

2025-2026 WHALE TAIL® Grants

Tribal Set-Aside FAQ

What is the tribal set-aside?

Approximately half of total grant funds (approximately \$1,000,000) will be set aside for projects led by California Native American tribes, tribally-led entities, and organizations directly supporting California Native American tribal communities. Please see the [guidelines and application](#) for more details on eligibility and required documentation for the tribal set-aside.

I am a California Native American tribe. What documentation do I need to qualify for the tribal set-aside?

For federally recognized tribes and/or non-profit organizations applying on behalf of non-federally recognized tribes, no additional documentation beyond what is included in your application is required.

I am a tribally-led non-profit organization, or a non-profit organization that primarily focuses on supporting California Native American tribal communities. What documentation do I need to qualify for the tribal set-aside?

For non-profit organizations that primarily focus on engaging California Native American tribal communities, no additional documentation beyond what is included in your application is required. Your application should clearly demonstrate how proposed work will benefit California Native American tribes and tribal communities.

I am a non-profit organization that does not primarily focus on supporting California Native American tribal communities, but I want to partner with a California Native American tribe or tribally-led organization for my grant project. What documentation do I need to qualify for the tribal set-aside?

You will need written proof of partnership from the California Native American tribe or tribally-led organization in support of your proposed project. This can be a signed letter of support from the tribe's council or chairperson, tribal council resolution authorizing and consenting to the partnership or project, or a signed letter of support from the tribally-led organization. The intent of this documentation is to demonstrate partnership and project alignment with priorities of California Native American tribe(s) or tribal communities.

I am not a California Native American-led organization. One or more elements of my project do not directly support California Native American tribal communities. Does my project still qualify for the tribal set-aside?

To qualify for the tribal set-aside, the entire project must directly engage and provide benefits to California Native American tribal communities.

My question concerning the Tribal Set-Aside was not covered in the guidelines/application or this FAQ.

We encourage you to reach out to Jessica.Lie@coastal.ca.gov if you have any questions about the tribal set-aside and/or your project proposal.