



State of California - Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
Office of Grants and Local Services

Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program(SPP)

SPP Round 5 Frequently Asked Questions

The Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program (SPP) is a competitive grant program developed and administered by the Office of Grants and Local Services (OGALS). Funding made available by the passage of Proposition 4 on November 5, 2024, continues SPP's historic legacy of creating new parks and new recreation opportunities in underserved communities across California. This is Round 5 (R5) of SPP and the first round of Proposition 4 funding.

1. How much funding will be available for R5?

\$188.5 million is available for R5 competitive applications. The State budget appropriated funding for R5 on July 1, 2025.

2. When are R5 applications due?

- The R5 application due date is December 17, 2026.
- Applications must be submitted online. A link to the OGALS online application portal can be found on the SPP R5 webpage at www.parks.ca.gov/spp.
- Paper applications are not accepted.

3. Last SPP grant awards were for Round 4 (R4). When were Rounds 1 (R1), 2 (R2), and 3 (R3)?

SPP R1 and R2 funding came from Proposition 84 (2006 Bond Act), Chapter 9: Sustainable Communities and Climate Change Reduction (PRC 75065 (b)(1-5)). Under R1 and R2, \$2.9 billion was requested for \$368 million in funding

SPP R3 and R4 funding came from Proposition 68 (2018 Bond Act), the Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program. R3 applications were received on August 5, 2019, and grants were announced on February 25, 2020. R4

applications were received on March 12, 2021, and grants were announced on October 25, 2021, and December 8, 2023.

4. How competitive is SPP?

- Round 3 (R3)
 - 478 application requesting \$2.3 billion were received in R3.
 - \$254.9 million was available for R3.
 - 62 of the 478 applications received for R3 were awarded.
- Round 4 (R4)
 - 468 applications requesting \$2.4 billion were received in R4.
 - \$590.2 million was available for R4.
 - 120 of the 468 applications received for R4 were awarded.

5. What were the average grant requests?

- Round 3 (R3)
 - The average grant request for R3 was \$4.8 million.
 - The average grant amount awarded for R3 was \$4.1 million.
- Round 4 (R4)
 - The average grant request for R4 was \$4.9 million.
 - The average grant amount awarded for R4 was \$4.3 million.

6. How many new parks compared to existing parks were funded in Round 4?

Of the 120 awarded grant projects, 53 were for the creation of new parks, 13 were expansions of existing parks, and 54 were renovations.

Project Selection Criteria #1 (page 15 in Application Guide) and Project Selection Criteria #4 (page 18 in Application Guide) prioritize the creation of new parks in park deficient areas.

Of the \$650,275,000 total Proposition 68 SPP funding:

- up to 80% (\$516 million) was available for the creation of new parks, and
- 20% (\$134 million) was set aside for existing park improvements.

7. For Community Based Planning (Criteria #5), do you require applicants or partners to meet in person with residents?

Per pages 19 and 74 of the SPP Application Guide - Yes, OGALS requires in-person meetings. Applicants can combine in-person meetings with video conference

capability for additional residents to join. However, to qualify as an in-person meeting, the majority of residents **must** attend the meeting in-person.

Review the “Designing Parks Using Community-Based Planning” document for additional insights and guidance on Project Selection Criteria #5(A). This document is available under Technical Assistance Resources at www.parks.ca.gov/spp

The Application Guide provides additional technical assistance for Community-Based Planning (Criteria# 5(A), page 19) in the Appendices (pages 73-74).

8. Do recurring District Advisory Committee meetings or Partner Agency meetings qualify toward the "five community meeting" requirement if they are open to the public, promoted on the agency website, and include a formal public comment period for the project?

- Applicants may receive credit for a meeting if it meets all of the requirements under Project Selection Criteria #5(A-C) - Community-Based Planning. However, experience gained through past rounds of SPP has shown that standard monthly meetings do not typically meet all of the requirements for Community-Based Planning.
- OGALS evaluates each meeting independently to determine if it meets all of the requirements listed in Project Selection Criteria #5(A-C).
- The Application Guide provides additional technical assistance for Project Selection Criteria #5(A-C) in the Appendices (pages 73-77).

9. What are the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements for awarded R5 projects (page 70)?

Effective June 30, 2025, a CEQA exemption (PRC §21080.5) was issued for public parks and nonmotorized recreational trail projects funded by the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 (Proposition 4). If the project is awarded SPP grant funding, grantees will be required to file a categorical exemption. CEQA Compliance Information is available under Grant Administration section at www.parks.ca.gov/spp.

- Proposition 4 requires at least ten percent (10%) of the total amount available per round will fund renovations of existing parks for increased use and access, including, but not limited to, individuals with disabilities, as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec.12101 et seq.).

