

2026 Notice of Funding Availability for VTA's Transit-Oriented Communities (TOC) Grant Cycle 3

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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 3 (2026) for projects and activities that are planned to begin by March 31, 2027. 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. **This is a competitive grant opportunity.**

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 Friday, June 12, 2026.**

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

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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 communities are central to and directly involved in planning, transportation, and development. By emphasizing equity, cultural relevance, and community empowerment, the program fosters inclusive growth that strengthens 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 eligibility requirements to apply.

Eligible projects must be new project or include a clearly defined new component that expands or deepens the impact of existing activities and advances TOC Grant Program Goals outlined in (Section II.C. in the NOFA). Projects that propose only existing activities, without a new or innovative component aligned with TOC goals, are not eligible for funding.

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 financial partnership(s) 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% funding match is required for local agencies.

A *Community-Based Organization (CBO)* is defined as nonprofit organization with 501(c)(3) status 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. All applicants must attend at least one pre-application meeting (virtual or in-person) in order to be eligible for a grant in any category (see Section V for dates, times and locations).

B. Location Eligibility

Eligible project location(s) must be in Santa Clara County:

- within one-half mile of an existing or planned VTA light rail station or transit center, or commuter rail station served by BART, Caltrain, Capitol Corridor, or ACE; or
- within one-quarter mile of VTA's Frequent Bus Corridors, which contain bus routes that operate every 15 minutes or better.

A list of applicable Transit Stations, Transit Centers and Frequent Bus Corridors is provided in Appendix A. A map identifying eligible project locations is provided at www.vta.org/tocgrant. Please use the location(s) of your project site – not the address of your organization's headquarters – when using this tool.

C. Ineligible Activities and Nondiscrimination

The VTA Transit-Oriented Communities Grant is a competitive funding opportunity 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, are not eligible for funding. Projects that already receive funding from prior VTA Transit-Oriented Communities grant cycles are not eligible for additional funding for the same project. However, past awardees may reapply if they have previously executed grant agreement(s) with VTA and are proposing a different, eligible project.

Applicants will not be awarded and cannot use funds for unsolicited proposals, or initiatives providing services for or on behalf of VTA. VTA may accept [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 is a competitive grant opportunity that funds a diverse set of activities that enable the vision of equitable and sustainable Transit-Oriented Communities around Transit Stations, Transit Centers, and Frequent Bus Corridors 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 per project.**

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

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 ¹	\$100,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
Maximum Grant Term²	2 years	2 years	1 year	1 year

Notes: 1. For Program A, awards of up to \$150,000 are available at this time. Applicants may request a higher amount; however, proposals should clearly identify the additional activities or outcomes that could be achieved with supplemental funding. Awards exceeding \$150,000 are not guaranteed. 2. Grant term begins at the point in time when the agreement with VTA is executed with the selected grantee.

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, Transit Centers and Frequent Bus Corridors; (2) align with VTA's and MTC's Transit-Oriented Communities policies, and (3) integrate art and 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, Transit Centers and Frequent Bus Corridors.

As noted in **Table 1**, awards of up to \$150,000 are available at this time for each Program A awardee. Applicants may request a higher amount; however, proposals should clearly identify the additional activities or outcomes that could be achieved with supplemental funding. Awards exceeding \$150,000 are not guaranteed.

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 by supporting efforts that protect existing residents and preserve affordable housing; (2) advance community-driven implementation of equitable Transit-Oriented Communities through preservation-focused strategies; (3) build the capacity of emerging community development partners to lead preservation, acquisition, rehabilitation, and long-term stewardship of unsubsidized affordable housing.

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

- Providing technical assistance from early pre-development through acquisition and rehabilitation;
- Identifying and evaluating potential properties for preservation or acquisition;
- Engaging residents and incorporating community input into project planning;
- Developing project plans and long-term stewardship systems to support implementation and ongoing management.
- Capacity building, planning and staff training for emerging community development corporations.

The Program Area will fund pre-acquisition, project-based consultant contracts and capacity building that support the acquisition and rehabilitation of residential properties and their conversion to permanently affordable housing. This Program is designed to preserve affordability,

prevent displacement, and ensure that communities near transit remain stable, accessible, and connected to opportunity.

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 highlighting community voices 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).

Eligible projects must be new project or include a clearly defined new component that expands or deepens the impact of existing activities and advances TOC goals outlined in (section II.C). Projects that propose only existing activities, without a new or innovative component aligned with TOC goals, are not eligible for funding.

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;
- Public 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).

- Projects that address a gap or need in communities lacking placekeeping, arts, and activation activities that celebrate their neighborhood and culture connections to transit and the rider experience.
- Integrating elements into existing facilities or streetscape elements to create functional art or beautification (shade, seating, bike racks etc.).

For art installations, projects must be clearly viewable from the street, public space and/or transit station/center or bus stop. If applicant is proposing a public art project on VTA -owned land or facilities, VTA consultation is recommended and available by contacting tocgrant@vta.org as early as possible. Projects involving VTA property are subject to VTA approval. For projects with a public art component, applicants are encouraged to include photos of the existing site where the art is planned to be installed as an attachment to the application.

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 4, 2026</u>
Pre-Application Workshops	May-June 2026
Deadline for Submission of Questions	June 4, 2026
<u>Deadline for Applications</u>	<u>4:00 PM on June 12, 2026</u>
Publish Award Recommendations	August 2026
Appeal Submittal Deadline	August 2026
<u>Notification of Awards</u>	<u>September 2026</u>

The application window is open from **May 4, 2026** until **June 12, 2026**. Applications must be submitted electronically through the SlideRoom application, which is linked on the vta.org/TOCgrant webpage by **4:00PM PST on Wednesday, June 12, 2026**. Application guides and directions on how to use SlideRoom 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

VTA will not be responsible for proposals that are delinquent, lost, incorrectly marked, sent to an address other than that given herein, or sent by mail or courier service and not signed for by the VTA.

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:

- **Thursday, May 14, 2026**
 - Time: 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. PST
 - Register: TOC-Grant-May-14.eventbrite.com
 - Location:
Center for Employment Training
701 Vine Street
San Jose, CA 95110
- **Tuesday, May 26, 2026**
 - Time: 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. PST
 - Register: TOC-Grant-May-26.eventbrite.com
 - Location:
Gilroy Library
350 W. Sixth Street
Gilroy, 95020

Virtual Pre-Application Workshops:

- **Tuesday, May 12, 2026**
 - Time: 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. PST
 - Register: TOC-Grant-May-12.eventbrite.com
 - Location: Online Zoom meeting
zoom.us/join
Webinar ID: 834 9058 4696
Passcode: 369801
1-669-900-9128
- **Wednesday, May 20, 2026**
 - Time: 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. PST
 - Register: TOC-Grant-May-20.eventbrite.com
 - Location: Online Zoom meeting
zoom.us/join
Webinar ID: 864 7010 3884
Passcode: 555489
1-669-900-9128
- **Tuesday June 2, 2026**
 - Time: 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. PST
 - Register: TOC-Grant-June-2.eventbrite.com
 - Location: Online Zoom meeting
zoom.us/join
Webinar ID: 818 4424 2765
Passcode: 394167
1-669-900-9128

B. Application Assistance

VTA will accept written questions regarding the Application through 4:00 PM PST on Monday, **June 4, 2026**, and will provide a response to all applicants by **Monday, June 8, 2026**. 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.

A proposal may be considered non-responsive if it is incomplete, includes conditions or changes to the required format, or contains additions that materially alter the proposal. VTA may, in its sole discretion, waive minor issues or small inconsistencies that do not affect the substance of the proposal. Applications that pass initial review will be evaluated by an Evaluation Panel, which will score them based on the submitted application and related attachments.

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. In the event that more than one applicant receives the same score, the Evaluation Panel scoring the applications maintains the right to recommend certain applications for grant selection in its discretion. VTA may consider the comparative strength of applications in each Program Area and further reserves the right to reallocate or withhold funding among and across program areas, to negotiate modifications of proposals, and to award less than the full amount of funding requested.

VTA will contact applicants identified for initial selection VTA **in early fall**. Following the appeals process, the Director of Multimodal Planning and Real Estate will select the final grantees. VTA will engage in negotiations with final grantees. Selection as an initial or final grantee shall not be construed as a binding commitment of funds by VTA, and grant awards are not deemed final until execution of a grant agreement. Grant funds cannot be expended by grantees on selected project(s) until after execution of an agreement with VTA.

