



## Measure A Competitive Grant Programs Questions and Answers

RPOSD will be accepting questions regarding Measure A competitive funding opportunities between **April 30, 2021 – September 30, 2021**. Submissions will be collected, answered, and compiled into a list of “Questions & Answers” (Q&A). Email your question to [info@rposd.lacounty.gov](mailto:info@rposd.lacounty.gov) with the name of the Competitive Grant Program your question pertains to in the subject line.

1. *Do median improvements qualify for the Natural Lands, Local Beaches, Water Conservation and Protection Program (Category 3)?*

**Response:** No, median improvements alone would not qualify in reviewing project eligibility. Such a project would not meet the definition of a capital project.

2. *The Measure A Grants Administration Manual, pages 2-42, states that the maximum grant amount for the Natural Lands Grant Program (Category 3) is \$3.7 million. However, the Competitive Grant Guidelines for the program state that the maximum grant amount is \$1 million. Why was the maximum grant amount reduced, and by such a large percentage (nearly 75%)?*

**Response:** The grant award amounts were reduced to maximize the number of projects RPOSD could potentially fund in each grant program. The Grants Administration Manual language will be updated.

3. *Will there be a separate grant program for trails that are not multi-use?*

**Response:** Currently, trails that are not multi-use would be eligible for the Measure A Annual Allocation grant programs, but not the Measure A Competitive Grant programs.

4. *A university is considering applying for a grant to upgrade the existing campus toilets to a water conservation unit. We are anticipating a huge savings on water usage throughout the campus, throughout the year. Would such a project qualify for this grant?*

**Response:** The project as stated does not meet the minimum project eligibility requirements for the program.

5. *Page 5 of the competitive grant guidelines states a maximum of one application submission is allowed per eligible applicant for this program. Why are applicants being limited to one grant project application per program, i.e. is there background information, data, legislative, statutory, or overall policy/guideline to support the limitation? County departments and large cities will be disadvantaged by the "one project" guideline. It's an equity issue, meaning that small cities/agencies with one or two parks are able to submit one project application, but large agencies with dozens of facilities must pick only one.*

**Response:** The structure of Measure A is addressing equity issues when it comes to the various funding categories, the Technical Assistance Program, and the 30% set aside of funding for High or Very High Need Study Areas. The maximum number of applications per applicant is being limited to provide a level of fairness for small and large agencies. ~~However, County and large cities identified in the Park Needs Assessment (PNA) with 2 or more study areas are considered different eligible applicants for the purposes of this grant application.~~

**Revised Response:** The structure of Measure A is addressing equity issues when it comes to the various funding categories, the Technical Assistance Program, and the 30% set aside of funding for High or Very High Need Study Areas. The maximum number of applications per applicant is being limited to provide a level of fairness for small and large agencies. However, different LA County departments (Parks and Recreation, Beaches and Harbors, Public Works, etc.) and departments of Large Cities are considered different eligible applicants for purposes of these grant programs. Large Cities are defined as having 100 or more parks as listed on their park inventory data in the LA Parks Portal.

6. *Are different County Departments considered different eligible applicants? (For example, Dept. of Parks and Dept. of Beaches and Harbors.)*

**Response:** Yes, different County or large city departments are considered different eligible applicants.

7. *If the community engagement isn't done by the time of the grant application submission, but the plan for the engagement is presented in the application, is the application less competitive (less likely to be awarded?).*

**Response:** Community Outreach and Engagement is highly recommended before submission of the application and throughout project implementation but lack of completion at the time of application submission is unlikely to make an application more or less competitive.

8. *How long do you need to finalize an acquisition once the grant term begins?*

**Response:** The applicant will determine the time needed based the information entered into their project timeline in the application.

9. *Are MUGAs allowed?*

**Response:** No, RPOSD requires a Deed Restriction to be recorded on the real property acquired/developed with Measure A funds.

