



CalSEED

**CONCEPT AWARD
APPLICATION MANUAL
2019**



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About CalSEED

The California Sustainable Energy Entrepreneur Development Initiative (CalSEED) is an early-stage grant funding and professional development program for diverse innovators and entrepreneurs working to bring clean energy concepts to market.

Our unique program represents an innovative public-private partnership made possible by the California Energy Commission and funded through the Electric Program Investment Charge. CalSEED is administered by the California Clean Energy Fund. Together, with our large ecosystem of partners, technical advisors and industry leaders, we support the efforts of California's early-stage entrepreneurs to develop novel and cost-effective solutions capable of equitably and sustainably transforming the state's energy economy, while also creating greater reliability, lower costs, and increased safety to California's energy consumers.

2019 Concept Award Applications

The CalSEED program will award approximately 25 Concept Awards in 2019.

Important Application Dates

Information Sessions and Webinars	Application overview presentations will provide applicants with the requisite information to develop the highest quality application possible. Presentations will be held in coordination with Regional Innovation Clusters. Recordings, questions, comments, and presentations will be posted on the CalSEED website .	Check CalSEED website for details
Eligibility Applications Open	The Concept Award eligibility application will be available through a link on the CalSEED website . Online applications must be submitted by 11:59 PM. Mail-in Eligibility applications must be received via registered mail by March 11th as well.	March 1st–11th
Invitation to Full Application	Those applicants that progress through the eligibility screening will be invited to submit a full application.	March 20th
Full Applications Due	Deadline for full applications. Online applications must be submitted by 11:59 pm. Mail-in Full applications must be received via registered mail by March 31st as well.	March 31st

Prospective applicants should always confirm dates and deadlines at www.calseed.fund. We anticipate notifying applicants of their final Concept Awards status in summer of 2019.

What Types of Innovations Will CalSEED Fund?

CalSEED is focused on early-stage technologies that provide benefits to California ratepayers, but lack access to private-sector capital. Specifically, CalSEED seeks hardware, software, or integrated solutions that fall between Technology Readiness Levels (TRL) 2 and 4 on the Department of Energy's defined TRL scale. Generally, TRL 2-4 can be defined as follows:

TRL 2	You have completed basic scientific research and begun to speculate about practical applications
TRL 3	Through experimentation, modeling, and analysis, you have proved your basic concept.
TRL 4	You have validated the basic functionality of a component or developed and tested an "alpha" version of a new software

For more detailed descriptions of TRL levels please refer to the [Department of Energy's report](#), or [the TRL guide from Lawrence Berkeley National Lab](#).

For the 2019 Concept Awards, applications are being accepted for the following technology areas only:

Energy Efficiency	Solid-state lighting, electric heat pumps, non-vapor compression cooling, advanced materials and coatings for windows, building envelope, or water/waste water treatment or industrial electrification
Renewable Generation	Solar photovoltaic systems or solid-state energy harvesting using thermoelectrics, thermionics, or piezoelectrics
Energy Storage	Battery storage, flywheels or thermal storage

CalSEED Benefits

CalSEED Awardees gain access to a number of benefits. These benefits help awardees develop their concepts and prepare them for the Prototype Award Business Plan Competition.

- Grants of \$150,000 to fund concept development (non-dilutive; no equity stake)
- A powerful network of technical and industry experts, investors, prospective partners, and utilities
- Mentorship from experienced clean energy entrepreneurs
- Access to operational and technical resources throughout California
- Webinars and online training to enhance business building and fundraising skills
- Introduction to cutting edge facilities through the Regional Innovation Clusters
- Participation in Cleantech Open's Accelerator
- Inclusion in a community of fellow CalSEED awardees



Concept Award

\$150,000

Concept Development & Assistance

Mentorship from entrepreneurial experts and industry leaders

Introduction to resources to advance the concept



Prototype Award

\$450,000

Successful Concept Awardees prepare for commercialization

Business Plan Competition to push awardees to think about commercialization

Access and Inclusion

California is recognized as a leader in progressive clean energy and climate policies, as well as in technology innovation. Many communities in the state, however, still lack access to clean energy resources.

