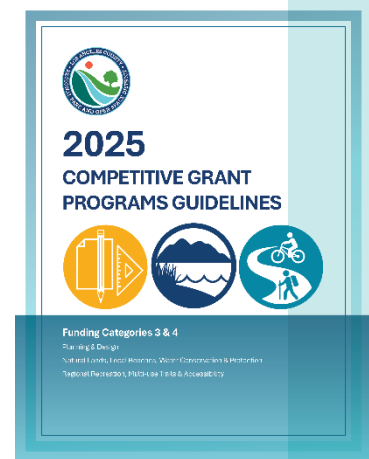




## 2025 Competitive Grant Cycle

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

*This FAQ addresses common questions from the public about the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District (RPOSD) 2025 Competitive Grant Programs. It summarizes program requirements and processes but does not replace the official **2025 Competitive Grant Guidelines** or **Grants Administration Manual (GAM)**. Applicants should consult the full documents for detailed rules and definitions.*



#### 1. Is my project eligible and will it be competitive?

To maintain fairness and ensure all applicants are evaluated under the same standards, RPOSD cannot confirm a project's eligibility or competitiveness outside of the formal application review process.

Applicants are encouraged to carefully review the 2025 Competitive Grant Guidelines and the Grants Administration Manual to ensure their project meets all eligibility, readiness, and application requirements.

Competitiveness depends on how well a project aligns with the program's evaluation criteria, including need, community engagement, readiness, and multi-benefit impacts. Projects that fully address these criteria and provide strong, well-documented applications are more likely to score highly.

*Reference: 2025 Competitive Grant Guidelines – Sections II, III, and IV, Appendices 1-3.*

#### 2. Will applications from other organizations that are not the Agency of Record count toward the Agency of Record's application cap?

No. An Agency of Record's award cap only applies to applications where it is the lead applicant. If another eligible organization applies for funding in the same Study Area, that application does not count toward the Agency of Record's cap—provided the proposals are for distinct projects and each meets all eligibility requirements.

*Reference: 2025 Competitive Grant Guidelines – Section IV, "Award Limits Per Grantee."*



### **3. What does “No Double Dipping” mean when projects need multiple funders to be completed?**

RPOSD understands that many projects rely on multiple funding sources. However, Measure A funds may not pay for any element of a project that already has secured funding—whether from Measure A, Proposition A, or any other source. You may combine (“braid”) funding sources if:

- The proposed Measure A–funded scope is a clearly defined portion of the overall project cost.
- All other proposed and/or secured funding sources are fully disclosed in your application and appropriately labeled as “proposed” or “secured”.
- Measure A funds do not replace or supplant other proposed and/or secured funds.
- Any deliverables supported by more than one source are clearly identified in the Budget & Timeline Form.

Gap funding may be eligible if you identify a distinct phase or element(s) not already funded elsewhere and ensure that all Measure A–funded costs occur within the grant performance period after agreement execution.

*Reference: 2025 Competitive Grant Guidelines – Section II.6, “No Double Dipping.” and Grants Administration Manual (GAM) Section 3.2.2.*

### **4. How does the “No Double Dipping” rule apply to past projects or completed tasks?**

Previously completed work funded by Measure A or other sources is generally considered leveraging, not double-dipping. It becomes double-dipping if:

- The earlier project has not been formally closed out; or
- The new application requests funding for elements already supported by committed funds from another source.

To comply, Measure A funds must cover a distinct and separate scope from any previously funded work.

*Reference: 2025 Competitive Grant Guidelines – Section II.6, “No Double Dipping.”*

### **5. What is acceptable site control?**

Site control means you have the legal right to use and improve the project site for the purposes described in your application, for the required period of time. Important to note, the requirements differ for Planning & Design and Category 3 or 4 Development projects.



#### A) Planning & Design (P&D)

Acceptable types of site control (choose ONE):

- a) Ownership of the property
- b) Agreement + Property Owner Letter—a draft or executed agreement with the owner (e.g., lease, joint use, MOU, LOI) plus a signed letter from the property owner that:
  - acknowledges the proposed P&D scope, and
  - affirms the owner has the capacity and is willing to implement or oversee future development if feasible.

What applicants must provide with a P&D application:

- Proof of site control (deed or agreement + property owner letter).
- A brief narrative explaining how long-term public access will be secured.
- Note: RPOSD may request additional documentation at any time.

