

OFFICE OF BROWNFIELDS

Department of Toxic Substances Control · Cleanup In Vulnerable Communities Initiative

ECRGenius – Application Series

# Equitable Community Revitalization Grant Round 2 Overview

July 25, 2023



# Meeting Guidelines

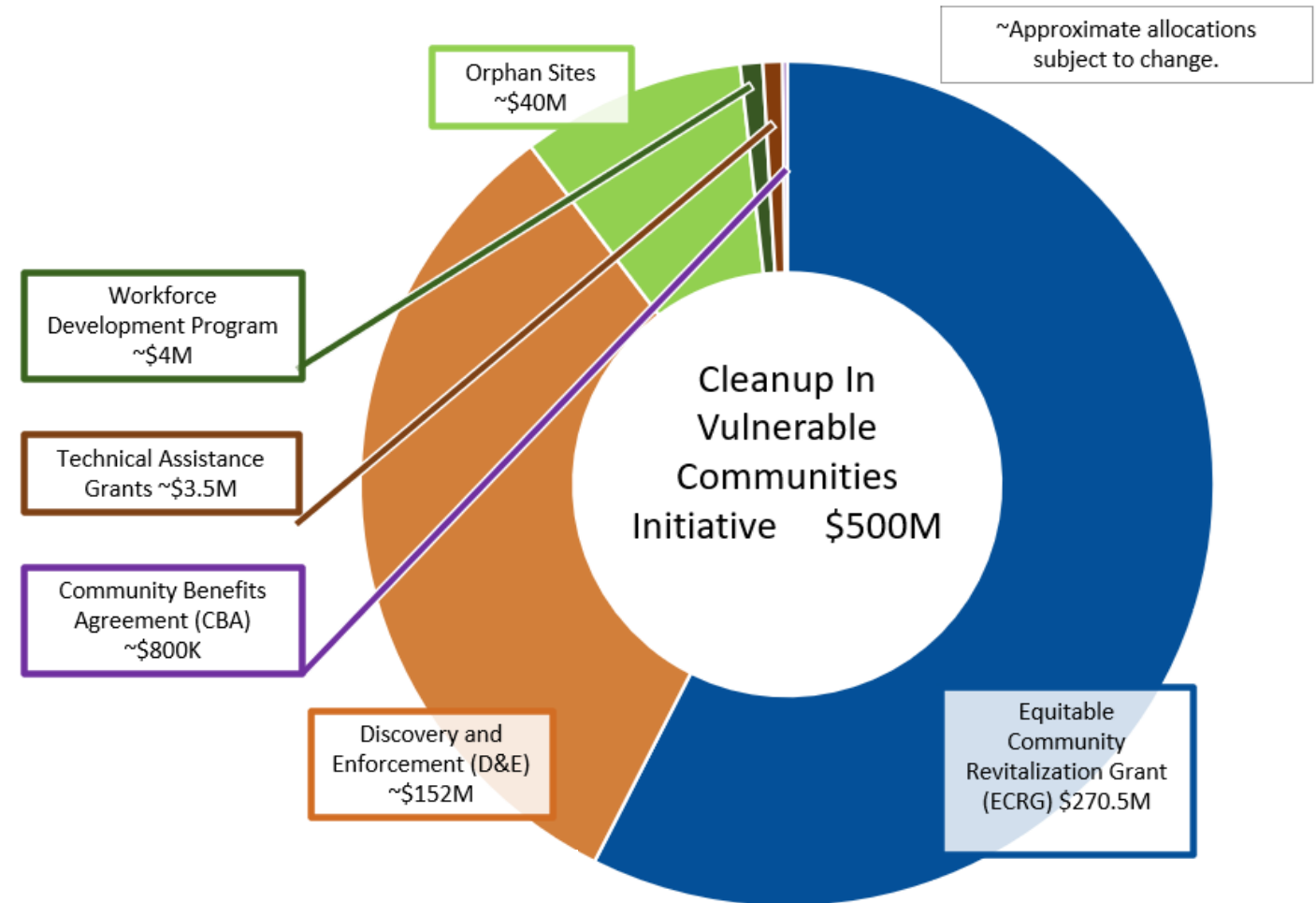
By participating in this meeting you understand that:

- This meeting is being recorded.
- You may be muted for background noise.
- The chat feature will be used to distribute information and accept questions to be read during the Q&A period.
- This meeting is about the Equitable Community Revitalization Grant. We will not be able to address other topics.

