



November 7, 2023

## NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY

### Tribal Capacity Building Pilot Program

### FY 2023 – 2024 FUNDING ROUND

TO: All Potential Applicants

FROM: Tribal Capacity Building Pilot Program Staff, Strategic Growth Council

SUBJECT: **NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY – A TOTAL OF \$1 MILLION FOR THE TRIBAL CAPACITY BUILDING PILOT PROGRAM**

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The California Strategic Growth Council (SGC) is pleased to announce the availability of funding for the Tribal Capacity Building Pilot Program through this Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA). SGC anticipates \$1 million will be available for competitive grant awards in this funding round. Awarded tribes may receive funding between \$150,000 and \$250,000 for the two-year grant term.

The Tribal Capacity Building Pilot program is funded through FY 19-20 Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities continuously appropriated funds that the Strategic Growth Council allocated for technical assistance to local communities. As such, it is part of [California Climate Investments](#) and furthers the purposes of [AB 32](#) (Chapter 488, Statutes of 2006) and [SB 32](#) (Chapter 249, Statutes of 2016) by investing in tribal projects related to climate mitigation, adaptation, and resilience that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The Tribal Capacity Building Pilot Program will utilize the free application platform, Submittable, to administer the pilot program's application. All applicants are required to submit their application through [Submittable](#). **Tribal Capacity Building Pilot Program Applications must be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m. PT on Monday, February 5, 2024 according to the terms of this NOFA.**

Information about the Tribal Capacity Building Pilot Program, including the Grant Guidelines, application support, and other resources can be found on the SGC website: [sgc.ca.gov/programs/tribal/capacity-building](https://sgc.ca.gov/programs/tribal/capacity-building). Questions may be directed to Tribal Capacity Building Pilot Program staff by email at [CACE@sgc.ca.gov](mailto:CACE@sgc.ca.gov).

### PROGRAM SUMMARY

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The Tribal Capacity Building Pilot Program is a new grant program that provides funding and technical assistance to California Native American tribes to build staff capacity to advance tribes' climate-related

work. Administered by SGC, the goal of the pilot program is to assist tribes in developing long-term capacity to secure funding and implement tribal-led climate solutions.

The pilot program will fund staff salaries and activities that advance the tribe's climate-related work. Activities may include planning, securing funding for, and implementing projects related to climate mitigation, adaptation, and resilience. Tribes will work with a technical assistance provider (TA Provider) and receive no-cost, flexible support that will respond to each tribe's needs. The capacity building and technical assistance services offered include, but are not limited to: trainings and workshops; grant application and management support; planning support; implementation assistance; partnership building; peer learning; staff and economic development.

SGC intends to fund Tribal Capacity Building Pilot Program awards in a manner that reflects statewide geographic and tribal diversity, inclusive of rural and urban tribes, federally recognized and non-federally recognized tribes, and a range of climate impacts. Applicants are encouraged to indicate how their application would further this goal.

## Eligible Applicants

**California Native American Tribes:** Native American tribes listed on the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Contact List per Chapter 905 of the Statutes of 2004 (Pub. Resources Code, § 21073). A non-federally recognized tribe is eligible to apply if they are registered with the California Secretary of State as a nonprofit, a for-profit corporation, or a limited liability company.

Please note the Tribal Capacity Building Pilot Program does not require a waiver of sovereign immunity from tribal grantees.

## Program Objectives

Proposed activities and narrative responses should provide additional detail about the tribe's approach to achieve desired outcomes. The Tribal Capacity Building Pilot Program's key program objectives are to:

- **Build Tribal Staff Capacity to Advance and Sustain Climate Action:** By investing in staff capacity and providing trainings and technical assistance to enhance tribal coordination, knowledge, skills, expertise, and access to state resources, the pilot program aims to help tribes build and sustain their climate related efforts.
- **Secure Funding to Develop and Implement Tribal-led Climate Projects:** Grantees will work with the TA Provider on activities to secure funding for the development and implementation of existing or new climate mitigation, adaptation, or resilience projects.
- **Enhance Peer Learning Relationships Among Tribes:** Peer learning activities will provide a space for tribes to share promising practices and lessons learned and support tribal coordination on the development and implementation of climate-related projects and applications where relevant.

For additional information on eligible activities, eligible costs, eligible project area, and other program details, please see the [Tribal Capacity Building Pilot Program Grant Guidelines](#).

## APPLICATION PROCESS

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### Application Phase

All Tribal Capacity Building Pilot Program applicants must submit application materials to SGC via [Submittable](#), a free application platform available to all applicants by **5:00 p.m. PT on Monday, February 5, 2024**. No late applications or application revisions will be accepted after the application submittal deadline. No hard copies, facsimiles, electronic transmissions via email, hand-delivered copies, or any other method of submitting complete applications will be accepted.

All applications will be reviewed by Tribal Capacity Building Pilot Program staff to ensure all required documentation is submitted and the application is complete. Applicants that may be missing application information will be notified by Tribal Capacity Building Pilot Program staff. If applicants are contacted because of missing information, the application will be deemed incomplete if the applicant does not provide the missing information within two (2) business days.

