



SOL PROJECT: EMPOWERING LOCAL COMMUNITIES (ELC) GRANT

Grant Application Instructions (2026-2027)

I. Overview

Saving Our Legacy: African Americans for Smoke-Free Safe Places (SOL Project) advocates for healthy, smoke-free communities for African Americans and other populations who suffer disproportionately as a result of social conditions and tobacco use.

What We Do:

- Advocate to restrict smoking of tobacco, plant-based, and electronic nicotine delivery devices to reduce exposure to Secondhand Smoke (SHS) in multi-unit housing (e.g. apartments, condos, duplexes, townhomes or places with shared walls) and outdoor public areas (e.g. parks and recreation areas).
- Help create and implement policies that eliminate the sale of commercial tobacco products in the Gold Country Region
- Address the Social Determinants of Health in underserved communities
- Support families with cessation resources

SOL Project is committed to advancing health equity by reducing tobacco use and exposure in African American communities through education, policy, and community engagement. To learn more about SOL Project visit our website at theSOLproject.com.

This grant under our Empowering Local Communities Initiative supports community-based organizations to implement **one high-impact project** that promotes **smoke-free multi-unit housing** in **unincorporated Sacramento County or the City of Elk Grove**.

Projects must address tobacco-related advocacy and may include education on the dangers of smoking and vaping, community engagement, youth champion training, and cessation support as complementary activities.

What does advocacy mean?

Projects should help build support for smoke-free policies in multi-unit housing. Advocacy may include educating residents and decision-makers, gathering community input, sharing findings with local officials or property managers, or collecting pledges for smoke-free housing.

Project Period: January 11 – June 23, 2027

II. Funding Details

- **Award Amount:** \$2,000
- **Total Awards:** 2-3 grants
- **Application Deadline: December 4, 2026 (5:00 PM PST)**

III. Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must:

- Be a **501(c)(3) nonprofit or fiscal agency** with offices in Sacramento County
- Serve unincorporated **Sacramento County and/or the City of Elk Grove**
- **Do not accept funding from tobacco or cannabis companies or affiliates**
- Demonstrate capacity to complete the project within the timeline
- Agree to all participation and reporting requirements

IV. Project Focus & Example Activities

Projects must support smoke-free environments. Activities may include:

- Youth champion training on smoke-free multi-unit housing and tobacco prevention advocacy
- Youth town halls or listening sessions
- “Person-on-the-street” video interviews highlighting community experiences or concerns
- Art contests, gallery exhibits, spoken-word performances or other creative community events
- Community or faith-based outreach
- Campaigns and activities related to Healthy Homes Month (April), Thirdhand Smoke (THS) education, or a “Smoke Is Smoke” campaign (which raises awareness about the health risks of tobacco, cannabis, and vaping products).
- Other creative ideas are welcome

What are “Person-on-the-Street” Video Interviews?

These are short, informal, video-recorded interviews conducted in community settings (e.g., parks, events, neighborhoods) where participants are asked brief questions such as but not limited to:

- “How do you feel about smoke-free housing?”
- “How has being exposed to someone else’s smoke where you live affected you?”
- “Have you seen tobacco or vape litter in your community?”
- “What do you think about the tobacco industry targeting African Americans?”

These videos can be compiled into short Public Service Announcements (PSAs) to:

- Amplify authentic community voices
- Raise awareness on social media
- Support local advocacy efforts

Projects using this approach should ensure:

- Participants provide **verbal and written consent** to be recorded. Consent forms must be shared with SOL Project staff.
- Videos are **clear, respectful, and culturally appropriate**
- Final clips can be shared with SOL Project for broader use

V. Required Participation and Reporting

Grantees must complete these **4 actions in coordination with SOL Project staff**:

- Participate in **1 orientation training session – January 11th from 6-7pm, virtual**
- Present project activities or findings at **1 SOL Community Education Training/Event**. SOL Project staff will coordinate the presentation details with grantees.
- Meet with a SOL evaluator for a **30-minute** interview during the week **June 14–18, 2027**
- Submit a 2-page **final report by June 23, 2027**

VI. Use of Funds

Funds may be used for:

- Supplies and materials
- Outreach and event costs
- Stipends (**up to \$50 per person maximum**)

Funds may **not** be used for:

- Tobacco or alcohol purchases
- Equipment purchases
- General operating expenses unrelated to the project

VII. Evaluation & Reporting

Applicants must identify specific, measurable expected outcomes for their proposed activities and explain how success will be measured and documented. Evaluation methods may include participant surveys, community input, activity counts, copies of letters or pledge cards, photo/video documentation, media coverage, and PSA video reach, as applicable. Funded projects must report on completed activities, outcomes achieved, and progress toward advancing smoke-free environments and tobacco-related policy change.

