

# California Indian Assistance Program (CIAP)



**California Department of Housing & Community Development (HCD)**

**Tribal Affairs Team, Fair Housing Unit**

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## Introduction

Poverty rates for tribal populations are more than twice the rate for California<sup>1</sup>, leaving tribal populations with fewer resources to pay for housing and other necessities. A 2019 survey by the California Coalition for Rural Housing found that 91.2 percent of tribes reported members were on housing waiting lists on tribal trust or fee land, with 24.1 percent of those households waiting more than 10 years for placement<sup>2</sup>.

To address the housing needs of Native American Tribes, the California Legislature passed [Assembly Bill \(AB\) 1010](#) in 2019. This requires the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to meaningfully address tribal access and participation in HCD funding programs.

AB 1010 expands the definitions of “local public entities” and “non-profits” used by our funding programs to include tribal entities, clarifying tribal access to vital housing resources. It also grants HCD’s Director or Designee the ability to address barriers to access by modifying or waiving certain HCD program requirements. This an important authority because Tribal Nations have varying government structures and requirements that HCD standard practices may not initially accommodate.

The law establishes the G. David Singleton California Indian Assistance Program (CIAP) to provide comprehensive technical assistance (TA) to Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHE’s) throughout the funding process. The goal of this technical assistance program is to provide the necessary tools and resources to support Tribes’ in successfully applying for State housing programs.

## Background

California is proud to be home to the largest Native American population in the United States. 109 federally recognized Tribes, 68 unrecognized Tribes, and members from other tribes reside across the state. Unfortunately, for decades Tribes have been excluded from full participation in and benefiting from State-administered housing programs. Over time, this has contributed to longstanding disparities in access to safe, affordable housing within California’s tribal communities.

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<sup>1</sup> California Department of Housing and Community Development, *California’s Housing Future: Challenges and Opportunities. Final Statewide Housing Assessment 2025: Appendices* (Sacramento: California Department of Housing and Community Development, February 2018), [https://www.hcd.ca.gov/policy-research/plans-reports/docs/sha\\_final\\_combined.pdf](https://www.hcd.ca.gov/policy-research/plans-reports/docs/sha_final_combined.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> California Coalition for Rural Housing & Rural Community Assistance Corporation, *California Tribal Housing Needs and Opportunities: A Vision Forward* (Sacramento: California Coalition for Rural Housing, August 2019), [https://www.calruralhousing.org/\\_files/ugd/8d7a46\\_e7569ba74f5648ba9bc8d73931ebd85d.pdf](https://www.calruralhousing.org/_files/ugd/8d7a46_e7569ba74f5648ba9bc8d73931ebd85d.pdf)

While tribal applicants face similar barriers as other marginalized groups, the unique history and sovereign status of Tribes creates additional considerations in the design and implementation of technical assistance. Many tribes across the state lack access to information, capacity, or the tools needed to build competitive applications to build affordable housing within their communities.

Beginning in 2011, California began to renew its commitment to tribal engagement and assistance. To improve communication and consideration of the needs of Tribes, Governor Edmund “Jerry” Brown issued [Executive Order \(EO\) B-10-11](#) in 2011. This order established the Governor’s Office of the Tribal Advisor and requires all state agencies and departments to encourage early consideration, communication, and consultation with Tribes when developing legislation, guidelines, regulations, rules, or policies on matters that affect Tribes and their communities.

In 2019, Governor Gavin Newsom issued [EO N-15-19](#), which reaffirmed the previous executive order and added a formal apology to California Native Americans for atrocities committed by the State against Native Americans during early statehood. This marked a major step forward in California’s commitment to acknowledge past wrongdoings and build relationships with Tribes. The work to document the historical relationship between California Native Americans and the State as well as to recommend paths forward continues through the [California Truth & Healing Council](#).

## CIAP Mission & Objectives

CIAP’s mission is to expand Tribal awareness and knowledge of HCD funding programs and provide comprehensive, individualized technical assistance to tribal governments, tribally designated housing authorities, non-profits, and other tribal partners in the funding of affordable housing in California tribal communities.

To support meaningful participation in our funding programs, CIAP has established the following objectives:

- Engage in consistent dialogue with tribal entities to inform HCD’s understanding of housing and infrastructure needs and to shape TA services.
- Ensure tribal participation in all HCD funding programs by updating program requirements to minimize and, wherever possible, eliminate obstacles to tribal applicants.
- Ensure tribal access to funds, including through the creation of specific set-aside funds for tribal applicants.
- Inform funding programs, Notices of Funding Availability (NOFAs), technical assistance, and program design with tribal input and recommendations.
- In partnership with tribal entities, support analysis and accurate documentation of statewide tribal housing needs to inform tribal and HCD housing strategies.

- Collaborate with Tribes, federal partners, sponsors, regional organizations, and other necessary stakeholders to increase Tribes' awareness of funding programs offered and/or administered by HCD and assist them in understanding program requirements.
- Regularly update Tribes and stakeholders/partners on the status and progress of HCD tribal affairs through a Quarterly Tribal Working Group meeting.

## Technical Assistance

AB 1010 requires HCD to provide comprehensive TA to Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities. CIAP is designed to be a highly interactive process between the potential grantee and Department staff. Tribes/TDHEs can expect a collaborative, iterative, back-and-forth process when working with HCD. The Department supports potential grantees as partners and is committed to making resources available for significant tribal demand. HCD provides TA in a variety of formats based on tribal need and interest, including the following:

### Tribal Program Overviews

A Tribal Program Overview introduces Tribes/TDHEs to an HCD funding program before a NOFA is released and covers important program details, including who can apply, whether the funding is a grant or loan, project eligibility requirements, and key application dates.

