Notice of Funds Available for California Carpet Stewardship
Evergreen Grant Program (Cycle 5M)
Micro Grants Program for Collection/Reuse

January 16, 2026

Evergreen Cycle 5M Outline

Purpose

Carpet America Recovery Effort (CARE) serves as the Carpet Stewardship Organization for the California Carpet Stewardship Program. The purpose of the **Micro Grants Program for Collection/Reuse – Cycle 5M** (Program) is to promote the additional collection and reuse of California post-consumer carpet (PCC). The definition of "additional" under this program is PCC that was previously sent to landfill, alternative daily cover, waste-to-energy, kiln or used for carpet-as-alternative-fuel. Cycle 5M will award up to $15,000 for the infrastructure projects and/or purchase of equipment that supports the operational logistics of properly collecting and/or reusing California PCC under a new or established program.

Applications will be accepted and reviewed on a continuous basis until further notice. Grantees must achieve project completion within one year of the project's Notice to Proceed. The precise focus of each solicitation cycle is subject to adjustment by CARE, consistent with the overall goals of the Program. Cycle 5M grant awards will be based upon available funding. Cycle 5M funds will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants may be adjusted for each solicitation release, consistent with the objectives of the funding cycle and goals of the Program. Eligible applicants for Cycle 5M include:

- Public entities, such as California cities, counties, public school districts, public colleges and universities, special districts, parks and recreation districts, and state agencies (including offices, departments, bureaus and boards).
- Joint Powers Authorities (JPA) if the JPA Agreement includes solid waste responsibilities.
- Public or private businesses such as transfer stations, recycling centers and disposal sites.
- CARE drop-off sites, Collector Sorter Entrepreneurs and Processors.
- Carpet retailers and flooring contractors.
- Nonprofit entities such as reuse stores.

Project Requirements (Use of Funds):

- Only one application per eligible PCC collection site per calendar year will be accepted. One entity operating multiple sites may apply for multiple awards if not more than one award is given per site.

- Current and future CARE drop-off sites that accept a Cycle 5M grant must remain in the program for at least two years after receiving the grant-funded equipment. Any grantees awarded containers will be required to provide their location and swap frequency; CARE will prefer projects that incentivize new locations to recycle PCC rather than choose disposal.

- Grantees awarded mobile equipment must affix a "We Recycle With CARE" decal to both sides of each piece of qualifying equipment at the grantee's expense.

- Application must specify, itemize and quantify additional PCC pounds collected for diversion or reuse as a result of the project. Sources of new pounds projected must also be listed. All grant applicants must verify that all pounds collected or reused are 100% California-generated PCC.

- Projects must document additional improvements in collection and reuse. Preference will be given to projects that increase the total number of CA-generated PCC pounds collected for recycling or reuse annually.

- Applicants are encouraged to, but not required to, provide matching funds for the grant-funded project.

- Projects that have already obtained all necessary permits will be preferred.

- Applicants must be up to date on all previous CARE grant program requirements, CARE membership requirements and/or CARE public drop-off site requirements, if applicable.

Plans and specifications may be reviewed by CARE staff or its contractor(s) prior to commencement of work. However, CARE makes no warranty, express or implied, and assumes no liability for any infrastructure or equipment funded by this grant. It is the applicant's responsibility to determine the appropriateness of the product(s) for its purposes.

Eligible and Preferred Projects

- Projects that establish, increase or improve proper collection or reuse of CA-generated PCC.
- Equipment/infrastructure for implementation of new, or improvement to existing, collection and carpet tile reuse activities.
- Minor improvements to existing collections or reuse facilities/operations. (Examples include but are not limited to: trailer ramps or stairs, awnings or coverings to stage PCC and keep PCC clean/dry, water-tight cargo containers or bins, rain cover retrofits for collection containers for localized hauling, sorting innovations for mixed loads, cement pads to stage PCC and keep PCC clean/dry, hydraulic trailers).
- CARE will give preference to novel projects that significantly expand PCC collection in California.
- Multiple pieces of equipment or other infrastructure may be combined into a single application. Partnerships between entities must designate one entity as the Lead Grantee.
- Program education and outreach materials. Costs in this category must not exceed 20% of the total project budget, and materials must include the CARE California logo.

Ineligible Costs

- Costs incurred prior to the Notice to Proceed letter or after the end of the Grant Term.
- Costs associated with landfilling, waste-to-energy, kiln, carpet-as-alternative-fuel and incineration for the purpose of sending ash to landfill. Projects must adhere to the California waste hierarchy; non-reusable or recyclable portions of PCC should be prioritized for other diversion prior to disposal by landfill.
- Administrative costs, overhead and salaries.
- Costs associated with vehicles/trucks
- Projects installed outside of the State of California.
- Costs deemed unreasonable by CARE.

