

California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)



Equity Initiatives and Clean Energy Access Grant Program

Low Income Oversight Board

June 15, 2023



California Public
Utilities Commission

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.

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.

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	\$3,000,000
Equity, Engagement, and Education Grants	\$200,000	\$9,500,000
Clean Energy Access Grants	\$500,000	\$15,000,000
Dedicated Tribal Funding*		\$1,000,000
Administration	N/A	\$1,500,000
Total:		\$30,000,000

* applicable to California Native American Tribes

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.

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) and other funding programs.
- 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.

Clean Energy Access Grants

Total proposed funding: \$15,000,000

Per-grant proposed funding: up to \$500,000

Application and funding cycle: Awards in Late 2023 and Summer of 2025

- This program will provide grants 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.
- A clean energy Subject Matter Expert will be available to provide technical assistance
- Projects activities include: Microgrid Incentive Program (MIP), Self-Generation Incentive Program (SGIP), and TECH Initiative

Public Comment Open

- Taking comment on Draft Resolution until June 29, 2023 at 5pm.
- Draft Resolution : <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/capacitygrants>
- Send comments and request assistance: capacitygrants@cpuc.ca.gov