

**MTC'S COMMUNITY ACTION RESOURCE AND EMPOWERMENT (CARE)  
PROGRAM GUIDE – Call for Interest Process**

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**Background and Goals of MTC's CARE Program**

In 2021, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) adopted the Bay Area's most recent Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS), [Plan Bay Area 2050](#) (PBA 2050). PBA2050 outlines the region's plan, incorporating equity through careful consideration of investments and policies that affect historically and systemically marginalized, underserved and excluded groups, including people with low incomes, people with disabilities and communities of color. PBA 2050 identified strategy, "T2 – support community-led transportation enhancements in Equity Priority Communities." Since 2005, the [Lifeline Transportation Program](#) (LTP) has programmed over \$300 million, and advanced 300+ projects identified in [Community Based Transportation Plans](#) (CBTP). Through lessons learned from the previous six cycles of LTP and the application of [MTC's Equity Platform](#), LTP is being redesigned to address administrative fund source barriers to better align with community project needs while resourcing and centering community voice and power-building to strengthen community assets.

MTC's CARE Program is a funding program to expand mobility access and opportunity to all communities while focusing on the underserved, overburdened, and [MTC's Equity Priority Communities](#). This inaugural funding cycle includes **\$21 million in federal (OBAG) and state (REAP 2.0) funds**. Below are key components of the Program:

- **Goal:** The goal of the program is to improve mobility and access to opportunity by advancing community-rooted initiatives identified in CBTPs.
- **Investment Areas:** The Program is envisioned to undertake three focus investment areas: participatory budgeting project implementation, technical assistance for project development, community power-building and engagement.

- **Purpose:**
  - Project Implementation Strategy: The Program serves as providing a *baseline* source of funding to 1) implement high priority, neighborhood-level, community projects identified through a participatory budgeting process; 2) advance project development to increase readiness/competitiveness for additional funding sources.
  - Community Power-Building and Engagement Strategy: In addition to these project implementation strategies, a key element to operationalizing equity is investing in community power-building by 1) supplementing outreach and engagement conducted by community rooted organizations, and 2) supporting these community organizations and local government with technical assistance/capacity building resources.

In addition to coordinating with County Transportation Agencies and transit operators, MTC is exploring partnerships that address improving mobility and access to opportunity outcomes with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District and health and social service sectors.

### **Submitting Project Ideas**

MTC is interested in understanding the funding need and potential projects/programs in Community Based Transportation Plans (that would apply for these funds) under the following areas:

- Community power-building and engagement addressing transportation or both transportation and housing.
- Technical assistance needed for project development to advance and position projects for additional, competitive funding; and,
- Projects/concepts that are ready to be implemented that have undergone a participatory budgeting process (or similar).
- Technical assistance and capacity building for community-based organizations and local government to advance transportation, mobility, and transit-oriented communities.

Eligible proposers (see eligibility section below) are encouraged to submit ideas on a wide range of projects, concepts, or needs that will accelerate, expand, and improve mobility and access to opportunity. Project ideas should support community-based transportation projects that:

- Are developed through a collaborative, diverse, and inclusive process that engages a broad range of stakeholders such as public agencies, transit operators, community-based organizations and residents, and outreach to underrepresented communities.  
*(Note: Transit vehicle, fixed route vehicle/guideway capital improvement projects will NOT be considered for this Program as existing programs/funding sources focus on these types of projects)*
- Improve the range of transportation choices such as first-and last-mile shuttles, taxi voucher programs, and other projects.
- Address gaps and/or barriers identified in [Community Based Transportation Plans](#) or other substantive local planning efforts involving focused outreach to low-income populations such as countywide or regional welfare-to-work transportation plans, the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation plan or other documented assessment of need.

Program and project ideas can include, but are not limited to technical assistance or implementation of:

- Lower cost capital improvement projects (e.g., bus stop upgrades, sidewalk improvements, multilingual signage)
- Active transportation infrastructure (e.g., sidewalk connectivity, new bike lanes)
- Mobility services (e.g., subsidized taxis and ride hailing services or volunteer transportation programs focused on serving persons earning a low-income or those seeking healthcare)
- Innovative pilot project advancing equity (e.g., neighborhood data collection and management, shared-use mobility such as ride sourcing, carsharing, bikesharing, etc.)

- Transportation-related workforce development programs (e.g., transportation related to building a pipeline of talent from technical trades to STAMPE – Science, Technology, Arts, Math, Policy, Engineering)
  - Engagement, outreach, and education (e.g., programs that increase awareness, social connectedness with and for underserved communities related to transit/transportation)
- Submitting Through Survey Form or Video

MTC is collecting input and ideas through an Interest Survey online form or through recorded video content. MTC will use the submitted content to inform and develop regional funding and assistance programs that support the advancement of mobility and access to opportunity.

Following the development of any funding program, MTC will release a call for projects. MTC staff will work with eligible proposers to support the development of project proposals for the funding program.

Please submit your project idea using this form:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdQHiC1Cw8rKbpeC11Ail\\_uzlxifWZGSLg4xEbDP-XkbMm7AQ/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdQHiC1Cw8rKbpeC11Ail_uzlxifWZGSLg4xEbDP-XkbMm7AQ/viewform?usp=sf_link) or through video. If interested in submitting via

video, please email [jsantos@bayareametro.gov](mailto:jsantos@bayareametro.gov). Similar projects for the same public agency or set of agencies should be submitted as a single project (for example, a city interested in improving bus shelters at various sites should submit one form for all sites rather than a form for each proposed location).

***Surveys are due ~~July 21, 2023~~ deadline extended to July 26, 2023.***

### **Eligible Project Idea Proposers**

Surveys may be submitted by Bay Area public agencies, including Cities, Counties, Transit Agencies, and County Transportation Authorities (CTAs). Public agencies can coordinate and submit coordinated cross- jurisdictional project ideas, but a primary agency must be identified. Public agencies may partner with other entities such as non-profit organizations and community-based organizations. A public agency must serve as the grant recipient and fiscal agent for any project funded by a grant through MTC's CARE Program.

### Next Steps and Schedule

*Response to the **Survey is due by July 21, 2023 deadline extended to July 26, 2023.*** MTC will host informational online meeting(s) on **Wednesday, July 12 and Wednesday, July 19 at 1:00PM**. The information session will provide an overview of the process and respond to questions.

Register for the meeting here: [https://bayareametro.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_BIYz6fDkT-6wwvqJ0ou9kw](https://bayareametro.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_BIYz6fDkT-6wwvqJ0ou9kw)

MTC will review and summarize survey results and follow up with proposers as needed. Results will then inform the development of the Draft Funding Guidelines and Requirements of MTC's CARE Program.

MTC anticipates developing a baseline funding program of **\$21 million** for CARE, a **Call for Projects initiated in late summer/September 2023**, with REAP state funded awarded projects to be completed/funds **expended by June 2026**. Response to this interest and needs assessment will help inform the community-based investment priority categories, percentage allocation for each category, and overall grant design, implementation, and evaluation.

### Anticipated Timeline of Activities:

Activity	Anticipated Date*
<a href="#">Call for Interest Survey for Project Ideas:</a> Announcement release	June 23, 2023
Informational meeting(s)	July 12 and July 19, 1:00 p.m.
Interest Survey/Project Idea deadline	<del>July 21, 2023</del> <b>(extended to July 26, 2023)</b>
MTC review and follow-up with proposers	July-August 2023
Call for Projects Application Release	Summer/September 2023

\*Subject to change