**GFO-23-701**

**California’s Fifth Climate Change Assessment**

**Tribal Research Grant Program**

**Questions and Answers**

**October 6, 2023**

1. **Is the end date a firm date, or would project extensions be allowed after the current final project end date?**
   1. The funding for this grant expires June 30, 2026. Projects must therefore be fully completed by March 31, 2026, at the latest, in order to allow enough time for grant invoicing and reimbursement. Contributions to the Fifth Climate Assessment will have a due date of Summer 2025.
2. **Will we get a copy of this PowerPoint or is it available on the website?**
   1. Yes, this presentation is available on the [GFO-23-701 website](https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2023-09/gfo-23-701-californias-fifth-climate-change-assessment-tribal-research-grant).
3. **Are more points scored for partnership-proposed projects between tribes and local management partners, or county management partners? For example, a county regional park?**
   1. No, not for that specific criterion. While these types of projects are welcome and eligible for funding under this solicitation, that is not a specific element that is listed under the evaluation criteria. More detailed information on the scoring criteria that will be used to evaluate each proposal submission can be found on pages 19-20 of the solicitation manual. Also, per Section II.C Applicant Eligibility and Requirements, submissions for a Collaborative Grant (with maximum awards up to $400,000) must include at least two tribes, and all tribes must play an active role in the project.
4. **Is the waiver of sovereign immunity waived for this solicitation?** 
   1. Correct, a waiver of sovereign immunity will not be required for projects funded under this grant solicitation.
5. **Is the IDC (indirect cost) rate from the BIA (Bureau of Indian Affairs) allowed?**
   1. Yes, this is allowed. Also, per Section V. Technical Evaluation Criteria, criterion 5, applications will be evaluated on whether the personnel rates/costs, operating expenses, and indirect rates/costs are reasonable for the proposed work and consistent with the experience of the project team.
6. **What if I have a project that hits all six project categories? Do I submit under “Other”?**
   1. No, do not submit under “Other.” If you have multiple categories, select one of them as your primary category, and then select the others as secondary areas. Please see the bottom of page 1 on Attachment 1, the Application Form, to select your primary and secondary project groups.
7. **Is this the only tribal funding call for the Fifth Assessment? Or will there be a similar solicitation in 2024 and 2025 for one- or two-year projects to be done in future years?**
   1. We will release a second round of funding in late spring or early summer of 2024. Round 2 will have a shorter project period. Applicants may submit a Round 2 proposal to fund a new project, or to build on activities awarded in Round 1. A third round is anticipated but will depend on timing and available funds. If a third round takes place, we expect for it to focus on information sharing. An important part of this grant program is facilitating tribes sharing their information and lessons learned with one another. So, we envision a Round 3 will likely be an information sharing round, or a kind of conference round with reciprocal knowledge and information sharing.
8. **If the project is tied to research, is IRB (Institutional Review Board) approval required?** **Most research studies require approval, especially with tribes.**
   1. We didn’t specifically include IRBs in the solicitation, and therefore IRB approval is not specifically required. There is a Data Sharing Agreement template that is optional. If an applicant is proposed for a grant award, during the grant development phase, there may be an opportunity to discuss such agreements if that is something that applicants wish to discuss.
9. **Is there a specific list of the tribal needs available?**
   1. The CEC and its Fifth Climate Assessment partners defer to tribes concerning the identification of tribal needs. If your tribe has defined XYZ as a priority for your tribe and your climate change work and that work falls into one or more of the project groups, then that is likely sufficient. We are not otherwise preselecting or presupposing what tribes’ needs are. In Attachment 12, Fifth Climate Assessment Research Topics, three specific tribal topics are identified where tribal perspectives are lifted up as a cross cutting theme. These tribal topics may be used as a resource for ideas, but you do not need to adhere to this.
10. **Will this grant cover smaller hydrogen production for grid resilience and public transit, for example, bus etc., connected to waste water treatment plants?**
    1. The purpose of this solicitation is to provide funding for tribes and tribal organizations to conduct tribally led climate change research, assessments, and similar projects deemed a priority by the applying tribe. If the proposed project is connected to climate change resiliency, it aligns with the purpose and guidelines of the solicitation, and the work falls within one or more of the project groups, then this type of project would likely be eligible for funding under this solicitation.
11. **Is there a sample past similar award to a tribe that could be reviewed as a guide towards supporting this funding proposal?**
    1. This is a new grant program developed from recommendations from the Fourth Assessment, and this is our first round. You are welcome to contact [TribalGrants@energy.ca.gov](mailto:TribalGrants@energy.ca.gov) to request examples of past awards from other CEC solicitations, particularly from CEC's Tribal Government Challenge, which was tribally focused like this opportunity. Examination of past awards does not guarantee award under the Tribal Research Grant Program.
12. **Are there limitations on sub-awardees as long as the lead organization and beneficiary of the project is one of the appropriate types of organizations?**
    1. The grant recipient must be one of the three eligible applicant types. However, sub-awardees and sub-contractors are not limited to any type of organization or category. Note that the terms and conditions of an awarded grant agreement require certain terms be included in subcontracts. See Attachment 11, section 7.
13. **Looking for clarification on the expected number of awards to be issued? Or is it based on available funding?**
    1. The number of awards will depend on the number of applications we receive and the funding amounts that are being requested by each applicant, and also how that matches with the available funding that we have.
14. **Will awards be issued on a geographical basis or highest score only?**
    1. By highest scores only. We do not have any criteria in the solicitation manual or in the scoring criteria that breaks it out into geographic regions.
15. **Is the only contact by email?**
    1. By email and during office hours. See Sections III.B-D for more information on office hours and email contact.
16. **I have a quick question about the webinar and office hours for the Tribal Research Grant Program (GFO-23-701). Are both of these accessed using the Zoom meeting info provided in the Grant Funding Opportunity document?**
    1. Yes, that is correct. There is one zoom meeting link/registration for the pre-application workshop and all of the office hours.