1. What is the Equitable Community Revitalization Grant?
2. Who are the ECRGrantees?
3. What are the major differences between ECRG Rounds 1 and 2?
4. How much money is available?
5. What are the eligibility requirements?
6. What is the ECRG Round 2 schedule?
7. How can you prepare for your ECRG application?
8. Where can you find ECRG information and assistance?

# Cleanup In Vulnerable Communities Initiative

- In 2021, Gov. Gavin Newsom signed the [Cleanup In Vulnerable Communities Initiative \(CVCI\)](#)
- Allocated \$500 million to expedite the cleanup and beneficial reuse of idled properties that may be contaminated
- Prioritized properties in historically vulnerable and disadvantaged communities





# What is the Equitable Community Revitalization Grant?

- \$270.5 million allocated
- Currently in second of three rounds
- Public entities, Tribes, and nonprofits apply for:
  - **Community-wide assessments** - \$350k
  - **Site-specific investigations** - \$150k to \$7M
  - **Site-specific cleanups** - \$300K to \$10M
- Incentivize cleanup and investment in disadvantaged areas





# ECR Grantees



# AWARDEE DATA- JUNE 2022

## AWARDEES

# 53

25 Cleanup  
21 Investigation  
8 Community Wide Assessment

## AMOUNT AWARDED

# \$75.4 M

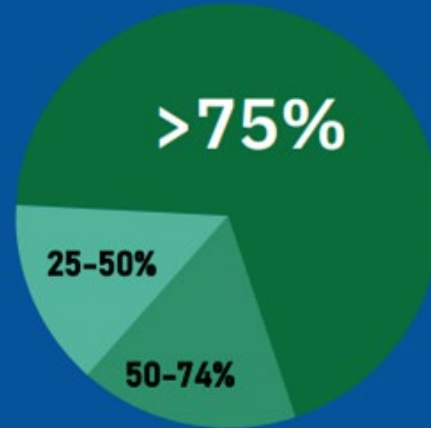
\$57.6M for Cleanup  
\$15.7M for Investigation  
\$2M for Community Wide Assessment

## TOTAL SITES

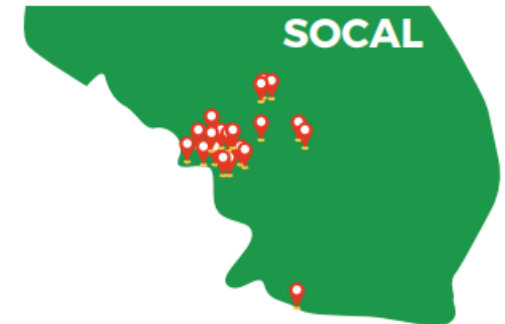
# 84

Sites are greater than the total number of applications because Community Wide Assessments contain more than one site.

## SITE CES PERCENTILE



69% of applications have a CES percentile over 75%



\*Maps are not representative of site locations. For a more accurate representation of site locations please visit our [ECRG website](#)

# What are the differences between Round 1 and Round 2?

- Updated based on lesson's learned and user feedback
- Stronger emphasis in advancing environmental justice goals
- Increased applicant support
- More funding for each grant type
- Requirements for existing ECRGrantees
- Greater accountability for grantees
- Nuanced updates to April draft guidelines based on feedback



# How much money is available?

- \$270.5M total allocated for ECRG
- Round 1 - about \$75.5M in grants were allocated
  - ~\$15M late allocations
- Round 2 - about \$85M available:
  - **Community-wide assessments** - \$350k
  - **Site-specific investigations** - \$150k to \$7M
  - **Site-specific cleanups** - \$300K to \$10M
- Round 3 - about \$100M available next fall

# What can you do with this funding?

**Community-wide Assessments (CWA)** to study environmental conditions at three or more sites where reuse is being planned. **CWAs** are for early-stage activities

**Site-specific Investigation** and cleanup planning that is slated for reuse. Includes investigations, health and ecological risk assessments, cleanup method evaluation, pilot tests, cleanup plan preparation, community engagement, and cleanup-related California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) activities

**Site-specific Cleanup** includes implementation of a cleanup plan, community engagement, and cleanup-related CEQA activities, if any. A cleanup plan that is approved or under review is required to apply for a **Site-specific Cleanup** grant