#### B) Category 3 or 4 Development

Acceptable types of site control (choose ONE):

- a) Ownership of the property
- b) Executed long-term agreement with the property owner (e.g., lease, joint use, MOU) that:
  - authorizes recording a Measure A deed restriction in accordance with the Grants Administration Manual (GAM) and ensures long-term public access;
  - demonstrates at least 30 years total site control; and
  - has an agreement term of 5 years or more remaining at the time of submission of the application (if less than five years, provide a renewal plan, timeline, and supporting correspondence).
- c) Turnkey on public agency land (sub-type of Development): a formal letter from the public-land owner stating it will accept Measure A obligations (including deed restriction and public access), maintain the improvements in perpetuity, and execute an Assumption & Assignment Agreement with RPOSD at completion.

What applicants must provide with a Development application:

- Proof of site control (deed or executed agreement or turnkey letter).



- If using an agreement with a term of less than 5 years remaining, include: renewal narrative, timeline, and supporting correspondence.
- For turnkey, include the public-agency letter with the three commitments above.

*Reference: 2025 Competitive Grant Guidelines—Site Control Requirements (P&D vs. Development) and Grants Administration Manual (GAM) provisions on deed restrictions, long-term public access, and documentation.*

**6. Can an applicant submit more than one application in the same grant category?**

Yes. An applicant may submit multiple applications within the same category, as long as each proposal is for a distinct project and the total funding amounts requested do not exceed the applicant's award cap.

*Reference: 2025 Competitive Grant Guidelines – Section IV, “Award Limits Per Grantee.”*

**7. Can I apply for a Planning & Design grant and a development grant for the same project?**

Yes, it is technically possible, but each application must request funding for separate and distinct project elements. For example, a Planning & Design grant might fund pre-construction work such as design, environmental review, or permitting, while a development grant could later fund construction. However, if applying for a development grant, you must also meet the shovel-readiness requirements for Category 3 or 4 projects. Because of these conditions, a project would need a very specific set of circumstances to be eligible for both types of funding.

*Reference: 2025 Competitive Grant Guidelines – Section II.2, “Identifying and Distinguishing Measure A Funded Scope,” and Appendices 2 & 3, “Eligibility and Readiness Requirements.”*

**8. Do the “award cap tiers” limit the total funding available to everyone in that tier, or to each applicant?**

The tiers are *per* lead applicant, not pooled. Each eligible entity has its own cap across all programs for this cycle. For example, **each** nonprofit and each eligible public agency or Agency of Record serving 1–2 Study Areas, may apply for and be awarded up to \$5



million total across all programs—submitting multiple applications is allowed so long as the combined total stays within that applicant’s cap.

*Reference: 2025 Competitive Grant Guidelines – Section IV, “Award Limits Per Grantee”*

**9. How should I apply if my project is a design-build?**

It depends on which competitive grant program you are applying for.

If applying under the Planning & Design program, certain early-stage elements of the design-build—such as preparation of plans, specifications, scoping documents, or required submittals—may be eligible.

The construction phase of a design-build project may be eligible under Category 3 or 4 Development, but you must meet the shovel-readiness requirement, which includes having completed construction documents before funding.

*Reference: 2025 Competitive Grant Guidelines – Appendix 1, “Planning & Design Program,” and Appendices 2 & 3, “Eligibility and Readiness Requirements.”*

**10. For shovel-readiness, do I need 50% design completion or 50% construction documents?**

The minimum requirement is 50% completion of construction documents (or equivalent evidence of shovel-readiness). If your project does not follow a standard design-to-construction workflow, you should clearly explain this in your application and provide documentation that demonstrates comparable 50% readiness for construction.

*Reference: 2025 Competitive Grant Guidelines – Appendices 2 & 3, “Readiness Requirements.”*

**11. In Category 3 and 4 Development projects, are costs to advance construction documents from 50% to 90% or 100% eligible?**

Yes. Costs to progress construction documents beyond the 50% level—up to 90% and 100% completion—are eligible for reimbursement if incurred within the grant performance period. These costs are considered part of development “soft costs” and are subject to the 25% soft cost cap outlined in the Grants Administration Manual. These later-stage documents are often essential for project bidding and construction.