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 <http://www.vta.org/TOCgrant>. The Sample Grant Agreements are provided for reference only and are subject to change. Selected grantees must agree to the terms and execute the appropriate grant agreement with VTA as a condition of the grant. All grant awards are contingent upon the successful negotiation and execution of a formal grant agreement between VTA and the grantee.

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 seven (7) calendar days after the announcement of initial selection. VTA will respond to all appeals within five (5) business days of the deadline for receipt of appeal letters. Further appeals beyond this point will not be accepted.

E. Amendments to NOFA

VTA reserves the right to amend or modify any provisions of the NOFA by written addendum or issue to all proposers a Notice of Amendment to answer questions for clarification.

F. No Commitment to Award

Issuance of this NOFA and receipt of proposals does not commit VTA to award a contract or any funding. VTA expressly reserves the right to postpone the NOFA process for its own convenience, to accept or reject any or all proposals received in response to this NOFA, to negotiate with more than one applicant concurrently or to decline to enter into negotiations or terminate negotiations with any applicant at any time, to select the proposal(s) most advantageous to the VTA, including awarding more than one contract if desired, or to cancel or withdraw all or part of this NOFA at any time.

G. Amendments to Proposals

No amendment, addendum or modification will be accepted after the deadline stated herein for receiving proposals. Applicant may modify or amend its proposal only if the VTA receives the amendment prior to the deadline stated herein for receiving proposals. VTA reserves the right to request clarification of information submitted from any one or more of the applicants.

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, Transit Centers and Frequent Bus Corridors

A list of existing and planned VTA, Caltrain, BART, and ACE Transit Stations, Transit Centers and Frequent Bus Corridors in Santa Clara County. Eligible geographies include a half-mile radius around the listed transit stations and centers, and a quarter-mile radius around VTA Frequent Bus Corridor routes. 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 3 - 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. Application instructions are included in Appendix B, page iii.

**2026 Notice of Funding Availability for VTA's
Transit-Oriented Communities (TOC) Grant Cycle 3
Appendix A: VTA Transit-Oriented Communities
Eligible Transit Stations, Transit Centers, and
Frequent Bus Corridors**

VTA Transit-Oriented Communities Eligible Transit Stations, Transit Centers, and Frequent Bus Corridors

Transit Centers	
Berryessa / North San José Transit Center <i>(At Berryessa/North San José BART Station)</i>	Mountain View Transit Center <i>(At Mountain View Caltrain Station)</i>
Alum Rock Transit Center <i>(At Alum Rock Light Rail Station)</i>	Palo Alto Transit Center <i>(At Palo Alto Caltrain Station)</i>
Diridon Transit Center <i>(At San Jose Diridon Caltrain Center)</i>	Santa Clara Transit Center <i>(At Santa Clara Caltrain Station)</i>
Eastridge Transit Center	Sunnyvale Transit Center <i>(At Sunnyvale Caltrain Station)</i>
Gilroy Transit Center <i>(At Gilroy Caltrain Station)</i>	West Valley College Transit Center
Milpitas Transit Center <i>(At Milpitas BART Station)</i>	Winchester Transit Center <i>(At Winchester Light Rail Station)</i>
ACE	
Great America Station	Santa Clara Station (City of Santa Clara)
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	Paseo de San Antonio Station
Cottle Station	San Fernando Station
Cropley Station	Santa Clara Station (Downtown San Jose)
Crossman Station	Santa Teresa Station
Curtner Station	Snell Station
Diridon Station (Diridon Caltrain Station)	Saint James Station
Eastridge Station (Planned)	Story Station (Planned)
Fair Oaks Station	Tamien Station (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	
VTA Frequent Bus Corridors	
Rapid 500: San Jose Diridon – Berryessa BART	64A: Ohlone-Chynoweth Station - McKee & White
Rapid 522: Palo Alto Transit Center – Eastridge Rapid	64B: Almaden & Camden - McKee & White
22: Palo Alto Transit Center - Eastridge	66: North Milpitas - Santa Clara Station
23: De Anza College - Alum Rock via Stevens Creek	68: San Jose Diridon - Gilroy Transit Center
25: De Anza College – Alum Rock via Valley Medical	70: Milpitas BART - Capitol Station via Jackson
26: West Valley College - Eastridge	71: Milpitas BART - Eastridge via White
57: Old Ironsides Station - West Valley College	72: Downtown San Jose - Senter & Monterey via McLaughlin
60: Milpitas BART – Winchester Station via SJC Airport	73: Downtown San Jose - Senter & Monterey via Senter
61: Sierra & Piedmont – Good Samaritan Hospital	77: Milpitas BART - Eastridge via Kin

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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. **Please note this document is not the application.** Each applicant will need to fill out an online application via SlideRoom. Directions on how to do so are included below.

Application Instructions

Follow these steps to complete and submit your TOC Grant application:

1. Review this Application Guide

Before starting, read this guide carefully so you understand the application requirements, evaluation criteria, and scoring process.

2. Access the Online Application

Visit <https://www.vta.org/programs/toc/transit-oriented-communities/grants> and click the **“Application Form”** button on the right side of the page to open the SlideRoom application portal.

3. Create a SlideRoom Account

Create a free SlideRoom account to begin your application. Additional instructions can be found [here](#).*

4. Complete Your Application

Enter your responses directly into the online form and upload all required attachments. You may save your progress on SlideRoom and return to your application at any time before the deadline.

5. Complete Required Confirmations

Before submitting, you will be asked to confirm that you have:

- Attended a pre-application meeting (virtual or in-person), and
- Reviewed the applicable grant agreement template for either Local Agencies or Community-Based Organizations, available at [vta.org/TOCgrant](https://www.vta.org/TOCgrant).

6. Submit Your Application

When all sections are complete, submit your application through SlideRoom including all attachments. You will receive an automatic confirmation email once your application has been successfully submitted.

*Please reach out to tocgrants@vta.org if you run into technical difficulties. If you have SlideRoom specific questions, such as issues creating your account login, please reach out to [SlideRoom Applicant Customer Service](#).

More Resources from SlideRoom

1. [Working with your SlideRoom account](#)
2. [Logging In and Resetting your Password](#)
3. [Completing Application Forms](#)
4. [Submitting Your Application](#)
5. [Technical Requirements and Accessibility](#)
6. [Applicant Customer Service](#)

Program A: Planning and Policy Implementation

	Application Section	Evaluation
Q#	Section 1: Applicant Information	
1	Agency Name	For information and application eligibility confirmation
2	Agency Address	
3	Agency Website	
4	Applicant Point of Contact (First Name, Last Name)	
5	Applicant Contact Email	
6	Applicant Phone	
7	VTA Collaboration Has your agency engaged or collaborated with VTA departments in the last 12 months? Have you ever received funding from VTA? If so, please describe.	
8	Pending or Unexecuted Agreements If your agency previously received a TOC Program grant, do you have any pending or unexecuted grant agreements with VTA? (Yes/No) As noted in the NOFA, previous TOC grant awardees are not eligible for additional funding for the same project. However, past awardees may reapply if they have an executed agreement(s) and are proposing a different, eligible project.	

Q#	Section 2: Project Information	
1	Project Name Please share the name of your project. It should be descriptive and succinct.	For informational purposes
2	Brief Project Description Please provide a brief paragraph describing your project, its goal and intended outcome. <i>(Please limit your description to 80 words or fewer)</i>	
3	Project Location/Address (Street address, City, Zip Code) Note: Project location must be within one-half mile of VTA Transit Station or Transit Center, or one-quarter mile of Frequent Bus Corridor.	Confirm geographic eligibility
4	Transit-Oriented Communities (TOC) Transit Station, Transit Center, or Frequent Bus Corridor Please select the eligible Transit Station, Transit Center, or Frequent Bus Corridor from the drop-down menu: (You may also use the TOC VTA Grant Eligibility Map to confirm which eligible geography your project falls within).	

