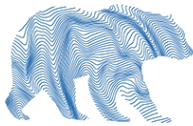


California Regional Investment Initiative (RII)  
Tribal Investment Phase Request for Proposal (RFP)

February 2025

Presented by the California Jobs First Council, the Governor's Office of  
Business & Economic Development, and the Labor & Workforce Development  
Agency.



**CALIFORNIA**  
BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



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## About the Program

### Introduction

The Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz), in partnership with the Employment Development Department (EDD), and on behalf of the Labor & Workforce Development Agency (LWDA), and the California Jobs First Council, announces the availability of up to \$15 million from the Regional Investment Initiative (RII, formerly the Community Economic Resilience Fund) for the Tribal Investment Phase. **The Tribal Investment Phase supports tribal-led economic development through funding for planning, pre-development, and implementation projects that support a resilient economy.**

### Background

Tribal communities are on the frontlines of climate change, which threatens their ancestral lands, food sources, cultural heritage, and sacred ways of life. For generations, Tribal communities have faced chronic underinvestment, and climate impacts—including drought, wildfires, rising sea levels, and extreme weather events—have deepened existing challenges and inequities. California is committed to addressing these challenges by fostering meaningful consultation and collaboration while respecting Tribal sovereignty and self-governance.

The State's policies recognize the importance of investing in climate resilience, clean energy solutions, and economic growth. The Tribal Investment Phase aims to direct support to Tribal communities for economic recovery, infrastructure development, and climate action. The program provides financial support to Tribes in designing economic recovery and transition strategies that help diversify Tribal economies and develop or expand environmentally sustainable industries that create high-quality, broadly accessible jobs for Californians in Tribal communities.

These guidelines have been developed in alignment with the intent of Governor Gavin Newsom's Executive Order on Racial Equity (EO N-16-22).

The program is overseen by the California Jobs First Council, which is led by the Governor's Office of Business & Economic Development and the Labor & Workforce Development Agency. The California Jobs First Council also includes:

- California Natural Resources Agency
- California Department of Food and Agriculture
- California Environmental Protection Agency
- California Health and Human Services Agency
- California Department of Veterans Affairs
- California Public Utilities Commission
- Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Investments.

Council members work to increase opportunities and use resources across agencies to accomplish the goals of RII.

### Purpose and Objectives of the Tribal Investment Phase

Up to \$15 million in grant funding is available within the Tribal Investment Phase of the RII program. These grants are intended to allow a range of activities related to economic growth, job training and access, business development, climate action, infrastructure development, and research and development. However, individual applicants have broad flexibility to define what "economic growth" means for Tribal communities. Generally, projects should be designed to improve the conditions for economic growth and resilience in Tribal communities.

The core goals of this funding include:

- **Equity:** Investments must prioritize the needs and interests of historically excluded communities across the region. Prioritizing equity requires identifying how the benefits and burdens of economic development, regional planning, and other relevant processes are distributed in and across communities.
- **Climate :** Investments must advance economic development that is self-sustaining and aims at a carbon-neutral, climate-resilient economy addressing the needs of the region's communities.
- **Job quality and access:** Investments must prioritize jobs that provide a family-sustaining wage, health benefits, retirement benefits, worker advancement opportunities, a safety net, and allow for collective worker input. These jobs should be stable, with predictable schedules, and safe working conditions. Quality jobs must be accessible to communities

throughout the region, with a specific emphasis on ensuring equitable access for members of Tribal communities and other groups facing barriers in the labor market.

Good-paying jobs refers to jobs that meet standards as defined in the Jobs First Regional Plans for the region where the project is meant to serve.

## Program Information

### Eligible Applicants

All proposals must adhere to proposal requirements, use the required format, and include all requested information and attachments or the submission will be deemed non-responsive. Proposals that do not meet the minimum requirements will not be scored nor considered for funding. The most competitive proposals will be those that incorporate the goals and objectives outlined in this RFP. Refer to the Application section on page twelve for guidance on completing, formatting, and submitting all elements of the proposal package.

All California Native American Tribes ("Tribes") are eligible for funding under the Tribal Investment Phase. Tribal/Native-led organizations are also eligible to receive funding.

Only applications from California Native American Tribes, a consortium of California Native American Tribes, or Tribal/Native-led non-profit organizations will be accepted. Award recipients will work closely with staff from GO-Biz, LWDA, and EDD – Central Office Workforce Services Division.

For-profit entities and individuals are not eligible to apply, and applicants must be based in California.

Note - Awards under the Tribal Investment Phase will not preclude Tribes from receiving additional funds through other Regional Investment Initiative funding opportunities (e.g., implementation grants).

### Eligible Projects

Eligible applicants will have broad flexibility to define what "economic development" means for Tribal communities. Projects should be designed to improve the conditions for economic growth and resilience in Tribal communities.

The Tribal Investment Phase offers funding for projects in any of three categories: planning, pre-development, or implementation. Each category is defined below and includes criteria that proposed projects must meet:

### Planning Projects

- Planning processes conducted to help Tribes complete a [Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy \(CEDS\)](#) - eligible document, or to complete another necessary formal planning process to prepare the applicant to apply for additional funding from the State and other various sources.