# What is the ECRG payment process?

- **ECRG does not require invoices to be paid prior to submission for reimbursement**
- Grantees submit invoices for work conducted
- Invoices in batches of a minimum of \$15,000
- Grantees get a check in about 90 days
- **Reimbursement for eligible costs incurred directly by the Grantee**
- Authorization to “spend” on the date the ECRG Agreement is signed by DTSC
- **Costs incurred before the ECRG Agreement is executed are not eligible for reimbursement**



# Who can apply?

1. Public entity:
  - A unit of local government (county, municipality, city, or town, etc.)
  - A school district
  - A special district or agency
  - An intrastate district
  - A council of government
2. Nonprofit with 501 (c) (3) status
3. Tribe, regardless of federal recognition
4. Current ECRGrantees who will have expended 70% of their funding allocation by the application deadline

# What sites are eligible?

## Eligible

1. Brownfield: real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants.
2. Access: Own or have access for the two-year funding period
3. Location: Located in a disadvantaged area or reuse must be for the primary benefit of a vulnerable population

## Ineligible

1. Listed or proposed for listing on the USEPA National Priorities List
2. Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permit
3. Subject to a DTSC Hazardous Waste Facility Permitting Program
4. State/federally owned and controlled
5. Ongoing USEPA directed removal actions
6. Active enforcement order from DTSC or Local Oversight Agency
7. Regional Board Cease and Desist Order (Water Code §13301) or Cleanup and Abatement Order (Water Code §13304)

# How do we define disadvantaged areas?

**CalEnviroScreen 4.0:** ECRG prioritizes census tracts where CES 4.0 Score is 75% or greater

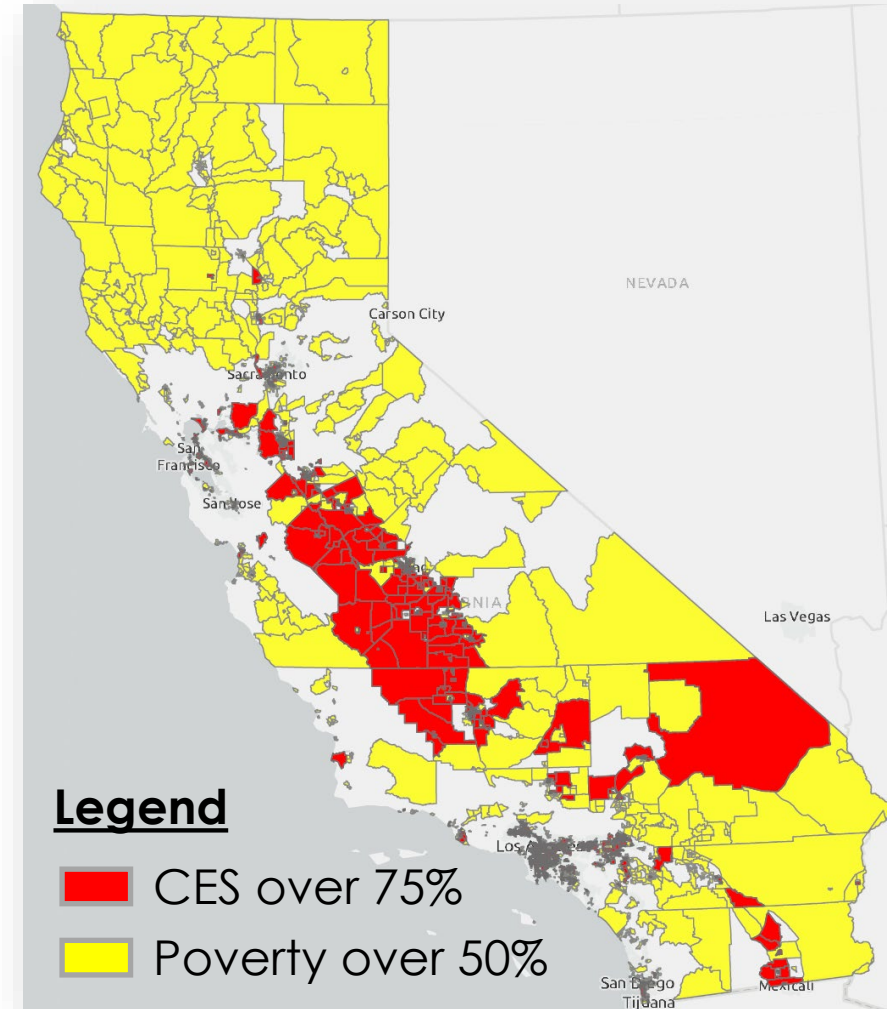
If the CES 4.0 Score is less than 75%:

