



## Seeking **Scholarship Support** to Engage a Diverse Audience at the 3rd California Adaptation Forum

The Local Government Commission and the State of California are hosting the third biennial California Adaptation Forum on August 28-19, 2018 in Downtown Sacramento. Building off of the success of the 2014 and 2016 Forums, this gathering will stimulate and accelerate local, regional, and state commitment and actions to adapting to climate change.

For the 2018 Forum, we are continuing to raise the bar on equity, which includes increasing diversity among participants and speakers. As such, we are working to raise \$30,000 to help cover and offset the cost of registration and travel for resource-constrained individuals and organizations. These scholarships will assist us in accomplishing two very important goals:



More effectively engaging important leaders from key sectors, tribal governments, and community-based organizations in adaptation discourse.



Diversifying the audience to ensure that as many communities and stakeholders benefit from the Forum's learning and networking opportunities as possible.

### THE IMPORTANCE OF FORUM SCHOLARSHIPS

Climate change is having, and will have, more widespread impacts on California's economy, environment, and people. In addition to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, steps must be taken to safeguard our communities against the climate impacts they are already experiencing, and in order to be successful, we must engage a wide range of leaders and stakeholders in the adaptation dialogue.

As California's premier adaptation event, the California Adaptation Forum provides participants with valuable opportunities to forge new connections and strengthen existing relationships by learning and sharing with experts and peers from across the state. The Forum promotes the importance of building strong coalitions and nontraditional partnerships across multiple sectors to achieve our shared vision of an equitable and resilient California.

A strong scholarship program is essential to gathering a multidisciplinary audience and helping resource-constrained individuals and organizations overcome the cost of participation. Over the last four years and through the generous support of our partners, our scholarship programs enabled more than 400 leaders from underserved communities and advocates for social equity and environmental justice from across the country to attend events organized by the LGC. The response and feedback from scholarship recipients – as well as other attendees – has been overwhelmingly positive.



For the 3rd California Adaptation Forum, we want to expand scholarship support to enable even more community leaders to participate in this important dialogue.

## SCHOLARSHIP STRUCTURE

We are currently working to partner with foundations, agencies, and organizations to raise a minimum of \$30,000 to support at least 40 scholarships for the 3rd California Adaptation Forum.

Scholarship funds will be used to help participants cover the cost of attending the conference, which may include registration, transportation, lodging, and meal expenses. Applicants will need to complete a brief form, which includes describing their organizational mission and work, their interest in attending the Forum, and their expected travel costs. Applications will be reviewed and prioritized, and a determination will be made about the level of support that will be awarded to each successful applicant, which cannot exceed actual expenses incurred.

Our target audience to receive scholarships include individuals representing tribal governments, local governments, equity and environmental justice organizations, community-based organizations, and/or rural communities. Sponsors may elect to prioritize their scholarship funds by:



### Region

*Such as the Inland Empire, Sierra Nevada, or rural areas of a particular region.*



### Sector

*Such as emergency management, public health, transportation, or water.*



### Organization Type

*Such as tribal governments, community-based organizations, or research institutions.*



### Role

*Such as local elected officials, community organizers, or students and young professionals.*

## TIMELINE

Currently, we are actively engaged in fundraising for the overall Forum as well as for scholarships. At the same time, we are engaged in preparatory work aimed at expanding our network of partners, program development by our advisory committees, and outreach coordination with all of our partners and sponsors to promote the event as widely as possible.

Event registration will begin in April 2018, and scholarships will be promoted and awarded between April and August 2018. After the Forum, we will administer a survey of all scholarship recipients to assess our success in achieving our goals and influencing their capacity to engage in this work at home.

## PARTNER WITH US

We need your help to make the 2018 California Adaptation Forum as diverse as possible! By supporting our scholarship program, you can help bring leaders and stakeholders from around California to this important event and ensure the dialogue reflects the widest array of perspectives possible.

**If you are interested in supporting our scholarship program, please contact Kif Scheuer:**



kscheuer@lgc.org



415-717-4809