

Energized Communities: Innovation Fund Workshop

October 16, 2024

Agenda

- ⚡ Energized Communities Overview
- ⚡ Innovation Fund Approach
- ⚡ Application, Timeline & Resources
- ⚡ Program Terms, Reporting & Reimbursement Process
- ⚡ Q&A



Energized Communities Overview



[cleanpoweralliance.org/
energized-communities](https://cleanpoweralliance.org/energized-communities)

Pathways to Electrification: Project Options



Building Electrification Assistance

Funding and technical support to implement electrification measures



Electric Fleet Transition

Funding and planning to procure fleet vehicles and/or install charging infrastructure



Community EV Charging

Turn-key public EV charging at City or County owned sites



Innovation Fund

Member Agencies apply for up to \$250K to support decarbonization projects in their communities



What is the Innovation Fund?



\$2M in competitive funding for CPA's member agencies to apply for up to \$250,000/application



Selected projects will address a decarbonization challenge in the community



Funding will support projects that focus on resiliency and grid management, electrification, and local procurement



Member agencies may submit applications during each funding cycle; maximum of one project per agency may be selected each cycle

Goal: To fund decarbonization projects that support local government efforts to address equity needs, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and achieve climate and energy goals.

Innovation Fund Project Categories

Projects should focus on one or more categories in alignment with CPA's Board-approved program pillars:

Resiliency & Grid Management

Reduce energy use during periods of peak demand and/or support clean energy resiliency projects

Sample projects include:

- ⚡ Vehicle-to-Grid (V2G) electric school bus fleet that charges batteries for facility or grid use
- ⚡ Rebates or incentive programs for energy management devices



Electrification

Electrification of the building and transportation sectors

Sample projects include:

- ⚡ Incentives for heat pump water or space heating replacements for affordable multifamily buildings
- ⚡ Curbside/streetlight EV charging and/or electrified parking stalls for public EV charging



Local Procurement

Support community and customer adoption and installation of clean energy systems

Sample projects include:

- ⚡ Mobile battery electric storage systems
- ⚡ Provide career-track training to build the skills necessary to meet electric utility industry needs



Application, Timeline & Resources

What should my agency keep in mind when applying?

Projects should be outside of the scope of the Pathways to Electrification building and fleet/EV charging projects

Proposals should align with at least one of CPA's Board-approved program pillars and include key milestones and project benefits

Applications should demonstrate a reasonable ability to complete the proposed project within two years

Selected agencies will approve a funding agreement with CPA

Consider any requirements to inform or receive approval from Council/Board for submissions

Streamlined application, responses should not exceed 5-pages

Innovation Fund Application Sections

Project Details	Required Sections (Response should not exceed 5 pages)
Project Summary	Summarize the proposed project and how it will address a decarbonization challenge in your community
Mission Alignment	Describe how the proposal is aligned with CPA's mission and at least one of the Board-approved program pillars (resilience and grid management, electrification, and local procurement)
Feasibility	Confirm ability to complete the project within two years, and include key milestones, budget resources, and partners that may support project completion.
Project Benefits	What are the benefits to the community, the member agency, and/or CPA if this project is selected? Indicate if the project will benefit traditionally marginalized, vulnerable, or underrepresented populations in your community
Budget	Provide a quarterly budget and explain why the proposed budget is needed to implement this project. If any additional funding is needed, or expected to complete project, please describe (if applicable).
Metrics	How will you measure the success of this project? List any anticipated quantifiable achievements or results.



Innovation Fund: Scoring Criteria



Mission Alignment

How well does the project align with CPA's decarbonization goals and address at least one of the Board-approved program pillars of resilience and grid management, electrification, and local procurement?

Weighted scoring: 30%



Feasibility

Does the proposal present a reasonable ability to complete the project within two years, with a sufficient budget and other partners as needed?

Weighted scoring: 20%



Project Benefits

Does the project demonstrate a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions or other performance measures that illustrate sustainability improvements in the community?

