



Mattress Recycling Council

Request for Proposals

Funding for Illegally Dumped Mattress Pilot Study

Release Date:

October 6, 2025

Due Date:

November 21, 2025

Mattress Recycling Council California, LLC

Attn: Taylor Grimes

Tgrimes@mrc-us.org

www.mattressrecyclingcouncil.org

BACKGROUND

The [Mattress Recycling Council](#) California, LLC (MRC) is soliciting applications for pilot study(ies) aimed at preventing or eradicating the illegal dumping of mattresses, box springs and futons (together referred to as mattresses) in impacted communities..

Based on the applications received in response to this solicitation, MRC intends to award funding to project(s) that will:

- Increase public education and awareness of existing legal mattress disposal and recycling options (such as no-cost curbside pickup, retailer take-back, and MRC drop-off sites), with an emphasis on accessibility, convenience, and reducing confusion about available services.
- Strengthen awareness and enforcement of illegal dumping laws specific to mattresses, including deterrent strategies such as signage, community reporting channels, and coordinated enforcement partnership.
- Expand access to convenient and affordable mattress collection programs, including enhanced drop-off sites, temporary collection events, or partnerships with retailers and haulers.
- Remediate and beautify known illegal dump sites through cleanup, landscaping, and environmental design strategies that discourage future dumping (e.g., improved lighting, barriers, or community art installations)

The deadline for submitting completed applications is 5:00 P.M. PST Friday, November 21, 2025. All projects under the Illegally Dumped Mattresses Pilot Studies program (hereby referred to as “Program”), must be completed by December 31, 2026. An extension to this deadline may be granted under limited circumstances or on a per-project basis.

Additional funding may be released based on the results of the studies awarded under this Program.

Illegally dumped mattress clean-up projects or mattress collection events are not eligible. For those interested in undertaking this kind of MRC initiative, please visit [MRC’s collection site and event host webpage](#).

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Program funding is limited to California-based entities that have either:

- Submitted data and participated in the MRC Illegally Dumped Mattress Collection Initiative (IDMCI) in calendar year(s) 2024 and/or 2025; or
- Provided at least one year of baseline data from 2024 and/or 2025 documenting illegally dumped mattresses collected from the public right-of-way within the proposed project area.

Baseline data must be provided in a clear and quantifiable summary format for reviewers. At a minimum, applicants must report:

- Total number of illegally dumped mattresses collected
- Location(s) of dumping (by neighborhood, census tract, or other agreed-upon geographic unit)
- Collection timeframe (e.g., monthly or quarterly totals)

- Source of data (e.g., municipal records, hauler logs, code enforcement reports)

The final Program report must demonstrate whether and how the pilot reduced illegal mattress dumping, using either IDMC baseline data or applicant-provided baseline data. Upon request, MRC will provide IDMC baseline data to funding recipients. At the end of the project, awardees will receive a final report template for completion and submission.

MRC will prepare a case study summarizing pilot results, based on the final report. Awardees will be required to participate in the case study process and provide a final review before publication.

EXAMPLES OF ELIGIBLE PROJECTS AND USE OF FUNDS

Education & Outreach

Promote proper mattress disposal by educating single-family and multi-family residents on available collection and recycling options, as well as the economic, environmental, and social impacts of illegal dumping. Strategies may include:

- Social media campaigns
- Community workshops
- School-based programs
- Partnerships with local organizations to extend messaging

Eradication & Beautification

Deter illegal dumping by improving the appearance and functionality of public spaces through beautification and environmental design strategies. Efforts may include:

- Landscaping, murals, or community art installations
- Rehabilitation of known illegal dumping sites
- Enhancements that make spaces more welcoming and less likely to attract dumping

Access & Infrastructure

Expand opportunities for proper mattress disposal by establishing or improving collection infrastructure in key locations, with a focus on equitable access. This may include:

- Traditional or non-traditional collection sites in illegal dumping hot spots or low-income areas
- Programs targeted to environmental justice, rural, and underserved communities
- On-site collection or tailored programs for multifamily housing complexes

Enforcement & Deterrence

Strengthen enforcement and deterrence measures to reduce mattress dumping in high-risk areas. Projects may include:

- Installation of surveillance equipment, signage, lighting, and fencing in illegal dumping hot spots
- Partnerships with local code enforcement or law enforcement agencies

- Public reporting tools and awareness campaigns to increase compliance

For more information on illegal dumping issues, please refer to the MRC Illegal Dumping Workshops [Final Report](#), [Case Studies](#) and [White Paper](#).

