

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Executive Division
Business and Community Outreach Office

RESOLUTION M-4868
July 13, 2023

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION M-4868: Approves the Equity and Access (E&A) Grant Program and assigns responsibility and authority to use state-appropriated funds to provide technical assistance and capacity building for Federally recognized and non-Federally recognized California Native American Tribes (Tribes) and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) through the E&A Grant Program.

SUMMARY

This Resolution authorizes the establishment of the E&A Grant Program and delegates authority to the Commission to administer the program. Through the E&A Grant Program, \$30,000,000 of state appropriated funds will provide capacity to CBOs and Tribes to participate within CPUC processes and make clean energy programs more accessible to underserved and underrepresented communities, including communities that are geographically and racially diverse and socio-economically disadvantaged.

This Resolution establishes a mechanism pursuant to the Budget Act of 2022 (Assembly Bill (AB) 179 (Stats. 2022, Ch. 249)) to supply capacity grants to CBOs and Tribes to conduct outreach and obtain technical assistance regarding CPUC decision making processes and supporting activities, and to support ongoing equity initiatives and provide clean energy access opportunities.

The E&A Grant Program will contribute toward several of the goals listed within the CPUC's Environmental and Social Justice Action Plan¹ by sourcing perspectives from various stakeholders, including those who are underserved and unrepresented, and by making clean energy programs accessible to more Californians.

To meet this goal, the E&A Grant Program creates three grant accounts. The grant accounts are:

¹ The CPUC's Environmental and Social Justice Action Plan serves as an operating framework with which to integrate environmental and social justice considerations throughout the agency's work. The plan can be found here: <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/ESJactionplan/>.

1. “Public Participation Grant,” designed to implement the provision of AB 179 that calls for greater participation of CBOs and Tribes in CPUC decision making processes. This grant is available to CBOs and Tribes and has a budget of \$3,100,000. Applicants will be awarded funds for participating in eligible activities up to a maximum of \$15,000 per organization for the duration of the grant timeline. Applicants must show that they participated in a CPUC activity that informs proceedings and programs, such as a working group, panel, or focus group and are paid an hourly rate of \$150 per hour.
2. “Equity, Engagement, and Education Grant,” which implements the provision of AB 179 regarding entities that conduct outreach and obtain technical assistance for participation in CPUC decision-making processes. This grant is available to CBOs and Tribes and has a budget of \$9,750,000. Each grant may be for up to \$200,000. The application process calls for applicants to show that proposed work will educate and/or perform outreach within an underserved community on a CPUC matter.
3. “Clean Energy Access Grant,” designed to implement the provision of AB 179 creating greater access to clean energy programs in underserved communities. This grant is available to CBOs and Tribes and has a budget of \$15,650,000. Each grant may be for up to \$500,000. The application process calls for applicants to show that proposed work will address access to or education on CPUC clean energy programs.

BACKGROUND

The CPUC serves all Californians and recognizes that specific populations face higher barriers to clean, safe, and affordable utility and transportation services. To ensure that underserved and underrepresented community needs are met and that their voices are considered, the CPUC approved the initial Environmental and Social Justice (ESJ) Action Plan² in February 2019 and approved version 2 in April 2022. The ESJ Action Plan established a series of goals related to health and safety, consumer protection, program benefits, and enforcement in all the sectors that the CPUC regulates. These goals include soliciting the participation of ESJ communities in CPUC proceedings and decision-making, and ensuring that investments in clean energy resources, transportation, and communication services benefit all communities.³

² The CPUC created the ESJ Action Plan as both a commitment to furthering ESJ principles and an operating framework to integrate ESJ considerations throughout the agency’s work. See ESJ Action Plan website at <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/ESJactionplan/>.

³ The ESJ Action Plan 2.0 Updated Goals & Objectives can be found within the plan beginning on page 23 where the nine (9) goals are detailed. See the ESJ Action Plan website at: <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/ESJactionplan/>.

The E&A Grant Program will contribute to the following ESJ Action Plan Goals:

- Goal 1: Consistently integrate equity and access considerations throughout CPUC regulatory activities.
- Goal 2: Increase investment in clean energy resources to benefit ESJ communities, especially to improve local air quality and public health.
- Goal 5: Enhance outreach and public participation opportunities for ESJ communities to meaningfully participate in the CPUC’s decision-making process and benefit from CPUC programs.

Obstacles for Tribes and CBOs

California-based Tribes and CBOs may face obstacles and may lack the capacity to effectively engage with the CPUC.⁴ In some cases, this may be due to resource constraints that can make it difficult to keep abreast of and access state programs and participate in the decision-making processes.⁵

The CPUC is seeking to reduce these barriers and ensure that the needs and voices of underserved and underrepresented communities are included in the agency’s decision-making processes and that clean energy programs designed for customers and communities are accessible.

Assembly Bill 179

In 2022, the Legislature appropriated \$30 million in the Budget Act of 2022 (AB 179) for capacity grants to Tribes and CBOs for participation in CPUC decision making processes and supporting activities.

AB 179 contains the following description of the purpose of the funding:

“Of the funds appropriated in this item, \$30,000,000 shall be used by the Public Utilities Commission for capacity grants to community-based organizations that conduct outreach and obtain technical assistance for participation in Public Utilities Commission decision-making processes and supporting activities and that support ongoing equity initiatives and provide clean energy access opportunities to tribes, as defined pursuant to Section

⁴ Workshop participant comments noted in the ESJ Action Plan 2.0 Appendix B Breakout Sessions: Systematizing ESJ Considerations: Incorporating ESJ Issues into CPUC Proceedings and Processes on pages 58-59. See ESJ Action Plan website at <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/ESJactionplan/>.

⁵ Workshop participant comments noted in the ESJ Action Plan 2.0 Appendix B Breakout Sessions: Systematizing ESJ Considerations: Incorporating ESJ Issues into CPUC Proceedings and Processes on pages 58-59. See ESJ Action Plan website at <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/ESJactionplan/>.

21073 of the Public Resources Code, and other underrepresented communities. The Public Utilities Commission shall consider capacity grants to community-based organizations that also conduct outreach and obtain technical assistance for participation in Department of Water Resources, Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety, Energy Commission, State Air Resources Board and Independent System Operator energy related decision-making processes. The funds shall be available for encumbrance or expenditure by the Public Utilities Commission until June 30, 2025, and shall be available for liquidation until June 30, 2027.”

This Resolution sets out a framework, fund allocation, and details of three grant accounts that will be available to Tribes and CBOs via a grant application process to carry out the requirements of AB 179.

Development of Initial Grant Program Framework

To implement AB 179’s funding requirements, the CPUC first gathered input and assembled best practices from staff who oversee equity grants and programs that would benefit from greater participation by CBOs and Tribes at the CPUC and at other state regulatory agencies (see full list in Appendix A), including those listed in AB 179. These meetings were held from October 2022 to December 2022.

Community Outreach

To obtain input from those the funding is designed to serve, the CPUC conducted outreach to CBOs and Tribal organizations to identify barriers to participation in decision-making processes and to provide input on program design and implementation.

CPUC staff presented the draft framework to the Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group (DACAG), the Low-Income Oversight Board (LIOB), the Telecommunications Education and Assistance in Multiple-Languages (TEAM) Program, and the Community Help and Awareness of Natural Gas and Electric Services (CHANGES) Program in November and December 2022. The presentations are located in Appendix C. CPUC staff selected these four groups to review the draft framework first, because the members of these groups are highly familiar with the CPUC, CPUC processes, and equity and access issues faced by the communities that they represent. These groups regularly form bridges between the experiences of low-income customers and disadvantaged communities and the utility services and programs that the CPUC regulates.

These groups were supportive of the framework proposed and provided comments and concerns largely around implementation. Concerns included ensuring that Latino and African American communities were aware of the program and ensuring that under resourced and underrepresented communities had the technical awareness and knowledge of the CPUC to access the funds.

As a result of the input from the DACAG, LIOB and TEAM and CHANGES Programs, the CPUC refined the draft framework and reallocated funds between the proposed program grant accounts to ensure they could adequately cover staff costs for participation in a proceeding. Comments from these bodies also informed the decision to engage a subject matter expert (SME) for the purposes of assisting CBOs and Tribes with applying and leveraging the grant funds.

As a next outreach and engagement step, in December 2022, CPUC staff developed a list of 41 Tribal organizations and CBOs (see Appendix A) designed to represent communities who wish to improve and access CPUC programs, and represent a cross section of industries, geography, and level of experience in engaging before the Commission. The CPUC invited all organizations on the list to a focus group session to gain feedback on the draft framework of the grant program. Thirteen Tribal organizations and CBOs responded and on January 25, 2023, 11 Tribal and CBO representatives and a representative from the Public Advocate's Office participated in the event (see Appendix A for a list of organizations). See Discussion section below for a summary of the feedback received.

On February 15, 2023, CPUC staff hosted a public webinar to present a more developed draft of the grant program, answer questions, and receive additional feedback. The webinar invitation was sent to over 1,200 Tribal organizations and CBOs across the state. In addition, state agencies including the California Energy Commission and the State Water Resources Control Board also sent the invite to their own Tribal and CBO contact lists. The webinar details were posted on the CPUC website, sent out as a press release to statewide media, and shared on the CPUC's social media channels. In total, 193 individuals participated in the webinar. Webinar participants were given the opportunity to provide additional feedback via email and written comments during a 10-day comment period following the public webinar. Comments were received from the Northern Chumash Tribal Council, Natural Resources Defense Council, California Environmental Justice Alliance, and a joint letter by the Center for Biological Diversity, Vote Solar, The Climate Center, and Coalition for Environmental Equity and Economics. A recording of the webinar is available at cpuc.ca.gov/informational-webinars and the written comments appear in Appendix D. See Discussion section below for a summary of the feedback received.

GRANT ACCOUNTS

E&A Grant Program Funding Breakdown				
Funding Account	Maximum Grant Award	Tribal Reserved Funds**	General Non-Reserved Funds	Total Available in Account
Public Participation (PP) Grant Account	\$15,000	\$100,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,100,000
Equity, Engagement, and Education (EEE) Grant Account	\$200,000	\$250,000	\$9,500,000	\$9,750,000
Clean Energy Access (CEA) Grant Account	\$500,000	\$650,000	\$15,000,000	\$15,650,000
Program Administration*	--	--	--	\$1,500,000
TOTAL	--	--	--	\$30,000,000

*Limited term CPUC staff to administer the program, the SME, and other administrative costs associated with this program will remain under 5% of the authorized funds.

**Tribal Reserved Funds total is \$1,000,000. Tribal applicants (Types 2 and 3 Eligible Applicants described below) will have access to both Tribal Reserved Funds and General Non-Reserved Funds once Tribal reserved funds have been exhausted.

Eligibility

Through the E&A Grant Program, the CPUC will attempt to diversify entities and communities that participate in the agency's decision-making processes and clean energy programs by both geography and socio-economic status.

To apply for any of the three grant accounts of the E&A Grant Program, an entity must be one of the following types of Eligible Applicants:

- Type 1: California tax-exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- Type 2: Federally recognized and non-Federally recognized California Native American Tribes, as defined in Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 21073. PRC Section 21073 defines a California Native American Tribe as a Native American Tribe located in California that is on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission for the purposes of Chapter 905 of the Statutes of 2004.
- Type 3: Tribal entities, including organizations incorporated under Tribal law and wholly owned by the Tribe, Tribal Section 17 Corporations, and Tribal utilities and authorities operated under Tribal law.

Tribal applicants, which includes Types 2 and 3 Eligible Applicants, are eligible to receive funds within the Tribal reserved portions, as well as funding from the general non-reserved funds once Tribal reserved funds have been exhausted.

Eligible Applicants are permitted to apply to multiple grant accounts and will be eligible for the maximum funding for each grant. Each grant application will be reviewed and evaluated independently. For example, an Eligible Applicant may submit multiple applications for the Public Participation Grant Account until they have received the maximum grant amount per organization of \$15,000, as well as submit an application under the Equity, Engagement, and Education Grant Account for the maximum grant amount of \$200,000.

Pursuant to AB 179, “[t]he Public Utilities Commission shall consider capacity grants to community-based organizations that also conduct outreach and obtain technical assistance for participation in Department of Water Resources, Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety, Energy Commission, State Air Resources Board and Independent System Operator energy related decision-making processes.” Based on this language, the CPUC may consider such experience in scoring grant applications. For example, such experience may demonstrate that the applicant is experienced in the areas for which it seeks an AB 179 grant, and that a grant would further support important work. Where participation at the other agencies is relevant to work of the CPUC, grants for such participation may also be appropriate. Applicants shall include details of their experience with these agencies’ programs in their grant applications, including the name of the agency, the work performed, the program on which the work was performed, and, if applicable, any funding received in connection with such work. See the E&A Grant Program Guidelines (Attachment 1) for specific evaluation criteria.

Public Participation Grant Account

The Public Participation (PP) Grant Account meets AB 179's requirement to support participation in CPUC decision-making processes and supporting activities. The account is intended to remove financial and capacity-based barriers to participation while creating a flexible and accessible process to apply for and receive compensation. Organizations are compensated for their time for participating in day-to-day CPUC activities that drive and influence policy decisions.

Grants will be awarded for specific eligible activities, conducted on or after the date on which the PP Grant Account is opened for applications. Activities include speaking on a panel, participating in a working group, or participation in other decision-making processes at an hourly rate of \$150 per hour as outlined in the E&A Grant Program Guidelines (Attachment 1). The PP Grant Account maximum award per organization of \$15,000 will ensure a proportional distribution of funds over time and across various organizations. The CPUC will accept applications for grant awards on a rolling basis throughout the grant period; we delegate authority to CPUC staff to create the schedule and determine the initial application submission date.

In order to ensure that funding is made available to organizations with no or limited recent participation experience with the CPUC, the following eligibility criteria has been established:

- Applicants are not eligible for a grant award if they receive funding from another source for the same activity. For example, some programs provide stipends, per diems, or other types of funding for participation, including Intervenor Compensation.
- Recipients of Intervenor Compensation within the last twelve (12) months will not be eligible for this account. However, those organizations that have recently applied for but have not received Intervenor Compensation are eligible to apply, as long as the Intervenor Compensation award was not denied due to lack of financial hardship. This is because funds should be available for those with financial need; an organization with ample financial resources or the backing of a group that has such resources will not receive a grant award. Further, an applicant denied Intervenor Compensation may not seek an E&A Grant Program award for the same work, if the denial was based on lack of substantial contribution to the decision-making.
- If an applicant is approved for Intervenor Compensation after a PP application has been submitted and it is not for the same work, the

applicant may keep the grant award. If Intervenor Compensation is awarded for the same work, the CPUC reserves the right to rescind the award to uphold the PP Grant Account's eligibility criteria and ensure equitable allocation of funds.

This grant account aligns with the CPUC's ESJ Action Plan by creating participation pathways to compensate CBOs and Tribes for the time and effort spent contributing critical perspectives to the CPUC.⁶

The total amount available in the PP Grant Account is \$3,100,000 with a lifetime funding cap of \$15,000 per organization. Of the total \$3,100,000, no less than \$100,000 shall be available exclusively to Tribes. Tribal applicants are eligible for both this \$100,000 amount and funding from the remainder of the PP Grant Account once Tribal reserved funds have been exhausted, but non-Tribal applicants are not eligible for the \$100,000 amount.

Equity, Engagement, and Education Grant Account

The Equity, Engagement, and Education (EEE) Grant Account meets AB 179's requirement to support entities that perform outreach regarding CPUC-related matters. The account total will be \$9,750,000 and the CPUC will award individual grants up to \$200,000 for the purposes of building CBO, Tribal, and community capacity to understand and engage with CPUC decision-making processes. The EEE Grant Account will increase participation in CPUC decision-making processes and build the long-term capacity of Tribes and CBOs to make participation in the Intervenor Compensation program and other long-term funding sources more accessible. This will enable under-resourced CBOs and Tribes to have more influence over clean energy programs and make these programs more accessible to their served communities.

Successful applicants for the EEE Grant Account will have a demonstrated background in advocating for their Tribe or community. Eligible activities for the EEE Grant Account will include:

⁶ The ESJ Action Plan Appendix A: ESJ Action Items, Action Item 1.2.2 Consider Funded Community Based Organization (CBO) Program on page 30. See ESJ Action Plan website at <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/ESJactionplan/>.

- Community engagement and outreach related to CPUC proceedings.
- Hiring consultants and staff (or paying a portion of a consultant contract or staff salary) for activities necessary for active participation in decision-making processes at the CPUC.
- Education, training, and curriculum development regarding CPUC processes, proceedings, and programs.
- Partnership and coalition development to bring greater awareness of CPUC matters to disadvantaged communities.

The CPUC will accept grant applications in two cycles; we delegate authority to CPUC staff to create the schedule for the two cycles. The EEE Grant Account is competitive, with applications scored against the criteria outlined in Attachment 1. Such criteria include:

- Detailing how the proposed work will create enhanced participation with CPUC proceedings, processes, or programs.
- Demonstrating the ability to represent an underserved or underrepresented community.
- Detailing how the proposed work will create a community benefit.

The total amount available for the EEE Grant Account is \$9,750,000 with a maximum award of \$200,000 per application. Of the total \$9,750,000 no less than \$250,000 shall be available exclusively to Tribes. Tribal applicants are eligible for both this \$250,000 amount (with an individual Tribe capped at \$200,000) or funding from the remainder of the EEE Grant Account once Tribal reserved funds have been exhausted, but non-Tribal applicants are not eligible for the \$250,000 amount.

Clean Energy Access Grant Account

The Clean Energy Access (CEA) Grant Account meets AB 179's requirement for support of ongoing equity initiatives and to provide clean energy access opportunities to CBOs and Tribes. The account will provide grants to CBOs and Tribal organizations to help facilitate access to and the adoption of clean energy programs in their respective communities. Specifically, the CEA Grant Account will provide funding to develop equity initiatives and clean energy access opportunities that complement three CPUC clean energy programs:

- Microgrid Incentive Program (MIP) ⁷
- Self-Generation Incentive Program (SGIP) ⁸
- Technology and Equipment for Clean Heating (TECH) Initiative²

The grant program is designed to bridge gaps and connect underrepresented communities and individuals to these clean energy access programs. The MIP, SGIP, and TECH were chosen because of known barriers for underrepresented communities to access these programs as well as the timing for which new funding will be available for these programs. The MIP is expected to be launch in Q2 or Q3 of 2024, which would dovetail with the application and funding cycle that AB 179 sets out for the grant program. The grant funds will be especially critical for MIP applicants who need additional financial assistance for technical support for an effective application. AB 209 general funds for SGIP are expected to be allocated in 3 tranches from 2023-2026 which will also dovetail with the encumbrance and expenditure requirements for this grant program under AB 179. Furthermore, with D.23-03-005, the CPUC authorized TECH funding to be made available in early 2023 with additional funding made available at the start of the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

AB 179 requires that grant program funds be encumbered by June 30, 2025 and liquidated by June 30, 2027. Targeting programs that have known barriers for underrepresented communities and Tribes, and that have funding opportunities during the legislatively imposed deadlines will maximize the benefits of the CEA grant account. While underrepresented communities and Tribes could benefit from support on other initiatives, because their funding cycles are misaligned, CEA grant account funds would not be as helpful at this time. For example, the Transportation Electrification Framework's first funding cycle doesn't open until 2025-2029. This could make it difficult to encumber and expend funds, as well as demonstrate outcomes within the requirements laid out by AB 179. Consequently, CPUC believes focusing on the SGIP, MIP, and TECH creates the best opportunity for success with AB 179 funding. Demonstrating success with current funding could lay the framework for requesting General Fund support for underrepresented communities and Tribes in the future for other clean energy access programs.

⁷ See Decision (D.)23-04-034 *Decision Adopting Implementation Rules for the Microgrid Incentive Program* issued April 6, 2023.

⁸ The Self-Generation Incentive Program was adopted in concept on March 27, 2001 by the CPUC under Decision 01-03-073.

² Per D.23-03-005 the Commission has authorized the transfer of \$50 million from the Commission's budget to TECH Initiative in February of 2023, with no less than 40 percent of new program costs for activities to serve equity customers. An additional \$95 million will transfer to the program at the start of the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

To support MIP, SGIP, and TECH in their communities, Tribes and CBOs representing underrepresented communities may request funding from the CEA Grant Account to:

- Conduct community outreach to gather necessary information for a microgrid project through the MIP.
- Conduct community outreach on the availability of SGIP incentives in order to increase enrollment and customer understanding of its benefits in underutilized communities.
- Hire technical assistance to support procuring a developer for a clean energy project through MIP or to support the uptake of SGIP incentives in targeted communities.
- Develop pathways to use TECH program to achieve building decarbonization in disadvantaged communities.
- Coordination with existing entities executing local clean energy programs.

This grant will not pay for infrastructure buildout, such as hardware or equipment, but rather help facilitate the planning of projects as well as outreach to increase participation by underrepresented communities. CEA Grant Account eligible projects must pertain to work that is additive and distinguished from marketing, education and outreach efforts already funded through other sources. CEA Grant Account eligible projects also must be in an area served by a CPUC-regulated investor-owned utility for MIP supporting projects and may be state-wide for SGIP and TECH supporting projects.

The CPUC will accept grant applications in two cycles; we delegate authority to CPUC staff to create the schedule for the two cycles. The CEA Grant Account is competitive, with applications scored against the criteria outlined in Attachment 1. Such criteria include:

- A summary of the organization's background and qualifications, including history with targeted community and experience implementing community projects.
- A demonstration of the need for the proposed work.
- Development of project goals and the defined data that will be used as criteria to measure success.
- A community engagement plan.
- Coordination with existing entities executing the program.

The total amount available for CEA Grant Account is \$15,650,000 with a maximum award of \$500,000 per application. Of the total \$15,650,000 no less than \$650,000 shall be available exclusively to Tribes. Tribal applicants are eligible for both this \$650,000 amount and funding from the remainder of the CEA Grant Account once Tribal reserved funds have been exhausted, but non-Tribal applicants are not eligible for the \$650,000 amount.

Clean Energy Subject Matter Expert

The CPUC will use a portion of the 5% program administration funding to procure a Clean Energy Subject Matter Expert (SME). The SME shall be an individual or group that is well-versed in the clean energy industry, the CPUC's clean energy programs, and the development of clean energy projects, possess a high level of knowledge of the SGIP, MIP, and TECH.

The SME will be available to Tribes and CBOs who are interested in applying for the E&A Grant Program and would benefit from guidance on what could be accomplished through the CPUC's clean energy programs. The SME will provide technical assistance based on the specifics and needs of the Tribe's or CBO's community.