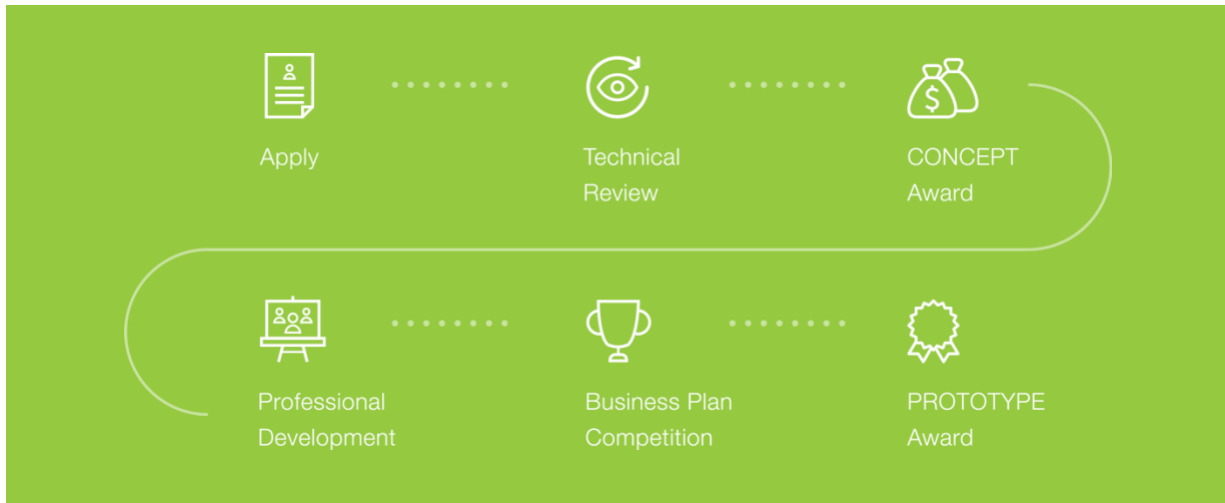
As California continues to promote clean energy and sustainable innovation, we must ensure that clean energy solutions address the interests and needs of the state’s most underserved or disadvantaged populations. It is critical that members of these communities be able to fully enjoy the benefits and opportunities presented by a clean energy economy. That’s why CalSEED is committed to making equity a key component of the CalSEED Initiative.

EQUITY IN: Attract a diverse pool of applicants	EQUITY OUT: Encourage the development of clean energy solutions that lead with equity
<p>CalSEED is committed to ensuring that diverse communities across California fully participate in the development and implementation of clean energy solutions. To achieve this goal, CalSEED actively conducts outreach to ensure that the applicant pool is representative of all Californians, including women, low-income entrepreneurs, LGBTQ folks, veterans, communities of color, indigenous communities and other underrepresented groups, as well as start-ups from underserved, low-income, and rural communities.</p>	<p>There is tremendous need in underserved and low-income communities for investments that create healthier environments, grow clean energy access as well as opportunities that promote job-creation and reduce the cost of basic necessities. CalSEED addresses these needs by encouraging entrepreneurs to explore innovative ways to bring equitable, clean energy solutions and opportunities to our most vulnerable populations.</p>

To support access, inclusion, and social equity, CalSEED encourages projects that:

- Respond to a clean energy, energy efficiency, or energy storage need within underserved and low-income communities
- Prioritize community-owned and operated clean energy projects
- Increase low-cost energy efficiency programs in low-income communities
- Increase access to clean energy, energy efficiency, or energy storage within underserved and low-income communities
- Create health benefits and economic opportunities in underserved and heavily polluted communities
- Include meaningful community engagement with underserved and low-income communities throughout the development of the project

How it Works



Applications: The CalSEED Initiative has one call for its Concept Award per year. Applicants begin by filing out a short eligibility application. Applicants who pass the eligibility requirements are invited to fill out the full application.

Review: Full applications are **divided by region** and reviewed by the Technical Advisory Committee. The 6-7 highest scoring applications from each region are recommended to the CEC for the \$150,000 Concept Awards.

Confirmation: Applicant recommendation packages are reviewed by the California Energy Commission (CEC) and are officially confirmed at a CEC business meeting.

Concept Award: Awardees are given professional development while the grant funds are used to achieve their CalSEED milestones.

Prototype Award: Concept Awardees in good standing are eligible to compete in the CalSEED Business Plan Competition, which provides between 4-6 \$450,000 Prototype Awards.