10. *Are projects that are not yet defined as public parks (but are in process) eligible?*

**Response:** RPOSD needs more information on the proposed project to provide a response.

11. *Are recreational facilities centered on arts and culture as recreation eligible?*

**Response:** RPOSD needs more information on the proposed project to provide a response.

12. *Are you allowing zoom meetings for community engagement? Will they be treated equally than in person meetings?*

**Response:** Yes, RPOSD will allow virtual meetings for community engagement, if public health considerations do not allow for in-person meetings. Such virtual meetings would be treated equal to in-person meetings.

13. *As a nonprofit, would I be eligible for protecting/expanding community gardens?*

**Response:** Please refer to the grant program guidelines for nonprofit agency eligibility requirements and project eligibility requirements.

14. *Can a City and a nonprofit apply for different components of the same project?*

**Response:** RPOSD encourages applicants to apply for different projects, not different components of the same project.

15. *Can an organization apply if they have other outstanding grants?*

**Response:** An organization can apply assuming they meet the agency eligibility requirements and are in Good Standing with RPOSD.

16. *Can a lease be renewed every term (30 days)? Most leases are not in perpetuity.*

**Response:** Projects performed on land not owned by the applicant must have an agreement with the landowner that allows the land to be operated and maintained as parkland in perpetuity and must record a Deed Restriction on the property.

17. *Can nonprofits apply?*

**Response:** Yes, but review the applicant eligibility requirements in the guidelines documents to ensure your agency meets all the nonprofit organization requirements.

18. *Can two applications be submitted for the same project. One for Trails and one for Acquisition?*

**Response:** No, one application is allowed per project.

19. *Can the funding be used to reimburse an applicant for a previous acquisition?*

**Response:** No, funding cannot be used to reimburse an applicant for a previous acquisition.

20. *Can we apply if the organization is in "bad standing?"*

**Response:** No, the organization must be in Good Standing with RPOSD to apply.

21. Can you clarify if you will grant for less than what was requested?

**Response:** RPOSD shall fully fund awarded applications in the amount of the request.

22. *Can the funds be used to build infrastructure (community center) if the project involves a City owned property (skatepark) that is still in process of becoming an official park? Would this be submitted as a joint application between the nonprofit applicant and the city or would city involvement/consultation be considered a part of community engagement?*

**Response:** Although partnerships are encouraged, RPOSD is not accepting joint applications. An eligible agency would need to be selected as the applicant for the application.

23. *Do you have to represent an organization, or can you submit a proposal as an independent resident? If this isn't the appropriate program, where can I propose a request for park development in my neighborhood?*

**Response:** The RPOSD funding opportunities are not available to independent residents. Please review the Grants Management System Registration and Eligibility section of the Competitive Grant Program Guidelines documents for additional information on eligible applicants. Please contact your City's park agency if in a City or LA County Parks and Recreation if in an unincorporated area.

24. *Does each staff member need to register for GMS separately, or should we use one organization-wide login?*

**Response:** It is recommended that each staff member have their own unique login into the Grants Management System.

25. *Does it help to have more than 2 community engagement meetings for more points?*

**Response:** Please review the evaluation criteria and scoring rubric for the competitive grant program you will be applying for.

26. *Does regional mean it's impacting multiple cities?*

**Response:** Regional projects can impact multiple cities, study areas, drawing people as far away as 25 or more miles away.

27. *Given the land tenure requirements, would an applicant be able to propose a project (e.g. a trail) that is located within the public right of way?*

**Response:** Yes, assuming the landowner agrees to a Deed Restriction.

28. *Will you please make these slides (PPT) available after this Workshop?*

**Response:** Yes, the slides are available on the RPOSD website under the [Competitive Grant Programs tab](#).

29. *If a project has multiple funding sources from other state/federal grants and private foundation grants, will it score higher?*

**Response:** The number of funding sources a project has is not reflected in the scoring rubric for the Measure A Competitive Grant Programs.

30. *If a property is leased, how long does that lease term need to be to meet the land tenure requirements?*

**Response:** Projects performed on land not owned by the applicant must have an agreement with the landowner that allows the land to be operated and maintained as parkland in perpetuity and must record a Deed Restriction on the property.