Duration of Grant Program

All funds for the E&A Grant Program are available for encumbrance or expenditure until June 30, 2025, and all funds must be allocated for administrative expenses or be awarded to grantees by that date. Funds are available for liquidation until June 30, 2027, and all funds that were previously allocated for administrative expenses and awarded to grantees must be paid out by that date.

MINISTERIAL REVIEW

For the timely and efficient distribution of grant funds, the Commission delegates ministerial review authority to CPUC staff for all PP Grant Account applications, for E&A Grant Account applications less than \$150,000, and for CEA Grant Account Applications under \$200,000. Staff are directed to evaluate grant applications to ensure they meet all eligibility criteria set forth in this Resolution and in the program guidelines, and for E&A and CEA Grant Accounts, score each application according to the evaluation criteria set forth in the program guidelines.

For applicants that request more than \$150,000 for the E&A Account and \$200,000 for the CEA Account the Commission reserves discretion to address such applications through the Resolution process. CPUC staff will evaluate these applications for completeness, ensure they meet all eligibility criteria set forth in this Resolution and in program guidelines, score each applicant according to the evaluation criteria set forth in

the program guidelines, and recommend approval or denial of each applicant via Resolution.

The \$150,000 threshold for ministerial review for the EEE Grant Account will ease administrative burden and increase efficiency of the work the Commission expects grant funds to support. This threshold is based on the costs of obtaining legal and consulting support, or engaging staff, to maintain active participation in a CPUC proceeding. Applications requesting amounts over \$150,000 are likely to be larger scale and of greater complexity which justifies Commission review via Resolution.

The \$200,000 threshold for ministerial review for the CEA Grant Account will ease administrative burden and increase efficiency of the work the Commission expects grant funds to support. This includes funding pre-application development and the initial stages of a microgrid project, including community outreach which involves gathering input from vulnerable communities and increasing awareness, education, and benefits of a project. It could also include hiring engineering consultants or an Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) Contractor to explore resiliency options, project design, and technical consultations in support of an MIP, SGIP, and TECH applications.¹⁰ Vulnerable communities and Tribes face financial and technical barriers in accessing the resources necessary to advance viable MIP, SGIP, and TECH proposals. This leaves them less competitive in comparison to better-resourced communities in the case of MIP and leads to undersubscription and underutilization in the cases of SGIP and TECH. Those applications requesting amounts over \$200,000 are likely to be larger scale and of greater complexity which justifies Commission review via Resolution.

To summarize, applications meeting the following conditions will be eligible for ministerial review and approval:

1. Public Participation Grant Account applications will all be evaluated and awarded ministerially.
2. Equity, Engagement and Education Grant Account applications requesting under \$150,000 per grant cycle.
3. Clean Energy Access application requests not exceeding \$200,000 per grant cycle.
4. The application meets all the other eligibility requirements as set forth in the program guidelines.

¹⁰ See R.19-09-009 Proposed Microgrid Incentive Program Implementation Plan of San Diego Gas & Electric Company (U 902-e), Pacific Gas and Electric Company (U 39-e), and Southern California Edison Company (U 338-e), <https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/Efile/G000/M428/K469/428469637.PDF>

Applications not meeting the above ministerial review criteria may only be approved by the Commission via Resolution.

The Commission assigns to staff the task of rejecting applications that meet any of the following criteria:

- The applicant has previously had a Commission grant award rescinded for violation of Commission or program rules; The applicant has made false statements to the Commission or to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).
- The applicant submitted an incomplete application and has not responded to a follow-up request sent to the designated contact on the application to provide missing material.

All applications shall be approved, denied, or marked for further review by the Commission through a Resolution.

The Executive Director will notify grantees of awards made via ministerial review letter. Award letters will be regularly posted to the Commission's website.

PROGRAM EVALUATION

The CPUC will collect feedback from program participants, applicants, partner agencies, and other stakeholders to evaluate the program's effectiveness in achieving the intent of AB 179 and the goals of the CPUC. Metrics and reporting requirements laid out for applicants in the E&A Grant Program Guidelines (Attachment 1) will provide a mechanism for the Commission to track applicant progress on a formal basis. The CPUC will be attentive to feedback provided by applicants and grantees and to bring any programmatic issues that cannot be resolved at the staff level to the attention of the Commission.

The CPUC will also regularly tabulate and summarize metrics and project progress reported by grantees. The CPUC will tabulate and provide reported metrics from grantees every six months. Where grantees fail to report, the CPUC will follow-up with grantees and notify them of their requirements to report. In addition to providing grantee reported metrics, the CPUC will provide the percentage of grantees failing to report, as well as the remaining available funding in each grant account. Before or no later than September 2024, the CPUC will assess the remaining available funds and issue a proposed reallocation of funds among the grant accounts, or revise the eligibility criteria for one or more grant accounts, in order to ensure encumbrance or expenditure of the full program by the statutory deadline of June 30, 2025.

DISCUSSION

The stakeholder engagement process led to three (3) significant changes to the grant program as originally proposed. These changes were:

1. Reserved funding for Tribal applicants (\$1,000,000).

Tribes face unique capacity-based barriers to clean energy programs and bear the burden of historical neglect of basic utility infrastructure on tribal lands.¹¹ Recognizing these realities, the initial framework proposed a Tribal reserve fund, and based on input from Tribal organizations, CBOs, the DACAG and others, we reserved \$1,000,000 funds for Tribal organizations, with \$100,000 for PP, \$250,000 for EEE, and \$650,000 for CEA. These funds will only be available to Tribal organizations, but Tribes may also apply for non-reserved funds. In a joint letter dated February 27, 2023 (see Appendix D), the Center for Biological Diversity, Vote Solar, the Climate Center, and the Coalition for Environmental Equity and Economics, stated:

“[W]e support BCO’s [Business and Community Outreach] proposed dedicated tribal funding. Several clean energy programs are limited to DACs. However, because most Tribal lands and communities in California are remote and have low levels of industrial and vehicle pollution, they may not be identified by CalEnviroScreen as DACs even though they may suffer from disproportionately high levels of poverty, energy burden, and poor electric service reliability”.¹²

2. Changes in funding for the grant accounts.

CPUC staff reallocated funding between the grant accounts to reflect feedback from community and Tribal stakeholders.

¹¹ See Necefer, Len Edward, & Jones, Thomas Elisha. Identifying Barriers and Pathways to Success for Renewable Energy Development on American Indian Lands. United States: <https://doi.org/10.2172/1431269>.

¹² Joint letter from Center for Biological Diversity, Vote Solar, The Climate Center, and Coalition for Environmental Equity and Economics. See Appendix D.

i. PP Grant Account

Community stakeholders during the focus group session¹³ expressed a desire to make the following four key changes to the PP Grant Account:

- First, it was suggested by AARP and Building Resilient Communities that the proposed funding cap of \$5,000 was not sufficient. Specifically, AARP stated that activities associated with multi-year proceedings may exhaust the \$5,000 cap rapidly, especially accounting for potential travel expenses. Building Resilient Communities stated that the proposed cap may not be incentive enough for CBOs to participate and suggested raising the cap to \$10,000 or \$15,000.
- Second, raising the organizational funding cap would reduce the total number of organizations that could apply for the grant. Therefore, Center for Accessible Technology suggested increasing the PP Grant Account budget broaden participation. Since the funding cap was increased from \$5,000 to \$15,000, staff increased the overall grant account budget from \$1,000,000 to \$2,500,000.
- Third, Building Resilient Communities and other focus group participants suggested raising the hourly rate of compensation from \$125 per hour to \$150 per hour. Staff agreed and noted that \$150 per hour was the rate being proposed by the California Energy Efficiency Coordinating Committee's Compensation Pilot program in their Final Report.¹⁴
- Finally, The Utility Reform Network (TURN) suggested prioritizing CBOs that are not already receiving Intervenor Compensation in the eligibility criteria. The Center for Accessible Technology noted that there be a balance between recruiting new CBOs to participate with those that are experienced. Based on this feedback, staff added to the eligibility criteria stating that an organization which has received Intervenor Compensation in the previous 12 months is not eligible to apply

¹³ January 25, 2023 Focus Group held with 11 tribal organizations and CBOs.

¹⁴ See California Energy Efficiency Coordinating Committee Compensation Task Force Final Report, filed November 29, 2022, available here: https://www.caeccc.org/_files/ugd/849f65_4bca04ba6e834bcb9f7b957a0e98592e.pdf.

for PP grant account funds.

ii. EEE Grant Account

Staff provided an overview of the grant program at DACAG's February 17, 2023 meeting and received feedback on the upfront costs of hiring legal or policy consultants to work on matters before the Commission.¹⁵ Julia Mary Popolizio Hatton, from Rising Sun Opportunity Center, stated that to meaningfully participate in a Commission proceeding and build capacity, it takes hiring a full-time equivalent employee. DACAG Chair, Roman Partida-Lopez, Greenlining Institute, agreed and expressed reservations on whether a maximum award of \$100,000 was sufficient for an organization to meaningfully engage over multiple years. We adopt a maximum award of \$200,000 based on this feedback to allow CBOs and Tribes to build capacity to significantly contribute to proceedings.

3. Redefined scope for the CEA Grant Account and the inclusion of a SME who will provide technical assistance to grant applicants.

The first proposal for the CEA Grant Account funded projects that leveraged state clean energy programs. During our focus group session, many CBOs and Tribes thought that the program was too vague even after providing examples of potential projects. Also, staff received community feedback during the focus group suggesting that technical assistance was necessary to help CBOs serving disadvantaged communities navigate the application process for the various clean energy programs. After this feedback, staff narrowed the scope of the CEA Grant Account to MIP, SGIP, and TECH. While the groups receiving funding may in many cases use a portion of the funds to hire a subject matter expert on clean energy or consulting services in the execution of their project, the focus group was concerned that under-resourced and underrepresented communities would have difficulties conceiving of technically feasible projects prior to application. In response to this staff decided to procure a clean energy SME to reduce the upfront burden of applying for funding. The SME will also be tasked with providing additional outreach on the program as well as be available as an additional resource for a portion of the grant cycle to

¹⁵ See DACAG February 17, 2023 audio transcript. See DACAG website: https://energy.zoom.us/rec/play/WAhXVHHGuzfFXDq8Dw3Pj8CsHy5vaWqZ3T6FIWFh9-V9CpOCROldXF0an_OEqagwCPnkLHo91ecfVQ5P.Uov701eYO0JSWEfF.

supplement their knowledge of clean energy programs.

COMMENTS ON DRAFT RESOLUTION

Public Utilities Code Section 311(g)(1) requires that resolutions be served to all parties and subject to at least 30 days public review. Any comments are due within 20 days of the date of its serving and publication on the Commission's website and in accordance with any instructions accompanying the notice. Interested stakeholders were notified of this draft Resolution on June 9, 2023. However, given that this Resolution is issued outside of a formal proceeding, interested stakeholders need not have party status in a Commission proceeding in order to submit comments. This Resolution and the Guidelines shall be served on the following service lists: R.21-02-014, R.13-11-005, R.21-06-017, R.12-11-005, R.19-09-009, R.18-04-019, R.21-11-014, R.21-03-002, and R.20-09-001.

FINDINGS

1. Disadvantaged communities are underrepresented in the policy setting or decision-making process, subject to a disproportionate impact from one or more environmental hazards, and are likely to experience disparate implementation of environmental regulations and socioeconomic investments in their communities. These communities may face socio-economic barriers to clean, safe, and affordable utility and transportation services and may lack the general awareness of state governmental decision-making processes to keep abreast of and advocate for clean energy state programs.¹⁶
2. In recognition of the barriers faced by disadvantaged communities, the CPUC's Environmental and Social Justice Action Plan included building participation pathways and greater access and awareness to CPUC programs (Goal 5).¹⁷
3. Consistent with the Budget Act of 2022 (AB 179), "\$30,000,000 shall be used by the Public Utilities Commission for capacity grants to community-based organizations that conduct outreach and obtain technical assistance for participation in Public Utilities Commission decision making processes and supporting activities and that support ongoing equity initiatives and provide clean energy access opportunities to tribes, as defined pursuant to Section 21073 of the Public Resources Code, and other underrepresented communities. The Public Utilities Commission shall consider

¹⁶ See Environmental & Social Justice Action Plan, version 2, page 2: <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/-/media/cpuc-website/divisions/news-and-outreach/documents/news-office/key-issues/esj/esj-action-plan-v2jw.pdf>.

¹⁷ See Environmental & Social Justice Action Plan, version 2, page 5: <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/-/media/cpuc-website/divisions/news-and-outreach/documents/news-office/key-issues/esj/esj-action-plan-v2jw.pdf>.

capacity grants to community-based organizations that also conduct outreach and obtain technical assistance for participation in Department of Water Resources, Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety, Energy Commission, State Air Resources Board and Independent System Operator energy related decision-making processes. The funds shall be available for encumbrance or expenditure by the Public Utilities Commission until June 30, 2025, and shall be available for liquidation until June 30, 2027.”

4. This Resolution authorizes the E&A Grant Program with three grant accounts: the “Public Participation Grant”, “Equity, Engagement, and Education Grant” and “Clean Energy Access Grant.” These accounts recognize the scope of activities envisioned by the authorizing legislation as well as ensure that application and reporting requirements are appropriate for the given level of funding.
5. The budget allocation for the three grant accounts are as follows: Public Participation Grant Account is allocated \$3,100,000; the Equity, Engagement, and Education Grant Account is allocated \$9,750,000; and the Clean Energy Access Grant Account is allocated \$15,650,000. Program Administration is allocated \$1,500,000. Tribal reserve of \$1,000,000.
6. To implement the directives in AB 179, it is reasonable to adopt additional eligibility criteria and to designate an administrative process that would award grants on a competitive basis.
7. Tribes and CBOs often face unique obstacles with participating in state programs, such as capacity and resource constraints. When consulting stakeholders on the draft program proposal, some requested support for Tribes and CBOs in overcoming barriers to entry. The clean energy SME will be utilized to support Tribes and CBOs with designing, planning, and accessing grant funds for clean energy projects in their communities.
8. In order to process grant applications in an efficient manner and ensure that CBOs and Tribes have access to critical funding that will support their participation within CPUC matters, it is reasonable that CPUC staff review Public Participation Account applications for eligibility and completeness in accordance to the language of this Resolution and attached Guidelines and award grants through ministerial review.
9. In order to process grant applications in an efficient manner and ensure that CBOs and Tribes have access to critical funding that will support their participation within CPUC matters and access to clean energy programs, it is reasonable that CPUC staff review and award Equity, Engagement, and Education applications under \$150,000 and Clean Energy Access Account applications that under \$200,000 and meet all criteria laid out in program guidelines through ministerial review.
10. As the E&A Grant Program is a new program being established, it is reasonable that CPUC staff have the authority to implement logistical and administrative changes to

the program to ensure that funds be awarded to eligible entities in a timely and efficient manner.

11. A notice letter was e-mailed on June 9, 2023, informing interested stakeholders on the R.21-02-014, R.13-11-005, R.21-06-017, R.12-11-005, R.19-09-009, R.18-04-019, R.21-11-014, R.21-03-002, and R.20-09-001 lists of the availability of this draft Resolution and the opportunity to comment. The draft Resolution was publicized on the Commission's website at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov>. This letter also informed interested stakeholders that the final confirmed Resolution adopted by the Commission will be posted and available on this same website.
12. The Commission received XX public comments.
13. There are positive safety considerations associated with this Resolution. The E&A Grant Program will provide greater access to clean energy programs, which may facilitate better environmental and health-related outcomes for disadvantaged communities.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:

1. The programmatic implementation of the Equity and Access (E&A) Grant Program as set forth in Attachment 1 (E&A Grant Guidelines) attached hereto is hereby adopted.
2. The Executive Director or their delegate are assigned responsibility and authority to use state appropriated funds to provide technical assistance for Tribes and CBOs through the Equity and Access (E&A) Grant Program.
3. The CPUC may assess the remaining available funds and issue a proposed reallocation of funds among the grant accounts, or revise the eligibility criteria for one or more grant accounts, in order to ensure encumbrance or expenditure of the full program by the statutory deadline of June 30, 2025.
4. The Executive Director or their delegate has the authority to evaluate, process, and award grants for the E&A Grant Program through ministerial review and on a competitive basis based on the eligibility criteria as adopted in this Resolution.
5. Applicants shall use the processes detailed in the E&A Grant Guidelines (Attachment 1), and any future modifications to the guidelines, to apply to the Equity and Access (E&A) Grant Program.
6. The Executive Director or their delegate is assigned responsibility and authority to perform the task of setting additional application cycles and timelines for the Equity and Access (E&A) Grant Program.
7. The Executive Director or their delegate will implement the evaluation and reporting requirements laid out in the E&A Program Guidelines (Attachment 1). The Executive Director or their delegate will tabulate and present grantee reported metrics every six months to the Commission. In presenting this information the number and percentage

of grantees not reporting for each grant account will be provided along with the remainder of available grant funds for each account.

This Resolution is effective today.

I certify that the foregoing Resolution was introduced, passed, and adopted at a conference of the Public Utilities Commission of the State of California held on July 13, 2023 the following Commissioners voting favorably thereon:

Rachel Peterson
Executive Director

Attachment 1

Equity and Access (E&A) Grant Program

GRANT GUIDELINES

Date: July 13, 2023



**California Public
Utilities Commission**

Thanks to:
Business and Community Outreach

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INTRODUCTION

Tribal and Community Based Organization (CBO) entities interested in the Equity and Access (E&A) Grant Program should refer to these guidelines prior to applying to one of the program's three grant accounts.

BACKGROUND

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) serves all Californians and recognizes that specific populations face higher barriers to clean, safe, and affordable utility and transportation services. To ensure that underserved and underrepresented community needs are met and that their voices are considered, the CPUC approved an Environmental and Social Justice (ESJ) Action Plan in February 2019 and version 2 was approved in April 2022. The ESJ Action Plan established a series of goals related to health and safety, consumer protection, program benefits, and enforcement in all the sectors that the CPUC regulates. These goals include soliciting the participation of ESJ communities in CPUC proceedings and decision-making, and ensuring that investments in clean energy resources, transportation, and communication services benefit all communities.

The E&A Program will specifically contribute to the following ESJ Action Plan Goals:

- Goal 1: Consistently integrate equity and access considerations throughout CPUC regulatory activities.
- Goal 2: Increase investment in clean energy resources to benefit ESJ communities, especially to improve local air quality and public health.
- Goal 5: Enhance outreach and public participation opportunities for ESJ communities to meaningfully participate in the CPUC's decision-making process and benefit from CPUC programs.

Tribes and CBOs serving disadvantaged communities may lack the capacity to effectively engage with the CPUC. In some cases, this may be due to resource constraints that can make it difficult to keep abreast of and access state programs and participate in decision-making processes.

The CPUC is seeking to reduce these barriers and ensure that the needs and voices of underserved and underrepresented communities are included in the agency's decision-making processes and clean energy programs designed for customers and communities are accessible.

In 2022, the California Legislature appropriated \$30,000,000 in the Budget Act of 2022 (AB 179) for capacity grants to Tribes and CBOs for participation in CPUC decision making processes and supporting activities.

From the Budget Act of 2022 (AB 179):

“...for capacity grants to community-based organizations that conduct outreach and obtain technical assistance for participation in Public Utilities Commission decision making processes and supporting activities and that support ongoing equity initiatives and provide clean energy access opportunities to tribes, as defined pursuant to Section 21073 of the Public Resources Code, and other underrepresented communities. The Public Utilities Commission shall consider capacity grants to community-based organizations that also conduct outreach and obtain technical assistance for participation in Department of Water Resources, Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety, Energy Commission, State Air Resources Board and Independent System Operator energy

related decision-making processes. The funds shall be available for encumbrance or expenditure by the Public Utilities Commission until June 30, 2025, and shall be available for liquidation until June 30, 2027.”

The Equity and Access (E&A) Grant Program was created to implement this legislation and incorporate its statutory purpose. These guidelines act as a source for administration of the program.

PROGRAM SUMMARY

The Equity and Access (E&A) Grant Program consists of three (3) grant accounts. The grant accounts include the “Public Participation Grant”, “Equity, Engagement, and Education Grant” and “Clean Energy Access Grant.” These accounts recognize the scope of activities envisioned by the authorizing legislation as well as ensure that application and reporting requirements are appropriate for the given level of funding.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GRANT ACCOUNT SUMMARY

The Public Participation (PP) Grant Account is intended to remove financial and capacity-based barriers to participation while creating a flexible and accessible process to apply for and receive compensation. Organizations are compensated for their time for participating in day-to-day CPUC activities that drive and influence policy decisions.

Grants will be awarded for specific eligible activities, such as speaking on a panel, participating in a working group, or participation in other decision-making processes. The PP Grant Account cap per organization of \$15,000 will ensure a proportional distribution of funds over time and across various organizations. Submissions for grant awards will be accepted on a rolling basis throughout the grant period and payment for these discrete engagements will be prompt.

To ensure that funding is made available to organizations with no or limited participation experience with the CPUC, the following eligibility criteria has been established:

- Applicants are not eligible for a grant award if they receive funding from another source for the same activity. There are some activities that provide stipends, per diems or other types of funding for participation, including Intervenor Compensation.
- Recipients of Intervenor Compensation within the last twelve (12) months will not be eligible for this account. However, those organizations that have recently applied for but have not received Intervenor Compensation are eligible to apply if the Intervenor Compensation award was not denied due to lack of financial hardship. This is because funds should be available for those with financial need; an organization with ample financial resources or the backing of a group that has such resources will not receive a grant award. Further, an applicant denied Intervenor Compensation may not seek an E&A Program Grant for the same work, if the denial was based on lack of substantial contribution to the decision-making.
- If an applicant is approved for Intervenor Compensation after a PP application has been submitted and it is not for the same work, the applicant may keep the grant award. If Intervenor Compensation is awarded for the same work, the CPUC reserves the right to rescind the award to uphold the PP Grant Account’s eligibility criteria and ensure equitable allocation of funds.

This grant account aligns with the CPUC’s ESJ Action Plan by creating participation pathways to compensate CBOs and Tribes for the time and effort spent contributing critical perspectives to the CPUC.

The total amount available in the PP Grant Account is \$3,100,000 with a lifetime funding cap of \$15,000 per organization. Of the total \$3.1 million, no less than \$100,000 shall be available exclusively to Tribes. Tribal applicants are eligible for both this \$100,000 amount and funding from the remainder of the PP Grant Account once Tribal reserved funds have been exhausted, but non-Tribal applicants are not eligible for the \$100,000 amount.