Who Can Apply?

Basic Requirements

CalSEED is open to California-based applicants working on early-stage innovations – from concept to prototype.

All applicants must meet the following requirements to receive an award:

- Based in California and benefit California utility ratepayers
- Be in good standing with the California Secretary of State
- Developing a technology currently at a Technical Readiness Level (TRL) of 2, 3 or 4
- Must be able to answer “Yes” to at least three impact questions (see next page for more details)
- Be within one of the technology areas listed on page 5 of this document
- Be under the \$1 million private funding cap (described below)

We Encourage Applications From:

Individuals/Teams:	Anyone without an organizational affiliation
Businesses:	Startups, small businesses, and large companies
Nonprofit Organizations:	Those with official non-profit tax designation
Other Groups or Institutions:	Independent labs, community groups, and other collectives

\$1 Million Funding Cap

CalSEED Concept Awards are intended for early-stage startups where \$150,000 in grant funding will have a meaningful impact. This includes companies that have received very little to no funding to date, have limited access to outside capital, or are not candidates for traditional forms of investor financing. To align with this objective, only companies who have received less than \$1,000,000 in private, outside funding at the time of application are eligible for a Concept Award. This includes private funding and investment capital. Funds raised after application submission are not counted against the \$1,000,000 cap, and Concept Awardees are encouraged to continue raising funds to supplement and build upon their Concept Awards.

Community Impact

Innovations selected for award must benefit California ratepayers by increasing the electrical grid's reliability or safety, or by lowering costs. CalSEED recognizes the importance of supporting communities that most suffer from a combination of economic and environmental burdens.

To be selected for a CalSEED award, applicants will need to demonstrate how their innovation could meet at least three of the following impact criteria:

Economic Opportunities

- Does the proposed innovation demonstrate potential to create positive economic impact in low-income and/or disadvantaged communities in terms of job creation, micro-and small-business partnerships and economic development? (e.g. Will the company hire or utilize vendors in disadvantaged/low income communities?)

Access

- Will the proposed innovation increase access to clean energy, energy efficiency technologies, energy storage, or energy cost reduction within disadvantaged communities and/or low-income communities? (e.g. Will it make clean energy more affordable?)

Pollution Burden

- Will the proposed innovation address pollution burdens that disproportionately impact disadvantaged and/or low-income communities? (e.g. air pollution/air quality, traffic congestion, low-cost/retrofit applications)

Project Siting

- Can the proposed innovation be deployed in a disadvantaged community and/or low-income community? (e.g. empowerment zone)

Community Partnerships

- Will the applicant have partnerships or plans to build partnerships with local community-based organizations or other local officials to help demonstrate stakeholder support for the innovation at the community level? (e.g. current relationships or plans for partnership?)

Application Process

1. Navigate to www.calseed.fund.
2. Follow the link and complete the short eligibility form. Be prepared to answer brief questions about the eligibility of your proposed innovation and its stage of development.
3. After initial screening, all eligible submissions will be invited to submit full applications.
4. Applications will be sorted into four geographic regions for review.
5. Applications will be reviewed and scored by the CalSEED Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).
6. The TAC will select 6-7 finalists from [each region](#), totaling approximately 25 finalists recommended for funding.
7. The CalSEED team will send award recommendations to the CEC for approval.
8. The CEC will confirm and gavel in awardee selections.

As part of the eligibility application process, applicants will:

- Answer multiple choice questions about their innovation and stage of development
- Describe their clean energy concept
- Disclose the amount of funding they have raised to date.
- Identify the potential for community impact

As part of the full application process, applicants will:

- Provide additional information about their clean energy concept and its potential benefits
- Provide information about their team, entity, or organization (if applicable)
- Attach supporting documentation
- (Optionally) Attach Letters of Support

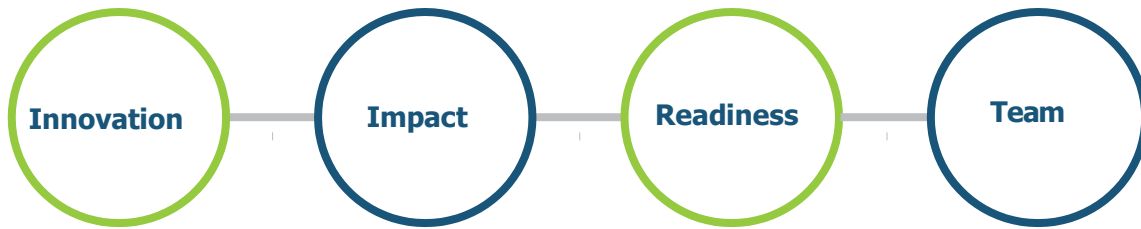
For additional help completing the application or to find out how to apply by mail, Email the CalSEED team at info@calseed.fund.

