

2025 Notice of Funding Availability for VTA's Transit-Oriented Communities (TOC) Grant Cycle 2

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I. INVITATION AND NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY

The Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) is launching a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) to invite qualified applicants to submit proposals for programs and activities that further the development of Transit-Oriented Communities (TOCs) within Santa Clara County. VTA is making available up to \$750,000 in total to eligible applicants responding to this Notice of Funding Availability for Cycle 2 (2025) for projects and activities that are planned to commence by the end of 2026. Through this NOFA, VTA is announcing the opportunity for Local Agencies and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), as such terms are described in this NOFA, to apply for grant funding.

VTA seeks to fund Local Agencies and Community-Based Organizations implementing a diverse set of activities that enable equitable, Transit-Oriented Communities by growing transit ridership, increasing social and economic opportunities for all, and addressing regional priorities, thereby empowering residents to shape the future of their neighborhoods.

Through the Transit-Oriented Communities Grant, VTA supports partnerships between Local Agencies and Community-Based Organizations that invest in art, public spaces, and development, to make areas near transit stations and transit hubs in Santa Clara County more vibrant, walkable, bikeable, and transit-friendly.

Applications must be submitted electronically through the vta.org/TOCgrant webpage by **4:00PM PST on Monday, June 11, 2025**.

II. TOC GRANT PROGRAM VISION

A. Transit-Oriented Communities

VTA defines Transit-Oriented Communities (TOCs) as mixed-use, mixed-income equitable and sustainable communities around transit stations and transit centers to provide places for people of all generations and backgrounds to live, work, learn, shop, and play with all the necessities of daily life available within a short walk, bike ride, or transit trip.

Transit-Oriented Communities benefit the environment by reducing greenhouse gas emissions through more sustainable travel patterns that prioritize transit, walking, and biking. They also promote health and safety, support local businesses, and create vibrant neighborhoods by incorporating local art, culture, and community spaces for events. Transit-Oriented Communities have the potential to increase transit ridership, reduce displacement impacts from future growth, and enhance existing communities through improved access to choices for employment, housing, recreation, education, culture, and services.

B. VTA's Commitment to Advancing Vibrant, Equitable and Connected Communities

[VTA's Transit-Oriented Communities Policy](#) outlines how VTA implements its Transit-Oriented Community and Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) programs in furtherance of its mission. The Policy addresses how VTA will further the building of mixed-use and mixed-income equitable and sustainable Transit-Oriented Communities on designated VTA-owned property and in

surrounding communities in close collaboration with Local Agencies and their stakeholders through public-private and public-public partnerships. The Policy also advances regional goals, including the [Metropolitan Transportation Commission's \(MTC\) Transit-Oriented Communities Policy](#).

VTA's Transit-Oriented Communities program prioritizes an equity-focused approach, ensuring historically excluded and vulnerable communities are central to and directly involved in planning and development efforts. By emphasizing equity, cultural relevance, and community empowerment, the program fosters inclusive growth to achieve stability, resilience and thriving neighborhoods for all residents.

C. Transit-Oriented Communities Grant Program Goals

VTA's Transit-Oriented Communities Grant Program advances implementation of VTA's Policy Goals through Grant Program-specific objectives, which are listed below.

- Grow innovative and robust partnerships among VTA, Local Agencies, Community-Based Organizations, and diverse stakeholders to implement equitable, Transit-Oriented Communities and remove barriers to safe, accessible, walkable, healthy, resilient, and thriving neighborhoods next to transit.
- Support plans and policies that advance Transit-Oriented Communities in Santa Clara County, including alignment with the objectives of VTA's Transit-Oriented Communities Policy and MTC's Transit-Oriented Communities Policy.
- Enhance transit ridership and active transportation modes.
- Empower Community-Based Organizations to champion projects that stabilize and strengthen affordable housing and neighborhood economic opportunity in Santa Clara County.
- Empower local communities to equitably engage and advocate for resilient, healthy and thriving neighborhoods near transit.

III. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

Applications for projects that are complete and submitted by the deadline will be accepted from applicants that meet the following requirements and conditions of eligibility. Applications must meet both eligibility requirements to apply.

A. Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants for the VTA Transit-Oriented Communities Grant Program must be Local Agencies and/or Community-Based Organizations (CBO), or organizations that have a financial partnership with a CBO.

A *Local Agency* is a public agency or other public entity, with land use authority or conducting planning activities, located within Santa Clara County. This may include local governments, special districts, school districts, and tribal nations. A minimum 15% match is required for local agencies.

A *Community-Based Organization (CBO)* is defined as non-profit organization with 501(c)(3) and

located in or has its principal place of business in Santa Clara County, or has a fiscal sponsor with such status. This may include public charities, universities, faith-based groups, cultural institutions, neighborhood associations, and environmental organizations. The organization (and fiscal sponsor, if applicable) must have at least a one-year history of providing community services in Santa Clara County. Please note that eligibility varies depending on the Transit-Oriented Community Program Area for which the application is pursuing. Program Area-specific eligibility is provided in Table 1 in Section IV of this NOFA.

B. Location Eligibility

Eligible projects must be located in Santa Clara County within one-half mile of, or along a VTA bus corridor that serves, an existing or planned VTA light rail station or transit center, or commuter rail station served by BART, Caltrain, Capitol Corridor, or ACE. A list of applicable transit stations and transit centers is provided as Appendix A. A map identifying eligible project locations is provided at www.vta.org/tocgrant.

C. Ineligible Activities and Nondiscrimination

The VTA Transit-Oriented Communities Grant is intended to support planning, engagement, and programming efforts that advance Transit-Oriented Communities in Santa Clara County. Construction activities such as new infrastructure or building construction do not qualify for VTA Transit-Oriented Communities Grant funding. Additionally, projects already receiving funding from the VTA Transit-Oriented Communities 2024 Grant Cycle are ineligible for additional funding from the VTA Transit-Oriented Communities Grant.

Applicants will not be awarded and cannot use funds for unsolicited proposals, or initiatives providing services for or on behalf of VTA. VTA accepts [unsolicited proposals](#) through VTA Contracts and Procurement.

Applicants cannot use the funds to inhibit, unlawfully discriminate, harass, or allow harassment against any person because of race, religious creed, color, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, ancestry, physical disability (including HIV and AIDS), mental disability, medical condition (including cancer), genetic information, marital status, age (over 40), sexual orientation, or military and veteran status, or promote a religion or religious activities.

IV. GRANT PROGRAM FUNDING AVAILABILITY

A. Transit-Oriented Communities Program Areas

VTA's Transit-Oriented Communities Grant funds a diverse set of activities that enable the vision of equitable and sustainable Transit-Oriented Communities around transit stations and transit centers in Santa Clara County. Grant funding is available for local non-profits, communities, and Local Agencies for efforts that align with the following Transit-Oriented Communities Program Areas. **Applicants may only apply for one Program Area.**

Eligibility requirements, maximum grant size, and grant term (duration) for each Transit-Oriented Community Program Area are noted below in **Table 1**.

Table 1: Transit-Oriented Communities Grant Program Overview

	Program Area A: Planning and Policy Implementation	Program Area B: Community Resilience	Program Area C: Education & Engagement	Program Area D: Placekeeping, Arts, & Activation
Eligible Applicants	Local Agencies	Community-Based Organizations	Local Agencies and/or Community-Based Organizations	Local Agencies and/or Community-Based Organizations
Maximum Grant Size	\$150,000	\$100,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
Grant Term	2 to 5 years	2 to 5 years	1 to 2 years	1 to 2 years

Program A. Planning and Policy Implementation

The Program Area is intended to help Local Agencies prepare and adopt long-range plans, policies, standards and codes to achieve three key goals: (1) focus Santa Clara County's future growth so it is equitable, sustainable, and within one-half mile of transit stations and centers; (2) align with VTA's and MTC's Transit-Oriented Communities policies, and (3) integrate art and/or equitable engagement policies and programs into existing and upcoming planning efforts. These funds can complement grant matching.

