Chicago Recovery Plan

Climate Infrastructure Fund

Informational Webinar #2 | February 2, 2023

CHICAGO RECOVERY PLAN

DPD Department of Planning and Development

Agenda

1. Program Overview
2. Project Types and Examples
3. How to Apply
4. What Makes a Successful Application
5. Q+A and Next Steps

Program Overview

CHICAGO RECOVERY PLAN

Climate Infrastructure Fund

The purpose of this Chicago Recovery Plan program is to **accelerate Chicago's transition to the green economy** by seeding climate projects across Chicago that align with the 2022 Climate Action Plan of **reducing emissions 62% by 2040** and driving **equitable co-benefits** to all Chicagoans.

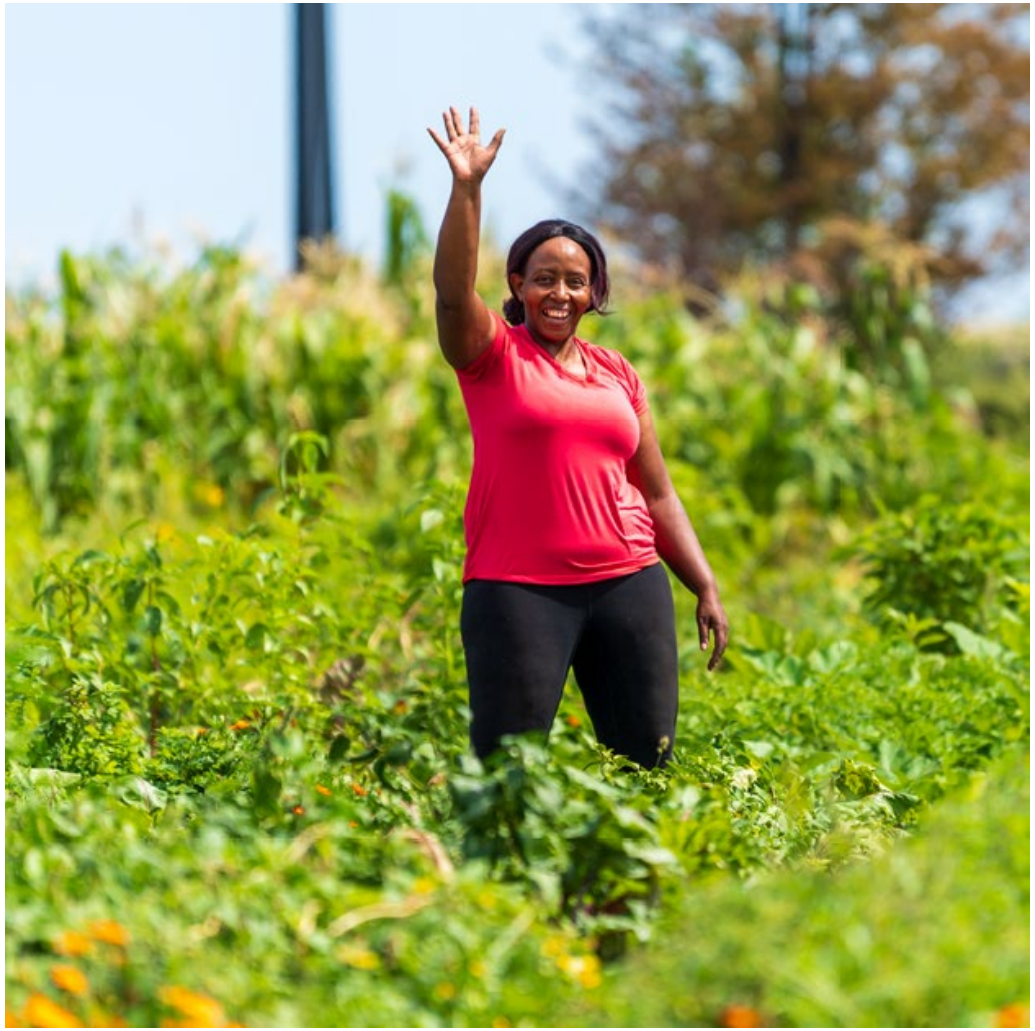
Through these grants, the City aims to:

- Promote solar and other community-based renewable energy sources
- Decarbonize buildings and support energy efficiency improvements
- Increase electric vehicle ownership and presence of associated charging infrastructure
- Improve resilience infrastructure

