



DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Planning Grant Funding for Cities and Counties

Program Summary

Recent legislation provides over-the-counter funding to all local governments to help cities and counties prepare, adopt, and implement plans and process improvements that streamline housing approvals and accelerate housing production. Under this legislation (AB 101, 2019; and SB 2, 2017) the California Department of Housing and Community Development is administering two grant programs:

1. Local Early Action Planning (LEAP) Grant Program, and
2. SB 2 Planning Grant Program.

Under each program, every city and county in California is entitled to an amount of funding, determined on the basis of population, for the purpose of updating or adopting plans, policies, or processes that accelerate housing production.

1. Local Early Action Planning (LEAP) Grant Program

In 2019, Governor Newsom signed AB 101 which codified the Local Government Planning Support Program and allocated \$125 million to cities and counties in LEAP grants (Government Code section 50515.03). LEAP funding is available to every city and county of California, in specific amounts based on population. LEAP funding can be used for a variety of activities, including but not limited to:

- Revamping local planning processes to speed up housing production.
- Rezoning and encouraging development by updating planning documents and zoning ordinances, such as general plans, community plans, specific plans, sustainable communities' strategies, and local coastal programs.
- Completing environmental clearance to eliminate the need for project-specific review.
- Performing infrastructure planning, including for transit, roads, water systems, sewers, or other public facilities necessary to support new housing.
- Partnering with other local entities to identify and prepare excess property for residential development.

Applications must identify how the funds will be used to meet the requirements of accelerating housing production.

HCD issued a Notice of Funding Availability in January 2020. **The statutory deadline to apply is July 1, 2020.** To apply, or for more information, see: <https://www.hcd.ca.gov/grants-funding/active-funding/leap.shtml>

Throughout the application period, HCD is providing pre-application technical assistance to local governments, including tailored on-demand guidance to cities or counties that request assistance. To request assistance, email EarlyActionPlanning@HCD.ca.gov.

HCD is also working closely with regions and sub-regions to help local governments identify activities and provide best-practice tools to help reach the goal of accelerating housing production.

A local government is eligible to apply for LEAP funding, even if the local government is out of compliance with Housing Element Law, and LEAP funding can be used to update or adopt Housing Elements in order to come into compliance.

For additional information, please contact Josh Rosa, Policy and Program Support Manager, at Josh.Rosa@HCD.ca.gov.



DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Planning Grant Funding for Cities and Counties

Program Summary

2. Senate Bill 2 Planning Grant Program

The Building Jobs and Homes Act (Senate Bill 2, 2017) provides \$123 million to local governments, to help cities and counties accelerate housing production. **Every city and county in California is eligible for a one-time SB 2 planning grant, in specific amounts based on population.**

The SB 2 Planning Grant funding can be used by a local government to adopt or develop plans, policies, or process improvements that:

- Streamline the approval of housing development affordable to owner and renter households at all income levels, or
- Facilitate housing affordability, particularly for lower- and moderate-income households, or
- Promote development consistent with the State Planning Priorities ([Government Code Section 65041.1](#)), which are:
 - To promote infill development and equity by rehabilitating, maintaining, and improving existing infrastructure in previously developed, underutilized land served by transit, streets, water, sewer, and other essential services, particularly in underserved areas, and to preserving cultural and historic resources.
 - To protect environmental and agricultural resources by protecting, preserving, and enhancing the state's most valuable natural resources, including working landscapes such as farm, range, and forest lands, natural lands, recreation lands, and locally unique landscapes.
 - To encourage efficient development patterns by ensuring that any infrastructure associated with development, other than infill development, supports new development, adjacent to existing developed areas, that is served by adequate transportation and other essential utilities, and which minimizes ongoing costs to taxpayers.

The SB 2 Planning Grant Program application period closed on December 20, 2019. **HCD received an eligible application from 91 percent of all local governments (491 applications total).** As of February 26, 2020, HCD has approved 271 applications to be awarded, with another 220 applications in various stages of the approval process.

For additional information, please contact Josh Rosa, Policy and Program Support Manager, at Josh.Rosa@HCD.ca.gov; or see HCD's website: <https://www.hcd.ca.gov/grants-funding/active-funding/planning-grants.shtml>