Eligible activities include, but are not limited to:

- Advancing station area plans and processes;
- Transit access planning and access gap evaluation;
- Aligning local code and policies with MTC's Transit-Oriented Communities Policy; and
- Developing and integrating municipal art programs and/or equitable engagement programs into existing or ongoing station area plans, as well as land use and zoning policies surrounding Caltrain, VTA transit stations and transit hubs.

Program B. Community Resilience

The Program Area is intended to support Community-Based Organizations in three key areas: (1) increasing the stability and resilience of communities located near transit, (2) promoting and playing larger roles in implementing vibrant, inclusive and balanced, equitable Transit-Oriented Communities, and (3) strengthening emerging community development partners to advance affordable housing initiatives and small business resiliency.

Examples of eligible activities include, but are not limited to:

- Providing technical assistance, such as funding for pre-acquisition consulting costs

- Specialized support to new and smaller organizations to expand capacity to develop new affordable housing, and/or acquire, rehabilitate existing unsubsidized affordable housing;
- Facilitating partnerships between transit agencies, local governments and community members to align development with Transit-Oriented Communities objectives; and
- Supporting and sustaining small businesses that contribute toward community identity and economic growth.

Program C. Education and Engagement

This Program Area is intended to support neighborhood leadership and equitable engagement in Transit-Oriented Communities by providing accessible information and resources that empower community members to actively shape equitable and well-connected Transit-Oriented Communities. It also seeks to highlight transit as an essential service within thriving Transit-Oriented Communities by focusing on the benefits of and highlighting community voices, local success stories, and promoting inclusion of all community members.

Examples of eligible activities include, but are not limited to:

- Conducting public awareness campaigns (e.g., education initiatives on TOC policies to enhance understanding and involvement, promoting transit through creative outreach efforts such as scavenger hunts, geocaching, travel passports);
- Transit-focused educational activities (e.g., transit-to-school/work campaigns);
- Equity-focused initiatives to accommodate community participation (e.g., translations/interpretation services, *promotoras*, food, childcare); and
- Providing housing access/readiness support (e.g., housing and homeowner application readiness workshops).

Program D. Placekeeping, Arts, and Activation

The Program Area is intended to enhance the transit rider and overall community experience through vibrant and engaging public spaces that utilize arts and cultural expression or community beautification. The goal is to foster a sense of community, encourage interaction across generations and backgrounds, and promote placekeeping which preserves local culture, history, or value, and position transit stations and transit hubs as safe, accessible, attractive cultural destinations. Projects will result in enlivening access in and around transit stations with a focus on pedestrian comfort and experience to enhance the transit passenger environment.

Examples of eligible activities include, but are not limited to:

- Arts and culture projects that enhance transit connectivity and community culture/identity (e.g., neighborhood murals and public art created by community members and art-based community activations);
- Universal and inclusive design, accessible, image-based, color-based wayfinding that works for residents of all ages, abilities, and languages;

- Cultural and community celebrations that reinforce existing community and drive increased and sustained transit use (e.g., outdoor activities that are viewable from the street and publicly accessible, such as street festivals, performances, experiential art exhibits, food and maker pop-ups).

For art installations, projects must be clearly viewable from the street, public space and/or transit station/center.

V. TRANSIT-ORIENTED COMMUNITIES GRANT PROGRAM SCHEDULE AND APPLICATION PROCESS

The following is a preliminary schedule of the anticipated dates for key activities and milestones in the Transit-Oriented Communities Grant process, and is intended to provide an estimated timeline for applicants. Applicants should refer to the schedule posted on the vta.org/TOCgrant webpage.

<u>Release Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA)</u>	<u>May 5, 2025</u>
<i>Pre-Application Workshops</i>	<i>Mid- to Late May 2025</i>
<i>Deadline for Submission of Questions</i>	<i>June 2, 2025</i>
<u>Deadline for Applications</u>	<u>4:00 PM on June 11, 2025</u>
<i>Publish Award Recommendations</i>	<i>Late July 2025</i>
<i>Appeal Submittal Deadline</i>	<i>Late July 2025</i>
<u>Notification of Awards</u>	<u>September 2025</u>

The application window is open from **May 5, 2025** until **June 11, 2025**. Applications must be submitted electronically through the vta.org/TOCgrant webpage by **4:00PM PST on Wednesday, June 11, 2025**. Program Area-specific application guides are provided in Appendix B.

If digital submission is absolutely not possible, VTA will accept hard copies of Applications that are received by mail or dropped off at VTA Headquarters by the Application deadline. Applications should be addressed to:

VTA's Transit-Oriented Communities Grant Program
Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority
3331 North First Street, Bldg. A
San José, CA 95134

A. Pre-Application Workshops

VTA will host five Pre-Application Workshops. All applicants are required to attend *one* Pre-application Workshop, but are welcome to attend more if desired. At the workshop, VTA staff will review the Transit-Oriented Communities Grant guidelines, timing, and application process, provide clarification of grant expectations including a review of elements of successful and unsuccessful applications from the previous grant cycle, and include a live Q&A.

Pre-Application Workshops will be held for both in-person and virtual attendees. Registration is required for all events. Please visit vta.org/TOCgrant to register and find more event details.

Recordings of the virtual Pre-Application Workshops will be available online on VTA's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/SCVTA>.

In-Person Pre-Application Workshops:

- **Tuesday, May 13, 2025**
 - Time: 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. PST
 - Register: [TOC-Grant-May-13.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com/TOC-Grant-May-13)
 - Location:
 - Roosevelt Community Center
 - 901 E Santa Clara Street
 - San Jose, CA 95116
- **Thursday, May 22, 2025**
 - Time: 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. PST
 - Register: [TOC-Grant-May-22.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com/TOC-Grant-May-22)
 - Location:
 - Morgan Hill Community and Cultural Center
 - 17000 Monterey Road
 - Morgan Hill, CA 95037

Virtual Pre-Application Workshops:

- **Thursday, May 15, 2025**
 - Time: 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. PST
 - Register: [TOC-Grant-May-15.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com/TOC-Grant-May-15)
 - Location: Online Zoom meeting
zoom.us/join
Webinar ID: 891 5290 6044
Passcode: 143522
1-669-900-9128
- **Tuesday, May 20, 2025**
 - Time: 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. PST
 - Register: [TOC-Grant-May-20.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com/TOC-Grant-May-20)
 - Location: Online Zoom meeting
zoom.us/join
Webinar ID: 859 7050 0896
Passcode: 890485
1-669-900-9128
- **Thursday May 29, 2025**
 - Time: 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. PST
 - Register: [TOC-Grant-May-29.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com/TOC-Grant-May-29)
 - Location: Online Zoom meeting
zoom.us/join
Webinar ID: 875 2313 5691
Passcode: 515816
1-669-900-9128

B. Application Assistance

VTA will accept written questions regarding the Application through 4:00 PM PST on Monday, **June 2, 2025**, and will provide a response to all applicants by Friday, **June 6, 2025**. Questions may be submitted to VTA at TOCGrant@vta.org, or through the vta.org/TOCgrant webpage. VTA will answer questions regarding the Application requirements and will be making all questions and answers public for all applicants. All Q&A will be posted online at vta.org/TOCgrant.

C. Application Review And Selection Process

VTA's Transit-Oriented Communities Program staff will review all applications to ensure they meet eligibility requirements and are complete. Applications that pass initial review will be evaluated by

an Evaluation Panel, which will score them based on the submitted application and related materials.

The Evaluation Panel will be comprised of multidisciplinary VTA staff and one community member. The Evaluation Panel will use the evaluation criteria noted on the application to review and score applications, resulting in an initial selection of awards. Based on the comparative strength of applications in each Program Area, or in the event that more than one applicant receives the same score, the Evaluation Panel scoring the applications maintains the right to recommend applications for grant selection in its discretion. VTA will contact applicants identified for initial selection VTA **in late July**. Following the appeals process, the Evaluation Panel will select the final grantees.