5	<p>Project Type Select one or more of the following eligible project types that best describe your Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Station area or corridor 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
6	<p>Project Narrative Please describe your proposed project, including a summary of the project's scope of work and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) How it aligns with the TOC Grant Program Goals (Section III.C of the NOFA) b) The positive impact(s) it will have on your community. <p><i>(Please limit your narrative to 1800 characters (300 words) or fewer)</i></p>	For informational purposes
7	<p>Grant Amount Request Note: maximum request is \$150,000. Applicants may request a higher amount; however, proposals should clearly identify the additional activities or outcomes that could be achieved with supplemental funding. Awards exceeding \$150,000 are not guaranteed.</p>	For informational purposes
8	<p>Match Please provide committed or anticipated funding match amount and the source of the match. Note: 15% match requirement for Local Agencies (in-kind services allowed).</p>	Applicant Match Requirement
9	<p>New Project, Component, or Scale. Please indicate whether this project is new or builds upon existing projects or activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> This project is new. <input type="checkbox"/> This project builds on existing projects or activities. <p>If your project builds on existing projects or activities, you will be prompted to describe the new component(s) that this funding would enable your organization to implement. Examples include: expanding a project to a new geography, target population or issue area (e.g., transportation, housing, climate) or introducing a new strategy or program element.</p>	Confirm project eligibility

Q#	Section 3: TOC Elements	
1	<p>Community Conditions Please describe the community your project will serve using both quantitative data (e.g. demographics, socioeconomic indicators, Healthy Places Index, US Census data, Urban Displacement Project) and qualitative insights (e.g., lived experience and community-identified needs.). Include specific information about historical or existing barriers to equity members of this community have experienced (e.g., access to housing, transportation, displacement pressures, cultural or economic instability, gaps in planning).</p> <p>Please note whether your project is located within an MTC Equity Priority Community (shown in light red in the TOC VTA Grant Eligibility Map).</p> <p><i>(Please keep your response to 1800 characters (300 words) or fewer)</i></p>	<p><u>For Evaluation</u> – Maximum (15) points would be awarded for an application that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides clear and relevant quantitative data and qualitative insights that define the community context with specificity. • Accurately notes if project is within MTC Equity Priority Community.
2	<p>Equity-Focused Actions & Outcomes Please explain how your project addresses a specific gap or need (e.g., access to housing, transportation, jobs, schools, healthcare, or public space), who is most impacted, and the specific outcomes and benefits your project will deliver to community members.</p> <p>-Describe your engagement strategy, including methods, frequency, and how input will meaningfully influence project decisions. -Explain how your project will engage community members historically excluded from traditional planning processes. -Identify the measurable equity outcomes your project aims to achieve. -Describe any additional collaboration with community members in the project area (not already identified in the Partnership Statement) and how decision-making is shared.</p> <p><i>(Please keep your response to 2400 characters (400 words) or fewer).</i></p>	<p><u>For Evaluation</u> – Maximum (15) points would be awarded for application that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearly articulates the significance of the identified gap or need and establishes measurable, credible equity outcomes aligned with the project’s purpose. • Demonstrates a structured engagement approach that meaningfully incorporates community input and reflects authentic collaboration through shared or co-created decision-making. • Utilizes culturally responsive strategies to reduce barriers to participation and prioritizes the inclusion of historically underrepresented communities.
3	<p>Transit-focused Activities & Incentives For your organizational staff, consultants, volunteers, or patrons, please select activities you expect to incorporate within the grant period (at least two (2) required).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Provide or subsidize transit access for staff, volunteers, or participants. <input type="checkbox"/> Gather stories or feedback about how people travel to project activities. <input type="checkbox"/> Include transportation choice questions in surveys or engagement tools. <input type="checkbox"/> Promote transit options for events, programs, or activities, including use of Transit App <input type="checkbox"/> Participate in or host sustainable mobility events (e.g., car-free days, open streets). <input type="checkbox"/> Offer opportunities for transit education, such as inviting VTA or mobility partners to table or present. <input type="checkbox"/> Support trip-planning -assistance for employees, volunteers, or participants. 	<p><u>For Evaluation</u> – Maximum (5) points would be awarded for application that identifies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project incorporates at least two (2) activities, which must include conducting a survey of transit and transportation choices to measure changes in transit use.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Provide wayfinding or signage that directs people to nearby transit services. <input type="checkbox"/> Conduct periodic transportation surveys to track changes in transit use over the project timeline. <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please describe). 	
4	<p>Transit Ridership Please describe how your selected Transit-Focused Activities & Incentives will be integrated into your project’s approach. Explain how these activities -- and your overall project -- will increase transit use. Identify the specific transit services (e.g., bus or light-rail lines) expected to see increased ridership and how your project will encourage greater community use of these services.</p> <p>You may also address: -How the project will raise the profile of the station or stop as a transit hub. -How the project will remove barriers to transit use (physical, informational, cultural or safety-related). -How the project will support non-auto-dependent populations, or reduce reliance on private automobiles.</p> <p>For more information on transit services in your project area, please reference the Ridership by Stop SCVTA Open Data Site.</p> <p><i>(Please keep your response to 1800 characters (300 words) or fewer)</i></p>	<p>For Evaluation – Maximum (10) points would be awarded for application that clearly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearly outlines how Transit-Focused Activities or incentives will be implemented and identifies the specific transit services, stations, or stops anticipated to be positively impacted. • Explains how the project increases transit use by removing barriers and reducing reliance on private vehicles. • Demonstrates benefits to transit-dependent and non-auto dependent populations while encouraging shifts to transit and other sustainable modes.

Q#	Section 4: Planning & Policy	
1	<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><i>(Please keep your response to 1800 characters (300 words) or fewer)</i></p>	<p>For Evaluation – Maximum (15) 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 one-half mile of transit stations; • Activities that specifically target alignment with MTC TOC Policy.
2	<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><i>(Please keep your response to 1800 characters (300 words) or fewer)</i></p>	<p>For Evaluation – Maximum (15) 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; • Provides clear description of activities resulting in benefits to VTA TOD Portfolio sites or projects.

Q#	Section 5: Administrative Elements	
Administrative elements criteria are intended for evaluation of project readiness and capacity for implementation		
1	Anticipated Project Start Date Project must commence within one (1) year of anticipated award. Earliest anticipated funding date is March 31, 2027.	Confirm project eligibility
2	Anticipated Project End Date Project must be completed within two (2) years of project start date.	
3	Project Schedule Please include a proposed project schedule (scope of work) outlining measurable outcomes, key activities (including transit focused activities), and the month(s) in which each activity will occur. The proposed schedule should begin March 31, 2027, at the earliest, to account for time to negotiate a grant agreement with VTA.	<u>For Evaluation</u> – Maximum (10) points would be awarded for an application that includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measurable outcomes are clearly stated and aligned with proposed work • Activities and milestones are specific, feasible and clearly support stated outcomes. • Timeline is clear, month-by-month, realistic and begins no earlier than March 31, 2027.
4	Proposed Budget Please include a project budget with the total project cost that outlines administrative costs, and any other costs required for project implementation. If asking for more than \$150,000 (as noted in the NOFA) please include line items clearly demonstrating how the extra funding would be allocated. Please note whether additional funding will be pursued for this project, and which other sources of funding have been identified as well as the status of such funding sources (e.g., planned or awarded).	<u>For Evaluation</u> – Maximum (10) 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. • A realistic ability to complete grant activities within requested grant amount. • 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.
5	Financial Need and Risk Please describe the financial and logistical challenges your organization would encounter in moving this project forward if your organization does not receive this grant. <i>(Please limit your response to 500 characters (80 words) or fewer)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key financial risks are identified with a contingency plan on how the project will adapt.
6	Project Team Please provide your staffing plan to complete your proposed project. <i>(Please limit your response to 600 characters (100 words) or fewer)</i>	For informational purposes
7	Partnerships Statement Please describe the strategic partnerships that demonstrate community support and are essential to the successful implementation of the project. For example, identify the public agencies, community-based organizations, neighborhood groups, private entities, or other partners	<u>For Evaluation</u> – Maximum (4) point would be awarded for applications that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies at least one strategic partner, such as an agency, community organization, and/or private entity, demonstrating that the partnership is

	<p>involved, and indicate whether coordination or relationship-building has already begun.</p> <p><i>(Please limit your response to 600 characters (100 words) or fewer)</i></p>	<p>already established or actively being developed, and shows clear relevance to the project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bonus point (1) awarded for a letter of support from one or more entities.
8	<p>Partner Letter of Support (Optional) <i>Attach your optional letter of support.</i></p>	
9	<p>New or Not Previously Awarded Applicant Please indicate whether your jurisdiction is a first-time applicant or a returning applicant that has not previously received a VTA TOC Grant award.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> First-Time Applicant <input type="checkbox"/> Returning Applicant, not previously awarded</p> <p>If you are a returning applicant that has not been awarded before, you will be prompted to describe was improved or changed since your last submission. <i>(Please limit your response to 300 characters (50 words) or fewer)</i></p>	<p><u>For Evaluation</u> – Bonus (5) point would be awarded for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicants representing a jurisdiction applying for the first time to the VTA TOC Grant program will receive five (5) bonus points, or • Returning non-awarded applicants from previous cycles that describe improvements or changes since their last submission.

