

Regional Investment Initiative – Tribal Investment Phase FAQ #2

Posted on April 18, 2025

Application Materials & Submission

- **Do you provide a cover page or budget summary template, or do we create one?**

We do not provide templates – please create your own.

- **Regarding the naming convention, is PY 24-25 to be used or should we indicate our own project years, such as 25-26?**

Indicate your own years, which for Round One would be 25-26.

- **Is there a specific website or webpage for the California Regional Investment Initiative (RII) Tribal Investment Phase Rounds?**

Official announcements such as Public Notices or updates to the RFP can be found on the GO-Biz website here: <https://business.ca.gov/about/publications/>. Go to Resources → Publications → California Jobs First – Regional Investment Initiative Grants.

- **For appendices, do PDFs need to be converted to images and added to Word for submission?**

No

- **Should an applicant's CEDS copy be included and if so, where and how would you like that file to be added?**

Particularly for Implementation Projects, applicants should include a copy of the relevant CEDS document as an appendix in their application in order to demonstrate alignment with a current Tribal or regional CEDS document or other relevant planning process.

- **Does the application package email have a size limit?**

The Project Narrative (Exhibit A) has a maximum length of ten (10) pages. This is the only explicit size limit in regard to the application package.

- **The RFP refers to the “Application Package.” Is that a separate document?**

No - the Application Package is what you submit to GO-Biz when you apply for RII Tribal Investment Phase grant funding. It includes all the materials requested in the RFP.

- **What information do I need to include in the Cover / Signature Page?**

The Cover / Signature Page must be signed electronically, have the correct contact information for both a primary contact person and the signatory, and needs to be submitted as a PDF. No other information is explicitly required on the Cover / Signature Page. There are no stated requirements for how the electronic signature must be displayed.

- **Are there any templates or fillable forms included in the RFP that I need to be aware of?**

No.

- **What are the page limits for the Exhibits?**

There are no page limits for Exhibits.

- **The RFP states. “All applicants must submit a completed Application Package including a cover page.” At the same time, there are different naming conventions required for different elements of the Application Package (Cover/Signature Page, Required Exhibits, and Required Appendices). Please confirm that the final Application Package will be one email with multiple files attached.**

Correct – the final Application Package will be one email with multiple files attached, each titled according to the naming conventions specified in the RFP.

- **May we use our acronym as our organizational name in document titles?**

Yes.

Eligibility and Applicant Types

- **Do Native led nonprofits that are fiscally sponsored qualify for applying for these regional investment grants?**

Yes

- **If one of the Tribes in our coalition wanted to also separately apply in Round 1 and Round 2 for their own project as the lead, will this be allowed?**

Yes

- **Can the same Tribal Group apply as the Lead for both the Implementation Phase and Tribal Investment Phase simultaneously?**

Yes

- **Can a Tribal Group acting as the Lead Applicant partner with a nontribal private group for the Predevelopment Grant and have the same partnership apply for the Implementation Grant in the next rounds?**

Yes – nontribal groups can partner with Tribal Groups, if an eligible Tribal Group is the project lead and is submitting the application. Additionally, Predevelopment and Implementation activities can be included in the same proposal.

Coalitions, Partnerships, and Collaborations

- **Can a nonprofit association that officially represents a consortium of tribes submit the signed Collective Partnership Agreement letter on behalf of its Member Tribes or are signed letters from each individual member Tribe required?**

As long as it can be demonstrated that the nonprofit association officially represents the consortium of tribes, a single Collective Partnership Agreement letter on behalf of its Member Tribes is sufficient.

- **Can a tribally led national tribal program apply as a single applicant for projects with multiple tribes across the state or would that also be considered a coalition application?**

This would be considered a coalition application.

- **If an org is a tribal nonprofit that is led by a consortium of 9 tribal governments, and they are applying to support projects for two or more tribes, could that be considered a coalition application?**

Yes.

- **If Tribal partners apply as a coalition is the award ceiling \$2 million for the coalition, or is the award ceiling \$2 million for each Tribal partner that is a part of the coalition?**

The award ceiling is \$2 million for the entire coalition, not \$2 million for each individual Tribal partner within the coalition.

- **If a tribe is a lead and has partners on the grant request, would this fall under a coalition?**

Yes

- **If a tribe led organization applying for the Tribal Investment Phase has multiple groups signed on to receive their services, does that make them a coalition?**

No – a coalition is not made up of recipients of services but is a formal group of eligible applicants who come together to apply for a single grant award to accomplish a shared project.