EQUITY, ENGAGEMENT, AND EDUCATION GRANT ACCOUNT SUMMARY

The Equity, Engagement, and Education (EEE) Grant Account will award grants up to \$200,000 for the purposes of building CBO, Tribal, and community capacity to understand and engage with CPUC decision-making processes. The EEE Grant Account will increase participation within CPUC decision-making and build the long-term capacity of Tribes and CBOs to make participation in the Intervenor Compensation program and other funding sources more accessible. This will enable CBOs and Tribes to have more influence over clean energy programs and support making these programs more accessible to their served communities.

Successful applicants for the EEE Grant Account will have a demonstrated background in advocating for their Tribe or community. Eligible activities for the EEE Grant Account will include:

- Community engagement and outreach related to CPUC proceedings.
- Hiring consultants and staff for activities necessary for active participation in decision-making processes at the CPUC.
- Education, training, and curriculum development regarding CPUC processes, proceedings, and programs.
- Partnership and coalition development to bring greater awareness of CPUC matters to disadvantaged communities.

Grant applications will be accepted in two cycles, the windows for which will be set by CPUC staff. The EEE Grant Account is a competitive grant. Please refer to E&A Grant Program webpage for the most current grant timelines: <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/capacitygrants>.

The total amount available for the EEE Grant Account is \$9,750,000 with a maximum award of \$200,000 per application. Of the total \$9,750,000 no less than \$250,000 shall be available exclusively to Tribes. Tribal applicants are eligible for both this \$250,000 amount (with an individual Tribe capped at \$200,000) or funding from the remainder of the EEE Grant Account once Tribal reserved funds have been exhausted, but non-Tribal applicants are not eligible for the \$250,000 amount.

CLEAN ENERGY ACCESS GRANT ACCOUNT SUMMARY

The Clean Energy Access (CEA) Grant Account will award grants to CBOs and Tribal organizations to help facilitate access to and the adoption of clean energy programs in their respective communities. Specifically, the CEA Grant Account will provide funding to develop equity initiatives and clean energy access opportunities that complement other CPUC programs, including:

- Microgrid Incentive Program (MIP)
- Self-Generation Incentive Program (SGIP)
- Technology and Equipment for Clean Heating (TECH) Initiative

At the community level, the grant program is designed to bridge gaps and connect people to clean energy access programs. Eligible activities may include:

- Community engagement

- Marketing, outreach and enrollment support
- Resource mapping and needs development
- Project design and development
- Capacity building and workforce development training

For example, funding from the CEA Grant Account could be used to:

- Conduct community outreach to gather necessary information for a microgrid project through the MIP.
- Conduct community outreach on the availability of SGIP and TECH to increase enrollment in underutilized communities.
- Improve awareness of training and workforce development opportunities for the TECH Initiative and provide financial or ancillary support to access these opportunities.
- Develop pathways to use TECH to achieve building decarbonization in disadvantaged communities.
- Hire technical assistance to support procuring a developer for a clean energy project through MIP or SGIP.

This grant will not pay for infrastructure buildout, such as hardware or equipment, but rather help facilitate the planning of projects as well as outreach to increase participation by underrepresented communities. CEA Grant Account eligible projects must be in an area served by a CPUC-regulated investor-owned utility for MIP supporting projects but may be statewide for the SGIP and TECH supporting projects.

Grant applications will be accepted in two cycles, the windows for which will be set by CPUC staff. The CEA Grant Account is competitive.

The total amount available for CEA Grant Account is \$15,650,000 with a maximum award of \$500,000 per application. Of the total \$15,650,000 no less than \$650,000 shall be available exclusively to Tribes. Tribal applicants are eligible for both this \$650,000 amount and funding from the remainder of the CEA Grant Account once Tribal reserved funds have been exhausted, but non-Tribal applicants are not eligible for the \$650,000 amount.

PROGRAM VISION

The CPUC is committed to environmental and social justice through its ESJ Action Plan. This commitment includes acknowledging and addressing that some California communities, particularly low-income communities of color, face:

- systematic underinvestment.
- higher pollution burdens.
- higher barriers to clean, safe, and affordable utility and transportation services.

The E&A Grant Program makes it possible for the CPUC to honor its commitment to members of ESJ communities by empowering them to participate in CPUC proceedings and decision-making processes, as well as have more access to investments in clean energy resources, transportation, and communication services.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

Create ongoing engagement between the CPUC, Tribes, CBOs, and underrepresented communities.

The E&A Grant Program serves to break down existing barriers to participation. The PP Grant Account will provide a simple and practical means for Tribes and underrepresented communities to get exposure to CPUC decision-making processes and provide their expertise. Utilization of the E&A Grant Account allows Tribal organizations and CBOs to get an extensive understanding of how the CPUC functions and will provide the basis for some organizations to apply for Intervenor Compensation or other funding programs to sustain engagement on a consistent and long-term basis.

Improve understanding and use of CPUC programs in Tribal and underrepresented communities.

The CEA Grant Account will provide a means for guidance to Tribes and CBOs to implement microgrid projects supported by the CPUC's MIP, electrification and storage projects through the SGIP, and develop pathways to achieve building decarbonization in disadvantaged communities through TECH. Future programs may be added at staff discretion. Additionally, support from the PP and E&A Grant Accounts will expose more Tribes and CBOs to CPUC processes, enabling them to participate in shaping future programs and policies.

Improve the transparency of CPUC decision-making processes and design of its programs.

The CPUC strives for transparency of its decision-making process by inviting stakeholders to be active participants. This expands the stakeholder and participant pool in the agency's processes to advance the CPUC's goal of equitable transparency.

Facilitate a clean-energy transition and address historic harms by ensuring that access programs work and are available for all Californians.

The clean-energy transition depends on millions of Californians adopting new technologies, such as electric heat pumps, electric vehicles, and solar energy. As such, CPUC programs must be designed so that these technologies meet the needs of all households and communities, and in way that communities are aware of the benefits. The E&A Grant Account provides means for communities to give input on these programs and the CEA Grant Account provides means for CBOs and Tribal organizations to work locally to improve community awareness and adoption.

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PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

The E&A Grant Program consists of three (3) grant accounts that will vary in administration, application, and timelines.

DURATION OF GRANT PROGRAM

All funds for the E&A Grant Program are available for encumbrance or expenditure until June 30, 2025. Funds are available for liquidation until June 30, 2027. If future funding becomes available for this program, then the duration of the grant program will be modified accordingly.

GRANT FUNDING BREAKDOWN

E&A Grant Program Funding Breakdown				
Funding Account	Maximum Grant Award	Tribal Reserved Funds**	General Non-Reserved Funds	Total Available in Account
Public Participation (PP) Grant Account	\$15,000	\$100,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,100,000
Equity, Engagement, and Education (EEE) Grant Account	\$200,000	\$250,000	\$9,500,000	\$9,750,000
Clean Energy Access (CEA) Grant Account	\$500,000	\$650,000	\$15,000,000	\$15,650,000
Program Administration*	--	--	--	\$1,500,000
TOTAL	--	--	--	\$30,000,000

*Limited term CPUC staff to administer the program, the SME, and other administrative costs associated with this program will remain under 5% of the authorized funds.

**Tribal Reserved Funds total is \$1,000,000. Tribal applicants (Types 2 and 3 Eligible Applicants described above) will have access to both Tribal Reserved Funds and General Non-Reserved Funds once Tribal reserved funds have been exhausted.

ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

To apply for the CPUC's E&A Grant Program, an entity must be one of the following types of applicants:

- **TYPE 1:** California tax-exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- **TYPE 2:** Federally recognized and non-Federally recognized California Native American Tribes, as defined in Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 21073. PRC Section 21073 defines a California Native American Tribe as a Native American Tribe located in California that is on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission for the purposes of Chapter 905 of the Statutes of 2004.
- **TYPE 3:** Tribal entities, including organizations incorporated under Tribal law and wholly owned by the Tribe, Tribal Section 17 Corporations, and Tribal utilities and authorities operated under Tribal law.

Tribal applicants, which includes Types 2 and 3 Eligible Applicants, are eligible to receive funds within the Tribal reserved portions, as well as funding from the general non-reserved funds once Tribal reserved funds have been exhausted.

APPLICATION OVERVIEW

CPUC staff will release a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) and hold an application workshop for potential applicants and interested stakeholders prior to the application window. An application form will be published on the program's designated CPUC website along with application instructions.

Applications for the PP Grant Account will require proof of participation in an eligible activity and awards will be made ministerially on a rolling basis.

As the EEE and CEA Grant Accounts will be competitive, the applications will be more in-depth than that of the PP Grant Account and applicants will be scored based on the information provided in their application. Applications will be scored and evaluated on a competitive basis in grant cycles.

Additional information about the application process, including specific deadlines, will be included in the NOFA and updated on the program's webpage.

Following each award cycle, staff may revise the guidelines for subsequent cycles.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GRANT ACCOUNT

Applicants will be awarded funds from the PP Grant Account for eligible activities up to a maximum of \$15,000 per organization for the duration of the grant timeline. Individual PP Grant Account applications exceeding \$15,000 will be considered up to the maximum amount of \$15,000. Applicants who have previously been awarded funds from the PP Grant Account and who submit additional applications for funds will be considered for funding that does not exceed the \$15,000 organization maximum.

E&A Grant Program Funding Breakdown				
Funding Account	Maximum Grant Award*	Tribal Reserved Funds**	General Non-Reserved Funds	Total Available in Account
Public Participation (PP) Grant Account	\$15,000	\$100,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,100,000

*\$15,000 is the maximum grant award and organization maximum.

GRANT TIMELINE

The PP Grant Account will be initiated in 2023 and continue until funds have been exhausted. Applications for the PP Grant Account will be accepted on a rolling basis, pending available funds. Applications will be reviewed and assessed in the order that they are submitted, and grants will be awarded until funding is exhausted. The grant award amount from the PP Grant Account is limited to \$15,000 per eligible organization for the duration of the grant timeline.

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

The below activities qualify as eligible activities for award through the PP Grant Account. Generally, eligible activities under the PP Grant Account are initiated by CPUC invitation.

Advisory Board Member

An appointed role that advises on program development, implementation, and administration in relation to CPUC issues and initiatives.

En Banc Speaker/Panelist

En Banc speakers and panelists are invited to discuss their unique experiences or offer best practices on programs/services in relation to the communities that they serve.

Featured Speaker/Presenter

Featured speakers and presenters are invited to speak about their unique experiences or offer best practices on programs/services in relation to the communities that they serve.

Focus Group Participant

Focus groups are utilized by the CPUC to test proposed program implementation concepts, ideas, and rules. Additionally, focus groups assist in ensuring CPUC programs are not inadvertently reinforcing barriers to enrollment for specific populations. As an example, focus groups were empaneled to receive feedback on California LifeLine English and Spanish enrollment forms.

Panelist

Panelists are invited to speak on their unique experiences or offer best practices on programs/services in relation to the communities that they serve. Panelists will offer feedback to the CPUC on a certain topic which will be used to make programs more efficient and accessible.

Working Group Participant

Working groups are typically comprised of stakeholders from industry, consumer advocate groups, business groups, academia, government, and CBOs. Working Groups are given a specific topic and scope to discuss, ranging from broad policy goals to details on program implementation. Working groups draft a final report with a set of recommendations used as part of a proceeding or legislative mandate. As an example, the California LifeLine program used a working group to determine how to best implement marketing and outreach modifications to the program.

Other

Public participation opportunities not included within the list above may be considered for grant funding if invited to participate in by the CPUC.

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITY COMPENSATION

Activity	Compensation Rate	Eligible for Hourly Compensation
Advisory Board Member	\$150/hour	Includes meeting preparation, meeting, and follow-up.
En Banc Speaker/Panelist	\$150/hour	Includes speaker/panelist preparation, related meetings, presentation, and follow-up.
Featured Speaker/Presenter	\$150/hour	Includes speaker/panelist preparation, related meetings, presentation, and follow-up.
Focus Group Participant	\$150/hour	Includes preparation and meeting.
Panelist	\$150/hour	Includes speaker/panelist preparation, related meetings, presentation, and follow-up.
Working Group Participant	\$150/hour	Includes meeting preparation, meeting, and follow-up.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS AND SUBMISSION

See Appendix 1 for a sample Public Participation Grant Account Application Coversheet. See Appendix 2 for the Public Participation Grant Account Application Coversheet Instructions.

The application coversheet and instructions for the PP Grant Account can be found on the E&A Grant Program webpage here: <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/capacitygrants>.

Complete applications for the PP Grant Account will have all the items listed in the checklist below.

Application Packet Checklist
☐ Public Participation Grant Account Application Coversheet (Appendix 1) Must be signed by an individual who has the authority to sign on behalf of the applying organization.
☐ Proof of Eligibility <u>TYPE 1 APPLICANTS:</u> IRS Letter confirming status as a 501(c)(3) entity. The IRS letter must also include the applicant's Tax Identification Number. <u>TYPE 2 & 3 APPLICANTS:</u> Support letter from the Tribal administrator, chair, or council.
☐ Proof of Participation ☐ Attendance Log & Activity Invitation ☐ Link to Recording ☐ Photo & Activity Invitation ☐ Program or Meeting Agenda ☐ Program or Meeting Minutes ☐ Virtual Activity Screenshot & Activity Invitation ☐ Written Verification
☐ Travel Expense Claim Form STD262A (if applicable) Include supporting receipts for expenses more than \$25.

Proof of Participation

Applicants need to provide proof of participation with their completed applications. Proof of participation must verify the applicant's participation within a PP Grant Account eligible activity and the time commitment. Below are the acceptable forms of proof of participation to be included with a completed application:

Attendance Log & Activity Invitation

Attendance log must be obtained from the host of the eligible activity and list the applicant's name. Activity Invitation must describe the eligible activity and times of participation.

Link to Recording

Virtual recording of the eligible activity. Must include a recording of the applicant's full participation and the applicant must be introduced in the recording via another participant or via displayed text.

Photo & Activity Invitation

Photo must contain the applicant's image. Activity Invitation must describe the eligible activity and times of participation.

Program or Meeting Agenda

Must list the applicant's name and times of participation (such as the start and end time of a panel).

Program or Meeting Minutes

Must be obtained from the host of the eligible activity and list the applicant's name and times of participation (such as the start and end time of a panel).

Virtual Activity Screenshot & Activity Invitation

Screenshot must contain the applicant's name and image. Activity Invitation must describe the eligible activity and times of participation.

Written Verification

Must be from the coordinator of the eligible activity and specifically mention the applicant's name, type of activity, and times of participation.

Travel Expense Claim Form

There may be some instances where travel is required to participate in a CPUC activity. There is a travel allowance of up to \$450 per activity. The travel allowance counts toward an organization's funding maximum (\$15,000).

Each claimant must complete a form [STD-262A, Travel Expense Claim \(TEC\) Form](#), and follow instructions therein. Expense claims must comply with the travel expense, limitation rules applicable to State of California employees and contractors. Applicants are expected to choose the most cost effective and reasonable lodging and modes of transportation consistent with State of California travel reimbursement rates (see link below). An electronic copy of STD 262A, instructions, and current applicable information are available at: <https://www.calhr.ca.gov/employees/Pages/travel-reimbursements.aspx>.

Submitting the PP Grant Account Application

For electronic applications, please email completed forms, proof of eligibility, proof of participation, and travel reimbursement form STD 262A (if applicable) and relevant travel expense receipts to capacitygrants@cpuc.ca.gov and include "Public Participation Grant" in the subject line.

For paper applications, please mail completed forms and required documents to:

Business and Community Outreach
Attn: E&A Grant Program
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94102

Application Review and Approval

The Commission delegates to CPUC staff ministerial review authority for all PP Grant Account applications. CPUC staff will:

- Review for eligibility and completeness. Upon determination that an applicant is eligible and their application is complete (see “Application Packet Checklist” above), staff will submit the application for payment (upon receipt of a completed [STD 204 form](#)).

For incomplete applications, staff will contact applicants to address outstanding application issues within ten (10) business days. If an application is not complete within ten (10) business days following a request for correction, the application will be rejected and the applicant will need to submit a new request for PP grant funds.

EQUITY, ENGAGEMENT, AND EDUCATION GRANT ACCOUNT

Applicants will be awarded funds from the EEE Grant Account for eligible activities up to a maximum of \$200,000 per award.

E&A Grant Program Funding Breakdown				
Funding Account	Maximum Grant Award*	Tribal Reserved Funds**	General Non-Reserved Funds	Total Available in Account
Equity, Engagement, and Education (EEE) Grant Account	\$200,000	\$250,000	\$9,500,000	\$9,750,000

GRANT TIMELINE

The EEE Grant Account will commence accepting applications in 2023. Applications will be accepted and awarded in two cycles. Specific dates for the two cycles will be posted to the program’s webpage. Applications will be scored competitively by the CPUC.

Applicants who are awarded a grant will be sent a Grant Agreement which details the terms and conditions of the grant. The applicant must sign and return the Grant Agreement to the CPUC prior to dispersing grant funds.

EXAMPLES OF ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

Capacity building refers to the process of developing the skills, knowledge, and resources of a community or organization to enhance its ability to effectively engage with and participate in programs and decision-making processes of the CPUC and other state regulatory agencies.

Below are examples of activities that qualify for an award through the EEE Grant Account.

Training and Education

Providing training and educational resources to members of the Tribe or CBO on the processes and procedures of the CPUC, including how to participate in proceedings, how to access relevant information, and how to engage with commissioners and staff. This can include engaging with community members through public meetings, forums, or other outreach activities to raise awareness of the CPUC's role and responsibilities and the importance of engaging with regulatory processes.

Networking and Collaboration

Facilitating networking and collaboration between the Tribe or CBO and other stakeholders, including other community groups, advocacy organizations, and industry representatives, to help build alliances and increase the Tribe or CBO's influence, effectiveness and amplify the voice of underserved or disadvantaged communities in regulatory decision-making.

Resource Development

Developing the resources necessary to effectively engage with the CPUC, including providing access to legal expertise, funding for research and analysis, and other resources as needed. Attaining industry specific expertise to help CBO's and Tribes understand and navigate the regulatory landscape, including developing comments, attaining party status, and other interventions in regulatory proceedings as well as accessing funding opportunities, to engaging in long term policy advocacy.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS AND SUBMISSION

See Appendix 3 for a sample Equity, Engagement, and Education Grant Account Application Coversheet. See Appendix 4 for the Equity, Engagement, and Education Grant Account Application Coversheet Instructions.

The application coversheet and instructions for the EEE Grant Account, workplan table template, and budget table template can be found on the E&A Grant Program webpage here:

www.cpuc.ca.gov/capacitygrants

Complete applications for the EEE Grant Account will have all the items listed in the checklist below.

Application Packet Checklist (no page limits):	
☐ Equity, Engagement, and Education Grant Account Application Coversheet (Appendix 3)	Must be signed by an individual who has the authority to sign on behalf of the applying organization.
☐ Proof of Eligibility	<u>TYPE 1 APPLICANTS:</u> IRS Letter confirming status as a 501(c)(3) entity. The IRS letter must also include the applicant's Tax Identification Number. <u>TYPE 2 & 3 APPLICANTS:</u> Support letter from the Tribal administrator, chair, or council.
☐ Workplan Table (Appendix 7)	Must be formatted as separate page(s) from the application narrative.
☐ Budget Table (Appendix 8)	Must be formatted as separate page(s) from the application narrative.
☐ Letters of Support	Two (2) letters of support from partner organizations or local community leaders that work in or are a part of the communities or populations that the applying organization intends to serve with the EEE grant funds.

Application Packet Checklist (10-page limit):

☐ Project Narrative

The project narrative must include sections on: Vision Statement, CPUC Participation, Ability to Represent Community, and Community Benefit.

Required formatting for application documents:

- **Font:** no less than 10-point font. Fonts smaller than 10-point font will not be reviewed.
- **Paper Size:** 8 ½" x 11" size paper and numbered consecutively.
- **Stapled, not bound (for paper applications):** upper left-hand corner.
- **Edited and reviewed:** Double-checked for grammar and spelling errors.

Submitting the EEE Grant Account Application

For electronic applications, please email completed forms, proof of eligibility, a project narrative, workplan table, budget table, and two letters of support to capacitygrants@cpuc.ca.gov and include "Equity, Education, and Engagement Grant" in the subject line.

For paper applications, please mail completed forms and required documents to:

Business and Community Outreach
Attn: E&A Grant Program
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94102

Application Review, Grant Agreement, and Notice to Proceed

1. **Application Review** – The Commission delegates ministerial review and approval authority to CPUC staff for EEE Grant Account applications under \$150,000. Staff are directed to evaluate grant applications for eligibility, completeness, and score each application according to the Evaluation and Scoring Criteria (see below). The CPUC will notify grantees of awards made via a letter. Award letters will be posted to the Commission's website.

For applicants that request \$150,000 and above, the Commission reserves discretion to address such applications through the Resolution process. CPUC staff will evaluate these applications for completeness, ensure they meet all eligibility criteria, score each applicant according to the Evaluation and Scoring Criteria set forth in the program guidelines, and recommend approval or denial of each applicant via Resolution.

2. **Grant Agreement** – Following CPUC award, successful applicants will be provided with a Grant Agreement, which will include an *E&A Grant Program Manual*, and *Terms and Conditions*. These documents, along with the applicant's approved Budget Table and Workplan, comprise the Grant Agreement.

The signatory designated in the Application Coversheet will be required to sign the Grant Agreement and return it to the CPUC **within thirty (30) days** from the date that it was sent (either electronically or via mail).

3. **Notice to Proceed** – Once the applicant's signed Grant Agreement is received and then executed by the CPUC, a Notice to Proceed letter will be sent to the grantee as notification for approval to proceed with project implementation and expenditures.

EVALUATION AND SCORING CRITERIA

Grant applications will be evaluated competitively based on the following scoring criteria. Additional information on the application process will be provided in the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA).

Project Narrative (65 Points)

A well-prepared application narrative will address each of the following:

- Vision Statement
- CPUC Participation
- Ability to Represent Community
- Community Benefit

See the scoring criteria below for specific information on how to address each section of the project narrative. Each section should be concise and thorough and will pay specific attention to each of the points listed in the scoring criteria.

Project narratives are limited to no more than 10 pages and will account for up to 65/100 points of the evaluations score. The project narrative does not include:

- Application Coversheet
- Workplan Table
- Budget Table
- Letters of Support (x2)
- Proof of Eligibility

The applicant is responsible for supplying relevant data and concrete examples for the review panel to fully evaluate the application.