Summary of Scoring (Program A)

Complete applications that satisfy the eligibility requirements will be scored using the criteria provided, as applicable. Maximum points for each criterion are noted. 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	Minimum Acceptable Score	
TOC Elements	45 points		
- Community Conditions	15 points		
- Equitable Actions & Outcomes	15 points		
- Transit-Supportive Activities	5 points		
- Transit Ridership	10 points		
Program A: Planning & Policy	30 points		
- Alignment with Regional Priorities	15 points		
- Advancement of TOD	15 points		
Administrative	25 points (30 points with bonus)		
- Schedule	10 points		
- Budget	10 points		
- Partnerships	5 points		
- New Grant/Not Previously Awarded Applicant (bonus)	5 points (bonus)		
Total	100 points (105 points with bonus)		60/100

Program B: Community Resilience

	Application Section	Evaluation
Q#	Section 1: Applicant Information	
1	Organization Name Organization title needs to match your federal tax ID number for verification purposes. If your organization is Doing Business As (DBA) a different name, please also note this clearly.	For informational purposes
2	Organization Address	
3	Organization Website	
4	Applicant Point of Contact (First Name, Last Name)	
5	Applicant Contact Email	
6	Applicant Phone Number	
7	Applicant Mission, History and Project Experience Describe your organization and how it is pursuing housing preservation projects in the near-term, medium-term, and long-term and how this is reflected in the organizational missions and business plans. For Technical Assistance and Capacity Building Projects: Describe recent development projects completed and properties owned, as applicable. This experience can include, but is not limited to, past or ongoing projects and programs, engagement with consultants, relevant background or training of individual staff members, and previous partnerships with housing, transit or climate organizations. <i>(Please limit your response to 1800 characters (300 words) or fewer)</i>	
8	Years serving Santa Clara County Applicants must be serving Santa Clara County for a minimum of one (1) year.	Applicant Eligibility Requirement
9	VTA Collaboration Has your organization engaged or collaborated with VTA departments in the last 12 months? Have you ever received funding from VTA? If so, please describe.	
10	Pending or Unexecuted Agreements If your organization previously received a TOC Program grant, do you have any pending or unexecuted grant agreements with VTA? (Yes/No) As noted in the NOFA, previous TOC grant awardees are not eligible for additional funding for the same project. However, past awardees may reapply if they have an executed agreement(s) and are proposing a different, eligible project.	
11	Grant Amount Request Note: maximum request is \$100,000 for one or more Eligible Activities. Applicants may apply for any grant amount less than \$100,000 for smaller scopes of work.	

12	<p>Additional Funding Sources Please identify any additional grant funding sources, amounts, and status (planned or awarded/secured), 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.</p>	
13	<p>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</p>	Applicant Eligibility Requirement
13.1 (A)	<p>501(c)3 Status Please provide the Federal EIN for your organization.</p>	Applicant Eligibility Requirement
13.1 (B)	<p>Please identify the 501(c)3 Non-Profit Fiscal Sponsor with whom your organization is partnering 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</p>	For informational purposes
13.2 (B)	<p>501(c)3 Status of Fiscal Sponsor Please provide the Federal EIN for your Fiscal Sponsor</p>	Applicant Eligibility Requirement

Q#	Section 2: Project Information	
1	<p>Project Name Please share the name of your project. It should be descriptive and succinct.</p>	
2	<p>Brief Project Description Please provide a brief paragraph describing your project. <i>(Please limit your response to 500 characters (80 words) or fewer)</i></p>	For informational purposes
3	<p>Project Location/Address (Street address, City, Zip Code)</p> <p>Notes: Project location must be within one-half mile of VTA Transit Station or Transit Center, or one-quarter mile of Frequent Bus Corridor. Projects located beyond the standard boundary may qualify if they clearly demonstrate strong multimodal access, including as many of the following as possible: walkability, reduced per capita vehicle miles traveled (e.g., limited parking or unbundled parking), service by multiple bus routes or microtransit, and high-quality bikeways or shared mobility options (e.g., Bay Wheels).</p> <p>If beyond the standard boundary, please describe in 100 words or less. Note: Please do not list the address of your organization's place of business unless this is also your project location.</p>	Confirm locational eligibility
4	<p>Transit-Oriented Communities (TOC) Station/Transit Center/Frequent Bus Corridor Please select the eligible Transit Station/Transit Center, or Frequent Bus Corridor from the drop-down menu:</p>	Confirm locational eligibility

	(You may also use the TOC VTA Grant Eligibility Map to confirm which eligible geography your project falls within)	
5	<p>Project Type Select one or more of the following eligible project types that best describe your Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Property identification/market research <input type="checkbox"/> Financial feasibility analysis/economic consulting <input type="checkbox"/> Property inspections <input type="checkbox"/> Due diligence reports <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture, landscaping, sustainability <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering (civil, structural, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation analysis/transportation demand management <input type="checkbox"/> Construction management <input type="checkbox"/> Legal support <input type="checkbox"/> Set-up of asset management systems/software <input type="checkbox"/> Closing costs <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance costs <input type="checkbox"/> Resident engagement <input type="checkbox"/> Organizational strategic planning <input type="checkbox"/> Capacity building and staff training <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please describe) 	Confirm eligible activity or activities
6	<p>Project Narrative</p> <p>For Technical Assistance Projects. describe the prospective preservation project or the specific geography targeted to acquire preservation properties. -For specific properties, include location; number of units; development plan, timeline, and activities completed to date. -For projects seeking to identify new properties within a specific geography, include targeted acquisition price point, minimum unit count, acceptable building characteristics (e.g., building age and condition, as demonstrated through publicly available permit reports).</p> <p>For Capacity-Building Projects, describe how your project will strengthen your organization’s ability to deliver community development outcomes. Identify capacity gaps you intend to address, the expertise you will engage, and how these actions advance your organization’s short-term, medium-term and long-term outcomes to implement preservation projects.</p> <p><i>(Please keep your response to 1800 characters (300 words) or fewer)</i></p>	For informational purposes

Q#	Section 3: TOC Elements	
1	<p>Community Conditions</p> <p>Please describe the conditions shaping the community your project will serve using both quantitative data (e.g. demographics, socioeconomic indicators, Healthy Places Index, US Census data, Urban Displacement Project) and qualitative insights (e.g., lived experience, community-identified needs). Describe displacement pressures, cultural or economic instability, gaps in housing and transportation planning or coordination. Identify historical or existing barriers to equity this community has experienced (e.g., access to housing and transportation).</p> <p>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><i>(Please limit your response to 1800 characters (300 words) or fewer)</i></p>	<p><u>For Evaluation</u> – Maximum (15)points would be awarded for an application that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides clear and relevant quantitative data and qualitative insights that define the community context as at risk of or experiencing displacement. • Accurately notes if project is within MTC Equity Priority Community.
2	<p>Equity-Focused Actions & Outcomes</p> <p>Please explain how your project responds to the conditions and equity barriers, specifically housing and affordability levels, and describe the specific outcomes and benefits your project will deliver to community members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify the measurable equity outcomes your project aims to achieve. -Describe any collaboration with community members in the project area (not already identified in the Partnership Statement) and how decision-making is shared. -Explain how your project will engage community members historically excluded from traditional planning processes. <p><i>(Please limit your response to 2400 characters (400 words) or fewer)</i></p>	<p><u>For Evaluation</u> – Maximum (15) points would be awarded for application that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearly articulates the significance of the identified gap or need and establishes measurable, credible equity outcomes aligned with the project’s purpose. • Demonstrates a structured engagement approach that meaningfully incorporates community input and reflects authentic collaboration through shared or co-created decision-making. • Utilizes culturally responsive strategies to reduce barriers to participation and prioritizes the inclusion of historically underrepresented communities.
3	<p>Transit-focused Activities & Incentives</p> <p>For your organizational staff, consultants, volunteers, or patrons – or for current/future residents of the housing preservation project – please select activities you expect to incorporate within the grant period (at least two (2) required).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Provide or subsidize transit access for staff, volunteers, or participants. <input type="checkbox"/> Gather stories or feedback about how people travel to project activities. <input type="checkbox"/> Include transportation choice questions in surveys or engagement tools. <input type="checkbox"/> Promote transit options for events, programs, or activities, including use of Transit App <input type="checkbox"/> Participate in or host sustainable mobility events (e.g., car-free days, open streets). <input type="checkbox"/> Offer opportunities for transit education, such as inviting VTA or mobility partners to table or present. <input type="checkbox"/> Support trip planning assistance for employees, volunteers, or participants. <input type="checkbox"/> Provide wayfinding or signage that directs people to nearby transit services. 	<p><u>For Evaluation</u> – Maximum (5) points would be awarded for application that identifies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project incorporates at least two (2) activities, which must include conducting a survey of transit and transportation choices to measure changes in transit use.

