

# FHLBank San Francisco

## AHEAD Economic Development Grants

Ensuring that people living in lower-income communities have the infrastructure and resources they need to fully participate in a changing economy is an ongoing challenge. Our members and their community partners use Access to Housing and Economic Assistance for Development (AHEAD) grants to help create a brighter, more equitable future for underserved people, neighborhoods, and communities.

AHEAD grants support innovative, targeted initiatives that will create new economic opportunity by expanding proven development models or piloting new interventions. Because of our members' networks and community connections, AHEAD funding can help low- to moderate-income communities by:

- Creating or preserving jobs
- Delivering job training or education programs
- Supporting small business, microlending, and microenterprise incubation for low-income entrepreneurs
- Addressing the special economic development needs of at-risk youth, veterans, persons with disabilities, the formerly incarcerated, and tribal communities, among others

The amount of funding for AHEAD is determined by the Bank's board of directors annually. Grants are awarded through a competitive application process and delivered through our [member financial institutions](#).

### Eligibility Requirements

AHEAD grants are awarded to nonprofit organizations, local government agencies, and tribal associations engaged in economic development activities to meet diverse local needs in Arizona, California, and Nevada. These organizations should review our program [eligibility requirements](#).

### AHEAD Timeline

Applications for AHEAD grants submitted by Bank members will be accepted between May and June each year. The grant recipients are typically announced in September.

Disbursements for AHEAD awards must be made between award announcement in early September and the end of the calendar year in December.

The AHEAD compliance period is 18 months from the time of award in early September.

### Definitions

"Member" refers to financial institutions that are members of FHLBank San Francisco. Only [members](#) can submit applications for AHEAD grants, on behalf of a "sponsor" or "project sponsors."

“Sponsor” or “project sponsor” refers to the nonprofit organization, local government agency, or tribal association that will use the AHEAD grant funds. AHEAD grants are delivered through our [members](#).

### **Apply for the 2024 AHEAD Program**

We are now accepting [applications](#) from members for the 2024 Access to Housing and Economic Assistance for Development (AHEAD) Program. The 2024 AHEAD application deadline is 5 p.m. PT on Monday, June 3, 2024.

All applications must be submitted through the Bank’s secure portal. The deadline to [request a project application workspace](#) on the secure portal is Thursday, May 23, 2024.

### **AHEAD Program Webinars**

Register today for one of the AHEAD Program webinars to learn about preparing a successful application and the disbursement and compliance processes.

**Tuesday, May 7, 1 p.m.- 2:30 p.m. PT | [REGISTER](#)**

**Wednesday, May 15, 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. PT | [REGISTER](#)**

AHEAD Program applications are submitted by our members working in partnership with local nonprofits, government agencies, and Tribal organizations on targeted economic development projects located in Arizona, California, or Nevada.

Each year, the Bank allocates funding to the AHEAD Program at the discretion of the Board of Directors. For 2024, the Bank has allocated \$4 million for AHEAD Program grants and the maximum individual grant amount is \$100,000. As part of the competitive application process, this year’s grant recipients will be announced in early September.

Projects receiving AHEAD Program funding must meet at least one of the following eligibility criteria:

- create or retain jobs that have annual salaries at or below [HUD area median income \(AMI\)](#): 100% AMI in urban areas or 115% AMI in rural areas;
- benefit or provide services to households at or below HUD AMI: 100% AMI in urban areas or 115% AMI in rural areas; or
- provide services or benefits to the community.

Housing projects that are eligible for funding through the Bank’s [Affordable Housing Program \(AHP\)](#) are not eligible for AHEAD Program funding.

Since program inception in 2004, the Bank has awarded over \$25 million in AHEAD grants to about 800 economic development projects in Arizona, California, and Nevada. View [Awarded Projects](#) for details about the organizations and projects that have benefited from AHEAD grants in prior years.

### **Disbursement**

Projects have up to three months from the date of the award to request disbursement of funds. The Bank disburses the funds to the member, who will then deliver them to the recipient. The member must disburse the funds to the project sponsor within 30 days of receipt of funds from the Bank. The disbursement must be completed prior to calendar year-end of the award year.

**To request a disbursement:**

- The member must request a new [secure portal workspace](#) for disbursement documents (this workspace is separate from the workspace created for applications).
- The member must provide an [AHEAD Program Certification and Disbursement Request](#) form.
- The member and project sponsor must review and sign the [AHEAD Program Agreement](#).
- The project sponsor must provide a [Disbursement Budget](#).
- The member must notify the AHEAD team that the disbursement documentation is ready for review by emailing [aheadportal@fhlbsf.com](mailto:aheadportal@fhlbsf.com) when all documentation has been uploaded to the workspace.

The Bank confirms receipt of disbursement requests within two business days and typically processes the requests within 30 days. Subsidies received by a member must be disbursed to the project sponsor within 30 days of receipt.

**Disbursement eligibility:**

- Member must be in good standing with the Bank.
- Project scope must not have materially changed since the time of application.
- Disbursement budget must not have materially changed from the application budget.

**AHEAD Communications Resources**

For members planning to distribute a news release or promote the AHEAD Program on social media, an AHEAD Program [communications toolkit](#) is available that includes a news release template, key messages, guidance around FHLBank San Francisco's naming convention, and logo usage. The FHLBank San Francisco communications team would be happy to review your content, provide descriptive language about the AHEAD Program, share a quote from the Bank, and amplify your social media posts. Please contact [Chris Hammond, Associate Director, Corporate Communications](#) for assistance with your promotional efforts.

**Compliance**

The local nonprofit, government agency, or tribal organization receiving an AHEAD grant is required to use the funds in full within 18 months of the award date and provide both the member and the Bank with completed compliance documentation.

The member must submit compliance documentation to the same [secure portal workspace](#) that was created for disbursement documents. The project sponsor must provide compliance documentation

including a one-time [AHEAD Program Project Status Report](#), and, if requested, a final [Compliance Budget](#) and acceptable backup expense documentation to the member.

The member will [notify](#) the AHEAD team when the compliance documentation is ready for review once all documentation has been uploaded to the workspace.

#### NOTICE

The member and/or sponsor must [notify](#) the Bank if any of the following occur prior to the end of the 18-month AHEAD compliance period:

- The project scope has materially changed since disbursement.
- The project budget has materially changed since disbursement, including any modifications to the use of AHEAD funds.
- Other factors that could impact the ability of the project to be completed or sponsor's ability to implement the project.