

Summary of TTA Changes
Decision 24-03-041 (March 7, 2024)
Tribal Technical Assistance
Application Requirements and Guidelines

On March 7, 2024, the Commission issued Decision (D) 24-03-041, expanding eligibility to Tribal Consortiums, increasing grant amount availability to \$250,000, allowing multiple projects under a single grant, and expanding the range of work products eligible for grant financing. Below is a list of the TTA changes.

- Subsidy Level Increased to \$250,000 per Tribe in any one fiscal year.
 - Ministerial Review limit increased to \$250,000 per Tribe per fiscal year.
- Speed requirements increased to 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload.
 - Bandwidth must reliably meet or exceed speeds.
 - Proposals for reimbursable work products that are reasonably expected to result in broadband infrastructure projects that will be designed to provide service to unserved households and businesses and that are designed to, upon completion, reliably meet or exceed 25 megabits per second download and 3 megabits per second upload are eligible TTA Grants.
- Tribal consortia are eligible for TTA Grants.
 - Tribal consortia refer to any multi-Tribal organization such as the Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association and any future Tribal Consortia that may be established pursuant to PU Code § 281(g)(1).
 - Tribal consortia cannot get duplicative funding for same activities from the CASF Rural and Urban Regional Broadband Consortia Grant Account.
- Required application documents specifically stated:
 - Grant application form and supporting documents.
 - Letter of Tribal support
 - Consultant(s) scope of work or contract(s)
 - Consultant(s) resumes and company background.
 - Affidavit
(CPUC standard affidavit form on the TTA website addresses all the stated attestations.)
- List of activities available for TTA grants expanded.
 - Added: Needs assessments, and broadband deployment-related grant writing
 - CASF funds for communications technical assistance, include but not limited to feasibility studies, market studies, needs assessments, broadband deployment-related grant writing, and/or business plans.

- Only Entities *without* a financial interest are eligible to do TTA work.
 - TTA funds shall not be used to engage entities that have a financial interest in the work product(s) for which funds are granted.
 - Wholly-owned Tribal entities are exempt from this prohibition.

- Mandatory reporting of material changes in TTA application entries.
 - Material changes in TTA application entries such as discontinuing operation or bankruptcy, or change of scope of work or consultant, or change of name (DBA), change of address, telephone, fax number or E-mail address, must be reported in writing to the California Public Utilities Commission.

- Definition of Tribal Technical Assistance
 - Focuses on work product generated from an expanded list of activities.
 - Reimbursable work product is the final report, broadband deployment grant proposal, study or agreement resulting from any of the eligible activities listed as reimbursable technical assistance.
 - Multiple work products per grant:
Tribes may propose multiple reimbursable work products per application, with a total requested reimbursement not to exceed \$250,000 per Tribe per fiscal year.
 - Expanded list of activities
 - Technical assistance means reimbursement for work product resulting from activities such as (but not limited to):
 - Studies or Reports:
 - Preparation of environmental, feasibility, and engineering design studies or reports in the development of needs assessments, market studies, broadband strategic plans, or business plans by or for tribes in their pursuit of the provision of service to unserved communities.
 - Grant writing:
 - Costs incurred for broadband deployment-related grant writing for the purpose of the provision of broadband service to unserved communities.
 - Consultant services
 - Consultant services secured to complete reimbursable work product(s).
 - Tribal staff hours
 - Tribal staff hours mean the specific task performed during the hours for which reimbursement is requested that would not be performed by the Tribal staff absent the grant award.
 - Tribal staff hours dedicated to reimbursable activities are eligible for reimbursement, provided that such work is incremental to a Tribe's pre-grant award scope of activities.

- Administrative costs
 - Administrative costs mean indirect overhead costs attributable to a project, per generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP), and the direct cost of complying with Commission administrative and regulatory requirements related to the grant itself.
 - Up to 15 percent of the total requested for reimbursement may be used to reimburse the Tribe for administrative costs associated with securing or completing the reimbursable work product(s).
 - Tribal grantees must submit itemized accounting of any portions of an award used to reimburse for administrative costs associated with securing or completing a reimbursable work product.
 - Itemized accounting must demonstrate that the total requested for reimbursement does not exceed 15 percent of the total authorized award.