	<input type="checkbox"/> Conduct periodic transportation surveys to track changes in transit use over the project timeline. <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please describe).	
4	<p>Transit Ridership Please describe how your selected Transit-Focused Activities & Incentives will be integrated into your project's approach. Explain how these activities and your overall project will increase transit use. Identify the specific transit services (e.g., bus or light-rail lines) expected to see increased ridership and how your project will encourage greater community use of these services.</p> <p>You may also address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How the project raises the profile of the station or stop as a transit hub - How the project removes barriers (physical, informational, cultural or safety-related) to current transit use - How the project will support non-auto dependent populations, or reduces reliance on private automobiles <p>For more information on transit services in your project area, please reference the Ridership by Stop SCVTA Open Data Site.</p> <p><i>(Please limit your response to 1800 characters (300 words) or fewer)</i></p>	<p>For Evaluation – Maximum (10) points would be awarded for application that clearly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearly outlines how Transit-Focused Activities or incentives will be implemented and identifies the specific transit services, stations, or stops anticipated to be positively impacted. • Explains how the project increases transit use by removing barriers and reducing reliance on private vehicles. • Demonstrates benefits to transit-dependent and non-auto dependent populations while encouraging shifts to transit and other sustainable modes.

Q#	Section 4: Project Readiness and Consultant Experience/Strategy	
1	<p>Project Readiness Please describe the actions your organization has taken to prepare this project for implementation. Examples may include completing preliminary analyses, confirming project partners, securing consultant services, or finalizing project scope.</p> <p><i>(Please keep your response to 1800 characters (300 words) or fewer)</i></p>	<p>For Evaluation – Maximum (15) points would be awarded for applications that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate that program funding will advance acquisition of a specific preservation project(s) through evidence, such as an executed purchase and sale agreement. • Steps towards acquisition of project have already been completed, such as completion of financial feasibility analysis or completed procurement of consulting services to immediately commence work
2	<p>Consultant Experience or Strategy For technical assistance projects: Please describe the consultant your organization has selected to complete the proposed Eligible Activities. Your response must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A summary of the consultant's relevant experience, including number of years working on projects similar in scope or complexity. - A description of at least three (3) comparable projects the consultant has completed, highlighting the consultant's role, key deliverables, and outcomes. - At least two work samples or links to work products completed by the selected consultant. - A contract or letter of intent between the applicant and consultant confirming consultant's commitment to perform the proposed Eligible Activities. 	<p>For Evaluation – Maximum (15) points would be awarded for technical assistance projects that engage a consultant that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates extensive relevant experience, high-quality work samples, and clear and complete letter of intent from consultant affirming commitment. • Staffing plan identifies key roles, capacity, and how organization staff and consultant/partner staff will coordinate. <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates a capacity-building project with a coherent, realistic, time-bound strategy that

<p>-Identify the staffing plan for your organization and consultant.</p> <p>For capacity-building projects:</p> <p>-Describe the consultant, partner activities or overall strategy that will strengthen your organization’s ability to implement preservation projects in the short-term, medium-term and long-term.</p> <p>-Describe the specific functions, skills, or technical expertise these partners or strategy will provide.</p> <p>-For consultant or partner activities, provide at least two work samples or links to work products.</p> <p>-A contract or letter of intent between the applicant and consultant confirming consultant’s commitment, as applicable.</p> <p>-Identify the staffing plan for your organization and consultant or partner.</p> <p><i>(Please limit your response to 2400 characters (400 words) or fewer)</i></p>	<p>strengthens implementation of preservation projects, aligns identified needs with proposed activities and expected outcomes.</p>
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Q#	Section 5: Administrative Elements	
Administrative elements criteria are intended for evaluation of project readiness and capacity for implementation		
1	<p>Anticipated Project Start Date Project must commence within 1 year of anticipated award. Earliest anticipated award date is March 31, 2027.</p>	Confirm project eligibility
2	<p>Anticipated Project End Date Project must be completed within 2 years of project start date.</p>	
3	<p>Project Schedule Please include a proposed project schedule for each eligible activity (scope of work) outlining measurable outcomes, key activities (including transit focused activities), and the month(s) in which each activity will occur. The proposed schedule should begin March 31, 2027, at the earliest, to account for time to negotiate a grant agreement with VTA.</p>	<p><u>For Evaluation</u> – Maximum (10) points would be awarded for an application that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measurable outcomes are clearly stated and aligned with proposed work. • Activities and milestones are specific, feasible and clearly support stated outcomes. • Timeline is clear, month-by-month, realistic and begins no earlier than March 31, 2027.
4	<p>Proposed Budget Please provide a project budget with the total project cost that outlines administrative costs, and any other costs required for project implementation for each eligible activity. 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. Also note that we are not asking for the total budget for your organization, only the budget for <u>this specific project</u>.</p>	<p><u>For Evaluation</u> – Maximum (10) 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. • A realistic ability to complete grant activities within requested grant amount.
5	<p>Financial Need and Risk Please describe the financial and logistical challenges your organization would encounter in moving this project forward if your organization does not receive this grant.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The budget clearly identifies anticipated additional funding sources, and provides adequate information to instill confidence in

	<i>(Please limit your response to 500 characters (80 words) or less)</i>	ability to secure the funding match necessary for project delivery.
6	<p>Organizational Readiness Is your organization or fiscal sponsor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Current with IRS Form 990 filings. <input type="checkbox"/> In good standing with the Secretary of State. <input type="checkbox"/> No outstanding IRS or state compliance issues. <input type="checkbox"/> Established systems to track and report grant expenditures. <input type="checkbox"/> Ability to submit financial/expense documentation on schedule <input type="checkbox"/> Neither the applicant nor its fiscal sponsor, if applicable, are currently involved in any legal proceedings, investigations, or disputes that could materially affect the applicant's operations, financial stability or ability to carry out the proposed grant activities. 	Check for organizational readiness regarding all the noted financial requirements.
7	<p>Partnerships Statement Please include a statement below that identifies strategic partnerships that demonstrate community support and are essential to the successful implementation of the project.</p> <p><i>(Please limit your response to 600 characters (100 words) or fewer)</i></p>	<p><u>For Evaluation</u> – Maximum (4) point would be awarded for applications that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies at least one strategic partner, demonstrates that the partnership is already established or actively being developed, and shows clear relevance to the project. • Bonus point (1) awarded for a letter of support from one or more of these agencies, organizations, or entities.
8	<p>Partner Letter of Support (Optional) Attach your optional letter of support.</p>	

Summary of Scoring

Complete applications will be scored using the criteria provided, as applicable. Maximum points for each criterion are noted. 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	Minimum Acceptable Score	
TOC Elements	45 points		
- Community Conditions	15 points		
- Equity-Focused Actions and Outcomes	15 points		
- Transit-Supportive Activities	5 points		
- Transit Ridership	10 points		
Program B: Community Resilience	30 points		
- Project Readiness	15 points		
- Consultant Experience or Strategy	15 points		
Administrative	25 points		
- Schedule	10 points		
- Budget	10 points		
- Partnerships	5 points		
Total	100 points		60/100 points

Program C: Education and Engagement

	Application Section	Evaluation
Q#	Section 1: Applicant Information	
1	Applicant Point of Contact (First, Last)	For informational purposes
2	Applicant Contact Email	
3	Applicant Phone	
4	Applicant Type Select from: Local Agency, Community Based Organization	Local Agency → Section 1-A Community-Based Organization → Section 1-B-