31. *If we have conducted community engagements within the last 36 months, but that weren't explicitly focused on Measure A funding, would these qualify as part of an application.*

**Response:** The community engagement would qualify, assuming the proposed project was the subject of the community engagement. RPOSD may require the applicant to perform additional outreach to the community to notify the community that Measure A funds are being used for the project. Documentation verifying that the community was notified would be required by RPOSD.

32. *Is there a deadline for completing the project once the grant is awarded?*

**Response:** The applicant will prepare a timeline as part of its application which will provide the dates required to complete the project, but time is of the essence.

33. *Is there a limit per awards per funding categories (for example, for jumbo grants, only 1 or 2 will be granted? vs. 50k grants will be granted to more applicants?*

**Response:** There is no limit to awards per funding category.

34. *Is there a matching funds requirement?*

**Response:** There is no matching funds requirement for these competitive grant programs.

35. *Is there a minimum size for eligible parks?*

**Response:** There is no minimum size requirement but review the evaluation criteria and scoring rubric for the competitive grant program the application is being submitted for.

36. *Regional Benefits - So if the project is located at a larger "regional" park, does that mean that it will receive more points than a smaller local park?*

**Response:** It will depend on how the applicant describes its project in detail on the evaluated questions and if it meets the goals of the program.

37. *Should we start applying to TAP now?*

**Response:** Yes, all TAP related inquiries and requests for funding should be submitted via email to [TAP@rposd.lacounty.gov](mailto:TAP@rposd.lacounty.gov).

38. *Will three DPE meetings yield more points than two?*

**Response:** Community Outreach and Engagement meetings are a required part of the Competitive Grant program requirements but are not part of the scoring rubric for the evaluated questions.

39. *Do trails take priority above other projects?*

**Response:** Yes, for Category 4 applications only. For Category 4, greater priority will be given to trail and accessibility projects.

40. *Can a project submit two proposals one proposal for \$1M to cover cost of sports field and a separate proposal for \$1M for restroom facilities?*

**Response:** No. Applicants are allowed one application submission per program.

41. *We are a nonprofit cultural organization planning to transform a site into a park space with the cultural center being an arts-focused recreational center. Would this be eligible if the site is not already a designated public park?*

**Response:** The property should be designated for parks and recreation use before applying.

42. *Who makes the grant decisions?*

**Response:** RPOSD will convene an evaluation panel for each competitive grant program. The panel will be composed of a multidisciplinary team with diverse backgrounds and expertise in various aspects of park, recreation, and open space challenges and opportunities.

43. *Will the grant cover expenses that require at-grade crossing to reach a park?*

**Response:** Yes, for accessibility projects under Category 4.

44. *Would maintenance on multi-use trails qualify for the grant?*

**Response:** No, trail maintenance does not qualify for the grant program funds.

45. *If awarded, how long does the applicant have to spend the acquisition funds? (Since the max \$1M award would need to be paired with other funds to buy costly land)*

**Response:** The applicant will prepare a timeline as part of their application which will provide the dates required to acquire the property, but time is of the essence.

46. *When do you project the next (future year) grant cycle to be for each of these grant programs?*

**Response:** It is anticipated that RPOSD will have additional cycles for these programs every 3 to 4 years.

47. *Are all 3 grant programs basically for land improvement?*

**Response:** Two of the grant programs are focused on parkland development projects and one is focused on parkland acquisition projects.

48. *Is there a maximum performance period (e.g. max 3 years from grant award)?*

**Response:** The applicant will prepare a timeline as part of their application which will provide the dates required to complete the project, but time is of the essence.

49. *The award size is \$50k - \$1mil, but the award sizes ranged to Jumbo \$5mil+?*

**Response:** The RPOSD grant award range is \$50,000 up to \$1 million for each program, but each application will be placed in a total project cost category based on the total amount to perform the project. (Small, Medium, Large, Jumbo). The total project cost brackets will determine where projects will be for ranking/scoring purposes.

50. *Can proposals have a lead proposer with a team (i.e., nonprofit as lead in partnership with local municipality)?*

**Response:** Although partnerships are encouraged, RPOSD is not accepting joint applications, one eligible agency would need to be the applicant for the application.