Examples:

- Participant surveys and data on community reach or impact
- Photo/video documentation
- Community feedback reports
- PSA video reach (if applicable)



VIII. Review Criteria

- Alignment with SOL mission
- Strength of African American community engagement
- Feasibility within timeline
- Clear evaluation plan
- Budget clarity

IX. Submission

Submit by **December 4, 2026 (5 PM PST)** via: [Apply here](#)

If you have questions about this application, please email info@thesolproject.com.

SOL PROJECT GRANT APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Section 1: Organization Information

1. Organization Name
2. Address
3. Primary Contact (Name, Title, Email, Phone)

4. Email proof of 501(c)(3) status for organization or fiscal agency to info@theSOLproject.com
 5. Organization mission & capability (Max 150 words) – Please include why your organization would be successful in completing this project?
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Section 2: Project Overview

6. Project Title
 7. **Service Area (select all that apply):**
 - ☐ Unincorporated Sacramento County
(priority zip codes include: 95608, 95615, 95652, 95660, 95821, 95823, 95825, 95826, 95827, 95828, 95829, 95832, 95841 and 95864)
 - ☐ City of Elk Grove
(priority zip codes include: 95624, 95757, 95758, 95759)
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Section 3: Target Population & Engagement

8. Age Group(s) Served (select all that apply):
 - ☐ Ages 12–17
 - ☐ Ages 18–24
 - ☐ Ages 25–35
 - ☐ Ages 36+
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Section 4: Project Description

9. Project Summary (Max 100 words)
Describe your project, including what you will do, who you will serve, and how it promotes smoke-free multi-unit housing and tobacco-related advocacy.
10. How will you reach and engage African American communities? (Max 100 words)
11. Describe your experience working with this population (Max 150 words)
12. Project Plan (Max 300 words) - Describe your project, including activities, audience, and timeline. Explain how your project will support smoke-free multi-unit housing Include, as applicable:
 - Education on smoke-free multi-unit housing and tobacco prevention advocacy

- Education on smoking/vaping dangers
- Youth engagement or training
- Community outreach approach
- If doing person-on-the-street interviews: questions to ask, interview locations, and how videos will be used (e.g., PSA, social media, presentations, etc.)?
- Key activities and timeline from January 11 – June 23, 2027

Section 5: Evaluation Plan

13. Expected Outcomes – Describe the specific, measurable outcomes you expect to achieve for funded activities. State what you will accomplish and how many people, materials, meetings, or actions you expect to complete. Outcomes should demonstrate community engagement, education, and support for smoke-free environments.

Examples:

- Share public health information and community findings with 8 city or county officials/staff, property managers, or housing advocates/committees.
- Host a community meeting with at least 15 residents to discuss smoke-free policy options and resident priorities.
- Collect input from 25 multi-unit housing residents about support for smoke-free housing policies.
- Present findings and educational materials to 5 city or county officials or staff.
- Produce and share 3 short person-on-the-street public service announcement videos featuring residents' experiences with secondhand or thirdhand smoke with policymakers, property managers, or housing advocates.
- Engage 35 residents in a letter-writing campaign to educate decision makers about the health impact of second/third hand smoke and strategies to reduce community and individual exposure to SHS, THS, Vape aerosol, or tobacco waste.
- Collect 200 pledge cards from residents and community members expressing support for smoke-free housing and cleaner air.
- Develop an editorial campaign, including 5 letters to the editor, opinion pieces, or community commentaries, to build public support for smoke-free policies.
- Train 15 youth or community peers to conduct peer-to-peer education on SHS, THS, smoke-free multi-unit housing, and local policy solutions.

14. Measurement Plan

- How will you measure success? (surveys, participation numbers, public service announcement views, copies of letters or articles, videos, photos, feedback, etc.).

Explain how you will measure each expected outcome and what documentation you will submit to show the results.

Section 6: Budget

15. Budget Breakdown (Total: \$2,000)

- Supplies and materials: \$____
- Outreach/Events: \$____
- Stipends (Up to \$50 per person maximum for the entire project): \$____
- Other project expenses: \$____

16. Budget Justification (Max 150 words)

Section 7: Eligibility & Commitment

Please check each statement that applies to your organization (if applicable):

- ☐ Organization is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit
 - ☐ Organization is applying through a 501(c)(3) fiscal agency
 - ☐ Organization has not been involved in fraud, corruption, or abuse
 - ☐ Organization does not accept funding from tobacco or cannabis companies or affiliates
 - ☐ Organization can complete required meetings, training, evaluator session & submit final report
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Section 8: Authorized Representative Certification

Authorized Representative Certification:

- ☐ I certify that all information provided is accurate and complete
- ☐ I certify that I am authorized to submit this application and make commitments on behalf of the organization.
- ☐ Date and Signature