

SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING GRANTS

Sustainable Transportation Planning Grants for Native American Tribal Governments

Objectives of the Sustainable Communities Grants

The Sustainable Communities grants fund local and regional multimodal transportation and land use planning projects that further the region's RTP SCS/APS (where applicable), contribute to the State's GHG reduction targets, and assist in achieving the Caltrans Mission and Grant Program Objectives. Examples of eligible Sustainable Communities projects include active transportation/complete streets plans, corridor plans, safe routes to schools plans, and transit-oriented development plans. The Technical sub-category grants support the implementation of Senate Bill 743 (SB 743, Chapter 386, Statutes of 2013). Examples of eligible Technical sub-category projects include the development of improved tools to measure VMT and induced travel and development and implementation of VMT mitigation programs.

Contracting Options

- 1. Contracting with Tribes Directly** - The authority Caltrans uses to contract with tribes directly comes from California Streets and Highways Code section 94. A Limited Waiver of Sovereign Immunity is no longer required to contract with Caltrans directly. The RGA boilerplate template for Native American Tribal Governments is available upon request.
- 2. Partnering with a Regional Agency** - Collaborate with an MPO or RTPA to pass through grant funding to tribes for planning projects where options or time are limited. This option uses the three-part contract, MFTA/OWP/OWPA, and is usually the quickest contracting option.
- 3. Transferring Funds Pursuant to 23 U.S.C 202(a)(9)** - Section 202(a)(9) of title 23, United States Code encourages cooperation between States and Tribes by allowing any funds received from a State, county, or local government to be credited to appropriations available for the Tribal Transportation Program (TTP). One potential source of such funding is funds apportioned or allocated to a State under title 23. Section 104(f)(3) allows the Secretary of Transportation to, at the request of a State, transfer among States, or to the FHWA, funds that have been so apportioned or allocated. This provision, used in conjunction with the authority under 23 U.S.C. 209(a)(9), allows State funds to be transferred to FHWA, which in turn would provide the funds to the specified Tribe.

Funding Information

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES COMPETITIVE

- **Approximately \$17.9 Million**
- **Up to \$2 Million Tribal Set-Aside**
- **State Funds:** RMRA & SHA
- **Minimum Grant Request:** \$50,000
- **Maximum Grant Request:** \$700,000
- **Local Match:** No Local Match Requirement

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES TECHNICAL

- **\$3 Million Set-Aside**

ELIGIBILITY

- Federally Recognized Tribes

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