51. *Can you explain the relationship between this grant program and the TAP?*

**Response:** Ensuring all study areas are well informed about Measure A funding opportunities such as these competitive grant programs are among the goals of the Technical Assistance Program. Detailed information on TAP is available on the RPOSD website under the Technical Assistance tab.

52. *Can one agency apply for two projects in separate categories (i.e., cat. 3 & 4)? Or is each agency limited to one total application?*

**Response:** Yes, an eligible agency can apply for one project, a different project, in each of the programs.

53. *Is the same recommendation true for this project category that Community Engagement should be completed prior to the proposal submission?*

**Response:** RPOSD recommends but does not require that Community Outreach and Engagement for a project be completed before submitting an application for Categories 3 and 4. For Acquisition-Only community engagement may need to be approached with unique considerations such as confidentiality, urgency, and other legal parameters.

54. *Is there a preference for new parks, trails, etc. vs. rehabilitating existing parks, trails, etc.?*

**Response:** For Category 4, please review the program goals, which state the projects should improve and connect regional recreation facilities, trails and accessibility projects. For more information, please consult your guidelines document.

55. *Seems like a common question - how do you define "project"?*

**Response:** Definition/description of the specific project/program to be funded (land to be acquired, amenity to be designed, built or refurbished, restoration of habitat, etc.) [Page XV of the Grants Administration Manual.](#)

56. *Will RPOSD grant staff be able to give us advice on which program our project would best fit under?*

**Response:** Due to the competitive nature of the grant programs, RPOSD staff cannot provide advice/recommendations. However, grant writing help is available for eligible entities (High and Very High Need areas as defined in the 2016 Countywide Parks Needs Assessment) through the Technical Assistance Program.

57. *Are there certain areas/municipalities with a higher need or more desired to fulfill the community needs?*

**Response:** The 2016 Countywide Parks Need Assessment did establish a Park Need Level for LA County communities, as the County was divided into 188 Study Areas. Each Study Area was given a Park Need Level designation. (Very Low, Low, Moderate, High, Very High.) A minimum of 30% of the funding for each competitive grant program will be awarded to projects in High and Very High Need Study Areas.

58. *Could you discuss the Acquisition-only category and how it differs from the Natural Lands and Regional Recreation categories? The guidelines mention that the Acquisition category is an opportunity for funding "on a more frequent basis" than the other two programs. Does this mean Acquisition only funds will be available each year?*

**Response:** The Acquisition-only category differs from Natural Lands and Regional Recreation categories as it focuses on acquiring land for projects, instead of improving, developing, or rehabilitation projects. Also, the acquisition-only program may be available more frequently due to land purchase transactions being very time sensitive.

59. *Do you all take into consideration the history of the organization? Such as their current impact?*

**Response:** In reviewing the evaluation criteria questions for each grant program, organization history and/or current impact are not part of criteria. The focus is on the evaluation of the project being proposed.

60. *What is the process for acquiring land plots that are owned by the state?*



**Response:** RPOSD does not know the process to acquire state owned properties. Contacting a state representative would be the best course of action to obtain information on the process.

61. *If we applied for a habitat restoration grant, would Measure A allow us to purchase plants from our own nursery? If not, could we bill labor hours spent in the nursery to produce the plants for the project?*

**Response:** No, Measure A will not allow the applicant to purchase plants from its own nursery and it cannot bill labor hours spent in the nursery to produce the plants for the project.

62. *As follow up from this nursery question: We do not own it, but alternatively, would Measure A pay for labor in the nursery to produce the plants?*

**Response:** No, Measure A will not reimburse for labor spent in the nursery to produce the plants for the project.

63. *Can deed restrictions be waived if the landowner is unwilling?*

**Response:** No, the deed restriction cannot be waived.

64. *Can grantees be reimbursed for outreach time spent before the application?*

**Response:** No, RPOSD will not reimburse for any expenses incurred before the execution the grant agreement.

65. *Can you confirm projects will be funded on what RPOSD has available, not what the funding ask is, correct? If so, and the funding amount is lower, can the grantee revisit the scope of work?*

**Response:** RPOSD intends to fully fund applications that are selected for award for the requested grant amounts.

66. *If CEQA is not completed at the time of application, is there a deadline on when this needs to be completed? For example, within a year of grant funding?*

**Response:** If not completed at the time of application, the applicant will need to provide a timeline for completion as part of its application.

