

2nd California Adaptation Forum

evaluation energy forestry quality of life agriculture climate change health implementation equity monitoring biodiversity stakeholder engagement transportation advocacy water
coasts environmental justice habitat innovation governance preparedness
planning resilience



September 7-8, 2016 • Long Beach, California

REQUEST FOR SUPPORT FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

BACKGROUND AND NEED

The Local Government Commission is organizing the second biennial California Adaptation Forum, to be held in Long Beach September 7-8, 2016. This two-day forum will build off of the success of the 2014 California Adaptation Forum held in Sacramento. This gathering will stimulate and accelerate local, regional and state commitment to adapting to climate change.

One of the goals for this year's forum is to attract a more diverse audience; as such the LGC is working to raise \$20-30,000 to support 25-40 travel and registration scholarships for this event. These scholarships will assist us in accomplishing two very important goals: [1] more effectively engaging important leaders from key sectors and/or disadvantaged communities in the Forum; and [2] diversifying the Forum audience in an effort to ensure that the important conversations that occur in Long Beach this fall are open to as many of California's communities and stakeholders as possible.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FORUM

Climate change is having, and will have, more widespread impacts on California's economy and environment. In addition to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, steps must be taken to protect against climate impacts that are already occurring.

The first California Adaptation Forum, held on August 19-20, 2014 launched the statewide adaptation conversation by bringing together

800 local, regional and state leaders to form a community of action, committed to addressing California's adaptation needs.

The 2016 Forum will build on that success by engaging a diverse mix of more than 1,000 policymakers, practitioners and leaders, including elected officials, public- and private-sector leaders, nonprofits and researchers addressing public health, climate justice, energy, water, emergency management, agriculture, biodiversity conservation, and coastal management issues associated with climate change and adaptation.

The program will include more than 40 plenary and breakout sessions and showcase cutting-edge policies, innovative projects and sustainable partnerships. Participants will have the opportunity to learn with others from around the state in a forum that promotes the importance of building strong coalitions and nontraditional partnerships across disciplines to achieve success.

THE VALUE OF SCHOLARSHIPS

Because climate change touches so many sectors throughout our communities, we must engage a wide range of leaders in this event. The Local Government Commission has always had a strong commitment to enhancing participation in our events, and a strong scholarship program has been essential to the success of our initiatives.

Over the last four years, our scholarship programs have enabled more than 350 leaders from disadvantaged communities and advocates for

Visit our website for more details on the program, special events and registration!

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social equity and environmental justice from across the country to attend the LGC's national New Partners for Smart Growth Conference.

The response and feedback from scholarship recipients – as well as the rest of the attendees who felt their conference experience was better for them being there – has been overwhelmingly positive. For the 2014 California Adaptation Forum, modest scholarships from the Bay Area and San Diego enabled regional participation from 15 people. LGC heard from a number of advocates and our own team recognized, that while such support was helpful, it was not a deep enough commitment. In 2016, we are putting a stronger emphasis on equity / environmental justice issues in the program and content selection process and aim to greatly expand our support for participants who would not otherwise be able to attend.

SCHOLARSHIP STRUCTURE

The LGC is working to raise \$20-30,000 to support an estimated 25-40 scholarships for this event from various foundations and other organizations.

Our target audience for the scholarship is comprised of local elected officials and staff, NGO and private sector leaders from rural, suburban and urban communities across the, with an emphasis on engaging participation from minority and underserved communities.

Scholarship funds will be used to cover the full cost (average of \$750) of attending the conference, including conference registration fees, airfare, lodging, ground transportation and meal expenses. We expect individual awards to differ in amounts, given that travel assistance needs will vary for each recipient. A determination will be made about the level of support that can be awarded to an applicant. That amount cannot exceed actual expenses incurred.

Applicants will provide a brief, typed letter describing their organizational mission and history; their interest in attending the California Adaptation

Forum; and their expected travel costs.

TIMELINE

Currently, the LGC is actively engaged in fundraising for the overall expenses of putting on the Forum as well as for scholarships. At the same time, we are engaged in preparatory work aimed at expanding our network of partners, program development by our steering committees, and outreach coordination with all of our sponsors and cosponsors to promote the event as widely as possible.

Event registration will begin in May 2016. Scholarships will be promoted and awarded between May and September 2016.

The LGC will administer a post-conference survey of all scholarship recipients to assess our success in achieving goals and influencing their capacity to engage in this work at home.

HELP US REACH OUR GOALS

We need your help to make the 2016 California Adaptation Forum as diverse as possible. By supporting our scholarship program you can help bring leaders from around California to this important event and ensure the dialogue reflects the fullest array of voices. If you are interested in supporting our scholarship program, please contact Kif Scheuer at the Local Government Commission at kscheuer@lgc.org or 415-717-4809.



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