2026 COMMUNITY CLIMATE RESILIENCE GRANT PROGRAM GUIDE:

The King County Community Climate Resilience (CCR) Grant Program serves as a resource for frontline communities to develop new or expand on existing community-based climate resilience projects. This 2026 Grant Program Guide outlines essential information for potential grant applicants and other interested parties.

PROJECT DATES
Nov. 20, 2026 - Dec. 15, 2027

AWARD AMOUNT
$5,000-$30,000

DEADLINE TO APPLY
Fri, Sept. 11, 2026 at 11:59PM

Grant History and Overview

The Community Climate Resilience Grant was established in 2023 to award flexible grants to community-based organizations taking initiative to build climate resilience in frontline communities themselves. This comes directly from recommendation of the Climate Equity Community Task Force, a group of 21 frontline community leaders, who came together to partner with King County to develop the Sustainable and Resilience Frontline Communities (SRFC) Framework for the 2020 Strategic Climate Action Plan (SCAP). The CCR Grant program is designed to invest in community leadership and capacity to lead and partner with King County to protect and support frontline communities impacted first and worst by climate change impacts. This SRFC Framework remains intact today and in the 2025 Strategic Climate Action Plan, guiding King County's equitable action on climate change.

Key Dates for Applicants

Key Event	Date	Time	More Information
Applications Open	Mon, Aug 3, 2026	--	Application Link
Grant Assistance Open	Mon, Aug 3, 2026	--	Request Support
In-Person Info Session	Tues, Aug 11, 2026	1-2:30PM	Auburn Library 1102 Auburn Way S
Virtual Info Session #1	Thurs, Aug 13, 2026	4:30-6PM	Zoom registration link
Virtual Info Session #2	Wed, Aug 19, 2026	9:30-11AM	Zoom registration link
Last Day to Request Grant Assistance	Fri, Aug 28, 2026		--
Applications Close	Sept 11, 2026	11:59PM	--
Communication of Funding Decisions via email*	Week of Oct 26, 2026		--

*King County staff will communicate funding decisions to applicants, whether successful or not.

Eligibility

The CCR Grant Program is intended for **frontline communities*** defined as those that are:

- disproportionately impacted by climate change due to existing and historic racial, social, environmental, and economic inequities, and
- who have limited resources and limited capacity to adapt to climate-related shocks and stressors.

Applicant Eligibility	Project Eligibility	We will fund
•Be representative of AND work to serve frontline communities, and •Have 501(c)3 nonprofit status; or •Have a fiscal sponsor with 501(c)3 nonprofit status • *For groups that must hire a fiscal sponsor, a fee of 8% to 15% of the total grant award is often charged. This fee may be included in your proposed budget.*	•Take place within King County limits •Align with a Sustainable & Resilient Frontline Communities (SRFC) Focus Area •Have immediate, tangible outcomes related to: •increasing education or awareness of a topic, and/or •increasing adaptation/resilience in the face of local climate change impacts	•Organizations new to CCR funding, AND •Organizations that have received funds previously •Projects that are new, AND •Projects that are already in existence

Projects NOT Eligible
• Land acquisition • Capital projects • Scholarship or mini-grant funding

***Frontline communities include** Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities, immigrants and refugees, people living with low incomes, communities experiencing disproportionate pollution exposure, women and gender non-conforming people, LGBTQIA people, people who live and/or work outside, those with existing health issues, people with limited English skills, and other climate-vulnerable groups.

2026 Grant Cycle Priorities (non-required)

- Projects that take place outside of the city of Seattle or take place in South King County. We still welcome Seattle-based projects to apply.
- Projects that serve or are led by youth or elders specifically.

