500	Several categories of funding, including environmental planning and preservation.	February and August	Requests for specific project costs are preferred over general operating expenses.



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U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Community Development Initiative http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/HAD-RCDI_Grants.html

The objective of this program is to develop the capacity and ability of private, nonprofit community-based housing and community development organizations, and low-income rural communities, to improve housing, community facilities, and community/economic development projects in rural areas.

This grant provides funding to an intermediary organization which in turn provides the technical assistance to sub-grantees – the community organizations developing the housing, community facilities, or economic development projects. The intermediary can provide assistance to multiple sub-grantees as long as they meet specific organizational requirements. Part of the scoring criteria is the income level for the community served by the organization, which is determined to be the area where the organization's office is located.

Rural Community Development Initiative grants may be used for, but are not limited to:

- Training sub-grantees to conduct a program on home-ownership education
- Training sub-grantees to conduct a program for minority business entrepreneurs
- Providing technical assistance to sub-grantees on how to effectively prepare a strategic plan
- Providing technical assistance to sub-grantees on how to access alternative funding sources
- Building organizational capacity through board training
- Developing training tools, such as videos, workbooks, and reference guides to be used by the sub-grantee
- Providing technical assistance and training on how to develop successful child care facilities
- Providing training on effective fundraising techniques

The grants require 1:1 cash match; federal funding may be an eligible match in some cases.

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) – Sierra Nevada Meadow Restoration

http://www.nfwf.org/sierranevada/Pages/home.aspx#.VLQz_XsWct0

This program is a partnership between NFWF and Wells Fargo Foundation. The program focuses on creating the momentum to restore and protect thousands of acres of meadow in the Sierra Nevada. Key conservation actions for this program include:

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- Quantifying ecosystem service benefits, such as conducting hydrologic and water quality assessments to predict and measure changes in groundwater levels and downstream flow
- Building organizational capacity, such as providing capacity-building in watersheds where restoration planning and implementation is limited
- Repairing meadow degradation, such as supporting restoration projects in meadow systems in which it will be possible to quantify benefits
- Ensuring long-term protection, such as supporting land protection and deploying best management practices
- Garnering support of ranching community through improving information flow and providing technical assistance
- Monitoring and documenting ecological and biological responses to meadow restoration

For more detail on priority activities, please see NFWF's Sierra Nevada Meadows Business Plan (the link for downloads is on the web page). There is no Request for Proposal for the program, but application guidelines for NFWF Conservation Programs with a Business Plan can be found [here](#). A 1:1 match is preferred. There are two grant cycles per year, with pre-proposals due in October and June.

National Forest Foundation Community Capacity and Land Stewardship (CCLS) Grants

<https://www.nationalforests.org/grant-programs/ccls>

This grant program is to build capacity of the organizations working on projects that benefit forest and grassland health, wildlife, fish and rare plant habitat, ecological restoration, sustainable recreation, or collaborative stewardship of National Forest System and adjoining private lands. Grants are available to community-based organizations and collaborative groups. For California, the CCLS program has two distinct funding tracks, one focused on newer organizations in the early stages of development (up to \$12,000 in funding), and one focused on more established organizations looking to increase their capacity (up to \$24,000). The tracks have different proposal requirements.

Examples of eligible projects include:

- Community outreach that helps support a collaborative group and enables it to be more effective on the ground
- Workshops and training related to facilitation, contracting, and other topics that will assist groups in building capacity to meet the program goals
- Dissemination of best practices and tools to assist community-based nonprofit organizations and collaborative groups in project development, implementation, and monitoring
- Organizational and staff support, including facilitation, technical assistance, networking, and peer-to-peer evaluations leading to shared learning

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- Travel related to collaborative group activities
- Development of action plans, project strategic documents, or other similar documents as a result of or necessary for collaborative processes

The program staff confirmed that there will be no round of funding for 2016, but they hope to have funding for 2017. Sign up for their listserv to stay informed.

Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant program (Non-Entitlement) Planning/Technical Assistance Grants
<http://www.hcd.ca.gov/fa/cdbg/EconDevelopment.html>

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program funding comes from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and distributed through the California Office of Housing and Community Development (HCD). CDBG funding is provided on a pro-rata basis to most large, urban areas (entitlement jurisdictions), but the remaining rural (non-entitlement) areas can obtain funding through a competitive process. CDBG funding comes in multiple categories which are delineated in a 'Super Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA)' that usually comes out at the beginning of each year. Applications are due a few months after the NOFA is released. There are many technical requirements for submission of these applications (two public meetings with specific types of notice, etc.), so start early. Since only incorporated tribes, cities, and counties may be applicants, you should contact the appropriate planning or economic development department to work with you on the application. There are set-asides for non-federally recognized tribes in the standard CDBG program. For federally recognized tribal programs, applications should be made to the Indian CDBG program.

These grants are not for general capacity building. However, if there is an interest in housing or economic development work, the Planning/Technical Assistance (PTA) grants can be very useful for planning and prioritizing projects and strategies. CDBG grants can be used to research, analyze, and plan housing, public improvements, community facilities, economic development projects and programs, and public services. A five percent match is required.

Healthy Watersheds Consortium Grant Program
<http://www.usendowment.org/healthywatersheds.html>

The Healthy Watersheds Consortium Grant Program is a joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U. S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities (Endowment), which manages the partnership. The goal of the program is to accelerate strategic protection of healthy, freshwater ecosystems and their watersheds. For the purposes of this program, a healthy watershed is one in which the hydrological, biological, and land-based functions of the ecosystem are largely intact. So unlike many programs which seek to restore the most impaired watersheds, this program seeks to protect watersheds that are currently in a healthy state but are at risk

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of deterioration. The principle is to protect and sustain healthy watersheds so that they will continue to provide ecological services such as clean water, drinking water, habitat for fish and wildlife, recreation, and protection from natural hazards.