Application Review Process

The CalSEED Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) will evaluate all full proposals submitted from the **four California regions** (Central Valley Area, San Diego Area, Los Angeles Area, and Bay Area).

The TAC comprises industry leaders and representatives from California's leading energy agencies, academic institutions, and investor owned utilities. During the evaluation process, the TAC will consider four major scoring categories: Innovation, Impact, Readiness, and Team. This manual discusses the scoring categories in detail, which should be reviewed carefully prior to submitting a full application.

Once the TAC has completed the review process, selected applications will be subject to final approval by the California Energy Commission (CEC) to confirm the final CalSEED Concept Award awardees. At that time, CalSEED will notify the awardees and explain the next steps.



Scoring Category 1: Innovation

In this section, innovations will be described in detail and goals listed for the project. It is critical to explain how the proposed innovation is unique and will represent an advancement over current state-of-the-art products. Applicants will discuss any existing or anticipated products that could compete with the proposed innovation once it is fully developed and has entered the market. Finally, applicants will discuss how much private funding has been raised for work on the innovation.

Critical questions to consider as you draft your application

- What problem/challenge does the proposed innovation address?
- What obstacles stand in the way of solving this problem?
- How will the proposed innovation address the obstacles mentioned above and, ultimately, solve the problem?
- Will it create greater reliability, lower costs, reduce emissions, and/or increase the safety of California's electricity grid? If so, how?
- Why is your proposed solution innovative and not simply an incremental improvement on existing solutions already in the market?
- Does the application demonstrate an understanding of the technical and commercial challenges inherent in completing the proposed project?

Key Points

- Ability to show, in detail, why the project is innovative
- Provide perspective on the state of the current market

Scoring Category 2: Impact

In this section, describe how the innovation—once fully developed and on the market—will benefit California utility ratepayers. List the assumptions used to determine benefits and provide a copy of the calculations. An explanation will be required for each impact question marked “yes” in the eligibility form.

This approach ensures that benefits to California ratepayers remain a central theme in all projects funded by CalSEED. The CalSEED Program is committed to increasing participation in California’s booming clean energy economy by members of underserved populations and disadvantaged communities. Proposals that have the potential to deliver real benefits—such as job creation, supply chain development, education, and economic development—stand to score higher in the evaluation process.

Many early-stage innovations will not deliver meaningful ratepayer benefits in the immediate future, therefore it is vitally important to include a discussion of the potential long-term impact of the innovation.

Critical questions to consider as you draft your application

- Who will benefit from the proposed innovation?
- How will the innovation benefit California electric utility ratepayers?
- To what extent will the innovation increase access to clean energy or sustainability technologies within disadvantaged and/or low-income communities?
- To what extent will the innovation target air pollution reduction in a disadvantaged, low-income, rural, tribal, and/or heavily (top 10 percent) polluted community?
- To what extent will the innovation create opportunities for job creation, contracting, supplier diversity, and economic development?

Key Points

- The CalSEED Program is committed to assisting entrepreneurs develop projects that will benefit California ratepayers
- The CalSEED Program is dedicated to working with entrepreneurs who have a positive impact on California’s disadvantaged and underrepresented communities

Scoring Category 3: Readiness

CalSEED is funded by California utility ratepayers through the CEC EPIC program, and all CalSEED projects are required to spend project funds in a responsible and cost-effective manner. One of the best ways to do this is to closely follow the project schedule submitted with the application—including starting on time.

Applicants are expected to show that they are ready to begin work on their project upon notice of award—and have the skills and resources necessary to complete the proposed work plan on schedule and within budget.

A step-by-step work plan, also known as a Scope of Work (SOW), is key to illustrating readiness. This plan will delineate the major activities of the proposed project, as well as the project timeline. Each of the major tasks from the moment of signing the contract with CalSEED to completion of the Final Report should have a realistic time estimate, and should be explained in short, simple sentences. Be sure to think about how your team will achieve the goals you propose in the application.