### Pre-Development Projects

- Labeled as “exploratory” or “last mile,” with the intent of identifying viable projects that could become “ready-to-go” or any projects that may be non-viable. These projects must align with the existing Regional Investment Initiative’s priorities of equity, sustainability, job quality and access, economic competitiveness, and economic resilience. The funds may also be identified in federal grant applications as matching funds.
  - i. Pre-development activities include, but are not limited to:
    1. Feasibility studies; market analysis; environmental assessments, surveys, and remediation; site acquisition; site and development plans; project designs; permitting; establishing a regional tax increment financing district (TIF); drafting and negotiating Community Benefits Agreements and Community Workforce Agreements; establishing public-private partnerships, Community Development Corporations and Community Development Financial Institutions; revolving loan funds; joint powers authorities; financial planning (e.g., preliminary budget and construction financing); with the goal of establishing long-term funding opportunities for implementation of Planning Phase regional strategies;
    2. Basic environmental infrastructure pre-development, construction, and development of long-term operations and maintenance plans for infrastructure such as: clean water supply systems; wastewater systems; waste disposal systems; pollution control services;
    3. Support costs for building and sustaining the capacity of project leads and partners, such as: investments in partner and local staff development; funding new and/or critical positions;

acquiring or utilizing tools and resources to increase partner capacity for project planning and implementation; organizational capacity activities such as access to financial services or legal review; developing new pilot or demonstration projects and programs; participation and/or partnership with existing workforce programs; providing or securing technical assistance for partners.

## Implementation Projects

Projects or programs designed, constructed, or implemented that will support Tribal economic development and strengthen community resilience.

Implementation projects must be identified as ready-to-go, must have completed feasibility and environmental studies, and must have received permits, if relevant. Implementation projects must also align with a current Tribal or regional CEDS document or other relevant planning process (e.g. stated Tribal goals). The Tribal Investment Phase will fund implementation projects within, but not limited, to the following categories: Innovation Ecosystem, Entrepreneurship and Access to Capital, Infrastructure and Community Facility Development, Social Infrastructure, and Workforce Development, as defined below.

### *Innovation Ecosystem*

Projects address innovation gaps in an industry, such as fostering an entrepreneurial culture, bringing ideas to market by supporting product or commercialization development, market-relevant R&D investment, support for businesses to incorporate new products or processes, and related supply chain advancements.

### *Entrepreneurship and Access to Capital*

Projects support firms and entrepreneurs with the capital and technical assistance required for new and expanding businesses, such as incubators and accelerators and revolving loan funds, among others.

### *Infrastructure and Community Facility Development*

Projects support targeted value chain investment for cluster growth, such as tailored or supportive infrastructure development, and multipurpose real estate development.

### *Social Infrastructure*

Projects that remove barriers for communities to access opportunities such as equity initiatives, capacity or network building, or wrap-around safety net supports that enable participation in local and regional economic initiatives.

### *Workforce Development*

Projects that support workforce training and/or supportive services, in sustainable career pathways, and align with both the priority industries, as defined in the relevant regional Tribal specific economic development strategy, a relevant California Jobs First strategy and the goals of the 2024 Master Plan for Career Education<sup>12</sup>:

- Training programs are defined as participant-serving programs where participants receive skill development and/or experience and are expected to be placed in employment following training.

Activities funded by this grant program must comply with applicable local, state, federal, and Tribal laws and regulations, including the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and local permitting requirements. Interagency staff may assist the applicant with verifying applicable compliance with state and local policies; however, the applicant is solely responsible for project compliance. Applicants must be prepared to submit any permits, surveys, or reports that support the status of their environmental compliance.

### *Implementation Project Criteria*

Implementation projects must align with the Regional Investment Initiative's priorities and must meet the following criteria:

1. Equity
  - Provide direct, meaningful, and assured benefits to Tribal communities.
2. Climate
  - Align with major State climate goals and policies (e.g. Sustainable Groundwater Management Act<sup>1</sup>, Executive Order N-82-20<sup>2</sup>, California Air Resources Board Scoping Plan<sup>3</sup>).
3. Job Quality and Access

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<sup>1</sup> <https://water.ca.gov/programs/groundwater-management/sgma-groundwater-management>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/10.07.2020-EO-N-82-20-.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/programs/ab-32-climate-change-scoping-plan/2022-scoping-plan-documents>



- Promote the creation of family-sustaining jobs with healthcare and retirement benefits, career advancement opportunities, access to training, consistent scheduling, safe working conditions, and opportunities for collective worker input and representation. This could include creating new high-quality jobs, retaining existing high-quality jobs, or improving the quality of existing jobs.
- Ensure equitable access to quality jobs for Tribal communities.
- Incorporate labor peace and neutrality agreements where possible.

### *Implementation Program Metrics*

Proposals must include indicators and metrics for evaluating project success that are specific, measurable, and appropriate. Both quantitative and qualitative methods for evaluating project success are acceptable. Assessments of project success must use clear logic and be evidence-based or supported by data where appropriate.

