

USAID Climate Finance for Development Accelerator (CFDA)
Request for Applications (RFA No. 2025-0022)
Supporting Climate Adaptation Innovations in the Caribbean
Answers to Questions

Section 1. Answers to Technical Questions

Q1:	What is meant by "infrastructure resilience design, ecosystem management, disaster risk reduction, and resilient distributed renewable energy generation and storage capabilities"?
A1:	Refer to Section 1C of the RFA for detailed definitions.
Q3:	What types of renewable energy technologies and innovations will be considered?
A3:	CCIP will accept all concepts that propose distributed energy solutions.
Q4:	Are greenhouses an eligible project under CCIP?
A4:	Greenhouses are eligible if they contribute to climate resilience and align with CCIP's objectives and the thematic focus of the RFA. However, projects focused solely on greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction or carbon capture do not meet the program's funding priorities.
Q5:	Are projects required to address all categories listed, such as renewable energy?
A5:	No, projects are not required to address all listed categories. Applicants should focus on the technical categories most relevant to their project's goals.
Q6:	Can you provide examples of milestones that may be required?
A6:	Milestones can include project-level work plans, complete pre-feasibility or feasibility studies, or components of the study (e.g., financial modeling, market assessment, technical design, etc.). Milestones should be directly related to project activities and be associated to the entity's path towards investment readiness.

Section 2. Answers to Administrative/Compliance Questions

Q1:	Are large-scale research projects eligible, such as a national-scale energy modeling study?
A1:	No, research or other studies that are not linked to the progression of a project development towards investment readiness are not eligible. Still, CCIP's grant window may consider projects that support pilot programs, commercialization, and uptake of commercially viable activities to strengthen resiliency.
Q2:	Does the applying company need to be a CFIN member?
A2:	Membership of the CFIN is not required but is highly encouraged. The CFIN is the primary method for obtaining up-to-date news regarding this RFA solicitation, including the pre-application workshops, workshop recordings, and posted Q&A.
Q3:	If an applicant joins CFIN, could a delayed acceptance affect eligibility?
A3:	This process will not impact entity eligibility or delay the consideration of an application by the RFA.
Q4:	Is a project co-financed by another agency (like World Bank or IDB) also eligible for funding under the CCIP? And if so, what restrictions/oversight will be placed on those sources?

A4:	All applications are required to meet the minimum 1:1 leverage requirement. Refer to Section 1C of the RFA for additional information.
Q5:	What criteria will CFDA/CFIN use to determine a successful application?
A5:	Refer to Section 1H of the RFA for the merit review criteria.
Q6:	How many applications for grants - from all organizations - will CCIP consider?
A6:	There is no maximum number of applications that CCIP will review, however all applications are subject to eligibility screening prior to being evaluated against the merit review criteria.
Q7:	Will preference be given to applications partnering with an academic institution?
A7:	No preference will be given for organizations partnering with academic institutions. If partnering with an academic institution, the institution must be private, otherwise grant funding will not be allocated to the institution if it is a public one.
Q8:	How can a private international company qualify?
A8:	International private companies are eligible. Additionally, the applicant does not need to be registered in CCIP's geographic countries to be eligible to apply. However, an applicant's project focus must be within the target geography and the applicant must demonstrate the ability to legally implement the project within that target geography.
Q9:	Do all projects have to be commercially viable?
A9:	Yes, commercial viability is required.
Q10:	Do startups need to be revenue-generating, or is pre-revenue acceptable?
A10:	Grants are activity-focused, not intended to increase profitability, thus pre-revenue startups are acceptable if project-focused.
Q11:	What does it mean that applications from particular countries are 'encouraged'?
A11:	CCIP will accept applications across the entire CCIP geographic scope (Antigua, The Bahamas, Barbados, Dominicana, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago). CCIP does not have programmatic presence in Antigua, Barbados, Dominicana, Grenada, Guyana, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Suriname, and is trying to extend its programmatic reach by encouraging applicants in these countries to apply. There are no merit review criteria assigned to geographic scope, thus no advantage to any one geography.
Q12:	Does CCIP fund startup ventures?
A12:	CCIP does not provide funding for operating capital for startups but may fund project-specific activities that align with CCIP's objectives. Use of funds may cover a portion of in-house expenditures when there is a clear link to the grant-funded activity
Q13:	Does the 1:1 match need to be applied to each budget line item individually, or can matching funds be focused on one category?
A13:	No, the 1:1 leverage does not need to apply to each line item individually. Rather, the 1:1 contribution should be reflective of the total grant amount requested from CCIP.
Q14:	Can CCIP support proof-of-concept or pilot projects that include a research component to determine product-market fit?
A14:	Yes, proof-of-concept or pilot projects that are part of a pre-feasibility or feasibility analysis are eligible if they are part of a business plan or scale-up activity. Purely theoretical research is not eligible.