FUNDING

MRC has allocated up to \$64,000 in 2026 to fund a pilot study(ies) through this Program. Payment and reporting terms are described on page 5.

TIMELINE

The following timeline is subject to revision by MRC.

Key Date	Action Taken
October 6, 2025	Program proposal solicitation released. Question period opens.
October 20, 2025	Question period ends. Send all questions to Tgrimes@mrc-us.org
October 28, 2025	Informational webinar at 10am. Register HERE .
November 21, 2025	Program applications due.
November 26, 2025	Notice of awards.

SCORING CRITERIA

MRC will rank applications based on a score of 0-100, according to the following set of criteria. All scoring criteria are subject to revision by MRC.

Category	Points	Criteria
Quality of Application	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application is complete, clear, and submitted on time.
Applicant Qualifications	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrated organizational capacity and resources to complete the project. • Relevant experience with similar projects (provide examples if applicable).
Project Impact	40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear articulation of how the project will reduce illegal mattress dumping. • Provides baseline mattress dumping data to justify funding. • Demonstrates strong community need.

Category	Points	Criteria
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes measurable success indicators and an evaluation plan. Describes how final report will document outcomes.
Project Area	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Target area is in an environmental justice, rural, or underserved community. Stronger consideration for projects located in officially designated EJ areas (per CalEnviroScreen 4.0).
Project Work Plan	15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work plan is logical, efficient, and realistic. Includes measurable outcomes and clear deadlines. Demonstrates readiness and speed to implementation.
Project Budget/ Cost	15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Costs are reasonable and justified. Project demonstrates cost-effectiveness. Matching funds are included (optional but favorable).

GUIDELINES AND QUESTIONS

All applications must include the **Letter of Transmittal** (attached) as the cover page. Applicants may use the MRC template application or their own format. All applications must include the following components:

1. **Applicant Experience**
 - Description of the applicant’s experience with illegal dumping mitigation, enforcement, education and outreach, research, or similar projects.

2. **Project Description**
 - Clear outline of expected project impact and methods for measuring success.
 - Justification of project effectiveness, including:
 - Estimated number of additional mattresses prevented from illegal dumping
 - Improved awareness and/or enforcement of illegal dumping mitigation strategies
 - Enhanced education on proper mattress disposal

3. **Baseline Data**
 - Historical baseline data of illegally dumped mattresses will be used for comparative analysis at the end of the project.
 - Attach baseline data to the project proposal. Applicants not participating in MRC’s Illegally Dumped Mattress Collection Initiative must provide at least one year of baseline data (e.g., 2024 and/or 2025) identifying illegally dumped mattresses collected from

- public rights-of-way in the project area
- Baseline data should be summarized in a clear, quantifiable format for easy review.

4. **Project Work Plan and Timeline**

- Detailed description of tasks, milestones, responsible parties, and timeline for implementation.

5. **Project Budget and Funding Request**

- Detailed project budget, including any matching funds (optional), and a specific funding request.
- Provide quotes for equipment if equipment is being requested.

Completed Applications must be emailed by 5:00 PST Friday, November 21, 2025, to Tgrimes@mrc-us.org.

Comments and questions should also be emailed to MRC at TGrimes@mrc-us.org no later than 5:00 PM PST on Friday, October 20, 2025. MRC will respond to all questions. Applications that do not follow the guidelines may not be considered.

Applicants should describe in detail any potential conflicts of interest with MRC leadership or employees or former employment in the mattress industry within their application.

Awardees must agree to MRC's Project Terms and complete regular reporting requirements that may include photos or other documentation. MRC will use project documentation for annual CalRecycle reporting and marketing purposes. Confidential information must be marked as such and may be subject to regulatory disclosure requirements of CalRecycle or other state entities. Awardees will be reimbursed for costs based on achieving project milestones. Awardees may submit reimbursement requests monthly if the scope of work is complete for the period for which funds are requested. MRC assumes no liability or ownership for infrastructure or equipment purchased with MRC funding. Costs incurred before contract execution or after the end of the contract term are not eligible. Awardees must have all permits (if necessary) and approvals before funds are disbursed.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- 1. Content and Liability Disclaimer:** MRC has used reasonable care in preparing the information set forth in this Application Invitation. However, MRC shall not be responsible for any errors or omissions contained in this Invitation or other documents issued or prepared by MRC. MRC provides no warranty, either expressed or implied, regarding the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of those documents.

