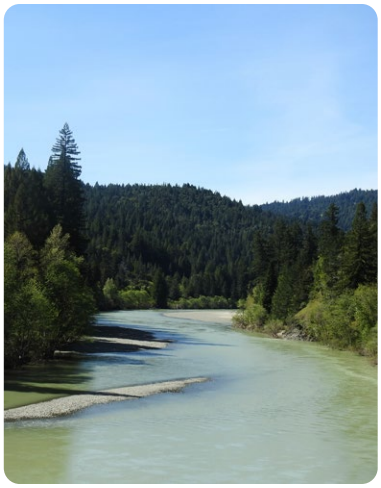
Tribal Capacity Building Program



About the program

The Tribal Capacity Building Program is a grant program that provides funding and technical assistance to California Native American Tribes, enhancing staff capacity to advance Tribes' housing- and climate-related work. Administered by the California Strategic Growth Council (SGC), the goal of the program is to help Tribes develop long-term capacity to secure funding and implement Tribal-led housing and climate projects.

> The Tribal Capacity Building Program provides funding and technical assistance to Tribes to advance their housing and climate goals.

What does the program fund?

The program funds staff salaries and activities that advance Tribes' housing- and climate-related work. Activities may include planning, securing funding for, and implementing housing projects and related efforts to advance climate mitigation, adaptation, and resilience.

What services does the program provide?

Tribes work with a technical assistance provider and receive no-cost, flexible support that responds to each Tribe's needs. The capacity building and technical assistance services offered include, but are not limited to:

- Grant application and management support
- Planning and implementation assistance
- Staff and economic development
- Trainings and workshops
- Partnership building
- Peer learning

Who is eligible to apply?

California Native American Tribes listed on the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Contact List, including federally recognized and non-federally recognized Tribes, are eligible to apply. A non-federally recognized Tribe is eligible to apply if it is registered as a nonprofit, a for-profit corporation, or a limited liability company.

What is the award amount?

The SGC anticipates launching a second round of the program in spring 2026 but has not yet finalized the funding amount. In April 2025, the SGC Council approved up to $30 million for a broader Tribal Housing Capacity Building initiative, which includes funding for two separate programs to support the development of Tribal housing. Program staff are in the process of drafting Round 2 Grant Guidelines to determine the award range and grant term length.

Program timeline

APRIL 2025

SGC Council approves funding for Round 2 of the Tribal Capacity Building Program.

FALL 2025

SGC staff conduct a landscape analysis through key informant interviews to inform program design.

WINTER 2025/26

Outreach and engagement period (e.g., virtual and in-person workshops, formal Tribal consultations).

SPRING 2026

Notice of Funding Availability and Application release.

Pilot round tribal grantees

In the first round of the program, a total of $1.45 million was awarded to six pilot round grantees, with each receiving up to $250,000 over a two-year grant term. The grantees represent both federally recognized and non-federally recognized Tribes across the State of California. The six grantees are as follows (in alphabetical order):

- Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of Trinidad Rancheria
  - *Region: North Coast*
- Confederated Villages of Lisjan Nation
  - *Region: Bay Area*
- Esselen Tribe of Monterey County
  - *Region: Central Coast*
- Mooretown Rancheria of Concow-Maidu Indians of California
  - *Region: Northern Sierras*
- Winnemem Wintu
  - *Region: North State*
- yak tityu tityu yak tiłhini Northern Chumash Tribe
  - *Region: Central Coast*

Contact

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