



CALIFORNIA  
STRATEGIC  
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# TRIBAL GOVERNMENT CHALLENGE PLANNING GRANT PROGRAM

## Q & A DOCUMENT

April 10, 2020



## Q & A's on Solicitation & Program

### Proposal questions and submissions:

Please direct any additional questions to SGC Program Manager Elizabeth Grassi at [tribalprograms@sgc.ca.gov](mailto:tribalprograms@sgc.ca.gov).

### Eligible Applicants & Jurisdictions

#### What groups or entities are eligible for this program?

California Native American Tribes that are on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) for the purposes of Chapter 905 of the Statutes of 2004 (Pub. Resources Code, § 21073), are the only entities eligible for this Program.

#### Are non-federally recognized California Native American Tribes eligible to apply?

Yes, as long as a Tribe is on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) for the purposes of Chapter 905 of the Statutes of 2004 (Pub. Resources Code, § 21073), they are eligible to apply regardless of federal recognition.

#### Are Tribes that do not own lands, but operate on and within their Tribal homelands, eligible to apply? For example, a Tribe that co-manages a park with a nearby city through a memorandum of understanding but does not hold title to that land. Will the Program consider this as eligible?

Yes, land that is governed by a co-management agreement is considered eligible tribal land.

For the purposes of this program, activities must apply funds towards planning purposes on tribal lands, defined as lands located in the State of California that are tribally owned lands, buildings, or facilities, lands a Tribe exercises jurisdiction over, or lands that the Bureau of Indian Affairs holds in trust for Tribes, individual allottees, or public domain allottees, or lands managed through conservation easements or through lease agreement, or through co-management agreements, for the benefit of Tribes.

#### Will the Program consider projects that work towards lands managed for the benefit of Tribes, such as conservation easements, lease agreements, and/or co-management agreements?

Yes, land managed for the benefit of Tribes meets the definition of tribal lands for the purpose of this program. See full definition in the answer above.

#### Are Tribes able to outsource the project to a consultant group (or possibly a consultant project manager who then subcontracts out pieces of the project) if they do not have the internal capabilities/expertise?



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Grantees may bring on subconsultants to execute a majority of the award as long as the Tribe is submitting the proposal and the results benefit the Tribe's lands and communities. The Tribe must retain administrative oversight of the grant work, which should be reflected in the budget.

### Timeline

**If COVID-19 impacts affect the ability of awardees to implement their award, will the State allow extension dates for the grantees to complete their projects? Especially for those working with co-jurisdiction projects, such as Federal agencies.**

Unfortunately, due to ARRA funding requirements set at the federal level, all funds **must** be expended by March 31, 2022.

### Eligible Activities

**Can you provide examples of eligible projects?**

Planning activities that fall into energy-related planning, climate adaptation and resiliency planning, and sustainable communities planning are all eligible. Planning activities can be focused on a scale of a large land base down to individual buildings, as long as they meet the definition of tribal lands.

Please see the "Eligible Activities" section of the Guidelines starting on page 6 of the solicitation for a complete list of examples.

**Would solar installation be considered for this grant?**

No, eligible grant activities are restricted to planning activities, and do not include any construction or ground disturbance activities. In order to comply with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements, proposals are limited to activities statutorily exempt under CEQA and categorically excluded from NEPA review to meet the ARRA fund encumbrance deadline. This grant will fund planning for specific projects as long as that planning does not trigger CEQA or NEPA.

**So the grant is to be used strictly for planning and not implementation, but the cost of performing the work/project being planned will become the responsibility of the awarded tribe, correct?**

Yes, although the grant does not require that awardees implement any plans created through this award. We do ask that applicants describe probable next steps toward plan implementation at the end of the grant period in the Statement of Need.

**Do the activities in the planning have to be implemented in a specific time frame ?**

No, applicants are encouraged but not required to implement the plans created through this grant. Planning activities covered by this grant must be completed by March 31, 2022.

**Is developing a tribal energy corporation, such as a Tribally Chartered Corporation or a Section 17 Corporation, an allowable activity under the Tribal Challenge Grant? If so, is**



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### **developing policy and procedures, and other legal documents pertaining to the corporation an eligible activity as well?**

In order to be eligible, project costs have to propose planning activities related to energy, climate adaptation and resiliency, and sustainable communities. A tribal energy corporation could be a component of energy planning but would depend on the purpose of the corporation and how it fit in to a broader plan. Please see page 6 of the solicitation for eligible project types.

Please note that applications will be scored on their ability to address technical criteria 2, Climate and Energy Goals. These criteria include: demonstration of how the proposed plan would progress the Tribe toward current and future climate and energy goals; description of how the proposed plan would lead to measurable energy savings, greenhouse gas emissions reductions, and/or advance adaptation and resiliency; description of how the proposed plan would promote a combination of energy resiliency, efficiency, flexibility, as well as health and social equity.