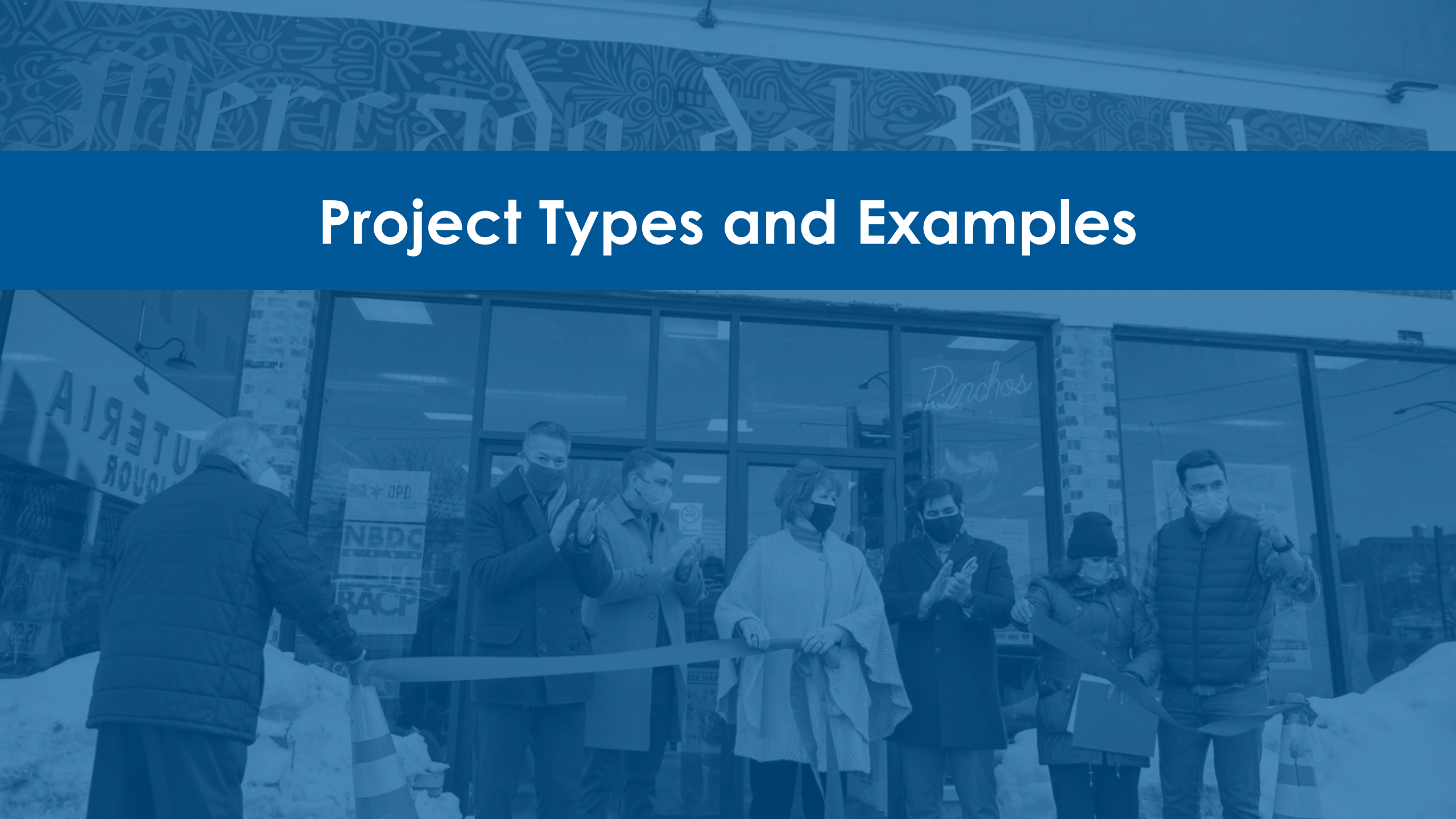
Overview

- **Grant Summary:**
  - Applicants: Nonprofit organizations and small businesses
  - Project awards: $50,000 - $250,000
    - Exceptions may be made for projects below or above that range; case-by-case basis

- **Project Types** *(must choose only one)*:
  - Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency
  - Electric Vehicles and EV Charging Infrastructure
  - Green Infrastructure