### **Disallowed Activities and Expenditures**

Investments in new fossil fuel extraction infrastructure or activity, or enhancements to expand fossil fuel production will not be eligible for Regional Investment Initiative Implementation funding.

All costs incurred must meet the tests of reasonableness, allowability and allocability in accordance with the grant agreement terms. GO-Biz and EDD may require grantees to provide an audit of funds by the state or a third-party to verify compliance with the grant agreement. Recipients are responsible for ensuring proper management and financial accountability of state funds to preclude future cost disallowances.

## **Application Process**

### **Funding Availability**

Awarding decisions are based on the availability of funds. Estimated amounts and dates are not final and are subject to change.

- A total of \$15 million from State General Funds is being made available through this RFP, with two review and award periods.
- Applicants proposing an individual project may apply for any amount from \$500,000 up to \$1 million.
- Applicants serving as part of a coalition may apply for any amount from \$500,000 up to \$2 million.

- Applications will be accepted from February 27, 2025, to March 13, 2026.
- Projects will be awarded at a 100% grant rate; therefore, no leverage is required.

### Application Submission & Review Schedule

GO-Biz and LWDA, on behalf of the Jobs First Council, will review applications and make award decisions two times during the RFP application periods reviewing only applications received prior to 5:00 PM PT on each due date. Project applications not selected for a grant award in the first review period will be required to reapply during the next review period. Should duplicate applications be submitted for a project, the most recent application will be evaluated.

The two review periods are as follows:

Round 1 Full Application Due: April 30, 2025

Round 2 Full Application Due: March 13, 2026

All applications shall be submitted via email to [regionalinvestment@gobiz.ca.gov](mailto:regionalinvestment@gobiz.ca.gov) by 5:00 PM PST on or before the due dates listed above. An email will be returned to you to verify the receipt of your application with GO-Biz timestamp. Applicants are encouraged to submit 48 hours early to ensure no errors in submission as late applicants will not be accepted under any circumstances, without exception. There are no exceptions or extensions of this deadline. Any technology challenges or inability of an applicant to submit an application by the deadline for any reason shall not be grounds for an extension of the deadline. For help applying, please send an email to [regionalinvestment@gobiz.ca.gov](mailto:regionalinvestment@gobiz.ca.gov) and copy our grant team at [Rllgrants@gobiz.ca.gov](mailto:Rllgrants@gobiz.ca.gov) with the subject line: Tribal Investment Application Help.

### Period of Performance and Grant Agreement

Grants awarded within this RFP are anticipated to have a period of performance (POP) of 24 months. This POP includes all necessary implementation and start-up activities. No obligation of funds will be allowed before an executed grant agreement is provided. Any funds not expended during the grant agreement period shall be returned to the State.

**Note** – A 24-month POP is not guaranteed and GO-Biz reserves the right to reduce the POP if necessary for encumbrance or expenditure requirements.

Similarly, GO-Biz reserves the right to extend the POP beyond the anticipated 24-months considering unanticipated delays in project implementation.

During the POP, the awardees will be required to abide by all the obligations as stipulated within this application and the signed Grant Agreement. This includes submittal of reports to GO-Biz including identifying progress made toward stated goals. The exact reporting requirements will be finalized by an agreement between the awardee and GO-Biz.

### **Application Criteria and Evaluation**

GO-Biz and LWDA, on behalf of EDD and the Jobs First Council, will confirm eligibility of each project. GO-Biz, LWDA and other agency staff from within the California Jobs First Council will comprise a review committee that will review and evaluate each qualifying proposal for final consideration. The review committee will make a recommendation to the California Jobs First Council Co-Chairs. The recommendation will be based on consensus reached after each application is thoroughly reviewed, evaluated, and discussed by the review committee. The California Jobs First Council Co-Chairs will take the recommendations and input of the review committee into consideration along with the Council's mission and program priorities to make the final designations and funding decisions.

### **Grounds for Rejection**

GO-Biz and LWDA's determination as to eligibility for grant funding, or the amount of grant funding awarded, is final and not subject to appeal or protest. GO-Biz, on behalf of EDD and the Jobs First Council, reserves the right to waive any immaterial deviation in a proposal; however, the waiver of an immaterial deviation in a proposal shall in no way modify the document or excuse the applicant from full compliance with the proposal requirements after the applicant is awarded the agreement.

A proposal shall be rejected if:

- The proposal package is received after the exact time and date set for receipt of proposals.
- The proposal does not meet the requirements and is not prepared and submitted as outlined in the application format section.
- Plagiarism, including but not limited to taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as one's own, and failure to cite someone else's work or ideas, is prohibited and is grounds for disqualification. Using

Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) tools to complete any portion of an application, without citation, may be considered plagiarism and may also be grounds for disqualification.

- The proposal contains false or misleading statements or references which do not support an attribute or conditions contended by the applicant; and if, in the opinion of EDD, GO-Biz or LWDA, such information was intended to mislead the review committee in its evaluation of the proposal.
- The proposal is confidential, conditional, and incomplete or if it contains any irregularities. The determination of rejection for grant funding is final and not subject to appeal or protest.