Critical questions to consider as you draft your application

- How likely is it for the team to achieve the anticipated state of innovation based on careful review of the SOW?
- Are the activities you propose clearly described in a logical, step-by-step fashion?
- Are the tasks described in the SOW reasonable in relation to the project budget and timeline?

Key Points

- Goals should be achievable by the team you have assembled
- Keep your audience in mind as TAC members are not as familiar with your team or project as you are

Scoring Category 4: Team

A passionate and skilled team with expertise directly relevant to the activities described in the Scope of Work (SOW) is crucial to the success of a project. That's why all applicants are asked to share information about the relevant experience, education, professional certifications, and other qualifications of all key team members, as well as a description of their roles on the project.

Include an overview of the motivations of the key team members. People who find inspiration in their work are much more likely to succeed—and finish on time—than those just going through the motions. There should also be a short narrative explaining why each team member is ideally suited for both the whole project and for their specific tasks.

Critical questions to consider as you draft your application

- What qualities does your team possess that will enable you to do the proposed work?
- Does your team have the skills necessary to drive further product development?
- Why will your team have continued success after CalSEED?

Key Points

- While experience is appreciated, less experienced teams that show they are prepared and ready to work hard to develop a successful project will also be strongly considered
- Demonstrated belief in the project is beneficial during review

Frequently Asked Questions

About CalSEED Questions

What is the primary purpose of CalSEED?

The primary purpose of CalSEED is to address a critical funding gap in the early stages of the energy technology development pipeline. Most entrepreneurs and researchers require multiple rounds of funding over several years to successfully commercialize their new energy invention. To obtain this sustained, long-term funding – either through private capital or large government grants—entrepreneurs and researchers must first demonstrate that their concept is feasible.

CalSEED provides small funding awards to help California entrepreneurs, researchers and businesses prove out the feasibility of new scientific concepts for energy applications. These small funding awards, along with support services, provide a launch pad to help entrepreneurs be successful in their clean energy ventures.

Where does the funding for CalSEED come from?

CalSEED is funded by California Energy Commission's Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC). The purpose of EPIC is to accelerate the development and adoption of new low-carbon technology solutions for California's electricity sector. To find out more about EPIC and other Energy Commission activities and funding opportunities for research and development, please visit: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/research>.

How is CalSEED distinct from other funding opportunities through EPIC?

CalSEED awards address a critical gap in the early technology development phase where small amounts of funding can have a significant impact in bringing new energy inventions to market. By contrast, other EPIC funding opportunities focus on later stages of technology development, demonstration and adoption. To find out more about other EPIC funding opportunities, visit: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/contracts/epic.html>.

How much do you invest?

CalSEED provides Concept Award grants of \$150,000 each to 20 – 25 projects each year. Additionally, the CalSEED program holds an annual Business Plan Competition for Concept Award winners. Winners of this Prototype Award competition receive an additional \$450,000 in funding.

How often do you accept applications?

There is one call for Concept Award applications annually.

How can I make sure I am notified about important upcoming dates and deadlines?

Make sure to join the [CalSEED mailing list](#) found at www.calseed.fund. This will ensure you receive all emails regarding application openings, information sessions, and deadlines.

Should I reach out to a Regional Energy Innovation Cluster?

You are encouraged to take advantage of our regional cluster partners, but you are not required to do so for the CalSEED application and your relationship with clusters will not affect the scoring of your application.

Where can I find a map of the four regions?

[Click here for a list of counties in each region.](#)

Does CalSEED have an office?

CalSEED offices are in Oakland, CA. In-person delivery of applications or in-person meetings or information sessions are not possible.

If I have received other grant dollars or investment funds, will that make me ineligible for CalSEED?

No, but there is a \$1M external private funding cap for applicants. CalSEED seeks to fund projects where \$150K will have a significant impact on the development of the concept.

Are there any requirements on how the money is spent? Can some go to funding the labor of the inventor, or does it all have to be hard costs on materials, paid to testing sites, outside labor, etc.?

If you are invited to submit a full application, you will be asked to submit a proposed scope of the work that would be funded by the program. There are some restrictions on allowed costs, but the funds can generally be used for most R&D, business development, and other business-related expenses, including labor, fringe, indirect, materials, miscellaneous costs, etc.