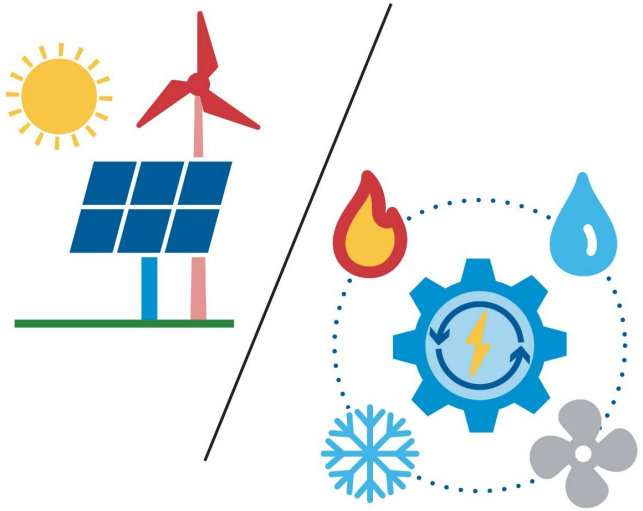


Project Types and Examples

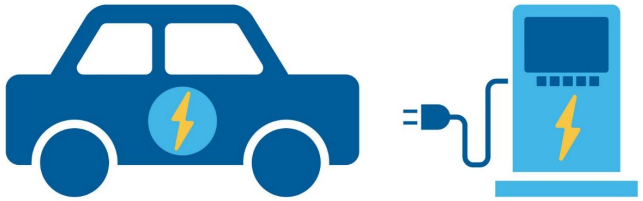


Project Types*

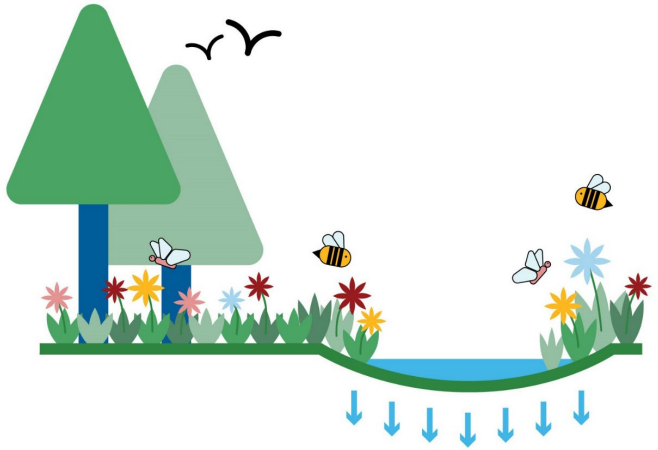
Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency



