Prop 4 Invasive Species Grant Informational Webinar Questions and Answers

Question 1: Is this the current RFP? https://www.iscc.ca.gov/docs/cisac_iscc_website_prop_4_grant_guidelines.pdf. The dates on the cover page say TBD and it also says draft, however it's posted here: https://www.iscc.ca.gov/climate-bond-funding.html.

Answer 1: Please refer to the Grant Guidelines: https://www.iscc.ca.gov/docs/cisac_iscc_website_prop_4_grant_guidelines.pdf.

Also, you may need to refresh your browser to get the correct version, look for Rev 11-16-26

Question 2: There's another priority listed in the RFP. "Additionally, projects that increase or develop regional or statewide programmatic capacity will also be prioritized."

Answer 2: Please refer to the Grant Guidelines https://www.iscc.ca.gov/docs/cisac_iscc_website_prop_4_grant_guidelines.pdf.

Question 3: The guidelines state that priority will be given to projects that are species specific. "Species" can be singular or plural - is it guideline meant to read that priority will be given to projects that deal with a single specific species or will projects that deal with multiple specific species also be prioritized?

Answer 3: Priority will not be given to single species projects. But projects should be species specific (singular or plural).

Question 4: Please show the slide again that identifies who's eligible

Answer 4: Projects must be based in California and provide direct benefit to California. Eligible applicants must be a:

1. Public college or university,

2. Federal, state, or local government entities, including Tribal entities,

3. 501(c)(3) Non-profit organization,

4. Special district,

5. Joint powers authority,

6. Mutual water company.

Question 5: Can you also share what level of priority will be given to projects that are new species or EEDR? Are projects that address an invasive plant/pest that has long been established but with very high negative impacts likely to be competitive in this program?

Answer 5: Please refer to the Grant Guidelines https://www.iscc.ca.gov/docs/cisac_iscc_website_prop_4_grant_guidelines.pdf.

“preference for projects that restore and protect biodiversity and ecosystem health. Priority shall be given to projects that are species-specific, time-sensitive, new to a geographic region, and likely to prevent the establishment of that species. Additionally, projects that increase or develop regional or statewide programmatic capacity will also be prioritized.”

Question 6: Does this grant prioritize Reserves, land managers, etc? What about others that may own non-contiguous land?

Answer 6: Please refer to the Grant Guidelines https://www.iscc.ca.gov/docs/cisac_iscc_website_prop_4_grant_guidelines.pdf.

“preference for projects that restore and protect biodiversity and ecosystem health. Priority shall be given to projects that are species-specific, time-sensitive, new to a geographic region, and likely to prevent the establishment of that species. Additionally, projects that increase or develop regional or statewide programmatic capacity will also be prioritized.”

Question 7: For upload docs, do they need to be in pdf form (including the Budget)?

Answer 7: Yes, please upload documents as pdfs

Question 8: the phone number is cut off for me. can you state it or write it in chat?

Answer 8: The phone number for Technical Assistance is (530) 752-3248

Question 9: Will Zoom office hours be available starting tomorrow?

Answer 9: Yes, Zoom office hours are live

Question 10: To be clear with the mention of match funds, the guidelines state that matching funds will not be factored into application scores to not disadvantage low-resource organizations, correct?

Answer 10: Correct, matching funds will not get additional scoring. However, they should be noted in the budget narrative.

Question 11: My question is whether the cover page and narrative and budget template are available on the ISCC website?

Answer 11: Yes, they are available at Invasive Species Council of California - Proposition 4 Funding.

Question 12: Can an organization apply for more than one grant, especially if each application is for a different target species?

Answer 12: Yes, but please apply as individuals

Question 13: We would like to address feral pig damage across our landscapes, which has a high impact on disadvantaged communities. Your top priority says it is for lesser wide-spread "new to a geographic region" species. So, how does a feral pig management proposal rank when it comes to its massive widespread impact + on disadvantaged communities vs this priority?

Answer 13: Please refer to the Grant Guidelines https://www.iscc.ca.gov/docs/cisac_iscc_website_prop_4_grant_guidelines.pdf.

“This unique biodiversity across ecosystems is threatened by emerging and re-emerging invasive species, including land-dwelling and aquatic organisms, that impart a severe environmental and economic impact in the state.”

