

# Cleanup in Vulnerable Communities Initiative

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDES



# CLEANUP IN VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE

## ENCOURAGING ENVIRONMENTAL EQUITY

An environmental equity approach seeks to eliminate the unequal concentration of environmental pollution that some communities are exposed to. It addresses environmental risk to specific population groups and increases efforts to ensure that marginalized and impacted communities are represented and heard in environmental policy making. As a broader concept, an equity approach involves “leveling the playing field” and working to recognize and correct systemic barriers. California's 2021-22 Budget provides \$500 million to the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) over four years to focus on properties that need investigation, assessment, and cleanup to aid overburdened communities, and to address environmental inequities. This funding is referred to as the “Cleanup in Vulnerable Communities Initiative.”



### DTSC will use the \$500 million for the:

- Equitable Community Revitalization Grant (ECRG) Program to investigate and clean up brownfields in environmental justice communities;
- Discovery and Enforcement Program to investigate and clean up properties impacted by dry-cleaning contamination in environmental justice communities; and
- Workforce Development Program to engage, train and hire residents in cleaning up and revitalizing their communities

DTSC is developing additional initiatives to support environmental justice

## DTSC's Cleanup in Vulnerable Communities Initiative Approaches:

### Implementing a Small Business Program

DTSC is advocating for the use of small businesses to enhance equitable access to opportunities under the Cleanup in Vulnerable Communities Initiative. Engaging with small businesses, and women, minority, and disadvantaged businesses, creates opportunities for inclusion and can maintain and strengthen California's economy overall. DTSC will work with the Department of General Services and the California Office of the Small Business Advocate (CalOSBA) to increase our outreach with the small business community to provide meaningful inclusion opportunities.

### Using CalEnviroScreen to Establish Spending Priorities

The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) developed CalEnviroScreen, which is a science-based mapping tool that helps identify California communities that are most affected by many pollution sources, and that are often especially vulnerable to pollution's effects. CalEnviroScreen uses environmental, health, and socioeconomic information to produce a numerical score for each census tract in the state. DTSC uses this tool to prioritize Cleanup in Vulnerable Communities Initiative spending.

## **Innovation in Community Engagement**

The Centers for Disease Control's National Center for Environmental Health and the National Association of County and City Health Officials partnered to develop the Protocol for Assessing Community Excellence in Environmental Health (PACE EH). Federal agency, academia, research institutions, local environmental health organizations, and community organization representatives provided overall direction and oversight to develop this process. PACE EH draws on community collaboration and environmental justice principles to involve the public and other stakeholders to identify local environmental health issues, set priorities for action, target populations most at risk, and address the identified issues. DTSC, in collaboration with USEPA Region IX, will conduct a PACE EH process pilot test and will utilize this innovative approach to ensure community and government collaboration.

## **Meaningful engagement of California Native Tribes and Tribal Communities**

All California Native American Tribes, communities, and organizations, regardless of federal recognition status, have environmental concerns that might be different than those of the general public. In order to continue DTSC's commitment to California's Native American tribes and communities to provide effective communication and consultation, the Department will provide outreach and facilitate conversations with Tribes on the potential for their involvement on the Cleanup in Vulnerable Communities Initiative. DTSC's Tribal program will coordinate with DTSC staff and provide necessary information on the Cleanup in Vulnerable Communities Initiative to assess Tribal interest and participation on the initiative across the state. DTSC will work closely with Tribes to inform them of the proposed site work and assure that communication is conducted in a government-to-government fashion when appropriate

## **Government Alliance on Race and Equity Membership**

The Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE) is a national network of government members working to achieve racial equity and advance opportunities for all. GARE is a joint project of the Othring and Belonging Institute and the new Race Forward. The Othring and Belonging Institute at UC Berkeley brings together researchers, organizers, stakeholders, communicators, and policymakers to identify and eliminate barriers to an inclusive, just, and more sustainable society to enable transformative change toward a more equitable nation. Race Forward brings systemic analysis and an innovative approach to complex race issues to help people take effective action toward racial equity. DTSC will work with GARE members and partners to ensure that meaningful inclusion and equity approaches are included in the Cleanup in Vulnerable Communities Initiative.