## Application

All applications must adhere to Application Package requirements, use Century Gothic 12 points font, and include all the requested information and attachments; otherwise, the application will be deemed nonresponsive.

**Applications that do not meet the minimum requirements will not be scored nor considered for funding.**

One proposal will be accepted from each applicant. Do not submit more than one proposal. The entire proposal must be submitted electronically to [regionalinvestment@gobiz.ca.gov](mailto:regionalinvestment@gobiz.ca.gov) by the review period deadline. All applicants must submit a complete Application Package including a cover page with an electronic signature and all required elements.

If you have any questions regarding the Application Package after having carefully reviewed the RFP and Appendices, please email GO-Biz staff at [regionalinvestment@gobiz.ca.gov](mailto:regionalinvestment@gobiz.ca.gov).

## Notice of Intent

Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to notify GO-Biz of their intent to apply for this funding opportunity by emailing [regionalinvestment@gobiz.ca.gov](mailto:regionalinvestment@gobiz.ca.gov) by 5:00pm on March 26, 2025 (round one) or February 13, 2026 (round two), confirming your interest in applying. Applicants that do not provide this email notification may still apply for funding. These non-binding notifications will help inform the GO-Biz to develop a more efficient process for reviewing grant applications in this competition. Please send the email with the following details:

- **Subject Line Title:** Notice of Intent –Tribal Investment Phase – Organization's Name
- **Body of Email:** Organization's Name, Contact Person, Title, Phone Number, and Email Address

### Cover/Signature Page

The Cover/Signature page must be completed in its entirety and submitted as a PDF document with the authorized signatory's electronic signature. Please ensure that contact information for both the authorized contact person and the authorized signatory is correct. Save this document according to the following naming convention: [Applicant Name] [Grant Initialism] PY 24-25 Cover Page. For example, "CommunityOrg TIP PY 24-25 CoverPage.

### Required Exhibits

Applicants need to complete only the required information in the exhibits. Applicants cannot change or alter the exhibits. Required Exhibits must be submitted in a MS Word document and saved according to the following naming convention: [Applicant Name] [Grant Initialism] PY XX-XX [Exhibit]. For example, CommunityOrg TIP PY 24-25 ExA for Exhibit A. Names can be no longer than 40 characters.

### Exhibit A: Project Narrative

A maximum of 10 pages (12-point Century Gothic font, single-spaced) will be accepted for the Project Narrative (Exhibit A). Applicants have the flexibility to decide how they want to distribute the 10 pages over the narrative requirements. The Project Narrative must include the following elements:

#### *Objectives and Vision*

- Briefly describe the objectives and vision of the project. Identify the project type (planning, pre-development, or implementation);
- Identify the problem(s) that the project aims to address and briefly describe how the project aims to reduce the problem(s).

#### *Project Design*

- Explain the project in detail by articulating the project area and specific project goals, outputs, and outcomes;

- Explain activities, timelines, and milestones included in the Proposed Workplan that demonstrate how the goals of the project will be achieved;
- Include clear indicators and metrics for tracking success of the project in achieving anticipated outcomes.

### *Alignment with California Jobs First Priorities*

- **Equity** – Identify how the project provides direct, meaningful, and assured benefits to Tribal communities.
- **Climate** – Identify how the project aligns with major state climate goals and policies such as mitigating greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, reducing climate vulnerability, or promoting climate adaptation or mitigation efforts.
- **Job Quality and Access** – Explain how the project supports family-sustaining jobs. Qualities of family-sustaining jobs may include, but are not limited to, the following: (1) payment of workers at or above local or regional living wage standards as well as payment at or above regional prevailing wage standards where such standards exist for occupations targeted by the project; (2) provision of opportunities for career advancement and wage growth; (3) paid health, leave, and retirement benefits; (4) consistent scheduling; (5) safe and healthy working conditions; and (6) opportunities for collective worker input and representation. High quality jobs may be defined through Project Labor Agreements or Community Workforce Agreements where applicable.

### *Applicant Capacity:*

- Describe applicant's capacity to manage and implement the project, report financial data, and identify key personnel and their expected roles.
- Identify any application partners and explain how they may contribute to the success of the project.

### **Exhibit B1: Budget Summary**

The Budget Summary should be easy to read and provide a clear understanding of how projects plan to allocate funding resources. Program Costs and Administrative Costs must add up to the total award amount. Priority will be given to Budget Summaries that include the following:

- Budgets that reflect the overall project objectives and program goals.
- Budgets that clearly reflect Project Workplan (Exhibit C) activities

## Exhibit B2: Budget Narrative

The Budget Narrative will accompany the Budget Summary. The Budget Narrative must provide written explanation of budget allocations, describing details and rationale for proposed expenditures. For instance, details may include specifics of personnel costs (e.g., positions, salaries, and benefits), contracts, etc. The Budget Narrative should be easy to read and provide clear justification on funding allocations proposed in the Budget Summary.