Supporting Documents (35 Points)

In addition to the project narrative, the following supporting documents will be evaluated:

- Workplan Table
- Budget Table
- Letters of Support (x2)

See the scoring criteria below for specific information on how to address each supporting document.

There are no page limits for supporting documents and they will account for up to 35/100 points of the evaluations score.

Scoring Criteria

Applicants should refer to the scoring criteria below when developing the project narrative and supporting documents for the EEE Grant Account Application, as CPUC evaluators will consult the criteria when scoring applicants.

SCORING CRITERIA	Points
PROJECT NARRATIVE: VISION STATEMENT	
The vision statement communicates concise desired outcomes that will result from the resources gained and activities performed as described in the application. Desired outcomes should encompass an advancement of equity, engagement, or education within the applying organization and/or the community they serve. The Vision Statement must: A. Effectively communicate equity, engagement, or education needs of under-resourced communities served by the applicant. B. Reflect objectives and principles of the E&A Grant Program. C. Be achievable, while also communicating aspirational objectives. D. Describe the communities or populations that will benefit from funding.	5 Points
PROJECT NARRATIVE: CPUC PARTICIPATION	
The applicant must demonstrate that funding obtained from an EEE grant will contribute to enhanced participation in CPUC matters by the applying organization and/or the community that they serve. The applicant must: A. Identify CPUC decision-making processes, such as proceedings, workgroups, or other forums, that the applying organization and/or the community they serve will have enhanced access to and participation within. B. Identify issues in relation to the CPUC's regulatory authority that the applying organization will address within CPUC decision-making processes. The applicant should describe potential contributions and unique perspectives that the applicant or the community they serve will contribute to the CPUC-related issues. C. Describe how funding obtained from an EEE grant will support participation efforts in CPUC matters. D. Detail how the applicant's project will allow the organization to participate in CPUC proceedings and programs on an ongoing basis and as such be able to claim Intervenor Compensation or other funding sources for future participation.	20 Points
PROJECT NARRATIVE: ABILITY TO REPRESENT COMMUNITY	
The applicant must demonstrate their experience as an advocate, representative, and steward of an underserved or underrepresented community. The applicant must: A. Identify the communities or populations that the applicant serves. B. Provide demographic and geographical data on the communities or populations that the applicant serves. C. Provide evidence and data on the applying organization's history of working with and serving the communities and populations that have been identified within the application.	20 Points

PROJECT NARRATIVE: COMMUNITY BENEFIT	
The applicant must demonstrate how funded work or resources from an EEE grant will benefit the communities or populations that they serve. The applicant must: A. Illustrate the needs of the communities or populations served that will be addressed by an EEE grant. B. Describe how the applicant's project will benefit the communities or populations that they serve, including immediate and long-term benefits. C. Describe how the applicant's project will leverage and enhance the applicant's existing work efforts in relation to the communities or populations that they serve. D. If applicable, describe whether the applicant is also representing the underserved community before other state agencies, including the Department of Water Resources, the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety, the Energy Commission, the State Air Resources Board, and the Independent System Operator. If the applicant is active before these agencies or intends to become active before these agencies, the applicant should describe how its efforts before them would align with the work proposed in this application. E. Provide any additional information that will be pertinent to the applying organization's ability to represent an underserved community in CPUC matters. Additional information may include bios on organizational leaders, evidence of established community relationships, and demonstration of the organization's primary work efforts.	20 Points
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS: WORKPLAN TABLE	
The workplan must detail all activities that will take place within the scope of the applying organization's project. The Workplan must align with the information presented in the Vision Statement.	15 Points
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS: BUDGET TABLE	
The budget must detail all activity and resource expenses and should amount to the request grant award. Note that grantees will receive an upfront payment of 25% of their grant award. Subsequent budget requests will need to be made after the completion of project milestones.	15 Points
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS: LETTERS OF SUPPORT	
At a minimum, at least two (2) letters of support from partner organizations or local community leaders that work in or are a part of the communities or populations that the applying organization intends to serve with the EEE grant funds.	5 Points
TOTAL	100 Points

REPORTING REQUIREMENT

Grantees are required to submit a progress report every six months, starting from the date of the grant agreement. The purpose of this grant reporting requirement is to ensure that grantees provide timely updates on the progress and achievements of their project.

The reporting periods will be as follows:

1. First reporting period: From the grant start date to the 6-month mark.
2. Second reporting period: From the 6-month mark to the 12-month mark.
3. Subsequent reporting periods: Every six months thereafter until the grant project concludes.

Grantees may combine these required reports with budget requests. Grantees may also choose to report the accomplishments of project milestones outside of these required reports as a part of a budget request.

ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

Below are expenses that are eligible for support via an EEE grant. Applicants must ensure that proposed expenses are eligible for funding. Expenses deemed ineligible in the application review process will be removed and the project's recommended total award will be adjusted accordingly.

Staff

The following are eligible staff expenses:

- Grant recipients, subgrantees, and their contractors' staff costs, including salary at an hourly rate, benefits, taxes, and leave.
- Staff may be full or part-time employees.
- If applicants wish to use grant funds to pay for interns, fellows, or other positions that are not on an organization's payroll, these costs should be classified in the budget as a direct cost via a consultant contract.
- If applicants wish to use grant funds to pay for training staff on an organization's payroll, these costs should be classified in the budget as a direct cost via a consultant contract.

Travel

Travel reimbursements must adhere to the State rates and conditions established on the CalHR website, except for "incidentals" and out-of-state travel, which will not be reimbursable under this grant. Each claimant must complete a form [STD-262A, Travel Expense Claim \(TEC\) Form](#), and follow instructions therein. Expense claims must comply with the travel expense, limitation rules applicable to State of California employees and contractors. Applicants are expected to choose the most cost effective and reasonable lodging and modes of transportation consistent with State of California travel reimbursement rates. An electronic copy of STD 262A, instructions, and current applicable information are available at: <https://www.calhr.ca.gov/employees/Pages/travel-reimbursements.aspx>.

Administrative

Costs incurred by the recipient to administer the grant, or costs incurred by subgrantees to perform the tasks necessary to fulfill the deliverables outlined in these guidelines. Administrative costs include, but are not necessarily limited to:

- Office space
- Supplies
- Legal or management oversight

- Prorated general liability, Workers' Compensation (may be included in payroll), and automotive insurance

Tools, Subscriptions, and Software

Subscriptions to tools and other software that will help increase capacity, facilitate communication, or otherwise facilitate implementation of the project such as project management software, video conferencing technology subscriptions, and mapping software.

Engagement, Outreach, Education, and Training

Costs related to the development and administration of engagement, outreach, education, and training activities under the grant, including, but not limited to:

- Materials developed for outreach events, trainings, and other grant activities.
- Access to proprietary data or research materials.
- Facilitation for meetings.
- Translation and interpretation for meetings and written materials.
- Marketing and advertisements.
- Participant compensation is an exchange of payment for services rendered in the development of community work products, and appropriately documented with deliverables such as sign in sheets or written surveys.
- Transportation stipends and provision of transportation services for community residents, such as a vanpool.
- Rental costs of equipment, facilities, or venues.

INELIGIBLE EXPENSES

Grant funds may not be used for the following costs:

- Costs that occur outside of the Grant Agreement term.
- Direct and indirect construction costs.
- Direct lobbying.
- Indirect costs in excess of 30 percent of the awarded funds.
- The following costs associated with community engagement and outreach:
 - Direct cash benefits or subsidies to participants.
 - Alcoholic refreshments.
 - Participant incentives, such as door prizes, which are unrelated to specific community work products.
 - General meetings that do not specifically discuss or advance implementation of the grant project.

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CLEAN ENERGY ACCESS GRANT ACCOUNT

Applicants will be awarded funds from the Clean Energy Access Grant Account for eligible activities up to a maximum of \$500,000 per grant award.

E&A Grant Program Funding Breakdown				
Funding Account	Maximum Grant Award*	Tribal Reserved Funds**	General Non-Reserved Funds	Total Available in Account
Clean Energy Access (CEA) Grant Account	\$500,000	\$650,000	\$15,000,000	\$15,650,000

GRANT TIMELINE

The CEA Grant Account will commence accepting applications in 2023. Applications will be accepted and awarded in two cycles. Specific dates for the two cycles will be posted to the program's webpage. Applications will be scored competitively by the CPUC.

Applicants who are awarded a grant will be sent a Grant Agreement which details the terms and conditions of the grant. The applicant must sign and return the Grant Agreement to the CPUC prior to payment.

EXAMPLES OF ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

Tribes and CBOs can utilize a CEA grant for project support activities or to make clean energy projects more accessible or provide education on clean energy projects. The supporting activities funded by these grants must be related to the following CPUC programs:

- Microgrid Incentive Program (MIP)
- Self-Generation Incentive Program (SGIP)
- Technology and Equipment for Clean Heating (TECH) Program

The MIP, SGIP, and TECH program provide funding for hardware and infrastructure work. CEA funding is to be used to conduct complementary, non-construction-related activities prior to, during, or after project completion that is not directly funded by MIP, SGIP, and TECH program as well as provide education on these clean energy programs. Below are examples of activities that qualify for an award through the CEA Grant Account.

Capacity Building and Workforce Training

Providing capacity building and training opportunities for local stakeholders, such as opportunities for youth, women, and veterans, and local building trades organizations, to increase their understanding and skills related to clean energy planning and implementation.

Community Engagement

Conducting stakeholder consultations and engaging with key community members, local organizations, and government officials to ensure that planning and design processes are inclusive and participatory. Developing a community-based planning process to identify their priority energy needs to develop clean energy solutions.

Coordination with Existing Program Administrators

Coordination necessary with existing clean energy program administrators and storage developers to ensure program success and maximum benefits to communities.

Marketing, Outreach, and Enrollment Support

Developing a marketing strategy that creates awareness about a clean energy program, explaining its benefits, and encouraging people to enroll in the program. Create culturally relevant enrollment materials such as brochures, flyers, that can be used to promote the state clean energy programs. Provide support for enrollees throughout the enrollment process. This could include answering questions, providing guidance on the application process, and offering technical support.

Resource Mapping and Needs Assessment

Map the specific energy needs of a community and conduct feasibility studies to assess the technical, economic, and operational feasibility of implementing clean energy solutions in targeted communities. Conduct technology assessments and evaluations to identify the most appropriate and effective clean energy technologies for the target communities, taking into account the potential economic, climate, and environmental justice benefits.

Project Design and Development

Supporting the development of clean energy projects, including the design of technical specifications and establishment of project management structures. This may involve identifying a project manager or team, defining roles and responsibilities, and establishing project governance structures. Specifying the type and size of clean energy technology required, as well as any associated equipment and infrastructure needed to support the technology.

Application and Implementation Technical Assistance

Due to the highly technical nature of the SGIP, MIP, and TECH program, CPUC will provide technical assistance for applicants as well as for grantees. The CPUC will use a portion of the 5% program administration funding to procure a Clean Energy Subject Matter Expert (SME). The SME will provide technical assistance based on the specifics and needs of the Tribe's or CBO's community. Information on how to obtain technical assistance will be available on the program's website.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS AND SUBMISSION

See Appendix 5 for a sample Clean Energy Access Grant Account Application Coversheet. See Appendix 6 for the Clean Energy Access Grant Account Application Coversheet Instructions.

The application coversheet and instructions for the CEA Grant Account, workplan table template, and budget table template can be found on the E&A Grant Program webpage here:

www.cpuc.ca.gov/capacitygrants.

Complete applications for the CEA Grant Account will have all the items listed in the checklist below.

Application Packet Checklist (no page limits):	
☐	Clean Energy Access Grant Account Application Coversheet (Appendix 5) Must be signed by an individual who has the authority to sign on behalf of the applying organization.
☐	Proof of Eligibility <u>TYPE 1 APPLICANTS:</u> IRS Letter confirming status as a 501(c)(3) entity. The IRS letter must also include the applicant's Tax Identification Number.

TYPE 2 & 3 APPLICANTS:

Support letter from the Tribal administrator, chair, or council.

☐ **Workplan Table** (Appendix 7)

Must be formatted as separate page(s) from the application narrative.

☐ **Budget Table** (Appendix 8)

Must be formatted as separate page(s) from the application narrative.

☐ **Letters of Support**

Two (2) letters of support from partner organizations or local community leaders that work in or are a part of the communities or populations that the applying organization intends to serve with the EEE grant funds.

Application Packet Checklist (20-page limit):

☐ **Project Narrative**

The project narrative must include sections on: Executive Summary, Organization Background and Qualifications, Project Need, Evaluation and Data Collection, and Community Engagement Plan.

Required formatting for application documents:

- **Font:** no less than 10-point font. Fonts smaller than 10-point font will not be reviewed.
- **Paper Size:** 8 ½" x 11" size paper and numbered consecutively.
- **Stapled, not bound (for paper applications):** upper left-hand corner.
- **Edited and reviewed:** Double-checked for grammar and spelling errors.

Submitting the CEA Grant Account Application

For electronic applications, please email completed forms, proof of eligibility, a project narrative, workplan table, budget table, and two letters of support to capacitygrants@cpuc.ca.gov and include "Clean Energy Access" in the subject line.

For paper applications, please mail completed forms and required documents to:

Business and Community Outreach
Attn: E&A Grant Program
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94102

Application Review, Grant Agreement, and Notice to Proceed

1. **Application Review** – The Commission delegates ministerial review and approval authority to CPUC staff for CEA Grant Account applications under \$200,000. Staff are directed to evaluate grant applications for eligibility, completeness, and score each application according to the Evaluation and Scoring Criteria (see below). The CPUC will notify grantees of awards made via a letter. Award letters will be posted to the Commission's website.

For applicants that request \$200,000 and above, the Commission reserves discretion to address such applications through the Resolution process. CPUC staff will evaluate these applications for completeness, ensure they meet all eligibility criteria, score each applicant according to the evaluation criteria set forth in the program guidelines, and recommend approval or denial of each applicant via Resolution.

2. **Grant Agreement** – Following CPUC approval of the grant application, successful applicants will be provided with a Grant Agreement which will include an *E&A Grant Program Manual*, and *Terms and Conditions*. These documents, along with the applicant's approved budget table and Workplan, comprise the Grant Agreement.

The signatory designated in the Application Coversheet will be required to sign the Grant Agreement and return it to the CPUC staff **within thirty (30) days** from the date that it was sent (either electronically or via mail).

3. **Notice to Proceed** – Once the applicant's signed Grant Agreement is received and then executed by the CPUC, a Notice to Proceed letter will be sent to the grantee as notification for approval to proceed with project implementation and expenditures.

EVALUATION AND AWARD CRITERIA

Grant applications will be evaluated competitively based on the following scoring criteria. Additional information on the application process will be provided in the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA).

Project Narrative (65 Points)

A well-prepared application narrative will address each of the following:

- Executive Summary
- Organization Background and Qualifications
- Project Need
- Evaluation and Data Collection
- Community Engagement Plan

See the scoring criteria below for specific information on how to address each section of the project narrative. Each section should be concise and thorough and will pay specific attention to each of the points listed in the scoring criteria.

Project narratives are limited to no more than 20 pages and will account for up to 65/100 points of the evaluations score. The project narrative does not include:

- Application Coversheet
- Workplan Table
- Budget Table
- Letters of Support (x2)
- Proof of Eligibility

The applicant is responsible for supplying relevant data and concrete examples for the review panel to fully evaluate the application.

Supporting Documents (35 Points)

In addition to the project narrative, the following supporting documents will be evaluated:

- Workplan Table
- Budget Table
- Letters of Support (x2)

See the scoring criteria below for specific information on how to address each supporting document.

There are no page limits for supporting documents and they will account for up to 35/100 points of the evaluations score.

Scoring Criteria

Applicants should refer to the scoring criteria below when developing the project narrative and supporting documents for the CEA Grant Account Application, as CPUC evaluators will consult the criteria when scoring applicants.

SCORING CRITERIA		Points
PROJECT NARRATIVE: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY		
Describe the targeted community or tribal government, the project's geographic location, high-level relevant demographic data, the project and project goals, and the reasons why the project will benefit the targeted community.		5 Points
PROJECT NARRATIVE: ORGANIZATION BACKGROUND AND QUALIFICATIONS		
Provide a summary of the applicant's: A. Organization background and primary mission. B. History of working with the targeted community and local stakeholder relationships that may lead to the project's success. C. Demonstrated experience with planning and implementing community programs.		15 Points

PROJECT NARRATIVE: PROJECT NEED	
Identify the problem the project is intended to address. A. How does your solution address issues, such as energy resiliency, greater affordability, or the environment? What are the proposed benefits for the targeted community? B. Identify Environmental Justice issues addressed by the project and describe the targeted community. Use demographic data to describe the environmental justice elements involved such as ethnicity; age distribution; median household income; size and ethnicity of immigrant populations; or geographic location. Cite your sources when using data. C. How does the target community meet the eligibility rules for the clean energy program under consideration? If grant funds are used to pursue a MIP incentive, is the community vulnerable to outages and is it a disadvantaged or vulnerable community or does it have facilities serving such a community? <i>Please see the MIP Handbook, which is anticipated October 202, https://switchison.org/ for information on TECH, and CPUC's customer website for SGIP. See Glossary for links.</i> <i>Please refer to the following resources: CalEPA's CalEnviroScreen tool, US Census Quickfacts webpage for California data, and the California Department of Finance's webpage for state demographic data.</i>	20 Points
PROJECT NARRATIVE: EVALUATION AND DATA COLLECTION	
A. Define project goals and objectives. Identify desired outcomes for the targeted community. B. What baseline data will be used to establish a benchmark for evaluating the impact of the proposed program? C. What data collection methods will be used to measure the impact of the project on the targeted community? Be sure to align your answers to the goals, metrics, and expected outcomes stated in the Workplan.	10 Points
PROJECT NARRATIVE: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN AND/OR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PLAN	
If the project has a community engagement component, describe how the applicant will engage the targeted community and involve them in the planning process and implementation process. Be sure to include details of specific staff and activities planned in your community engagement process in your Workplan. If the project has a technical assistance component, describe what due process will be employed to find a qualified technical assistance provider as well as ensure that the technical assistance overcome any gaps or barriers that the community or Tribe faces in accessing the SGIP.	15 Points

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS: WORKPLAN TABLE	
The Workplan must detail all activities that will take place within the scope of the applying organization's project. The Workplan must align with the information presented in the project narrative.	15 Points
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS: BUDGET TABLE	
The budget must detail all activity and resource expenses and should amount to the request grant award. Note that grantees will receive an upfront payment of 25% of their grant award. Subsequent budget requests will need to be made after the completion of project milestones.	15 Points
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS: LETTERS OF SUPPORT	
At a minimum, at least two (2) letters of support from partner organizations or local community leaders that work in or are a part of the communities or populations that the applying organization intends to serve with the CEA grant funds.	5 Points
TOTAL	100 Points

REPORTING REQUIREMENT

Grantees are required to submit a progress report every six months, starting from the date of the grant agreement. The purpose of this grant reporting requirement is to ensure that grantees provide timely updates on the progress and achievements of their project.

The reporting periods will be as follows:

1. First reporting period: From the grant start date to the 6-month mark.
2. Second reporting period: From the 6-month mark to the 12-month mark.
3. Subsequent reporting periods: Every six months thereafter until the grant project concludes.

Grantees may combine these required reports with budget requests. Grantees may also choose to report the accomplishments of project milestones outside of these required reports as a part of a budget request.

ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

Below are expenses that are eligible for support via a CEA grant. Applicants must ensure that proposed expenses are eligible for funding. Expenses deemed ineligible in the application review process will be removed and the project's recommended total award will be adjusted accordingly.

Staff

The following are eligible staff expenses:

- Grant recipients, subgrantees, and their contractors' staff costs, including salary at an hourly rate, benefits, taxes, and leave.
- Staff may be full or part-time employees.

- If applicants wish to use grant funds to pay for interns, fellows, or other positions that are not on an organization's payroll, these costs should be classified in the budget as a direct cost via a consultant contract.
- If applicants wish to use grant funds to pay for training staff on an organization's payroll, these costs should be classified in the budget as a direct cost via a consultant contract.

Travel

Travel reimbursements must adhere to the State rates and conditions established on the CalHR website, except for "incidentals" and out-of-state travel, which will not be reimbursable under this grant. Each claimant must complete a form [STD-262A, Travel Expense Claim \(TEC\) Form](#), and follow instructions therein. Expense claims must comply with the travel expense, limitation rules applicable to State of California employees and contractors. Applicants are expected to choose the most cost effective and reasonable lodging and modes of transportation consistent with State of California travel reimbursement rates. An electronic copy of STD 262A, instructions, and current applicable information are available at: <https://www.calhr.ca.gov/employees/Pages/travel-reimbursements.aspx>.

Administrative

Costs incurred by the recipient to administer the grant, or costs incurred by subgrantees to perform the tasks necessary to fulfill the deliverables outlined in these guidelines. Administrative costs include, but are not necessarily limited to:

- Office space
- Supplies
- Legal or management oversight
- Prorated general liability, Workers' Compensation (may be included in payroll), and automotive insurance

Tools, Subscriptions, and Software

Subscriptions to tools and other software that will help increase capacity, facilitate communication, or otherwise facilitate implementation of the project such as project management software, video conferencing technology subscriptions, and mapping software.

Engagement, Outreach, Education, and Training

Costs related to the development and administration of engagement, outreach, education, and training activities under the grant, including, but not limited to:

- Materials developed for outreach events, trainings, and other grant activities.
- Access to proprietary data or research materials.
- Facilitation for meetings.
- Translation and interpretation for meetings and written materials.
- Marketing and advertisements.
- Participant compensation is an exchange of payment for services rendered in the development of community work products, and appropriately documented with deliverables such as sign in sheets or written surveys.
- Transportation stipends and provision of transportation services for community residents, such as a vanpool.
- Rental costs of equipment, facilities, or venues.

INELIGIBLE EXPENSES

Grant funds may not be used for the following costs:

- Costs that occur outside of the Grant Agreement term.
- Direct and indirect construction costs.
- Direct lobbying.
- Indirect costs in excess of 30 percent of the awarded funds.
- The following costs associated with community engagement and outreach:
 - Direct cash benefits or subsidies to participants.
 - Alcoholic refreshments.
 - Participant incentives, such as door prizes, which are unrelated to specific community work products.
 - General meetings that do not specifically discuss or advance implementation of the grant project.

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ATTACHMENTS AND APPENDIX ITEMS

ATTACHMENT 1: GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Applicant

Individual on behalf of an entity or an entity who completes an E&A Grant Program application and submits it to the CPUC.