FURTHER, MRC EXPRESSLY DISCLAIMS ALL WARRANTIES WITH REGARD TO THE INFORMATION PROVIDED IN THIS APPLICATION, INCLUDING THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, AND NONINFRINGEMENT OF PROPRIETARY RIGHTS.

In no event shall MRC or its affiliates be liable for any damages whatsoever. In particular, MRC and its affiliates shall not be liable for special, indirect, consequential, or incidental damages, or damages for lost profits, loss of revenue, or loss of use, arising out of or related to this document or other pre-contract documents, or the information contained in them, whether such damages arise in contract, negligence, tort, under statute, in equity, at law or otherwise.

- 2. Application Questions:** Any questions pertaining to this Application must be transmitted by e-mail. MRC will respond to all questions; however, MRC is not responsible for questions that are not received. It is your responsibility to confirm MRC's receipt of any questions.

If substantive questions are received that, in the MRC's opinion, require a modification or clarification of the Application, the resulting modification or clarification will be provided in the form of an Addendum that will be forwarded to all Application Invitation recipients in advance of the submittal deadline. MRC reserves the right to extend the Application question deadline if it determines in its sole discretion that such an extension is warranted.

Submit one (1) electronic copy of your application, along with the Letter of Transmittal in Microsoft Word or pdf, including all attachments and addendums. MRC will confirm receipt of each application.

- 3.** An Applicant that is selected by MRC to provide services under a formal contract with MRC will be an independent contractor to MRC, and will not function as an agent, partner or employee of MRC. Nothing contained herein shall be construed as contemplating any relationship other than independent contractor. As such, the party under contract with MRC would be responsible for (i) making day-to-day and critical decisions regarding the undertaking, management and supervision of those activities; and (ii) achieving compliance with all applicable federal, state, local or other laws and regulations.

4. Under the Act, MRC has certain legal obligations to report to CalRecycle regarding the status and progress of the Program. This includes providing aggregate information furnished to MRC by Program Participants.
5. MRC intends to begin the contract term as early as January 2026.
6. By applying, you agree to be bound by your Application for 180 days or until a formal contract is negotiated.
7. Failure to comply with the terms and conditions specified in the Application could lead to your response being considered non-responsive and ineligible for further consideration.
8. MRC shall not be obligated to disclose any information about the winning (or losing) Applications.
9. MRC shall not be responsible for any costs that you or others incur in preparing an Application.
10. You acknowledge that MRC's decision whether to enter into a contract at the conclusion of this Application process will be at MRC's sole discretion.
11. If you are selected to enter into a contract with MRC, you will be required to furnish at that time:
 - a. documentation that your organization (as necessary) is qualified to do business in California (and any other relevant jurisdictions if your company is headquartered or located in another state) to provide the services under your program.
 - b. A valid and current Certificate of Insurance. Minimum limits include, but are not limited to:
 - Commercial General Liability Insurance of not less than \$1 million per occurrence.
 - Workers' Compensation Coverage as required by state law.

FORM 1 - LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

Please complete this form and include it as the COVER PAGE of your Application

Date:	
Applicant Organization:	
Organization Address:	
Application Contact & Title:	
Contact Phone Number:	
Contact Email Address:	
Alternate Contact and Title:	
Alternate Email Address:	
If a corporation, state of corporation	
Federal Tax I.D. Number	

I am authorized to submit this Application on behalf of the organization identified above to provide the services described in the Application.

I acknowledge receipt of, and have read, Application Invitation (including all subsequent addenda) and that I have prepared the Application. This Application is to the best of my knowledge true and accurate. I acknowledge that if facts stated in this Application are found to be false, MRC in its sole discretion may reject this Application from consideration and disqualify me and/or my organization from responding to invitations issued by MRC.

In the event that MRC selects our organization, we are prepared to enter into a formal written contract with MRC on behalf of our organization for the program described, as well as any ancillary services related to this program. This application will remain valid for 180 days from the closing date.

In preparing and submitting this Application, I certify that:

- no person acting for, or employed by, the Mattress Recycling Council California, LLC has a personal interest in, or is personally concerned with, this bid; and,
- no person or persons, or organizations, other than the undersigned, have, or are interested parties in this Application.

Authorized Signature:

Print Name:

Title:

Date:
