

Environmental Justice Action Grants

The California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) is administering the Environmental Justice Action Grants Program (Program) to provide grant funding to a wide variety of projects. CalEPA administers the new Program as part of its overall mission to restore, protect and enhance the environment, to ensure public health, environmental quality, and economic vitality.

What will the EJ Action Grants fund?

CalEPA will consider funding any project that does both of the following:

(1) Supports community-based organizations and/or residents to engage in at least one of the following four project categories:

1. emergency preparedness,
2. public health protection,
3. environmental and climate decision-making, and
4. coordinated enforcement efforts affecting their communities.

(2) Serves an environmental justice purpose. CalEPA will focus on those projects that meaningfully involve and engage disadvantaged communities to serve environmental justice purposes. This will ensure that grant funds are used to lift the burden of pollution, natural disasters, and toxic waste for those most vulnerable to their effects.

Supporting Tribal Beneficial Uses of water

This Program can fund projects dedicated to water decision-making, including projects to assist tribes and tribal representatives with engaging in the process to designate Tribal Beneficial Uses (TBUs). Examples of potentially eligible costs that are related to and incurred in furtherance of such projects may include:

- Tribal staff time to engage with Water Boards in consultations, meetings, and working groups;
- Staff time for tribal legal counsel to conduct related transactional work;

- Staff time for tribal scientists and toxicologists to perform related work;
- Development and distribution of tribal cultural and subsistence surveys;
- Education and outreach;
- Water quality testing and monitoring;
- Transcription of oral histories; and
- Collection and documentation of traditional ecological knowledge.

Who is eligible to apply?

CalEPA will accept applications from: federally recognized tribes; 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations; and organizations receiving fiscal sponsorship from 501(c)(3) organizations.

Grant Amount

Applicants may apply for as many grants as they wish but CalEPA will not award more than \$300,000 per project, or \$500,000 per applicant per fiscal year. Grants may be for up to 24 months.

Important Due Dates and Timelines

August 29, 2023 – Application Opens

September 27, 2023 – Virtual Application Workshop

October 13, 2023 - Deadline for Submitting Applications

Contact Us:

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<https://calepa.ca.gov/ejactiongrants/>

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