



#24-010

San Diego Community Power Network Request for Qualifications (RFQ)
San Diego Community Power Responses to Proposer Questions
(Updated March 5, 2025)

1. What will happen after the Request for Qualifications has closed?

Response: In accordance with RFQ Section II (RFQ Schedule), there are two (2) phases to the Power Network:

- The first phase is the RFQ process that seeks to streamline contracting with community-based organizations to implement specific programming that advances regional sustainability goals. Respondents should expect to hear back from Community Power staff on whether they have been formally accepted as a Power Network partner by January 2025 or earlier, with more information on specific opportunities in early 2025.
- The second phase of the Power Network will create an information-sharing infrastructure that connects RFQ respondents. Power Network partners will co-create with Community Power what this will look like, but it can be 'quarterly gatherings', databases and/or communications. The Power Network is expected to convene by Spring 2025.
- RFQ Section V (Submission Deadline) states that "Community Power reserves the right to continue to accept submittals on a rolling basis." It is the sole responsibility of Respondent to ensure that its submittal is received before the initial submission deadline.

2. What projects can we anticipate being launched by Community Power and what services is Community Power expecting to contract?

Response: See page 3 and Attachment A in the [RFQ solicitation](#) for examples.

3. Do you currently have money or capacity available for the Power Network?

Response: Community Power has identified a budget for current and expected activities it would like to partner with community-based organizations on to carry out its programming and better serve its customers. This could include development of culturally competent translation materials and outreach support. Work is expected to begin in early 2025.



4. Do you have guidelines on your contracting criteria and who you will work with? Is there a preference for local vendors?

Response: While the Power Network is intended to streamline contracting, you can review our current Procurement Policy [here](#) for contracting requirements as well as Community Power's approach for businesses with office(s) located in San Diego County.

5. Can a Prime (main contractor responsible for managing an entire project/subcontractors) respond to the Request for Qualifications with subcontractors?

Response: Yes. Community Power is also encouraging subcontractors to review the RFQ to better understand Community Power's needs and apply.

6. Are there reciprocal benefits in supporting the Power Network?

Response: Yes! Benefits include:

- Being a part of a collective impact network of regional stakeholders that shares ideas, projects, advocacy, and keeps communities informed about efforts to achieve a more sustainable future
- Receiving financial support to work with Community Power in implementing its strategic goals
- Expanding impact through marketing, co-branding, sponsorship, and grant opportunities with Community Power
- Directly helping shape Community Power's reinvestment in communities by providing input on its Community Power Plan
- Leveraging a connection to a regional public agency when applying to funding opportunities (i.e. providing letters of support, partnerships)

As the convener of the Power Network, San Diego Community Power is dedicated to co-creating collaborative spaces with Power Network partners, which can also relieve some of the administrative burden in facilitating partnerships and improving information-sharing.

7. Will there be compensation available for participating? What will participation look like?

Response: Section 1.A. of the RFQ states that "Community Power Network Individuals or Organizations that respond to this submittal will have the opportunity to participate in project-based solicitations." Such solicitations will include funding for project-based work.



8. What is the time of the commitment for organizations to participate in the Power Network?

Response: The time commitment for these tasks will be determined on a case-by-case basis. Participation in Power Network collaborative activities, whether it be quarterly gatherings or sharing information, will depend on the collective needs of the organization and Power Network partners.

9. Will the Power Network prevent an organization from receiving Community Power grants through the San Diego Foundation?

Response: No. While Community Power seeks to foster more collaborative applications to its Community Clean Energy Grant Program via the Power Network, participation (or lack there-of) in the Power Network will not prevent an organization from applying to it.

10. A lot of grant applications from other agencies involve organizations working together. Will Community Power be working alongside other organizations to promote and award grants?

Response: The Power Network seeks to encourage relationship-building that may result in collaborative grant applications for the Community Clean Energy Grant Program, as well as other funding and project-based opportunities. Through the RFQ, organizations may indicate their interest in formally partnering with Community Power and accessing the benefits outlined in Question 6.

11. How many organizations are you hoping to have as part of the Power Network?

Response: See Question 1 for information about the process for establishing the Power Network.

As part of this RFQ, qualified Respondents will be invited to participate in subsequent project-based solicitations. It is unknown at this time how many organizations plan to provide a submittal to this RFQ.

12. Is Community Power only working with their service areas or is it countywide? Are there areas in which Community Power focuses its programming?

Response: All of our seven member agencies (including the Cities of San Diego, Chula Vista, Encinitas, Imperial Beach, La Mesa, National City and the unincorporated communities of San Diego County) are included in our programming, with a focus on Communities of Concern, as defined by our [Community Power Plan](#). Cities currently not served by Community Power will be included in county-wide initiatives such as the San



Diego Regional Energy Network, which will bring energy-efficiency programming to the region beginning in late 2025.

13. Would member agencies be expected to contribute funding to community-based organizations by participating in the Power Network?

Response: See Question 3 for information on Community Network's budget for this work. Funding for community-based organizations to conduct work on behalf of Community Power will stem from different sources that Community Power has or will receive, which include local and state programming. See Question 6 for additional benefits to participating.

14. How may manufacturers contribute, and what steps should they follow to be considered for relevant opportunities?

Response: Through the Power Network, manufacturers may become part of a group of community-based organizations that share information and collaborate on funding opportunities for projects. Currently, Community Power does not play a role in connecting developers and equipment providers. If you have questions about how you fit into relevant opportunities at Community Power, we encourage you to visit Community Power's solicitations webpage frequently for contracting opportunities at: <https://sdcommunitypower.org/resources/solicitations/>

15. What has been the reception to the Power Network? Were workshops well-attended?

Response: The Power Network has been generally well received, with several organizations demonstrating interest and attending in-person workshops.

16. Are submittals to the Power Network limited to non-profit organizations only, or can for-profit businesses apply?

Response: Section I.A of the RFQ states:

"Community Power expects Civil Society Organizations ("CSOs"), Non-Governmental Organizations ("NGOs"), Community-Based Organizations ("CBOs"), and qualified individuals and firms to submit responses to this RFQ ("Respondents") to be selected to participate in the San Diego Community Power Network ("Power Network") as Strategic Partners ("Partners"). This may include, but may not be limited to, nonprofit organizations, foundations, schools and school districts, faith-based organizations, higher-education institutions, departments of member agencies, corporate sponsors, hospitals, and special districts."



This means that for-profit businesses can be a part of the Power Network and will receive notifications of funding opportunities. Please note, funding opportunities may include restrictions on what type of organization can receive funding depending on the specific funding source. Please see the [RFQ](#) for more information.