Electric Vehicles and EV Charging Infrastructure

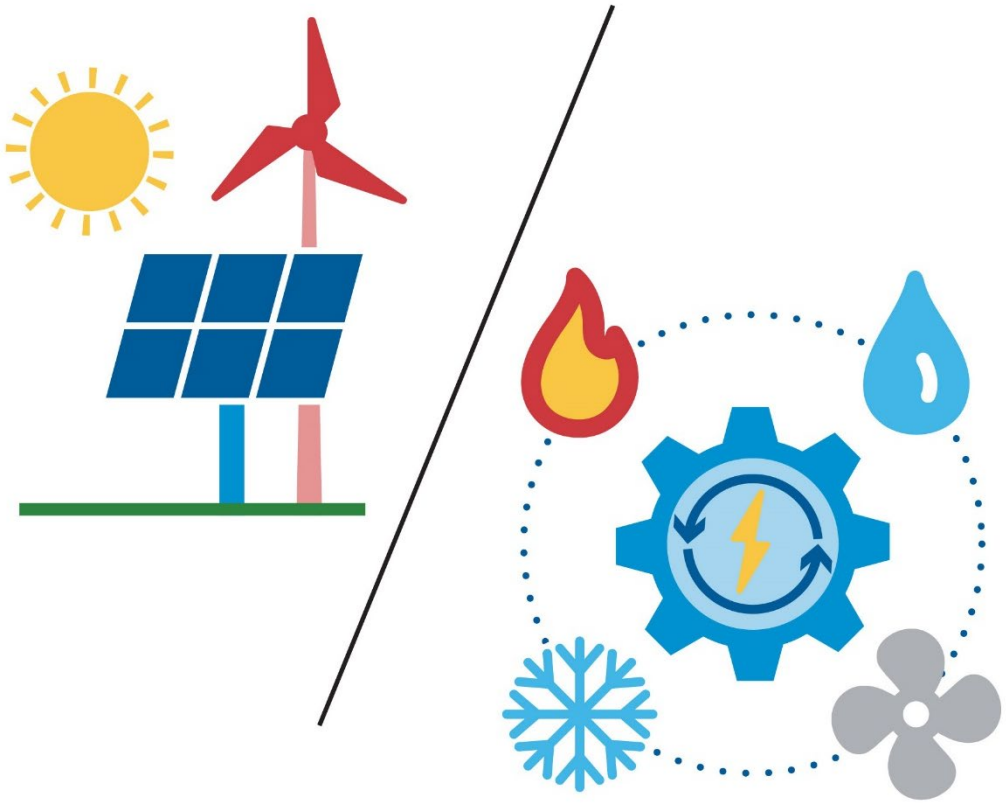


Green Infrastructure



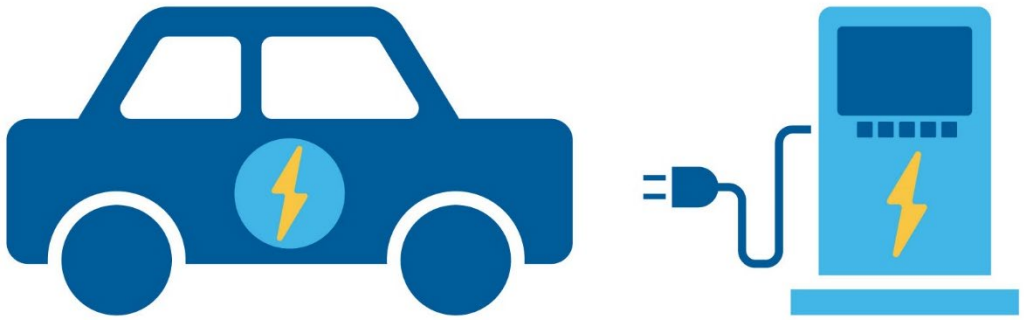
Applicants must choose only one Project Type category

Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency



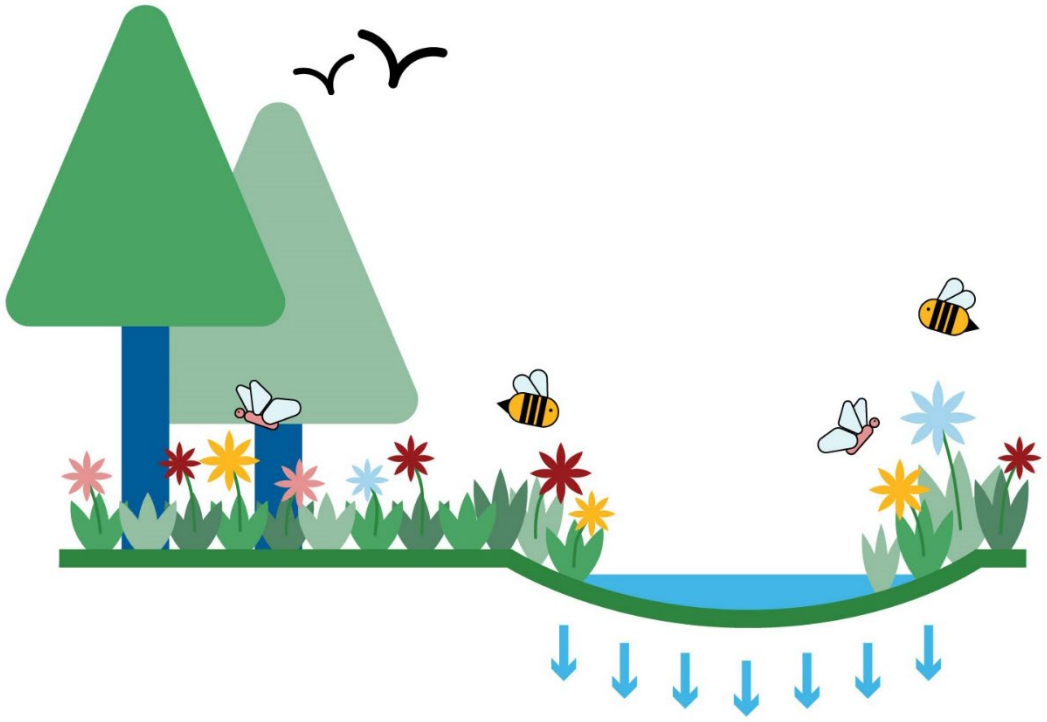
Investments may include installation of **onsite renewable energy** and **energy efficiency upgrades**, such as space heating and cooling with electric heat pumps, air sealing and insulation, lighting, heat pump water heaters, and induction cooktops.

