

CALIFORNIA RESILIENCE CHALLENGE 2021 GRANT PROPOSAL WORKSHEET

Section 1: Basic Information	
Org. Legal Name	Fresno County Department of Public Health (FCDPH)
Project Title	FUERTE (Fresno Understands Environmental Resilience Through Equity): A Collaborative Project to Reduce the Health Impacts of Climate Change in Fresno County
Eligible Funding Amount	\$176,938
Org. Official Address	Street: 1221 Fulton St, PO BOX 11867 Fresno, CA 93775
	City/Zip: Fresno CA 93721
Org. Federal Tax ID Number	
Org. Main Phone	559-600-3200
In which jurisdiction (city/county) will grant funds primarily be used?	The County of Fresno, a Political Subdivision of the State of California
Project Start Date (Must be on or before 7/31/22)	January 2022
Project Completion Date (Must be on or before 7/31/24)	December 2023
Name of Top Executive	David Luchini
Title of Top Executive	Director, Department of Public Health
Associated Email	dluchini@fresnocountyca.gov
Name of Grant Manager	James Sponsler
Title of Grant Manager	Staff Analyst
Grant Manager Phone	559-600-6478
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Grantee Signatory (Person with legal authority to sign agreement if funding is approved)	
Name	Brian Pacheco
Title	Chairman, Fresno County Board of Supervisors
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Section 2: Project Summary (Limit response to 300 words for each bullet)

Executive Summary:

Fresno County Department of Public Health proposes a community-engaged vulnerability and adaptation (V&A) assessment of Fresno County to inform the development of a plan to build local resilience to health impacts from extreme heat, drought, and wildfires.

The intensifying effects of climate change pose a clear threat to the health and well-being of California residents, particularly those living in the Central Valley. Projections from the Cal Adapt database for Fresno county show an increase in number of extreme heat days (>94.3 *F) by 22-30 days per year, and an increase of 8-12,000 acres burned by wildfire over the next 30 years (<https://cal-adapt.org/>). According to CalEnviro Screen 3.0, the Central Valley also ranks the highest for burden of pollution from multiple sources that are exacerbated by climate change, including PM2.5 and water contamination (<https://oehha.ca.gov/>). Central Valley communities that already experience health disparities based on race, income, neighborhood, language, immigration status, and other factors are particularly vulnerable to climate-related health threats while also having more limited access to resources necessary to protect themselves from them.

The Fresno County Department of Public Health (FCDPH) proposes a partnership with a broad range of stakeholders to achieve three interdependent aims: (1) gather information about current health risks, capacities, and vulnerabilities to inform climate resilience planning, especially in vulnerable communities and (2) develop outreach and advocacy programs to engage and empower county communities toward climate resilience and (3) cultivate a network of collaborating agencies and advisors as part of a newly formed FCDPH working group called C6 (Central California Climate Change Clinical Collaboration).

Project Outcomes:

- 1. Fresno County Climate Vulnerability and Adaptation (V and A) Assessment.** A main deliverable of this project will be a written report with dissemination of findings to stakeholders that will include: maps and description of disease burden, vulnerability assessment, assessment of adaptive capacity recommendations for preparedness and mitigation actions, preliminary interventions that could be implemented, and any community survey instruments or questionnaires.
- 2. C6 (Central California Climate Change Clinical Collaboration) Online Archive of Resources and Contacts.** In a crucial advance for stakeholder engagement in Central California, the FUERTE Project represents the first major grant-supported undertaking of the C6 Alliance, a workgroup initiated by Fresno County Department of Public Health. We are hopeful that in planning, executing, and completing this project that a robust and vital network will form to help map the current and anticipated landscape for environmental resiliency here in Fresno County. Deliverables for this domain will include an archive of webinars, agencies, resources, and challenges that can be accessed and expanded in the years ahead.
- 3. Community Education Curriculum and Feedback Surveys.** Capacity building represents a significant dimension of the FUERTE proposal, and this deliverable will reflect the activation of our vulnerable populations on climate health. Creating a more engaged and aware community in a largely under-resourced area of the state is a challenge that is definitely worth pursuing, and it is hoped that the didactic and outreach plan documents from our project can be expanded to other areas and populations in the state.