## Exhibit C: Proposed Workplan

The Proposed Workplan exhibit is a high-level overview of activities and timelines. It should correspond with the Project Design section of Exhibit FA: Project Narrative. The applicant is responsible for outlining potential activities based on the goals and objectives of this RFP.

### Required Appendices

In addition to completing the required exhibits, the applicant will need to include appendices as part of their application. Applicants will have the ability to develop their own format for these documents. Required appendices must be submitted as a MS Word document with the following title: [Applicant Name] [Grant Initialism] PY XX-XX [Appendix]. For example, CommunityOrg TIP PY 24-25 Appendices Applicant Resume. Names can be no longer than 40 characters.

### 1. Collective Partnership Agreement Letter: Coalition Applicants Only

A collective partnership agreement letter is required to affirm the collaborative relationship among coalition applicants.

All coalition members must include the following in the Collective Partnership Agreement Letter:

- Name of each organization in the coalition.
- Description of each coalition applicant.
- Coalition applicant's role in the proposed project.
- Description of why the coalition has come together to accomplish the project.
- A contact person for the coalition, their role, and email address or phone number.
- A signature from authorized signatories representing each coalition applicant.
- Date.



## 2. Implementation Construction Projects Documentation Only

Proposals involving construction require a set of documents to demonstrate project readiness for implementation and compliance with permitting requirements. Applicants must provide the required project readiness documents listed below as applicable to the proposed project:

- **Site Acquisition:** copy of the title or a notarized statement from the existing property owner authorizing the applicant; a narrative for land selection justification
- **Construction Permit:** a copy of the construction permit; if the permit is not obtained, any approved applications, a copy of signed application and a copy of application fees; if the application process is not initiated, feasibility study report including scope of project, consistency with local policy, and likelihood of receiving environmental permits.
- **Design:** approved architectural and engineering plans; if plans not approved development plan application submittal
- **CEQA:** CEQA exemption or a certified Negative Declaration (ND), Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND), or Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and any other required environmental permit; if these documents are not available submit copy of initial study, or proof of project review initiation
- **Financial Documents:** Key financial assumptions; Detailed proforma; table of funds sources/uses (or CapEx); Operational budget (OPEX) or revenue projection; Cash-flow (in-flow and out-flow) projection table (required only if no detailed proforma presented); Operational budget (required only if no detailed proforma presented); Itemized expenditure projection, Timeline of financing.
- **Construction Budget:** It should include detailed costs covering the entire project scope, including material, labor, equipment, and any necessary indirect cost items.
- **Construction Schedule:** It should include the durations and timeline of all construction and procurement activities. CPM format is preferred. All major milestones should be depicted.
- **Site logistics narratives:** Description of existing site conditions, hazardous materials, utilities, and storage space. Site logistics plan graphically depicting all site elements.
- **Construction safety risk narratives:** Description of potential safety hazards, mitigation plan, safety tools, and emergency plan.
- **Construction bids/quotes**

### Application Review, Scoring, and Evaluation

After the deadline, representatives from GO-Biz will review the Application Packages that meet the minimum qualifications. Funding decisions are based



on scoring rubric and performance history. The team will notify all applicants regarding the status of submitted Application Packages. A summary of the projects funded under this RFP will be publicly posted on the RII website.

Teams of reviewers will score and rank applications based on the criteria set forth in this RFP. For those organizations that have participated in past grant programs under the Regional Investment Initiative, past and present performance will be considered in making funding decisions. Construction proposals that score highly will be assessed for readiness according to the Exhibits and Appendices listed in this RFP.

Projects in each category (planning, pre-development, or implementation) will be fairly evaluated in the selection process using the scoring criteria below. Only the highest scoring projects, regardless of category, will be recommended for funding.

The scoring value of each section of the RFP is as follows:

Figure 2: Tribal Investment Phase Scoring Rubric

| Category                     | Criteria  | Points |
|------------------------------|---|--------|
| <b>Objectives and Vision</b> | Describes project objectives and vision and identifies the project type (planning, predevelopment, or implementation). Implementation projects identify the relevant project category(ies) from the RFP. See “Eligible Projects” on pg. 5 and “Exhibit A: Project Narrative” on pg. 13. | 5      |
|                              | Identifies an existing problem(s) the project aims to solve, and briefly describes how the project aims to reduce the problem(s). See “Eligible Projects” on pg. 5 and “Exhibit A: Project Narrative” on pg. 13.  | 5      |
| Section Total                |   | 10     |
| <b>Project Design</b>        |   |        |
|                              | Explains the project in detail by articulating specific project goals, outputs, and desired outcomes. See “Exhibit A: Project Narrative” on pg. 13.   | 15     |
|                              | Explains how activities, timelines, and milestones in Proposed Workplan ensure project goals will be achieved. See “Exhibit A: Project Narrative” on pg. 13.  | 15     |
|                              | Includes clear indicators or metrics for tracking success of the project in achieving anticipated outcomes. See “Exhibit A: Project Narrative” on pg. 13 and “Project Reporting” on pg. 19.   | 5      |
| Section Total                |   | 35     |