Does "private" funding include self-funding?

Yes, "private" funding does include self-funding.

Does this program require any match funding?

No match funding is required and having match funding does not increase your chance of receiving an award.

Will you sign an NDA?

CalSEED will not sign an NDA.

If we are not signing an NDA, how will my ideas be protected?

Applications will not be published but will be in the public record and available upon request. We recommend giving enough detail so that the review team can adequately judge your application without disclosing confidential and proprietary information.

At what point during the CalSEED funding process are the innovations shared publicly?

Applications will not be published but will be in the public record and available upon request. We recommend giving enough detail so that the review team can adequately judge your application without disclosing confidential and proprietary information.

What technology areas will be funded?

For the 2019 Concept Awards, applications are being accepted specifically for three technology areas: **energy efficiency**, **renewable generation**, and **energy storage**. The CEC has delineated the kinds of technologies within these three areas that will be considered for CalSEED awards:

- **Energy Efficiency** includes: solid-state lighting, electric heat pumps, non-vapor compression cooling, advanced materials and coatings for windows, building envelope, or water/waste water treatment and industrial electrification.
- **Renewable Generation** includes: solar photovoltaic systems and solid-state energy harvesting using thermoelectrics, thermionics, or piezoelectrics.
- **Energy Storage** includes: battery storage, flywheel, and thermal storage.

Is there a specific technology that will score higher than others on the application?

While the 2019 solicitation is limited to the technology areas listed above, none of those areas is weighted higher than the others. Technologies that do not fall within those technology areas will not be considered. CalSEED is not opposed to investing in multiple companies with similar technologies.

Does my project/technology/idea qualify?

CalSEED applicants working on one of the prescribed technologies mentioned above and have early-stage innovations, from concept to basic prototype, are qualified to apply. Your project can be a technology, product, or process. We are looking for projects that benefit the providers of CalSEED funds: people in California who pay electricity bills

Does CalSEED fund hardware innovations only?

No. CalSEED funds hardware, software, and integrated innovations.

	Hardware	Software	Integrated Solutions
Description	Physical components—tools, machinery, durable equipment - that require design and testing	Programs or applications that advance new science; used to direct the operation of a system and/or provide data that directs system functioning	An innovative combination of software and hardware to maximize functionality and value
Examples	Manufacturing equipment; sensors; components; transmission and distribution infrastructure improvements; equipment	Firmware and Internet of Things applications related to electricity/energy; smart learning from data/real-time modeling; algorithms for grid reliability and control; demand response or distributed energy solutions	Solutions which leverage software and hardware to increase efficiency and resilience of the grid and/or solve community access issues (e.g., vehicle to grid concepts)
Out of Scope	Project financing for already existing technologies; manufacturing line scale up; funding a commercial scale prototype; infrastructure projects; natural gas projects	Customer acquisition software; apps/games; website development for an existing company; training and/or workforce development platforms	Single non-replicable solutions. Concepts that are not novel or innovative in application.

Does my project have to be a technology?

Your innovation can be a technology or a concept which advances new science. Applications are scored on their benefits to California Ratepayers and disadvantaged communities.

Do I need to have a prototype developed by the end of the Concept Award?

No, a developed prototype is not a requirement.

I have a prototype. Does this disqualify me from applying?

CalSEED is targeting innovations at the earliest stages of development – _from concept to basic prototype. This encompasses innovations at Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 2-4. For further guidance, please consult the United States Department of Energy Technology Readiness Assessment Guide.

How do I know if my technology is early stage enough for CalSEED?

We use the Department of Energy’s definitions of the maturity of a concept, called Technology Readiness Levels, to determine eligibility for CalSEED funding. We are looking to fund early stage innovations, or TRL 2 – 4. TRL has traditionally been designed for hardware technologies, but we have tried to explain the equivalents for software and integrated solutions in the following chart.