- reuse must be for the primary benefit of the disadvantaged community AND the CES Poverty Percentile must be 50% or greater

**OR**

- reuse must be for 100% affordable housing\*

**Tribal uses are eligible regardless of the CES 4.0 Score**





# How can you find the site's CES Score?

<https://dtsc.ca.gov/ecrg-new-applicant-resources/>

### ECRG Resources Round 2

Note: Round 2 will open in the summer.

The collage includes several key documents:

- Round 2 DRAFT Guidelines:** A poster titled "EQUITABLE COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION GRANT ROUND 2 ECRGUIDELINES" with the slogan "We EnCouRaGe you to Apply!" and a "Draft April 26, 2023" stamp.
- Round 2 Guide:** A document titled "ROUND 2 GUIDE TO THE EQUITABLE COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION GRANT" with sections on About ECRG, Eligibility, Examples of Round 1 Awarded Projects, Availability, Information You Will Need, and Resources.
- Eligibility Self-Check Tool DRAFT:** A document titled "Eligibility Self-Check Tool DRAFT" with a map of California and the text "CalEnviroScreen 4.0 & Legislative District Finder".
- Round 2 DRAFT Application:** A document titled "Draft Equitable Community Revitalization Grant Application" with a table of contents.

### OFFICE OF BROWNFIELDS DTSC ECRG Grant Evaluation Tool

Department of Toxic Substances Control - Cleanup in Vulnerable Communities Initiative a GEM Team Product

The screenshot shows the DTSC ECRG Grant Evaluation Tool interface. It features a map of California with various regions highlighted in yellow and green. A search box is present with the text "Find address or place" and a magnifying glass icon. A text box on the left side of the map contains the following instructions:

Search for an address by typing in an address below or select a location on the map. After selecting a location, click on the right arrows to display the site-specific information.

[Go back](#)

## Is the site under regulatory oversight?

- Regulatory oversight is required for Site-specific Investigation and Site-specific Cleanup grants
  - DTSC
  - Local Agency
  - Regional Board
- Local Agency and Regional Board projects require a [Project Suitability Letter](#)

For more information, visit our website and [sign up](#) for ECRGenius #2: Round 2 Eligibility, Ownership & Access Webinar - Tuesday August 1, 2023

## What are the requirements for reuse?

- Reuse must benefit disadvantaged or vulnerable communities
  - If the reuse is housing, school, hospital, or day care, will the cleanup approach evaluated be one that does not require land use controls?
- Reuses that have the potential to cause significant pollution are disallowed

For more information, visit our website and [sign up](#) for ECRGenius #3: Engagement, Equity & Reuse Webinar - Tuesday August 8, 2023



# What are the community engagement requirements?

	Inform	Consult	Involve	Collaborate	Participatory Governance
Public Participation Goal	To provide the public with balance and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.	To work directly with the public to ensure that public concerns are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and identification of preferred solution.	To place final decision making in the hands of the public.
Promise to the Public	We will keep you informed.	We will provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns are reflected in the outcome.	We will look to you for advice on solutions and incorporate your advice.	We will implement what you decide.

For more information, visit our website and [sign up](#) for ECRGenius #3: Engagement, Equity & Reuse Webinar - Tuesday August 8, 2023

# What are Community Benefit Commitments?

- Expanded economic opportunity
- Stabilized communities
- Increased mobility and connectivity
- Healthier and safer communities
- Environmental justice
  
- **Community-wide Assessment** select a minimum of **one**
- **Site-specific Investigation** select a minimum of **two**
- **Site-specific Cleanup** under \$5 million select a minimum of **two**
- **Site-specific Cleanup** \$5 million or more select a minimum of **three**

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## What is a CERCLA liability defense?