|  |   |    |
|--|---|----|
|  |   |    |
| <b>Alignment with California Jobs First Priorities</b> | Equity – Identifies how the project provides direct, meaningful, and assured benefits to Tribal communities. See “Purpose and Objectives” on pg. 4 and “Exhibit A: Project Narrative” on pg. 13.  | 10 |
|  | Climate – Identifies how the project aligns with major state climate goals and policies such as mitigating greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, reducing climate vulnerability, or promoting climate adaptation or mitigation efforts. See “Background” on pg. 3, “Purpose and Objectives” on pg. 4, and “Exhibit A: Project Narrative” on pg. 13.   | 10 |
|  | Job Quality and Access – Explains how the project supports family-sustaining jobs. Qualities of family-sustaining jobs may include, but are not limited to, the following: (1) payment of workers at or above local or regional living wage standards as well as payment at or above regional prevailing wage standards where such standards exist for occupations targeted by the project; (2) provision of opportunities for career advancement and wage growth; (3) paid health, leave, and retirement benefits; (4) consistent scheduling; (5) safe and healthy working conditions; and (6) opportunities for collective worker input and representation. High quality jobs may be defined through Project Labor Agreements or Community Workforce Agreements where applicable. See “Purpose and Objectives” on pg. 4, and “Exhibit A: Project Narrative” on pg. 13, and “Project Reporting” on pg. 19. | 10 |
| Section Total  |   | 30 |
|  |   |    |
| <b>Applicant Capacity</b>                              | Describes organizational capacity to manage and implement the project, including identifying key personnel; includes description of project partners organizational capacity and key personnel as necessary. See “Exhibit A: Project Narrative” on pg. 13.  | 10 |
| Section Total  |   | 10 |
|  |   |    |
| <b>Budget</b>  | Proposed Budget provides adequate detail to understand proposed activities, including reasonable tasks and timeline and feasible financial projections. See “Exhibit B: Budget Summary” on pg. 14.  | 5  |

|                     |   |            |
|---------------------|---|------------|
|                     | Budget Narrative explains activities in Budget and develops clear financial picture of project. See “Exhibit B2: Budget Narrative” on pg. 14.   | 5          |
| Section Total       |   | 10         |
| <b>Workplan</b>     | Proposed Workplan delineates activities and milestones that clearly communicate project implementation process and demonstrate a feasible timeline. See “Exhibit C: Proposed Workplan” on pg. 15. | 5          |
| Section Total       |   | 5          |
| <b>RUBRIC Total</b> |   | <b>100</b> |

GO-Biz reserves the right to conduct interviews prior to making final funding recommendations. After completion of the evaluation process, the California Jobs First Council Co-Chairs will make final funding decisions.

All projects selected for funding are contingent upon the revision and approval of the contract exhibits. Project exhibits are not automatically approved. Applicants may be required to revise the project exhibits to comply with state mandates during the approval and contract negotiation process. The Special Initiatives Support Group will provide guidance should revisions be necessary. GO-Biz reserves the right to rescind any funding offer.

### Administrative and Reporting Requirements

The following information should be considered by the entities proposed to lead on individual projects.

#### Project Reporting

Awardees will be required to submit quarterly reports assessing the progress of their projects against the commitments identified in the grant agreements.

All project applications must include indicators and metrics for evaluating project success that are specific, measurable, and appropriate. Final reporting indicators and metrics will be determined in grant agreements.

Some sample metrics for each project type include:

#### *Ecosystem Support*

- Anticipated number of new licensed technologies or patented innovation.
- Anticipated number of new start-ups, spinouts, or exits.
- Number of small/midsize businesses in disinvested communities connected to universities, research centers or national labs.
- Expected number of small/midsize businesses with access to funding or other assistance to overcome barriers to entry into new industries.
- Anticipated number of good-paying jobs.

### *Infrastructure*

- Size and makeup of population expected to benefit from investment.
- Anticipated new businesses or expansion of businesses in disinvested communities.
- Anticipated number of good-paying jobs.

### *Workforce Development*

- Total number of participants served (total, career services, job training).
- Total number of and % of participants who receive training by Skill Type – Basic, Cross-functional, Knowledge-based.
- % of total training participants who completed training.
- Total number of participants trained and placed.
- Number of training participants with a Credential Attainment; % of participants with a credential attainment within 1 year of program exit.
- % of training project graduates with measurable skill gains (training/sector specific).
- % of training project graduates employed.
- % of training graduates employed with health insurance benefits.
- Median training graduates' quarterly earnings over time and compared to regional living wage targets (prior to training and after training).

### *Additional Enablers*

- Number of network partners serving or representing members of disinvested communities.
- Number of new initiatives or partnerships that contribute to social safety net programs
- Anticipated number of high-quality jobs.

