

# Climate Justice Supporting Community Resilience RFP

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## Overview

Con Edison is striving to ensure that disadvantaged and historically marginalized communities are centered in the benefits of our climate resiliency investments, working in parallel with New York State's ambitious energy transition goals. Due to the size of Con Edison's networks, and the population density in the five boroughs of New York City, and Westchester County, almost half of Con Edison's networks serve at least one disadvantaged community, making this equity focused resiliency planning a top priority for the company. We recognize that climate justice is intersectional with other justice-based movements, and our new philanthropic shift towards the broader social justice movement must support systemic changes.

We are seeking to support organizations ***whose mission and purpose focus on actionable social justice*** programming and initiatives centered in, created for, and implemented by disadvantaged and historically marginalized communities. Proposals should address the intersectional issues of **extreme heat & humidity, extreme weather events, and/or precipitation & flooding** with the outcome of building and advancing resiliency in these areas.

Con Edison envisions this effort as a three-year developmental program that uses cross-community organizing and outreach, systems thinking, and culturally relevant strategies to engage their communities. Successful programs will 1) cultivate future leaders, 2) expand community-based knowledge, 3) advance this work through an inclusive and intergenerational lens, 4) empower community to advocate for their needs, and 5) demonstrate activities that tangibly plan, prepare, and/or support community members for the relevant climate events.

We encourage applicants to think critically about the wide spectrum of program and capacity needs not only for their own organizations, but also for community members and partners. We also highly encourage collaborations that will strengthen the overall program capacity, and various accessibility considerations that allow people of all backgrounds to be present and engaged. Finally, we encourage applications to address individual AND/OR intersectional climate justice issues within communities served.

## Priority Populations

Every program that Con Edison will be considering for support under our Social Justice focus area must serve disadvantaged and/or historically marginalized communities across Con Edison territory. Communities served are considered both where the program resources are allocated and the greatest number of beneficiaries are located for the proposed activities to achieve their objectives.

New York State's Climate Justice Working Group has highlighted criteria for disadvantaged communities which includes:

- Communities of color (racial and ethnic minorities)
- Those exposed by potential pollution exposures
- Those impacted by land use associated with historical discrimination and divestment
- Those exposed to potential climate change risks
- Low- and Moderate-Income communities
- Those with poor health outcomes and sensitivities
- Housing energy and communications

These groups are highlighted on [New York State's DAC map](#).

Historically marginalized groups and classes of individuals not listed here are also eligible for this RFP.

## Qualified Applicants Must:

- Have a track record and mission of working with and for disadvantaged and historically marginalized communities to improve the quality of life of residents and community-based needs.
- Project **must** serve beneficiaries located within the state of New York with a priority for the five boroughs and Westchester, within Con Edison's service territories and historically marginalized and state-designated disadvantaged community.
- Organizations must be a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable entity, as described in Section 509(a)(1) or 509(a)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code. In a collective group scenario, a designated 501(c)(3) nonprofit is required as the fiscal agent for funding.

## What Programs Qualify? (includes, but not limited to):

- Programs and efforts to build awareness, understanding of environmental and climate burdens, and action to address climate change preparation and mitigation while serving historically marginalized and disadvantaged communities
- Programs that address the impact of climate-driven extreme temperatures on vulnerable populations through the implementation of skills-based trainings centered on community preparedness, organizing, and advocacy
- Programs that educate communities on the urban heat island and that provide the unique perspective of those communities to policy makers and other leaders
- Efforts that convene community leadership across sectors to consider and build plans for climate change impact and urban heat mitigation in targeted communities
- Project must be located within the state of New York with a priority for the five boroughs and Westchester within CECONY service territories and in historically marginalized and state-designated disadvantaged communities

## Selection Criteria

In selecting grantees, Con Edison will prioritize proposals from organizations/organizational partnerships that:

- Center and emerge from communities that have been historically marginalized and disadvantaged, including educational institutions who can demonstrate an extensive history of community partnerships.
- Have a history of organizing around justice issues (environmental justice and/or climate justice preferred).
- Have a strong leadership team (staff, board, volunteers) that reflects the demographic make-up of their communities.
- Are highly engaged and interactive with the identified community members and able to demonstrate a high level of community input into the project/plan.
- Clearly stated policy and advocacy goals related to the disproportionate climate impacts within the communities they serve.
- Can demonstrate that their project will have meaningful impact for their communities.

**Applicants should include the following information in their submissions:**

### **A. Cover Page**

- a. All responses to be in Arial Font 11
- b. Applicant name (fiscal sponsor name, if relevant)
- c. Applicant contact information

### **B. Community Need (1 page limit)**

- a. Briefly describe your community, how they have been impacted by relevant climate impacts, and challenges to addressing those needs in a 1-page overview

### **C. Project Summary (10 page limit)**

- a. Demographic, socio-economic and other data on communities to be targeted for their program
- b. Clear and measurable goals for the program including specific educational outcomes and service level targets for the desired number of participants to be served within the timeline
- c. An overview of each applicant agency, their roles in the project and their history of successful work in the areas addressed by the application
- d. An overview of the governance that will be used to drive the project
- e. A three-year timeline which includes major milestones for project achievement in the coming three years
- f. A topline evaluation plan and timelines for formative and summative reporting on program efficacy and outcomes
- g. Evidence of diversity in the leadership of all participating agencies
- h. Evidence of capacity to sustain and/or expand the current service offerings of participants

- D. A theory of change underlying the goals and outcomes of the proposed program (1 page limit)**
- E. An example MOU or other agreement for community members including proposed stipend amounts**
- F. An overall project budget for the first year of work which includes (but is not limited to)**
  - a. Allocations of grant amounts to be directed to each partner and the purpose for each allocation
  - b. Stipends for community engagement
  - c. Relevant community event costs
  - d. Relevant language translation services (if needed)
  - e. Staffing considerations
  - f. Relevant materials and resources
- G. A topline projected budget for the 2 years following initial implementation**
- H. Letters of support from proposed collaborative partners for the program.**

#### **What funding amounts are available?**

A total of up to \$1M will be available for seed funding of programs across successful grantees in the first year, with proposed programs beginning their work in July 2024.

The program will be considered for annual renewal based on successful completion of project milestone achievements and targeted outcomes to improve the quality of life in the neighborhoods we serve in a three-year time frame.

#### **Deadlines & Notifications**

- Application materials must be emailed to **powerofgiving@coned.com** on or before **May 3, 2024 at 5 p.m. ET**. All applicants will receive a confirmation email when proposals are received by Con Edison.
- Nonprofits will be notified of the selection decision in June 2024.
- Grant will have an anticipated implementation period starting in July 2024.

#### **What are we looking for?**

Organizations competing for climate justice funding will be required to document a history of successful community organizing, mobilization, community education service and actionable advocacy related to climate justice, community resiliency, and improving quality of life in the communities they serve.

Questions? Email us at: **powerofgiving@coned.com**.