

**Clean CA Program
Community Cleanup and Employment Pathway (CCEP) Grant Proposal**

I. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

CALTRANS DISTRICT	PROJECT TITLE	AGENCY NAME	AGENCY CONTACT NAME	PHONE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS
10	Stockton Youth Environmental Stewardship (SYES) Program	City of Stockton, City Manager's Office	Dale Applewhite, Program Manager III	209-937-1850	Dale.Applewhite@stocktonca.gov

1.2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION**Stockton Youth Environmental Stewardship (SYES) Program Proposal**

The Stockton Youth Environmental Stewardship (SYES) program is a collaborative initiative led by the Environmental & Sustainability Office (ESO), in partnership with the Public Works and Economic Development departments of the City of Stockton. Building on the success of the Youth Employment Summer Success (YESS) program, SYES is designed to engage middle school youth in environmental education, civic pride, and hands-on community service. Over the grant period, the program will run four cohorts, each consisting of 20 youth participants who will take part in a four-week workforce development experience. Participants will receive a stipend, educational training in sustainability and civic engagement, a personal tool kit including gloves, litter grabbers, and safety gear, and public recognition for their contributions.

Central to the program are community-led litter cleanup activities that foster neighborhood pride and environmental awareness. Youth participants will work alongside residents, neighborhood associations, and school groups to identify and clean high-impact areas such as parks, school grounds, vacant lots, and public corridors. These efforts will culminate in family-inclusive cleanup events that encourage broader community involvement and intergenerational stewardship. In addition to environmental action, SYES integrates workforce training opportunities to prepare youth for future employment. Workshops will cover professional communication, teamwork, leadership, basic landscaping, waste management, and urban ecology. The ESO office will facilitate resume-building sessions, mock interviews, and guest presentations from local businesses and environmental organizations.

The success of SYES relies on strong partnerships across city departments and community organizations. Public Works will provide logistical support, equipment, and access to cleanup sites, while Economic Development will coordinate public space access and beautification efforts. The City of Stockton's Clean City Initiative and Community-based organizations and faith groups will assist with volunteer recruitment and outreach, and local businesses will contribute through sponsorships, supply donations, and mentorship opportunities. Through these partnerships, SYES will contribute to the revitalization of Stockton's public spaces by targeting underutilized parks, neglected greenways, and urban blight zones. Youth teams will participate in planting native species, installing educational signage, and creating art installations that enhance community identity.

The program's impact will be measured through pre- and post-program surveys, metrics on waste collection and volunteer participation, and feedback from community partners. Long-term tracking will assess continued youth involvement in civic and environmental initiatives. SYES is designed to be sustainable beyond the grant period, with potential integration into existing city youth programs and expansion into year-round offerings. By combining education, action, and collaboration, the Stockton Youth Environmental Stewardship program aims to cultivate environmental awareness, strengthen community bonds, and build a pipeline of future civic leaders.

1.3 PURPOSE AND NEED

Stockton, California faces persistent challenges related to urban blight, illegal dumping, and high unemployment, particularly among youth. Many neighborhoods are burdened by visible litter, neglected public spaces, and frequent instances of illegal dumping, which not only degrade the environment but also erode community morale and public safety. These conditions are especially prevalent in underserved areas, where residents often lack the resources or support to address these issues independently. The Environmental & Sustainability Office (ESO), in recognizing these challenges, has identified a critical need for programs that simultaneously address environmental degradation and youth development.

At the same time, Stockton's middle school students have limited access to structured, age-appropriate workforce development opportunities. While high school and college-aged youth may benefit from internships or job training programs, younger students are often overlooked in early career readiness efforts. This gap is particularly evident in the environmental and civic engagement sectors, where few programs exist to introduce youth to sustainability, public service, or community leadership. Without early exposure to these values and skills, many young people miss the opportunity to develop a sense of ownership and pride in their neighborhoods.