D. Selection Notice, Grant Agreement and Appeals

The notification of initial selection will be posted on the VTA Transit-Oriented Communities Grant Program website at vta.org/TOCgrant. All applicants will be notified by email. Selected applicants will receive a Notice of Intent to Fund, outlining the need to enter into a Grant Agreement specifying the terms and reporting obligations. Two grantee agreement templates, the VTA-Community-Based Organization Sample Grant Agreement and the VTA-Local Agency Sample Grant Agreement, are available for download at vta.org/TOCgrant. Selected grantees must agree to the terms and execute the appropriate grant agreement with VTA as a condition of the grant.

Applicants who would like to appeal the grantee selection can do so by emailing Jessie O'Malley Solis at jessie.o'malleysolis@vta.org. Appeals may be filed only on the basis of one or more of the following circumstances:

- Accessibility, and/or clarity of application requirements affecting a submitted application;
- Conflict of interest;
- Restrictive or discriminatory specifications.

Appeals will not be considered if they are based on the following circumstances:

- Unfounded complaints (e.g., personal attacks, conjecture);
- Disagreements about the merits of the application;
- Correcting applicant errors and omissions in the application. All application materials considered had to be submitted by the application deadline;
- Events and/or organization developments that occurred after the application deadline.

Appeal letters must be received within 7 calendar days after the announcement of initial selection. VTA will respond to all appeals within five business days following the close of the appeals process. Further appeals beyond this point will not be accepted.

VI. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

A. Additional Information

For more information on VTA's Transit-Oriented Communities work to date and VTA's Transit-Oriented Communities Policy, visit VTA's Transit-Oriented Communities website at <https://www.vta.org/transitorientedcommunities>.

For questions regarding VTA's Transit-Oriented Communities Program, please email TOCGrant@vta.org.

For translation services and other accommodations, please contact VTA Community Outreach at (408) 321-7575/TTY (408) 321-2330 or email community.outreach@vta.org.

B. Appendices

This Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA), including the following documents are available online at vta.org/TOCgrant to help guide applicants through the application process, and inform them of anticipated requirements for selected grantees.

Appendix A: VTA Transit-Oriented Communities Eligible Transit Stations and Transit Centers

A list of existing and planned VTA, Caltrain, BART, and ACE transit stations and transit centers in Santa Clara County. Eligible geographies include a half-mile mile radius around the listed stations. A map of eligible geographies is also available on the www.vta.org/tocgrant webpage, where a [TOC Grant Eligibility Tool](#) is provided.

Appendix B: VTA Transit-Oriented Communities Grant Cycle 2 - Application Guide

The Application Guide consists of templates that preview the online application for each Program Area. The templates specify the required applicant information and explain the evaluation criteria for each section. Downloadable Microsoft Word versions are also provided.

***2025 Notice of Funding Availability for VTA's
Transit-Oriented Communities (TOC) Grant Cycle 2
Appendix A: VTA Transit-Oriented Communities
Eligible Transit Stations and Transit Centers***

VTA Transit-Oriented Communities Eligible Transit Stations & Transit Centers

Transit Centers	
Berryessa / North San José Transit Center (At Berryessa/North San José BART Station)	Mountain View Transit Center (At Mountain View Caltrain Station)
Alum Rock Transit Center (At Alum Rock Light Rail Station)	Palo Alto Transit Center (At Palo Alto Caltrain Station)
Diridon Transit Center (At San Jose Diridon Caltrain Center)	Santa Clara Transit Center (At Santa Clara Caltrain Station)
Eastridge Transit Center	Sunnyvale Transit Center (At Sunnyvale Caltrain Station)
Gilroy Transit Center (At Gilroy Caltrain Station)	West Valley College Transit Center
Milpitas Transit Center (At Milpitas BART Station)	Winchester Transit Center (At Winchester Light Rail Station)
ACE	
Great America Station	Santa Clara Station
BART	
28th Street/Little Portugal BART Station (Planned)	Downtown San José BART Station (Planned)
Berryessa / North San José BART Station	Milpitas BART Station
Diridon BART Station (Planned)	Santa Clara BART Station (Planned)
Caltrain	
Blossom Hill Caltrain Station	San Antonio Caltrain Station
California Avenue Caltrain Station	San Jose Diridon Caltrain Station
Capitol Caltrain Station	San Martin Caltrain Station
College Park Caltrain Station	Santa Clara Caltrain Station
Gilroy Caltrain Station	South San Antonio Caltrain Station
Lawrence Caltrain Station	Sunnyvale Caltrain Station
Morgan Hill Caltrain Station	Tamien Caltrain Station
Palo Alto Caltrain Station	
VTA Light Rail	
Alder Station	Japantown/Ayer Station
Alum Rock Station	Karina Station
Bascom Station	Lick Mill Station
Baypointe Station	Lockheed Martin Station
Bayshore/NASA Station	Mckee Station
Berryessa Station	Metro Station
Blossom Hill Station	Middlefield Station
Bonaventura Station	Moffett Park Station
Borregas Station	Montague Station
Branham Station	Mountain View Station
Campbell Station	Ohlone-Chynoweth Station
Capitol Station	Old Ironside Station
Champion Station	Orchard Station
Childrens Discovery Museum Station	Penitencia Creek Station
Cisco Station	Race Station
Civic Center Station	Reamwood Station
Component Station	River Oaks Station
Convention Center Station	San Antonio Station
Cottle Station	San Fernando Station
Cropley Station	Santa Clara Station
Crossman Station	Santa Teresa Station
Curtner Station	Snell Station
Diridon Station (At Diridon Caltrain Station)	Saint James Station
Eastridge Station (Planned)	Story Station (Planned)
Fair Oaks Station	Tamien Station (At Tamien Caltrain Station)
Fruitdale Station	Tasman Station
Gish Station	Vienna Station
Great America Station	Virginia Station
Great Mall Station	Whisman Station
Hamilton Station	Winchester Station
Hostetter Station	

***2025 Notice of Funding Availability for VTA's
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Appendix B: Application Guide***

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Overview

The Application Guide consists of templates that preview the online application for each Program Area. The templates specify the required applicant information and explain the evaluation criteria for each section.

Application Instructions

Steps to Apply for this Grant.

1. This document serves as an application guide to inform how each section of the application will be evaluated and scored.
2. Download the [Microsoft Word fillable Application Worksheet](#). Complete the fields in the Worksheet, using this Application Guide document as your reference guide.
3. Copy and paste your responses from the Application Worksheet document into the online application form. The application is available at: www.vta.org/tocgrant.
4. Submit the online application. You'll automatically receive a confirmation email.
5. Email any application attachments to tocgrant@vta.org. Use the subject line: [Your Organization Name]- 2025 VTA TOC Grant – [Program Area]."

Program A: Planning and Policy Implementation

	Application Section	Evaluation
Q#	Section 1: Applicant Information	
1	Local Agency Name	Applicant Eligibility Requirement
2	Agency Address	For information – not evaluation
3	Agency Website (optional)	
4	Applicant Point of Contact (First Name, Last Name)	
5	Applicant Contact Email	
6	Applicant Phone (optional)	
7	Has your agency engaged or collaborated with VTA departments in the last 12 months? If so, please describe.	