Application

A submittal comprised of responses and supporting documents to apply for the grant.

Applying Organization

Entity who is applying to the E&A Grant Program.

Capacity Building

The process of strengthening local coordination, leadership, knowledge, skills, expertise, and access to resources in under-resourced communities with the goal of helping to develop or increase the ability of that community to independently engage in state decision-making processes and conduct outreach on clean energy and equity initiatives. Capacity building activities include, but are not limited to, identifying and planning opportunities and barriers for clean energy access and equity initiatives in a given region and identifying existing state programs that can be leveraged and means to engage state agencies to implement needed policy changes.

Community Based Organization (CBO)

A public or private nonprofit organization of demonstrated effectiveness that is representative of a community or significant segments of a community and provides educational or related services to individuals in the community.

Community Engagement

The process of working collaboratively with and through groups of people affiliated by geographic proximity, special interest, or similar situations to address issues affecting the well-being of those people.

Competitive

Method in which applications will be evaluated and scored based on the information provided within the application. Applications with higher total scores will take priority for funding over applications with lower total scores.

Direct Costs

Costs directly tied to the implementation of an E&A Program grant, including, but not limited to personnel costs, subcontracts, equipment costs, travel expenses, etc.

Disadvantaged Communities

Designation of census tracts and physical locations used to identify the areas most affected by pollution and the people most vulnerable to its effects, based on geographic, socioeconomic, public health, and environmental hazards criteria. The California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) historically bases designations on analyses conducted by the California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool (CalEnviroScreen) but can also exercise discretion in developing other criteria and methods.

Eligible Entity

An organization that is eligible to be awarded funds under the E&A Grant Program (Types 1, 2, and 3).

Grant Account

One of the three categories in which funding may be awarded. These are the “Public Participation

Grant Account,” “Education, Equity, and Engagement Grant Account,” and the “Clean Energy Access Grant Account.”

Grant Agreement

Arrangement between the State and grantee, in which the grantee will be awarded specific funds to be used for specific work within a specific period.

Grantee

Designated entity that has an agreement for grant funding with the State.

Indicators

Quantitative measures, including project-related metrics that show changes in conditions over a period.

Indirect Costs

Expenses of doing business that are of a general nature. These costs are not directly tied to the grant but are necessary for the general operation of the organization. Examples of indirect costs may include but are not limited to: personnel costs associated with administrative, supervisory, legal, and executive staff; personnel costs associated with support units, including clerical support, housekeeping, etc.; and operating expenses and equipment costs not included as part of direct project costs.

Microgrid Incentive Program

The Microgrid Incentive Program (MIP) funds clean energy microgrids to support the critical needs of vulnerable communities impacted by grid outages and to test new technologies or regulatory approaches to inform future action.

https://www.pge.com/en_US/safety/emergency-preparedness/natural-disaster/wildfires/microgrid-incentive-program.page?WT.mc_id=Vanity_mipworkshops

Rolling Basis

Continuative and non-interrupted timeline.

Self-Generation Incentive Program (SGIP)

A CPUC program that offers rebates for installing energy storage technology in your home. These storage technologies include battery storage systems that can function in the event of a power outage.

<https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/electrical-energy/demand-side-management/self-generation-incentive-program/participating-in-self-generation-incentive-program-sgip>

Technical Assistance

Targeted support for an entity that will contribute to increased organizational capacity.

Technology and Equipment for Clean Heating (TECH) Program

Per D.23-03-005 the Commission has authorized the transfer of \$50 million from the Commission’s budget to TECH Initiative in February of 2023, with no less than 40 percent of new program costs for activities to serve equity customers. An additional \$95 million will transfer to the program at the start of the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

<https://switchison.org/>

Travel Reimbursement

State rates and conditions established on the CalHR website, (<https://www.calhr.ca.gov>) except for “incidentals” and out-of-state travel, which will not be reimbursable.

Underrepresented Communities

Communities whose presence and participation in state decision-making processes and programs

connected to clean energy access and equity initiatives is much smaller than their presence in society as a whole.

Underserved Communities

As defined by Public Utilities Code Section 1601(e), which states: 'Underserved community' means a community that meets one of the following criteria: (1) Is a 'disadvantaged community' as defined by subdivision (g) of Section 75005 of the Public Resources Code; (2) Is included within the definition of 'low-income communities' as defined by paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of Section 39713 of Health and Safety Code; (3) Is within an area identified as among the most disadvantaged 25 percent in the state according to the California Environmental Protection Agency and based on the most recent California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool, also known as CalEnviroScreen; (4) Is a community in which at least 75 percent of public school students in the project area are eligible to receive free or reduced-price meals under the National School Lunch Program; and (5) Is a community located on lands belonging to a federally recognized California Indian tribe.

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APPENDIX 1: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GRANT APPLICATION COVERSHEET



Equity and Access Grant Program

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GRANT ACCOUNT APPLICATION COVERSHEET

Before completing this form, refer to the Public Participation Grant Application Coversheet Instructions for more details on each section below.

For your application to be considered complete and eligible for award, proof of eligibility, proof of participation, and a Travel Expense Claim Form STD 262A (if applicable) must be attached to this application coversheet. Consult the Equity and Access Grant Program Guidelines on the CPUC website for more information at:

<http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/capacitygrants>

1. TYPE OF ORGANIZATION

☐ Type 1: 501(C)(3)	☐ Type 2: Tribe	☐ Type 3: Tribal Entity
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2. REQUESTED GRANT AMOUNT

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3. ELIGIBLE ACTIVITY

☐ Advisory Board Member	☐ Focus Group Participant
☐ En Banc Speaker/Panelist	☐ Panelist
☐ Featured Speaker/Panelist	☐ Working Group Participant
☐ Other: _____	

4. CONTACT INFORMATION

First and Last Name:	
Title:	
Organization Name:	
Employer Identification Number:	
Phone Number:	
Email:	
Physical Address:	
Mailing Address: (if different from above)	
Website:	

5. EVALUATION QUESTIONS

--

Complete the sections below by selecting one checkbox for each question or providing a narrative explanation for each prompt.

5A. Has your organization previously applied for a CPUC Public Participation Grant?

☐ Yes ☐ No

5B. If yes, was your organization awarded a CPUC Public Participation Grant?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

5C. What has been your organization's level of engagement* with the CPUC in the last 24 months?

☐ 0 interactions ☐ 1-5 interactions ☐ 5-10 interactions ☐ 11+ interactions

**Level of engagement is defined by any interaction with the CPUC, including participating in CPUC public events, providing comments on CPUC proceedings, applying for CPUC programs, contacting the CPUC with questions or concerns, and other interactions.*

5D. Has your organization received Intervenor Compensation* from the CPUC in the last 12 months?

☐ Yes ☐ No

5E. Has your organization applied for Intervenor Compensation from the CPUC and is awaiting a decision on the request?

☐ Yes ☐ No

**Organizations that have received Intervenor Compensation in the previous 12 months from the date of this application are not eligible to apply for a Public Participation Grant. Organizations that have applied for but have not received Intervenor Compensation are still eligible to apply.*

5F. Please describe the community that the applying organization serves, including specific demographics. If additional space is needed, please attach a supplemental sheet with the response to this question.

5G. What information or experience obtained from the eligible activity you are applying for under the Public Participation Grant Account will be most valuable to the community(s) your organization serves? If additional space is needed, please attach a supplemental sheet with the response to this question.

5H. How likely is your organization to participate in future Public Participation Grant Account eligible activities?

☐ Very Likely ☐ Somewhat Likely ☐ Not Very Likely

6. ATTESTATION

By signing below, I attest to that the organization I am applying on behalf of has not been previously awarded funds from the CPUC Public Participation Grant Account totaling \$15,000. In addition, my organization will not receive funding from other sources for the same activities, including Intervenor Compensation.

Signed: _____

Name (Print): _____

Date: _____

For electronic applications, please email completed forms, proof of eligibility, proof of participation, and travel reimbursement form STD 262A (if applicable) and relevant travel expense receipts to capacitygrants@cpuc.ca.gov and include “Public Participation Grant” in the subject line.

For paper applications, please mail completed forms and required documents to:

**Business and Community Outreach
Attn: E&A Grant Program
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94102**

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APPENDIX 2: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GRANT APPLICATION COVERSHEET INSTRUCTIONS

All applicants must submit a completed and signed Public Participation Grant Account Application Coversheet. Multiple eligible activities may be submitted on a single application. Please refer to the Program Guidelines for additional information on eligible activities.

COVERSHEET INSTRUCTIONS

1. Type of Organization

The applicant must select the checkbox for at least one of the following options:

- **TYPE 1:** California tax-exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- **TYPE 2:** Federally recognized and non-Federally recognized California Native American Tribes, as defined in Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 21073. PRC Section 21073 defines a California Native American Tribe as a Native American Tribe located in California that is on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission for the purposes of Chapter 905 of the Statutes of 2004.
- **TYPE 3:** Tribal entities, including organizations incorporated under Tribal law and wholly owned by the Tribe, Tribal Section 17 Corporations, and Tribal utilities and authorities operated under Tribal law.

2. Requested Grant Amount

In dollars, the specific total grant amount being requested (e.g., \$1,000.00). The maximum award per organization for the grant period and per grant is \$15,000.

The requested grant amount is the sum of hours of participation times compensation rates for each eligible activity, plus any claimed travel expenses.

Requested Grant Amount =

Activity 1 (hours x rate) + Activity 2 (hours x rate)...+ Travel Reimbursement Amount

Refer to the Equity & Access Grant Program Guidelines for a list of eligible activities, compensation rates, and specific time commitment details that are eligible for reimbursement.

If travel is required to participate in an eligible activity, then you will be eligible for travel reimbursement. Complete the [STD-262A, Travel Expense Claim \(TEC\) Form](#) and return with the rest of your application documents. Refer to the Equity & Access Grant Program Guidelines for more information on eligible travel.

EXAMPLES

- **Example 1**
3 hours of meeting participation. 3 hours x \$150 = \$450. Requested Amount = \$450.00.
- **Example 2**
3 hours of meeting participation and \$375 of travel expenses. 3 hours x \$150 = \$450. \$450 + \$375 = \$825. Requested Amount = \$825.00.
- **Example 3**
3 hours of meeting participation for eligible activity 1, 2 hours participation for eligible activity 2 and \$375 of travel expenses. 3 hours x \$150 = \$450. 2 hours x \$150 = \$300. \$450 + \$300 + \$375 = \$1,125. Requested Amount = \$1,125.00.

3. Eligible Activity

The applicant must select from the following options. Multiple activities may be submitted on a single application. Please select all appropriate checkboxes.

Advisory Board Member

An appointed role that advises on program development, implementation, and administration in relation to CPUC issues and initiatives.

En Banc Speaker/Panelist

En Banc speakers and panelists are invited to discuss their unique experiences or offer best practices on programs/services in relation to the communities that they serve.

Featured Speaker/Presenter

Featured speakers and presenters are invited to speak about their unique experiences or offer best practices on programs/services in relation to the communities that they serve.

Focus Group Participant

Focus groups are utilized by the CPUC to test proposed program implementation concepts, ideas, and rules. Additionally, focus groups assist in ensuring CPUC programs are not inadvertently reinforcing barriers to enrollment for specific populations. As an example, focus groups were empaneled to receive feedback on California LifeLine English and Spanish enrollment forms.

Panelist

Panelists are invited to speak on their unique experiences or offer best practices on programs/services in relation to the communities that they serve. Panelists will offer feedback to the CPUC on a certain topic which will be used to make programs more efficient and accessible.

Working Group Participant

Working groups are typically comprised of stakeholders from industry, consumer advocate groups, business groups, academia, government, and CBOs. Working Groups are given a specific topic and scope to discuss, ranging from broad policy goals to details on program implementation. Working groups draft a final report with a set of recommendations used as part of a proceeding or legislative mandate. As an example, the California LifeLine program used a working group to determine how to best implement marketing and outreach modifications to the program.

Other

Public participation opportunities not included within the list above may be considered for grant funding if invited to participate in by the CPUC.

4. Contact Information

First and Last Name: Name of individual representative participating in the eligible activity(s) claimed on this application on behalf of the applying organization.

Title: Job title of applying organization's representative.

Organization Name: Name of organization being represented in the eligible activity.

Employer Identification Number: Provide organization's Employer Identification Number (EIN) provided by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). The EIN is a unique number that identifies the organization to the IRS. This is required for grant award payment.

Phone Number: Phone number where the applying organization representative can be reached.

E-mail: E-mail address where the applying organization representative can be reached.

Physical Address: Address where the applying organization is physically located (street, city, state, zip code).

Mailing Address: If different from physical address, address where applying organization receives its mail (street, city, state, zip code).

Website: Applying organization's website URL.

5. Evaluation Questions

Complete sections 5A through 5H by selecting one checkbox for each question or providing a narrative explanation for each prompt.

For questions that have checkboxes, select one checkbox only.

6. Attestation

The representative for the applying organization must sign, print their name, and date this form.

By signing, the representative attests to the attestation statement on the form.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Complete applications for the PP Grant Account will have all the items listed in the checklist below.

Application Packet Checklist	
☐	Public Participation Grant Account Application Coversheet (Appendix 1) Must be signed by an individual who has the authority to sign on behalf of the applying organization.
☐	Proof of Eligibility <u>TYPE 1 APPLICANTS:</u> IRS Letter confirming status as a 501(c)(3) entity. The IRS letter must also include the applicant's Tax Identification Number. <u>TYPE 2 & 3 APPLICANTS:</u> Support letter from the Tribal administrator, chair, or council.
☐	Proof of Participation ☐ Attendance Log & Activity Invitation ☐ Link to Recording ☐ Photo & Activity Invitation ☐ Program or Meeting Agenda ☐ Program or Meeting Minutes ☐ Virtual Activity Screenshot & Activity Invitation ☐ Written Verification
☐	Travel Expense Claim Form STD262A (if applicable) Include supporting receipts for expenses more than \$25.

SUBMITTING APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

For electronic applications, please email completed forms, proof of eligibility, proof of participation, and travel reimbursement form STD 262A (if applicable) and relevant travel expense receipts to capacitygrants@cpuc.ca.gov and include "Public Participation Grant" in the subject line.

For paper applications, please mail completed forms and required documents to:

Business and Community Outreach
Attn: E&A Grant Program
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94102

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APPENDIX 3: EQUITY, ENGAGEMENT, AND EDUCATION GRANT APPLICATION



Equity and Access Grant Program

EQUITY, ENGAGEMENT, AND EDUCATION GRANT ACCOUNT APPLICATION COVERSHEET

Before completing this form, refer to the Equity, Education, and Engagement Grant Application Instructions for more details on each section below.

For your application to be considered complete and eligible for award, proof of eligibility, a project narrative, workplan table, budget table, and two letters of support must be attached to this application coversheet. Consult the Equity and Access Grant Program Guidelines on the CPUC website for more information at: www.cpuc.ca.gov/capacitygrants.

1. CONTACT INFORMATION

First and Last Name:	
Title:	
Organization Name:	
Employer Identification Number:	
Phone Number:	
Email:	
Physical Address:	
Mailing Address: (if different from above)	
Website:	

2. TYPE OF ORGANIZATION

☐ Type 1: 501(C)(3)	☐ Type 2: Tribe	☐ Type 3: Tribal Entity
--	--	--

3. REQUESTED GRANT AMOUNT*

**A budget plan is required. Please use the budget template outlining your planned expenses and enter total cost above.*

4. ATTESTATION

I the undersigned, am a legal representative of the Applicant, and declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that, to the best of my knowledge, all the statements and representations made in this Application are true and correct. In addition, I attest my organization has not and will not receive Intervenor Compensation for the same activities funded through Equity, Engagement, and Education Grant Account.

Signed: _____

Name (Print): _____

Date: _____

For electronic applications, please email completed forms, proof of eligibility, a project narrative, workplan table, budget table, and two letters of support to capacitygrants@cpuc.ca.gov and include “Equity, Education, and Engagement Grant” in the subject line.

For paper applications, please mail completed forms and required documents to:

Business and Community Outreach
Attn: E&A Grant Program
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94102

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APPENDIX 4: EQUITY, ENGAGEMENT, AND EDUCATION GRANT APPLICATION COVERSHEET INSTRUCTIONS

All applicants must submit a completed and signed Equity, Engagement, and Education Account Grant Application Coversheet. Please refer to the Program Guidelines for additional information.

COVERSHEET INSTRUCTIONS

1. Contact Information

First and Last Name: Name of individual representative participating in the eligible activity(s) claimed on this application on behalf of the applying organization.

Title: Job title of applying organization's representative.

Organization Name: Name of organization being represented in the eligible activity.

Employer Identification Number: Provide organization's Employer Identification Number (EIN) provided by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). The EIN is a unique number that identifies the organization to the IRS. This is required for grant award payment.

Phone Number: Phone number where the applying organization representative can be reached.

E-mail: E-mail address where the applying organization representative can be reached.

Physical Address: Address where the applying organization is physically located (street, city, state, zip code).

Mailing Address: If different from physical address, address where applying organization receives its mail (street, city, state, zip code).

Website: Applying organization's website URL.

2. Type of Organization

The applicant must select the checkbox for at least one of the following options:

- **TYPE 1**: California tax-exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- **TYPE 2**: Federally recognized and non-Federally recognized California Native American Tribes, as defined in Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 21073. PRC Section 21073 defines a California Native American Tribe as a Native American Tribe located in California that is on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission for the purposes of Chapter 905 of the Statutes of 2004.
- **TYPE 3**: Tribal entities, including organizations incorporated under Tribal law and wholly owned by the Tribe, Tribal Section 17 Corporations, and Tribal utilities and authorities operated under Tribal law.

3. Requested Grant Amount

In dollars, the specific total grant amount being requested (e.g., \$100,000.00). The maximum award per grant is \$200,000. A budget plan is required as an attachment detailing how the total requested grant amount was calculated.

Refer to the Equity & Access Grant Program Guidelines for a list of eligible and ineligible activities and expenses eligible for reimbursement.

4. Attestation

The representative for the applying organization must sign, print their name, and date this form.

By signing, the representative attests to the attestation statement on the form.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Complete applications for the EEE Grant Account will have all the items listed in the checklist below.

Application Packet Checklist (no page limits):	
☐	Equity, Engagement, and Education Grant Account Application Coversheet (Appendix 3) Must be signed by an individual who has the authority to sign on behalf of the applying organization.
☐	Proof of Eligibility <u>TYPE 1 APPLICANTS:</u> IRS Letter confirming status as a 501(c)(3) entity. The IRS letter must also include the applicant's Tax Identification Number. <u>TYPE 2 & 3 APPLICANTS:</u> Support letter from the Tribal administrator, chair, or council.
☐	Workplan Table (Appendix 7) Must be formatted as separate page(s) from the application narrative.
☐	Budget Table (Appendix 8) Must be formatted as separate page(s) from the application narrative.
☐	Letters of Support Two (2) letters of support from partner organizations or local community leaders that work in or are a part of the communities or populations that the applying organization intends to serve with the EEE grant funds.
Application Packet Checklist (10-page limit):	
☐	Project Narrative The project narrative must include sections on: Vision Statement, CPUC Participation, Ability to Represent Community, and Community Benefit.

Required formatting for application documents:

- **Font:** no less than 10-point font. Fonts smaller than 10-point font will not be reviewed.
- **Paper Size:** 8 ½" x 11" size paper and numbered consecutively.
- **Stapled, not bound (for paper applications):** upper left-hand corner.
- **Edited and reviewed:** Double-checked for grammar and spelling errors.

Submit the Application Package

For electronic applications, please email completed forms, proof of eligibility, a project narrative, workplan table, budget table, and two letters of support to capacitygrants@cpuc.ca.gov and include “Equity, Education, and Engagement Grant” in the subject line.

For paper applications, please mail completed forms and required documents to:

Business and Community Outreach
Attn: E&A Grant Program
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94102

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APPENDIX 5: CLEAN ENERGY ACCESS GRANT APPLICATION COVERSHEET



Equity and Access Grant Program

CLEAN ENERGY ACCESS GRANT ACCOUNT APPLICATION COVERSHEET

Before completing this form, refer to the Clean Energy Access Grant Application Coversheet Instructions for more details on each section below.

For your application to be considered complete and eligible for award, proof of eligibility, a project narrative, workplan table, budget table, and two letters of support must be attached to this application coversheet. Consult the Equity and Access Grant Program Guidelines on the CPUC website for more information at: www.cpuc.ca.gov/capacitygrants.

1. CONTACT INFORMATION

First and Last Name:	
Title:	
Organization Name:	
Employer Identification Number:	
Phone Number:	
Email:	
Physical Address:	
Mailing Address: (if different form above)	
Website:	

2. TYPE OF ORGANIZATION

☐ Type 1: 501(C)(3)	☐ Type 2: Tribe	☐ Type 3: Tribal Entity
--	--	--

3. CLEAN ENERGY PROGRAM ASSOCIATED WITH THIS APPLICATION

☐ Microgrid Incentive Program (MIP)	☐ Technology and Equipment for Clean Heating (TECH) Initiative
☐ Self-Generation Incentive Program (SGIP)	

4. REQUESTED GRANT AMOUNT*

*A budget plan is required. Please use the budget template outlining your planned expenses and enter the total cost above.

5. ATTESTATION

I the undersigned, am a legal representative of the Applicant, and declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that, to the best of my knowledge, all the statements and representations made in this Application are true and correct.

Signed: _____

Name (Print): _____

Date: _____

For electronic applications, please email completed forms, proof of eligibility, a project narrative, workplan table, budget table, and two letters of support to capacitygrants@cpuc.ca.gov and include “Clean Energy Access Grant” in the subject line.

For paper applications, please mail completed forms and required documents to:

**Business and Community Outreach
Attn: E&A Grant Program
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94102**

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APPENDIX 6: CLEAN ENERGY ACCESS GRANT APPLICATION COVERSHEET INSTRUCTIONS

All applicants must submit a completed and signed Clean Energy Access Account Grant Application Coversheet. Please refer to the Program Guidelines for additional information.

COVERSHEET INSTRUCTIONS

1. Contact Information

First and Last Name: Name of individual representative participating in the eligible activity(s) claimed on this application on behalf of the applying organization.

Title: Job title of applying organization's representative.

Organization Name: Name of organization being represented in the eligible activity.

Employer Identification Number: Provide organization's Employer Identification Number (EIN) provided by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). The EIN is a unique number that identifies the organization to the IRS. This is required for grant award payment.

Phone Number: Phone number where the applying organization representative can be reached.