## Financial Report

The Financial Report Template will be included in the grant agreements, contain the invoice template and not be limited to the following information:

- Consultant names (including affiliated organizations if it's a partnership with a participating Technical Assistance Expansion Program (TAEP) center, chamber, accelerator, incubator, institution, government entity, etc.)
- Description of non-labor expenditures (cost for research, cost for marketing, reimbursement period)

## Monitoring & Review

During the performance period, awardees may be monitored and/or audited by the state in accordance with existing policies, procedures, and requirements governing the use of the State General Funds. Awardees are expected to be responsive to all reviewers' requests, provide reasonable and timely access to records and staff, facilitate access to subcontractors, and communicate with reviewers in a timely and accurate manner. Applicants may exercise the right to withhold culturally sensitive data.

## Subcontracting & Procurement

Subcontractor procurement processes must adhere to state and local requirements. Procurement requirements: Projects must obtain three competitive quotes for purchases to justify that the cost of the equipment is reasonable. Awardees are required to obtain and keep them on file in the event they are monitored.

Sole source procurement: If the purchase is a sole source purchase (only one vendor capable of providing an item or service, therefore it is not possible to obtain competitive bids), justification must be provided on why this cannot be competitively procured along with why the provider was selected.

## Record Keeping

Awardees and subrecipients will be required to maintain project and fiscal records sufficient to allow state and local reviewers to evaluate the project's effectiveness and proper use of funds. The record-keeping system must include both original and summary (computer-generated) data sources. Awardees and subrecipients will retain all records pertinent to the grant contract for a period of five years from the date of the final payment of the contract unless a longer

period of record retention is stipulated. Awardees, not GO-Biz or any other state agency, will retain possession, custody, and control of all records related to the funded projects, and will make such records available for inspection and audit upon request for verification of compliance with the grant program's terms and conditions, and to ensure awardees have effectuated their projects consistent with the statutory requirements and goals of the program.

### **Public Records**

By applying for this grant funding opportunity, applicants acknowledge that GO-Biz is subject to the California Public Records Act (PRA) (Government Code section 7920.000 et. seq.). Application materials submitted by applicants pursuant to this grant funding opportunity may be subject to disclosure pursuant to a PRA request, except in the event that such documents submitted are considered confidential information and exempt from disclosure under the PRA. In the event records of an applicant are requested through a PRA request, GO-Biz will notify the applicant, as soon as practicable that a PRA request for the applicant's information has been received, but not less than five (5) business days prior to the release of the requested information, to allow the applicant to seek an injunction. GO-Biz will work in good faith with the applicant to protect the information to the extent an exemption is provided by law.

### **Fiscal Requirement and Reporting**

The Tribal Investment Phase is a reimbursable grant. Awardees are required to submit invoices and supporting documentation to receive reimbursement for all expenditures incurred. Awardees must maintain a separate ledger for each program that shows the total amount of funds available for each program, and monthly program deductions (i.e., payments to subcontractors). At a minimum, each ledger entry must include the subcontractor agreement number, invoice date, payment date, and a description of the payment. Individual divisions may require additional ledger information.

Additionally, the awardee will prepare and submit monthly financial reports and quarterly expenditure reports, or as requested, in formats prescribed by GO-Biz, on behalf of the Jobs First Council. Awardees must establish, manage, and maintain an appropriate system of internal controls, accounting records, and documentation of the receipt and disbursement of the funds for review or reproduction upon written request by GO-Biz, on behalf of the Jobs First Council,

according to Generally Accepted Accounting Procedures, other state regulatory requirements, and the direction of GO-Biz.

### **Infrastructure**

For any rights of way, real and personal property, leases, improvements, and infrastructure funded as a reimbursable direct cost of the Implementation Phase, the awardee must be the sole owner of the title or leasehold. Each site acquired or improved upon with the funding related to this RFP must be maintained in a state of good repair and remain permanently dedicated to the described use for its full useful life.

If the ownership or use of equipment, vehicles, or infrastructure changes to a use not in accordance with the program guidelines or contract agreement, the awardee may be required to reimburse the State in a manner determined by GO-Biz, on behalf of the Jobs First Council.

### **Equipment**

For any equipment purchased or built with funds that are reimbursable as a direct cost of the Implementation Phase, as determined by GO-Biz, on behalf of the Jobs First Council, the awardee or subcontractor, as applicable, must be the sole owner on title. During the period of performance, equipment must be dedicated to the described use in the same proportion and scope as was in the contract agreement, unless GO-Biz agrees otherwise in writing. Awardee will be required to maintain an inventory record for each piece of non-expendable equipment purchased or built with funds provided under the terms of a grant agreement.

### **Prevailing Wage**

#### *Requirement*

Projects funded by this RFP may involve construction, alteration, demolition, installation, repair, or maintenance work over \$1,000. Such projects might be considered “public works” under the California Labor Code (See California Labor Code Section 1720 et seq. and Title 8 California Code of Regulations, Section 16000 et seq.). Public works projects require the payment of prevailing wages. Prevailing wage rates can be significantly higher than non-prevailing wage rates.