Q#	Section 2: Project Information	
8	Project Name <i>Please share the name of your project. It should be descriptive and succinct.</i>	For information – not evaluation
9	Brief Project Description <i>Please provide a brief paragraph describing your project.</i> <i>(Please limit your description to 80 words or fewer)</i>	
10	Project Location/Address <i>(Street address, City, Zip Code)</i> <i>Note: Project location must be within ½ mile of VTA transit facility or transit center.</i>	Confirm geographic eligibility
11	Transit-Oriented Communities (TOC) Station/Transit Center <i>Please select the eligible station/transit center from the drop-down menu: (You may also use the TOC VTA Grant Eligibility Map to confirm which eligible geography your project falls within)</i>	
12	Project Type <i>Select one or more of the following eligible project types that best describe your Project:</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Station area planning <input type="checkbox"/> Transit access planning and/or access gap evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> Code & policy alignment with MTC's TOC Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Municipal art program to support station area plan or land use/zoning policy updates <input type="checkbox"/> Equitable engagement plan to support station area plan or land use/zoning policy update <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please describe)	Confirm eligible activity
13	Project Narrative <i>Please describe how your proposed project or program demonstrates alignment with the TOC Grant Program Goals as described in Section II.C of the Notice of Funding Availability.</i> <i>(Please limit your narrative to 500 words or fewer)</i>	Confirm alignment with TOC Grant Program Goals
14	Grant Amount Request <i>Note: maximum request is \$150,000</i>	
15	Match <i>Please provide committed or anticipated \$ amount</i> <i>Note: 15% match requirement for Local Agencies (in-kind services allowed)</i>	Applicant Match Requirement

Q#	Section 3: Administrative Elements	
	<i>Administrative elements criteria are intended for evaluation of project readiness and capacity for implementation</i>	
16	Anticipated Project Start Date <i>Project must commence within 1 year of anticipated award</i>	Confirm project eligibility
17	Anticipated Project End Date <i>Project must be completed within 5 years of project start date</i>	
18	Project Schedule <i>Please include a proposed project schedule that outlines how grant funding will achieve certain milestones, and a description of each milestone.</i>	<p><u>For Evaluation</u> – Maximum (2) points would be awarded for an application that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A complete and detailed schedule that includes milestones of various key activities; <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A realistic timeline.
19	Proposed Budget <i>Please include a project budget with the total project cost that outlines administrative costs, and any other costs required for project implementation. Please note whether additional funding will be pursued for this project, and which other sources of funding have been identified as well as status of such funding sources.</i>	<p><u>For Evaluation</u> – Maximum (2) points would be awarded for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A complete and detailed budget with realistic estimates for various cost elements, including staff/volunteer time; <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A realistic ability to complete grant activities within requested grant amount; <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The budget clearly identifies anticipated additional funding sources, and provides adequate information to instill confidence in ability to secure the funding match necessary for project delivery.
20	Partnerships Statement (Optional) <i>Please include a statement below that identifies strategic partnerships necessary for the implementation of the project, and if contact has already been made.</i> <i>Letter of support from partner may be ‘attached’ via email following submission of the application</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Check this box to indicate that you would like to submit a letter of support	<p><u>For Evaluation</u> – Maximum (1) point would be awarded for applications that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a statement identifying partnership with other agencies (County, MTC, Caltrans, Valley Water, etc.), communities (i.e., support from CBOs or neighborhood associations), or private entities (if partnering with corporations or developers).

Q#	Section 4: TOC Elements	
21	<p>Community Being Served Please identify & describe the demographic profile of the community that your project will serve. Include information about any historical or existing barriers to equity members of this community have experienced.</p> <p>Optional: Please note whether your project is located within an MTC Equity Priority Community. MTC Equity Priority Communities are identified in light red in the TOC VTA Grant Eligibility Map.</p> <p>(Please keep your response to 200 words or fewer)</p>	<p><u>For Evaluation</u> – Maximum (2) points would be awarded for an application that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies and describes demographic elements of a disadvantaged or historically excluded, or underserved community that the project would serve; <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clearly identifies and explains the root cause of the barriers historically faced by that community.
22	<p>Equity-Focused Activities & Outcomes Please explain how your project will address historical or existing barriers to equity. Include how the project will incorporate equitable processes and outcomes for members of the community.</p> <p>(Please keep your response to 200 words or fewer)</p>	<p><u>For Evaluation</u> – Maximum (3) points would be awarded for application that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clearly describes equitable processes & anticipated equitable outcomes of the project/program.
23	<p>Transit-focused activities/incentives Please select which, if any, of the following activities you expect to incorporate in the development/implementation of your project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Develop transit trip planning for employees, volunteers, event patrons <input type="checkbox"/> Incentivize active transportation, such as walking, bicycling, wheeling, and/or transit use to attend grant activities <input type="checkbox"/> Develop marketing strategy that emphasizes taking VTA transit to grantee activities/events <input type="checkbox"/> Provide opportunity for VTA tabling at an activity for transit-related education <input type="checkbox"/> Purchase transit passes (i.e., Clipper Card, VTA SmartPass) for employees and/or program participants <input type="checkbox"/> Develop special signage to direct patrons to transit at grant activity locations <input type="checkbox"/> Collect transit stories and testimonials from grantee employees, volunteers, patrons – about how they got to the activities, work, etc. <input type="checkbox"/> Incorporate transit usage into surveys or other public engagement tools (i.e., collect data on transportation choices) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please describe) 	<p><u>For Evaluation</u> – Maximum (3) points would be awarded for application that identifies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least two (2) activities/incentives that encourage transit use among organization's staff, volunteers, and project/program participants; <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least one (1) strategy for surveying transit and transportation choices among constituents/stakeholders, and/or measuring growth/change in transit use throughout the project timeline.
24	<p>Transit Ridership Please describe how your project will result in increased transit use. Specify the transit services (i.e., bus or light-rail lines) expected to see additional ridership, and how your project will increase the community's use of these services.</p> <p>For example: how will this project raise the profile of the station as a transit hub in your station area? How will this project address barriers to current transit use? How will your project support transit-dependent populations, or reduce dependency on private autos?</p> <p>For more information on transit services in your project area, please reference the Ridership by Stop SCVTA Open Data Site.</p> <p>(Please keep your response to 200 words or fewer)</p>	<p><u>For Evaluation</u> – Maximum (2) points would be awarded for application that clearly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies the transit services anticipated to be positively impacted by project activities and/or project outcomes; <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describes the connection between project activities/outcomes and long-term increases in transit use.

Q#	Section 5: Planning & Policy	
25	<p>Alignment with Regional Policy Please describe how the project advances alignment with the MTC Transit-Oriented Communities Policy, or is tied to an effort that supports alignment with the MTC Transit-Oriented Communities Policy.</p> <p>For more information on MTC's Transit-Oriented Communities Policy, visit: https://mtc.ca.gov/planning/land-use/transit-oriented-communities-toc-policy.</p> <p>(Please keep your response to 500 words or fewer)</p>	<p><i>For Evaluation</i> – Maximum (4) points would be awarded for applications that include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Station area planning or land use policy updates that will result in increased share of Santa Clara County's future growth within ½ mile of transit stations; <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activities that specifically target alignment with MTC TOC Policy.
26	<p>Advancement of Transit-Oriented Development Please describe how the project will directly benefit TOD sites around transit stations, including VTA-owned sites.</p> <p>For more information on VTA's TOD Portfolio sites, visit: https://www.vta.org/programs/toc/transit-oriented-development/projects-portfolio</p> <p>(Please keep your response to 500 words or fewer)</p>	<p><i>For Evaluation</i> – Maximum (3) points would be awarded for applications that include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zoning and/or policy updates that facilitate entitlement of mixed-use, mixed-income development around transit stations and transit hubs; <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activities resulting in benefits to VTA TOD Portfolio sites or projects.
27	<p>Alignment with VTA TOC Grant Program Goals Please describe how the project includes activities that support placekeeping and public life, and/or advances other VTA Transit-Oriented Communities Grant Program Goals as stated in Section II C of the NOFA.</p> <p>VTA's TOC Policy is available here: https://www.vta.org/programs/toc/policy</p> <p>(Please keep your response to 500 words or fewer)</p>	<p><i>For Evaluation</i> – Maximum (3) points would be awarded for applications that include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activities that support placekeeping and public life around transit, such as incorporation of municipal art programs into station area plans or other policies affecting areas within ½ mile of a station; <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activities that formally incorporate equitable engagement as part of institutional processes for station area planning and/or other planning activities; <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rezoning activities to facilitate production of workforce housing or affordable housing on publicly owned property within ½ mile of transit stations or transit hubs.