*Reference: 2025 Competitive Grant Guidelines – Appendix 2, “Eligible Expenses”; Grants Administration Manual – “Soft Cost Limitations.”*

**12. Do Category 4 projects have to be at least 100 acres to qualify as a regional park?**

No. Category 4 projects do not have to be 100 contiguous acres. A “Regional Park” of at least 100 acres with three or more active recreational amenities is just one example of an eligible project type. To qualify, the site must meet at least three of the Regional Scale criteria listed in the Guidelines. Other eligible project types are provided under the Eligible Scope section.

*Reference: 2025 Competitive Grant Guidelines – Appendix 3, “Eligible Scope” and “Regional Scale Criteria.”*

**13. What does “serving multiple jurisdictions” mean?**

Serving multiple jurisdictions means that a project directly benefits the residents of more than one city and/or unincorporated community within Los Angeles County. Jurisdictions include incorporated cities, unincorporated communities, and other defined local areas. A regional-scale project often serves, connects, or provides benefits across these boundaries—potentially reaching multiple communities, large geographic regions, or even countywide audiences.

*Reference: 2025 Competitive Grant Guidelines – Appendix 3, “Regional Scale Criteria.”*

**14. Does having a “clear plan for CEQA and permitting” mean CEQA must be completed before applying?**

No. The CEQA requirement depends on the type of grant:

Planning & Design grants – CEQA does not need to be completed before applying. You can meet the requirement in one of four ways:

- Completed CEQA – Upload your documentation.
- Not required – Provide justification or a notice of exemption.
- To be completed with this grant – Describe how CEQA work will be funded and conducted.
- Clear plan for CEQA and permitting – Provide a timeline and strategy showing how you will complete CEQA and secure permits within the grant term.



Category 3 and 4 Development grants – CEQA must be completed before applying, and documentation must be submitted with the application. You must also have a clear plan and timeline for securing all required permits before construction begins.

*Reference: 2025 Competitive Grant Guidelines – Appendix 1, “Readiness Requirements: CEQA and Permitting” and Appendices 2 & 3, “Development Project Readiness Requirements.”*

**15. For a Category 3 or 4 development application, how do I know if my project is CEQA-exempt? Do I have to complete CEQA before applying?**

Yes. For Category 3 and 4 Development grants, you must demonstrate CEQA clearance or exemption at the time of application. If your project is exempt, you should provide official documentation or a clear justification identifying the exemption type. If the project’s scale or scope does not require CEQA, explain this in your application and include any supporting notices or determinations from the lead agency.

*Reference: 2025 Competitive Grant Guidelines – Appendix 2, “Readiness Requirements: CEQA and Permitting.”*

**16. For Category 3 and 4 projects, does CEQA exemption documentation have to be a recorded Notice of Exemption?**

No. A recorded Notice of Exemption is not required. An agency-signed letter stating that the project is exempt under CEQA is acceptable, if it identifies the exemption type and is issued by the lead agency.

*Reference: 2025 Competitive Grant Guidelines – Appendices 2 & 3, “Readiness Requirements: CEQA and Permitting.”*

**17. Does community engagement need to occur during the grant period, or can it be done before applying?**

Community engagement may take place either before or during the grant period, but requirements differ by grant category:

General Requirements (All Categories):

- Engagement conducted before applying must have occurred within 36 months of the application date and be directly related to the proposed project.



- Engagement planned after award must be clearly included in the project scope, budget, and schedule.
- All engagement must meet the minimum standards outlined in the Grants Administration Manual (GAM), Section 3, including documentation and language access requirements.

Planning & Design (P&D) Grants:

- Engagement is a core component of the grant scope and is eligible as a funded activity.
- Applicants may receive credit for planned engagement, as the grant supports early-stage design and project development.
- Evaluation emphasizes how the engagement process will shape or improve project planning.

Category 3 & 4 Development Grants:

- Engagement is not a minimum requirement as the shove-ready requirements assume that engagement should be already completed prior to application or already incorporated into project design.
- Evaluation focuses on how prior engagement directly influenced the project scope or design.
- Planned engagement is only considered if the project still includes elements of design refinement.

*Reference: 2025 Competitive Grant Guidelines – Section II.8, “Community Engagement Requirements”; Grants Administration Manual – Section 3, “Community Outreach and Engagement.”*

**18. Can Measure A funds be used as gap funding for a construction project that is already underway?**

Yes, if the request is for a distinct and separate phase of the overall construction project or for specific elements that were not funded by previously awarded sources. The proposed Measure A–funded scope must comply with the “No Double Dipping” policy, meaning it cannot replace or overlap with elements already covered by other committed funds. Additionally, it’s important to note that RPOSD can only reimburse eligible expenses that are incurred after the grant agreement is fully executed. Costs incurred before the agreement date are not reimbursable.