## **Retaining a Brownfields Technical Assistance Provider**

Many vulnerable communities that the Cleanup in Vulnerable Communities Initiative targets have limited resources and capacity. DTSC retained a Brownfield Technical Assistance Provider (BTAP) to help nonprofits, municipalities and other public entities, and tribes increase brownfield capacity. The Brownfield Technical Assistance Provider will help communities access grant funding. Additionally, they will support the "clean up to build-up" process and help communities navigate how to return underutilized properties to the productive uses needed by the people who live, work, play, and study there.

To learn more about the CVCI, visit the [CVCI page](#) or contact [Patricia.Ochoa@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Patricia.Ochoa@dtsc.ca.gov).

# EQUITABLE COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION GRANT

*Helping California Communities Cleanup and Reuse Impaired Properties*

## Upcoming actions for the grant:

- **January 2022:** DTSC opens the Full Application. This round is open for 6 to 8 weeks.
- **April 2022:** DTSC announces the inaugural grantees. DTSC integrates input from the Pre-qualifying Application, initial phase of the Full Application and public feedback to enhance the community revitalization goals of the ECRG program.
- **Spring 2022:** DTSC uses information gathered to date to refine and enhance our service to communities through the ECRG program.
- **Summer 2022:** DTSC launches subsequent rounds of the ECRG application.



To stay informed about the ECRG program updates, [sign up for our mailing list](#).

Visit [DTSC's Brownfield website](#) for more information

**General questions about ECRG?**  
Please contact: [ECRGinfo@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:ECRGinfo@dtsc.ca.gov)

**To contact ECRG's Tribal Coordinator:**  
[TribalAffairs@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:TribalAffairs@dtsc.ca.gov)

Revised: December 2021

## NEW PROGRAM PROVIDES FUNDING AND EXPERT GUIDANCE

In 2021, Gov. Gavin Newsom signed legislation referred to as the Cleanup In Vulnerable Communities Initiative (CVCI), allocating \$500 million to expedite the cleanup and beneficial reuse of contaminated properties, with priority given to properties in historically vulnerable and disadvantaged communities. The Department of Toxic Substances Control's Office of Brownfields Equitable Communities Revitalization Grant (ECRG) will provide more than \$200 million in grants to incentivize cleanup and investment in disadvantaged areas of California.

To support these important goals, the ECRG program:

- Has streamlined the application process
- Makes grants for eligible expenses up to \$7 million
- Does not require property ownership to participate
- Focus in environmental justice areas
- Supports applicants with free technical assistance and other expert guidance

California local governments, nonprofits and federally and non-federally recognized tribes are eligible to apply. Grants will be awarded following an application process, with funds available for community-wide assessments, environmental investigations, and environmental cleanups that support beneficial reuses, such as recreational uses (parkland, green open spaces), commercial enterprises and housing. Eligible organizations are encouraged to apply.

**Who is Eligible:** California local governments, nonprofits and federally and non-federally recognized tribes.

**Eligible Properties:** Generally, any property owned, controlled by or accessible to the applicant that is contaminated and slated for reuse, unless the applicant caused or contributed to the contamination of the property.

### Key Information:

- Priority will be given to applicants in high poverty areas with the highest pollution burdens as defined by a CalEnviroScreen 3.0 (CES) score of 75% and higher.
- DTSC will consider applications below the CES score of 75% to support rural communities, Tribes, and other vulnerable populations. Examples include nonprofit community services, health clinics or medical services, cultural institutions and uses supporting unhoused or underhoused populations.
- Properties should meet the definition of a brownfield: properties where the presence of, or potential presence of, hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants may complicate expansion, redevelopment, or reuse.

**Expert Guidance:** The DTSC has selected the Center for Creative Land Recycling (CCLR) as DTSC's Brownfield Technical Assistance Provider. CCLR is available for free one-on-one and group support and assistance throughout the application process. More information about CCLR's services is available by contacting [ECRG@CCLR.org](mailto:ECRG@CCLR.org) or call (510) 269-7020.

