

# Help Us Build Stronger Communities and Future Leaders

**CivicSpark** is a new Governor's Initiative AmeriCorps Program that helps California communities improve their ability to respond to the defining crisis of our time – the economic, environmental and social impacts of climate change.



**SUCCESS NOW:** Each year, 48 CivicSpark members – organized in nine regional “climate readiness teams” – will work with cities, schools and other public agencies to implement 100 local climate-smart projects such as greenhouse gas inventories, complete streets plans and campaigns to help residents conserve water. With the extra push, technical assistance and practical resources from CivicSpark, these projects will succeed, and move communities toward a healthier, safer and more resilient future.

**FUTURE LEADERS:** Through their work on these innovative, real-world projects, our young CivicSpark members will gain exceptional career experience, preparing them to be the future leaders in California's response to climate change.

**JOIN US TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY:** There are many ways you and your organization can get involved with CivicSpark and its local projects. We hope one of them fits your interests.

## Sponsorship Can Make It Happen

With CivicSpark's federal funding support, participating local governments will be able to access high-quality, professional climate-change support services for just \$18 per hour. However, the current cost structure remains out of reach for many communities who simply don't have resources available even for a very cost-effective program like CivicSpark. We are seeking sponsors to help reduce the overall participation costs to expand CivicSpark's reach and strengthen its ability to serve.

We have four sponsorship opportunities to fit your needs and interests:

**Statewide Sponsors** recognize and support our environmental, economic and social objectives, and want to make a significant investment in CivicSpark's growth and success across the state.

**Regional Sponsors** will collaborate with participating organizations and staff in a specific part of the state. Regional Sponsors support one of our nine regional climate-readiness teams by investing time, resources and talent.

**Project Sponsors** help support specific climate action – such as renewable energy, greenhouse gas inventories or complete streets projects – in a region or across the state. Your organization can apply its expertise and passion about a specific climate-action activity to support team members working on that topic.

**Material Sponsors** donate specific resources (we especially need computers and phones) to help team members operate efficiently and redirect our limited funding to other needed areas on-the-ground.

## Strategic Planning – Join the Network of Advisors

We want to develop CivicSpark so it is scalable far beyond its current size. To get there, we need to be far-sighted and deliberate every step of the way. Join our network of strategic advisors who want to help us develop a roadmap for greater success.

## Individual Pro-Bono Help / Sabbatical Rotations

CivicSpark is a start-up. From communications to operations, growing a new program like this takes a lot of work. We need individuals who can offer their guidance and professional expertise to help us build a robust infrastructure. We are also looking for people who would consider a “sabbatical” rotation working with CivicSpark as a project team member or coordinator.

## Mentor and Recruit the Next Generation

At the core of CivicSpark are the emerging professionals – most team members are recent college graduates – eager to do what it takes to make a difference. We want to help them be successful today, and in the future. We need mentors and career coaches who can provide valuable guidance and support to our smart, passionate staff. We are also want to connect with recruiters and organizations interested in tapping into an amazing talent pool.

## Act Locally – Volunteer in Your Community

CivicSpark operates locally and is committed to engaging volunteers. We will have opportunities throughout each service year to work with groups of volunteers on specific activities in their community.



**W**e are looking to build relationships with organizations who want to engage directly in volunteer service around climate change.

## How Your Sponsorship Works

**Create Impacts Statewide:** A statewide investment in CivicSpark can accelerate climate action progress by providing critically needed local implementation and technical support. For \$112,500, we can dedicate half of a member's project time in every region (over 6,000 hours combined); for \$225,000, we can dedicate all of their project time (over 12,000 hours). This widespread support will help local governments who cannot participate otherwise make important progress on climate action goals.

**Sponsor a Regional Team:** A regional team is comprised of 3-6 AmeriCorps members and a coordinator. Regional sponsors enable CivicSpark to bring its services to local governments in the region for free. A full-time member can be sponsored for \$25,000, while the annual cost of a regional team ranges from \$75,000-\$150,000.

**Sponsor a Project:** Your support for a project allows us to engage local governments around specific issues (water, energy, waste) or specific approaches (LED lighting, green infrastructure, alternative transportation). Project sponsorships start at \$10,000 for a 500-hour project, but can be scaled up for larger projects.

**Underwrite Materials:** As a statewide program made up of 48 members and nine coordinators, we need significant material resources to support our work and function effectively. Our AmeriCorps members live on a limited allowance – so support for them is also very much appreciated. For example, we want to secure annual cell service with phones, laptops (with MS Office) and Internet service for our members and coordinators. Additional hardware, such as printers, projectors, digital cameras and storage media, are also useful.

Learn more: [CivicSpark.LGC.org](http://CivicSpark.LGC.org)



### WHERE WE ARE

CivicSpark operates out of nine regional hubs. Visit our website for more detailed information on our regions and Regional Partners.

- North Coast
- Bay Area
- Sacramento Region
- Sierra Nevada Region
- San Joaquin Valley
- Central Coast
- Inland Empire / Greater LA Region
- Los Angeles Region
- San Diego Region

## Meet the CivicSpark Team

CivicSpark is coordinated by a diverse team of leaders in the climate protection and national service fields.

**Local Government Commission:** A nonprofit with more than 30 years of local government experience, the LGC provides statewide program management, operations and implementation.

**Governor's Office of Planning and Research:** California's comprehensive state planning agency, OPR works to ensure that CivicSpark aligns with state goals and project teams are using cutting-edge tools and resources.

**Regional Partners:** Nine leading organizations already engaged in climate action and have strong networks that will help connect CivicSpark with local needs and opportunities.

**Regional Coordinators:** Working with Encore.org, we employ retired project management professionals to provide general coordination and project guidance for regional teams of AmeriCorps members, and to act as a local liaison with project partners.

**CivicSpark Members:** College graduates with relevant academic or workplace experience serve as AmeriCorps members by providing on-the-ground service to local governments in each region.

**CaliforniaVolunteers and Corporation for National and Community Service:** Coordinate state and national implementation of AmeriCorps service programs.



## For more information

Kif Scheuer, Climate Change Program Director  
Local Government Commission  
[kscheuer@lgc.org](mailto:kscheuer@lgc.org) | 415-717-4809