Electric Vehicles and EV Charging Infrastructure



Approved projects will fund the purchase of **electric vehicle(s) or fleets** and may include the installation of **EV charging infrastructure**.

Green Infrastructure



Green infrastructure (GI) collects stormwater from paved and unpaved surfaces to **filter and absorb stormwater** where it falls, reducing the amount of stormwater going into the sewer system.

Allowable expenses:

- Native plantings and soil systems
- Permeable pavement,
- Stormwater harvest and reuse

Types of projects:

- Comprehensive green infrastructure garden with multiple GI solutions; or
- Smaller scale property/site solutions

How to Apply

Who can apply and what do funds cover?

This application is open to:

- ✓ 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations and small businesses, *including religious organizations*
- ✓ Priority given to applicants located in or serving populations in historically underserved, under-resourced, and environmental justice communities

Eligible expenses include:

- ✓ Pre-development such as energy assessments, site plans
- ✓ Construction and renovation costs for permanent capital improvement projects
- ✓ Specific eligible expenses by project type (next slides)

Only eligible expenses can be covered by the Climate Infrastructure Fund. Final eligibility will be determined on a project-by-project basis. Other items can be included in the total project cost, but those will not be reimbursable.

Apply Online

Round 1 Applications must be submitted by Friday, February 24, 2023 at 11:59:59.

1. You can access the online application via www.chicago.gov/ClimateFund
2. The first step will be to create a Submittable account using the button at the bottom of the application landing page.
3. After creating your account, you will be directed to the Eligibility Form. After completing it, you will either be directed to the full application or to additional resources to help you prepare for the next round if you do not meet the initial eligibility criteria.
4. Begin the online application – you may save and continue later if preferred
5. Upload all supplemental files and review to ensure accuracy and completeness
6. Submit via the portal before the deadline. Note: The portal will not "lock" you out after the deadline; however, all submittals received after February 24 at 11:59:59 are ineligible for consideration in Round 1.

Applications must be submitted in online Submittable portal; PDF applications will not be considered

Universal Application Eligibility Form

- **LOCATION:** Projects must be located in the City of Chicago.

- **DESIGN PROFESSIONAL:** Design professional includes any externally hired or on-staff professional you intend to work with, including but not necessarily limited to:
  - ✓ Architect
  - ✓ Engineer
  - ✓ Renewable Energy Professional
  - ✓ Energy Efficiency Professional
  - ✓ Installer of EV Charging Stations
  - ✓ EV Car Sales Professional
  - ✓ Green Infrastructure Design Professional
  - ✓ Landscape Architect / Designer

- **PROJECT COST:** At minimum, all applicants must be able to provide cost estimates.

- **CITY DEBT:** Those with significant debts of $5,000 or more will not be allowed to move forward with an application. All debts will be verified prior to project finalist announcements.

- **SITE CONTROL:** All proposed projects must have a clearly identified location. Those with no precise location will not be allowed to moved forward with an application for this round.

Eligibility Form Pro Tip

The Eligibility Form helps us understand which applicants are prepared to submit a full application. You may not know all the information requested when you start the form (e.g. project costs), but you should answer questions based on the information you expect to have when you submit your application.

What Makes a Successful Application?

Program Priorities

Priority will be given to applications that incorporate these components:

- Catalytic projects with a **strong local impact** that leverage local talents, capacities, and institutions **to strengthen and contribute to the community**
- Projects located in **environmental justice communities**
- Projects that demonstrate momentum and are **expected to break ground in 2023**
- **Site control** is preferred

Evaluation Criteria

Climate Criteria

Applicant must prove that their project will deliver meaningful GHG reductions and other environmental benefits; and/or adapt an area or community to changing climate conditions; and/or build local resiliency to climate shocks and stressors.

Equity Criteria

Applicant must prove that their project reduces systemic climate and environmental inequities for BIPOC and disenfranchised communities via direct and/or indirect impact.

