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# Explore the Coast Overnight Grant Program

Updated November 16, 2022

## EXPLORE THE COAST OVERNIGHT

The California State Coastal Conservancy (Conservancy) is a state agency, established in 1976 to protect and improve lands and waterways, help people get to and enjoy the outdoors, and sustain local economies along the length of California’s coast.

In 2017, the California Legislature passed Assembly Bill 250 (Gonzalez), which directed the Conservancy to create a Lower-Cost Coastal Accommodations program, now publicly known as the Explore the Coast Overnight Program. This program aims to create more opportunities for all Californians to stay overnight at the coast through the expansion or construction of hotels, motels, hostels, campgrounds, RV campgrounds, cabins, yurts, dorm rooms, and others.

On March 2019, the Conservancy released the [Explore the Coast Overnight Assessment](http://scc.ca.gov/webmaster/ftp/pdf/sccbb/2019/1903/20190314Board04E_ETCO-Report.pdf). This assessment now guides this program and can be referenced by applicants to learn about the program in more detail.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

The Conservancy’s [Explore the Coast Overnight Program](http://scc.ca.gov/projects/etco/) was created to expand more opportunities for all Californians to stay overnight at the coast, particularly individuals and youth from low and middle-income households, communities of color, at-risk or underserved populations, and others that face barriers to accessing the coast.

The goals of the Explore the Coast Overnight Program include:

* Helping improve existing, and develop new lower-cost coastal accommodations;
* Ensuring that new or renovated coastal accommodation projects are available to all Californians, in particular low and middle-income Californians and organizations that serve under-resourced communities;
* Supporting innovative pilot projects;
* Creating and preserving a variety of lower-cost coastal accommodations; and
* Maintaining and increasing the stock of lower-cost coastal accommodations along the California coast.

Through this program, the Conservancy announces the availability of grant funds for the planning, design, permitting, and/or construction of lower-cost coastal accommodation projects that advance the goals and priorities of the Explore the Coast Overnight Program. Projects funded by the Conservancy are reviewed for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Please note the Conservancy cannot grant funding for construction projects without final CEQA documentation.

Conservancy staff are now soliciting [pre-applications](https://scc.ca.gov/webmaster/ftp/pdf/forms/SCC-Grant_Pre-Application.docx) for projects to be recommended for funding with Proposition 68 funds. A total of $30 million was included in Prop 68 for the Conservancy for lower-cost coastal accommodations.

Pre-applications will be accepted and evaluated on a rolling basis. Submissions will be reviewed by Conservancy staff for consistency with [Division 21 of the Public Resources Code](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?lawCode=PRC&division=21.&title=&part=&chapter=10.&article=), the Conservancy’s [Strategic Plan](https://scc.ca.gov/about/plan/), [Prop 68 requirements and priorities](http://scc.ca.gov/files/2019/03/SCC-Prop-68-Program-Guidelines-FINAL.pdf#page=4), and the Conservancy’s [Project Selection Criteria](http://scc.ca.gov/grants/project-selection-criteria/).

In addition, the Prioritization Criteria found in the Explore the Coast Overnight Assessment and listed below will be used to evaluate preapplications to ensure projects align with the Explore the Coast Overnight Program goals:

* Proximity and accessibility to coast and ocean (projects within 1.5 miles of the California coast and/or within the coastal zone will be considered).
* Benefit to targeted populations such as low and middle-income families, under-resourced populations, people with disabilities, and others that face coastal access barriers.
* Demonstration of meaningful outreach and community engagement to ensure that the project serves targeted populations.
* Location of the project relative to supply and demand of lower-cost coastal accommodations in the geographic area.
* Quality of coastal experience.
* Creation and addition of lower-cost coastal accommodations.
* Innovativeness and diversity of project compared to existing lower-cost coastal accommodation.
* Site feasibility (e.g. existing infrastructure, ADA compliance, permitting/zoning/park general plans, etc.).
* Financial feasibility.

A portion of Prop 68 funds is intended to support projects that serve Severely Disadvantaged Communities (SDACs). Projects qualify for this portion of the Prop 68 funding if they are located in an SDAC or within 1 mile of an SDAC, or if they provide other direct benefits to SDAC residents, such as training and workforce education, job opportunities, recreational amenities, and educational and recreational opportunities.

For additional details on each criterion, refer to the [Potential Prioritization Criteria](https://scc.ca.gov/webmaster/ftp/pdf/sccbb/2019/1903/20190314Board04E_ETCO-Report.pdf#page=33) section in the Explore the Coast Overnight Assessment.

**Who is eligible for funding?** Public agencies, federally-recognized tribes, and certain nonprofit organizations are eligible for funding. To be eligible, a nonprofit organization must qualify under the provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Based on the review of the pre-application, Conservancy staff may invite applicants to submit a full application or may be asked to provide further information on their project. If a project is selected for funding, Prop 68 funds will be awarded to the project when authorized by the Conservancy board, which meets approximately five times per year. This Prop 68 ETCO grant round follows the process provided in Section III “[Prop 68 Grant Application and Award Process](http://scc.ca.gov/files/2019/03/SCC-Prop-68-Program-Guidelines-FINAL.pdf#page=6)” of the Conservancy’s adopted Proposition 68 Grant Guidelines.

**To apply**

Click this link to [download the pre-application](https://scc.ca.gov/webmaster/ftp/pdf/forms/SCC-Grant_Pre-Application.docx) (<https://scc.ca.gov/webmaster/ftp/pdf/forms/SCC-Grant_Pre-Application.docx> )

**Please submit your pre-application to** [**grants@scc.ca.gov**](mailto:grants@scc.ca.gov)**.**

**For More Information** please see the Conservancy’s [Grants webpage](https://scc.ca.gov/grants/).

If you have any questions, please contact:

* **Karyn Gear**, North Coast Regional Manager  
  For projects located in: Del Norte County, Humboldt County, Mendocino County, Sonoma County, and Marin County  
  [Karyn.Gear@scc.ca.gov](mailto:Karyn.Gear@scc.ca.gov)
* **Trish Chapman**, Central Coast Regional Manager  
  For projects located in: San Francisco County, San Mateo County, Santa Cruz County, Monterey County, and San Luis Obispo County, and Santa Barbara County   
  [Trish.Chapman@scc.ca.gov](mailto:Trish.Chapman@scc.ca.gov)
* **Megan Cooper**, South Coast Regional Manager  
  For projects located in: Ventura County, Los Angeles County, Orange County, and San Diego County  
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