Additionally, this gap is the lack of transitional employment opportunities for older youth who have participated in introductory programs such as the Youth Employment Summer Success (YESS) initiative. Many high school and pre-college youth express interest in continuing their involvement in civic and environmental work but lack accessible pathways to deepen their skills, earn income, and gain leadership experience. This creates a missed opportunity to cultivate a pipeline of young leaders who can support municipal programs, mentor younger participants, and build long-term connections to public service careers.

The Stockton Youth Environmental Stewardship (SYES) program is designed to address these intersecting needs. By engaging middle school youth in hands-on clean-up projects, sustainability education, and civic engagement activities, SYES provides meaningful early work experience while directly contributing to the revitalization of Stockton's public spaces. Participants receive training in environmental science, leadership, and job readiness, equipping them with practical skills and a deeper understanding of their role in shaping their community. The program also includes stipends and personal tool kits, ensuring that participation is accessible and rewarding.

By strengthening the city's youth workforce pipeline, SYES now incorporates a Youth Leadership & Workforce Expansion component that hires five former YESS participants as Youth Environmental Leadership Assistants. These high school and pre-college youth gain paid part-time experience in program facilitation, environmental project coordination, and community engagement. Their involvement not only provides older youth with critical employment and leadership opportunities but also enhances program quality by offering relatable peer mentors who support younger participants and help deliver safe, well-organized cleanup events.

By fostering a culture of community pride and environmental responsibility, Youth participants work alongside city departments, local organizations, and residents to clean parks, remove litter, and beautify neglected areas. These efforts not only improve the physical environment but also strengthen social bonds and promote civic pride. Family-inclusive clean-up events further bolster community involvement and intergenerational learning.

In a city where youth unemployment remains high and environmental challenges are visible and urgent, SYES offers a proactive, holistic solution. It empowers young people to become environmental stewards, builds a foundation for future workforce success, and contributes to the broader goal of a cleaner, more vibrant Stockton. Through education, action, leadership development, and collaboration, SYES help to cultivate the next generation of civic leaders while restoring the health and beauty of the city's shared spaces.

1.4 MAP (Attachment A)

Instructions: Include any relevant project location maps, and associated data maps.

1.5 COST – Suggested Amount: \$50,000 to \$200,000**Instructions: Provide a detailed cost estimate for each activity below and submit with Attachment E.**

Activity	Estimated Cost	Would applicant accept partial funding for this activity?
Planning / Outreach	\$ 6,000	X Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Project Implementation – Employment (based on historic number of litter crews/staff)	\$ 93,829 \$80,372	X Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Project Implementation – Cleanup (based on historic quantities of litter collection)	\$ 12,275	X Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Matching Funds – In-Kind Contribution	\$ 24,310	X Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Other (Training/Workshops, Planning Outreach, Event Costs, Transportation, Insurance/Safety, Administrative)	\$ 28,350	X Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
TOTAL	\$ 164,764 \$151,307	X Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

1.6 SCHEDULE**Note: Project implementation should be completed by April 1, 2027 and final reports/close-out completed by October 31, 2027.**

Milestone	Start Date	End Date
Planning & Community Engagement Begins	February 1, 2026	March 13, 2026
Hiring/Training Program Launch – Cohort 1	April 4, 2026	April 25, 2026
Cleanup Activities Begin – Cohort 1	April 25, 2026	April 25, 2026
Hiring/Training Program Launch – Cohort 2	August 8, 2026	August 29, 2026
Cleanup Activities Begin – Cohort 2	August 29, 2026	August 29, 2026
Hiring/Training Program Launch – Cohort 3	October 3, 2026	October 24, 2026
Cleanup Activities Begin – Cohort 3	October 24, 2026	October 24, 2026
Hiring/Training Program Launch – Cohort 4	March 6, 2027	March 27, 2027
Cleanup Activities Begin – Cohort 4	March 27, 2027	March 27, 2027
Project Completion (By April 1, 2027)	March 27, 2027	March 27, 2027
Project Close-out (By October 31, 2027)	March 1, 2027	March 31, 2027

1.7 KNOWN CONCERNS OR RISKS	
Known environmental concerns or risks <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Known right-of-way concerns or risks <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Instructions: Please list any other known risks that could impact this project from being delivered on schedule, budget and scope (300-500 words).	