E-mail: E-mail address where the applying organization representative can be reached.

Physical Address: Address where the applying organization is physically located (street, city, state, zip code).

Mailing Address: If different from physical address, address where applying organization receives its mail (street, city, state, zip code).

Website: Applying organization's website URL.

2. Type of Organization

The applicant must select the checkbox for at least one of the following options:

- **TYPE 1**: California tax-exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- **TYPE 2**: Federally recognized and non-Federally recognized California Native American Tribes, as defined in Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 21073. PRC Section 21073 defines a California Native American Tribe as a Native American Tribe located in California that is on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission for the purposes of Chapter 905 of the Statutes of 2004.
- **TYPE 3**: Tribal entities, including organizations incorporated under Tribal law and wholly owned by the Tribe, Tribal Section 17 Corporations, and Tribal utilities and authorities operated under Tribal law.

3. Clean Energy Program Associated with this Application

Select the checkbox for one of the CPUC clean energy programs that your application will complement, support access to, or provide education on. See Glossary Terms for descriptions of each clean energy program. Choose from:

- Microgrid Incentive Program (MIP)
- Self-Generation Incentive Program (SGIP)
- Technology and Equipment for Clean Heating (TECH) Initiative

4. Requested Grant Amount

In dollars, the specific total grant amount being requested (e.g., \$300,000.00). The maximum award per grant is \$500,000. A budget plan is required as an attachment detailing how the total requested grant amount was calculated.

Refer to the Clean Energy Access Grant Program Guidelines for a list of eligible and ineligible activities and expenses eligible for reimbursement.

5. Attestation

The representative for the applying organization must sign, print their name, and date this form.

By signing, the representative attests to the attestation statement on the form.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Complete applications for the CEA Grant Account will have all the items listed in the checklist below.

Application Packet Checklist (no page limits):	
☐ Clean Energy Access Grant Account Application Coversheet (Appendix 5)	Must be signed by an individual who has the authority to sign on behalf of the applying organization.
☐ Proof of Eligibility	<u>TYPE 1 APPLICANTS:</u> IRS Letter confirming status as a 501(c)(3) entity. The IRS letter must also include the applicant's Tax Identification Number. <u>TYPE 2 & 3 APPLICANTS:</u> Support letter from the Tribal administrator, chair, or council.
☐ Workplan Table (Appendix 7)	Must be formatted as separate page(s) from the application narrative.
☐ Budget Table (Appendix 8)	Must be formatted as separate page(s) from the application narrative.
☐ Letters of Support	Two (2) letters of support from partner organizations or local community leaders that work in or are a part of the communities or populations that the applying organization intends to serve with the grant funds.

Application Packet Checklist (20-page limit):

☐ **Project Narrative**

The project narrative must include sections on: Executive Summary, Organization Background and Qualifications, Project Need, Evaluation and Data Collection, and Community Engagement Plan.

Required formatting for application documents:

- **Font:** no less than 10-point font. Fonts smaller than 10-point font will not be reviewed.
- **Paper Size:** 8 ½" x 11" size paper and numbered consecutively.
- **Stapled, not bound (for paper applications):** upper left-hand corner.
- **Edited and reviewed:** Double-checked for grammar and spelling errors.

Submitting the CEA Grant Account Application

For electronic applications, please email completed forms, proof of eligibility, a project narrative, workplan table, budget table, and two letters of support to capacitygrants@cpuc.ca.gov and include "Clean Energy Access" in the subject line.

For paper applications, please mail completed forms and required documents to:

Business and Community Outreach
Attn: E&A Grant Program
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94102

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APPENDIX 7: SAMPLE WORKPLAN TABLE

This Sample Workplan table can be used for either the Equity, Engagement, And Education or Clean Energy Access Grant Accounts.

Visit the Equity and Access Grant Program webpage to download the Microsoft Excel version of the Sample Workplan at: www.cpuc.ca.gov/capacitygrants

Equity and Access Grant Work Plan						
To be used for both Equity, Engagement, and Education and Clean Energy Access Grant Accounts						
Task Number	Activities to Accomplish Stated Goals	Project Staff Involved	Start Date	End Date	Performance Measures (used to measure goals)	Expected Outcomes (The outcomes you get when accomplishing your goals)
Goal 1	Build Legal Capacity	Ben Kinney, Executive Director	7/18/2023	10/1/2023	Becoming a Party to Proceedings and filing comments in High DER and MIP proceedings	Our organization will build legal capacity and knowledge of how to become actively engaged with matters before the CPUC
Task 1.1	Draft Scope of Work	Ben Kinney, Executive Director				
	Interview attorneys and consultants	Ben Kinney, Executive Director, Concepcion Rui, Chair of the Board	7/18/2023	8/6/2023		
	Hire legal resource	Ben Kinney, Executive Director, Concepcion Rui, Chair of the Board				
	Create plan for CPUC engagement with new legal resource	Ben Kinney, Executive Director				
Task 1.2						
Task 1.3						
Goal 2	Build Staff Capacity to educate community on CPUC proceedings	Darla Ramirez, Organizing Director	8/21/2023	10/1/2023	Trained 5 organizers to educate the community on active proceedings	The community will become aware and educated on the High DER proceeding and will provide input on the impacts of the proposed regulations.
Task 2.1	Hold 2 staff trainings on High DER Proceeding	Darla Ramirez, Organizing Director	8/21/2023	9/15/2023		
Task 2.2	Hold 2 staff trainings on Microgrid Incentive Program Proceeding	Darla Ramirez, Organizing Director	8/8/2023	9/26/2023		
Task 2.3	Prepare community materials and presentation	Darla Ramirez, Organizing Director				
Goal 3						
Task 3.1						

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APPENDIX 8: GRANT BUDGET TABLE INSTRUCTIONS

Appendix 9 is an example of how a budget table must be itemized. It is included to give you an idea of the level of detail expected. Make sure to provide enough detail so application evaluators understand what is being budgeted (i.e., provide detail as to what materials/supplies will include).

General descriptions will not be accepted/considered.

Round budget line items to the nearest whole dollar. Items less than fifty cents should be rounded down and those at fifty cents or more should be rounded up. Review your budget table to ensure the budget adds up correctly.

Time spent by a staff performing an activity directly related to the execution of the grant (not supervision or writing reports), such as speaking at events, drafting program materials, etc., is a direct cost and should be charged to the appropriate activity.

Time spent on personnel costs should include the first name and last name, title, rate of pay (e.g., \$15/hour) of the staff person listed. Include personnel rates as hourly rates. Hourly personnel rates should be reasonable. Hourly rates over \$100/hour will need explanation or justification (i.e., breakdown of costs that may be included in the hourly rate). If including benefits in the hourly rate, include a breakout of the hourly rate and fringe benefits charged.

Total indirect costs shall not exceed 30 percent (30 %) of the total grant award. Indirect costs are expenditures not capable of being assigned or not readily itemized to a particular activity but considered necessary for the operation of the organization and the performance of the program. Overhead, the costs of administrative operations, accounting services, and in-house printing are examples of indirect costs.

A complete budget table must be submitted an Equity, Engagement, and Education Grant Application or a Clean Energy Access Grant Application.

Travel must follow the [State of California guidelines](#) for travel reimbursements.

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APPENDIX 9: SAMPLE BUDGET TABLE

This Sample Budget Table can be used for either the Equity, Engagement, And Education or Clean Energy Access Grant Accounts.

Visit the Equity and Access Grant Program webpage to download the Microsoft Excel version of the Sample Budget Table at: www.cpuc.ca.gov/capacitygrants

Equity and Access Grant Budget Table						
To be used for both Equity, Engagement, and Education and Clean Energy Access Grant Accounts						
Task Number	Budget Item	Explanation	Rate	Unit	Number of Units	Cost
Objective 1	Develop plan to build capacity to engage on the Distributed Energy Resources proceeding by hiring legal consultant and educating organizing staff					
Task 1.1	Hire legal consultant to become party to proceeding and organize internal staff team to keep track of proceeding					
	Gordon Wu, Executive Director	5 hours/week x 50 weeks @ \$30/hour	\$30.00	hour	250	\$7,500
	Miriam Hernandez, Policy Director	25 hours/week x 2 weeks @ \$20 hour	\$20.00	hour	50	\$1,000
	Penelope Marbella, HR Director	6 hours/week x 6 weeks @ \$25/hour	\$25.00	hour	36	\$900
Task 1.2	Train community organizers on DER proceeding and plan community outreach					
	Consultant: Melanie Harris, Trainer	8 hours/week x 1 week @ \$20/hour	\$40.00	hour	8	\$320
	Sam Cachu, Senior Community Organizer	25 hours/week x 50 weeks @ \$18 hour	\$18.00	hour	1250	\$22,500
Task 1.3	Prepare and conduct meeting with 20 interested community residents and informed youth educators					
	George Williams, Organizing Director	8 hours/week x 20 weeks @ \$17.00/hour	\$17.00	hour	160	\$2,720
Objective 2	Become Party to DER Proceeding					
Task 2.1	Submit paperwork and prepare to submit comments					
	Imelda Jackson, Attorney	20 hours/week x 1 weeks @ \$175/hour	\$175.00	hour	20	\$3,500
	Miriam Hernandez, Policy Director	15 hours/week x 2 weeks @ \$20 hour	\$20.00	hour	30	\$600
Objective 3	Develop and Disseminate Outreach Collateral					
Task 3.1	Develop and Design 6"x 11" postcard					
	Graham Singer, Graphic Designer	3 hours/week x 1 week @ \$50/hour	\$50.00	hour	3	\$150
						\$0
Total Grant Budget						\$39,040

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APPENDIX 10: TRIBAL ORGANIZATION SAMPLE RESOLUTION

This sample is provided for guidance purposes only.

WHEREAS, the people of the State of California have enacted Assembly Bill 179 (Ting, Statutes of 2022, Chapter 249) which established the Equity and Access Grant Program to assist, among others, federally recognized Tribal governments to conduct outreach and obtain technical assistance for participation in California Public Utilities Commission decision making processes and provide clean energy access opportunities to Tribes, as defined pursuant to Section 21073 of the Public Resources Code.

WHEREAS, the California Public Utilities Commission has been delegated the responsibility for administering the Equity and Access Grant Program, which includes procedures governing the application by and payment to eligible Tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, if awarded, the applicant will enter into a Grant Agreement with California Public Utilities Commission for implementation of said grant;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the (Title of Tribe's Governing Body)
authorizes the submittal of a grant application to the California Public Utilities Commission for a grant
from the Equity and Access Grant Program – 2023 Grant Cycle.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the_____(Title of Official), or his/her designee is hereby authorized and empowered to execute in the name of the_____ (Name of Federally Recognized Tribal Government) all grant documents necessary to secure grant funds and implement the approved grant project.

The foregoing resolution was passed by the _____ (Title of Tribe's Governing Body) _____ this _____ day of _____, 20____.

ATTEST:

Signed:_____ Date:_____

Appendix A

APPENDIX A

Stakeholder Outreach and Community Engagement

The Equity and Access Grant Program was developed with input from the following:

State Agencies and Boards:

- CA Energy Commission
- CA State Water Resources Control Board
- CA Public Utilities Commission
- Industry Divisions, Commissioner Offices
- CA Air Resources Board
- CA Environmental Protection Agency
- Strategic Growth Council

Tribal and Community-Based Organizations:

- Eleven Tribal organizations and CBOs and a representative from the Public Advocate's Office participated in a focus group on January 25, 2023.

Focus Group Invitation List (Confirmed participants in bold type)

- Southern California Tribal Chairmans Association
- CA Tribal Chairpersons Association
- Nations Indian Gaming Assoc
- CA Indian Manpower Consortium
- **American Indian Chamber of Commerce of CA**
- United American Involvement Inc
- **Suscol Intertribal Council**
- California Environmental Justice Alliance (CEJA)
- Greenlining Institute
- **Center for Accessible Technology**
- Association of Community Energy Services (ACCES)
- Youth Law Center
- **TURN**
- CA LULAC
- Self-Help Enterprises
- Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability
- Central Valley Urban Institute
- Central CA Environmental Justice Network
- CAUSE
- **Facilitating Access to Coordinated Transportation (FACT)**
- Environmental Health Coalition

- Interface Children and Family Services
- Great Public Schools Now
- **Insure the Uninsured Project**
- **AARP**
- 211 San Diego
- Communities for a Better Environment (CBE)
- **OC Goes Solar**
- Liberty Hill Foundation
- Marin Center for Independent Living
- El Concilio
- **Public Advocate's Office**
- Coalition for Clean Air
- Comite Civico
- **Building Resilient Communities**
- **California Tribal Business Alliance**
- Northern Circle Indian Housing
- Southern California Indian Center
- TASIN (Tribal Alliance of Sovereign Nations)
- The North Coast Tribal Chairman's Association
- *GRID Alternatives

Community Stakeholders:

- Low Income Oversight Board, Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group, TEAM/CHANGES Program

*GRID Alternatives responded to the invitation but was not able to attend the focus group session. A briefing for the organization was held in February 2023.

Appendix B

APPENDIX B

Marketing and Outreach Plan

The E&A Grant Program will be promoted via multiple channels prior to and during the three grant accounts respective funding cycles. At a minimum, the CPUC will conduct program outreach through:

Webpage

A searchable webpage will be created on the CPUC website with grant program information and resources.

- Program guidelines
- Fact sheets
- Applications
- Application assistance materials
- Frequently asked questions
- Contact information

Email Contact Lists

Email will be utilized to reach a broad audience. Email resources include:

- Statewide Tribal and CBO database of more than 2,000 organizations
- Monthly CPUC Newsletter: Working for California, distribution list of more than 9,500 contacts
- Business and Community Outreach (BCO) team newsletters, distribution list of over 11,000 contacts
- Service Lists (Based on consultation with Commissioner Offices and industry divisions). Potentially including:
 - Arrears (R.21-02-014)
 - Energy Efficiency (R.13-11-005)
 - High Distributed Energy Resources (R.21-06-017)
 - Self-Generation Incentive Program (R.12-11-005)
 - Microgrid Incentive Program (R.19-09-009)
 - Climate Change Adaptation (R.18-04-019)
 - Clean Miles Standard (R.21-11-014)
 - Universal Services (R.21-03-002)
 - Broadband Infrastructure Deployment (R.20-09-001)
- Councils of Governments
- Native American Heritage Commission email directory

Public Meetings

Presentations at CPUC and stakeholder group public meetings will target varied audiences.

- Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group (DACAG)

- Low-Income Oversight Board (LiOB)
- TEAM/CHANGES Program
- CPUC Voting Meeting

Social Media

The CPUC's social media channels will promote the program and its resources including:

- The grant program's webpage.
- Recordings of public grant workshops and meetings on YouTube.

Targeted Outreach

Business and Community Outreach (BCO) Local Government and Community Liaisons will conduct targeted outreach meetings with key stakeholders. At a minimum, outreach will be conducted to the following:

- Statewide Tribal organizations and CBOs
- Grassroots organizations
- CPUC Tribal Advisor
- Focus group participants
- Confirmed grant informational webinar participants
- California Energy Commission
- State Water Resources Control Board
- Strategic Growth Council
- California Air Resources Board
- Department of Water Resources
- Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety
- California Independent System Operator (CAISO)
- California Grants Portal (grants.ca.gov)
- Native American Heritage Commission
- California Tribal Chairpersons Association

Appendix C

California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)



Equity Initiatives and Clean Energy Access Grant Program

February 22, 2023



California Public
Utilities Commission

DISCUSSION DRAFT ONLY - Final plan subject to Commissioner approval.

Background

Background

- **AB 179 (Ting)** signed by Governor Gavin Newsom appropriates \$30,000,000 in funding to expand the scope of public participation to include ***community-based organizations that have not historically engaged with matters before the California Public Utilities Commission.***
- The purpose of the funding is to increase the breadth and depth of voices providing input on issues affecting state residents, especially those in diverse and low-income communities, hard to reach customers, individuals with access and functional needs, and frontline communities experiencing the impact of climate change.
- The funds shall be available for encumbrance or expenditure until June 30, 2025, and shall be available for liquidation until June 30, 2027.

Equity Initiatives and Clean Energy Grant Programs

The grant programs are:

1. Public Participation Grants
2. Equity, Engagement, and Education Grants
3. Clean Energy Access and Community Project Grants

Summary of Proposed Funding		
Category	Maximum Award	Total Available
Public Participation Grants	\$15,000	\$2,500,000
Equity, Engagement, and Education Grants	\$100,000	\$8,000,000
Clean Energy Access Initiatives and Community Project Grants	\$1,250,000	\$17,000,000
Tribe Dedicated		\$1,000,000
Administration		\$1,500,000
Total		\$30,000,000

* applicable to California Native American Tribes

Eligible Applicants

Applicants eligible to apply for the CPUC's Equity Initiatives and Clean Energy Grant Program include:

- A California community-based organization holding a current tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code;
- A California Native American Tribe. For the purposes of this grant, this includes all Federally Recognized Tribes, and other California Native Americans, as defined by Public Resources Code Section 21073 "California Native American tribe" means a Native American tribe located in California that is on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission for the purposes of Chapter 905 of the Statutes of 2004.
- Tribal entities organizations incorporated under tribal law and wholly owned be the tribe, Tribal Section 17 Corporations, Tribal utilities and authorities operated under tribal law.

Public Participation Grant Program

1. Public Participation Grants

Total proposed funding: \$2,500,000

Maximum grant award: \$15,000

Application and funding cycle: Rolling

- Grants up to \$15,000 per CBO to participate in defined and discrete activities. e.g. speaking on a workshop panel, service on working group or participation in other decision-making processes.
- Provides prompt payment for these discrete engagements.
- Applications accepted on a rolling basis. Total funding for the Public Participation Grants portion of this program will be \$2.5 million. Payments dispersed after completion of activities identified in approved application.
- Awardees for these grants will not be eligible for Intervenor Compensation for the same activities.
- Similar to the Intervenor Compensation program, successful applicants will be expected to demonstrate that they will bring a unique contribution that is beneficial to the communities they represent.

Proposed Eligible Activities

Activity participation compensated at \$150/per hour

Activity	Description
Working Group Meeting	Working Groups are given a specific scope of work to discuss topics ranging from broad policy goals to details on program implementation. Usually part of a proceeding.
Focus Group	Focus Groups are used by CPUC staff to test proposed program implementation concepts, ideas, and rules.
Workshop/event Panelist	CPUC staff form a panel on specific topics to receive feedback and educate other stakeholders on certain policies, programs, or service already in place.
Workshop/event Featured Speaker	Featured speaker may be invited to speak to discuss their unique experience or offer best practices on programs/services.
Advisory Board/Committee Member	Appointed roles that advise on program development, implementation or administration.
En Banc Meeting Panelist	Featured speaker may be invited to speak to discuss their unique experience or offer best practices on programs/services.

Overlap with CAEECC Compensation Pilot

	Public Participation Grant	CAEECC Compensation Pilot
Budget/Max Award	\$2.5M/ \$15,000	\$185k/\$15,800
Funding Source	One-time state budget allocation	via R.13-11-05 (unspent EE Budget Funds)
Activities Funded	WGs, board, panels, focus groups, etc	JEDI-focused Working Group and other CAEECC related activities
Applicant Eligibility	501 c3 Orgs/Tribes	Individuals/Orgs
Hourly Rate	\$150/hr	\$150/hr
Per Diem	No	Yes

Equity, Engagement, and Education Grants

2. Equity, Engagement and Education Grants

Total proposed funding: \$4,000,000

Per-grant proposed funding: \$5,000 to \$100,000

Application and funding cycle: Awards in Summers of 2023, 2024, and 2025

- This program will provide grants up to \$100,000 for the purposes of building CBO, Tribal, and community capacity to understand and engage with CPUC decision-making processes.
- Activities in this category may include hiring consultants or technical experts, community engagement and outreach related to CPUC proceedings, education, training and curriculum development, and partnership and coalition development.
- Method of distribution of grants to be determined (example payments dispersed by completion of project milestones identified in approved application).

Grant Period

Round one All

Grant Applications open May 22, 2023.

All Applications closed June 23, 2023

Round Two

Grant Applications open April 1, 2024

All Applications closed June 1, 2024

Funds available for encumbrance or expenditure until June 30, 2025

Funds available for liquidation until June 30, 2027



Clean Energy Access Initiatives and Community Project Grants

3. Clean Energy Access and Initiatives Grants

Total proposed funding: \$17,000,000

Per-grant proposed funding: \$100,000 to \$1,250,000

Application and funding cycle: Award Agreement with Third-Party Administrator in Early 2024, Awards to CBOs and Tribes through June 2027

- This program will provide grants up to \$1.25 million for the purpose of developing equity initiatives and clean energy access opportunities for eligible applicants
- Provides funding to develop plans and bridge gaps in clean energy access programs at the community level such as the Microgrid Incentive Program (MIP) and the income-qualified battery backup program of the Self-Generation Incentive Program (SGIP).

Examples of potential projects include:

- Programs that improve awareness, participation and enrollment in existing clean energy programs
 - Projects that improve the affordability of utility services for the communities as well as provide local economic opportunities.
- Program does NOT pay for infrastructure buildout. i.e. hardware or equipment.

How Grant Funding Gets to CBOs and Tribes

CPUC will award a master grant to technical assistance (TA) provider(s).

Tribes or CBOs request assistance from TA provider(s) for microgrid or SGIP projects.

Designated TA provider evaluates these requests and provides technical assistance and funding to conduct work.

TA provider provides metrics and reports on work completed to the CPUC.

Additional details will be developed with grant award to TA provider(s).



Program Development Timeline

Grant Program Public Webinar	February 15
10-Day Comments on Draft Program Due	February 27
Draft Resolution Available for Public Comment	Late March
Public Application Workshop	Mid-May
Round One Applications Open	Late May

Thank You!



California Public Utilities Commission

CPUC CBO Capacity Grant Program Discussion Draft

Stephanie Green
Chris Moore
Asia Powell
Hope Christman

LIQB, December, 2022



California Public
Utilities Commission

DISCUSSION DRAFT ONLY
Final plan subject to Commissioner approval.

Background: Current Barriers to CBO Outreach

- Many CBOs are under-resourced and under-staffed, forcing them to limit their engagement in governmental processes that can be very time consuming
- CBOs and the communities they serve lack technical capacity to access or engage with CPUC programs and policies
- CPUC unable to offer industry-standard stipends for CBO participation on workshop panels and advisory groups.
- I-Comp requirements too burdensome for one-off participation

DISCUSSION DRAFT ONLY

Final plan subject to Commissioner approval.

