Fire Risk Reduction Communities List

January 2024

Background

- **PRC 4290.1:** "On or before July 1, 2022, the board shall develop criteria for and maintain a "Fire Risk Reduction Community" list of local agencies located in a state responsibility area or a very high fire hazard severity zone….that meet best practices for local fire planning."

- **PRC 4124.7(a):** "The department shall, except for activities described in paragraph (5) of subdivision (c) of Section 4124.5, prioritize local assistance grant funding applications from local agencies based on the "Fire Risk Reduction Community" list, upon development of that list, pursuant to Section 4290.1."

Timeline

- Application open: **December 1, 2023**
- Applications due: **April 1, 2024**
- List published online: **July 1, 2024**

- Application deadline for next List update: April 1, 2026, and April 1 of each even-numbered year thereafter (2028, 2030, etc.)
- Updated versions of List published online: July 1, 2024, and July 1 of every even-numbered year thereafter

Key Definitions

- **Local Agency:** Any city, city and county, or county; tribal agency; agency, department, district or other **publicly funded entity** serving a city and/or county.

- **Low-income Local Agency:**
  - A city with a median household income equal to or less than 80% of the area median income for the county in which it is located.
  - A county with a median household income equal to or less than $64,352.
  - An agency, department, district or other publicly funded entity serving at least one city or county which qualifies as Low-Income under the above conditions.

List Criteria Structure

- For cities & counties: 4 mandatory criteria + 2 optional criteria completed
  - If **low-income**: 4 mandatory criteria + 1 optional criterion completed + 1 optional criterion included as policy objective in Safety Element

- For agencies that are **not** cities & counties: 2 optional criteria (7 options)
  - If **low-income:** 1 criterion met + 1 criterion included as objective or expected outcome in agency's central planning document

Use by Grants Program

- Grant Projects are evaluated based on the overall benefit to reduce the threat of wildfires to people, structures, and communities. CAL FIRE will consider the wildfire hazards and risks to an area, the geographic balance of projects, and whether the project is complementary to other wildfire prevention or forest health activities when awarding grants. Wildfire Prevention Grant applicants will receive priority if the applicant is on the Fire Risk Reduction Community List, or if the applicant plans to utilize the grant funding to meet the List eligibility requirements. Projects are selected on a competitive basis and consecutive awards are not guaranteed

- The List has **no impact on who is eligible to apply** for grant funding. PRC 4124.7(b):"The prioritization required in subdivision (a) shall not affect applications from entities that are not local agencies."

Application

- 2024 application is available for download on the Board website: https://bof.fire.ca.gov/projects-and-programs/fire-risk-reduction-community-list/

- Submission of the application and all supporting documentation will be through BOX

Additional Links & Resources

- Board FRRCL webpage

- Application form download

- Box application portal

- FAQ sheet download

- Regulations (14 CCR 1268.00-1268.03)