2 EVALUATION CRITERIA ALIGNMENT

2.1 EVALUATION CRITERIA ALIGNMENT
<p>In neighborhoods across the city, the Stockton Youth Environmental Stewardship (SYES) program will transform more than just landscapes by cultivating a new generation of civic-minded leaders. Each cohort local middle school youth will step into roles that blend environmental action with career exploration, guided by a vision of cleaner streets, greener parks, and stronger communities.</p> <p>Scale, Type, and Location of Cleanup Efforts The heartbeat of SYES lies in its hands-on beautification projects. Youth teams, equipped with gloves, tools, and a sense of purpose, tackle litter removal, invasive plant clearing, and park revitalization across four sites. From neglected alleyways to high-traffic public spaces. The efforts will span citywide, with a focus on underserved neighborhoods where environmental neglect mirror social disinvestment. By targeting these areas, SYES not only restores physical space but also uplifts community morale.</p> <p>Workforce Training and Career Pathways for Middle Schoolers Through structured workshops and mentorship, middle school participants will gain foundational skills in environmental science, urban planning, and public service. They will learn how to conduct site assessments, use landscaping tools safely, and even explore GIS mapping. Workshops will introduce them to professionals in sustainability, public works, and green tech, planting seeds for future pathways. For most, SYES will be their first exposure to workforce readiness. SYES is more than a clean-up crew, it's a launchpad designed to inspire long-term ambition.</p> <p>Community, City Departments, and Workforce Board Engagement Collaboration is key to the success of SYES. City departments like Economic Development, Community Services and Public Works partner on project sites and will provide hands on support in the areas of identifying clean-up sites, staff for training activities, and technical support. Local nonprofits such as Greater Valley Conservation Corps, Little Minila Rising and neighborhood associations will help recruit volunteers, mentors, and co-host workshops. San Joaquin County Worknet will play a strategic role, aligning SYES with broader youth employment goals and introducing the middle schoolers to resume writing. Together, these partners ensure that SYES is not just an internal initiative, but a community-wide movement.</p> <p>Strategies for Long-Term Maintenance To ensure lasting impact, SYES will integrate sustainability into its core. Each site will be adopted by a "Community Steward Team" that is a mix of youth alumni, residents, and city staff, who commit to ongoing care. Maintenance plans include quarterly check-ins, seasonal planting, and public art installations that deter vandalism. Digital dashboards will be used to track progress and allow residents to report issues. This process will keep the momentum alive year-round. As youth participants are recruited for a new year's cohorts, they will build on the work of previous cohorts, creating a legacy of stewardship.</p>

3 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

3.1 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT INFLUENCE

Importantly, SYES fosters a culture of community pride and environmental responsibility.

These efforts not only improve the physical environment but also strengthen social bonds and promote civic pride. Family-inclusive clean-up events will further amplify community involvement and intergenerational learning.

SYES program serves as a catalyst for cultivating community pride and environmental responsibility among young residents. At its core, SYES empowers youth to become active stewards of their neighborhoods by engaging directly in hands-on beautification efforts. Participants work side-by-side with city departments, local nonprofits, and neighborhood residents to restore and enhance public spaces, cleaning parks, removing litter from streets and waterways, and revitalizing neglected areas that have long been overlooked.

Each youth is assigned to clean-up projects within their own residential district, fostering a personal connection to the spaces they serve and reinforcing a sense of ownership and accountability. This localized approach ensures that improvements are not only visible but deeply meaningful to the participants and their communities. As youth see the tangible results of their labor such as greener parks, cleaner sidewalks, and more welcoming public spaces, they develop a lasting appreciation for civic engagement and environmental care.