67. *Have the municipalities park need levels been revised based upon updated park inventory submissions and/or will the May 27th park inventory update potentially change our level of need?*

**Response:** The Park Need Level for a study area could potentially change when then next Countywide Parks Needs Assessment is conducted. They are slated to be done every 8 to 10 years. The first one was conducted in 2016.

68. *We will be losing approx. 60 acres of recreation space (one park, a golf course, and open space) to the development of a new project. Would the elimination of this parkland be considered even though our City is currently categorized as "Low Need"? The loss of land will push our city acreage well below one acre per 1,000 residents.*

**Response:** It will not be considered for this grant cycle. The Park Need Level for the City's study area could potentially change when then next Countywide Parks Needs Assessment is conducted. They are slated to be done every 8 to 10 years. The first one was conducted in 2016.

69. *Are LA County owned Golf Courses eligible for grant money? We have a potable water irrigation lake that needs to be redone as we lose water back into the ground.*

**Response:** The project as described would not qualify as a project for this grant cycle, however, other projects at a qualified golf course may be eligible.

70. *Where can we access the guidelines document?*

**Response:** The guidelines documents are available on the RPOSD website, under the [Competitive Grant Programs tab](#).

71. *What is the time period for this grant?*

**Response:** The application filing period started on April 30, 2021, and end on October 28, 2021, at 10:00 am. If awarded grant funding, the time period allowed to complete the project will be based on the project timeline submitted by the applicant as part the application process.

72. *If an organization scores zero on the Level of Need, they can still apply since this is only one of the scoring criteria, right?*

**Response:** Yes, the organization can still apply.

73. *If the project involves acquisition, is there a percentage of the award that must go to improvements compared to acquisition cost?*

**Response:** No, there is no specific percentage required, a minimum of 75% of the grant award must used for acquisition and/or construction/development costs.

74. *How is the prioritization of communities highest in need being incorporated into the scoring process or final awarding of grants?*

**Response:** 30% of the grant funding is being set-aside for projects in High or Very High Need Study Areas in each competitive grant program. Also, the scoring rubric for each competitive grant program awards points for projects in High or Very High Need Study Areas.

75. *How much funding will be available for TAP, e.g., consulting or planning and design work?*

**Response:** Up to \$1 million dollars will be available for the Technical Assistance Program.

76. *Is entering our name in the chat box being used to confirm attendance? It is required to attend a workshop?*

**Response:** We are using the roll call for tracking purposes. RPOSD is excited to see who attends our workshops. The workshop is not mandatory but highly recommended and workshop presentation materials are posted to the RPOSD website.

77. *The guidelines state one project per applicant, but the discussion just now was that separate projects could apply to the program. Please clarify?*

**Response:** One application submission is allowed per eligible applicant per program. (Three different programs, three different projects.)

78. *What happens to the grant projects timelines and budgets if the competitive grant program award process goes beyond the projected January 2022 awards? Will there be an opportunity to renegotiate project milestone and dollar amounts?*

**Response:** If grant awards go beyond projected January 2022, grant award amounts will not change, but RPOSD may consider project milestone adjustment case-by-case.

79. *Will the Measure A Competitive Grant programs allow for a fiscal sponsor under the nonprofit organization eligibility?*

**Response:** Fiscal sponsors will be allowed if they meet the applicant eligibility requirements for a nonprofit organization.

80. *Are you allowing zoom meetings for community engagement? Will they be treated equally than in person meetings? Hypothetically, if the Public Health Dept announced an end to COVID restrictions tomorrow, would Zoom meetings no longer be accepted...only in person?*

**Response:** RPOSD will continue to allow virtual meetings to be treated equal to as in-person meetings through December 31, 2021, to meet Community Outreach and Engagement requirements.