Q#	Section 1-A: Applicant Information (Local Agencies)	
4.1 (A)	Agency Name	For informational purposes
4.2 (A)	Agency Address	
4.3 (A)	Agency Website	
4.4 (A)	VTA Collaboration Has your agency engaged or collaborated with VTA departments in the last 12 months? Have you ever received funding from VTA? If so, please describe.	
4.5 (A)	Pending or Unexecuted Agreements If your agency previously received a TOC Program grant, do you have any pending or unexecuted grant agreements with VTA? (Yes/No) As noted in the NOFA, previous TOC grant awardees are not eligible for additional funding for the same project. However, past awardees may reapply if they have an executed agreement(s) and are proposing a different, eligible project.	
4.6 (A)	Grant Amount Request Note: maximum request is \$25,000	
4.7 (A)	Match Please provide committed or anticipated funding match amount and the source of the match. Note: 15% match requirement for Local Agencies (in-kind services allowed).	Applicant Match Requirement

Q#	Section 1-B: Applicant Information (Community Based Organizations)	
4.1 (B)	Organization Name 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.	For information – not evaluation
4.2 (B)	Organization Address	
4.3 (B)	Organization Website	
4.4 (B)	Organization Description/Mission Statement (Please keep your response to 500 characters (80 words) or fewer)	
4.5 (B)	Years serving Santa Clara County Applicants must be serving Santa Clara County for a minimum of one year	Applicant Eligibility Requirement
4.6 (B)	VTA Collaboration Has your organization engaged or collaborated with VTA departments in the last 12 months? Have you ever received funding from VTA? If so, please describe.	For informational purposes
4.7 (B)	Pending or Unexecuted Agreements If your organization previously received a TOC Program grant, do you have any pending or unexecuted grant agreements with VTA? (Yes/No) As noted in the NOFA, previous TOC grant awardees are not eligible for additional funding for the same project. However, past awardees may reapply if they have an executed agreement(s) and are proposing a different, eligible project.	For information – not evaluation
4.8 (B)	Grant Amount Request Note: maximum request is \$25,000.	
4.9 (B)	Additional Funding Sources Please identify any additional grant funding sources, amounts, and status (e.g., planned or awarded/secured) 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.	
5	Please identify whether your organization has 501(c)3 Non-Profit status, or is using a 501(c)3 Fiscal Sponsor Three options: A. My organization is a 501(c)3 non-profit B. My organization is partnering with a 501(c)3 non-profit fiscal sponsor C. Local Agency – N.A	Applicant Eligibility Requirement
5.1 (A)	Please provide the Federal EIN for your organization. Please attach your Determination Letter from the IRS, available at: https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/tax-exempt-organization-search	Applicant Eligibility Requirement
5.1 (B)	Please identify the 501(c)3 Non-Profit Fiscal Sponsor with whom your organization is partnering 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.	For informational purposes
5.2 (B)	501(c)3 Status of Fiscal Sponsor Please provide the Federal EIN for your Fiscal Sponsor. Please attach the fiscal sponsor's Determination Letter from the IRS, available at: https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/tax-exempt-organization-search	Applicant Eligibility Requirement

Q#	Section 2: Project Information	
1	Project Name Please share the name of your project. It should be descriptive and succinct.	For informational purposes
2	Brief Project Description Please provide a brief paragraph describing your project. <i>(Please limit your response to 500 characters (80 words) or fewer)</i>	
3	Project Location/Address (Street address, City, Zip Code) Note: Project location must be within one-half mile of VTA Transit Station, Transit Center, or one-quarter mile of Frequent Bus Corridor.	Confirm geographic eligibility
4	TOC Transit Station/Transit Center/Frequent Bus Corridor Please select the eligible station/transit center from the drop-down menu: (You may also use the online TOC VTA Grant Eligibility Map to confirm which eligible geography your project falls within)	
5	Project Type Select one or more of the following eligible project types that best describe your Project: <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
6	Project Narrative Describe briefly summarize your proposed project, including the goals, measurable outcomes and activities of the proposed project. Additionally, please include information about all existing or planned partnerships and collaborations that are necessary for the project's implementation. Include how it demonstrates alignment with the TOC Grant Program Goals as described in Section III.C of the Notice of Funding Availability and Program Area C description. <i>(Please limit your response to 2400 characters (400 words) or fewer)</i>	<u>For evaluation</u> – Maximum (30) points would be awarded for an application that results in the following outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflects specific activities, clearly explains the goals, measurable outcomes, and partnerships necessary for the proposed project to achieve its impact potential. • Provide community with knowledge and tools to advocate for TOC-Supportive policies and implementation, such as stabilizing affordable housing or advocating for thriving neighborhoods near transit. • Empower community to co-define and actively partner on local programs or planning efforts that

		strengthen transit-oriented communities in Santa Clara County.
7	Existing Site Documentation (Optional) For projects with a public art component, applicants are encouraged, but not required, to include photos of the existing site where the art is planned to be installed.	For informational purposes

Q#	Section 3: TOC Elements	
1	<p>Community Conditions</p> <p>Please describe the station-area community your project will serve using both quantitative data (e.g. demographics, socioeconomic indicators, Healthy Places Index, US Census data, Urban Displacement Project) and qualitative insights (e.g., lived experience and community-identified needs.). Include specific information about historical or existing barriers to equity members of this community have experienced (e.g., access to housing, transportation, displacement pressures, cultural or economic instability, gaps in planning).</p> <p>Please note whether your project is located within an MTC Equity Priority Community (shown in light red in the TOC VTA Grant Eligibility Map).</p> <p><i>(Please limit your response to 1800 characters (300 words) or fewer)</i></p>	<p><u>For Evaluation</u> – Maximum (15) points would be awarded for an application that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides clear and relevant quantitative data and qualitative insights that define the community context. • Accurately notes if project is within MTC Equity Priority Community.
2	<p>Equity-Focused Actions and Outcomes</p> <p>Please explain how your project will address a specific gap, barrier or need identified in your community analysis, who is most impacted, and the specific outcomes and benefits your project will deliver to community members.:</p> <p>-Describe your engagement strategy, including methods, frequency, and how input will meaningfully influence project decisions.</p> <p>-Note any collaboration and co-creation with community members in the project area (not already identified in the Partnership Statement) and how decision-making is shared.</p> <p>-How will your project engage with historically excluded community members?</p> <p><i>(Please limit your response to 2,400 characters (400 words) or fewer).</i></p>	<p><u>For Evaluation</u> – Maximum (15) points would be awarded for application that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearly articulates the significance of the identified gap or need and establishes measurable, credible equity outcomes aligned with the project’s purpose. • Demonstrates a structured engagement approach that meaningfully incorporates community input and reflects authentic collaboration through shared or co-created decision-making. • Utilizes culturally responsive strategies to reduce barriers to participation and prioritize the inclusion of historically underrepresented communities.
3	<p>Transit-focused Activities & Incentives</p> <p>For your organizational staff, consultants, volunteers, or patrons – or for current/future residents of the housing preservation project – please select activities you expect to incorporate within the grant period (at least two (2) required).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Provide or subsidize transit access for staff, volunteers, or participants. <input type="checkbox"/> Gather stories or feedback about how people travel to project activities. <input type="checkbox"/> Include transportation-choice questions in surveys or engagement tools. 	<p><u>For Evaluation</u> – Maximum (5) points would be awarded for application that identifies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project incorporates at least two (2) activities, which must include conducting a survey of transit and transportation choices to measure changes in transit use.

Q#	Section 3: TOC Elements	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Promote transit options for events, programs, or activities, including use of Transit App <input type="checkbox"/> Participate in or host sustainable-mobility events (e.g., car-free days, open streets). <input type="checkbox"/> Offer opportunities for transit education, such as inviting VTA or mobility partners to table or present. <input type="checkbox"/> Support trip-planning assistance for employees, volunteers, or participants. <input type="checkbox"/> Provide wayfinding or signage that directs people to nearby transit services. <input type="checkbox"/> Conduct periodic transportation surveys to track changes in transit use over the project timeline. <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please describe). 	
4	<p>Transit Ridership Please describe how your selected Transit-Focused Activities & Incentives will be integrated into your project’s approach. Explain how these activities and your overall project will increase transit use. Identify the specific transit services (e.g., bus or light-rail lines) expected to see increased ridership and how your project will encourage greater community use of these services.</p> <p>You may also address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How the project will raise the profile of the station or stop as a transit hub - How the project removes barriers (physical, informational, cultural or safety-related) to current transit use - How the project will support non-auto-dependent populations, or reduce reliance on private automobiles <p>For more information on transit services in your project area, please reference the Ridership by Stop SCVTA Open Data Site.</p> <p><i>(Please limit your response to 1800 characters (300 words) or fewer.)</i></p>	<p>For Evaluation – Maximum (15) points would be awarded for application that clearly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearly outlines how Transit-Focused Activities or incentives will be implemented and identifies the specific transit services, stations, or stops anticipated to be positively impacted. • Explains how the project increases transit use by removing barriers and reducing reliance on private vehicles. • Demonstrates benefits to transit-dependent and non-auto dependent populations while encouraging shifts to transit and other sustainable modes.