Q#	Attachments	
28	<p>Attachments Please list any documents that you intend to submit as attachments to this application. Application attachments must be submitted via email to tocgrant@vta.org no later than the application deadline at 4:00 PM on Wednesday, June 11, 2025.</p> <p>Use the subject line: [Your Organization Name]- 2025 VTA TOC Grant – Program A."</p>	

Summary of Scoring

Complete applications that satisfy the eligibility requirements will be scored using the criteria provided, as applicable. Maximum points for each criterion are noted. Scores are calculated as a percentage of points attained out of the total points possible for each criterion. Please note that points will be rounded to the nearest ¼ point. In all cases, points will be awarded the extent to which criteria are met. A minimum number of points is required for each category, as noted in the table below. Applications that do not meet minimum score will not be selected for funding.

Evaluation Criteria/Section	Available Points	Percent of Total	Minimum Acceptable Score
Administrative	5 points	(20% of total)	2/5
- <i>Organization (timeline)</i>	2 points	(8%)	
- <i>Budget</i>	2 points	(8%)	
- <i>Partnerships</i>	1 point	(4%)	
TOC Elements	10 points	(40% of total)	4/10
- <i>Community Being Served</i>	2 points	(8%)	2/5
- <i>Equity-Focused Activities & Outcomes</i>	3 points	(12%)	
- <i>Transit-focused activities/incentives</i>	3 points	(12%)	2/5
- <i>Transit Ridership</i>	2 points	(8%)	
Program A: Planning & Policy	10 points	(40% of total)	4/10
- <i>Alignment with Regional Policy</i>	4 points	(16%)	
- <i>Advancement of TOD</i>	3 points	(12%)	
- <i>Alignment with VTA TOC Grant Goals</i>	3 points	(12%)	
Total	25 points	100%	10/25 points

Program B: Community Resilience

	Application Section	Evaluation
Q#	Section 1: Applicant Information	
1	Organization Name <i>Organization title needs to match your federal tax ID number for verification purposes. If your organization is Doing Business As (DBA) under a different name, please also note this clearly</i>	For information – not evaluation
2	Organization Address	
3	Organization Website (optional)	
4	Applicant Point of Contact (First Name, Last Name)	
5	Applicant Contact Email	
6	Applicant Phone (optional)	
7	Organization Description/Mission Statement (optional) <i>(Limit to 80 words)</i>	
8	Years serving Santa Clara County <i>Applicants must be serving Santa Clara County for a minimum of one year</i>	Applicant Eligibility Requirement
9	Has your organization engaged or collaborated with VTA departments in the last 12 months? If so, please describe.	For information – not evaluation
10	Grant Amount Request <i>Note: maximum request is \$100,000</i>	
11	Additional Funding Sources <i>Please identify any additional grant funding sources and amounts, as applicable, that your organization intends to use for the delivery of this project. Please be sure to include information about additional funding sources as part of the budget (Question 23)</i>	
12	Please identify whether your organization has 501(c)3 Non-Profit status, or is using a 501(c)3 Fiscal Sponsor A. My organization is a 501(c)3 non-profit B. My organization is partnering with a 501(c)3 non-profit fiscal sponsor	Applicant Eligibility Requirement → A. continue to Question #13 → B. continue to Question #13.1
13	501(c)3 Status <i>Please provide the Federal EIN for your organization</i>	Applicant Eligibility Requirement → Continue to Question #14
13.1	Please identify the 501(c)3 Non-Profit Fiscal Sponsor with whom your organization is partnering <i>Organization title needs to match the federal tax ID number for verification purposes. If the organization is Doing Business As (DBA) under a different name, please also note this clearly</i>	For information – not evaluation
13.2	501(c)3 Status of Fiscal Sponsor <i>Please provide the Federal EIN for your Fiscal Sponsor</i>	Applicant Eligibility Requirement

Q#	Section 2: Project Information	
14	Project Name <i>Please share the name of your project. It should be descriptive and succinct.</i>	For information – not evaluation
15	Brief Project Description <i>Please provide a brief paragraph describing your project.</i> <i>(Please keep your response to 80 words or fewer)</i>	
16	Project Location/Address <i>(Street address, City, Zip Code)</i> <i>Note: Project location must be within ½ mile of VTA transit facility or transit center.</i>	Confirm geographic eligibility
17	Transit Oriented Communities (TOC) Station/Transit Center <i>Please select the eligible station/transit center from the drop-down menu: (You may also use the TOC VTA Grant Eligibility Map to confirm which eligible geography your project falls within)</i>	
18	Project Type <i>Select one or more of the following eligible project types that best describe your Project:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Technical Assistance and/or capacity building for aspiring or emerging community development corporations <input type="checkbox"/> Rehabilitation or preservation of existing unsubsidized affordable housing <input type="checkbox"/> Implementation of housing preservation pilot project <input type="checkbox"/> Small business preservation and support <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please describe) 	Confirm eligible activity
19	Project Narrative <i>Please briefly summarize your proposed project or program and the positive impact it will have. Include how it demonstrates alignment with the TOC Grant Program Goals as described in Section II.C of the Notice of Funding Availability.</i> <i>(Please keep your response to 500 words or fewer)</i>	For Information – not evaluation

Q#	Section 3: Administrative Elements	
Administrative elements criteria are intended for evaluation of project readiness and capacity for implementation		
20	Anticipated Project Start Date <i>Project must commence within 1 year of anticipated award</i>	Confirm project eligibility
21	Anticipated Project End Date <i>Project must be completed within 5 years of project start date.</i>	
22	Project Schedule <i>Please include a project schedule that outlines how grant funding will achieve certain milestones, and a description of each milestone.</i>	<u>For Evaluation</u> – Maximum (2) points would be awarded for an application that includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A complete and detailed schedule that includes milestones of various key activities; AND <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A realistic timeline.
23	Proposed Budget <i>Please include a project budget with the total project cost that outlines administrative costs, and any other costs required for project implementation. Please note whether additional funding will be pursued for this project, and which other sources of funding have been identified as well as status of such funding sources.</i>	<u>For Evaluation</u> – Maximum (2) points would be awarded for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A complete and detailed budget with realistic estimates for various cost elements, including staff/volunteer time; AND <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A realistic ability to complete grant activities within requested grant amount; OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The budget clearly identifies anticipated additional funding sources, and provides adequate information to instill confidence in ability to secure the funding match necessary for project delivery.
24	Partnerships Statement (Optional) <i>Please include a statement below that identifies strategic partnerships necessary for the implementation of the project, and if contact has already been made.</i> <i>Letter of support from partner may be ‘attached’ via email following submission of the application</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Check this box to indicate that you would like to submit a letter of support	<u>For Evaluation</u> – Maximum (1) point would be awarded for applications that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a statement identifying partnership with other agencies (County, MTC, Caltrans, Valley Water, etc.), communities (i.e., support from CBOs or neighborhood associations), or private entities (if partnering with corporations or developers).