- **Site-specific Investigation** or **Site-specific Cleanup**, applicants are not liable for any releases of hazardous substances at the site under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA or federal Superfund law)
- The demonstration that a party is not responsible for the contamination as defined under CERCLA is referred to as establishing a “CERCLA liability defense”

For more information, visit our website and [sign up](#) for ECRGenius #2: Round 2 Eligibility, Ownership & Access Webinar - Tuesday August 1, 2023

# When is a CERCLA liability defense required?

	Site-specific Investigation	Site-specific Cleanup
Applicant is Owner <sup>1</sup>	CERCLA Liability Defense <b>REQUIRED</b> (See supplemental information for Question I)	CERCLA Liability Defense <b>REQUIRED</b> (See supplemental information for Question I)
Applicant is Not Owner	Purchase Information or Owner Attestation Letter is Required (CERCLA Liability Defense <b>NOT REQUIRED</b> )	CERCLA Liability Defense <b>REQUIRED FOR OWNER</b> (See supplemental information for Question I)

<sup>1</sup> Tribes are exempt from the requirement to demonstrate a CERCLA Liability Defense for sites they own.

## How are equity principles incorporated?

- Sites planned for housing, schools, clinics, or day care centers, must consider a cleanup approach that does not require land use covenants, deed restrictions, and/or operation and maintenance as part of the final remedy
- Strong focus on the essential need for the proposed or planned reuse and value provided to the community
- Reuses that have the potential to cause pollution are ineligible
- Using [Spectrum of Public Participation](#) to assess the level of engagement
- Community benefit commitments are better defined and required
- Special considerations for tribes



# What are the special considerations for tribes?

- Reuses are eligible regardless of the CES score
- Applications assigned 100 points in lieu of a score based on CES
- Tribal monitoring, incorporation of indigenous knowledge (IK), incorporation of tribal ecological knowledge (TEK), and engagement are eligible tasks
- An applicant may apply on behalf of a tribe if the reuse is for the sole benefit of the tribe with a written agreement/letter of support
- Not required to demonstrate a CERCLA liability defense for sites owned\*
- May serve as an environmental regulatory oversight agency upon consultation with DTSC to ensure compliance with requirements

Tribes are unique and we recognize that they have specific circumstances.

We would like to listen, learn, and offer broad flexibility to accommodate tribes where possible

# What is the ECRG schedule?

**ROUND 2 GUIDE TO THE  
EQUITABLE COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION GRANT**  
~ \$85 Million Available Now for Environmental Investigation and  
Cleanup in Disadvantaged California Communities

**1. ECRG's MISSION & VISION**  
The ECRG is a historic investment in California's vulnerable and disadvantaged communities to address historic environmental injustices and set a path to improve public health and revitalize brownfields.  
ECRG's mission is to EnCouRaGe beneficial reuse of land through assessment, investigation, and cleanup and to advance environmental justice goals through concerted support and deep investment in vulnerable and underserved communities.  
ECRG's vision is to transform brownfields into vibrant community spaces where people live, work, play, and learn in harmony with their built environment.

**2023**  
\$70.5M granted

**2023**  
~\$85M available

**2024**  
~\$100M available

Available funds are estimates and are subject to change.

**2. ELIGIBILITY**  
Public entities, nonprofits, and tribes are eligible to apply to conduct environmental assessment, investigation and cleanup in California's most disadvantaged areas. We highly recommend using the Eligibility Self Check Tool found on the New Applicant Resources page of our website: [www.dtsc.ca.gov/ecrg/](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/ecrg/)

**EXAMPLES OF ROUND 1 GRANTEEES**

GRANTEES	LOCATION	PROPOSED REUSE	AMOUNT GRANTED	GRANT TYPE
The Utility Council	Oakland	Affordable Housing	\$873,613	Investigation
San Diego State University Research Foundation	San Diego	Transportation & Education Hub	\$300,000	Community-wide Assessment
City of Lynwood	Lynwood	Commercial/Retail	\$4,874,891	Cleanup
Yurok Tribe	Klamath	Park/Open Space	\$477,250	Cleanup

**3. AVAILABILITY**  
• \$350,000: Community-wide Assessment  
• \$150,000-\$7 million: Site-specific Investigation  
• \$300,000-\$10 million: Site-specific Cleanup

**4. INFORMATION YOU WILL NEED**  
• Site address and key information such as APN, parcel info, acreage, CES score, and poverty score  
• You can find our easy to use map on our New Applicant Resources webpage at: [www.dtsc.ca.gov/ecrg/](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/ecrg/)  
• Property ownership documents and access agreement  
• Scope and schedules for 2 years of grant activities  
• Environmental oversight agreement  
• Not needed for Community-wide Assessments  
• Please check the DTSC website for specific information about eligibility requirements  
• [www.dtsc.ca.gov/ecrg/](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/ecrg/)

