

**Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Programming and Allocations Committee**

November 8, 2023

Agenda Item 2h - 23-1283

MTC Resolution No. 4604.

MTC's Community Action Resource and Empowerment (CARE) Program

Subject:

MTC's CARE Program Cycle 1 Guidelines for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-23 through FY 2025-26.

Background:

MTC's CARE Program, the successor to the Lifeline Transportation Program, is a new funding program that supports transportation-based capacity building, technical assistance, and participatory budgeting for Equity Priority Communities in the nine-county Bay Area region. Administered by MTC and in coordination with County Transportation Agencies (CTAs), CARE enables community-rooted and cross-sectional partners (i.e., transit/transportation, housing, health, social services, education, etc.) to deliver on high-priority, community-level initiatives and to deepen their relationships to develop the processes, plans, and projects that will drive and sustain regional transformative transit/transportation mobility, housing, and climate action. MTC will conduct a competitive call for projects process, working with CTAs to screen and nominate CARE projects for their county. These projects are subsequently submitted to MTC for final evaluation and regional program adoption.

Fund Sources

The target programming amount for Cycle 1 is \$21.5 million, which includes four years of funding (FY2022-23 through FY 2025-26). Sources include a mix of federal One Bay Area Grant (OBAG 3) and one-time state Regional Early Action Program (REAP 2.0) funds, to support planning and capital activities: \$8 million in REAP 2.0, and \$13.5 million in OBAG Congestion Management Air Quality/Surface Transportation Program (CMAQ/STP) funds of which \$1.5M are local funds available to MTC. A minimum of \$1 million in funding for CARE from REAP 2.0 and OBAG3 will be assigned to each county for eligible projects based on a competitive process conducted by MTC and coordinated with CARE Program Liaisons in each

county. All funded projects must meet the eligibility requirements of the respective funding source.

CARE Cycle 1 Development

Guidelines for CARE were developed utilizing a participatory grant making approach which includes soliciting input through a “call for project ideas” process. Results led to the identification of the grant’s focus areas, estimated programming amounts, and reaffirmed the need for technical assistance, capacity building, and supporting community-based power-building and engagement initiatives. Input was also solicited from community stakeholders and partner agencies through the Transit Finance Working Group, Joint Partnership Local Streets and Roads/Programming and Delivery Working Group, County Transportation Agencies and the Policy Advisory Council Sub-Committee on Equity and Access.

Guidelines

Highlights of the proposed guidelines are summarized below.

- **CARE Grant Categories.** 1) Project development technical assistance for the advancement of Community Based Transportation Plan (or MTC’s Coordination Plan) initiatives 2) Implementation of neighborhood-level projects/participatory budgeting; and 3) Community power-building and engagement initiatives.
- **Evaluation Criteria.** Overall, the proposed criteria are similar to those of the former Lifeline program, with the exception of the inclusion of REAP 2.0 requirements and “selection criteria considerations.” These considerations reflect the intent to further incorporate diversity, equity, and inclusion into the project selection process.
- **Administration.** CARE Cycle 1 will be administered by MTC in coordination with county transportation agencies (CTAs).

Timeline

The anticipated timeline for Cycle 1 is as follows:

Fund Source	Action	Anticipated Date*
All	Commission action on Cycle 1 Program Guidelines	November 15, 2023
All	MTC launches Call for Projects process in coordination with County Transportation Agencies (CTAs)	November 27, 2023
All	Application deadline for Project Sponsors to submit an eligible project(s) to MTC	February 15, 2024**
All	MTC Commission approval of Program of Projects	April 24, 2024
OBAG/REAP	Project sponsor submits a local resolution of support	April/May 2024
OBAG	Project sponsors awarded OBAG funds submit project(s) in MTC’s Fund Management System (FMS)	April/May 2024

*All dates subject to change. **Application deadline to submit for the “Power-Building and Engagement” category will correspond with the program development timeline with anticipated deadline in early spring.

Issues:

1. Funds for REAP 2.0 need to be expended by June 30, 2026.
2. A portion of the “Power-Building and Engagement” category is being funded by \$1.5M in local funds available to MTC to benefit eligible community-based organizations (CBO); plus \$2M from REAP 2.0 for eligible recipients/initiatives. Staff is currently collaborating with community-based organizations and partner agencies to further define and measure success, refine evaluation criteria, and reduce administrative barriers for CBO involvement while incorporating accountability and outcome measures for performance. Any changes to the CARE guidelines will be brought back for Commission approval.

Recommendations:

Refer Resolution No. 4604 to the Commission for approval.

Attachments:

- Attachment A: MTC CARE Cycle 1 Funding
- Attachment B: Participatory Budgeting Fact Sheet
- Attachment C: PowerPoint slide deck
- MTC Resolution No. 4604

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew B. Fremier". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Andrew B. Fremier