The program has three categories of funding, one of which is Building Watershed Protection Capacity. The objective of grants in this category is to grow the organizational sustainability necessary for large-scale, long-term protection of healthy watersheds. Funding ranges from \$50,000 to \$150,000 per year and grants can be renewed for up to five years based on the previous year's performance. These grants are targeted toward coalescing groups or coalitions working on watershed protection.

The grant requires the applicant to provide a 25 percent match of the total project cost. This requirement can be decreased if the applicant can prove it will impose an undue hardship. The match may include cash donations or in-kind contributions from third-parties.

National Park Service Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance Program <http://www.nps.gov/orgs/rtca/index.htm>

This program does not provide funding, but rather National Park Service staff provide free, on-location facilitation and planning expertise for projects related to development of parks, trails, access to rivers, and other special places. They can help guide a project from conception to completion. Some of the ways they can help:

- Define project vision and goals
- Inventory and map community resources
- Identify and analyze key issues and opportunities
- Engage collaborative partners and stakeholders
- Design community outreach and participation strategies
- Develop concept plans for trails, parks, and natural areas
- Set priorities and build consensus
- Identify funding sources
- Develop a sustainable organizational framework to support the project

The application deadline is usually in the summer months. It is a good idea to contact the staff several weeks in advance of the deadline to discuss your project.

California State Parks Foundation <http://www.calparks.org/whatwedo/grants/>

These grants are focused **on State Parks only**. Grants are for projects or programs that protect, enhance, and preserve California's state parks. These grants are awarded two times a year through a competitive process and support the foundation's five vision elements: Celebrate Our Enduring Heritage, Welcome Visitors, Teach Californians, Safeguard Resources, and Connect Individuals, Organizations, and Partners.

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Some eligible projects include services and amenities for visitors, transit initiatives, park interpretation and educational materials, preservation of historical/cultural artifacts, volunteer training, and trail improvements. Funding can also be used to build the capacity of the organization, if the organization's mission is dedicated to supporting one or more California state parks. The maximum grant is \$7,500. Eligible applicants are 501(c)(3) organizations. A letter of support from the park's California Department of Parks and Recreation District or Sector Superintendent is required, unless the grant is not for capacity building or the state park is not operated by the California Department of Parks and Recreation.

Applications are accepted in March and September.

Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) Foundation

<http://www.pge.com/en/about/community/grants/index.page?>

Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) gives small grants in three areas, one of which is 'environment'. It appears this is very broadly defined (take a look at the list of grantees, which is available under 'Applicant Resources'). There is a preference for low-income and underserved communities. Grants applications are invited by PG&E employees, so the best idea is to contact local PG&E public affairs staff. Once invited to submit a grant, the application process is done online.

Grants are small, usually under \$5,000. However, the corporation gives out a lot of grants, so if you just need a few thousand dollars for events, training resources, equipment, etc., this might be worth pursuing. The funding process is open for a period of about six months every year, but this period changes year to year.

The Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment: Northern California Environmental Grassroots Fund

<http://rosefdn.org/grassrootsfund/about>

The purpose of this program is to support small-scale organizations in conducting environmental improvements in Northern California. The foundation seeks to strengthen and diversify the capacity of the grassroots base of California's environmental movement, and to provide training opportunities to develop skills in budgeting, communications, strategic planning, computer software, working with volunteers, and more. General support is available for organizations with an environmental mission, and project support is available for community-based advocacy, technical assistance, litigation, restoration projects, organizing expenses, grassroots campaigns, and environmental education. One of the focus areas of the organization is the Sierra Nevada.

The program supports small groups and first-time grant seekers with an annual budget that does not exceed \$100,000. Grants are usually \$5,000 or less, and there are multiple deadlines.

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The Strong Foundation for Environmental Values

<http://strongfoundationgrants.org/>

The purpose of this program is to support efforts that instill an ecological ethic in individuals and communities, and encourage grassroots environmental action. The program emphasizes awards for environmental and conservation efforts, eco-spirituality, environmental education, capacity building, citizen participation, planning, and training.

Eligible applicants are 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations and local governments. Applicants must have organization budgets of no more than \$1 million. The program is focused on projects located in California, specifically the geographic areas of:

- Northern California, which for the purposes of this program is defined to extend from the Oregon border in the north to the San Luis Obispo, Ventura, Los Angeles, and San Bernardino County lines in the south
- The Central Valley
- The Sierra Nevada, including:
 - The entire California-Oregon Klamath River watershed
 - The watersheds that arise in the Sierra Nevada and terminate in Nevada's terminal lakes

Awards range from \$2,000 to \$5,000. There are no stated matching requirements for this program. However, all secured or pending sources of funding must be detailed in the application. Application deadlines are February 15 and September 15.

Teichert Foundation

<http://www.teichert.com/teichert-foundation/>

These are small (\$3,000 to \$7,500) grants, but do not require matching funds. There are several categories of funding, including culture and the arts, education, environmental planning and preservation, civic improvement and historical restoration, etc. There are geographic restrictions; however, a good portion of the west-side Sierra Nevada counties (between Mariposa and Yuba) are eligible to apply. There are two deadlines per year: February and August.

The foundation prefers grant requests for specific purposes, as opposed to operating expenses. Grants are generally made for one year only.