

The Purpose of this document is to demonstrate how the Reconnecting Communities Highways to Boulevards (RC:H2B) Pilot Program aligns with California Climate Investments (CCI) Goals. Underserved Communities (as defined in RC:H2B Guidelines) refers to Priority Populations (as defined in CCI Guidelines).

PROGRAM GOALS	
California Climate Investments Goals	Reconnecting Communities: Highways to Boulevards Goals
1. Facilitate GHG emissions reductions and further the purposes of AB 32 (Núñez, Chapter 488, Statutes of 2006) and related statutes.	1. Restore community connectivity through the removal, retrofit, mitigation, or replacement of eligible transportation infrastructure facilities that create barriers to mobility, access, or economic development.
2. Target investments to priority populations and maximize benefits to disadvantaged communities.	2. Provide matching funding for potential federal grant funds.
3. Maximize economic, environmental, and public health co-benefits to the State.	3. Advance health and equity outcomes for underserved communities by removing health, safety, and access barriers associated with transportation infrastructure within communities.
4. Foster job creation and job training, wherever possible.	4. Improve access to opportunity by improving travel options and reducing combined household transportation and housing costs for underserved communities.
5. Avoid potential substantial burdens or harms to priority populations.	5. Create opportunities for implementation of affordable housing and affirmatively furthering fair housing.
6. Ensure transparency and accountability and provide public access to program information.	6. Avoid or minimize direct and indirect displacement effects from project implementation.
7. Conduct a robust public participation process to help potential applicants access funding, particularly for priority populations.	7. Advance community-based or community-driven transportation planning.
8. Encourage projects that contribute to other State climate goals.	-
9. Coordinate investments and leverage funds where possible to provide multiple benefits and to maximize benefits.	-

Priority Populations Vs. Underserved Communities	
Program	Tools
<b>CCI Priority Populations Defined As:</b> (1) Disadvantaged Communities (2) Low Income Communities (3) Low Income Households	•CalEnviroScreen 4.0 •California Climate Investments Priority Populations Mapping Tool 4.0
<b>RC:H2B Underserved Communities (Federal) Defined as:</b> (1) Historically Disadvantaged Community (2) Areas of Persistent Poverty (3) Other Federal Definitions of Disadvantaged Community  <b>RC:H2B Underserved Communities (State) Defined as/through:</b> (1) Low Income Disadvantaged Communities (2) Healthy Places Index 3.0 (3) CalEnviroScreen (4) Native American Tribal Lands	<b>Federal:</b> • Areas of Persistent Poverty and Historically Disadvantaged Communities Map •EPA Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping tool and other federally designated community development zones.  <b>State:</b> • Healthy Places Index 3.0 • CalEnviroScreen 4.0 • Caltrans Native American Land Map (2017) • California Climate Investments Priority Populations Mapping Tool 4.0

**Priority Populations (CCI)** - Refers to designated census tracts throughout California that identify disadvantaged communities , census tracts identified as low-income, or a low-income household. See Appendix A of CCI Guidelines for more information.

**Underserved Communities (RC:H2B)** – Refers to designated census tracts throughout California that have experienced economic, health, and environmental burden. For RC:H2B grants, underserved communities can be determined several ways using different state and federal definitions. See Section *Evaluation, Determining Eligibility* of the RC:H2B Guidelines for more information.