Project Activities:

Fresno County Department of Public Health proposes a community-engaged vulnerability and adaptation (V&A) assessment of Fresno County to inform the development of a plan to build local resilience to health impacts from extreme heat, drought, and wildfires.

Scope: Our proposal aims to build resiliency for responding to heat, drought, wildfires, and other climate change hazards among Fresno County's most vulnerable communities, with a focus on public health and the healthcare sector. FUERTE's primary deliverable will be to conduct a multi-component V&A assessment among Fresno's most vulnerable communities, and secondary deliverables are related to the educational component of our community outreach activities and the network-building work to build the C6 network of stakeholders and partners. We will be drawing on prior published methods but expand on these to engage the communities directly impacted by these hazards to account for the diversity of Fresno County's population and ensure engagement with quantifiable metrics.

The V&A assessment will involve a series of iterative steps that combine structured and previously described V&A frameworks (Ebi, Kovats, and Menne 2006) with an expanded level of community engagement. There will be four main components to the V&A assessment: (1) a review of pre-existing adaptation and mitigation plans and reports about the local effects of climate change; (2) town hall meetings, key informant interviews, and focus group discussions; (3) estimating burden of climate-sensitive disease and regions and communities most vulnerable, and (4) assessing our system's adaptive capacity and identifying future steps.

Section 3: Adherence to Evaluation Criteria

Is the resilience planning effort integrated with or can fast track project implementation/delivery? **Yes**

Does the project have strong community and political support? **Yes**

Will the project help protect critical infrastructure? **No**

Will the project benefit under-resourced communities, and will it help build or support leadership in those communities? **Yes**

Does the project achieve multiple benefits across sectors (e.g., public health and safety is enhanced while also improving environmental conditions)? **Yes**

Can the project leverage other sources of private, local, state or federal funding? **Yes**

Can the project be scaled to provide increased resilience in the future? **Yes**

Can the project be replicated in other geographies? **Yes**

Does the project involve collaboration with neighboring jurisdictions? **Yes**

Does the project involve collaboration with the private sector? **No**

Does the project incorporate greenhouse gas emission reduction measures? **No**

Does the project use the best available science and locally specific data and/or tribal ecological knowledge? **Yes**

Will the project meaningfully lead to implementation of climate resilience considerations in decision-making, risk, and finance operation? **Yes**

Section 4: Technical Approach and Work Plan

Please describe specific tasks, schedule, and outcomes for the project. Consider including a table of the tasks, schedule, and outcomes for the project as an attachment to this document.

Component 1: Review of pre-existing climate change mitigation and adaptation plans

We will review any existing mitigation, adaptation, and other relevant plans. These include municipal and county plans for early warning systems, surveillance systems, heat action plans, and other plans that affect health. We will also review recent reports from other organizations and groups describing strategic visions for their sectors that pertain to the local effects of climate change. During this first phase, we will specifically review Fresno County Government Councils' Fresno County Blueprint Document, California State University- Fresno Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies Document for Climate Change in Fresno, Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners' (TBWP) Tulare Basin Connectivity Planning report, Tulare Basin Conservation Plan Water Supply Strategies Report, USDA Forest Service's General Technical Report, the Southern Sierra Partnership's scientific assessment of climate change impacts throughout the region, and AgVision 2030, authored by the California Department of Food and Agriculture. The purpose of this step is to make use of existing knowledge about climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts in the region, make connections with those doing work, and learn from previous experiences.

One of the experiences we will be learning from and collaborating with is the project "Towards a Healthy & Resilient Fresno" led by the Leadership Council for Justice and Accountability (LCJA), CCEJN and other community organizations (Fresno Building Healthy Communities, the Central Valley Air Quality Coalition, Healthy Fresno Air and the Central Valley Health Policy Institute). This project is part of a three-year Climate Change, Health and Equity Initiative supported by the Kresge Foundation. The CBO project began with focus groups and community meetings documenting the understanding of the interrelated nature of health and well-being and climate change by community residents. The project is focused on building climate resilience in the City of Fresno, through a community driven process that seeks to fortify Fresno's local efforts to adapt to climate change, advocate for true health equity and racial justice. The common goals of the FUERTE project and the CBO-led effort will allow us to collaborate and leverage our mutual efforts toward a common set of goals.

