

Green Means Go Health Net Funding Program



Guidelines Summary

This document contains the guidelines for the Green Means Go Health Net Funding Program administered by the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) through the Green Means Go (GMG) program. The GMG Health Net Funding Program is modeled after the 2022 Green Means Go Funding Program which used REAP 2.0 funds from the California Department of Housing and Community Development.

In January 2026, Health Net awarded SACOG funding to support housing-related infrastructure associated with 50 shovel-ready Affordable or Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) units in Sacramento County or the local governments within.

The broader Green Means Go effort, informed by the past six years of stakeholder engagement and board direction, provides the policy foundation for this funding program. SACOG built off the objectives, eligibility, and criteria from prior Green Means Go funding cycles, as well as the criteria of the funder to inform these program guidelines.

Program Objectives

The Green Means Go Health Net Funding Program has two objectives:

- Accelerate infill residential development that improves housing affordability. Namely, the program will support a minimum of 50 Affordable and/or Permanent Supportive Housing units within a [Green Zone](#) in Sacramento County or the local governments within.
- Deliver cost-effective projects that can expend program funding within the grant term with Health Net through December 31, 2028.

Contact

Please direct any questions regarding the Green Means Go Health Net Funding Program or the application process to either:

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Schedule

Pre-application consultation: SACOG recommends but does not require sponsors to meet with Green Means Go program staff to discuss potential applications. Consultations are available between the call for projects through the application deadline.

Green Means Go Health Net Funding Round

May 21, 2026 - Call for projects

July 9, 2026 - Project applications are due by 4:00 p.m.

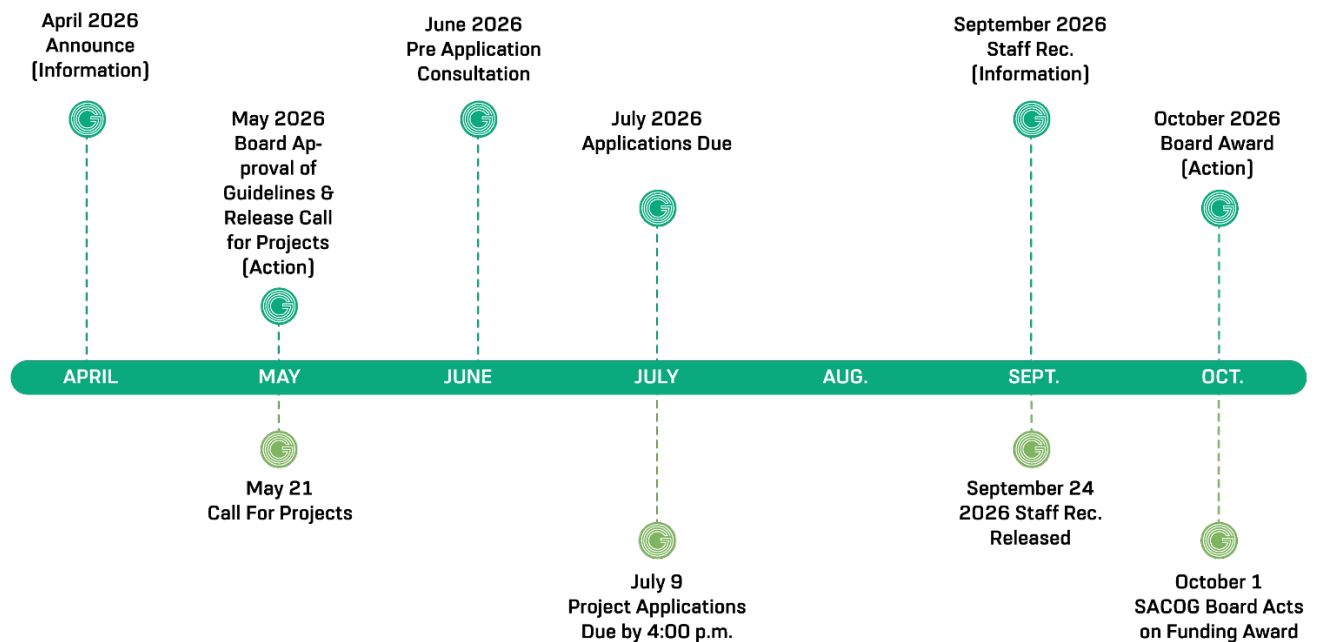
September 24, 2026 - Staff releases recommendation

October 15, 2026 - SACOG Board acts on funding award

December 31, 2028 - Expenditure Deadline

Please note that all dates are subject to change.