AB 179

In AB 179, the Budget Act of 2022, the California Legislature approved \$30,000,000 to be “used by the Public Utilities Commission for capacity grants to community-based organizations that conduct outreach and obtain technical assistance for participation in Public Utilities Commission decision making processes and supporting activities and that support ongoing equity initiatives and provide clean energy access opportunities to tribes, as defined pursuant to Section 21073 of the Public Resources Code, and other underrepresented communities.”

DISCUSSION DRAFT ONLY

Final plan subject to Commissioner approval.

Proposed Grant Programs

These grant programs are:

- Public Participation Grants
- Equity, Engagement, and Education Grants
- Clean Energy Access and Community Project Grants

Summary of Proposed Funding		
Category	Maximum Award	Total Available
Public Participation Grants	\$5,000	\$1,000,000
Equity, Engagement, and Education Grants	\$100,000	\$4,000,000
Clean Energy Access Initiatives and Community Project Grants	\$1,250,000	\$23,500,000
Administration	N/A	\$1,500,000
Total:		\$30,000,000

DISCUSSION DRAFT ONLY

Final plan subject to Commissioner approval.

Public Participation Grants

Total proposed funding: \$1,000,000

Per-grant proposed funding: \$250 to \$5,000

Application and funding cycle: Rolling

- Grants up to \$5,000 per activity for an eligible entity to participate in defined and discrete activities. e.g. speaking on a workshop panel, service on working group or participation in other decision-making processes.
- Provides prompt payment for these discrete engagements.
- Applications may be accepted and on a rolling basis. Total funding for the Public Participation Grants portion of this program will be \$1 million. Method of distribution of grants to be determined (example payments dispersed by completion of project activities identified in approved application).
- Annual program cap and cap per organization to ensure even distribution over time and fair distribution across many organizations.
- Awardees for these grants will not be eligible for I-Comp for the same activities.
- Similar to the I-Comp program, successful applicants will be expected to demonstrate that they will bring a unique contribution that is beneficial to ratepayers.

DISCUSSION DRAFT ONLY

Final plan subject to Commissioner approval.

Equity , Engagement and Education Grants:

Total proposed funding: \$4,000,000

Per-grant proposed funding: \$5,000 to \$100,000

Application and funding cycle: Awards in Summer of 2023 and Summer of 2024

- This program will provide grants up to \$100,000 for the purposes of building CBO, Tribal, and community capacity to understand and engage with CPUC decision-making processes.
- Activities in this category may include hiring consultants or technical experts, community engagement and outreach related to CPUC proceedings, education, training and curriculum development, and partnership and coalition development.
- Method of distribution of grants to be determined (example payments dispersed by completion of project milestones identified in approved application).

Clean Energy Access and Initiatives Grants:

Total proposed funding: \$23,500,000

Per-grant proposed funding: \$100,000 to \$1,250,000

Application and funding cycle: Awards in Summer of 2023 and Summer of 2024

- This program will provide grants up to \$1.25 million for the purpose of developing equity initiatives and clean energy access opportunities for eligible applicants
- Examples of potential projects include:
 - Projects that develop community led solutions to climate change mitigation, adaption, and resilience challenges that can be carried out in partnership with a utility
 - Projects that cooperatively develop distributed energy resource projects
 - Community needs assessments that can be used to inform CPUC decision-making and improved on the delivery of current programs; Community-led data collection and analysis
 - Programs that improve awareness, participation and enrollment in existing clean energy programs;
 - Projects that improve the affordability of utility services for the communities as well as provide local economic opportunities or technical project implementation; etc.
- Method of distribution of grants to be determined (example monthly disbursements or payments dispersed by completion of project milestones identified in approved application).

DISCUSSION DRAFT ONLY

Final plan subject to Commissioner approval.

Project Logistics:

Program Development:

- Initial design phase, program details to be determined based on stakeholder feedback, subject to approval by commissioners.
- Collaboration with internal industry divisions will be essential to developing the grant program.
- Feedback from external stakeholders will inform the design of the grant program, and the success of the program will depend on robust participation from CBOs.

Program Staffing:

- Staffing needs will be supported by a budget limited to 5% of the overall funds, not to exceed \$1.5 million. Funding could be used for the hiring of temporary staff and/or consultants to assist in the operations of the program and procuring the technical infrastructure to manage the project.

Performance:

- Performance reporting metrics for CBOs should include operational reporting (potentially including program activities, budget, invoice, etc.), and program metrics

Eligible Applicants :

Applicants eligible to apply for the CPUC's Equity Initiatives and Clean Energy Grant Program include:

- A California community-based organization holding a current tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code;
- A California Native American Tribe. For the purposes of this grant, this includes all Federally Recognized Tribes, and other California Native Americans, as defined by Public Resources Code Section 21073 "California Native American tribe" means a Native American tribe located in California that is on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission for the purposes of Chapter 905 of the Statutes of 2004.
- Tribal entities organizations incorporated under tribal law and wholly owned be the tribe, Tribal Section 17 Corporations, Tribal utilities and authorities operated under tribal law. Other non-profit organizations.

Questions?



Thank you!



California Public Utilities Commission

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213-220-1344

California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)



Equity Initiatives and Clean Energy Access Grant Program

DACAG Meeting

February 17, 2023



California Public
Utilities Commission

Background

Background

AB 179 (Ting) signed by Governor Gavin Newsom appropriates \$30,000,000 in funding to expand the scope of public participation to include ***community-based organizations and tribal organizations that have not historically engaged with matters before the California Public Utilities Commission.***

- The purpose of the funding is to increase the breadth and depth of voices providing input on issues affecting state residents, especially those in diverse and low-income communities, hard to reach customers, individuals with access and functional needs, and frontline communities experiencing the impact of climate change.
- The funds shall be available for encumbrance or expenditure until June 30, 2025, and shall be available for liquidation until June 30, 2027.

Stakeholder Outreach to Date

The program has been developed with input from the following:

➤ State Agencies and Boards:

- CA Energy Commission
- CA State Water Resources Control Board
- CA Public Utilities Commission
 - Industry Divisions, Commissioner Offices
- CA Air Resources Board
- CA Environmental Protection Agency
- Strategic Growth Council

➤ Community Organizations:

- A focus group consisting of 12 Community Based Organizations, including tribal organizations
- Community Stakeholders:
 - Low Income Oversight Board, Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group, TEAM/CHANGES
- CBO Grant Webinar (2-15-23) 170 attendees

➤ Modifications have been made based on stakeholder feedback.

Equity Initiatives and Clean Energy Access Grant Programs

The grant programs are:

1. Public Participation Grants
2. Equity, Engagement, and Education Grants
3. Clean Energy Access Grants

Summary of Proposed Funding		
Category	Maximum Award	Total Available
Public Participation Grants	\$15,000	\$2,500,000
Equity, Engagement, and Education Grants	\$100,000	\$8,000,000
Clean Energy Access Grants	\$1,250,000	\$17,000,000
Dedicated Tribal Funding*		\$1,000,000
Administration	N/A	\$1,500,000
Total:		\$30,000,000

* applicable to California Native American Tribes

Eligible Applicants

Applicants eligible to apply for the CPUC's Equity Initiatives and Clean Energy Grant Program include:

- A California community-based organization holding a current tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code;
- A California Native American Tribe. For the purposes of this grant, this includes all Federally Recognized Tribes, and other California Native Americans, as defined by Public Resources Code Section 21073 "California Native American tribe" means a Native American tribe located in California that is on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission for the purposes of Chapter 905 of the Statutes of 2004.
- Tribal entities organizations incorporated under tribal law and wholly owned by the tribe, Tribal Section 17 Corporations, Tribal utilities and authorities operated under tribal law.

Public Participation Grant Program

Public Participation Grant Program

General Description

- The **Public Participation Grant** program is intended to remove financial and capacity-based barriers to participation while creating a flexible and accessible process to apply for and receive compensation.
- Compensates organizations for their time for participating in day-to-day Commission activities that drives and influences policy decisions.
- This program aligns with the CPUC's Environmental and Social Justice Action Plan's vision to create participation pathways and compensate CBOs and tribes for the time and effort spent contributing critical perspectives that assist the CPUC to make just and equitable decisions reflecting diverse viewpoints.

Public Participation Grants

Total proposed funding: \$2,500,000

Per-grant proposed funding: Up to \$15,000

Application and funding cycle: Rolling

- Grants up to \$15,000 per activity for an eligible entity to participate in defined and discrete activities. e.g. speaking on a workshop panel, service on working group or participation in other decision-making processes.
- Provides prompt payment for these discrete engagements.
- Applications accepted on a rolling basis. Total funding for the Public Participation Grants portion of this program will be \$2.5 million. Payments dispersed after completion of activities identified in approved application.
- Annual program cap and cap per organization to ensure even distribution over time and fair distribution across many organizations.
- Awardees for these grants will not be eligible for Intervenor Compensation for the same activities.

Proposed Eligible Activities

**Activities below will be compensated at \$150/hr.
Includes meeting prep, meeting, and post-meeting follow-up.**

Activity	Description
Working Group Meeting	Working Groups are given a specific scope of work to discuss topics ranging from broad policy goals to details on program implementation. Usually part of a proceeding.
Focus Group	Focus Groups are used by CPUC staff to test proposed program implementation concepts, ideas, and rules.
Workshop/Event Panelist	CPUC staff form a panel on specific topics to receive feedback and educate other stakeholders on certain policies, programs, or service already in place.
Workshop/Event Featured Speaker	Featured speaker may be invited to speak to discuss their unique experience or offer best practices on programs/services.
Advisory Board/Committee Member	Appointed roles that advise on program development, implementation or administration.
En Banc Meeting Panelist	CPUC staff form a panel on specific topics to receive feedback and educate other stakeholders on certain policies, programs, or service already in place.

Administration and Reporting

Administration of funds:

Applicants apply for funds after each activity or series of activities.

Application must include proof of participation, which can include:

- Meeting minutes
- Attendance log
- Meeting agenda
- Written confirmation from meeting coordinator
- Screenshot of virtual meeting (with name on avatar)
- Link to a recording of the meeting (showing applicant participating)

Application will be streamlined in order to facilitate participation

Equity, Engagement, and Education Grants

Equity, Engagement, and Education Grants

General Description

The **Equity, Engagement and Education Grant** program seeks to:

- Ensure the views of underrepresented communities are heard in the decision-making processes of CPUC and other state agencies by enabling the formal participation of tribes and CBO's.
- Increase participation and build the long-term capacity of tribes and CBOs so that they will have the ability to receive payment for ongoing work through the Intervenor Compensation program (IComp).

Equity, Engagement and Education Grants

Total proposed funding: \$8,000,000

Per-grant proposed funding: Up to \$100,000

Application and funding cycle: Awards in Summers of 2023 and 2024

- This program will provide grants up to \$100,000 for the purposes of building CBO, Tribal, and community capacity to understand and engage with CPUC decision-making processes.
- Activities in this category may include hiring staff, engaging consultants or technical experts, community engagement and outreach related to CPUC proceedings, education, training and curriculum development, and partnership and coalition development.
- Method of distribution of grants to be determined (example payments dispersed by completion of project milestones identified in approved application).

Examples of Eligible Activities

- Building the capacity of less engaged organizations representing disadvantaged communities and acting as a resource to these organizations. E.g. education on CPUC processes, preparation of document templates, assistance with filing a Notice of Intent to File Intervenor Compensation and changing bylaws.
- Hiring consultants and staff for activities necessary for active participation in decision-making processes at the CPUC, e.g. to gain party status and actively engage in a proceeding.
- Educating and/or organizing communities for participation in active matters before the CPUC.

Grant Period

Round one All

Grant Applications open May 22, 2023.

All Applications closed June 23, 2023

Round Two

Grant Applications open April 1, 2024

All Applications closed June 1, 2024



Funds available for encumbrance or expenditure until June 30, 2025

Funds available for liquidation until June 30, 2027

Long-Term Vision

Funding used to ensure long-term capacity and enhance future engagement

- Ability to utilize Intervenor Compensation
- Ongoing in-house staff and resources
- Peer-to-peer learning

Clean Energy Access Grants

Clean Energy Access Grants

Total proposed funding: \$17,000,000

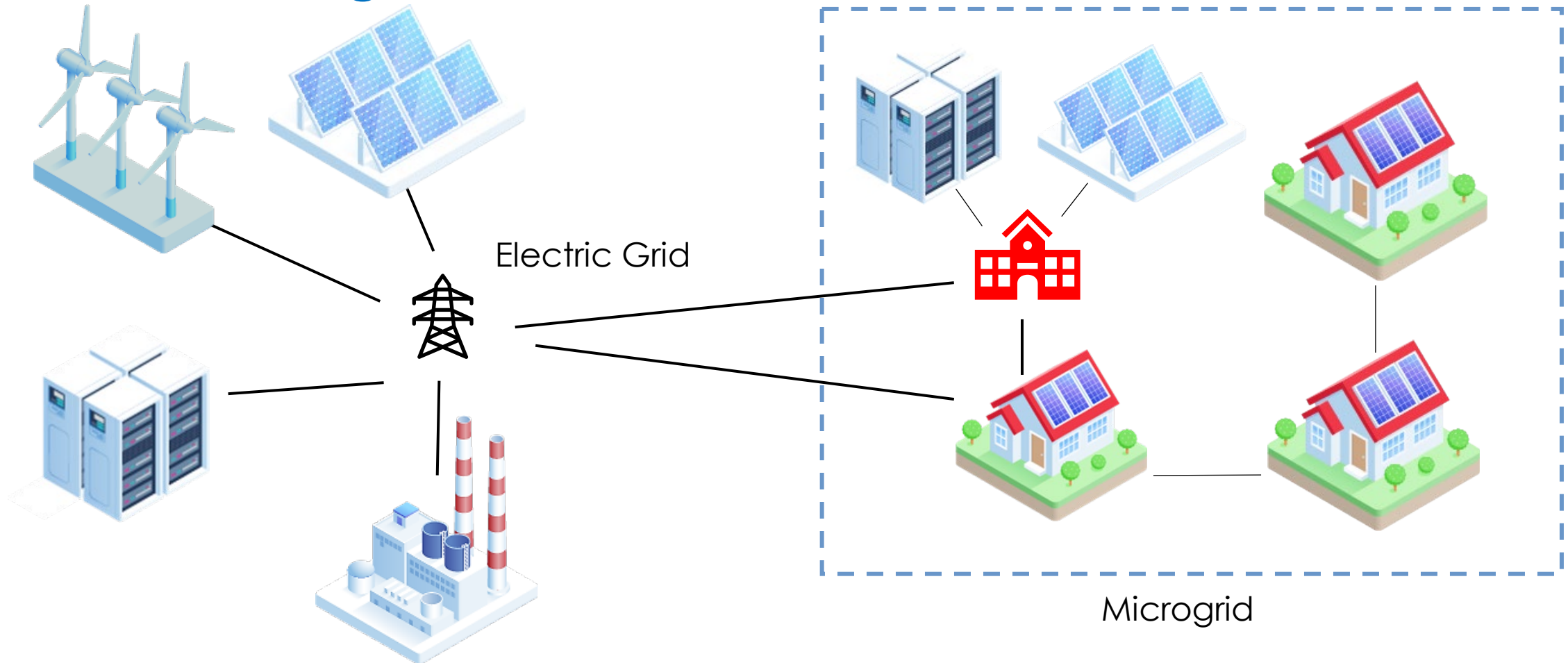
Per-grant proposed funding: \$100,000 to \$1,250,000

Application and funding cycle: Award Agreement with Technical Assistance Provider(s) in Early 2024, Awards to CBOs and Tribes through June 2027

- This program will provide grants up to \$1.25 million for the purpose of developing equity initiatives and clean energy access opportunities for eligible applicants.
- Provides funding to develop plans and bridge gaps in clean energy access programs at the community level.
- Program does NOT pay for infrastructure buildout. i.e. hardware or equipment.
- Grants to third party technical assistance provider or providers who will provide subgrants to CBOs and tribes
- Projects limited to activities:
 - supporting the Microgrid Incentive Program (MIP)
 - increasing subscriptions to income-qualified battery backup under the Self-Generation Incentive Program (SGIP)

Understanding Supported Programs

What is a Microgrid?



Understanding Supported Programs

Microgrid Incentive Program (MIP) Overview

- \$200 million to fund microgrids for communities at high risks of power outages.
- Will improve the reliability of electricity and reduce the impacts of outages.
- Critical infrastructure such as fire stations, community centers, and vulnerable households can be prioritized.
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by replacing diesel generation.
- Anticipated launch in 2023.

Understanding Supported Programs

How This Program Would Support MIP

- Provide resources for project development so bids are more likely to come to fruition.
- Provide resources for community outreach and planning to ensure community needs are accounted for in project design.
- Provide resources to ensure local clean energy access opportunities are considered in the scope of the microgrid project. These include planning to incorporate vehicle charging, local solar and storage, and building electrification and energy efficiency.

Understanding Supported Programs

Self-Generation Incentive Program (SGIP)

- SGIP offers rebates for installing energy storage technology in your home.
- Covers substantial portion of the cost of a battery system for income-qualified households.
- Reduces household's vulnerability to outages and can reduce electricity costs.

Understanding Supported Programs

How This Program Would Support the SGIP

- Fund outreach to hard-to reach households by trusted intermediaries (tribes and CBOs).
- Fund development of in-language outreach materials and communication campaigns.

How Grant Funding Gets to CBOs and Tribes

- CPUC will award a master grant to technical assistance (TA) provider(s).
- Tribes or CBOs request assistance from TA provider(s) for microgrid or SGIP projects.
- Designated TA provider evaluates these requests and provides technical assistance and funding to conduct work.
- TA provider provides metrics and reports on work completed to the CPUC.
- Additional details will be developed with grant award to TA provider(s).

Requirements for Technical Assistance Providers

- Awards will be to coalition of TA providers with diverse backgrounds and demonstrated expertise.
- Transparency, clear how much funding is available for tribes and CBOs.
- Ability to serve diverse areas of state.

Tribal Funding Considerations

Tribal Funding Considerations

Dedicated tribal funding of \$1 million

- Public Participation Grants: \$100,000
- Equity, Education, and Engagement Grants: \$250,000
- Clean Energy Access Grants: \$650,000

Key Dates

Grant Program Public Webinar	February 15
Comments on Draft Program Due	February 27
Draft Resolution Available for Public Comment	Late March
Public Application Workshop	Mid-May (tentative)
Round One Applications Open	Late May (tentative)

Closing

We Want to Hear From You

Send written comments to outreach@cpuc.ca.gov
by 5 p.m. on February 27, 2023.

Thank You!



California Public Utilities Commission

CPUC CBO Capacity Grant Program Discussion Draft

Stephanie Green
Chris Moore
Asia Powell
Hope Christman

TEAM/CHANGES, December, 2022



California Public
Utilities Commission

DISCUSSION DRAFT ONLY
Final plan subject to Commissioner approval.

Background: Current Barriers to CBO Outreach

- Many CBOs are under-resourced and under-staffed, forcing them to limit their engagement in governmental processes that can be very time consuming
- CBOs and the communities they serve lack technical capacity to access or engage with CPUC programs and policies
- CPUC unable to offer industry-standard stipends for CBO participation on workshop panels and advisory groups.
- I-Comp requirements too burdensome for one-off participation

DISCUSSION DRAFT ONLY

Final plan subject to Commissioner approval.

AB 179

In AB 179, the Budget Act of 2022, the California Legislature approved \$30,000,000 to be “used by the Public Utilities Commission for capacity grants to community-based organizations that conduct outreach and obtain technical assistance for participation in Public Utilities Commission decision making processes and supporting activities and that support ongoing equity initiatives and provide clean energy access opportunities to tribes, as defined pursuant to Section 21073 of the Public Resources Code, and other underrepresented communities.”

DISCUSSION DRAFT ONLY

Final plan subject to Commissioner approval.

Proposed Grant Programs

These grant programs are:

- Public Participation Grants
- Equity, Engagement, and Education Grants
- Clean Energy Access and Community Project Grants

Summary of Proposed Funding		
Category	Maximum Award	Total Available
Public Participation Grants	\$5,000	\$1,000,000
Equity, Engagement, and Education Grants	\$100,000	\$4,000,000
Clean Energy Access Initiatives and Community Project Grants	\$1,250,000	\$23,500,000
Administration	N/A	\$1,500,000
Total:		\$30,000,000

DISCUSSION DRAFT ONLY

Final plan subject to Commissioner approval.

Public Participation Grants

Total proposed funding: \$1,000,000

Per-grant proposed funding: \$250 to \$5,000

Application and funding cycle: Rolling

- Grants up to \$5,000 per activity for an eligible entity to participate in defined and discrete activities. e.g. speaking on a workshop panel, service on working group or participation in other decision-making processes.
- Provides prompt payment for these discrete engagements.
- Applications may be accepted and on a rolling basis. Total funding for the Public Participation Grants portion of this program will be \$1 million. Method of distribution of grants to be determined (example payments dispersed by completion of project activities identified in approved application).
- Annual program cap and cap per organization to ensure even distribution over time and fair distribution across many organizations.
- Awardees for these grants will not be eligible for I-Comp for the same activities.
- Similar to the I-Comp program, successful applicants will be expected to demonstrate that they will bring a unique contribution that is beneficial to ratepayers.

DISCUSSION DRAFT ONLY

Final plan subject to Commissioner approval.

Equity , Engagement and Education Grants:

Total proposed funding: \$4,000,000

Per-grant proposed funding: \$5,000 to \$100,000

Application and funding cycle: Awards in Summer of 2023 and Summer of 2024

- This program will provide grants up to \$100,000 for the purposes of building CBO, Tribal, and community capacity to understand and engage with CPUC decision-making processes.
- Activities in this category may include hiring consultants or technical experts, community engagement and outreach related to CPUC proceedings, education, training and curriculum development, and partnership and coalition development.
- Method of distribution of grants to be determined (example payments dispersed by completion of project milestones identified in approved application).

Clean Energy Access and Initiatives Grants:

Total proposed funding: \$23,500,000

Per-grant proposed funding: \$100,000 to \$1,250,000

Application and funding cycle: Awards in Summer of 2023 and Summer of 2024

- This program will provide grants up to \$1.25 million for the purpose of developing equity initiatives and clean energy access opportunities for eligible applicants
- Examples of potential projects include:
 - Projects that develop community led solutions to climate change mitigation, adaption, and resilience challenges that can be carried out in partnership with a utility
 - Projects that cooperatively develop distributed energy resource projects
 - Community needs assessments that can be used to inform CPUC decision-making and improved on the delivery of current programs; Community-led data collection and analysis
 - Programs that improve awareness, participation and enrollment in existing clean energy programs;
 - Projects that improve the affordability of utility services for the communities as well as provide local economic opportunities or technical project implementation; etc.
- Method of distribution of grants to be determined (example monthly disbursements or payments dispersed by completion of project milestones identified in approved application).