Question 14: I work for a large state land management agency with multiple land districts. At what level do we apply i.e. for small projects at our district level or at our organizational level? Will we be less competitive if we submit a very large request or many smaller requests?

Answer 14: Please refer to the Grant Guidelines https://www.iscc.ca.gov/docs/cisac_iscc_website_prop_4_grant_guidelines.pdf.

There is no mention of preference for large or small requests.

Question 15: Is this focused on removal? For example, could we include purchasing native plants/seed?

Answer 15: Please refer to the Grant Guidelines https://www.iscc.ca.gov/docs/cisac_iscc_website_prop_4_grant_guidelines.pdf.

There is nothing in the grant guidelines that would preclude a project for habitat restoration that may include purchasing plants and seeds.

Question 16: I would also like to know about the answer for the disadvantaged communities, thank you!

Answer 16: Please refer to the Grant Guidelines https://www.iscc.ca.gov/docs/cisac_iscc_website_prop_4_grant_guidelines.pdf.

The Grant Guidelines state the following " Projects do not need

to occur in disadvantaged or severely disadvantaged communities, but applicants

should clearly indicate how those communities will benefit."

Question 17: Does Prop 4/the Invasive Species Grant Program define an invasive vs established species? What about re-emerging species or newly resistant populations of a "previously invasive species" such as Spotted Wing Drosophila.

Answer 17: Please refer to the Grant Guidelines https://www.iscc.ca.gov/docs/cisac_iscc_website_prop_4_grant_guidelines.pdf.

“This unique biodiversity across ecosystems is threatened by emerging and re-emerging invasive species, including land-dwelling and aquatic organisms, that impart a severe environmental and economic impact in the state.”

Question 18: Can you describe the cap on indirect, is it 25%? And does CDFA honor TERO tax? The TERO tax is based on an approved Tribal Employment Right Ordinance

Answer 18: Please refer to the Budget Narrative:

ISCC provides for indirect costs as a percentage of the award but does not oversee the use of these funds.

A. ISCC reimburses indirect costs based upon the Modified Total Direct Costs, which is the sum of all costs subject to the indirect rate.

B. Applicants may request the following indirect cost rates, as allowable in the Climate Bond Legislation:

C. The de minimis federal indirect cost rate of 15%

D. A previously negotiated indirect cost rate, pursuant to a Primary Applicant/Subrecipient(s) agreement with CDFA (Supporting Documentation Required)

E. A rate negotiated by the Primary Applicant/Subrecipient(s)in the last 5 years with another state agency (Supporting Documentation Required)

F. A rate proposed by the grantee in the grantee’s program application with the administering state agency if the grantee does not have an existing state rate (Justification Required. The TRC and ISCC will evaluate the request and justification in the context of the proposal’s scope and budget).

Question 19: Does the program allow out of state collaborations for proposed projects.

Answer 19: The Grant Guidelines note that the following is a disqualification, “Projects occurring out of state or with out-of-state project leads,” but is does not prohibit out-of-state collaborators.

Question 20: Will there be any funding preference dependent on aquatic v. terrestrial species? Larger or smaller funding scopes? or Shorter projects v. the full years of funding?

Answer 20: Please refer to the Grant Guidelines https://www.iscc.ca.gov/docs/cisac_iscc_website_prop_4_grant_guidelines.pdf.

There is no funding preference for aquatic v. terrestrial species, larger or smaller funding scopes or shorter projects v. the full years of funding.

Question 21: Given that bond allocated $300 million to support climate smart agriculture initiatives, will there be an emphasis on ag pests, or will wildland invasive plant projects be given equal weight?

Answer 21: Please refer to the Grant Guidelines https://www.iscc.ca.gov/docs/cisac_iscc_website_prop_4_grant_guidelines.pdf.

There is not an emphasis on ag pests, all invasive pests are given equal weight. Please refer to the Prop4 Invasive Species Grant Guidelines.

Question 22: For a collaborative project, in section 7 of the application for project team and project partners, does each collaborator go in the project team section, or does only the primary partner go in the team section and the rest go in the partners section requiring letters substantiating their roles?

Answer 22: Project team would be those individuals being charged directly to the agreement and collaborators, who may be charged as subcontractors should be on the partners section.

Question 23: Can we tier our proposal by cost per acre so that it could be funded at various awards based on funding availability? For instance, can we propose that we control 2 acres at X dollars, 4 acres at Y dollars and 6 acres at Z dollars based on available funding? availability?