Component 2: Bidirectional communication with stakeholders, key informant interviews and focus group discussions

We will organize working group meetings that build on those previously conducted by local CBOs in the Towards a Healthy & Resilient Fresno project. Stakeholders will include community members selected by several CBOs, particularly those based in vulnerable communities, local environmental justice advocacy groups, representatives from government sectors, business owners and chamber of commerce representatives, health care workers, researchers, and government leaders. Questions will be designed to probe more deeply into a set of focused issues identified in our Component 1 review and guided by our Community Advisory Group. Qualitative findings from these conversations, key informant interviews, and focus group discussions will be used to adjust our approach to subsequent steps in the V&A assessment.

We plan to further engage with different stakeholder groups during the V&A assessment period to improve baseline knowledge about climate change causes and effects and educate Fresno residents, workers, business owners, and leaders on actions they can take in the near term to mitigate the health effects of climate change. Educational programming will be tailored to the audience. We will provide language interpretation in various languages (i.e. Spanish, Hmong, Laotian, Mixteco, Punjabi,) in order to make the information accessible to diverse communities in the Fresno area. We plan to keep a record of educational programming completed, including lesson plans, content, and structure, and make this a resource accessible to others across the country who may be interested in doing similar work.

Component 3: Estimating burden of climate-sensitive disease and vulnerable regions and communities

The third component will involve characterizing, quantifying, and mapping the burden of climate-sensitive diseases and identifying regions and communities most vulnerable to these conditions. This will incorporate qualitative findings from town hall meetings, key informant interviews, and focus group discussions with quantitative data obtained from a number of sources including Fresno County epidemiology datasets, data from the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development on emergency department visits and hospitalizations in Fresno County, and demographic, population health, environmental, climate, and economic data. We will examine health outcomes linked directly or indirectly to heat, wildfires, drought, and other climate change-related hazards (e.g., heat stroke, cardiopulmonary disease, and even COVID-19 mortality) (Smith et al. 2014; Watts et al. 2021). We are especially interested in trends in climate change-related exposures and health outcomes. Our characterization of the local burden of climate-sensitive disease will then be shared with the public at community meetings and more detailed findings will be discussed with our CAG. During this process, we may uncover gaps in what is known about the health effects of climate change in Fresno and we will develop strategies to gather additional data to fill these gaps, as resources allow. The Healthy Places Index (HPI) (<https://healthyplacesindex.org/>), a mapping and epidemiology tool developed by the Public Health Alliance of Southern California with broad applications for community assessments, will be used in addition to the CalEnviroScreen (<https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-30>) to help identify the most vulnerable areas and populations quartile of the Fresno population (see Map 1).

Component 4: Assessing Fresno's adaptive capacity and planning next steps

We will assess the adaptive capacity of Fresno's institutions and communities, synthesize findings from previous steps, prepare a V&A report, and outline future actions. This will include assessing strengths and weaknesses of the system with regard to governance, financing, workforce management, information management, emergency response and preparedness, health service delivery, and other factors. We will identify future tasks that need to be performed and recommend responsibilities and timelines for these tasks. A final set of meetings with our county communities will be convened to discuss findings and refine goals and action items. The final deliverable for Goal 1 will be a V&A report, with a concluding chapter on policy implications that could inform the development of a formal Climate Change and Health Adaptation Plan.

Section 4: Technical Approach and Work Plan

Describe your approach and rationale for planned stakeholder involvement in the project.