Sustainable & Resilient Frontline Communities (SRFC) Focus Areas

The Sustainable and Resilient Frontline Communities (SRFC) section is King County's community-driven climate justice framework. The eight focus areas and six cross-cutting

strategies iIllustrate how frontline communities are impacted in multiple ways by climate change and require an equitable, integrated and comprehensive approach to climate action. Visit the King County Climate Dashboard webpage to fully understand the eight focus areas and determine which is most appropriate for your project. *Applicants will need to identify the focus areas that apply and will have the option to note additional focus areas. Noting additional focus areas does not increase your likelihood of being selected.*

Projects may address the Special Topic: Heat Mitigation in addition to an SRFC Focus Area. At least 2 projects focused on heat mitigation will be selected for funding.

In July 2024, King County released the first ever Extreme Heat Mitigation Strategy which provides 20 near-term and longer-term actions for King County and local partners to better prepare for and respond to the impacts of extreme heat.

This special topic focuses on projects that increase heat safety, awareness, planning, and resilience in communities disproportionately impacted by extreme heat. You can see a map of heat islands in King County on the bottom of this page.

If you have any questions about this topic area or are seeking guidance on submitting a heat topic area project, please contact Daaniya Iyaz (daiyaz@kingcounty.gov), Climate Preparedness Project Manager.

Community Capacity Development - examples:

- Grow community capacity through leadership development trainings to prepare community members to act for climate resilience
- Create and offer culturally relevant communication and education strategies informing frontline communities about climate justice issues
- Create or grow youth development programs to elevate youth voices around climate action

Community Health & Emergency Preparedness – examples:

- Create communication channels and materials for frontline communities around health, access and warnings for climate events.
- Facilitate youth educational workshops on community health impacts from local air or water pollution.

Food Systems & Food Security – examples:

- Support local and BIPOC growers to expand affordability and accessibility to fresh, health and culturally relevant produce to frontline community members who could be disproportionately impacted by climate-influenced food insecurity
- Support the development and/or expansion of programs focused on the production and distribution of affordable and health foods to communities that live in areas experiencing food insecurity.

Housing Security & Anti-Displacement – examples:

- Facilitate a series of tenants' rights workshop focused on climate resilience and ways to work with landlords

Transportation Access & Equity – examples:

- Expand capacity, knowledge and resources for frontline communities to articulate the connections between transportation and climate change through accessibility workshops, trainings, informational resources and/or partnerships

Energy Justice & Utilities – examples:

- - Facilitate workhops focused on solar power for frontline communities to develop leadership capacity for taking actions towards energy justice systems.

Special Topics: Heat Mitigation* - examples:

- Purchase and distribute heat safety equipment (such as water, sunscreen, hats, or portable air conditioners) for vulnerable community members
- Create and distribute multimedia heat safety messaging
- Heat trainings for community-based organization staff and volunteers.

Scoring Criteria

The CCR Grant Program applications will be scored by a Review Committee composed of two King County staff members and three frontline community members. Frontline community members on the Review Committee will not be able to score their own organization's application to prevent a conflict of interest.

The Review Committee will score the grant applications based on the following categories:

- **Frontline Community Representation -** How well are frontline communities represented in the organization, the project's target audience, and at various stages of the project?
- **Project Clarity –** How clearly is the project directly connected to an SRFC Focus Area(s)? How clear are the priorities, values, social issues, needs, or lived experiences of the frontline community(ies) being served by this project?
- **Project Budget Equity –** How does the budget demonstrate a commitment to equity by the organization and the proposed project?
- **Climate Equity in Project** – How well is a commitment to equity demonstrated by the work plan? Do the expected outcomes reflect increasing climate resilience through education/awareness of a topic important to frontline communities and/or adaptation to climate change impacts?

The scoring rubric is available to download for all applicants while preparing their answers.

Review Process

The Review Committee is made up of 6 community members and 6 King County staff across various departments. The Review Committee members will independently score applications using the above criteria, then will meet in small groups to discuss, rank, and identify projects to recommend for awarding. These recommendations will go to the King County Climate Equity Team who will make final decisions and finalize grant awards. The Review Committee reserves the right to recommend an award amount that is different from the requested amount.