Q#	Section 4: TOC Elements	
25	<p>Community Being Served Please identify & describe the demographic profile of the community that your project will serve. Include information about any historical or existing barriers to equity members of this community have experienced.</p> <p>Optional: Please note whether your project is located within an MTC Equity Priority Community. MTC Equity Priority Communities are identified in light red in the VTA TOC Grant Eligibility Map.</p> <p>(Please keep your response to 200 words or fewer)</p>	<p><u>For Evaluation</u> – Maximum (2) points would be awarded for an application that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies and describes demographic elements of a disadvantaged or historically excluded, or underserved community that the project would serve; <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clearly identifies and explains the root cause of the barriers historically faced by that community.
26	<p>Equity-Focused Activities & Outcomes Please explain how your project will address historical or existing barriers to equity. Include how the project will incorporate equitable processes and outcomes for members of the community.</p> <p>(Please keep your response to 200 words or fewer)</p>	<p><u>For Evaluation</u> – Maximum (3) points would be awarded for application that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clearly describes equitable processes & anticipated equitable outcomes of the project/program.
27	<p>Transit-focused Outcomes Please select which, if any, of the following activities you expect to incorporate in the development/implementation of your project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Develop transit trip planning for employees, volunteers, event patrons <input type="checkbox"/> Incentivize active transportation, such as walking, bicycling, wheeling, and/or transit use to attend grant activities <input type="checkbox"/> Develop marketing strategy that emphasizes taking VTA transit to grantee activities/events <input type="checkbox"/> Provide opportunity for VTA tabling at an activity for transit-related education <input type="checkbox"/> Purchase transit passes (i.e., Clipper Card, VTA SmartPass) for employees and/or program participants <input type="checkbox"/> Develop special signage to direct patrons to transit at grant activity locations <input type="checkbox"/> Collect transit stories and testimonials from grantee employees, volunteers, patrons – about how they got to the activities, work, etc. <input type="checkbox"/> Incorporate transit usage into surveys or other public engagement tools (i.e., collect data on transportation choices) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please describe) 	<p><u>For Evaluation</u> – Maximum (3) points would be awarded for application that identifies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least two (2) activities/incentives that encourage transit use among organization's staff, volunteers, and project/program participants; <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least one (1) strategy for surveying transit and transportation choices among constituents/stakeholders, and/or measuring growth/change in transit use throughout the project timeline.
28	<p>Transit Ridership Please describe how your project will result in increased transit use. Specify the transit services (i.e., bus or light-rail lines) expected to see additional ridership, and how your project will increase the community's use of these services.</p> <p>For example: how will this project raise the profile of the station as transit hub in your station area? How will this project address barriers to current transit use? How will your project support transit-dependent populations, or reduce dependency on private autos?</p> <p>For more information on transit services in your project area, please reference the Ridership by Stop SCVTA Open Data Site.</p> <p>(Please keep your response to 200 words or fewer)</p>	<p><u>For Evaluation</u> – Maximum (2) points would be awarded for application that clearly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies the transit services anticipated to be positively impacted by project activities and/or project outcomes; <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describes the connection between project activities/outcomes and long-term increases in transit use.

Q#	Section 5: Community Resilience	
	<p><i>Note: CBOs seeking to use technical assistance funds to bring a consultant on board must demonstrate that the consultant is qualified to carry out proposed eligible activities. Please submit a one-page consultant's resume or firm profile as an attachment via email at tocgrant@vta.org for reference.</i></p>	
29	<p>Increases Stability and Resilience <i>Please describe how grant activities increase stability and resilience of communities located near transit</i></p> <p><i>(Please keep your response to 500 words or fewer)</i></p>	<p><i>For Evaluation – Maximum (6) points would be awarded for applications that:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Demonstrate measurable outcomes that improve or retain access to affordable housing;</i> <p><i>AND/OR</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Support equitable economic development and/or retain small businesses.</i> <p><i>OR</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Supports resilience to short-term and long-term displacement pressures associated with construction and increased property values resulting from new development.</i>
30	<p>Raise CBO Profile in Inclusive TOCs <i>Please describe how grant activities will contribute to raising the capacity of your CBO to influence policy and increase collaboration with stakeholders.</i></p> <p><i>(Please keep your response to 500 words or fewer)</i></p>	<p><i>For Evaluation – Maximum (2) points would be awarded for applications that:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Demonstrate the potential to influence policy and increase collaboration with stakeholders such as transit agencies, local agencies, and peer CBOs.</i>
31	<p>Strengthening CBOs as emerging development partners <i>Please describe how grant activities will contribute to raising the capacity of your CBO to serve as a community development corporation and/or stakeholder.</i></p> <p><i>(Please keep your response to 500 words or fewer)</i></p>	<p><i>For Evaluation – Maximum (2) points would be awarded for applications that:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Increase organizational capacity to preserve, protect, acquire and/or manage existing unsubsidized affordable housing;</i> <p><i>OR</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Increase organizational capacity to develop affordable housing;</i> <p><i>OR</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Increase organizational capacity to establish community ownership or investment model.</i>

Q#	Attachments
32	<p>Attachments <i>Please list any documents that you intend to submit as attachments to this application. Application attachments must be submitted via email to tocgrant@vta.org no later than the application deadline at 4:00 PM on Wednesday, June 11, 2025.</i></p> <p><i>Use the subject line: [Your Organization Name]- 2025 VTA TOC Grant – Program B.”</i></p>

Summary of Scoring

Complete applications will be scored using the criteria provided, as applicable. Maximum points for each criterion are noted. Scores are calculated as a percentage of points attained out of the total points possible for each criterion. Please note that points will be rounded to the nearest ¼ point. In all cases, points will be awarded to the extent to which criteria are met. A minimum number of points is required for each category, as noted in the table below. Applications that do not meet minimum score will not be selected for funding.

Evaluation Criteria/Section	Available Points	Percent of Total	Minimum Acceptable Score
Administrative	5 points	(20% of total)	2/5
- <i>Organization (timeline)</i>	2 points	(8%)	
- <i>Budget</i>	2 points	(8%)	
- <i>Partnerships</i>	1 point	(4%)	
TOC Elements	10 points	(40% of total)	4/10
- <i>Community Being Served</i>	2 points	(8%)	2/5
- <i>Equity-Focused Activities & Outcomes</i>	3 points	(12%)	
- <i>Transit-focused activities/incentives</i>	3 points	(12%)	2/5
- <i>Transit Ridership</i>	2 points	(8%)	
Program B: Community Resilience	10 points	(40% of total)	4/10
- <i>Increases Stability and Resilience</i>	6 points	(24%)	
- <i>Raise CBO Profile in Inclusive TOCs</i>	2 points	(8%)	
- <i>Strengthening CBOs as emerging development partners</i>	2 points	(8%)	
Total	25 points	100%	10/25 points

Program C: Education and Engagement

	Application Section	Evaluation
Q#	Section 1: Applicant Information	
1	Applicant Point of Contact (First, Last)	<i>For information – not evaluation</i>
2	Applicant Contact Email	
3	Applicant Phone (optional)	
4	Applicant Type <i>Select from: Local Agency, Community Based Organization</i>	<i>Local Agency → Question #5a Community-Based Organization → Question #5b</i>

Q#	Section 1-A: Applicant Information (Local Agencies)	
5a	Agency Name	<i>For information – not evaluation</i>
6a	Agency Address	
7a	Agency Website (optional)	
8a	Has your agency engaged or collaborated with VTA departments in the last 12 months? If so, please describe.	
9a	Grant Amount Request <i>Note: maximum request is \$25,000</i>	<i>Applicant Match Requirement → Continue to Question #15</i>
10a	Match <i>Note: 15% match requirement for Local Agencies</i>	

Q#	Section 1-B: Applicant Information (Community Based Organizations)	
5b	Organization Name <i>Organization title needs to match your federal tax ID number for verification purposes. If your organization is Doing Business As (DBA) under a different name, please also note this clearly</i>	For information – not evaluation
6b	Organization Address	
7b	Organization Website (optional)	
8b	Organization Description/Mission Statement (optional) <i>(Please keep your response to 80 words or fewer)</i>	
9b	Years serving Santa Clara County <i>Applicants must be serving Santa Clara County for a minimum of one year</i>	Applicant Eligibility Requirement
10b	Has your agency engaged or collaborated with VTA departments in the last 12 months? If so, please describe.	For information – not evaluation
11b	Grant Amount Request <i>Note: maximum request is \$25,000</i>	
12b	Additional Funding Sources <i>Please identify any additional grant funding sources and amounts, as applicable, that your organization intends to use for the delivery of this project. Please be sure to include information about additional funding sources as part of the budget (Question 24)</i>	
13b	Please identify whether your organization has 501(c)3 Non-Profit status, or is using a 501(c)3 Fiscal Sponsor <i>Two options:</i> C. My organization is a 501(c)3 non-profit D. My organization is partnering with a 501(c)3 non-profit fiscal sponsor	Applicant Eligibility Requirement → A. Continue to Question #14b → B. Continue to Question #14.1
14b	501(c)3 Status <i>Please provide the Federal EIN for your organization</i>	Applicant Eligibility Requirement → Continue to Question #15
14.1	Please identify the 501(c)3 Non-Profit Fiscal Sponsor with whom your organization is partnering <i>Organization title needs to match the federal tax ID number for verification purposes. If the organization is Doing Business As (DBA) under a different name, please also note this clearly</i>	For information – not evaluation
14.2	501(c)3 Status of Fiscal Sponsor <i>Please provide the Federal EIN for your Fiscal Sponsor</i>	Applicant Eligibility Requirement