Since an open dialogue with the community is vital to fully understanding the ways in which climate change impacts the lives of Fresno County residents, community engagement will be at the center of the V&A needs assessment. This dialogue will primarily be conducted through a Community Advisory Group (CAG) composed of diverse stakeholders in Fresno County. The CAG will potentially consist of members from vulnerable communities, researchers, health care professionals, public health and other government agency administrators, tribal nations representatives, business leaders, community based organizations (CBOs), and elected representatives. The CAG will be formed early in the process and meet regularly to develop, review, and revise plans for the V&A and to give feedback and further direction after reviewing data gathered. To maximize the inclusivity of this work, several Fresno-based CBOs were consulted throughout the writing of this proposal and feedback was incorporated. Exploring this broad context in partnership with a variety of stakeholders will make resilience planning more relevant to the residents of Fresno, and help stakeholders integrate climate action into their existing values, priorities, and daily lives.

Another significant goal of the FUERTE project is county-wide capacity building for environmental resilience. During the course of the project, we will engage our climate vulnerable communities and raise awareness about climate change. Current and projected impacts will be explained within a culturally informed context through educational programming and workshops. Lesson plans and other educational documentation will be collected and made publicly available by the Fresno County Department of Public Health for the benefit of partners and other local jurisdictions.

Key Stakeholders and Partnerships involved in this project include the following:

Additional partners who have committed to the FUERTE effort include UCSF Fresno Medical Education and Research Center, Community Regional Medical Center, Fresno Madera Medical Society, Public Health Institute and University of California Merced, and Central California Environmental Justice Network.

Describe how results will be shared with members of the target community/ies and other stakeholders through public engagement.

We will organize working group meetings that build on those previously conducted by local CBOs in the Towards a Healthy & Resilient Fresno project. Stakeholders will include community members selected by several CBOs, particularly those based in vulnerable communities, local environmental justice advocacy groups, representatives from government sectors, business owners and chamber of commerce representatives, health care workers, researchers, and government leaders. Questions will be designed to probe more deeply into a set of focused issues identified in our Component 1 review and guided by our Community Advisory Group. Qualitative findings from these conversations, key informant interviews, and focus group discussions will be used to adjust our approach to subsequent steps in the V&A assessment.

Identify potential obstacles to successful completion of project goals and proposed strategies for mitigating these obstacles.

One factor which creates a level of uncertainty in future planning is the COVID-19 pandemic, which has caused disruptions and lapses in some community building efforts and may delay or disrupt some of the in-person meetings and activities. Another potential obstacle to completion of project goals is, ironically, climate change itself, which can provide wildfires, poor air quality and other environmental hazards which inhibit safe gatherings and travel to rural areas of Fresno County. Our plan to build a robust network and schedule parallel activities to meet deliverables and forge partnerships are designed to work with and around these unforeseen circumstances if they arise.

Section 5: Grant budget breakdown	
Salaries & Benefits	\$58,000
Equipment & Supplies	\$3,181
Travel/Training/Other (Specify)	\$102,600
Overhead Costs (total and percent)	\$13,096 (22.579%) FCDPH indirect costs
Total Funding Request (Sum of the above categories)	\$176,877

Section 6: Reporting and Disbursements

Case Study: CRC is looking to identify and share the lessons learned from this grant opportunity to inform other existing or new state grant programs. To this end, all grant recipients will prepare a short case study describing the project process, and completed project outcomes including maps, photos, drawings, etc. (as appropriate for the project type). A template will be provided (Word and PowerPoint). Case studies should emphasize processes, or results that can be adapted or replicated for use in various parts of the state, as well as documentation of the involvement of disadvantaged communities throughout the entire planning process, and any other lessons learned. These studies will be used to develop guidance for future resiliency and adaptation projects in the state. Case study reports and presentation materials must be completed and delivered no later than three months after the completion of expenditure of CRC funds. Final case studies will be submitted to the Governor's Office of Planning and Research for possible inclusion in the Adaptation Clearinghouse.

