

Tribal Nations Grant Fund  
Tribal Consultation Summary  
Cher-Ae Heights Casino – Tuesday, June 27, 2017

*The following questions/comments are a summary of the TNGF Tribal Consultation at the Cher-Ae Heights Casino. While we have done our best to accurately capture the comments made by the participants, we encourage all participants to provide written comments by July 13, 2017. There were twelve people in attendance representing five tribes.*

**Application Process:**

- Application process should be as clear and easy as possible.
- Concern that some tribes won't be able to produce competitive grants due to lack of resources.
- Can tribes receive more than one grant? (Important to know this to determine grant writing priorities)
- There should be parameters for "emergency projects."
- Any tribe can come up with an emergency project, so this might not be a good idea.
- Can language stating applicable projects be included in the legislation?

**Decision Making Committee/PANEL:**

- Will an analysis be done on the demographics/resources of the tribes in each region, should the panel makeup be determined by regions?
- Regional advisory committees work.
- Don't break up money by region, rather ensure there is regional representation on the panel. For example: three from each region.
- If the Chairmen's Associations can elect representatives, it will strengthen the associations.
- Tribes receiving grants in a given year should be precluded from applying for grants in the subsequent grant period and should, instead, serve on the panel for determining grant awards.
- Ballot process for voting would be appropriate.
- Members serving on the panel should be actively serving Tribal Chairpersons throughout their term on the panel. If the panel member is no longer in their position as an elected tribal leader, they should no longer serve on the panel.
- Concern about the time commitment for the panel and support provided to the panel was expressed.
- Even if busy, the tribal leader will have to make a priority or not serve.
- Concern that it is difficult to comment on the decision making process with so many variable unknown, such as...
  - Maximum dollar amount awarded;

- Are all grants awarded if fund requested does not exceed funds available;
- The ease and resource intensiveness of the application process.

**Administration/Audits:**

- Tribal Courts should be included in any arbitration process.
- Tribal judicial aspect or non judicial dispute resolution preferred.
- Can the limited waiver of sovereign immunity be eliminated from the bill?
- Concerns about revealing tribal financial information to the CGCC through an audit process were expressed.
- This is an opportunity to provide options for accountability.
- What happens to the SDF?
- A tribe that misuses funds should be penalized? If so, how?
- There should be a confidentiality agreement for all involved.

**Grants Process:**

- General language in the legislation is preferred to allow for more flexibility.
- Could request that tribes provide summary and photos of project to the panel as a way to provide updates on projects.
- Providing reports/updates should be voluntary, feedback to the panel would be organic.

**Revenue Sharing Trust Fund (RSTF):**

- Do compacts guarantee that RSTF fund take funding primacy?