CalCAP/Seismic Safety Financing Program

The CalCAP/Seismic Safety Financing Program helps California small businesses and residential building owners in financing seismic safety retrofits to protect their property from damage in future earthquakes, by offering loss reserve protection to lenders that underwrite the costs of the property improvements.

- The program is modeled after the CalCAP for Small Business Program and administered by the California Pollution Control Financing Authority (CPCFA).
- CPCFA was established in 1973 and is chaired by the California State Treasurer.

Who Qualifies?

California small businesses that meet the following criteria:

- Employ 500 or fewer FTEs and own and occupy, or intend to occupy, a qualified building for business operations.

California residential property owners that meet the following criteria:

- Own and occupy a qualified residential building or small businesses that own one or more qualified residential buildings, including multiunit housing buildings.

California commercial property owners that meet the following criteria:

- Own and occupy a qualified commercial building or small businesses that own one or more qualified commercial buildings.

Eligible Uses of Loan Proceeds

- Costs related to seismic retrofit improvements on qualified residential and commercial buildings that are:
  - Located in California.
  - Certified by the appropriate local building code enforcement authority as hazardous and in danger of collapse in the event of a catastrophic earthquake.
  - Commercial buildings, single-family, residences, multiunit housing buildings, multi-unit housing buildings with commercial space, mobile homes, manufactured homes or multifamily manufactured homes.

- Eligible costs related to seismic retrofit construction performed on or after January 1, 2017.

How it Works

- Building owners obtain: (1) certification that their building is hazardous and in danger of collapse in the event of a catastrophic earthquake from the local building code enforcement authority; (2) cost estimate(s); and (3) necessary permit(s).

- Building owners reach out to participating lenders for financing, based on the lender’s own underwriting standards.

- Lenders and borrowers each contribute between 2 and 3.5% of the total loan amount to the lender’s CalCAP/ Seismic Safety loan loss reserve account.

- CPCFA contributes up to 4 times the amount of the lender’s contribution to the CalCAP/ Seismic Safety loss reserve account depending on the length of coverage of the loan. CPCFA contributes an additional amount up to 2 times the lender’s contribution for buildings located in economically distressed areas.

- Loans up to $250,000 can be enrolled for a maximum of 10 years.

To learn more, please contact CalCAP/Seismic Safety Program Managers Bianca Smith or Doreen Smith at (916) 654-5610 or CalCAP@treasurer.ca.gov. Also, please visit www.treasurer.ca.gov/cpcfa/calcap/seismic/summary.asp