

CivicSpark is a Governor’s Initiative AmeriCorps program dedicated to **building capacity for local public agencies to address emerging environmental and social equity resilience challenges such as: climate change, water resource management, affordable housing, and mobility.** CivicSpark is managed by the Local Government Commission (LGC) in partnership with the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research.

## Our Impact

Over the past four years, CivicSpark Fellows provided over **360,000 hours** of service to California’s communities. Fellows implemented roughly **340 projects** with more than **170 local public agencies** and reached over **35,000 community members** (including residents, business owners, and the general public). CivicSpark Fellows supported a wide range of actions, including:

- 22 vulnerability assessments
- 32 climate or energy action plans
- 97 water efficiency surveys
- 134 climate action plan policies written
- 155 energy reports and benchmarking assessments
- 230 community workshops
- 1,861 water monitoring surveys and reports
- Over 3 million gallons in water use reductions

## Receive Project Support

CivicSpark focuses on supporting local government capacity to respond to emerging environmental and socioeconomic resiliency challenges including climate change, water management and water resources, affordable housing, and transportation sector mobility.

CivicSpark Fellows are placed with local project partners across California (ideally in teams of two or more for Fellow experience and impact). Public agencies, State agencies, Native American Tribes, and Non-Profit Organizations can contract directly with LGC to host CivicSpark Fellows as long as the project work is closely connected to a specific local public agency beneficiary. Beneficiaries can include counties, cities, towns, special districts, school districts, MPOs, COGs, JPAs, etc. who have a defined capacity need (see eligibility below), will “benefit” from the project’s implementation and can commit to completing a pre- and post-service capacity survey, and to participating in at least one project interview with the Fellow. The host or project partner does not have to be a “beneficiary”

All CivicSpark Fellows are AmeriCorps Members selected through a highly competitive national application process. Fellows have at minimum a college degree in a relevant field, and typically have workplace and community service experience. Project partners have the opportunity to select their Fellow from a curated list of highly qualified individuals.

Each Fellow serves for a total 1,700 hours during the service year; 1,300-1,400 of these hours are dedicated to implementing partner projects. The remaining 300-400 hours are allocated for professional development and community service.

CivicSpark Partners provide project oversight and professional development support to Fellows. LGC Regional Coordinators conduct monthly Fellow trainings and act as local liaisons to the partner. LGC staff also provide monthly cohort calls and content or project specific support (e.g. climate, water, housing, transportation, etc.).

### 2019-20 Service Year Calendar

February 11, 2019

Project application opens.

March 15, 2019

First Priority Deadline to submit project applications.

May 3, 2019

Second Priority Deadline to submit project applications.

June - July, 2019

Rolling application and Service Agreement period.

August 23, 2019

Deadline to complete Service Agreements and Capacity Assessments.

August 25, 2019

The service year begins with Fellow orientation

September 3, 2019

Local project work begins! Fellows begin work on Gap Assessments

Mid February 2020

In-person Mid Year Gathering for all 2019-20 Fellows

Mid-August 2020

Projects wrap up and the 2019-20 CivicSpark cohort graduates!

## Eligibility

Partners are responsible for securing at least one target local public agency “beneficiary” for each Fellow’s project work. Participating public agency beneficiaries must demonstrate a “capacity need,” measured by meeting at least one of the following criteria:

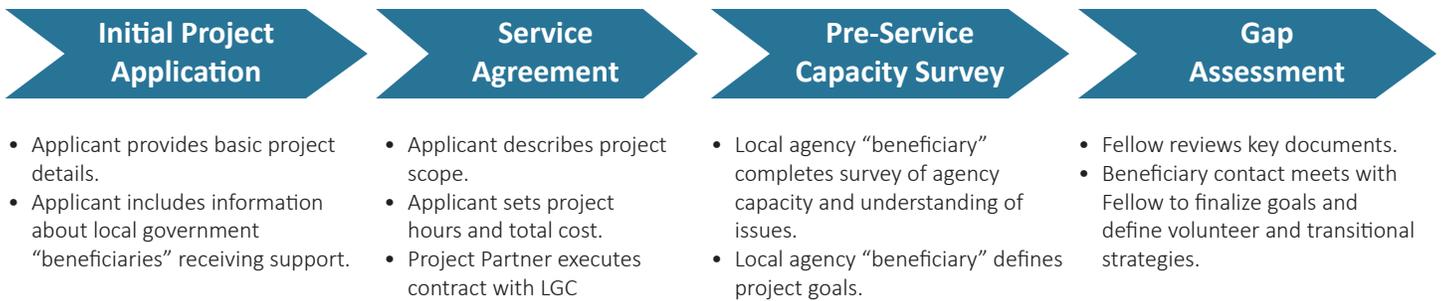
**Significant community-wide burdens,** demonstrated by any of the following indicators:

- CalEnviroScreen >33
- Distressed Community Index >50,
- Unemployment above state average
- Regional Opportunity Index (People or Place) above state average

**Absence of an adopted and up-to-date strategy** (plan, element or other) that comprehensively addresses the target resiliency issue with appropriate funding, programs, and policies, to implement the strategy

**A defined resiliency capacity gap as evidenced by at least 1 significant program,** policy, or planning goal for a specific resiliency issue that has not been met, or cannot be met, without resource or system development assistance.

## Application and Startup Process



## Project Pricing

Cost	Project Support Provided per Fellow	Additional Benefits per Fellow
\$51,000 / 2 Fellows \$26,000 / 1 Fellow	11 Months and 1,300+ project hours	80 additional project-prep hours 100 volunteer engagement hours

“Climate change is a global challenge that requires strong, sustained local action. This program gets young people into the communities across California to help reduce emissions and boost energy efficiency.”

Former California Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr.

## Contact

Water  
Projects

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Climate, Housing, or  
Other Resiliency Projects

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As an AmeriCorps program, CivicSpark is administered by CaliforniaVolunteers, and funded by the Corporation for National and Community Service.