

**Green Stormwater Infrastructure Accelerator**  
 Frequently Asked Questions

**Timeline**

Applications are open for 6 weeks and announced within one month of the application deadline.

**Note: Deadline to submit applications is June 28th, 2024 at 11:59 pm PST**

<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Dates</b>
Full Applications Open	May 15th, 2024
Full Application Info Session / Q&A	June 7th, 2024
Applications Close	June 28th, 2024
Selected Communities Announced	July 12th, 2024
Accelerator Orientation with CBO partners	Aug 8th, 2024
First GSI Accelerator Session	September 5th, 2024
Final GSI Accelerator Session	December 5th, 2024

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**Can a non-profit or community-based organization be the lead applicant?**

Yes, a non-profit or community-based organization can be the lead applicant if you have engaged your public sector partners and can show that you will have a representative within your multi-stakeholder team.

**Could a partner team comprised of a local government agency and a church (or multiple churches, or 501c3 non-profits) be a qualified teaming group?**

If churches are the vehicle for engaging and grounding the community in green stormwater infrastructure discussions then yes, we strongly encourage your team's application.

**Can the team include multiple municipal offices or should the municipal members only be from one city?**

Yes, we encourage a diverse and broad set of stakeholders who can collectively gain knowledge as a community group and there is no limit to the team size. Your team can be comprised of a full range of city departments. We have found from our Urban Heat + Urban Forestry sequences that participants' found the multi-stakeholder team to be very beneficial and a vehicle for breaking down silos, creating opportunities for collaborative discussion, and building relationships across departments.

**Is there a limit on the number of team members that we can have in our multi-stakeholder team for Track 1 participants?**

We are asking that Track 1 core participants develop a multi-stakeholder cohort of 4-6 individuals at a minimum, representing both leadership in the key topic areas and a diversity of institutional and experiential backgrounds.

**Given the divide and conquer approach, what's the expected time commitment for each team member? How much time should we plan to spend outside the session to meet/debrief/advance work?**

Each session will require 60-90 minutes of direct participation across all 3 modules. We recommend that each team assign one of their group members to be the lead participant in each of the modules. Not every group member is expected to attend all sessions. There may be some additional follow-up work in between sessions, prep, and data-gathering work. We leave it to communities to determine how best to delegate work across their team.

**Will there be an in-person retreat for the GSI accelerator cohort?**

At this time, there is no in-person retreat scheduled for the GSI accelerator sequence.

**Is there a cost to participate in the accelerator program?**

There is no cost to participate in either track of accelerator.

**Is there funding to support small local non-profit/community groups' participation in the accelerator?**

Having a CBO partner as a part of your multi-stakeholder team is required. We're offering a \$4,000 stipend to CBO partners within each community to support their time and participation in the GSI accelerator.

**Why do I have to apply with a Community-Based Organization (CBO) partner?**

Having a CBO partner is a requirement because community-based organizations have a critical role in grounding GSI efforts in community issues and opportunities. By participating in this program collaboratively with a CBO partner, local agencies have an opportunity to deepen their connection to community partners, understand their strengths, and identify opportunities to uplift the community at large.

**Can you apply with more than one CBO partner?**

There is no limit on the number of CBO partners that community teams can have, but only one \$4K stipend award will be awarded to each team. The allocation of the stipend amongst the CBO partners is at your discretion.

**Is the accelerator open to Canadian communities?**

Yes, the accelerator is open to all communities and is not limited to cities within the United States.

**Are we able to collaborate with other federal programs?**

The accelerator is philanthropically funded, so there are no restrictions for participating in other federal or non-profit programs.

**If my community is not selected for Track 1 to be a core participant in this program, will there be another opportunity to apply?**

Communities not selected as Core Participants will automatically be enrolled as Observer Participants.

**Can this effort help with the implementation or enhancement of existing GSI plans?**

Yes, the accelerator can be a helpful tool for active GSI initiatives. Through the accelerator, you'll hear from expert subject matter specialists on best practices, and gain new insights and resources on leading-edge approaches. You'll also have the opportunity to collaborate with other communities actively engaged in GSI efforts that can inform your existing GSI plans.