[Download a collection of all CVCI Program Quick Reference Guides](#)

# SUBVENCIÓN DE REVITALIZACIÓN COMUNITARIA EQUITATIVA

*Ayudando a las comunidades de California a limpiar y reutilizar las propiedades deterioradas*

## Próximas acciones de la subvención:

- **Enero de 2022:** DTSC abre la aplicación completa. Esta ronda está abierta de 6 a 8 semanas.
- **Abril de 2022:** DTSC anuncia los beneficiarios inaugurales. DTSC integra los aportes de la solicitud de precalificación, la fase inicial de la solicitud completa y los comentarios del público para mejorar los objetivos de revitalización de la comunidad del programa ECRG.
- **Primavera de 2022:** DTSC utiliza la información recopilada hasta la fecha para refinar y mejorar nuestro servicio a las comunidades a través del programa ECRG.
- **Verano 2022:** DTSC lanza rondas adicionales de la aplicación ECRG.

## EL NUEVO PROGRAMA PROPORCIONARÁ FINANCIACIÓN Y ASISTENCIA EXPERTA

En 2021, el gobernador Gavin Newsom firmó una legislación conocida como la iniciativa de limpieza en comunidades vulnerables (CVCI), que asigna \$500 millones para acelerar la limpieza y la reutilización beneficiosa de las propiedades contaminadas, con prioridad para las propiedades en comunidades históricamente vulnerables y desfavorecidas. **La Subvención de Revitalización de Comunidades Equitativas (ECRG) del Departamento de Control de Sustancias Tóxicas otorgará más de \$200 millones en subvenciones para incentivar la inversión en áreas vulnerables de California.**

### Para apoyar estos importantes objetivos, el programa ECRG:

- Ha simplificado el proceso de solicitud
- Hace que las subvenciones estén disponibles para gastos elegibles de hasta \$ 7 millones
- No requiere ser dueño de la propiedad para participar
- Se enfoca en áreas de justicia ambiental
- Apoya a los solicitantes con asistencia técnica gratuita y otra orientación experta.

Los gobiernos locales de California, las organizaciones no lucrativas y las Tribus son elegibles para solicitar financiamiento. Las subvenciones se otorgarán siguiendo un proceso de solicitud, con fondos disponibles para evaluaciones de la comunidad, investigaciones ambientales, y limpiezas ambientales que apoyan la reutilización beneficiosa, como los usos recreativos (terrenos de parques, espacios verdes abiertos), empresas comerciales y viviendas. Apoyamos a las organizaciones que son elegibles para solicitar financiación.

**Quien es elegible:** Gobiernos locales de California, las organizaciones no lucrativas y las Tribus.

**Propiedades elegibles:** Por lo general, cualquier propiedad que el solicitante posea, controle o tenga acceso a ella, que esté contaminada y que esté programada para su reutilización, a menos que el solicitante haya causado o contribuido a la contaminación de la propiedad.

### Información importante:

- Se dará prioridad a los solicitantes en áreas de alta pobreza con las cargas de contaminación más altas según lo definido por una puntuación de 75% o más en CalEnviroScreen 3.0 (CES).
- DTSC considerará solicitudes por debajo del puntaje CES de 75% para apoyar a comunidades rurales, tribus y otras poblaciones vulnerables. Los ejemplos incluyen servicios comunitarios sin fines de lucro, clínicas de salud, servicios médicos, instituciones culturales y usos que apoyan a poblaciones sin vivienda o con poca vivienda.
- Las propiedades deben cumplir con la definición de brownfield: propiedades donde la presencia o la presencia potencial de sustancias peligrosas, contaminación o contaminantes pueden complicar la expansión, el desarrollo o la reutilización.

**Orientación Experta:** El DTSC ha seleccionado al Centro de Reciclaje Creativo de Tierras (CCLR) como Proveedor de Asistencia Técnica Brownfield del DTSC. CCLR está disponible para asistencia y apoyo individual y grupal gratis durante todo el proceso de solicitud. Para obtener más información sobre los servicios de CCLR, comuníquese con [ECRG@CCLR.org](mailto:ECRG@CCLR.org) o llame al (510) 269-7020

[Descargue una colección de todas las guías de referencia rápida del programa CVCI](#)



Para mantenerse informado sobre las actualizaciones del programa de ECRG, [regístrese en nuestra lista de correo](#)

¡Aplicación disponible pronto! Visite el sitio [DTSC's Brownfield website](#) para obtener más!

