



| Presentation – Item 7.1

**2025 BRIGHT FUTURES GRANT
PROGRAM UPDATE**

September 8, 2025



OCPA Bright Futures Grant Program

- Board approved in **July 2023** as an annual funding opportunity to support local non-profits, schools, and educators in underrepresented communities to enhance renewable energy education and Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) awareness.
- To-date, OCPA has supported **nine (9) projects** with funding increasing annually as included in the OCPA Strategic Plan.

Former Grantees include:

- **Pretend City (2023)** - Installation of a renewable energy exhibit highlighting wind and solar energy, and learning opportunities and presentations for Title 1 school visitors.
- **Buena Park Middle School Future Farmers of America (2024)** – Installation of a solar-powered irrigation system, a shade structure with a solar-powered outlet panel, and a chicken coop with an automated solar-operated door that engages students in community service and sustainable technology education.





2025 BRIGHT FUTURES GRANT

Grant Eligibility

\$100,000 in total funds available for grants up to \$20,000

- Non-profits, schools, colleges, universities, and educators based in an OCPA member city and/or serving member cities
- Programs that educate on the benefits of renewable energy and Community Choice Energy
- Target underrepresented communities and multilingual communities
- Must demonstrate clear goals and objectives with a budget and plan for sustainability
- Partnerships between multiple agencies are desirable
- Progress reports are due at six (6) months and 12 months
- Previous Bright Futures Grant recipients are eligible, but cannot receive funds more than two (2) years in a row



2025 BRIGHT FUTURES GRANT

Grant Outreach

- Application was April – May 2025
- Application shared to 70+ organizations via email
- Program flyer available at 10+ community events
- Information promoted on social media channels with a reach of 6,000+ followers
- The 2025 program received 21 applications, a year-over-year increased of 191%





Evaluation and Timeline

- Evaluation committee included Programs staff and Community Advisory Committee Members.
- Final review and considerations with greater team after to make final decision.
- Five (5) of the top-ranking organizations were granted \$18,000 – \$20,000 each.

Process	Timeline
Applications Submission	April – May 2025
Evaluator Meeting	Late May
Application Evaluation	May 27- June 10th
Recommendation & Internal Approval	June 12th - 13 th
Grantee Notification	Late June
Contract Development & Signature	July - August
Board Announcement	September 8th



Evaluation Criteria

Criteria	Points	Description
Complete Application	1 - 5	Applicant fully meets all eligibility requirements and submitted by the deadline.
Project Summary / Description	1 - 5	Project evaluations range from clear, compelling summaries with well-defined audiences and realistic timelines to missing or unclear descriptions, vague targeting, and absent or unrealistic timelines.
Goals & Objectives	1 - 5	Project goals and objectives range from clearly stated and measurable with a defined evaluation method to completely missing, with vague or unrealistic outcomes and no way to assess success.
Budget & Project Sustainability	1 - 5	Budget and sustainability plans range from detailed and well-aligned with project goals and long-term impact to completely missing, with unclear costs and no strategy for continuation beyond the grant period.
Partnerships	1 - 5	Partnerships range from highly relevant and well-documented with clearly defined roles that support project success to entirely missing or irrelevant, with no clear contributions or connections to the proposed work.
Total	25	



2025 BRIGHT FUTURES GRANT

Grant Recipients

Organization	Communities Served
Boys & Girls Clubs of Fullerton	Fullerton
Climate Action Campaign	Buena Park, Fullerton, Fountain Valley, and Irvine
COR Community Development Corporation (COR CDC)	Irvine
Fullerton Elementary School District	Fullerton
Give for a Smile	Buena Park, Fullerton, Fountain Valley, and Irvine



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF FULLERTON**

Brett Ackerman, CEO
Shirley Ramirez, Director of Operations



**Alexandria Fisher,
Director of Philanthropy**



**Jeremy Davis,
Board Member**



COR CDC
COR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Rev. Dr. Ralph E. Williamson, President and CEO
Farrah Khan, Managing Director



Adriana Jiminez, Program Director
Julio Gallardo



2025 BRIGHT FUTURES GRANT

Boys & Girls Clubs of Fullerton

Awarded \$20,000

- Non-profit that provides a fun, safe and constructive environment for kids and teens during out-of-school hours in the City of Fullerton.
- Funding supports installation of a solar + battery storage system, solar-powered irrigation system, and a renewable energy education station that provides STEM-focused learning through real-world renewable energy projects.



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF FULLERTON**



2025 BRIGHT FUTURES GRANT

Climate Action Campaign

Awarded \$20,000

- Non-profit founded in San Diego in 2015 with an Orange County branch added in 2017 that advocates equitable federal action aimed at reducing carbon emissions and accelerating the transition to clean energy.
- This grant will support the organization of a public forum and engagement program that develops local energy leadership and promotes community-driven clean energy strategies across Buena Park, Fountain Valley, Fullerton, and Irvine.





2025 BRIGHT FUTURES GRANT

Fullerton Education Foundation

Awarded \$18,342

- Non-profit that for two decades has fostered dynamic community partnerships that enrich the educational experience of children in Fullerton School District classrooms.
- Funding supports solar education and infrastructure development including powering two tiny homes that serve the unhoused community, and educational curriculum around solar power installation and grid integration.



FULLERTON
EDUCATION FOUNDATION



2025 BRIGHT FUTURES GRANT

COR Community Development Corporation (COR CDC)

Awarded \$20,000

- Non-profit based in Irvine that focuses on empowering communities by providing resources, education, and entrepreneurship opportunities through a myriad of STEAM programs.
- With this grant, the organization will deliver a bilingual, hands-on education program for underserved youth in Irvine, focused on renewable energy, environmental sustainability, and Community Choice Energy, while fostering STEAM leadership pathways.



COR CDC
COR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



2025 BRIGHT FUTURES GRANT

Give for a Smile

Awarded \$20,000

- Non-profit based in Garden Grove that provides social assistance to the less fortunate families of all ethnic background and focusing on the Latino communities of Orange County.
- This grant will enable multilingual outreach and educational programs on renewable energy, including training community leaders to host educational workshops in Park, Fountain Valley, Fullerton, and Irvine.