Beyond the physical transformation, these efforts serve as a powerful tool to develop social awareness. Working in diverse teams, youth build relationships with peers, mentors, and neighbors, strengthening intergenerational ties and community cohesion. Family inclusive clean-up events are a cornerstone of the program, inviting parents, siblings, and elders to join in the work. These gatherings become vibrant celebrations of shared purpose, where environmental action doubles as a platform for learning, storytelling, and cultural exchange.

Through SYES, environmental stewardship becomes a community-wide endeavor. The program will not only beautify the City of Stockton but will also nurture a generation of youth who are proud to protect and uplift the places they call home.

4 UNDERSERVED or HISTORICALLY EXCLUDED COMMUNITIES

4.1 ANALYSIS	
<p>Is the project located in an underserved or historically excluded community?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>X partially located in an underserved community</p>	<p>What was the basis for determining if any part of project is located in or benefits an historically excluded community: (only check a box if in or partially in an historically excluded community)</p> <p>a. <input type="checkbox"/> Median Household Income</p> <p>b. X CalEnviroScreen 4.0</p> <p>c. <input type="checkbox"/> Free or Reduced-Price School Meals</p> <p>d. <input type="checkbox"/> Healthy Places Index</p> <p>e. <input type="checkbox"/> Native American Tribal Lands</p> <p>f. <input type="checkbox"/> Other</p>

4.2 BENEFITS TO UNDERSERVED or HISTORICALLY EXCLUDED COMMUNITY

Stockton, California is a city marked by both resilience and environmental challenge. Many of its neighborhoods, particularly in South Stockton, are ranked among the most environmentally burdened in the state, with high levels of air pollution, limited green space, and a history of disinvestment. These conditions have contributed to elevated rates of asthma, heat-related illnesses, and a general lack of access to clean, safe public spaces.

Recognizing these disparities, the SYES proposal was designed to directly address the environmental justice issues facing Stockton's youth and their communities. The program's focus on cleaning parks, removing litter, and beautifying neglected areas is a direct response to the visible deterioration of public spaces in districts most impacted by pollution and neglect. By assigning youth to projects within their own neighborhoods, SYES ensures that the benefits of their labor are immediate and personal and will restore pride in their community and neighborhoods.

Stockton's growing movement for community-led climate action, exemplified by initiatives like Stockton Rising and the city's Climate Action Plan, inspired SYES to integrate workforce development and civic engagement into its framework. These local efforts emphasize the importance of empowering residents, especially youth, to lead environmental change. SYES builds on this momentum by offering middle schoolers hands-on training in sustainability practices, exposure to green careers, and mentorship from local leaders.

The program also reflects Stockton's collaborative spirit. City departments, community-based organizations, and workforce boards are already working together through initiatives like Rise Stockton to improve environmental outcomes and economic opportunity. SYES leverages these partnerships to ensure that youth participants are not only cleaning up their communities but also building pathways to future employment and leadership.

In essence, Stockton's environmental challenges and its community driven responses provided both the urgency and the blueprint for SYES. The program is a strategic investment in the city's youth, its neighborhoods, and its long-term environmental resilience. Connection to public resources and services

5 LETTER OF SUPPORT

5.1 LETTER OF SUPPORT

Instructions: Attach signed letters from Caltrans district (where proposal is located) endorsing the project.

6 ADDITIONAL ATTACHMENTS

6.1 SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

Instructions – Attach any applicable documents as follows:

- **Attachment A:** Project / Data Maps
- **Attachment B:** Public Engagement Plan
- **Attachment C:** Existing Site Photos
- **Attachment D:** Letters of Support
- **Attachment E:** Cost Breakdown & Estimate
 - Break down expenses by category (e.g., staff time, equipment, materials, outreach, etc.)
 - Briefly explain the purpose of each cost to demonstrate alignment with project goals.

Prepared by:
Dale Applewhite

_____	_____
Agency Representative	
Dale Applewhite	10/30/2025
Program Manager III	
City of Stockton	

_____	_____
Approval Recommended by:	Date

_____	_____
District Clean CA Grant Coordinator	Date

Approved by:

_____	_____
Clean California Program Director	Date

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