DESCRIPTION			
TRL	Hardware	Software	Integrated Solutions
2	Beginning of invention. Once basic principles are observed, practical applications can be invented. Practical applications are speculative and there is no proof or detailed analysis to support the assumptions. Examples are limited to analytic studies	Speculative application; first set of requirements gathered and analyzed; basic principles coded; little to no proof of detailed analysis to support assumptions	Mapping out and researching of commercialized solutions available and beginning to build or code the integrative hardware or software piece(s); applications are still speculative; some analysis has been done to support the hypothesis of market need
3	Analyzed and experimented with critical innovation component as proof of concept. Analytical studies, modelling and/or simulations validate predictions	Implementation, algorithm development and/or coding at limited functionality; software components may not yet be integrated; preliminary requirements defined based on analysis	Analysis or experiments of integrated solution effectiveness performed
4	Validation of basic functionality of component in a laboratory	Alpha version of software solution in preliminary tests; minimal number of users; critical software components integrated; Users and circumstances of software defined	Hardware components of integrated solution identified; early software integration; alpha version of application developed; preliminary testing
OUT OF SCOPE			
1	Basic scientific research based on observed principles		
5-9	Technology works smoothly, is considered operational/debugged; is beyond a large-scale prototype, is currently being manufactured, is certified / commercialized; and/or is successfully incorporated in a larger system, 'beta' versions of software; full scale demonstration; revenue generating or profitable; existing customers		

Impact Questions

Why is impact a key consideration?

It is important that innovations supported through CalSEED consider the broad social benefits to residents of California across economic development, access and inclusion dimensions. This insures that the funding remains aligned with EPIC priorities. The most important aspect of the application is the benefit the technology provides for California ratepayers.

How does CalSEED define disadvantaged communities?

Disadvantaged communities are communities designated by CalEPA, pursuant to Senate Bill 535, using the California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool "CalEnviroScreen".

CalEnviroScreen was developed by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment to identify communities in California most burdened by pollution from multiple sources and most vulnerable to its effects, taking into account socioeconomic characteristics and underlying health status. To find out more information on California's definition for a disadvantaged community, and to determine where they are located, visit CalEPA's website here:

<https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-30>.

How do I know if my project is benefiting California Disadvantaged Area Communities?

Disadvantaged communities need clean energy investments that create healthier environments and reduce the cost of necessities. CalSEED encourages entrepreneurs to develop equitable energy solutions for our most vulnerable populations.

We encourage projects that:

- Prioritize clean energy or sustainability needs (e.g. community-owned and operated energy projects; low-cost energy efficiency programs in disadvantaged communities)
- Increase access to green technologies and resilient infrastructure in disadvantaged communities
- Create health benefits and economic opportunities in heavily polluted disadvantaged communities
- Include meaningful community engagement with disadvantaged communities throughout project development
- Specifically target disadvantaged community for workforce development of clean energy innovations

For more information about California's equity goals, see "A Study of Barriers and Solutions to Energy Efficiency, Renewables and Contracting Opportunities Among Low-Income Customers and Disadvantaged Communities" here:

http://www.energy.ca.gov/sb350/barriers_report/.

Will I get extra points for being a person of color, woman, or veteran?

CalSEED applications do not ask for any information on racial identity, gender, or veteran status and thus this information cannot influence an applicant's scoring in the review process.

2019 Application Questions

What time on March 11th are the eligibility applications due?

Online applications are due by 11:59 PM Pacific time on March 11th. All mail-in applications must be received by March 11th via registered mail.

How long does it take to complete the eligibility and full applications?

We estimate that the eligibility application will take approximately one hour to complete. The full application may take 3-10 hours. You should expect to spend additional time gathering the necessary documents and paperwork you'll need to fill out the application completely, thoroughly, and thoughtfully.

I was unable to attend an info session. Will a recording be available online?

An informational webinar with the same content as in-person information sessions will be available on the [CalSEED.Fund](#) website. All Q&A will also be documented and available on the website.

Can I ask for help with the application process?

Assistance is available in the form of local events, information sessions and this application manual. **CalSEED staff are not available for one-on-one application assistance.** For technical assistance with the application platform, please e-mail info@calseed.fund, be aware that due to the volume of requests, response time may be slower than usual during the application period.

The application isn't available. Is there anything I can do now?

Yes. Join the [CalSEED mailing list](#). This will make sure you are in the CalSEED system. We will contact you when the application process begins. You can also join the [New Energy Nexus Mailing list](#) for other funding opportunities beyond CalSEED.

I can't log in to the Grant Management Portal. What do I do?

Contact CalSEED at info@CalSEED.Fund.