Schedule Graphic



Available Funding

The Green Means Go Health Net Funding Round will competitively award \$1,800,000 to a project that will fund housing or housing-related infrastructure associated with a minimum of 50 Affordable or Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) units in Sacramento County or the local

governments within. The intent of this funding round is to award one project with the maximum funding request being the full grant amount of \$1.8 million.

Health Net funding awarded to SACOG for this program will be administered by SACOG and may be disbursed through the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA). Funds provided to project sponsors may be structured as a residual receipts loan administered by SHRA, consistent with the approved project scope and applicable program requirements. SACOG will maintain documentation related to this pass-through funding structure and make it available upon request.

Eligible Applicants and Project Location

- The Green Means Go Health Net funding program will award a project located in an adopted [Green Zone](#) within Sacramento County or the local governments within Sacramento County including City of Sacramento, City of Rancho Cordova, City of Elk Grove, City of Folsom, City of Citrus Heights, City of Galt, and City of Isleton. Restricting the funding to Sacramento County and the local governments within, is a requirement set by the funder.
- Eligible applicants may include local governments, housing developers (both for-profit and nonprofit), and partnerships among these groups.

Eligible Activities

- To be eligible for funding under the Green Means Go Health Net Funding Program, the project must result in the development of a minimum of 50 Affordable or Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) units located in an adopted Green Zone in Sacramento County or the local governments within.
- Affordable housing, for the purposes of the Green Means Go Health Net funding program, refers to housing that is restricted to households below 80% Area Median Income (AMI).
 - Affordable housing units funded through this program will be required to record a regulatory agreement restricting affordability for fifty-five (55) years.
- Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) is defined as permanent, deeply affordable housing paired with non-time-limited, voluntary supportive services designed to assist individuals with disabilities and other complex health challenges to live stably and independently.
- Mixed-income projects are allowed if the project includes a minimum of 50 Affordable or PSH units.

- Funding may be used for housing-related infrastructure or other implementation activities that directly enable or accelerate the delivery of the eligible Affordable or PSH units. Eligible uses may include, but are not limited to:
 - Water
 - Sewer
 - Stormwater
 - Electricity
 - Broadband
 - Other housing-related infrastructure
- All funded activities must be directly linked to the delivery of the required Affordable or PSH housing units and must be used exclusively for activities consistent with the approved project scope, budget, and outcomes, as set forth in the grant agreement between SACOG and the project sponsor.
- The project receiving Green Means Go Health Net funding must commit to reporting requirements for four years after the grant award. The funded project is subject to reporting requirements established and administered by SACOG. Grant recipients must submit progress reports every six months during the project period and a final report due January 31, 2029.
- Reports must be submitted using templates and formats provided by SACOG and must document project progress, use of funds, and progress toward approved outcomes.
- Finally, sponsors must spend the funding by December 2028.

Ineligible Activities

- Projects that fall outside of an adopted [Green Zone](#) or are outside of Sacramento County will not be eligible in this funding round. A local government sponsor can update their Green Zone during the pre-application period, as described below.
- Transportation projects or transportation infrastructure are not eligible uses in the Green Means Go Health Net Funding Program.
- Additionally, the following activities are not eligible uses under this funding program:
 - Capital campaigns
 - Endowments
 - Annual drives or fundraising activities
 - Operating deficit or debt retirement
 - Activities or services previously funded by Health Net or another duplicative funding source
 - Direct services billable to Health Net

Project Review and Selection Process

SACOG will review all submitted applications to confirm eligibility based on the requirements outlined in the Eligible Applicants and Activities section of these guidelines. Only applications that meet all eligibility requirements will advance to the evaluation process.

Eligible applications will be evaluated by a working group using the evaluation criteria described in these guidelines and detailed further in the application. The evaluation will consider both quantitative information and qualitative narrative, with project sponsors responsible only for providing data from readily available sources, as specified in the application.

The working group is expected to include SACOG staff, local planning staff from jurisdictions outside of Sacramento County, and representatives from Community-Based Organizations.

Because this funding round will result in a single award, the working group will conduct a comparative evaluation of eligible applications to identify the project that best advances the program's objectives. Based on this evaluation, SACOG staff will develop a recommendation for one project for funding, which will be presented to the SACOG Board of Directors for final consideration and approval.

Project Evaluation Criteria

The working group will evaluate eligible applications based on how effectively they advance the objectives of the Green Means Go Health Net Funding Program and comply with program eligibility requirements.

