



Disaster Relief for Indigenous Communities Grant Program Guidelines

Rebuilding for a Stronger Region

2021

Recover. Rebuild. Revitalize.

The Disaster Relief for Indigenous Communities Grant Program supports the recovery and revitalization of indigenous peoples and communities throughout our region impacted by disaster. Tragically, wildfires have become more and more dangerous, happen more frequently and have been incredibly destructive in recent years. The rapid spread of COVID-19 has added yet another hurdle. Indigenous communities in our region are suffering from multiple disasters along with additional complexities that other communities simply do not share. A lack of access to resources has made it difficult for indigenous communities to recover from disasters as quickly as other communities.

Our goal is to work collaboratively with the indigenous communities, nonprofits, government agencies and philanthropic initiatives to accelerate recovery and rebuilding efforts to promote a thriving, resilient and even stronger region. Advocating for indigenous people and specifically local tribes in our region through disaster response, building access to resources, and supporting tribal recovery efforts is vital and meaningful work.

We are particularly interested in projects and initiatives that serve the indigenous members of our local community but also serve indigenous communities throughout our region. We also seek to fill gaps – providing shorter-term, catalytic funding that is not available elsewhere and has the potential to leverage longer-term ongoing support. We want to ensure that our investments leverage – but do not duplicate – other funding sources and lead to significant and measurable positive benefits for impacted indigenous households and communities.

We are honored to steward investments on behalf of a broad range of donors and will therefore design and implement the Disaster Relief for Indigenous Communities Grant Program transparently, with accountability and in accordance with the principles of Partnership, Collaboration, Focus on the Most Vulnerable, Leverage, Impact and Sustainability.

See below for more on our specific guidelines, criteria, and process – and *please note that we will continue to update the program areas and selection criteria as new gaps, issues and opportunities emerge through the long-term recovery and rebuilding process.*

PROGRAM AREAS

OVERVIEW

Housing, health and wellness, and community development were identified as top priorities facing indigenous communities undertaking disaster recovery efforts. The effect of sudden changes in population redistribution has had a serious impact on reliable and timely access to resources. Other program areas may be added as significant needs and opportunities emerge. At this time, any work outside of these three priority areas will be considered by invitation only.

HOUSING

Without safe, stable, affordable housing, victims of disaster will be unable to move forward in their lives and access other vital services or contribute to the economic and social vibrancy of their communities. The lack of housing also impacts the ability of the region to attract the short-term workforce it needs for rebuilding and the long-term workforce needed for provision of vital community services and diversified economic growth.

Before the Camp Fire, there was a critical housing shortage in the region – in terms of both the number and type of homes available and the affordability of them. And with multiple disasters destroying and weakening accessibility to so much of the affordable housing stock – housing, particularly affordable housing, is cited as the number one issue throughout our region.

We will work with the federal- and state-recognized tribes, unrecognized tribes with a fiscal agent, indigenous communities, public agencies and nonprofits to increase the supply of permanent affordable housing in the region. We seek to leverage our funds strategically, building the capacity of the whole system to generate more housing, rather than focusing on individual housing developments or units. Our investments will be data-informed, aligning with community-wide housing needs, priorities, and solutions.

While this data is still being collected and solutions identified, we will consider funding in the following areas and add more over time:

1. Rapid re-housing and homeless prevention programs that help indigenous families stay in housing or obtain new permanent housing quickly such as housing navigators, landlord liaisons and short-term financial assistance.
2. Exploration and incentivizing of innovative housing solutions such as accessory dwelling units, home sharing and community land trusts.
3. Efforts to reduce construction costs and accelerate development and production such as off-site, panelized, and modular construction and construction training programs to increase the availability of qualified, local workers.
4. Initiatives or projects that provide tools or equipment to help communities recover from fire devastation (such as helping remove debris from properties) or provide services to protect the community from future fires (such as equipment for defensible space considerations).

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HEALTH AND WELLBEING

The level of outreach needed to support the communities impacted by disaster is growing. Case management is how victims of disaster gain access to a range of services by connecting survivors to professionals that have resources for support. After multiple fires and the COVID-19 pandemic, the level of individual and community trauma is greatly heightened while the availability of case management directing victims to services has been severely understaffed and underfunded. Providing a system that stands up local indigenous tribes, organizations and agencies that provide case managers, direct assistance and disaster navigators is crucial to the recovery of our region.

While this program area is still being developed and solutions identified, we will consider funding in the following areas and add more over time:

1. Collaborative efforts to create a resource-informed system of care and disaster navigation in Butte, Glenn, Tehama, Colusa, and Plumas counties including planning, capacity building, training, and assistance identifying and securing ongoing revenue streams for implementation.
2. Capacity building for local tribes, organizations and agencies that manage case workers and disaster navigators to work across sectors and broaden outreach.
3. Support for efforts to train, retain and recruit more case management and disaster navigator professionals to indigenous communities and tribes in our region in order to increase access to direct assistance and support.
4. Support for efforts in revitalization of culture through ensuring access to counseling, mental wellness and health supports where there are gaps in funding available from government programs (ex: provide mental health or cultural classes virtually to those in need).
5. Innovative techniques for Elders and Healers who provide counseling, traditional medicines and teachings to other generations in their communities.
6. Identify local community-based organizations and indigenous organizations or tribes that can provide systematic programs to support simple unmet needs including housing and food insecurity, relocation and infrastructure needs.
7. Support for efforts in accessibility to services for rural tribal communities.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

While this program area is still being developed and solutions identified, we will consider funding the following areas, and more may be added over time.