Q#	Section 4: Administrative Elements	
Administrative elements criteria are intended for evaluation of project readiness and capacity for implementation		
1	<p>Anticipated Project Start Date Project must commence within 1 year of anticipated award. Earliest anticipated award date is March 31, 2027.</p>	Confirm project eligibility
2	<p>Anticipated Project End Date Project must be completed within 2 years of project start date.</p>	
3	<p>Project Schedule Please include a proposed project schedule (scope of work) outlining measurable outcomes, key activities (including transit focused activities), and the month(s) in which each activity will occur. The proposed schedule should begin until March 31, 2027, at the earliest, to account for time to negotiate a grant agreement with VTA.</p>	<p><u>For Evaluation</u> – Maximum (8) points would be awarded for an application that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measurable outcomes are clearly stated and aligned with proposed work. • Activities and milestones are specific, feasible and clearly support stated outcomes. • Timeline is clear, month-by-month, realistic and begins no earlier than March 31, 2027.

4	<p>Proposed Budget Please include a project budget with the total project cost that outlines administrative costs, and any other costs required for project implementation for each eligible activity. 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. Also note that we are not asking for the total budget for your organization, only the budget for <u>this specific project</u>.</p>	<p><u>For Evaluation</u> – Maximum (8) 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; • A realistic ability to complete grant activities within requested grant amount; • 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. • A clear demonstration of need for the TOC funding in order for the project to move forward for implementation.
5	<p>Financial Need and Risk Please describe the financial and logistical challenges your organization would encounter in moving this project forward if your organization does not receive this grant. <i>(Please limit your response to 500 characters (80 words) or less)</i></p>	
6	<p>Organizational Readiness Is your organization or fiscal sponsor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Current with IRS Form 990 filings. <input type="checkbox"/> In good standing with the Secretary of State. <input type="checkbox"/> No outstanding IRS or state compliance issues. <input type="checkbox"/> Established systems to track and report grant expenditures. <input type="checkbox"/> Ability to submit financial/expense documentation on schedule. <input type="checkbox"/> Neither the applicant nor its fiscal sponsor are currently involved in any legal proceedings, investigations, or disputes that could materially affect the applicant's operations, financial stability or ability to carry out the proposed grant activities. 	<p>Check for organizational readiness regarding all the noted financial requirements.</p>
7	<p>Project Team Please provide your staffing plan to complete your proposed project. <i>(Please limit your response to 600 characters (100 words) or fewer)</i></p>	<p>For informational purposes</p>
8	<p>Partnership Statement Please include a statement below that identifies strategic partnerships necessary for the implementation of the project, and if contact has already been made. Partnerships can include local 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). <i>(Please limit your response to 600 characters (100 words) or fewer)</i></p>	<p><u>For Evaluation</u> – Maximum (3) point would be awarded for applications that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies at least one strategic partner (e.g., agency, organization, or entity) and demonstrates that the partnership is already established or actively being developed, and show clear, relevance to the project • Bonus point (1) awarded for a letter of support from one or more of these agencies, organizations, or entities.
9	<p>Partner Letter of Support (Optional) Attach your optional letter of support.</p>	

Summary of Scoring

Complete applications will be scored using the criteria provided, as applicable. Maximum points for each criterion are noted. 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	Minimum Acceptable Score/Total	
Project Narrative (Program C)	30 points		
TOC Elements	50 points		
- Community Conditions	15 points		
- Equitable Actions and Outcomes	15 points		
- Transit-Supportive Activities	5 points		
- Transit Propensity	15 points		
Administrative	20 points		
- Schedule	8 points		
- Budget	8 points		
- Partnerships	4 points		
Total	100 points		60/100 points

Program D: Placekeeping, Arts, and Activation

	Application Section	Evaluation
Q#	Section 1: Applicant Information	
1	Applicant Point of Contact (First, Last)	For information – not evaluation
2	Applicant Contact Email	
3	Applicant Phone	
4	Applicant Type Select from: Local Agency, Community Based Organization	Local Agency → Section 1-A Community-Based Organization → Section 1-B

Q#	Section 1-A: Applicant Information (Local Agencies)	
4.1 (A)	Agency Name	For informational purposes
4.2 (A)	Agency Address	
4.3 (A)	Agency Website	
4.4 (A)	VTA Collaboration Has your agency engaged or collaborated with VTA departments in the last 12 months? Have you ever received funding from VTA? If so, please describe.	
4.5 (A)	Pending or Unexecuted Agreements If your agency previously received a TOC Program grant, do you have any pending or unexecuted grant agreements with VTA? (Yes/No) As noted in the NOFA, previous TOC grant awardees are not eligible for additional funding for the same project. However, past awardees may reapply if they have an executed agreement(s) and are proposing a different, eligible project.	
4.7 (A)	Grant Amount Request Please provide committed or anticipated funding match amount and the source of the match.	Applicant Match Requirement
4.8 (A)	Match Please provide committed or anticipated funding match amount and the source of the match. Note: 15% match requirement for Local Agencies (in-kind services allowed).	

Q#	Section 1-B: Applicant Information (Community Based Organizations)	
4.1 (B)	Organization Name 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	For informational purposes
4.2 (B)	Organization Address	
4.3 (B)	Organization Website	
4.4 (B)	Organization Description/Mission Statement <i>(Please limit your response to 500 characters (80 words) or fewer)</i>	
4.5 (B)	Years serving Santa Clara County Applicants must be serving Santa Clara County for a minimum of one year	Applicant Eligibility Requirement
4.6 (B)	VTA Collaboration Has your organization engaged or collaborated with VTA departments in the last 12 months? Have you ever received funding from VTA? If so, please describe.	
4.7 (B)	Pending or Unexecuted Agreements If your organization previously received a TOC Program grant, do you have any pending or unexecuted grant agreements with VTA? (Yes/No) As noted in the NOFA, previous TOC grant awardees are not eligible for additional funding for the same project. However, past awardees may reapply if they have an executed agreement(s) and are proposing a different, eligible project.	
4.8 (B)	Grant Amount Request Note: maximum request is \$25,000	
4.9 (B)	Additional Funding Sources 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.	For informational purposes
5	Please identify whether your organization has 501(c)3 Non-Profit status, or is using a 501(c)3 Fiscal Sponsor Two options: 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
5.1 (A)	501(c)3 Status Please provide the Federal EIN for your organization. Please attach your Determination Letter from the IRS, available at: https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/tax-exempt-organization-search	Applicant Eligibility Requirement
5.1 (B)	Please identify the 501(c)3 Non-Profit Fiscal Sponsor with whom your organization is partnering 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	For informational purposes

5.2 (B)	501(c)3 Status of Fiscal Sponsor Please provide the Federal EIN for your Fiscal Sponsor. Please attach the fiscal sponsor's Determination Letter from the IRS, available at: https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/tax-exempt-organization-search	Applicant Eligibility Requirement
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Q#	Section 2: Project Information	
1	Project Name Please share the name of your project. It should be descriptive and succinct.	For informational purposes
2	Brief Project Description Please provide a brief paragraph describing your project. (Please keep your response to 500 characters (80 words) or fewer)	
3	Project Location/Address (Street address, City, Zip Code) Note: Project location must be within one-half mile of VTA Transit Station, Transit Center, or one-quarter mile of Frequent Bus Corridor.	Confirm geographic eligibility
4	TOC Station/Transit Center/ Frequent Bus Corridor Please select the eligible station/transit center from the drop-down menu: (You may also use the online TOC VTA Grant Eligibility Map to confirm which eligible geography your project falls within).	Confirm geographic eligibility
5	Project Type Select one or more of the following eligible project types that best describe your Project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 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) <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"/> Public 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"/> Projects that address a gap or need in communities lacking placekeeping, arts, and activation activities that celebrate their neighborhood and culture connections to transit and the rider experience. <input type="checkbox"/> Integrating elements into existing facilities or streetscape elements to create functional art or beautification (shade, seating, bike racks etc.). <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please describe) <p>Note: If applicant is proposing a public art project on VTA - owned land or facilities, VTA consultation is recommended and available by contacting tocgrant@vta.org as early as possible.</p>	Confirm eligible activity