The evaluation criteria is intended to inform a staff recommendation of a single project for funding. For purposes of evaluation, the working group will consider each project's performance across the criteria described below.

Application of Evaluation Criteria

- Accelerate Infill Residential Development that Improves Housing Affordability is the primary consideration and carries the greatest importance in identifying the recommended project. Evaluation will prioritize projects that maximize the number of overall units, number of deed-restricted affordable units, and depth of affordability.
- Deliverability and Cost Effectiveness are evaluated to confirm that the project can be implemented successfully within the available funding timeframe.

WEIGHTS OF EVALUATION CRITERIA

Evaluation Criteria	Green Means Go Health Net Funding Round Criteria Weight
Accelerate Infill that Improves Affordability	30
Deliverability/Cost Effectiveness	10
Total	40

The Green Means Go Health Net Funding Program evaluation criteria are grounded in the core objectives of the Green Means Go program as previously approved by the SACOG Board of Directors, while reflecting updates necessary to align with the Health Net funding source.

Relative to prior Green Means Go funding rounds supported by REAP 2.0, the evaluation framework has been refined to support a single award and focuses on directly enabling infill housing delivery. These updates include a minimum requirement of 50 Affordable or Permanent Supportive Housing units, a streamlined set of criteria emphasizing housing outcomes, and the removal of evaluation criteria that were specific to REAP 2.0. The funding source also narrows the allowed geography to Sacramento County and expands eligible applicants to include housing developers.

Collectively, these refinements maintain the Board-approved intent of accelerating infill residential development while ensuring the evaluation approach is aligned with the scope, requirements, and objectives of the Health Net funding source.

Description of the Evaluation Criteria

Accelerate Infill Residential Development that Improves Housing Affordability

Projects will be evaluated on the extent to which the proposed investment including housing-related infrastructure or other eligible implementation activities directly enables the development of housing within a Green Zone.

Applications must clearly identify the associated housing project, the number of housing units supported (including the minimum 50 Affordable or PSH units), and how the proposed investment removes a defined barrier to housing delivery. Evaluation will prioritize projects that maximize the number of overall units, number of deed-restricted affordable units, and depth of affordability. Evaluation will also consider market dynamics within the project corridor and the

extent to which the proposed investment would accelerate housing production beyond the shovel-ready project.

Deliver Cost Effective Project

Longstanding SACOG Board direction places an emphasis on making the most cost-effective funding decisions by selecting implementable projects that maximize performance outcomes. Projects will be evaluated on their ability to use the available funding to enable housing delivery, considering the relationship between the funding amount and housing units enabled, project readiness, and the likelihood of expending program funding by December 2028.

The working group will assess project readiness, which may include consideration of entitlement status. Full entitlements are not required; projects may demonstrate readiness through a non-discretionary approval pathway or documentation from the applicable jurisdiction.

Pre-application Consultation and Green Zone Revisions

Pre-application Consultation

SACOG recommends but does not require project sponsors to meet with Green Means Go program staff prior to submitting an application. Pre-application consultations are intended to allow project sponsors to ask questions, confirm eligibility, and receive clarification on application requirements.

Consultations may take place at any time between the release of the Call for Projects and the application deadline and are most useful early in the process. Sponsors do not need to have a fully developed project to participate.

Participation in a pre-application consultation is optional and will not affect application scoring or eligibility. If helpful, sponsors may request more than one consultation, and SACOG staff will make every effort to accommodate multiple pre-application discussions, subject to staff availability.

Green Zone Revisions

Project sponsors can work with Green Means Go program staff to update their existing Green Zones as part of the Green Means Go Health Net Funding Program.

First, sponsors should review their existing Green Zones using the regional [Green Zone map](#) for accuracy. If there are minor administrative changes (such as missing parcels, etc.), SACOG staff can make those updates at the administrative level.

To initiate substantial changes to an existing Green Zone, sponsors are required to collaborate by submitting a written request to SACOG staff to confirm the new area is consistent with the GMG program's guidance for Green Zones. SACOG will review the request using the same criteria as the original process (such as in an infill area, local housing supportive policies/plans are in place or in process, and potential for VMT reduction). If accepted, the changes can be approved by SACOG's Executive Director (i.e., no need for a resolution, though local staff should assess whether the change needs to go before their own board/council). Requests for new Green Zones will follow the same process, though SACOG may require a resolution.

All Green Zone revisions must be completed by the time applications are due (July 9). Once the application period closes, SACOG will not be able to make any Green Zone revisions until the close of the funding program and project awards are announced (in October 2026).