1. Select historic landmarks considered symbols or symbolic of the recovery effort.
2. Solutions providing gathering places for future disasters or fires, providing fire breaks in vulnerable areas based on expert reports.
3. Projects that are central to recovery, draw people together, inspire hope, or are commemorative in nature focused on the cultural needs of indigenous communities.

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4. Projects that support and provide indigenous ceremonies to continue including recovery effort of ceremonial sites that have been destroyed from wildfire.
5. Projects which contain elements of resiliency, which are central to community spirit, indigenous recovery, and cultural preservation.

ELIGIBILITY

Tax Status

Qualified applicant organizations include federal- and state-recognized tribes, unrecognized tribes with a fiscal agent, nonprofit organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, programs fiscally sponsored by a 501(c)(3), or units of local government (including public schools). Qualified entities include churches that serve congregations of at least 100 people and have proposed projects or programs that are not denomination specific and meet the criteria. Organizations should have an established relationship with the communities that they are applying to serve.

Non-Discrimination

Organizations must offer programs and services without discrimination based on age, race, national origin, ethnicity, gender, physical ability, sexual orientation, political affiliation, or religious belief.

Geography

Programs and projects must clearly benefit indigenous residents in Butte, Glenn, Tehama, Colusa, and/or Plumas counties who have been directly and/or indirectly impacted by disasters.

Use of Funds

Our funds are deployed strategically where other sources of funding are not available. As much as possible, we leverage our grants by first tapping into federal and state aid programs and insurance. The project must not supplant public funding or fill gaps that the government and/or private insurance have committed to address.

Restrictions

The Disaster Relief for Indigenous Communities Grant Program will not consider grant requests for fundraising events, annual funds, endowment funds, political lobbying, individuals, or activities that are restricted to members of a faith community. Capital improvements such as new structures, repair of damaged structures, or acquisition of structures will generally not be considered except for possible short-term, low- or no-interest loans.

Frequency

Eligible entities may not apply for more than one grant for the same program or project within a 12-month period.

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SELECTION CRITERIA

Projects and initiatives will be evaluated by the following selection criteria, and priority given to those that most strongly meet the following criteria:

1. **Vulnerable populations**

Multiple studies have shown that disaster recovery is not equal and that vulnerable populations have greater needs, fewer options, and longer recovery time frames. Projects will be prioritized that target lower-income households, particularly those that include seniors or children; individuals with physical, cognitive, and emotional disabilities; and populations that lack access to federal or state recovery resources or reside in isolated areas with limited services.

2. **Indigenous people and communities connection**

Projects that directly benefit indigenous people and communities most impacted by the disaster will be prioritized.

3. **Demonstrable impact**

The project's approach (design, delivery, and staffing) is tailored to meet the specific needs of the target population(s) and has a reasonable timeline for implementation. Projects that result in significant outputs and outcomes – either through addressing a broad range of the community's needs and/or resulting in an enduring positive impact for local tribes, individuals, and households – will be prioritized.

4. **Collaboration**

Projects that partner with local tribes, other organizations and stakeholders to maximize impact and minimize duplication are desired. Local tribes and organizations with strong track records of collaboration will be prioritized.

5. **Organizational capacity**

Applicants need to demonstrate their capacity to implement the proposed project in terms of leadership, staffing expertise and financial health.

6. **Leverage and sustainability**

Projects that are supported by a diversity of funding sources and/or have the capacity to leverage additional sources will be prioritized. It should be financially feasible with a realistic and viable strategy for sustainability through other ongoing sources.

GRANT FUNDING AMOUNTS

In general, grant awards will range from \$2,500 to \$10,000 and range in duration from six months to three years. Amounts above this range may be considered by invitation only.

Grant requests larger than 25% of the applicant organization's annual operating budget will come under additional scrutiny to ascertain the organization's financial strength and its ability to deliver on the project while maintaining existing operations.

ALLOWABLE EXPENDITURES

Proposed grant budgets may include project staff and consultants and other programmatic expenses needed to plan and implement the programs and provide the proposed services.

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Grant budgets may also include the costs associated with outreach, intake, and evaluation. Administrative costs of up to 10% of the grant amount will be considered.

GRANT REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL AWARDED GRANTEES

1. Grant Agreement

Upon approval of your application, you will receive a formal, legally binding grant agreement, which will require your signature. This will include the final scope of work, timeline for outcomes, grant budget, the reporting schedule, and other legal assurances.

2. Monitoring and Evaluation

Grantees are required to submit semiannual reports on project progress and financial expenditures. Please note that timely grant reports will assist the committee in fulfilling its stewardship responsibility to our donors and the community.

3. Grant Payments

An initial installment of the grant will be paid upon execution of the grant agreement. Subsequent grant installments will be paid upon submission of reports according to the reporting schedule in the grant agreement. North Valley Community Foundation (NVCF) may hold issuance of additional grant installments in the event of performance issues.

4. Public Acknowledgment of Grant

Must be coordinated with NVCF and consistent with the guidelines provided in the grant agreement. Contact David Little, Executive Vice President of Communications, at dlittle@nvcf.org with questions.

CONTACT

If you have questions regarding the grant application process or the guidelines, contact Monica Wigman, Program Officer, Community Healing, at mwigman@nvcf.org.