Funding (total allocation, min/max amounts)

The Stewardship Planning Committee (SPC) has approved **$100,000 annually for Cycle 5M Micro Grants Program for Collection/Reuse**. Maximum grant awards for Cycle 5M will be limited to $15,000 for each grant awarded under this Program. Continuation or modification of the grant program will be based on available funding and the needs of the California Carpet Stewardship Program.

Timeline

Cycle 5M will accept applications until further notice, and applicants who can achieve an impact within one year of the award notice will be preferred. All projects must be complete within one year of the project's Notice to Proceed. Application process and submission instructions are outlined throughout this notice. Proposals that do not follow application instructions may be considered non-responsive. Applicants can expect an award decision approximately one month after submission of an application.

Evaluation & Scoring Criteria:

The criteria presented below are based on similar grant solicitations by CalRecycle, modified by CARE. A technical committee will be formed by CARE at the direction of the Executive Director or SPC; the technical committee will review Program applications using the criteria listed below. These criteria may be subject to further revision by CARE.

% or Points	Criteria
10%	**Applicant Qualifications & Experience** – • Description of successful agency history; **track record** • Implementing collection, reuse or projects of similar size and complexity • Experience, capacity and staff resources necessary to successfully implement and maintain the program
30%	**Project Description and Impact –** • Project supports new or improved collections and/or reuse operations; quantifies the tonnage and sources of additional CA-generated PCC currently collected and/or reused and how the project may increase that number; **size of the impact** is significant, project is novel; calculations to estimate additional tonnage collected/reused is supported by data • Description of the project; description of **equipment and/or infrastructure** to be purchased and its utility in establishing, increasing or improving additional PCC collection and/or reuse
15%	**Work Plan** – • Reasonable, **logical and ambitious** outline of key activities, milestones and due dates during the grant term • **Speed to delivery** is high; projects are "shovel ready" • Includes **measurable targets** and indicators of success
20%	**Need** – • Clearly describes any existing program, program history and strengths/weaknesses • Describes any existing program gaps and why the project is needed • Describes how it will **benefit** the CA Carpet Stewardship Program • Provides sufficient evidence and reliable **data to support** the need • If this program has received past grants, explain why additional grant funding is needed
25%	**Budget and Cost Effectiveness** –

	• Project costs are **reasonable, justified, cost effective** use of funds; line items are clearly defined and justified • Budget clearly identifies any matching contributions • Quantifies expenditures already incurred and how program will be maintained after grant term
10 Bonus Points Available	**Other Evaluation Criteria** – • Applicant has **specialized certifications** such as meets CAL Green building standards, has LEED certified buildings, has Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy • New California jobs are created • Project is located in CA disadvantaged community • Project is submitted by a Regional Jurisdiction (joint proposal from two or more eligible applicants)
100%	**TOTAL**

Coordination with CalRecycle:
The Micro Grant program for Collection/Reuse is a strategy recommended by the CA Council (Council) on Carpet Recycling in 2016. CARE will provide CalRecycle with quarterly data on Program performance, and solicit input from CalRecycle as needed or desired in evaluating Program applications.

Application – Proposal Requirements
Applications must include the components listed below and clearly communicate the manner in which their proposed project meets the criteria listed above. The proposal must be submitted using the online CARE Micro Grant Portal unless a PDF form is requested from Abbie Beane, CARE Grants Manager, at abeane@carpetrecovery.org. Trade secrets and any other confidential information must be clearly marked as such and may be subject to regulatory disclosure requirements of CalRecycle or other state entities.

- Applicant Name
- Key Project Contacts (2 required) with phone number and email information
- Project Title
- Applicant/Team Qualifications and Experience
- Project Description and Impact
- Project Need
- Project Work Plan (Timeline and Deliverables)
- Proposed Budget
- Notification of any pending or outstanding judgments or enforcement actions against the company or its products
- Creation of California Jobs, Environmental Certifications, benefit to Disadvantaged Communities
- A quote for the equipment that the applicant desires to purchase

Questions - Submission

All questions on the Cycle 5M Micro Grant solicitation should be directed to Abbie Beane, CARE Grants Manager, at abeane@carpetrecovery.org.

Conflicts of Interest

- Applicants should acknowledge any potential conflicts with any CARE leadership committees, and current or prior employment in the carpet and recycling industries. CARE Technical Committee members evaluating grant applications are not eligible for grant funding. Applicants who lobby technical committee members, the CARE Stewardship Plan Committee, the CARE Executive Director and/or the CARE Grant Manager for funding may be disqualified.

Grant Funding Awards

Program grant awardees will be required to agree to grant agreement terms and conditions, which will include procedures and monitoring requirements, such as the submission of regular progress reports to CARE, and using the grant-funded equipment for its approved purpose for at least two years. Grantees may be asked to provide documentation referencing their readiness for work, status of project implementation, etc. CARE may visit the project and use information and photos for communication and reporting purposes. Funds will be disbursed on a reimbursement basis only.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: Open until further notice