Grant Timeline

Task	Timeline
Contract Negotiations Begin	After acceptance of award via email
Grantee Group Orientation, in-person	Week of November 2, 2026, TBD in South King County
Final Contract Signing	By November 20, 2026
Invoice #1 Due	Any time after contracts are signed
Expected Start Date of Projects	Any time after contracts are signed
Project Check-in Meeting #1 and Progress Report #1 Due	By April 30, 2027
Project Check-in Meeting #2 and Progress Reports #2 Due	By September 1, 2027
Closeout Meeting & Final Project Report Due	By December 15, 2027

Invoice & Reporting Expectations

Following acceptance of the grant award, the Grant Coordinator and Grantee will work together to create appropriate expectations and timelines for completion of the following tasks, including scheduling site visits or check-in meetings. At site visits/check-in meetings, Grant Coordinator will take notes to support the completion of the required progress reports. Deadlines are provided below as the latest, though there is much flexibility to accomplish tasks sooner, given the project's pace and grantee's capacity.

Grantee Commitment	King County Commitment	Deadline
• Attend Grantee Orientation • Engage in Contract Negotiation (budget, work plan, KC W9, etc) • Review/Sign/Approve Invoice	• Provide Invoice* • Support with Contract Negotiation • Pay Installment 1 of 3**	After Nov. 20, 2026 and before Dec. 15, 2026
• Complete Progress Report Plan • Complete Site Visit/Check-in Meeting • Review/Sign/Approve Invoice • Provide Expense Report	• Take notes for Site Visit/Check-in Meeting • Provide Invoice • Pay Installment 2 of 3	By Dec. 15, 2026
• Completed Progress Report • Review/Sign/Approve Invoice • Provide Expense Report	• Take notes for Progress Report • Provide Invoice • Pay Installment 3 of 3	By Jul. 1, 2027
• Final Project Report Meeting with Grant Coordinator • Provide Final Expense Report	• Take notes for Final Project Report	By Dec. 15, 2027

*Grant Coordinator will provide a completed invoice template to Grantee to review, approve, and sign via DocuSign.

**Grant awards will be disbursed in three installments. The 1st installment will be paid after attending the Awardee Orientation AND within 30 days of receiving an invoice and a signed contract which includes work plan and budget.
The 2nd installment will be paid within 30 days of receiving an invoice, and a signed and completed progress report. The 3rd installment will be paid within 30 days of receiving an

invoice, and a signed and completed progress report. The final report will be due 60 days after receiving the third installment or by December 15, 2027.

Application Link and Downloads

The application format for the 2026 CCR Grant is via CognitoForms: https://www.cognitoforms.com/KingCountyDNRP/_2026CommunityClimateResilienceGrantApplication

For your convenience, application materials are available to download on the King County Community Climate Resilience Website so you may work on your answers separately, prior to uploading and completing the CognitoForm.

DOWNLOADABLE MATERIALS FOR APPLICANTS TO PREPARE:

- Application questions in a Word document
- Budget template as a Word Document or an Excel Spreadsheet
- Work Plan template as a Word Document
- Scoring Rubric

Applicants should be prepared to enter their application answers into the CognitoForm and upload their Budget and Work Plan templates in order to successfully submit the application. The Cognito Form application will close at 11:59PM on Friday, September 11, 2026.

Grant Assistance

Grant assistance is available to any interested and eligible organization seeking to apply to the Community Climate Resilience grant. Hours are limited and are available on a first come-first served basis. Grant assistance can be in the form of:

- Talk about proposals to see if it is an eligible project
- Strategizing about how to approach answering an application question
- Interpreting the scoring rubric
- Review drafts of application answers, and more.

If interested, please schedule an appointment here: https://calendly.com/novum-lux/ccrg-ta-mtg.

The last day to request grant assistance is **August 28, 2026** or when the available number of hours have been used up.