Fire Risk Reduction Communities List FAQs

# Overview

## What is the Fire Risk Reduction Communities List?

[Public Resources Code 4290.1](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=4290.1&lawCode=PRC) requires the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to develop and maintain “a list of local agencies located in a state responsibility area or very high fire hazard severity zone...that meet best practices for local fire planning." This list will be published on the Board’s website by July 1, 2022, and updated every two years thereafter. The Board’s regulations pertaining to the List can be found in the California Code of Resources, Title 14, Sections 1268.00-1268.04 (pending publication).

## What is considered a “local agency” for the purposes of this List?

A local agency is defined as “Any city, city and county, or county; tribal agency; agency, department, district or other publicly funded entity serving a city or and county.” Non-profits, homeowner’s associations, Fire Safe Councils, and other non-governmental organizations are not considered local agencies.

## Does a local agency need to reapply when the List is updated every two years to remain on the List?

Yes.

## How do I apply for the List?

The application form is available on the [Board’s website](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/projects-and-programs/fire-risk-reduction-communities-list/), along with detailed instructions on the application process. Applications are due April 1 of every even-numbered year, starting in 2022.

## How will the List be used? What does it mean for a local agency to be on or off the List?

[Public Resources Code 4124.7](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=4124.7.&lawCode=PRC) requires CAL FIRE to “prioritize local assistance grant funding applications from local agencies based on the “Fire Risk Reduction Communities List.” Fire Prevention Grant applicants will receive priority for utilizing the funding to meet the List eligibility requirements. Fire Prevention Grant applicants will also receive priority if the applicant is already on the Fire Risk Reduction Communities List. Projects are selected on a competitive basis and consecutive awards are not guaranteed.

# Fire Prevention Grants & the Fire Risk Reduction Communities List

## Does not being eligible for the List preclude a local agency from applying for or receiving [Fire Prevention Grant](https://www.fire.ca.gov/grants/fire-prevention-grants/) funding?

No, the Fire Prevention Grants eligibility remains as is listed in the Fire Prevention Grants Procedural Guide for the corresponding fiscal year. Applicants not eligible for the List will not be precluded from receiving grant funds.

* **Will a local agency receive priority for applications designed to meet the eligibility criteria with the goal of being added to the List?** Yes. Fire Prevention Grant applicants will receive priority for utilizing the funding to meet the List eligibility requirements. Applications are evaluated based on the criteria located in the Fire Prevention Grants Procedural Guide for the corresponding fiscal year.

# Subdivision Review Program & the Fire Risk Reduction Communities List

## Does a city or county have to have received one or more reviews from the [Subdivision Review Program](https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/divisions/wildfire-planning-engineering/subdivision-review-program) to meet criterion 1268.01(a)(4)? What if the local agency does not have any subdivisions that are eligible for review by the program?

No. If a local agency has not yet been reviewed by the Subdivision Review Program, or if it contains no subdivisions eligible for review, it only needs to indicate this in the List application form for this criterion to be met.

## Does a city or county have to have implemented the recommendations from each subdivision review it has received to meet criterion 1268.01(a)(4)? What if some of these recommendations are infeasible to implement?

No. The progress report submitted may explain why certain criteria have not yet been implemented or are infeasible to implement and still meet this criterion.

# Miscellaneous

## What can a county that hasn’t submitted subdivision map findings to the Board do to meet criterion 1268. 01(a)(2) do to become eligible for the List?

The Board’s records indicate that very few counties will meet this criterion in 2022. The best course of action is to apply for the List anyway, which will mean that next time you apply for the List only subdivision map findings since your last application will need to have been submitted.

## Is the Fire Risk Reduction Communities List the same thing as, or related to, the Communities at Risk List?

No, these lists are separate and unrelated to each other. The Fire Risk Reduction Communities List focuses on proactive community planning and risk reduction whereas the Communities at Risk List is based primarily on exposure to the hazard of wildfire.

## How was the definition of a Low-Income Local Agency in 1268.00(e) determined?

For cities -- This definition is based on a city’s median income relies on data published annually by the Department of Housing and Community Development in 25 CCR § 6932. This source was selected for consistency with the data already used by CAL FIRE’s Grants program in determining low-income status.

For counties – A low-income county is one with a median household income equal to or less than $64,352. The 2019 American Community Survey (ACS) from the US Census Bureau reports a California statewide median income of $80,440, and 80% of that number is $64,352. This number will be updated continually in the regulations as future ACS data becomes available.

# Please direct additional questions to LandUsePlanning@bof.ca.gov.