Q#	Section 2: Project Information	
15	Project Name <i>Please share the name of your project. It should be descriptive and succinct.</i>	For information – not evaluation
16	Brief Project Description <i>Please provide a brief paragraph describing your project.</i> <i>(Please keep your response to 80 words or fewer)</i>	
17	Project Location/Address <i>(Street address, City, Zip Code)</i> <i>Note: Project location must be within one-half mile of VTA transit facility or transit center.</i>	Confirm geographic eligibility
18	TOC Station/Transit Center <i>Please select the eligible station/transit center from the drop-down menu:</i> <i>(You may also use the online TOC VTA Grant Eligibility Map to confirm which eligible geography your project falls within)</i>	
19	Project Type <i>Select one or more of the following eligible project types that best describe your Project:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Public awareness campaigns (e.g., education initiatives on TOC policies to enhance understanding and involvement), promoting transit through creative outreach efforts) <input type="checkbox"/> Transit-focused educational activities (e.g., transit-to-work/school campaigns) <input type="checkbox"/> Equity-focused initiatives to accommodate community participation (e.g, translation/ interpretation services, promotoras, food, childcare) <input type="checkbox"/> Housing support (e.g., housing and homeowner application readiness workshops) <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please describe. 	Confirm eligible activity
20	Project Narrative <i>Please briefly summarize your proposed project or program and the positive impact it will have on the communities served. Include how it demonstrates alignment with the TOC Grant Program Goals as described in Section II.C of the Notice of Funding Availability and Program Area C description.</i> <i>(Please keep your response to 500 words or fewer)</i>	<i>For evaluation – Maximum (10) points would be awarded for an application that results in <u>at least two</u> of the following outcomes:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Provide community with knowledge and tools to advocate for TOC-Supportive policies and implementation;</i> <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Empower community to co-define local programs or planning efforts;</i> <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Promotes inclusion of all community members through creative approaches to engagement activities that directly address barriers that limit participation by historically underrepresented and under-engaged communities by highlighting community voices, local success stories;</i> <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Improve community understanding of transit use and its health and economic benefits, and provide community members with tools and resources to further encourage their neighbors and their networks to increase use of transit and transit-supportive activities.</i>

Q#	Section 3: Administrative Elements	
<i>Administrative elements criteria are intended for evaluation of project readiness and capacity for implementation</i>		
21	Anticipated Project Start Date <i>Project must commence within 1 year of anticipated award</i>	Confirm project eligibility
22	Anticipated Project End Date <i>Project must be completed within 2 years of project start date</i>	
23	Project Schedule <i>Please include a project schedule that outlines how grant funding will achieve certain milestones, and a description of each milestone.</i>	<p><u>For Evaluation</u> – Maximum (2) points would be awarded for an application that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A complete and detailed schedule that includes milestones of various key activities; <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A realistic timeline.
24	Proposed Budget <i>Please include a project budget with the total project cost that outlines administrative costs, and any other costs required for project implementation. Please note whether additional funding will be pursued for this project, and which other sources of funding have been identified as well as status of such funding sources.</i>	<p><u>For Evaluation</u> – Maximum (2) points would be awarded for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A complete and detailed budget with realistic estimates for various cost elements, including staff/volunteer time; <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A realistic ability to complete grant activities within requested grant amount; <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The budget clearly identifies anticipated additional funding sources, and provides adequate information to instill confidence in ability to secure the funding match necessary for project delivery.
25	Partnership Statement (Optional) <i>Please include a statement below that identifies strategic partnerships necessary for the implementation of the project, and if contact has already been made.</i> <i>Letter of support from partner may be 'attached' via email following submission of the application</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Check this box to indicate that you would like to submit a letter of support	<p><u>For Evaluation</u> – Maximum (1) point would be awarded for applications that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a statement identifying partnership with other agencies (County, MTC, Caltrans, Valley Water, etc.), communities (i.e., support from CBOs or neighborhood associations), or private entities (if partnering with corporations or developers).

Q#	Section 4: TOC Elements	
26	<p>Community Being Served Please identify & describe the demographic profile of the community that your project will serve. Include information about any historical or existing barriers to equity members of this community have experienced.</p> <p>Optional: Please note whether your project is located within an MTC Equity Priority Community. MTC Equity Priority Communities are identified in light red in the TOC VTA Grant Eligibility Map.</p> <p>(Please keep your response to 200 words or fewer)</p>	<p><i>For Evaluation – Maximum (2) points would be awarded for an application that:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies and describes demographic elements of a disadvantaged or historically excluded, or underserved community that the project would serve; <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clearly identifies and explains the root cause of the barriers historically faced by that community.
27	<p>Equity-Focused Activities & Outcomes Please explain how your project will address historical or existing barriers to equity. Include how the project will incorporate equitable processes and outcomes for members of the community.</p> <p>(Please keep your response to 200 words or fewer)</p>	<p><i>For Evaluation – Maximum (3) points would be awarded for application that:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clearly describes equitable processes & anticipated equitable outcomes of the project/program.
28	<p>Transit-focused activities/incentives Please select which, if any, of the following activities you expect to incorporate in the development/implementation of your project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Develop transit trip planning for employees, volunteers, event patrons <input type="checkbox"/> Incentivize active transportation, such as walking, bicycling, wheeling, and/or transit use to attend grant activities <input type="checkbox"/> Develop marketing strategy that emphasizes taking VTA transit to grantee activities/events <input type="checkbox"/> Provide opportunity for VTA tabling at an activity for transit-related education <input type="checkbox"/> Purchase transit passes (i.e., Clipper Card, VTA SmartPass) for employees and/or program participants <input type="checkbox"/> Develop special signage to direct patrons to transit at grant activity locations <input type="checkbox"/> Collect transit stories and testimonials from grantee employees, volunteers, patrons – about how they got to the activities, work, etc. <input type="checkbox"/> Incorporate transit usage into surveys or other public engagement tools (i.e., collect data on transportation choices) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please describe) 	<p><i>For Evaluation – Maximum (3) points would be awarded for application that identifies:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least two (2) activities/incentives that encourage transit use among organization's staff, volunteers, and project/program participants; <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least one (1) strategy for surveying transit and transportation choices among constituents/stakeholders, and/or measuring growth/change in transit use throughout the project timeline.
29	<p>Transit Ridership Please describe how your project will result in increased transit use. Specify the transit services (i.e., bus or light-rail lines) expected to see additional ridership, and how your project will increase the community's use of these services.</p> <p>For example: how will this project raise the profile of the station as transit hub in your station area? How will this project address barriers to current transit use? How will your project support transit-dependent populations, or reduce dependency on private autos?</p> <p>For more information on transit services in your project area, please reference the Ridership by Stop SCVTA Open Data Site.</p> <p>(Please keep your response to 200 words or fewer)</p>	<p><i>For Evaluation – Maximum (2) points would be awarded for application that clearly:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies the transit services anticipated to be positively impacted by project activities and/or project outcomes; <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describes the connection between project activities/outcomes and long-term increases in transit use.