Applications will be reviewed and evaluated by SGC staff, along with an interagency review panel of partnering state agencies. Eligible applications will be scored based on the threshold and scoring criteria on pages 10-14 of the [Tribal Capacity Building Pilot Program Grant Guidelines](#). Following the initial application review, members of the review panel will conduct interviews with top scoring applicants. Based on the interagency review of the applications and interviews, Tribal Capacity Building Pilot Program staff will finalize and prepare grant award recommendations to present to SGC Council Members for consideration of final approval. SGC staff will contact applicants recommended for funding. Staff recommendations will be posted for ten (10) days prior to the SGC public meeting.

Application resources are currently available on [SGC's website](#). The anticipated date of announcement for the selection of Tribal Capacity Building Pilot Program grant award recommendations is April 2024. The ultimate awarding of Tribal Capacity Building Pilot Program funds is subject to the approval of the Council. The Council decision is final.

Applications must meet all eligibility requirements upon submission. Applications having material inconsistencies will not be rated and ranked. Modification of the application by the applicant after submission is prohibited.

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the application is clear, complete, and accurate. After the application deadline, staff from SGC or other partnering state agencies may request clarifying information or inquire as to where the application-specific information is located provided that such information does not affect the competitive rating of the application. No information, whether written or oral, will be solicited or accepted if this information would result in a competitive advantage to an applicant or a competitive disadvantage to other applicants.

### Application Scoring

Applications will be evaluated according to the process and scoring criteria found on pages 11-14 of the [Tribal Capacity Building Pilot Program Grant Guidelines](#). The top scoring applicants will be recommended to the Council for a Tribal Capacity Building Pilot Program grant award.

## Basis of Appeals

1. Upon receipt of a notice that an application is determined ineligible, fails threshold review, or is not awarded based on final scores, Tribal Capacity Building Pilot Program applicants may appeal such decision(s) to SGC pursuant to this section.
2. No applicant shall have the right to appeal a decision by SGC relating to another applicant's eligibility, point score, award, denial of award, or any other matter related thereto.
3. The appeal process provided herein applies solely to the decision by SGC pursuant to this NOFA and does not apply to any decisions made with respect to any previously issued NOFAs or decisions not-yet made pursuant to future program NOFAs.

## Appeal Process and Deadlines

1. **Process:** To file an appeal, Tribal Capacity Building Pilot Program applicants must submit to SGC, by the filing deadline set forth below, a written appeal which states all relevant facts, arguments, and evidence upon which the appeal is based. Furthermore, the applicant must provide a detailed reference to the area(s) of the application that provide clarification and substantiation for the basis of the appeal. No new or additional information will be considered if this information would result in a competitive advantage to an applicant. Once the written appeal is submitted to SGC, no information of materials will be accepted or considered thereafter. Appeals must be submitted to SGC at [CACE@sgc.ca.gov](mailto:CACE@sgc.ca.gov) according to the deadline set forth in SGC review letters.
2. **Filing deadline:** Appeals must be received by SGC no later than five (5) business days from the date of SGC's threshold review or score letters, representing SGC's decision made in response to the application.

## Appeal Decision

Any request to appeal to SGC's decision regarding a Tribal Capacity Building Pilot Program application shall be reviewed for compliance with the Tribal Capacity Building Pilot Program Grant Guidelines and this NOFA. All decisions rendered shall be final, binding, and conclusive, and shall constitute the final action of SGC.

## APPLICATION SUPPORT

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Tribal Capacity Building Pilot Program staff will host an **Application Workshop on November 28, 2023**. Staff will guide prospective applicants through the different components of the Tribal Capacity Building Pilot Program application and answer questions about the application.

Tribal Capacity Building Pilot Program staff will also host biweekly **Application Office Hours every other Thursday, starting November 16, 2023 and ending January 25, 2024**.

Register for the workshop and/or office hours by clicking the buttons below:

- **Tribal Capacity Building Pilot Program: Application Workshop** | [Register Here](#)  
Thursday, November 28, 2023, 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. PT
- **Tribal Capacity Building Pilot Program: Application Office Hours** | [Register Here](#)

Thursday, November 16, 2023, 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. PT  
Thursday, November 30, 2023, 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. PT  
Thursday, December 14, 2023, 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. PT  
Thursday, December 28, 2023, 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. PT  
Thursday, January 11, 2024, 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. PT  
Thursday, January 25, 2024, 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. PT

## **OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

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### **Disclosure Application of Information**

All submitted applications may be disclosed under a California Public Records Act request.

### **Right to Modify or Suspend**

SGC reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to suspend, amend, or modify the provisions of this NOFA at any time, including without limitation, the amount of funds available hereunder. If such an action occurs, Tribal Capacity Building Pilot Program staff will notify all interested parties via email and will post the revisions to the [Tribal Capacity Building Pilot Program website](#).

### **Conflict**

In the event of any conflict between the terms of this NOFA and either applicable state or federal law or regulation, the terms of the applicable state or federal law or regulation shall control.

## **RESOURCES AND QUESTIONS**

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