Project Feasibility/Project Readiness Criteria

Applicant must prove the ability to successfully implement the project within a two-year timeframe and the ability to adequately staff and maintain said project over time.

Application Tips

Things to keep in mind

1 Technology & Electrification

Energy projects that propose viable renewable energy installations and/or efficient electrification technologies such as heat pumps will be more competitive than a similarly-sized project that focus solely on traditional energy efficiency.

EV projects that propose replacement of existing vehicles and charging stations (especially Level 3 / DC Fast Charging) will score better than those that propose only an EV purchase.

2 Comprehensive solutions to increase impact

Projects that combine multiple strategies within a given Project Type will be more competitive than those that focus on only one strategy.

A project that combines multiple energy efficiency strategies (e.g. Air sealing/insulation + HVAC + lighting) would be scored higher than one that includes only one such strategy.

3 Prioritize public access to improvements

Projects that allow the public to benefit from investments will be prioritized.

A project that proposes EV charging stations that provide access to the public will be scored higher than one that proposes private-only charging stations.

4 Maintenance & Operations

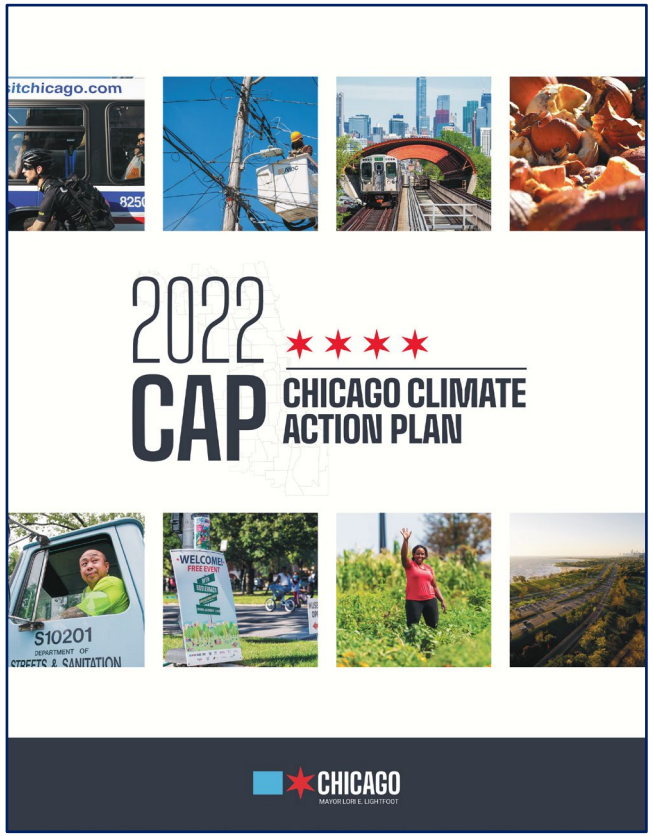
Demonstrating a full understanding of long-term maintenance and operations implications is crucial.

All applications should address each prompt, even if the mechanisms for said activities already exist within the organization or business.

