Noncompetitive Awards

Noncompetitive awards will be made to capacity-constrained communities and CBOs without the submission of an application to the competitive review process. These noncompetitive small subawards will be made in a fixed amount of $75,000 each. These awards are easy to distribute and easy to receive, with less reporting needed compared with competitive awards. Noncompetitive subgrants will be selected through a participatory strategy. An open call for project nominations will be released in September 2024, inviting community members, organizations, and groups to submit nominations via an online portal. Any individual or organization may nominate any organization or project, including themselves, in Region 2 for a noncompetitive award. Nominations will appear on the program website with a short description of the organization and/or project and a photograph or set of photographs, or as a video entry. Community members in Region 2 will vote on noncompetitive awards using a ranked-choice system. Final selections will be reviewed by the FIC team to ensure any permissions, permits, or other requirements are in place before the final award is made. Final awards will be made by a board of community leaders and will be based on the feasibility of the project, the necessity of the project, and public support for the project. Selected projects will be supported by the FIC team, and their progress will be monitored through a public-access website.

Guidelines for a Noncompetitive Award Submissions or Nominations:

- Be sure to clearly state the organization whose project you are nominating or submitting
- Tell us about that organization: who does it work with? How many people does it serve? What is its mission? How does it typically generate funds to accomplish its key goals?
- Is the organization a member of a priority community (please see above)? Please describe which priority community will be supported by the funding.
- Please describe the project in as much detail as you can. Is the project necessary to the community it serves? How do you know? How does it fulfill an environmental justice goal?
- Please talk about how the funds will be used. What do you need to buy or to pay for to make this project happen? What will its impacts be? What kinds of changes will it make for the better?
- Please describe any other forms of support or connections that the project may need to be successful. The FIC team is here to help.
- Be sure to include visuals of the project site or the kinds of work the project might do. For example, if you are looking to fund a community greenhouse on the site of a community garden, please show us the site.

Noncompetitive awards will be scored based on the following criteria, out of a possible score of 100. Projects will be prioritized based on the list of project priority areas. (1) Community Need for Project (10 points); Project alignment with EJ goals (10 points); Project Feasibility (10 points); Alignment with Priority Area(s) (10 points); Community Participation Voting (60 points).