*Reference: 2025 Competitive Grant Guidelines – Section II.6, “No Double Dipping”; Grants Administration Manual – “Allowable Costs and Reimbursement Policy.”*

**19. Can arts and culture agencies apply for Measure A Competitive Grants, particularly for community engagement work?**

Only if they meet the eligibility requirements.

- Public agencies must have the legal authority to improve real property, manage park and recreation land, acquire park and recreation land, or develop park/open space facilities.
- Nonprofit organizations must have a mission with a clear nexus to parks, open space, and recreation.

Arts and culture agencies may partner with eligible lead applicants to support community engagement or other project components, even if they do not qualify as lead applicants themselves.

*Reference: 2025 Competitive Grant Guidelines – Section II, “Eligible Applicants.”*

**20. If we have open Proposition A and Measure A grants, can we apply for a new Measure A grant?**

Yes, if your organization is in Good Standing with RPOSD and the proposed Measure A–funded scope is distinct and separate from the work funded under your open grants, you may apply. You do not need to close out your existing grants before submitting an application(s).

*Reference: 2025 Competitive Grant Guidelines – Section II.6, “No Double Dipping”; Grants Administration Manual – “Good Standing Policy.”*

**21. What counts as “proof of jurisdictional support” to apply for, accept, and administer Measure A funds?**

Proof of jurisdictional support can be provided through written authorization from an appropriate leadership official. This may be:

- A signed letter from the head of the City Manager’s Office, Parks and Recreation Department head, City Council, Board of Directors, or other authorized representative; or
- A formal resolution, if that is your agency’s standard practice.



Either option must clearly state that the jurisdiction supports the application and agrees to accept and administer Measure A funds if awarded.

Please note, if the applicant is an Agency of Record with a Master Agreement executed with RPOSD, no proof of jurisdictional support as required as it has already been submitted.

*Reference: 2025 Competitive Grant Guidelines – Section IV, “Application Requirements” (Jurisdictional Support).*

**22. If we are using land acquired with Measure A funds as leverage, does that acquisition grant need to be fully closed out before applying for 2025 Competitive funds?**

Not necessarily. The acquisition grant must meet the **site control requirements** for the competitive program you are applying to, but it does not have to be formally closed out before submitting your application. You must, however, have sufficient documentation to demonstrate eligible site control—such as a recorded deed or executed agreement—by the application deadline.

*Reference: 2025 Competitive Grant Guidelines – Appendices 1, 2, and 3, “Site Control Requirements.”*

**23. For Planning & Design grants, does the two-year completion requirement refer to the planning work or the entire project?**

The two-year requirement applies to completing the Planning & Design scope of work funded by the grant, not the full construction and opening of the project. However, evaluators will review the overall project timeline—including anticipated construction and public opening—to assess overall feasibility and likelihood of successful completion.

*Reference: 2025 Competitive Grant Guidelines – Appendix 1, “Grant Term and Completion Requirements.”*

**24. Are the burned areas of Altadena considered High Need and are there special considerations for recent burn zones?**

No. Based on the 2016 Parks Needs Assessment, the Study Areas in Altadena and Pasadena are not classified as High Need.

RPOSD issued a separate disaster-response funding opportunity called the RESTORE program (<https://rposd.lacounty.gov/restoreprogram/>), which provides grants for



recovery from January 2024 Fire disasters, as well as for projects that improve resilience against future disasters. While the 2025 Competitive Grant cycle does not provide special consideration solely for burn zones, disaster recovery and resilience projects are eligible if they meet program criteria.

*Reference: 2016 Los Angeles Countywide Parks & Recreation Needs Assessment; Measure A RESTORE Program Guidelines; 2025 Competitive Grant Guidelines – Section II.7, “High-Need and Very-High Need Areas.”*

**25. If my project is next to a Priority Area for Environmental Restoration on the PNA+ Map, will it receive points?**

No. To receive points for location within a Priority Area under the PNA+ criteria, the project site must be **within** the designated polygon for that priority area—being adjacent or touching the boundary does not qualify.

*Reference: 2025 Competitive Grant Guidelines – Appendices 1-4, “Evaluation Criteria” and PNA+ Map Viewer instructions.*