### *Determination of Project's Status*

Only the California Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) and courts of competent jurisdiction may issue legally binding determinations that a particular project is or is not a public work. If the Recipient is unsure whether the project funded by the Agreement is a “public work” as defined in the California Labor Code, it may wish to seek a timely determination from DIR or an appropriate court. As such processes can be time consuming, it may not be possible to obtain a timely determination before the date for performance of the Agreement. By accepting this grant, the Recipient is fully responsible for complying with all California public works requirements, including but not limited to payment of prevailing wage. As a material term of this grant, the Recipient must either:

1. Timely obtain a legally binding determination from DIR or a court of competent jurisdiction before work begins on the project that the proposed project is not a public work; or
2. Assume that the project is a public work and ensure that:
  - Prevailing wages are paid unless and until DIR or a court of competent jurisdiction determines that the project is not a public work;
  - The project budget for labor reflects these prevailing wage requirements; and
  - The project complies with all other requirements of prevailing wage law, including but not limited to keeping accurate payroll records and complying with all working hour requirements and apprenticeship obligations. California Prevailing Wage law provides for substantial damages and financial penalties for failure to pay prevailing wages when such payment is required.

### *Subrecipient and Vendor Flow-down Requirements*

The Recipient will ensure that its Subrecipients, any lower-tiered level of Sub-Subrecipients, and Vendors also comply with the public works/prevailing wage requirements above. As applicable, the Recipient will ensure that all agreements with its Subrecipients and Vendors to perform work related to this Project contain the above terms regarding payment of prevailing wages on public works projects, and also as applicable that Subrecipients and Vendors also contain these terms. The Recipient is responsible for any failure of its



Subrecipients, any lower tiered level of Sub-Subrecipients, and Vendors to comply with California prevailing wage and public works laws.

### *Indemnification and Breach*

Any failure of the Recipient or its Subrecipients, any lower-tiered level of Sub-Subrecipients, and Vendors to comply with the above requirements will constitute breach of this Agreement which excuses GO-Biz's performance of this Agreement at GO-Biz's option and will be at the Recipient's sole risk. In such a case, GO-Biz will refuse payment to the Recipient of any amount under this award and GO-Biz will be released, at its option, from any further performance of this Agreement or any portion thereof. The Recipient will indemnify GO-Biz and hold it harmless for any and all financial consequences arising out of or resulting from the failure of the Recipient and/or any of its subcontractors to pay prevailing wages or to otherwise comply with the requirements of prevailing wage law.

### *Budget*

The Recipient's budget on public works projects must indicate which job classifications are subject to prevailing wage. For detailed information about prevailing wage and the process to determine if the proposed project is a public work, the Recipient may wish to contact DIR or a qualified labor attorney for guidance.

### *Covered Trades*

For public works projects, the Recipient may contact DIR for a list of covered trades and the applicable prevailing wage.

### *Questions*

If the Recipient has any questions about this contractual requirement or the wage, record keeping, apprenticeship, or other significant requirements of California prevailing wage law, the Recipient should consult DIR and/or a qualified labor attorney before entering into this Agreement.

### *Certification*

The Recipient will certify to GO-Biz on each payment request form either that: (a) prevailing wages were paid to eligible workers who provided labor for work covered by the payment request and the Recipient, and all contractors and subcontractors otherwise complied with all California prevailing wage laws; or (b) the project is not a public work requiring the payment of prevailing wages. In the latter case, the Recipient will provide competent proof of a DIR or court

determination that the project is not a public work requiring the payment of prevailing wages. Prior to the release of any retained funds under this Agreement, the Recipient will submit to GO-Biz the above-described certificate signed by the Recipient and all Subrecipients, any lower-tiered level of Sub Subrecipients, and Vendors performing public works activities on the project. Absent this certificate, the Recipient will have no right to any funds under this Agreement and GO-Biz will be relieved of any obligation to pay any funds.

### **Intellectual Property Rights/Creative Commons Attribution License**

Awardees of a state award obtain the title to intangible property once it has been acquired. The awardee must use the property for the originally authorized purpose and must not encumber the property without approval from GO-Biz. Further, GO-Biz has the right to obtain, reproduce, publish, or otherwise use the data produced under a state award, and authorize others to receive, reproduce, publish, or otherwise use such data for state purposes.

### **Compliance**

All funds are subject to their related state statutory and regulatory requirements. The awardee is responsible for evaluating the risk of noncompliance based on a set of common factors. These risk assessments may include factors such as prior experience in managing state general funds and regulatory requirements, previous audits, personnel, and policies or procedures for award execution and oversight. Ongoing monitoring of any given subrecipient or contract as a result of this award should reflect its assessed risk and include monitoring, identification of deficiencies, and follow-up to ensure appropriate remediation.

### **Questions**

If you have any questions regarding the Application Package after having carefully reviewed the RFP, please email GO-Biz at [regionalinvestment@gobiz.ca.gov](mailto:regionalinvestment@gobiz.ca.gov).

All questions submitted will be made publicly available via a Frequently Asked Questions document on [business.ca.gov](http://business.ca.gov) within two-weeks of the final submission deadlines for the full application during both rounds. Questions must be submitted by:

Round 1: April 16, 2025

Round 2: February 27, 2026