- **Can a single and/or coalition application include planning, pre-development and implementation category activities?**

Yes.

- **What is the minimum number of orgs/entities to be considered a coalition?**

Two or more orgs/entities are considered a coalition.

- **Can a coalition consisting of a tribal government (or tribally led consortium) apply as a coalition with a non-tribal nonprofit? Or must ALL coalition members be tribal govts, consortiums, or tribally led nonprofits?**

Yes, a coalition consisting of a tribal government (or tribally led consortium) can apply as a coalition with a non-tribal nonprofit.

- **What distinguishes a coalition from a partnership or sub awardee relationship under this opportunity?**

A coalition is a formal group of eligible applicants who come together to apply for a single grant award to accomplish a shared project.

The term partnership more broadly refers to collaborations with other entities that contribute to the success of a project.

A sub awardee (often the same as a subcontractor) is an entity that receives funds from the primary awardee to carry out a specific portion of the project's work.

- **To be part of a coalition application, must ALL coalition partners be tribally led?**

No, not all coalition partners must be tribally led to be part of a coalition application. However, only California Native American Tribes, a consortium of California Native American Tribes, or Tribal/Native-led non-profit organizations are allowed to submit the application as the lead and lead the projects themselves.

- **Is there a limit to how many applications a single org can serve as a partner on?**

No.

Funding, Costs & Budgeting

- **Are equipment and construction costs eligible under both the pre-development and implementation categories?**

Yes - both equipment and construction costs can be eligible under pre-development and implementation, but with distinctions:

o Pre-development may include construction of basic environmental infrastructure and costs related to assessing equipment needs.

o Implementation supports more comprehensive construction and direct equipment costs.

All costs must meet standards of reasonableness, allowability, and allocability, and implementation projects must be fully permitted and ready to proceed.

- **Can grant funds be used for a capital or loan fund serving tribal energy and workforce development projects?**

Yes - grant funds can be used to create a capital or loan fund, such as a revolving loan fund, which could be directed towards supporting tribal energy and workforce development projects, particularly through the pre-development and implementation project categories.

- **Regarding CA prevailing wage, if we are proposing a stipend-based workforce development solar installation training program, including up to two weeks on actual solar installation projects, would those trainees need to be paid CA prevailing wage in addition to their stipends?**

The awardee would need to confirm with the State Department of Industrial Relations.

- **If we pay the tribes say \$30,000 each to cover staff time - can we bill half at the front end of project and the other half in the middle? Tribal accounting systems function differently than a standard reimbursement payment system.**

The current structure of the grant is on a reimbursement basis against actual time and materials. However, GO-Biz is exploring the opportunity to move to a deliverable based approach and may offer that the awardees prior to grant execution.

- **Would economic site visits for Tribal members (part of a CEDS planning committee) be an allowable cost for a planning grant?**

If the economic site visits are well-justified as a crucial component of the CEDS planning process and are appropriately budgeted and described in the application, they would likely be considered an allowable cost for a planning grant.

The application should clearly demonstrate:

- o How the site visits directly contribute to the completion of the CEDS. The objectives and anticipated outcomes of the site visits should be clearly articulated in the Project Narrative (Exhibit A).
- o How the costs for the site visits will be detailed in the Budget Summary (Exhibit B1) and justified in the Budget Narrative (Exhibit B2).
- o How the activities and timelines of the site visits will be included in the Proposed Workplan (Exhibit C)

- **Would an energy efficiency lighting upgrade that will not require permits or other environmental reviews be considered a construction project according to your definition and therefore require the additional appendices?**

No, GO-Biz would determine this to be an equipment related project.

Subcontracting & Procurement

- **Is there anything we need to know about subcontracting out economic strategy work to other CBOs/ consultants?**

Subcontracting economic strategy work to other CBOs or consultants is allowed within the Tribal Investment Phase, subject to the relevant procurement and reporting requirements. See the sections titled “Subcontracting & Procurement” and “Financial Report,” as well as “Program Information – Pre-Development Projects” for more information.

Timeline

- **When is the full application due?**

The full application (Round One) is due April 30, 2025.

- **How much of the \$15 million will be dispersed in the first round of awards (due April 30) vs. how much to be dispersed during the second round (due March of 2026)?**

This will be dependent upon the number of project applications deemed eligible and scored for funding award consideration.

- **Do you know how soon after Round One applications are submitted (April 30, 2025) that contracts will be awarded?**

GO-Biz anticipates award announcements in the Fall 2025.