### ¿Preguntas?

Comuníquese con: [ECRGinfo@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:ECRGinfo@dtsc.ca.gov)

Para ponerse en contacto con el coordinador tribal de ECRG: [TribalAffairs@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:TribalAffairs@dtsc.ca.gov)

# DISCOVERY AND ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

## FUNDING FOR CLEANING UP ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITIES APPROVED

In July 2021, Senate Bill 158 (SB 158) was signed, which appropriates \$500 million for DTSC to investigate and clean up contaminated properties and revitalize environmental justice communities. A survey conducted by the State Coalition for Remediation for Dry Cleaners estimates that 75% of dry-cleaning facilities in the United States have caused significant soil and/or groundwater contamination. In California, there are approximately 7,500 known dry-cleaning facilities. The Discovery and Enforcement Program is being established as part of the Cleanup in Vulnerable Communities Initiative to assess and cleanup the dry-cleaning chemicals that have been released into the environment and could be affecting our communities. This program will prioritize investigation and cleanup of dry-cleaning sites in communities with high cumulative environmental burdens and close proximity to sensitive receptors.

### TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

#### AUGUST 2021 – DECEMBER 2021

Conduct prioritization of sites for discovery in year 1; Initiate contracts

#### DECEMBER 2021 – MARCH 2022

Finalize contracts; Start site discovery process for year 1 sites

#### MARCH 2022 – JUNE 2022

Start discovery investigation for year 1 sites; Identify sites for discovery in year 2

The Discovery and Enforcement Program proposes the following actions to implement the initiative:

1. Prioritize sites based on CalEnviroScreen 3.0 scores and proximity to sensitive receptors.
2. Create a public and tribal engagement strategy to solicit input and make changes as appropriate.
3. Perform Phase I Environmental Assessments and limited discovery sampling to evaluate potential releases and risk associated with contamination.
4. Implement immediate response action, if necessary.
5. Perform additional environmental investigations and cleanups, as appropriate.
6. Initiate enforcement with responsible parties.
7. Cleanup contamination that threatens environmental justice communities. And community engagement.

Visit [DTSC's CVCI website](#) for more information.

To learn more about the Discovery and Enforcement Program and upcoming opportunities, contact [Rafat.Abbasi@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Rafat.Abbasi@dtsc.ca.gov).

[Download a collection of all CVCI Program Quick Reference Guides](#)

Revised: December 2021



## SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAM

In 2021, Gov. Gavin Newsom signed the Cleanup in Vulnerable Communities Initiative (CVCI), allocating \$500 million to the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) to expedite the cleanup and beneficial reuse of idled properties that may be contaminated, with priority given to properties in historically vulnerable and disadvantaged communities. DTSC will use the \$500 million for grants to investigate and clean up brownfields in environmental justice communities, a program to investigate and clean up properties impacted by dry-cleaning contamination in environmental justice communities, a workforce development program, and several programs focused on environmental equity, justice and community engagement. Visit [DTSC's Brownfield website](#) for more information

### CVCI Small Business Advocacy Program

DTSC is advocating the use of small business and disabled veteran business enterprises to enhance equitable access to opportunities under the Cleanup in Vulnerable Communities Initiative, also referred to as "CVCI". Engaging with small businesses, especially women owned, minority, and disadvantaged businesses, creates opportunities for inclusion and can strengthen California's economy. DTSC will work with the Department of General Services (DGS) and the California Office of the Small Business Advocate (CalOSBA) to increase outreach with the small business community to provide meaningful opportunities to participate in the CVCI. As the various programs under the CVCI are developed, DTSC will be encouraging small business to respond to solicitations for various projects that will support DTSC's efforts to address environmental disparities in our most vulnerable communities. Following the three relatively simple steps outlined in this Quick Reference Guide will enable small businesses to compete for certain CVCI projects.

#### DTSC Encourages Small Business to Become Certified

The State established the Small Business (SB) and Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE) Certification Programs to increase business opportunities for the SB and DVBE community.

