

Tribal Nations Grant Fund
Tribal Consultation Summary
Pala Resort & Casino – June 15, 2017

The following questions/comments are a summary of the TNGF Tribal Consultation held at the Pala Resort & 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 twenty-four people in attendance representing fifteen tribes.

Decision Making Committee/ Panel:

- The committee should be comprised regionally. There should be three people from each Chairmen's Association – Northern, Southern and Central.
- Glad to see there are restrictions on per capita distribution so tribes can use on projects and infrastructure.
- Reach out to all tribes for nominations.
- Decision making panel should be regional.
- The state shouldn't have a say in who is on the decision making panel. Gubernatorial appointments are not necessary.
- The panel should be established first to make the decisions.
- Examples of grant processes from foundations should be used for developing the grant application process. They've already figured this stuff out, why reinvent the wheel? There should be priority areas for the grants. Governor should appoint tribally supported applicants. More work must be done on the grant process before the tribes are brought in.
- Panel needs to be comprised of California Natives.
- Panel should be elected Chairpersons/Tribal Leaders. Chairpersons should finish their term on the panel even if they are no longer Chairperson for their tribe.
- Panel representatives should be selected based on the three BIA regions (North, Central and Southern California).
- Shouldn't have only gaming tribes on the panel.

Conflict of Interest:

- Self recusal is necessary from those tribes that are on the panel that have also submitted an application for funds.
- Only gaming tribes, or those tribes that have paid into the TNGF should be on the panel so there are no conflicts of interest.
- Direct conflicts via Tribe are the issue, relatives of the applicant/Tribe will not be the issue.
- How do you keep tribes out of conflicting politics through this process?
- Politics are tough. We hope to have a process that makes it as fair and objective as possible.

Administration/ Audits:

- There should not be any requirements for waivers of sovereign immunity. If necessary, arbitration is a better option.
- Administrative costs don't qualify for the Special Distribution Fund (SDF) and there is a possibility of a law suit if it's used for TNGF purposes.
- Overhead should be actual and reasonable costs.
- The Tribal Advisor should be included in this process.
- We need monitoring of the grant to prevent pressure from tribal members.
- Will SDF contributing tribes pay for audits?
- How do you make TNGF less paternalistic? We don't want to create another BIA.
- Set up RSTF Tribes work group to work out all the details.
- Provisions should be broad in the bill for greater flexibility, but enough structure so the state can't take over.
- Is this an urgency bill?
- Audits should be done over \$750,000 by an outside company.
- In the grant acceptance, there should be standards for accountability of how the money will be spent.
- Grantees must be held accountable in how they spend the money. This is important to the tribes who are paying into the RSTF/TNGF.

Grants Process:

- Tribes should all vote on the applications and possibly through video conferencing.
- Focus for funding should be about access to fund projects to improve tribal communities.
- This funding shouldn't replace federal funding.
- The TNGF should be distributed equally.
- Emergency grants might be good, but shouldn't replace federal funding.
- Will this information be subject to the Public Records Act?
- Funeral expenses should be considered. Many non gaming tribes go to gaming tribes for this sort of assistance.