6	<p>Project Narrative</p> <p>Describe briefly summarize your proposed project, including the goals, measurable outcomes and activities of the proposed project. Additionally, please include information about all existing or planned partnerships and collaborations that are necessary for the project's implementation. Include how it demonstrates alignment with the TOC Grant Program Goals as described in Section III.C of the Notice of Funding Availability and Program Area C description.</p> <p>Please note construction activities such as new infrastructure or building construction do not qualify for VTA Transit-Oriented Communities Grant funding.</p> <p>(Please keep your response to 2,400 characters (400 words) or fewer)</p>	<p><u>For evaluation</u> – Maximum (30) points would be awarded for an application that includes activities that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflects specific activities, clearly explains the goals, measurable outcomes, and partnerships necessary for the proposed project to achieve its impact potential. • Clearly promote local Santa Clara County artists, culture, history, or value by hosting public events or programs, <u>or</u> providing public art by local artists (based within Santa Clara County) in publicly accessible spaces that aim to preserve and strengthen community identity, in an area that currently lacks art and activation. • Clearly contributes 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.
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Q#	Section 3: TOC Elements	
	<p>Community Conditions</p> <p>Please describe the community your project will serve using both quantitative data (e.g. demographics, socioeconomic indicators, Healthy Places Index, US Census data, Urban Displacement Project) and qualitative insights (e.g., lived experience and community-identified needs.). Include specific information about historical or existing barriers to equity members of this community have experienced (e.g., access to housing, transportation, displacement pressures, cultural or economic instability, gaps in planning).</p> <p>Please note whether your project is located within an MTC Equity Priority Community (shown in light red in the TOC VTA Grant Eligibility Map).</p> <p>(Please keep your response to 1,800 characters (300 words) or fewer)</p>	<p><u>For Evaluation</u> – Maximum (15) points would be awarded for an application that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides clear and relevant quantitative data and qualitative insights that define the community context. • Accurately notes if project is within MTC Equity Priority Community.
2	<p>Equity Actions and Outcomes</p> <p>Please explain how your project will address a specific gap, barrier or need identified in your community analysis, who is most impacted, and the specific outcomes and benefits your project will deliver to community members.:</p> <p>-Describe your engagement strategy, including methods, frequency, and how input will meaningfully influence project decisions.</p> <p>-Note any collaboration and co-creation with community members in the project area (not already identified in the Partnership Statement) and how decision-making is shared.</p>	<p><u>For Evaluation</u> – Maximum (15) points would be awarded for application that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearly articulates the significance of the identified gap or need and establishes measurable, credible equity outcomes aligned with the project's purpose. • Demonstrates a structured engagement approach that meaningfully incorporates community input and reflects authentic collaboration through shared or co-created decision-making.

	<p>-How will your project engage with historically excluded community members?</p> <p>(Please keep your response to 2,400 characters (400 words) or fewer)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utilizes culturally responsive strategies to reduce barriers to participation and prioritize the inclusion of historically underrepresented communities.
3	<p>Transit-focused Activities & Incentives</p> <p>For your organizational staff, consultants, volunteers, or patrons – or for current/future residents of the housing preservation project – please select activities you expect to incorporate within the grant period (at least two (2) required).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Provide or subsidize transit access for staff, volunteers, or participants. <input type="checkbox"/> Gather stories or feedback about how people travel to project activities. <input type="checkbox"/> Include transportation-choice questions in surveys or engagement tools. <input type="checkbox"/> Promote transit options for events, programs, or activities, including use of Transit App <input type="checkbox"/> Participate in or host sustainable-mobility events (e.g., car-free days, open streets). <input type="checkbox"/> Offer opportunities for transit education, such as inviting VTA or mobility partners to table or present. <input type="checkbox"/> Support trip-planning assistance for employees, volunteers, or participants. <input type="checkbox"/> Provide wayfinding or signage that directs people to nearby transit services. <input type="checkbox"/> Conduct periodic transportation surveys to track changes in transit use over the project timeline. <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please describe). 	<p><u>For Evaluation</u> – Maximum (5) points would be awarded for application that identifies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project incorporates at least two (2) activities, which must include conducting a survey of transit and transportation choices to measure changes in transit use.
4	<p>Transit Ridership</p> <p>Please describe how your selected Transit-Focused Activities & Incentives will be integrated into your project’s approach. Explain how these activities and your overall project will increase transit use. Identify the specific transit services (e.g., bus or light-rail lines) expected to see increased ridership and how your project will encourage greater community use of these services.</p> <p>You may also address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How the project will raise the profile of the station or stop as a transit hub - How the project removes barriers (physical, informational, cultural or safety-related) to current transit use - How the project supports non-auto-dependent populations, or reduce reliance on private automobiles <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 1800 characters (300 words) or fewer)</p>	<p><u>For Evaluation</u> – Maximum (15) points would be awarded for application that clearly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clearly outlines how Transit-Focused Activities or incentives will be implemented and identifies the specific transit services, stations, or stops anticipated to be positively impacted. Explains how the project increases transit use by removing barriers and reducing reliance on private vehicles. Demonstrates benefits to transit-dependent and non-auto dependent populations while encouraging shifts to transit and other sustainable modes.

Q#	Section 4: Administrative Elements	
Administrative elements criteria are intended for evaluation of project readiness and capacity for implementation		
1	Anticipated Project Start Date Project must commence within 1 year of anticipated award. Earliest anticipated award date is March 31, 2027.	Confirm project eligibility
2	Anticipated Project End Date Project must be completed within 2 years of project start date	
3	Project Schedule Please include a project schedule that outlines how grant funding will achieve certain milestones, and a description of each milestone. The proposed schedule should begin until March 31, 2027, at the earliest, to account for time to negotiate a grant agreement with VTA.	<u>For Evaluation</u> – Maximum (8) 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; • A realistic timeline that begins after March 31, 2027.
4	Proposed Budget Please include a project budget with the total project cost that outlines administrative costs, and any other costs required for project implementation for each eligible activity. 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. Also note that we are not asking for the total budget for your organization, only the budget for <u>this specific project</u> .	<u>For Evaluation</u> – Maximum (8) 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; • A realistic ability to complete grant activities within requested grant amount; • 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.
5	Financial Need and Risk Please describe the financial and logistical challenges your organization would encounter in moving this project forward if your organization does not receive this grant. (Please limit your response to 500 characters (80 words) or less)	For informational purposes
6	Organizational Readiness Is your organization or fiscal sponsor: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Current with IRS Form 990 filings <input type="checkbox"/> In good standing with the Secretary of State <input type="checkbox"/> No outstanding IRS or state compliance issues <input type="checkbox"/> Established systems to track and report grant expenditures <input type="checkbox"/> Ability to submit financial/expense documentation on schedule <input type="checkbox"/> Neither the applicant nor its fiscal sponsor are currently involved in any legal proceedings, investigations, or disputes that could materially affect the applicant's operations, financial stability or ability to carry out the proposed grant activities. 	Check for organizational readiness regarding all the noted financial requirements.
7	Project Team Please provide your staffing plan to complete your proposed project.	For informational purposes

	(Please keep your response to 100 words or fewer)	
8	<p>Partnership Statement Please include a statement below that identifies strategic partnerships necessary for the implementation of the project, and if contact has already been made. If government permits or property access/easements are necessary to carry out or complete the project, please attach a statement explaining the status of any such permit approvals.</p> <p><i>(Please keep your response, excluding the letter of support, to 600 characters (100 words) or fewer)</i></p>	<p><u>For Evaluation</u> – Maximum (3) 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) and demonstrates that the partnership is already established, or actively being developed. • If permits are necessary, a clear statement explaining the status of any such permit approvals is included. • Bonus point (1) awarded for a letter of support from one or more of these agencies, community organizations, or entities.
9	<p>Partner Letter of Support (Optional) Attach and upload your optional letter of support.</p>	

Summary of Scoring

Complete applications will be scored using the criteria provided, as applicable. Maximum points for each criterion are noted. 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	Minimum Acceptable Score/Total
Project Narrative (Program D)	30 points	
TOC Elements	50 points	
- Community Conditions	15 points	
- Equitable Actions & Outcomes	15 points	
- Transit-Supportive Activities	5 points	
- Transit Ridership	15 points	
Administrative	20 points	
Schedule	8 points	
Budget	8 points	
Partnerships	4 points	
Total	100 points	60/100