

Request for Qualifications (RFQ): Climate Finance Expert Consultant

Issued by:
Access Plus Capital
2607 Fresno Street, Fresno, CA 93721
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RFQ Release Date: [06/18/2025]

Response Deadline: [06/30/2025]

Summary

Access Plus Capital (APC), a mission-driven Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI), seeks a qualified Climate Finance Expert Consultant to support the implementation of climate-focused lending strategies and capacity building under the CA Jobs First Catalyst Program. This opportunity is part of a broader effort to promote a resilient, inclusive green economy across the Central San Joaquin Valley.

The Climate Finance Expert will be responsible for advancing climate finance strategies, co-designing innovative loan products, assisting with the launch of a \$500,000 revolving loan fund for small businesses, and contributing to the development of a replicable regional framework for climate finance and technical assistance.

Scope of Work

Key responsibilities include:

- Advise on and co-lead the design of climate loan products and underwriting frameworks that prioritize greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions.
- Identify and recommend technology tools for underwriting and impact tracking of climate loans.
- Lead the development of the Regional Green Climate Finance Framework, providing replicable models for regional implementation.
- Support training and implementation of the framework among partner organizations in Fresno, Kings, Madera, and Tulare counties.
- Collaborate with internal staff and external partners to design and launch a Climate Technical Assistance Program for small businesses.
- Advise on climate impact metrics and performance evaluation for the revolving loan fund.

Qualifications

Required:

- Demonstrated expertise in climate finance, environmental sustainability, or green technology deployment.
- Experience with lending, underwriting, or technical assistance models, especially within underserved communities or small business ecosystems.
- Strong analytical and strategic planning skills related to GHG mitigation and climate impact assessment.
- Familiarity with California's environmental, economic development, and climate policies.



- Ability to work independently and in collaboration with CDFI professionals, community partners, and public agencies.

Preferred:

- Prior experience working with or in the CDFI sector.
- Familiarity with frameworks such as EPA GHG Equivalencies Calculator, CalEnviroScreen, or similar tools.
- Based in or able to travel to the Central San Joaquin Valley.

Contract Details

- Contract Term: July 2025 – August 2026

- Compensation: Commensurate with experience

Submission Requirements

Interested consultants should submit:

- 1. Statement of Qualifications
- 2. Resume or CV
- 3. Relevant project experience, particularly with climate lending or economic resilience
- 4. Three professional references
- 5. Proposed hourly or project-based fee structure

Please email submissions to <u>ushan.samarakone@accesspluscapital.com</u> by [06/30/2025], with **subject line: RFQ – Climate Finance Expert**.

Ushan Samarakone

Vice President of Impact

Access Plus Capital