81. *Are Rec and Parks entities the only eligible sponsors for these types of projects?*

**Response:** Please review the Grants Management System Registration and Eligibility section of the Guidelines for the Competitive Grant Program of interest. Eligible applicants include Public Agencies, Nonprofit Organizations, and Schools. The guidelines will provide more detail on eligibility.

82. *Are sustainable land use projects like multi-use agriculture/community demonstration spaces eligible? Demonstration spaces that educate community around fire resiliency/community compost/native plant nursery eligible?*

**Response:** Depends on if the project can meet all the minimum grant program requirements like land access and tenure. Please review the Program Goals in the Guidelines for the Competitive Grant Program of interest.

83. *If a project is in a moderate need area but serves high need areas, how do they get points for that?*

**Response:** The Evaluation Criteria Questions for Level of Need require the project to be located in a High or Very High Need Study Area to receive Level of Need points. The project potentially could receive points for the other evaluated questions.

84. *Does Measure A provide any funding for programming to access natural lands, parks, or the coast?*

**Response:** Measure A has a Recreation Access Program. Application filing periods to be determined and announced in the future.

85. *For Water Conservation and Protection (stormwater) projects; is there a requirement to be in 'close' proximity to local beaches or nature lands? If yes, what is the proximity requirement (i.e. within 1 mile, etc.)?*

**Response:** No proximity requirement for water conservation and protection projects.

86. *If we want to acquire land to add to an existing regional park, which category of grant should we use?*

**Response:** Review the grant guidelines for the Regional Recreation Facilities, Multi-Use Trails and Accessibility Grant Program.

87. *Is unincorporated LA County eligible for this grant? Like Topanga, which is unincorporated LA County?*

**Response:** Proposed projects in the unincorporated areas of LA County are potentially eligible assuming they meet all the minimum requirements of the Competitive Grant Program of interest.

88. *Can this grant be used for preliminary work on the project, analysis of existing structures, CEQA, design of new structures, etc.?*

**Response:** Up to 25% of a grant award can be used for soft costs expenses incurred on or after the date of grant agreement execution, prior to the mobilization stage of the project.

89. *Why are MUGA's no longer allowed?*

**Response:** Recorded Deed Restrictions align better with the in-perpetuity requirements RPOSD has for operating and maintaining projects funded by RPOSD grants.

90. *Would a schoolyard greening project, led by a non-profit organization in partnership with the school district, be an eligible project? What kind of partnership/land tenure documents would be required, and are there any joint use or public access requirements to be aware of?*

**Response:** Depends on if the project meets all the minimum requirements for the Competitive Grant Program of interest, like the Deed Restriction recordation requirement. The school site is required to allow public use and

free access of school facilities, at a minimum during non-school hours for parks and recreation purposes, and in perpetuity.

91. *Would upgrading bathrooms for ADA accessibility at parks (not at a beach) be eligible?*

**Response:** Depends on if the project meets all the minimum requirements for the Competitive Grant Program of interest.

92. *Are there any restrictions against using Measure A funds for a portion of a project that was partially budgeted with City funds? We have some funds budgeted for planning/design of a potential project but would like to confirm if we would be able to use Measure A funds for project planning instead if they were to be awarded.*

**Response:** For project expenses, only expenses incurred on or after the execution of a grant agreement with RPOSD can be submitted for approval for reimbursement. Any expenses that the City has incurred on the project, prior to grant award, cannot be reimbursed.

When filling out the budget form for the application, you will have the option for each expense category to determine whether all or a portion of each project expense item would be paid by RPOSD grant funds or another funding source. The budget categories include various planning/design costs. The funds from your agency should be included as an additional funding source for the project and they would be included in the total project cost amount including any other fund sources and the Measure A grant requested amount. You would indicate on the budget form in the application what they would be used for on the project.

93. *Must the applicant have an adopted resolution included with the competitive application?*

**Response:** The District will accept draft resolutions that indicate the agenda date to be adopted.

94. *Will RPOSD reimburse for appraisal costs incurred prior to the execution date of the grant agreement?*

**Response:** No, RPOSD will not reimburse the applicant for appraisal costs incurred prior to the execution date of the grant agreement.