

Community Connectivity Grant Program Questions & Answers (Q&A)

Question 1:

Is (my project) eligible for CCGP funding?

Answer 1:

A project would be eligible if the application demonstrates that it meets the intent of the Community Connectivity Program by improving conditions for walking and biking to and within community centers. It should be noted that this is a competitive grant program with limited funding and not every project can be funded. Therefore applications that show a project clearly supports the goal of the Community Connectivity Program will understandably score higher in the ranking process.

The CCGP is not intended to provide funding for general maintenance activities or roadway infrastructure improvements. These projects should seek funding under another source.

Question 2:

Is it permissible under the CCGP to utilize Municipal forces for construction?

Answer 2:

The CCGP is not necessarily geared for construction to be performed by Municipal forces (Force Account Construction) but this method is acceptable. Additional documentation reflecting the expenditures may be required in the form of certified payrolls and or wage rate documentation. Such additional requirements will be coordinated among the Department and municipality.

Note:
Guidelines do not directly address Force Account Construction.

Question 3:

What are the requirements for the estimate that must be submitted with the CCGP Application and at what percentage are contingencies and incidentals eligible?

Answer 3:

Estimates should reflect that the municipality has reasonable confidence that the project can be constructed within the requested amount, and that major item costs are realistic based on CTDOT's experience with unit prices and or projects of similar size and scope. The Department will provide an estimate template for applicants to use and applicants are encouraged to use CTDOT's estimating guidelines or similar local methods.

Contingencies and incidentals can be included as a percentage of the expected project cost but it is suggested that these costs be limited to a maximum of 10% each.

Reference:
CCGP Guidelines, Application Evaluation and Project Selection, Rating Criteria #5
CCGP website, Program Blank Cost Estimate

Question 4:

The program specifies the dollar value limits for eligible projects. If a Community is interested in pursuing a project of greater value than \$ 400,000, is it permissible to have the Community provide written commitment to fund the balance and still have the project be eligible under the program?

Answer 4:

No, the intent of the CCGP is to fund standalone projects that fit into the \$75,000-\$400,000 range of the Program that can make an impact in the community in a relatively short timeframe. If a project is bid and costs exceed the Program cap, the municipality will be responsible for committing funds to make up the difference. The CCGP can be used to fund a separate phase of a larger project only if it can be shown to be financially tracked, managed, and completed as a stand-alone project and has independent utility.

Reference:

CCGP Guidelines, Eligible Activities

CCGP Guidelines, Program Finances; use of CCGP as a match for federal funding

Question 5:

Do towns have to do a design themselves or utilize funds outside of the CCGP to hire a consultant to do the design?

Answer 5:

Yes, the Town would be responsible for funding the design of the project, whether done in-house or by a Consultant. The CCGP grants are for construction funds only and funds cannot be used for any design work.

Reference:

CCGP Guidelines, Engineering/General Design Requirements

Question 6:

What qualifies as “pedestrian wayfinding signs” vs other wayfinding signs?

Answer 6:

The Departments guidance with respect to signage comes from the MUTCD, which defines pedestrian wayfinding signage as:

MUTCD Section 2D.50 Community Wayfinding Signs

(10) Pedestrian wayfinding signs typically use smaller legends that are inadequately sized for viewing by vehicular traffic and because they can provide direction to pedestrians that might conflict with that appropriate for vehicular traffic, wayfinding signs designed for and intended to provide direction to pedestrians or other users of a sidewalk or other roadside area should be located to minimize their conspicuity to vehicular traffic. Such signs should be located as far as practical from the street, such as at the far edge of the sidewalk. Where locating such signs farther from the roadway is not practical, the pedestrian wayfinding signs should have their conspicuity to vehicular traffic minimized by employing one or a combination of the following methods:

- Locating signs away from intersections where high-priority traffic control devices are present.
- Facing the pedestrian message toward the sidewalk and away from the street.
- Cantilevering the sign over the sidewalk if the pedestrian wayfinding sign is mounted at a height consistent with vehicular traffic signs, removing the pedestrian wayfinding signs from the line of sight in a sequence of vehicular signs.

(11)To further minimize their conspicuity to vehicular traffic during nighttime conditions, pedestrian wayfinding signs should not be retroreflective.

Note:

This does not necessarily exclude a general wayfinding sign project from the CCGP. See Question 1 to determine how a project would be eligible under the CCGP

Question 7:

What information is required to be submitted by the application closing date?

Answer 7:

Documentation required to be submitted by the closing date of August 1st includes the following:

1. Completed program application
2. Signed “Endorsement and Recommendation of Project by the Municipality” form (Included in Application)
3. Program Preliminary Cost Estimate (Blank estimate is provided on website)
4. Any of the following that may apply and are available:
 - Site Location Map
 - Property Boundary Map
 - Project Plans / Concept Plans / Renderings
 - Proposed project schedule and duration of project
 - Environmental site assessments

Reference:

CCGP Guidelines, Application Process

CCGP Guidelines, Application Evaluation and Project Selection, Rating Criteria #5

CCGP Application, Section 1 – Identification and Documentation