Application Tips

Connect to City's Climate Pillars, Goals, and Objectives

www.WeWillChicago.com

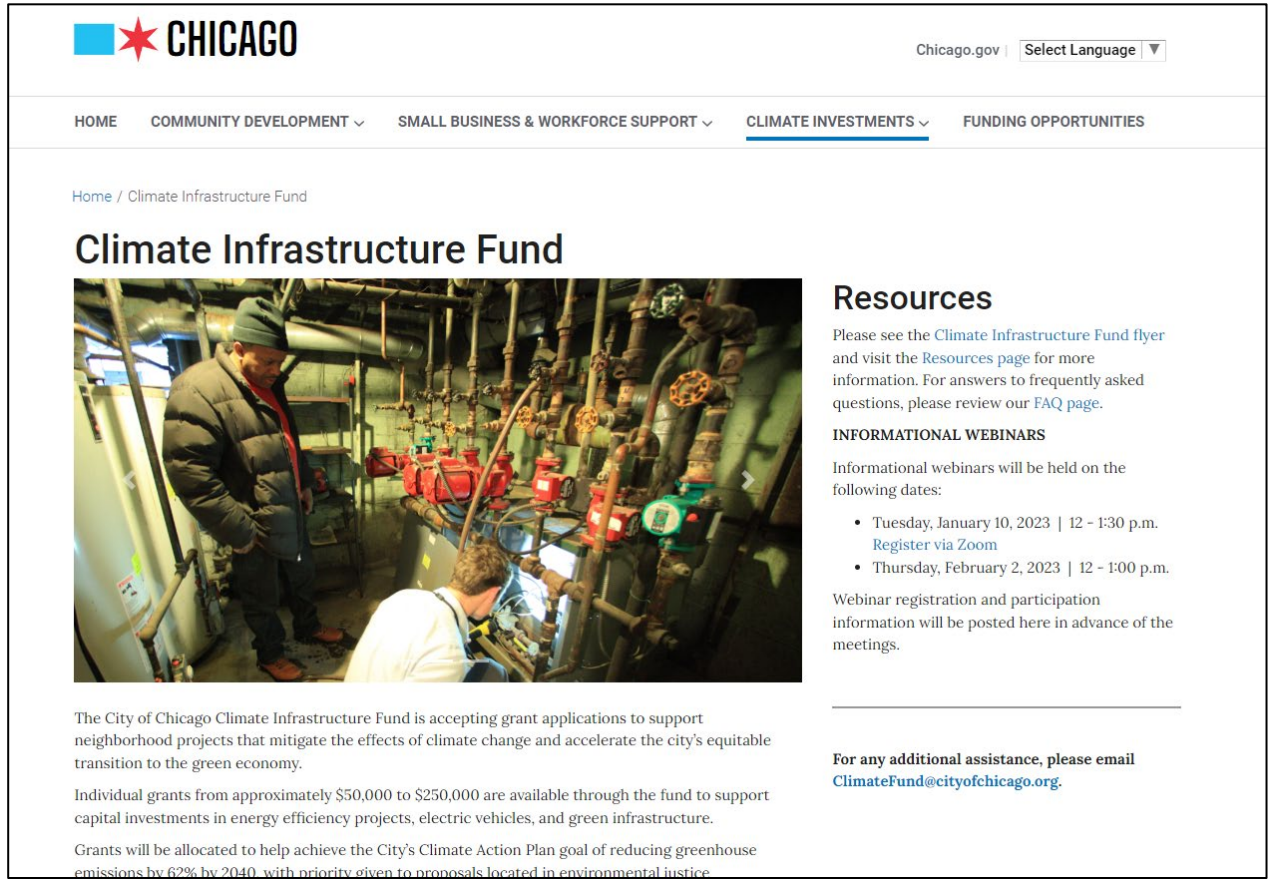


www.Chicago.gov/Climate

Visit the website for Resources, FAQs and more

Please visit **www.chicago.gov/climatefund**

- Program Overview
- Resources page*
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) page*
- Webinars: recordings, slides, and Q&A



*May be updated with new information from time-to-time

Q&A

Corrections / Clarifications from January 10 Webinar

1. Can I apply to multiple DPD Chicago Recovery Plan (CRP) grants? ***No, applicants may only apply for funding from one DPD CRP grant program per funding round. Applicants who already received funding from prior rounds of CRP grant programs or from other City of Chicago sources must disclose those awards in the application and should make clear why additional funding is requested.***
2. Can I apply to multiple Project Type categories? ***No, applicants may only apply for funding one project type per round***
3. Are religious nonprofits eligible? ***Yes, provided that funds are not used for a religious use; eligibility of specific items will be determined on a case-by-case basis.***
4. Are residential uses eligible? ***In general, no, residential uses are not eligible. An exception is made for Group Living facilities (as defined in the Zoning Ordinance) operated by 501(c)(3) organizations.***

For a full list of Q&A from the January 10 webinar, see this PDF:
https://www.chicago.gov/content/dam/city/sites/dpd-recovery-plan/CIF/CIF_QA_011023.pdf

For the full program Frequently Asked Questions, see the FAQ website:
https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/sites/dpd-recovery-plan/home/cif-faq.html

Questions?

Next Steps

- For a PDF of today's slides, a recording of today's session, and updates to the Frequently Asked Questions, please visit **www.chicago.gov/climatefund**
- **More questions?** Email us at **ClimateFund@cityofchicago.org**
- **Application Deadline: February 24, 2023.** Applications submitted after 11:59:59pm will not be considered in Round 1 funding.

Thank you!

We look forward to reviewing your project applications!

Chicago Climate Infrastructure Fund

CHICAGO RECOVERY PLAN

DPD
Department of Planning and Development