CCI Goals	Applicable RC:H2B Goals	How RC:H2B Aligns
1	-	RC:H2B projects support GHG reductions by removing, retrofitting, or replacing transportation infrastructure or constructing new multi modal transportation infrastructure (pedestrian and bicycle facilities or infrastructure encouraging alternate modes of transportation and reducing passenger VMT reducing the need of personal vehicle use to access services and resources.)
2	3, 4, 5	One hundred percent of the RC:H2B Program funds are awarded to projects that benefit priority populations SHC 104.3.
3	1, 3	<p>RC:H2B projects are anticipated to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Connect divided communities to employment, education, medical, resources and services.</li> <li>•Provide equitable housing for priority populations.</li> <li>•Access to alternate modes of transportation.</li> <li>•Reduce transportation costs</li> <li>•Improve air quality by implementing clean vehicle technology that reduces emissions of nitrogen oxides, reactive organic gases, and particulate matter</li> <li>•Encourage alternate modes of transportation reducing VMT.</li> <li>•Increased safety through improved transit infrastructure and active transportation.</li> <li>•Reduced auto congestion for non-transit users and transit</li> <li>•Increase economic benefits for individuals through better connectivity of homes and jobs especially for priority populations through improved transportation infrastructure to attract and retain businesses.</li> <li>•Increase the attractiveness of a transit-served area to facilitate the location of additional employment and housing in the transit-served area.</li> <li>•Increased health benefits from non-motorized transportation, such as walking and biking, as part of transit connections and increased ridership.</li> <li>•Increased health benefits by providing access to green spaces and recreational areas.</li> </ul>
4	-	<p>RC:H2B projects are anticipated to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Increase economic benefits for individuals through better connectivity of homes and jobs especially for priority populations through improved transportation infrastructure to attract and retain businesses.</li> <li>•Increase the attractiveness of a transit-served area to facilitate the location of additional employment and housing in the transit-served area.</li> <li>•As part of the Community Involvement component, the program encourages seeking out opportunities for local hiring and product sourcing through all phases of the proposed projects.</li> </ul>
5	6	<p>RC:H2B applicants should identify economic, environmental, and public health burdens that may occur due to the work proposed that may lead to long-term physical or economic displacement of low-income households, small businesses, and cultural spaces. To demonstrate quality displacement avoidance, the applicant should include an assessment of known vulnerabilities within the community, highlight any existing policies or plans that address displacement avoidance and policies, or identify displacement avoidance mitigation programs or coordination that will result from proposal.</p> <p>The intent of the program is to address historical harms to a community which would include not creating further harm. The program encourages a community-driven process to elevate the voices of the community and not a governing agency imposing on them.</p>
6	-	<p>Public Access to program information via Website.</p> <p>Progress Reporting on Grant Activities:</p> <p>Upon execution of a Program Supplement Agreement, Lead Agencies must submit quarterly Project Progress Reports for all active phases, a Final Phased Closeout Report, and a Final Delivery Report to Caltrans. The reports will be required to assess whether projects are meeting their scope and are being delivered on time and within budget. This information is submitted to California Air Resources Board in an Annual Report.</p>
7	7	RC:HB will maximize benefits to priority populations through community involvement and community engagement allowing community residents to provide input on projects that will address the specific needs in their communities, as well as have communities be part of every phase in the projects through community engagement and be part of the decision making process.
8	1	RC:H2B Applications should align to the program goals, where Californians' dependence on driving is reduced with improvements to travel options that reduce household costs and increase multimodal options to equitably contribute to meeting the State's climate goals and supporting a resilient transportation network for all. The land gained from the removed, retrofitted or mitigated transportation barriers will consider all potential uses including but not limited to green spaces, minimizing heat island effects, flood control, and storm drain collection.
9	2	It is the intention of this program to leverage RC:H2B funds to the fullest extent possible. Pursuant to the statutory goals of the program, applicants, in cooperation with Caltrans, are expected to apply to applicable Federal programs, State and other potential grant or funding opportunities.

# LINKS AND RESOURCES

RC:H2B Program Guidelines

<https://dot.ca.gov/-/media/dot-media/programs/local-assistance/documents/rc-h2b/rch2b-program-guidelines-a11y.pdf>

California Climate Investments Funding Guidelines

<https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/auction-proceeds/2024-CCIFundingGuidelines-FINAL-2.11.25.pdf>

California Climate Investments Priority Populations Mapping Tool 4.0

[https://gis.carb.arb.ca.gov/portal/apps/experiencebuilder/experience/?id=5dc1218631fa46bc8d340b8e82548a6a&page=Priority-Populations-4\\_0](https://gis.carb.arb.ca.gov/portal/apps/experiencebuilder/experience/?id=5dc1218631fa46bc8d340b8e82548a6a&page=Priority-Populations-4_0)

CalEnviroScreen 4.0

[https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/11d2f52282a54ceebcac7428e6184203/page/CalEnviroScreen-4\\_0](https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/11d2f52282a54ceebcac7428e6184203/page/CalEnviroScreen-4_0)

Healthy Places Index

<https://www.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=5039a9d91cc2481c85abd2b4d73ab0f1>

Native American Land Map

<https://caltrans.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=400892a1a7d742d1bdd08b5d33566c96>

Areas of Persistent Poverty and Historically Disadvantaged Communities Map

<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/75febe4d9e6345ddb2c3ab42a4aae85f>