Answer 23: Please follow the Grant Guidelines. https://www.iscc.ca.gov/docs/cisac_iscc_website_prop_4_grant_guidelines.pdf.

Recommend drafting the proposal to meet the needs of the project.

Question 24: What are thoughts on focusing on weeds that are problematic with wildfire spread?

Answer 24: Please refer to the Grant Guidelines https://www.iscc.ca.gov/docs/cisac_iscc_website_prop_4_grant_guidelines.pdf.

There is nothing the Grant Guidelines that would preclude a project that focuses on weeds that are problematic with wildfire spread.

Question 25: How soon will this 90 min webinar plus Q&A be made available online?

Answer 25: We are hoping to get everything posted by Friday 11/20/26

Question 26: Will the slides be available to us after this presentation? And for how long?

Answer 26: Yes, the PowerPoint presentations and the webinar recordings will be posted to https://www.iscc.ca.gov/. They will remain on the website until the funding opportunity is complete (all funding allocated).

Question 27: Individual is interested in the 2026 Invasive Species Grant Program and would appreciate clarification on whether an applied AI/ML research project would fall within its scope.

The proposed approach would combine invasive-species monitoring data with environmental and climate information to predict establishment or spread and help prioritize surveillance and early intervention in California. We would work with invasive-species specialists and field partners to validate the predictions and assess their practical value.

Would this type of project be responsive to the program? In particular, can AI/ML predictive modeling and field validation be the primary activities, or are projects expected to include direct invasive-species control or removal? Thanks.

Answer 27: Please refer to the Grant Guidelines https://www.iscc.ca.gov/docs/cisac_iscc_website_prop_4_grant_guidelines.pdf.

There is nothing the Grant Guidelines that would preclude a project that focuses AI/ML predictive modeling and field validation.

Question 28: The guidelines state to email the application here, but the webinar stated to utilize GOATS.

Answer 28: Please utilize the GOATS Portal, the guidelines will be updated to direct applicants to submit through the GOATS portal.

Question 29: Are applicants able to submit an Excel spreadsheet instead if more columns are needed?

For example, the current template (screenshot attached) only allows room for one Subaward and at least 3 other directs costs. Or is it okay to combine and provide the breakdown in the budget narrative form?

Also, I see MTDC explained for the benefits of others but not IDC (not a big issue because the Tech Assistance group can help applicants

There is no room on the table to specify the IDC rate, but I guess applicants can clarify this in the written narrative section.

Answer 29: Please combine and explain in the narrative.

Question 30: I work for a large state land management agency with multiple land districts that operate independently. Do they apply as individuals (but note the organization will be the same)?

Answer 30: Please apply as individuals

Question 31: Can CDFA apply for the Prop 4 Grant Opportunity? I saw that the call said State Government, but I wanted to double check in case it wasn't allowed for some reason.

Answer 31: Please refer to the Grant Guidelines

https://www.iscc.ca.gov/docs/cisac_iscc_website_prop_4_grant_guidelines.pdf.

It states that "Federal, state, or local government entities, including Tribal entities" may apply for the grant opportunity

Question 32: Would golden mussels be a qualifying species in a County that does not yet have an infestation and is looking to implement a prevention program (inspection and decontamination)

Answer 32: Please refer to the Grant Guidelines

https://www.iscc.ca.gov/docs/cisac_iscc_website_prop_4_grant_guidelines.pdf.

There is nothing in the Grant Guidelines that would preclude a project that focuses on golden mussels.

Question 33: Can the same organization submit multiple proposals through different accounts? For example, our botany and restoration program might have a different target species and project location than our wildlife program?

Answer 33: Yes, but please apply as individual.

Question 34: Are applicants required to provide a specific amount of matching contributions? Page 11 of the Cover Page and Narrative document asks applicants to explain how the project "Leverages funding through cost-sharing with collaborations." However, no additional leveraging instructions are stated.

Answer 34: Page four of the Budget Template includes the following guidance on contributions:

“Indicate any Federal, State, or other grant program(s) providing funding for this project, as well as any partner providing cash funding or in-kind contributions toward the completion of the project. Provide the name of the organization, the name and contact (telephone number and email address) of primary contact of the organization, and the amount(s) of funds and/or in-kind services they have committed.”