DISCUSSION DRAFT ONLY

Final plan subject to Commissioner approval.

Project Logistics:

Program Development:

- Initial design phase, program details to be determined based on stakeholder feedback, subject to approval by commissioners.
- Collaboration with internal industry divisions will be essential to developing the grant program.
- Feedback from external stakeholders will inform the design of the grant program, and the success of the program will depend on robust participation from CBOs.

Program Staffing:

- Staffing needs will be supported by a budget limited to 5% of the overall funds, not to exceed \$1.5 million. Funding could be used for the hiring of temporary staff and/or consultants to assist in the operations of the program and procuring the technical infrastructure to manage the project.

Performance:

- Performance reporting metrics for CBOs should include operational reporting (potentially including program activities, budget, invoice, etc.), and program metrics

Eligible Applicants :

Applicants eligible to apply for the CPUC's Equity Initiatives and Clean Energy Grant Program include:

- A California community-based organization holding a current tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code;
- A California Native American Tribe. For the purposes of this grant, this includes all Federally Recognized Tribes, and other California Native Americans, as defined by Public Resources Code Section 21073 "California Native American tribe" means a Native American tribe located in California that is on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission for the purposes of Chapter 905 of the Statutes of 2004.
- Tribal entities organizations incorporated under tribal law and wholly owned be the tribe, Tribal Section 17 Corporations, Tribal utilities and authorities operated under tribal law. Other non-profit organizations.

Questions?



Thank you!



California Public Utilities Commission

Stephanie Green
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415-703-5245

Christopher Moore
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213-220-1344

Appendix D

**Comments of the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) on the
Equity Initiatives and Clean Energy Access Grant Program**

February 27, 2023

Submitted by: Ericka Flores

eflores@nrdc.org

I. Introduction and Summary

The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) appreciates the opportunity to offer these comments on the “Equity Initiatives and Clean Energy Access Grant Program,” shared via webinar on February 15, 2023. NRDC is a non-profit membership organization with more than 3 million members and online activists who have an interest in receiving affordable energy services while reducing the environmental impact of California’s energy consumption.

II. Discussion

A. The current public participation process is inadequate and does not allow for us to learn from our Community Based and Tribal Organizations.

The process in which the CPUC has engaged Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and Tribal groups is inadequate. The first informative webinar was held by the CPUC on February 15, 2023. It was only at the end of this webinar that the public was informed on the February 27, 2023, deadline to submit comments on the draft program. This quick turnaround time does not allow for a comprehensive process to effectively learn from what CBO and Tribal partners want to see out of this program. The sole purpose of this program is to ensure CBO and Tribal participation within the CPUC. However, the limited time for comment submission fails to meet the very same goal this program is trying to achieve.

B. NRDC urges the Commission to add another opportunity for public comment prior to publishing the forthcoming draft resolution.

Given our comments in II.A., we recommend that the Commission offer stakeholders another opportunity to provide public comment on this innovative proposal by March 17, 2023. This would allow stakeholders to properly gather detailed information as to how they want to see this program to be rolled out in their communities. In addition, this would allow Commission Staff to produce the draft resolution on the same timeline (i.e., late March).

III. Conclusion

NRDC appreciates the opportunity to comment on this proposal. We look forward to working with the Commission and other stakeholders to ensure a successful “Equity Initiatives and Clean Energy Access Grant Program.”

Sincerely,

ERICKA FLORES (SHE/HER/ELLA)

Clean Energy & Equity Advocate

Climate & Clean Energy Program

NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL

1314 SECOND STREET

SANTA MONICA, CA 90401

WWW.NRDC.ORG

Northern Chumash Tribal Council
Comments on CA Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) Clean Energy Access Program Grant Webinar
Submitted February 20, 2023

Opportunities:

1. Northern Chumash Tribal Council sees this as an opportunity to work with CPUC to ensure the grant program is accessible to the tribes, and the process is transparent enough for tribes to successfully navigate the application documents.
2. NCTC sees this as an opportunity to work with the State Water Resources Control Board, the Air Resources Board, and other agencies as needed for information sharing and process development.

Challenges:

1. It would be helpful to have specific examples of the types of Equity, Engagement, and Education grant projects. Beyond helping CPUC with processes, how can we utilize this funding opportunity to improve our community without directly purchasing clean energy? Our tribe does not currently reside in one location. Without having community land/housing (yet), how can we benefit from these grant opportunities within the time frames provided?
2. Clean Energy Access Grant as described during webinar hasn't been fully fleshed out. Being that it will not pay for infrastructure buildout, it may be difficult to reach the most deserving communities. Perhaps consider a way to document project ideas that may be within reach of communities lacking infrastructure.

Other:

1. NCTC appreciates that CPUC's Environmental and Social Justice Action Plan offers ways to compensate Tribal organizations for the time/effort spent. We appreciate you welcoming our input and unique perspective.



February 27, 2023

Business and Community Outreach Program
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Ave
San Francisco, CA 94102

VIA EMAIL
outreach@cpuc.ca.gov

RE: Comment on Equity Initiatives and Clean Energy Access Grant Program

To the Business and Community Outreach Program,

The Center for Biological Diversity, Vote Solar, the Climate Center and the Coalition for Environmental Equity and Economics provide the following comments on the Equity Initiatives and Clean Energy Access Grant Program. We thank the Business and Community Outreach (“BCO”) program for implementing this urgently needed funding and offer the following recommendations in line with the California Public Utilities Commissions’ (“Commission”) Environmental and Social Justice (“ESJ”) Action Plan.

Community engagement and participation is an ongoing opportunity that the Commission should have a more formal process for determining internal changes to address, alongside a broader range of stakeholders. The need for improved and robust community engagement stems from decades of deficiencies in Commission processes, in addition to lack of capacity and funding available to community-based organizations (“CBOs”) themselves. However, the implementation of this funding is a good start, and we are encouraged to see support for expanding access to new participants and communities who have historically not been able to participate in regulatory processes.

I. Public Participation Grants

While we support this bucket of grant funding, we also emphasize the need to determine methods to minimize administrative burden on potential workshop or focus group participants. It

is well documented that communities that have been subjected to many years of systemic disinvestment and neglect often lack “the resources or infrastructure required for technical, complex, and time-consuming government grants.”¹ Participation in decision-making activities is already extensive and beyond the traditional scope of everyday work for potential participants, and could also involve travel in the future. The Commission should not add a grant application process on top of that added work. The Commission should limit administrative burden and itself conduct as much up-front work as possible to allow for efficient dispersion of payments after completion of activities.

In this regard, the Commission should define “prompt payment.” An actual timeline for funds will allow for easier planning and budgeting for CBOs and the Commission. Having grants paid within 2-3 weeks of application submittal or acceptance may be a reasonable amount of time.

BCO should also consider upfront funding. Organizations should also be able to apply to be partially compensated at the time of the activity they are participating in if being asked by the Commission or other agency. They can then send in an application with proof of participation for additional payment, but BCO should also develop methods to accommodate an organization that needs funding upfront to participate.

Finally, organizations should be allowed to file for Intervenor Compensation in addition to any public participation grants. Notices of intent to claim Intervenor Compensation are filed at the earliest stages of a proceeding, and organizations may not know ahead of time if they will be asked or want to participate in a working group, workshop or panel at the beginning of a proceeding. Intervenor Compensation should be *complimentary* to these discrete payments for activities such as working group meetings, focus groups, and workshops.

II. Equity, Engagement and Education Grants

The Commission should also strive to make new stakeholder participation in Commission proceedings as practical and effective as possible. For instance, in the Commission’s current Community Solar proceedings,² the Office of Business and Community Outreach could identify tribes or other ESJ communities seeking to build a community solar project. The Commission could solicit these communities’ input for the record of proceedings to determine whether various proposals will work for them. On the ground knowledge and feedback could guard against (again) designing community solar programs that are impracticable for DAC or other ESJ communities’ enrollment.

In this way, BCO could connect recipients with other environmental and energy justice advocates already in relevant proceedings, and leverage those groups’ expertise to ensure that “new” Commission stakeholders receive adequate support to navigate Commission procedural

¹ See e.g. The Greenlining Inst., *Fighting Redlining & Climate Change with Transformative Climate Communities* (Nov. 2021), <https://greenlining.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Fighting-Climate-Change-and-Redlining-with-Transformative-Climate-Communities-Final-Report.pdf>.

² Application 22-05-022, Application of PG&E (U39E) for Review of the Disadvantaged Communities – Green Tariff, Community Solar Green Tariff and Green Tariff Shared Renewables Programs (and related matters).

requirements, including relevant motions (for instance, for party status), intervenor compensation rules, and e-filing procedures.

Importantly, the Commission should modify the Scoring Criteria to include elements from the Commission’s San Joaquin Valley (“SJV”) Proceeding Decision that included guidance on Request for Proposals to ensure identification of suitable CBOs that are not hindered by trust barriers to assist in engagement efforts.³ In particular, Scoring Criteria should prioritize:

Demonstrated knowledge and experience in the [relevant communities]. Project Administrators shall demonstrate this experience by including Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) or individuals on their teams that have shown substantial commitment to and the trust of [relevant communities].⁴

Consequently, scoring should prioritize the “Demonstrated ability to represent underrepresented community” and “How Participation Could Benefit Community” over “Participation Proposal” and “Work Plan” proposals. Theoretically, under the current proposal, an applicant could score 80/100 without demonstrating that they meet these two criteria most relevant to ensuring community representation, and this may ultimately award organizations that are not representative if scored this way.

Scoring criteria to better account for community representation should be:

30	Demonstrated ability to represent Community
20	How Participation Benefits Community
20	Capacity Constraints
20	Participation Proposal
10	Workplan and Budget

All outreach proposals should also be scored based on their ability to show a demonstrated cultural and linguistic competency for the communities they plan to conduct outreach to.

It is not clear if organizations who receive these grants are able to regrant awarded funds to another organization to support involvement in Commission proceedings, though the description clearly supports organizations helping other organizations. Allowing regranting explicitly would enable organizations that are trusted allies of smaller, reduced capacity organizations to lift up and aid in their involvement.

Finally, as with the Public Participation Grants, the Commission should clearly delineate a timeline for disbursement of awarded funds. It is not clear how soon after the grant application window closes that grants will be decided and dispersed. It is important

³ See D.18-12-015 at 52.

⁴ *Id.*

to provide a clear timeline. Commission proceedings can often be lengthy, with limited opportunities to weigh in on major decisions. CBOs and other engagement entities would benefit from understanding the funding timeline in order to plan and budget for retaining technical assistance and consultants for proceedings already underway.

III. Clean Energy Access Grants

The Commission should consider broadening this bucket beyond the two programs, MIP and SGIP. Programs such as SOMAH, and potentially a new community renewables and storage program the Commission is considering,⁵ could also benefit from funds to help communities develop and plan projects alongside developers and technical experts. There are other programs, in addition to the MIP and SGIP, that can allow for innovative and equitable access for communities for clean energy. Clean Energy Access grants should take into consideration current projects in ESJ communities that potential grantees are managing and that may benefit from funding to expand or increase benefits to a community.

Even if the Commission has to limit Clean Energy Access grants to only the MIP and SGIP programs, the Commission should nevertheless broaden the scope of Clean Energy Access Grants to include efforts to train clean energy leaders, similar to the Community Energy Navigator (“CEN”) roles in the SJV Proceeding.⁶ The CENs not only assist in implementation of individual programs, but also continue to work in the same and other communities to implement other clean energy programs in a more holistic way, versus program by program. CENs also serve as a valuable resource to inform and eliminate similar barriers to clean energy in other nearby communities. In this way, the initial investment to train new CENs provides greater potential for longer term, and geographically broader engagement.

Furthermore, grants should be available for 501(c)3 organizations and not only limited to Technical Assistance (“TA”) providers. CBOs will be able to hire approved TA providers through the grants, and organizations should be allowed to determine where money is spent without needing to be regranted from a TA provider.

We also provide specific recommendations for the MIP and SGIP engagement efforts.

(i) Microgrid Incentive Program

The recent proposed decision for MIP implementation rejects the DAC Advisory Group’s request to act as a “filter” for projects to be approved. BCO’s implementation of MIP community engagement funds should therefore ensure that MIP projects are designed to meet community needs. MIP projects should be community led and driven.

Critically, mere solicitations for community feedback on a project that is already fleshed out and solidified will fail to enact the systematic changes that DAC and other ESJ communities need, erode trust, and squander opportunities to effectively use engagement to improve

⁵ *Supra*, note 2.

⁶ D.18-12-015 at 80-84.

programs.⁷ Effective community outreach should, in the earliest stages of the planning process, provide a platform for community members to discuss their experiences, struggles, thoughts, and desires regarding energy reliability and affordability, and access to renewable and distributed energy through microgrids. These meetings should explicitly make room for and encourage non-energy related concerns in order to gain insight into the community's quality of life and collective vision for the project. They should also be planned at times and places that maximize the number of community members who can conveniently attend, and care should be taken to provide services—like translation and interpreting services, childcare, and possibility for virtual attendance—that make it possible for all community members to meaningfully participate.⁸

BCO should ensure that winning bidders for this grant meet these recommendations, and integrate effective strategies to solicit community members' input to develop microgrid projects while avoiding overly technical language and jargon.

(ii) Self-Generation Incentive Program

Community engagement should target investments at a neighborhood scale, rather than in individual households or buildings, helping to meet multiple community needs and develop more mutually reinforcing community resources.⁹ In particular, as the state continues to tackle reliability challenges, the Commission should partner with CBOs and other agencies, in particular the Energy Commission, to determine best uses of the SGIP to realize community solar and storage clean energy resilience projects.

Simultaneously, however, shifting decision-making power towards community members without providing the appropriate resources and support to build technical expertise and capacity can set community leaders up for failure. It is therefore essential for TA grant recipients to also meet the criteria and recommendations detailed throughout this comment, in particular, a demonstrated commitment and history working with (preferably the same) DAC or other ESJ communities they are seeking to serve.

IV. Tribal Funding Considerations

Finally, we support BCO's proposed dedicated tribal funding. Several clean energy programs are limited to DACs. However, because most Tribal lands and communities in California are remote and have low levels of industrial and vehicle pollution, they may not be identified by CalEnviroScreen as DACs even though they may suffer from disproportionately high levels of poverty, energy burden, and poor electric service reliability. For example, in 2000 the Energy Information Administration found that 14.2% of households on Tribal lands are

⁷ Amanda Dewey, Jasmine Mah & Bryan Howard, *Ready to Go: State and Local Efforts Advancing Energy Efficiency*, American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy, (Nov. 2021), https://connectedcommunities.lbl.gov/sites/default/files/2022-02/ACEEE%20ready_to_go_toolkit_final_11-8-21.pdf.

⁸ Initiative for Energy Justice, *The Energy Justice Workbook*, Section 1 – Defining Energy Justice: Connections to Environmental Justice, Climate Justice, and the Just Transition, <https://iejusa.org/section-1-defining-energy-justice/>.

⁹ *Supra* note 1, at 24.

without electricity altogether, as compared to the national average of only 1.4% at the time. A 2020 study found that Native American households have an average energy burden that is 45% higher than white households.

Moreover, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory has estimated that Tribal lands in the contiguous U.S. are home to 17,600 billion kilowatt hours per year of solar energy *potential*, and California has the largest Native American population in the country. It is imperative for the Commission to explore this potential, in close coordination with the Energy Commission, in particular to address the state's reliability challenges.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Lin
Center for Biological Diversity

Stephanie Doyle
Vote Solar

Kurt Johnson
The Climate Center

Esperanza Vielma
Coalition for Environmental Equity and Economics

**Comments Of The California Environmental Justice Alliance (“CEJA”) on the
Equity Initiatives And Clean Energy Access Grant Program**

February 27, 2023

Submitted by: Alexis Sutterman

alexis@caleja.org

I. Introduction

The California Environmental Justice Alliance (“CEJA”) respectfully submits these comments on the Equity Initiatives and Clean Energy Access Grant Program (“Program”). AB 179 (Ting), signed by Governor Gavin Newsom, appropriates \$30,000,000 to the California Public Utilities Commission for capacity grants to community-based organizations that conduct outreach and obtain technical assistance for participation in energy-related decision-making processes and supporting activities at the Commission and other state agencies, and that support ongoing equity initiatives and provide clean energy access opportunities to tribes and other underrepresented communities.

On February 15, 2023, Commission staff held a webinar providing an overview of the draft grant program. These comments are timely submitted by the Commission’s deadline of February 27, 2023.

I. The Commission Should Take This Funding Opportunity to Build Holistic Avenues for Public Participation.

The \$30 million earmarked by the Governor for purposes of CBO and tribal capacity-building at the Commission and other state agencies provides a much-needed opportunity to build holistic, better-integrated avenues for public participation. This could include providing information on proceedings, events, and current activities at the Commission in an accessible way. Importantly, the Legislature envisioned that this money could be used for broad purposes including providing “capacity grants” and “support [for] ongoing equity initiatives and provid[ing] clean energy access.” The Legislature also envisioned that this money could assist groups with participation in front of other state agencies including the Air Resource Board and the Energy Commission. The Legislature’s broad vision and intent must be reflected in how this money is administered. Currently, it is virtually impossible to figure out where and how community members may want to engage at the Commission, especially if they do not already have built-in organizational infrastructure for PUC engagement.

In addition to providing broad capacity funding to CBOs, to aid CBOs in meaningfully engaging more at the Commission, the Commission’s webpage could include a community page where community members can sort by location of project and type of information the PUC is seeking, and submit comments via email. This webpage should list all active and all past or archived proceedings with clear instructions on how to participate in the proceeding, and each proceeding should be accompanied by a summary, current timeline, and current status of the proceeding. Although non-parties can already submit public comments, it’s unclear how much public comment is factored into decision-making. Public comments on a docket should be emailed to the service list by the Commission to ensure that parties are aware of them, and to improve transparency and accountability to public comments provided by non-party members of the public.

II. The Commission's Proposal Continues to Direct Communities into Individual, Technical Proceedings, Rather Than Holistically Responding to Community Needs.

CEJA appreciates the Commission's commitment to improving the capacity of community-based organizations ("CBOs") and tribes to participate in agency decision-making. Broadly speaking, CEJA supports the Commission providing funding to compensate organizations for their time participating in Commission activities and to assist in planning for clean energy projects.

However, the Commission's proposal continues to contemplate how communities can fit within the confines of the Commission's technical, piecemeal proceedings, rather than looking holistically at what communities need to be empowered to transform their communities. This transformation requires creating a one-stop shop where communities can easily access information on how to work with the Commission, local governments, and other parties to install resilience centers, clean back-up generators, community solar, weatherization, energy efficiency, heat pumps, and more.

The Commission has discussed the idea of "community champions" and acknowledged that they will be critical for decommissioning gas lines in Rulemaking 20-01-007, but this does not mean that there should be different community champions for each proceeding. The system of community involvement must be more holistic so community members and CBOs can go to a single place to access the resources they need. The Commission should work with other state agencies, local governments, and trusted CBOs to help resource and develop these strong community connections throughout the state to start working on transformative projects both at the community and at the individual household level.

III. The Program Should Not Dedicate Over Half its Funding to Serve Solely the MIP and SGIP.

Given the need to create a holistic program, the Program should not silo this funding opportunity by dedicating over half its funding to support the Microgrid Incentive Program ("MIP") and Self-Generation Incentive Program ("SGIP"). The Commission's work on capacity-building should span across specific programs or projects, and the Commission must work with communities to integrate their ability to transition communities holistically.

In addition, even if it were appropriate to direct funding to specific proceedings, the Commission must make more effort to ensure that this process is administratively seamless. For example, potential MIP applicants who require upfront funding for technical assistance must be able to directly apply and receive these grants and not work through another provider. The programs must all work together smoothly to further enable CBO, tribal, or other DVC applicants to participate.

IV. The Commission Must Be Transparent and Demonstrate How Community Input is Incorporated Into Program Design and Decision-making.

Commission staff noted that it developed its February 15th, 2023, presentation with input with various interested parties, including through a focus group of 12 CBOs and tribal organizations. However, it's unclear who these organizations are, how or why they were chosen, why other CBOs were not included, and, importantly, which suggestions from the focus group were incorporated and which were not. CEJA also questions whether staff performed outreach for any other CBOs, as CEJA and many other allies and advocates were unaware of the presentation and comment opportunity until very recently, and unaware of the focus group entirely.

The Commission must make clear how community input is being used to design both this Program and its programs more generally. CEJA is concerned about outreach that could involve collecting feedback and “checking the box,” but proceeding with what the Commission was planning on doing in the first place. This funding should not be used for that type of outreach, but rather to help empower communities to have a clear voice in the projects being developed in their communities. The Commission should demonstrate how it is abiding by its own Environmental and Social Justice Action Plan concretely, and not merely symbolically, in their decisions. Transparency about how community input is solicited and incorporated into program design would help mitigate this concern.

For example, it would be helpful to know what exactly the role of the Business and Community Outreach (“BCO”) program is, which CBOs the BCO program communicates with, and what activities the BCO program undertakes to foster meaningful relationships with CBOs. Ideally, this information would be publicly posted online. The BCO program should also alert CBOs with proposals impacting the relevant community and information that the Commission is seeking that may be relevant to those communities. This would not entail spamming CBOs with endless emails about Commission goings-on—it would require fostering real relationships with CBOs that lead to an understanding of the issues of interest and relevance to each community or community-based group. Any interested CBO should be able to participate with the BCO office in this way. This type of genuine relationship-building will require staff capacity and institutional commitment to building holistic CBO capacity, over after-the-fact notice to communities after decisions have already been made.

V. CEJA urges the Commission to add another opportunity for public comment prior to publishing the forthcoming draft resolution.

During the Commission's first informative webinar on the Program on February 15, 2023, the public was informed about the February 27, 2023 deadline to submit comments on the proposal. This did not allow stakeholders enough time to thoroughly discuss, vet, and align on a more comprehensive set of recommendations. We recommend that the Commission offer stakeholders another opportunity to provide public comment on this proposal by March 17, 2023.

VI. Conclusion

CEJA appreciates the opportunity to offer comments on this proposal, and we look forward to working with the Commission and other stakeholders to ensure it truly supports and empowers communities on the frontlines.

Sincerely,

Alexis Sutterman

California Environmental Justice Alliance