**5. SCHEDULE**  
• August 14, 2023 - Application Opens  
• October 9, 2023 - Application Deadline  
• January 2024 - Decisions Released  
• February 2024 - Agreements Executed

Scan for website

Sign up for our newsletter to stay informed about new information, educational webinars, and grant deadlines on our website: [www.dtsc.ca.gov/ecrg/](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/ecrg/)

**OFFICE OF BROWNFIELDS** DTSC EnCouRaGes you to apply!  
Department of Toxic Substances Control - Cleanup in Vulnerable Communities Initiative

**NEW** Round 2 Guide

Event	Date
Webinar #1: Round 2 Overview	Tuesday, July 25, 2023
Webinar #2: Eligibility, Ownership & Access	Tuesday, August 1, 2023
Webinar #3: Engagement & Reuse	Tuesday, August 8, 2023
Round 2 Guidelines and Application Released	Monday, August 14, 2023
Round 2 Application Opens	Monday, August 14, 2023
Webinar #4: FLUXX & Application Walkthrough	Tuesday, August 15, 2023
DTSC/Regional Board Oversight Applications due	Monday, September 11, 2023
Local Environmental Agency Oversight Applications (recommended latest application date)	Tuesday, September 5, 2023
Round 2 Applications Close	Monday, October 9, 2023
Applications Screening and Evaluation	Thru January 2024
Grants Awarded and Agreements Executed	Thru February 2024

# What are we looking for in ECRG Round 2 Applications?

- Preference for high CalEnviroScreen and poverty percentiles
- High-impact projects that provide community benefits
- Projects where ECRG funds are critical to move forward
- Community considerate cleanup approaches
- More Tribes
- Better geographic representation
  - Central Valley
  - Inland Empire
  - Coachella Valley
  - Far North

# How can you prepare for your ECRG application?

- Use the resources on the [ECRG website](#)
- Use the ECRG [Eligibility Self-Check Tool](#)
  - Collect the information needed for the application
  - Gather documents needed for the application
- Participate in ECRGenius [webinars](#)
- Work with our [Brownfield Technical Assistance Provider](#)
- Pro bono environmental consultants

## How can you get free assistance?

- Work with the Center for Creative Land Recycling
- [Set up an appointment](#) for:
  - Early stage ECRG project envisioning
  - Site eligibility verification
  - Discussion on ECRG application focus areas
  - Getting answers to specific questions on the ECRG
  - Building a better ECRG application
  - Application pre-submittal review



**Working with CCLR dramatically increases ECRG success**

**95% of applicants who worked with CCLR got funding in Round 1**



# How can you learn about application details?

**[ECRGenius #2](#): Round 2 Eligibility, Ownership & Access Webinar - Tuesday August 1, 2023** A demystification of the [Eligibility Self-Check Tool](#), CERCLA Liability defense, the All Appropriate Inquiry process, and site access requirements and documentation. The session will present real-life scenarios to demonstrate the application of these requirements.

**[ECRGenius #3](#): Engagement, Equity & Reuse Webinar - Tuesday August 8, 2023** A synopsis of the ECRG engagement approach, community benefit commitments, equitable reuse, and contract requirements. University of California at Berkeley's Othering and Belonging Institute is a special guest.

**[ECRGenius #4](#): FLUXX & Application Walkthrough Webinar - Tuesday August 15, 2023** A run through the major questions of the ECRG application directly on the [Fluxx application portal](#) and pointers for successful application completion.

A group of people, mostly seen from the back or side, are standing in a garden. They are wearing winter jackets and coats. In the foreground, there are rows of young green plants in a garden bed with dark soil and black plastic mulch. The background shows trees and a bright sky.

# Questions and Answers

## Question and Answer Instructions

- **Zoom Audio:** Use the “raise hand” feature and you will be invited to unmute your audio when it is your turn.
- **Zoom phone line:** Press \*9 to join the phone queue. The facilitator will say the last 4 digits of your phone number when it is your turn. Press \*6 to unmute your line.
- **Text only:** Use the Chat feature to have your question read by the facilitator.



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