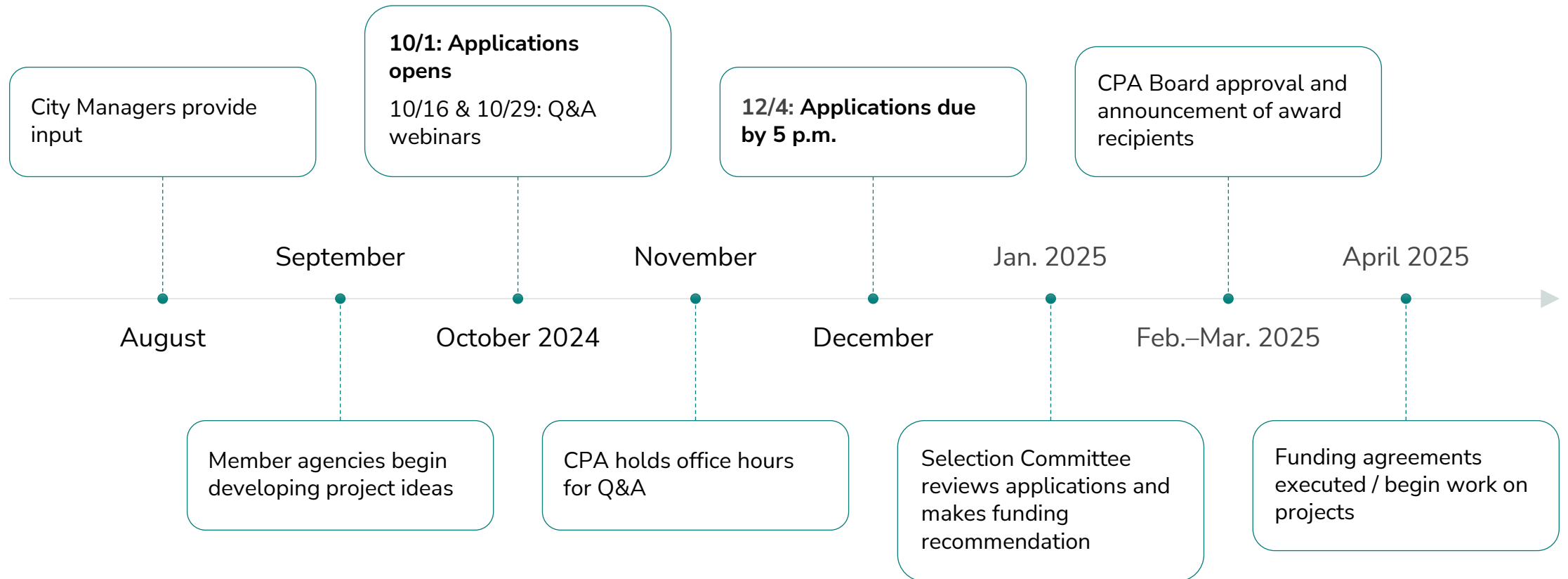
Weighted scoring: 50%

Project Benefit Considerations:

- Does the project benefit traditionally marginalized, vulnerable, or underrepresented populations in the community?
- Are there anticipated operational or other community cost savings associated with the project?



Innovation Fund Round 1 Timeline





CPA support offered during application process

- ⚡ Website with application materials and resources
- ⚡ Offer 1:1 sessions with applicants to provide opportunity for Q&A and application feedback
- ⚡ Host two webinar workshops to address Q&A
- ⚡ Online resources include:
 - Application template and guidelines
 - Sample project list
 - Presentation slides and video



Program Terms, Reporting, & Reimbursement Process

Program Terms: What to Expect

- ⚡ Project sites must be enrolled in CPA service, and stay with CPA for the duration of the program to be eligible for program benefits
- ⚡ Project should be completed within 2 years of award
- ⚡ Recipients will execute a funding agreement with CPA detailing the project scope, budget, and expected milestones
- ⚡ Funding for projects that involve issuing rebates/incentives to participants can only be directed to CPA customers



Reporting & Reimbursement Process

Reporting:

- ⚡ Attend check-ins every other month and participate in a one-year post award interview
- ⚡ Provide status reports every six months and a project wrap up summary after completion, subject to CPA's review

Reimbursement:

- ⚡ Verify approved activities and expected budget with CPA before work commences
- ⚡ Submit invoices and/or other documentation to show expenditure of funds, or work completed, on approved activities



Q&A - Discussion

Top 8 Questions

1. How many projects will be awarded?
2. Is the funding distributed on a first-come, first-served basis?
3. What is the evaluation period?
4. When would we hear back about whether our agency is awarded the Innovation Fund?
5. If awarded, what's the earliest that we could begin implementing our project, and what is the spend deadline for the projects that are selected?
6. Is this funding reimbursement-based and would we receive reimbursement within 30-days similar to the Pathways to Electrification program?
7. What should we do if our project site is not enrolled in CPA service?
8. Is there a formal process for partnering with a nonprofit on our application? What if we don't have the partnership formalized by the 12/4 deadline?



More Questions?

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