Q#	Attachments
30	<p>Attachments</p> <p><i>Please list any documents that you intend to submit as attachments to this application. Application attachments must be submitted via email to tocgrant@vta.org no later than the application deadline at 4:00 PM on Wednesday, June 11, 2025.</i></p> <p><i>Use the subject line: [Your Organization Name]- 2025 VTA TOC Grant – Program C.”</i></p>

Summary of Scoring

Complete applications will be scored using the criteria provided, as applicable. Maximum points for each criterion are noted. Scores are calculated as a percentage of points attained out of the total points possible for each criterion. Please note that points will be rounded to the nearest ¼ point. In all cases, points will be awarded to the extent to which criteria are met. A minimum number of points is required for each category, as noted in the table below. Applications that do not meet minimum score will not be selected for funding.

Evaluation Criteria/Section	Available Points	Percent of Total	Minimum Acceptable Score
Administrative	5 points	(20% of total)	2/5
- Organization (timeline)	2 points	(8%)	
- Budget	2 points	(8%)	
- Partnerships	1 point	(4%)	
TOC Elements	10 points	(40% of total)	4/10
- Community Being Served	2 points	(8%)	2/5
- Equity-Focused Activities & Outcomes	3 points	(12%)	
- Transit-focused activities/incentives	3 points	(12%)	2/5
- Transit Ridership	2 points	(8%)	
Program C: Education & Engagement	10 points	(40% of total)	4/10
Total	25 points	100%	10/25 points

Program D: Placekeeping, Arts, and Activation

	Application Section	Evaluation
Q#	Section 1: Applicant Information	
1	Applicant Point of Contact (First, Last)	<i>For information – not evaluation</i>
2	Applicant Contact Email	
3	Applicant Phone (optional)	
4	Applicant Type <i>Select from: Local Agency, Community Based Organization</i>	<i>Local Agency → Question #5a Community-Based Organization → Question #5b</i>

Q#	Section 1-A: Applicant Information (Local Agencies)	
5a	Agency Name	<i>For information – not evaluation</i>
6a	Agency Address	
7a	Agency Website (optional)	
8a	Have you engaged or collaborated with VTA departments in the last 12 months? If so, please describe.	
9a	Grant Amount Request <i>Note: maximum request is \$25,000</i>	<i>Applicant Match Requirement → Continue to Question #15</i>
10a	Match <i>Note: 15% match requirement for Local Agencies</i>	

Q#	Section 1-B: Applicant Information (Community Based Organizations)	
5b	Organization Name <i>Organization title needs to match your federal tax ID number for verification purposes. If your organization is Doing Business As (DBA) under a different name, please also note this clearly</i>	For information – not evaluation
6b	Organization Address	
7b	Organization Website (optional)	
8b	Organization Description/Mission Statement (optional) <i>(Please keep your response to 80 words or fewer)</i>	
9b	Years serving Santa Clara County <i>Applicants must be serving Santa Clara County for a minimum of one year</i>	Applicant Eligibility Requirement
10b	Have you engaged or collaborated with VTA departments in the last 12 months? If so, please describe.	For information – not evaluation
11b	Grant Amount Request <i>Note: maximum request is \$25,000</i>	
12b	Additional Funding Sources <i>Please identify any additional grant funding sources and amounts, as applicable, that your organization intends to use for the delivery of this project. Please be sure to include information about additional funding sources as part of the budget (Question 24)</i>	
13b	Please identify whether your organization has 501(c)3 Non-Profit status, or is using a 501(c)3 Fiscal Sponsor <i>Two options:</i> A. My organization is a 501(c)3 non-profit B. My organization is partnering with a 501(c)3 non-profit fiscal sponsor	Applicant Eligibility Requirement → A. Continue to Question #14b → B. Continue to Question #14.1
14b	501(c)3 Status <i>Please provide the Federal EIN for your organization</i>	Applicant Eligibility Requirement → Continue to Question #15
14.1	Please identify the 501(c)3 Non-Profit Fiscal Sponsor with whom your organization is partnering <i>Organization title needs to match the federal tax ID number for verification purposes. If the organization is Doing Business As (DBA) under a different name, please also note this clearly</i>	For information – not evaluation
14.2	501(c)3 Status of Fiscal Sponsor <i>Please provide the Federal EIN for your Fiscal Sponsor</i>	Applicant Eligibility Requirement

Q#	Section 2: Project Information	
15	Project Name <i>Please share the name of your project. It should be descriptive and succinct.</i>	For information – not evaluation
16	Brief Project Description <i>Please provide a brief paragraph describing your project.</i> <i>(Please keep your response to 80 words or fewer)</i>	
17	Project Location/Address <i>(Street address, City, Zip Code)</i> <i>Note: Project location must be within one-half mile of VTA transit facility or transit center.</i>	Confirm geographic eligibility
18	TOC Station/Transit Center <i>Please select the eligible station/transit center from the drop-down menu:</i> <i>(You may also use the online TOC VTA Grant Eligibility Map to confirm which eligible geography your project falls within)</i>	
19	Project Type <i>Select one or more of the following eligible project types that best describe your Project:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Arts and culture project that enhance transit connectivity and community culture/identity (e.g., neighborhood murals and public art created by community members) <input type="checkbox"/> Universal and inclusive design, accessible, image-based, color-based wayfinding that works for residents of all ages, abilities, and languages <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural and community celebrations that reinforce existing community and drive increased and sustained transit use (e.g., outdoor activities that are viewable from the street and publicly accessible, such as street festivals, performances, experimental art exhibits, food and maker pop-ups) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please describe) 	Confirm eligible activity
20	Project Narrative <i>Please briefly summarize your proposed project or program and the positive impact it will have on the communities served. Include how it demonstrates alignment with the TOC Grant Program Goals as described in Section II.C of the Notice of Funding Availability and Program Area D description.</i> <i>(Please keep your response to 500 words or fewer)</i>	<u>For evaluation</u> – Maximum (10) points would be awarded for an application that includes activities that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearly promote local artists, culture, history, or value by hosting public events or programs, <u>or</u> providing public art by local artists in publicly accessible spaces that aim to preserve and strengthen community identity, in an area that lacks art and activation currently; <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearly contribute to the pedestrian experience through programs that directly improve pedestrian safety and comfort for all community members with a focus on vulnerable groups such as youth and senior populations.

Q#	Section 3: Administrative Elements	
<i>Administrative elements criteria are intended for evaluation of project readiness and capacity for implementation</i>		
21	Anticipated Project Start Date <i>Project must commence within 1 year of anticipated award</i>	Confirm project eligibility
22	Anticipated Project End Date <i>Project must be completed within 2 years of project start date</i>	
23	Project Schedule <i>Please include a project schedule that outlines how grant funding will achieve certain milestones, and a description of each milestone.</i>	<u>For Evaluation</u> – Maximum (2) points would be awarded for an application that includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A complete and detailed schedule that includes milestones of various key activities; AND <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A realistic timeline.
24	Proposed Budget <i>Please include a project budget with the total project cost that outlines administrative costs, and any other costs required for project implementation.</i> <i>Please note whether additional funding will be pursued for this project, and which other sources of funding have been identified as well as status of such funding sources.</i>	<u>For Evaluation</u> – Maximum (2) points would be awarded for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A complete and detailed budget with realistic estimates for various cost elements, including staff/volunteer time; AND <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A realistic ability to complete grant activities within requested grant amount; OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The budget clearly identifies anticipated additional funding sources, and provides adequate information to instill confidence in ability to secure the funding match necessary for project delivery.
25	Partnership Statement (Optional) <i>Please include a statement below that identifies strategic partnerships necessary for the implementation of the project, and if contact has already been made.</i> <i>Letter of support from partner may be ‘attached’ via email following submission of the application</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Check this box to indicate that you would like to submit a letter of support	<u>For Evaluation</u> – Maximum (1) point would be awarded for applications that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a statement identifying partnership with other agencies (County, MTC, Caltrans, Valley Water, etc.), communities (i.e., support from CBOs or neighborhood associations), or private entities (if partnering with corporations or developers).

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