### Tribal Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) Workshops

A Tribal NOFA Workshop gives details of a program NOFA to prospective Tribe/TDHE applicants and provides an opportunity for staff to answer questions, advertise, and connect tribal applicants with TA. The NOFA Workshop occurs after a NOFA is released and before the NOFA application deadline.

### Tribal Office Hours

Tribal Office Hours provide a group forum to share information with potential tribal applicants and answer any questions they have. Office Hours may occur weekly or biweekly throughout the application period.

### Tribal Application Workshops

A Tribal Application Workshop provides guidance to Tribes/TDHEs through an entire NOFA application, section by section, and provides a review of necessary supporting documents and budget matrices. Application Workshops generally occur after a Tribal NOFA Workshop and before a NOFA application deadline

## Individual Tribal Technical Assistance Meetings

An individual TA meeting can occur for any HCD program or service. It is individualized for each Tribe/TDHE based on their needs and the program or service for which they are requesting TA. Tribal TA may include one-on-one assistance with program expertise, site identification, project identification, application development, AB 1010 waiver development, real-estate transaction questions, etc.

## Tribal Office Hours

Tribal Office Hours provide a group forum to share information with potential tribal applicants and answer any questions they have. Office Hours may occur weekly or biweekly throughout the application period.

## Outreach and Engagement

To increase awareness of HCD funding programs available to Tribes, CIAP regularly organizes the following outreach and engagement events including the following:

### Tribal Roundtables

A Tribal Roundtable includes co-hosted housing events between Tribes/TDHEs, HCD, and other housing partners to discuss funding opportunities, challenges, and potential solutions. Roundtables help provide HCD staff and other state partners the opportunity to engage with and learn from Tribes/THDEs on the housing issues faced by tribal communities.

### Tribal Roadshows

A Tribal Roadshow is when HCD staff travel to a Tribe/TDHE to present and provide TA on HCD funding programs and services. A Roadshow provides Tribes/THDEs the chance to ask specific programmatic questions and receive one-on-one TA from HCD program staff. Roadshows also provide an opportunity for HCD staff to build relationships with individual Tribes/TDHEs, tour tribal housing first-hand, and increase cultural awareness of California Tribal Nations.

### Email Updates

The Tribal Affairs Team manages an email listserv for upcoming events and funding opportunities for Tribes/TDHEs. The team will also amplify events and opportunities hosted by other state or tribal partners through the listserv to increase engagement. Request to be added to the Tribal Affairs email listserv by emailing [CIAP@hcd.ca.gov](mailto:CIAP@hcd.ca.gov).

## Program Development

When developing or updating a program, HCD program staff will solicit feedback from Tribes through Tribal Listening Sessions and written comments during the public comment period which informs upcoming NOFA and Guideline Updates. Tribal Entities, as well as other stakeholders, can influence program requirements during this time by providing feedback on proposed requirements to promote successful tribal applications such as tribal set-asides.

### Tribal Listening Sessions

A Tribal Listening Session presents upcoming NOFA, guideline, regulation, policy, or service changes to Tribes/TDHEs and offers an opportunity for tribal entities to provide feedback ahead of releasing the updated document. Tribal Program Overviews often precede a Tribal Listening Session. The Listening Session occurs prior to Tribal Consultation and the release of a new NOFA, guideline, regulation, policy, or service change.

## Consultation

To fulfill HCD's responsibility to formally consult with tribal governments, HCD utilizes Tribal Consultation to facilitate government-to-government dialogue. Consultation influences program guideline and NOFA updates as well as implementation of HCD policies that impact tribal nations in California. [HCD's Tribal Consultation Policy](#) also outlines the process for tribal nations to request Consultation for other housing related topics.

A Tribal Consultation is a formal government-to-government process between leaders of California Tribal Nations, TDHEs, and State or Department leadership. Consultation is an opportunity for Tribes and State or Department leadership to set policy and priorities. The Department uses feedback from Tribal Consultations to inform an upcoming NOFA, guideline, regulation, or policy change. Consultations include HCD's Director or Designee as well as relevant program leadership and experts as needed and determined for the purpose of Consultation.

## Navigating HCD

Tribes can reach out to HCD staff in several ways, there is 'no wrong door' for Tribal Entities to request assistance from HCD. HCD's Tribal Affairs team coordinates with funding programs for tribal engagements. Generally, our funding programs assign a staff member to be a primary contact to tribal entities for TA requests and support throughout the application and award process. HCD also has attorneys with tribal expertise that provide support as legal questions arise.

HCD has a Tribal Affairs team that includes dedicated tribal affairs analysts, the Tribal Liaison, and our fair housing unit managers. The Tribal Affairs team leads AB 1010 funding access and CIAP implementation in coordination with program and policy staff. The Tribal Affairs team support internal and external technical assistance, program development, and outreach and engagement. The Tribal Liaison facilitates and manages the Department's Tribal Consultation process. The Tribal Liaison advises on complex and challenging program work and coordinates with management to flag potential issues to elevate to executive leadership. You can reach the tribal affairs team by emailing [CIAP@hcd.ca.gov](mailto:CIAP@hcd.ca.gov).