Q15:	Can you explain the 1:1 match requirement in detail? Is this requirement strict, and can it include in-kind contributions or leverage acquired during or after the grant?
A15:	All applications are required to meet the minimum 1:1 leverage requirement. Refer to Section 1C of the RFA for additional information. This requirement may include in-kind contributions and may consist of leveraged funds secured, even from third parties, at any point during the grant.
Q16:	If public sector organizations are ineligible for direct grant funding, can they still participate as project partners and provide in-kind contributions?
A16:	Yes, public sector organizations may participate as project partners and offer in-kind contributions to private entities. A grant agreement will only be signed with the private applicant organization.
Q17:	How many applications can one organization submit?
A17:	While an organization could present more than one application, CCIP will fund only one grant per applicant at a time.
Q18:	How will CCIP measure the success of awarded grants?
A18:	Refer to Section 1H of the RFA for the merit review criteria for evaluation. CCIP provides only fixed amount awards, or output-based grants, in which grant disbursements are conditional upon successful completion of pre-determined milestone deliverables. Milestones are evaluated against the negotiated budget as part of the due diligence and negotiation process prior to the final award.
Q19:	What methods of proof/verification for budget items are acceptable?
A19:	Documentation for budget line items depends on the budget item type. This might include providing pay stubs to substantiate long-term staff salaries or quotes for equipment or a consultant service.
Q20:	If projections are made for a new project salary without supporting past payments, would this be an issue? What supporting documents would be required, and how is this expense justified?
A20:	Salary projections are acceptable, but they must be supported by salary history and/or justifications based on market standards, such as regional industry averages or comparable positions in similar organizations. Providing detailed justifications for estimated salaries will be required for due diligence.
Q22:	Will an audit be required during or at the end of the project?
A22:	No audit is required specifically for this grant. However, due diligence documentation is necessary, as Chemonics is subject to external audits.
Q23:	Will payments be made in US Dollars?
A23:	Grants will be disbursed in either the local currency of the organization (e.g., applicants from the Dominican Republic will be disbursed in Dominican pesos) or in US Dollars for international applicants.
Q24:	Will there be an additional round of grant applications for 2024-25?
A24:	Another grant window under CCIP may be possible, though it would be under a new separate window with a different thematic focus. Future windows are subject to funding availability.
Q25:	Will there be opportunities for joint promotion for successful applicants?
A25:	Yes, successful applicants will have opportunities for joint promotion in the form of co-marking. All successful applicants will be required to adhere to USAID's Branding

	and Marking guidelines and will receive direct support from CFDA’s Communications Team.
Q26:	What types of costs are eligible for funding?
A26:	Refer to Section 2E for a list of ineligible expenses. Using the provided budget template, applicants can allocate costs to long-term and short-term staff salaries, fringe benefits, other direct costs, workshops/training, equipment, and/or travel and transportation, provided they directly support the proposed grant activity.
Q27:	Will the U.S. election outcome affect grant funding?
A27:	We do not anticipate the U.S. election outcome to have any impact on funding availability for this grant window.
Q3:	Does CCIP provide matchmaking assistance for applicants with team or partner gaps?
A30:	CCIP can provide matchmaking assistance for applicants needing to fill specific expertise or partnership gaps. This support is available on a case-by-case basis, leveraging CCIP’s business development support and technical assistance services and through its regional network to strengthen project teams and align with program objectives.
Q31:	Must the 2-page Project Narrative include budget summaries and milestones?
A31:	Budget summaries and milestones should be included in the budget template provided as part of the supplemental documents. Refer to Section 2F of the RFA for an explanation of how and where information should be presented.
Q32:	If there is a later round for larger grants, will applications need to be linked?
A32:	No, each application stands independently unless otherwise indicated in future announcements.
Q33:	Will applying for this grant disqualify an organization from future funding rounds?
A33:	No, organizations remain eligible for all CCIP funding windows, regardless of previous awards or applications.
Q34:	Given the maximum size of grant being awarded, is the primary purpose of this application round to provide assistance for studies and academic activities?
A34:	No. Refer to Administrative/Compliance question 1 above.
Q35:	When will applicants be notified of success or failure, and when will funds be disbursed?
A35:	Notifications are expected on/around February 2025, and grants are expected to be awarded on/around March 2025 for successful applicants after completing due diligence and negotiations and subject to USAID approval. Because of CCIP’s transparency policy, it will not only issue notifications but also provide feedback on the application.
Q36:	What is the expected duration of the grant? Should projects be completed within 12 months, or is another timeframe acceptable?
A36:	The expected duration of the grant is 12 months. CCIP is open to projects with slightly different timeframes but requires that all periods of performance end by December 2026.