#### **Step 1: Become Certified**

##### SB Eligibility Requirements

- Independently owned and operated
- Cannot be dominant in the field of operation
- Must have its principal office located in California
- Must have its owners (or officers in the case of a corporation) reside in California; and together with affiliates, be either: a business with 100 or fewer employees and have average annual gross receipts (GARs) of \$15 million or less over the three most recent tax years or a manufacturer with 100 or fewer employees (GARs not required)

##### DVBE Eligibility Requirements

- The veteran must have a service-connected disability of at least 10% declared by the United States of Veterans Affairs or the United States Department of Defense
- At least 51% owned by one or more disabled veterans, except in the case of a Limited Liability Company (LLC). The LLC must be wholly owned by one of more disabled veterans
- The disabled veteran(s) who owns, manages, and controls the firm must reside in California
- Daily business operations must be managed and controlled by one or more disabled veterans

Principal office must be located in the United States and cannot be a branch or subsidiary of a foreign corporation, foreign firm, or other foreign based business

SB and DVBE registration and certification can be accessed at <https://www.dgs.ca.gov/PD-SB-DVBE-Resources>

## **Step 2: Become a California Multiple Award Schedules (CMAS) Contractor**

The CMAS program is a procurement option. DGS establishes agreements with businesses who offer products and/or services based on terms of a current federal General Services Administration (GSA) multiple award schedule. A purchase using a CMAS contract may be awarded to multiple suppliers. CMAS competitively assesses contracts for products and services and lets state and local government agencies streamline their purchasing.

State and local government agencies shop and compare CMAS for the best value, e.g., best price product, service, etc., and place orders directly with these businesses.

CMAS information and application can be accessed at <https://www.dgs.ca.gov/PD-CMAS>

## **Step 3: Find Contracting Opportunities**

Cal eProcure is an online procurement service to help state agencies organize, automate and better manage purchasing processes on the web. Cal eProcure houses California State Contracts Register (CSCR) which is a one-stop central information source for state contracting opportunities. State agencies post solicitations on this website when they are seeking bids. CSCR connects businesses to government solicitations with an easy-to-use, online publication contract list.

Small business who are eligible to serve as sub-contractors can find contracting opportunities and place ads seeking work with potential prime contractors at no cost.

Additional information and resources can be accessed at <https://caleprocure.ca.gov/pages/index.aspx>

## **Additional Resources**

**California Office of the Small Business Advocate (CalOSBA)** supports economic growth and innovation and ensures that all California small businesses and innovative startups have the information and direct support they need to better navigate resources, programs and regulations. CalOSBA serves as the voice of small business, representing their views and interests across the state and advocating for equitable access to capital, markets, and networks so that all California small businesses successfully start, manage, grow, and become more resilient. For more information on CalOSBA, visit <https://calosba.ca.gov>

**California Capital Financial Development Corporation – Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC)** helps established SB prepare for, pursue, and perform on government contracts. PTAC services include one-on-one counseling, training workshops and an automated bid matching system. California Capital PTAC is funded in part through the Department of Defense therefore all services are provided at no cost. PTAC counselors assist small businesses to understand government contracting requirements, pursue California State (SB, SB-PW, DVBE) and Federal certifications (veteran-owned small business (VOSB), service-disabled veteran owned small business (SDVOSB), woman-owned small business (WOSB), economically disadvantaged women-owned small business (EDWOSB), 8(a), historically underutilized business zone (Hub Zone), etc.), applicable registrations, conduct market research, identify bid opportunities and proposal preparation. For additional information or to register, visit <https://cacapital.org/ptac>

**Pacific Asian Consortium in Employment (PACE)** is an economic development, nonprofit, community organization that is dedicated to the growth and economic expansion of diverse Los Angeles communities. This is accomplished through providing access to capital, financial literacy, business consultations and procurement assistance services. PACE offers aspiring and existing small business owners free one-on-one business consulting, free to low-cost workshops and trainings including business development & strategic planning, market research, financial packaging, lending assistance, manufacturing assistance, exporting & importing support, contract sourcing and Bid proposal assistance, small business certification support, disaster recovery resources and much more. For more information on PACE, visit <http://pacelabdc.org/>.

To learn more about the CVCI Small Business Advocacy Program and upcoming opportunities, contact [Rana.Georges@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Rana.Georges@dtsc.ca.gov).

[\*Download a collection of all CVCI Program Quick Reference Guides\*](#)