Can I include images or graphs in the application?

No, please describe your concept using text only.

Can I edit my application?

You can 'Save Draft' to preserve your progress in an application, but you cannot edit a submitted application.

Can I edit my application after I submit?

Once you have submitted any part of the application, you cannot go back and edit it. If you have submitted in error, and it is before the deadline, please contact us at info@calSEED.fund to reopen your application. No changes can be made after the deadline.

Can I change my project name?

If you want to change your project name, you must do so by starting a new application. You will not be penalized for doing so since the review team will only review fully completed applications.

What does a Letter of Support entail?

Letters of support can be from partners, potential customers, or acquaintances to serve as references for your project or team. Please note that Letters of Support are not required.

Is there a template for the Scope of Work?

The online application provides a fillable form for you to enter the details of your Scope of Work. Please use this form as instructed to describe your milestones, tasks, and deliverables. The Scope of Work should describe how you would use a Concept Award.

How long does it take for CalSEED to review the applications?

Depending on the number of applications, the CalSEED team expects the review process to take 3-4 months, however this is subject to change.

Will CalSEED request more information after the application process?

Concept Award Winners will be required to develop a Scope of Work and budget for their project. The CalSEED team will provide guidance in the development of these materials. Prospective awardees may also be asked for additional information for inclusion in their recommendation package for the CEC business meeting.

Our Partners





The CalSEED program is part of a robust ecosystem of partners including the California Energy Commission, California Clean Energy Fund, New Energy Nexus, Berkeley Lab, Greenlining Institute, Cleantech Open, Grant Farm, UC San Diego, UC Davis, Center for Sustainable Energy, Pacific Gas & Electric, San Diego Gas & Electric, and Southern California Edison.

This amazing ecosystem of incubators, accelerators, nonprofits, private companies, and universities works together to deliver resources, mentoring, and business building support to our participating entrepreneurs.

Regional Innovation Clusters

We encourage applicants to reach out to Regional Innovation Clusters, which can serve as a local hub for project development resources, including:

- Testing and demonstration facilities, plug-and-play office space, laboratory space, research resources, testing grounds and access to public buildings and spaces
- Commercialization assistance, such as market analysis, customer introduction and feedback, investor networking, demonstration centers, business assessment reports, identifying the correct market, access to industry databases, and pilot project support
- Advisory support, such as grant writing assistance, assistance in applying for other accelerators, executive level mentoring, technical feedback, business plan advice, and assistance in preparing customer and technical presentations

	<p>Cyclotron Road and Activation Energy helps hardware technology innovators bridge the science-to-product gap so common in the development of groundbreaking energy products. By creating homes for innovators and catalyzing commercialization through new programs and partnerships, Activation Energy enables a successful transition from lab to market. To learn more about this Bay Area Regional Innovation Cluster, visit http://www.cyclotronroad.org.</p>
	<p>The BlueTechValley Innovation Cluster is located in the heart of the San Joaquin Valley, a unique water-scarce ecosystem and the perfect proving ground for new water-efficiency and related technologies. Strong partnerships with a number of universities, incubators, grant developers, and acceleration programs enable BlueTechValley to provide a range of technology and business development services. To learn more about the Central Valley Regional Innovation Cluster, visit http://bluetechvalley.org.</p>
	<p>LACI is located in the Cleantech Corridor, the cornerstone of Los Angeles' green economy. LACI offers office space, coaching, and mentoring, as well as access to potential investors and a growing network of cleantech experts. Additionally, LACI's LaKretz Innovation Campus offers research and development labs, prototype manufacturing workshops, training centers, and event space for local cleantech companies. To learn more about the Los Angeles Regional Innovation Cluster, visit www.energize-ca.org.</p>
	<p>The Southern California Energy Innovation Network (SCEIN) is a free program for startups based in San Diego, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Imperial counties that are developing solutions to help California meet its energy goals. The program, managed by Cleantech San Diego, provides access to the resources of regional partner organizations and offers connections with industry in order to accelerate the commercialization of emerging energy technologies. Companies accepted into the program receive a range of services customized to their unique needs, including mentorship, proof-of-concept and pilot testing opportunities, policy/regulatory support, and more. To learn more and apply for the SCEIN program, visit www.cleantechsandiego.org/scein.</p>

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