ROUND 5 GUIDANCE - REAPPLYING WITH THE SAME PROJECT SITE**10. If I am applying for a Round 5 SPP grant, for the same project site as a non-funded Round 4 application, what revisions or updates are required?**

In all cases, a new Application Package must be submitted following pages 8-9 of the Application Guide. Some documents may be revised. See Scenarios A, B and C explained below:

A) SAME PROJECT SCOPE/SAME PROJECT SITE:

This means the same Project Site, Recreation Features, and Major Support Amenities with the same concept level details in the Project Selection Criteria and Site Plan are still 100% applicable. If it is 100% the same scope of work at the same project site, the applicant may resubmit the same application with the following updates:

- i. A new Authorizing Resolution ensures that the applicant's governing body approves this project and the application for Round 5. Please see page 37 of the Application Guide for information. There is a template available under Technical Assistance Resources at www.parks.ca.gov/spp
- ii. A new Community FactFinder Report dated after January 1, 2026. Follow the Community FactFinder Tool Kit steps at www.parks.ca.gov/spp.
- iii. A new Community FactFinder Handbook Certification Form, DPR #832E, signed by the Authorized Representative designated through the new Authorizing Resolution. Please see pages 34-35 of the Application Guide for information. This form is accessible under Technical Assistance Resources at www.parks.ca.gov/spp.
- iv. An updated Project Timeline, DPR #832B, with current date projections for Round 5 funding. Please see page 49 of the Application Guide for information. This form is accessible under Technical Assistance Resources at www.parks.ca.gov/spp.
- v. If applicable:
 - a) If the Grant Request Amount or Total Project Cost has changed, revise the dollar amounts in the Application Form, Grant Scope/Cost Estimate Form, and Funding Sources Form.

- b) If a new Authorized Representative is designated through the new Authorizing Resolution (Provision #4), ensure that the new individual has signed all forms listed on the Application Checklist (page 9 of the Application Guide).

B) DIFFERENT PROJECT SCOPE – SAME PROJECT SITE:

This means new or removed Recreation Features or Major Support Amenities, typically with a different grant request amount at the same project site as the Round 4 application.

- i. Revise all Checklist Items per page 9 of the Application Guide to become consistent with the new project scope.
 - This includes the Project Selection Criteria response to reflect the new project scope.
- ii. For Community Based Planning Meetings - Project Selection Criteria #5 found on pages 19-23 of the Application Guide:
 - a) Meetings that started **before** November 5, 2024, can be listed for historical reference; however, these meetings will **not** earn points.
 - b) Applicants should review that the new project scope meets the design goals described on pages 21-23 of the Application Guide. If it does not, additional meetings should be conducted.

C) DIFFERENT PROJECT SITE:

- i. This will require a new application. See pages 8-9 of the Application Guide.
- ii. Is anything changing in the Application Guide for Round 5 compared to the Round 4 Application Guide dated December 1, 2022?

Here are updates that will occur for Round 5:

- Median Household Income - Pages 14 and 71 \$77,067 will replace \$56,982.

To be eligible for Round 5, the project site must meet **at least one** of the following:

- A ratio of less than 3 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents
OR
- A Median Household Income below \$77,067
OR
- Project is within proximity to a climate vulnerability.

There will be 10 Project Selection Criteria compared to 9 in past SPP Rounds. Proposition 4 focuses on climate vulnerable communities. Round 5 will direct this focus through:

- The addition of a new Project Selection Criteria – Climate Vulnerable Populations. See pages 16 and 71 of the Application Guide.
- Added to Project Selection Criteria #5 - Community-Based Planning.
- Added to Project Selection Criteria #8 – Environmental Design
- Added to Project Selection Criteria #10 – Challenges, Project Benefits, and Readiness

11. If I'm applying for a Round 5 SPP grant, at the same project site of a non-funded Round 4 application, are additional meetings required?

Per page 74 of the SPP Application Guide – Yes, at least two additional meetings are required for R5 to receive credit for previous R4 meetings. To receive credit for up to three R4 meetings:

- R5 responses to Criteria #4(C) Goals 1-3 must maintain the integrity of ideas that originated from RESIDENTS in R4.
- Applicants must discuss with RESIDENTS both R4 and R5 project design ideas to determine if R4 Criteria #4(C) Goals 1-3 are still valid.

12. Will Round 5 grant awards have a different period for eligible costs?

The Round 5 “Grant Performance Period” for eligible costs is July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2031. Please see the definition of “Grant Performance Period” on page 91 in the Application Guide.

13. Will competitiveness increase by requesting a lower grant amount in Round 5?

Applicants should request the funds necessary for essential project elements as determined through the community-based planning meetings with the residents. Similar to Round 4, grant awards may range from less than \$1 million through the maximum \$8.5 million.

14. Where can I find more information on Round 5?

Applicants will find updates, technical assistance, application forms and templates, and resources posted at www.parks.ca.gov/spp. Applicants can also sign up to receive email updates by clicking on [Sign up for email updates](#).