Work Product: All reports funded through the CRC Grant Program shall credit CRC financial participation on the cover or title page. An electronic copy of all final reports shall be forwarded to CRC. Any reports or presentation materials funded through the CRC Grant Program are in the public domain and may not be copyrighted, sold, or used exclusively by any business, organization, or agency. Applicants must not transmit any material to CRC that the applicant considers to be confidential or proprietary. Any material the applicant transmits to CRC will be considered nonconfidential and non-proprietary. This policy serves to avoid potential misunderstandings or disputes regarding ownership of ideas. To the extent that the applicant owns or controls any patent rights, copyright rights, trade secret rights, or any other intellectual property or proprietary rights that may be required for access to work product submitted under the CRC Grant Program, the applicant grants a license to such rights to any person accessing and using such work product. CRC reserves a royalty-free, non-exclusive, and irrevocable license to reproduce, publish, or otherwise use and to authorize others to use the reports for public purposes.

Third-Party Contracts: The agreements between a grantee and a sub-recipient, consultant, or sub-consultant are referred to as "third-party contracts." Grantees will be expected to use and comply with their individual procurement procedures in awarding third-party contracts. Work for which a CRC grant is provided can only be contracted if it has been stated in the applicant's Scope of Work and Project Timeline. Grantees are fully responsible for all work performed by their sub-recipients, consultants or subconsultants, and CRC shall not be liable to any of such entities for the performance by grantees. Grantees are responsible to ensure that all third-party contractors adhere to the provisions of this RFP.

Grant Disbursement and Accounting: CRC intends to disburse funds from a grant under the 2021 Grant Program in installments. The amount and timing of each installment, and the process for invoicing and disbursement, shall be determined by CRC in its sole discretion. The final disbursement shall be conditioned on a certificate by an authorized representative of the grantee certifying compliance with the terms of this RFP and verifying that the CRC funds have been or will be used for project expenditures reasonably incurred and required for project purposes. Each grantee shall also make financial reports, within 90 days after the end of each of its fiscal years, during the progress of the project and upon project completion, and provide reasonable evidence of project progress and project sources and uses of funds. Each grantee shall maintain true and complete records of performance of work on the project and of the sources and uses of funds for such project, and shall maintain such records for a period of not less than 3 years after the later of completion of the project or the last disbursement by CRC. CRC and its representatives may access such records on reasonable notice and during regular business hours for the purpose of confirming the grantee's compliance with the terms of this RFP.

Section 7: Certification

Please read this section thoroughly and confirm that your organization is in compliance with the following terms and conditions. Please note that disagreeing to any statement will disqualify you for a charitable donation.

The applicant is, and shall remain, in compliance with all federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations applicable to the grant and the activities, projects and other aspects of the program to which the grant applies (the "Program").

The applicant does not and shall not, in its by-laws, policies, or practices, discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, age sex, national origin, ancestry, physical or mental disability, medical condition, veteran status, marital status, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any basis prohibited by applicable law.

The applicant agrees that any donation from the Bay Area Council Foundation will be used only for the purposes of the Program, and will not be used in any direct or grass roots lobbying efforts, including but not limited to those activities described in Internal Revenue Code Sections 501(h) and 4911(d), to promote or oppose any candidate or ballot measure, to advocate any legislative or administrative action, or to personally benefit or compensate any elected official.

The applicant and each of its grantees, if any, is in full compliance with all statutes, Executive Orders, and regulations restricting or prohibiting U.S. persons from engaging in transactions and dealings with countries, entities, or individuals subject to economic sanctions administered by the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control, the applicant is aware that a list of countries subject to such sanctions, a list of Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons subject to such sanctions, and overview and guidelines for each such sanctions program can be found at <http://www.treas.gov/ofac>, and the applicant does not and shall not promote or engage in violence, terrorism, bigotry, or the destruction of any state, or make grants or otherwise furnish support of any kind to any individual or entity that engages in such activities. Should any change in circumstances pertaining to this certification occur at any time, the applicant will notify the Bay Area Council Foundation immediately.

I am the duly appointed representative of my organization. I am authorized to certify and affirm all the statements above, and to submit the application on behalf of my organization.

I have read all of the statements and responses in this application and certify that each is accurate.

I agree that electronic submission of this application will be deemed to be the equivalent of my written signature for purposes of this certification and application.

By accepting any funds or in-kind donations from the Bay Area Council Foundation, my organization agrees to all terms, conditions, and certifications specified within the application and the transmittal letter.

Name:

Title:

Signature:

Date: