

# STAFF REPORT

## City of Lancaster

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9/12/2023
JC

Date: September 12, 2023

To: Mayor Parris and City Council Members

From: Larissa De La Cruz, Director – Community Development  
Christopher Aune, Housing Manager - Housing & Economic Development

Subject: Authorization to Apply for the Strategic Growth Council’s Community Resilience Center Grant

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### Recommendations:

1. Adopt **Resolution No. 23-57**, authorizing the City Manager, or his designee, to apply for and accept, if awarded, Strategic Growth Council’s Community Resilience Center Grant.
2. Authorize the City Manager, or his designee, to execute all related documents for submission of the application.
3. Authorize the appropriation of the grant funds, if awarded, to an account to be created by Finance for expenditure in accordance with the grant guidelines.

### Fiscal Impact:

None.

### Background:

The Community Resilience Center (CRC) Round 1 grant is administered by the California Strategic Growth Council (SGC) in partnership with the California Department of Conservation. A total of \$5 million will be available for CRC Planning Grants, each ranging from \$100,000-\$500,000. Planning Grants will fund communities in the initial stages of CRC Project development that need funds for plan development, community engagement, coordination, and other future activities necessary to prepare for implementation. The goal of the neighborhood-level Community Resilience Centers is to provide shelter and resources during climate and other emergencies, such as extreme heat events and poor air quality days. SGC will prioritize community-serving locations across the state, such as schools, libraries, community centers, health clinics, and places of worship.

The City currently plans to submit a grant application for the purpose of obtaining a Planning

Grant. Should Lancaster be awarded funds from this competitive grant program, the City will receive up to \$500,000 to pay for the costs (including staff and consultant time) for pre-development, community engagement and coordination, development of a funding strategy (including operating funds), and any necessary site investigation or preparation for the actual design and construction of a multi-purpose, large-scale Climate Resilience Center. If approved, the Climate Resilience Center will serve residents of the future development at the former Antelope Valley Fairgrounds and the surrounding neighborhoods.

As hazards such as extreme heat and power outages are increasingly longer-lasting and more frequent, community resilience centers will be a growing part of developing collective responses to disasters. The resilience center will serve as a gathering space to distribute resources, and exchange information, including an additional cooling center, backup power to refrigerate medicines, and charge devices during power shutoffs.

CA/sm

**Attachment:**

Resolution No. 23-57