



Frequently Asked Questions California Truth and Healing Fund

Last update: October 11, 2023

GENERAL RFP INFORMATION

1. Where can I read more about the Request For Proposals?

[Here](#). For instructions on how to apply, please see the section below:
SUBMITTING YOUR PROPOSAL.

2. What is the California Truth and Healing Council?

The [California Truth & Healing Council](#) (the “Council” or “CTHC”), created by [Executive Order N-15-19](#), bears witness to, records, examines existing documentation of, and receives California Native American narratives regarding the historical relationship between the State of California and California Native Americans in order to clarify the historical record of such relationship in the spirit of truth and healing. The Council’s mission is facilitated by the Governor’s Tribal Advisor and includes representatives from California Native American tribes, relevant state and local agencies, and other relevant non-governmental stakeholders..

We believe that CA Native people have an unprecedented opportunity to leverage this political moment to advance healing for tribal communities across California. In order for the process to be maximized, CA tribes and Native-led organizations need resources to be engaged in the state's process - to both inform and shape it and to hold the government accountable to its promises to Native people.

To this end, [Liberated Capital](#), a fund of Decolonizing Wealth Project, launched a multi-year grantmaking initiative, the **California Truth and Healing Fund**, to support the engagement of California Native American families, communities, tribes, and organizations to engage in the work of truth and healing. This includes opportunities presented by the Truth and Healing Council process and beyond.

3. How much can we apply for?

Awards will likely range from \$5,000 to \$50,000.

4. How can apply for funding from the California Truth and Healing Fund?

- California Native American tribes (Note: non-federally recognized tribes are eligible to apply through a 501(c)(3) or be fiscally sponsored by a 501(c)(3))
- California Native-led 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, coalitions or projects fiscally-sponsored by a 501(c)(3) based in California.
 - Native-led defined: the organization's Board of Directors and Executive leadership must be majority California Native-led, and must primarily service California Natives.
 - California Native-led organizations, coalitions or projects must name and provide Letters of Support from the CA tribe(s) they propose to engage, or tribally-affiliated references.
- Individuals are not eligible at this time.
- Funding must be used for charitable purposes (no lobbying).
- Funding cannot be used for efforts in opposition to other tribes or tribal entities.
- Grant amounts will range from \$5,000 to \$50,000.

5. What can funds be used for?

Funding priorities of the **California Truth and Healing Fund** are listed below in order of priority and will shift over time as the work progresses. Current funding priority will be given to activities that advance truth and healing efforts for California Native communities, utilizing the following strategies: capacity-building & technical assistance, advocacy and movement-building, and healing. More information on the strategies are below:

- I. **Capacity-Building & Technical Assistance:** for Tribes and Native-led organizations interested in capacity-building efforts as they relate broadly to truth and healing efforts, such as:
 - a) Tribal history, research, and narrative work to document truth-telling towards healing and repair, such as digitizing tribal history, research, narratives, documentation of land loss, cultural items, or archival material, etc. This may include efforts to record first-hand accounts and first-person narratives that capture oral history, clarify and correct the historical record, address grievances, and/or promote truth-telling.
 - b) Capacity-building for Tribes, including resources for legal support, capacity-building for Land Back claims, retrieving historical documentation, engaging anthropological or scientific support to support claims, capacity building for how to create tribal land trusts, capacity building regarding tribal co-management, and/or other tribal planning needs. This does not include resources to purchase land.
- II. **Advocacy and Movement-Building:** for Tribes & Native-led organizations to hold policymakers accountable to adequately fund and implement community recommendations, including:
 - a) Efforts to spread awareness and increase community engagement of CA Native Americans in opportunities for truth and healing, including logistical or capacity support to address barriers to attending and engaging in the Council meetings and hearings. The fund will prioritize statewide and regional organizations and coalitions that can provide awareness, and create community

engagement and logistical or capacity support to engage and influence the Council.

- b) Efforts to bring together California Native Americans intra or inter-tribally to engage with the Council process or to engage in independent truth and healing work with and among tribes.

III. **Healing** Support for traditional healing programs or efforts connected to tribal or intra-tribal Truth & Healing processes.

6. Are the funding priorities listed in order of priority? In other words, will proposal activities described by the first bullet points receive higher priority than proposal activities described by the last bullet points?

Yes. Proposal activities at the top of the list will receive higher prioritization than proposal activities at the bottom of the list. You can find a list of funding priorities on the Fund page.

7. Is Year 2 about getting California Native people to attend the council meetings?

In part. The goals of the California Truth and Healing Fund are to support the engagement of California Native American families, communities, tribes and organizations in the healing opportunities presented in the California Truth and Healing process established by [Executive Order N-15-19](#) and advance the broader objectives of the Council, including to galvanize philanthropy to support the recommendations from the Council's report.

Funding priorities of the California Truth and Healing Fund are listed above in order of priority. While engagement with the council meetings are a priority, there are also other focal areas.

8. When will the dates for the 2024 CATHC Quarterly Meetings come out?

Typically, the CATHC meets quarterly. Stay tuned for schedule and locations on this link: <https://tribalaffairs.ca.gov/cthc/meetings/>. In addition to the quarterly meetings, listening sessions across the state will also be listed in the meeting schedule.

You may submit a proposal for direct assistance to attend and engage the quarterly meetings in 2024 even if the meeting schedule is not listed at the time of your proposal submission.

9. Can the grant support general or operational capacity needs to allow us to hire staff to support our efforts?

Yes, grant dollars are general operating funds - meaning you can use the funds for any expense associated with your campaign/project, as long as your work accomplishes one or several of the funding priorities above and is aligned with the activities and the mission and goals of the California Truth and Healing Council.

10. Can the grant be regranted out to other organizations or tribes?

There is no restriction on regranteeing, as long as it meets the criteria and funding priorities of the fund. As a reminder, the fund will prioritize California tribes and tribal organizations that can provide awareness, community engagement and logistical or capacity support to engage with the Council with CA Native communities and tribes. Please also note that we strongly encourage individual tribes and CA Native organizations to apply for direct funding support.

11. What is the grant term? Will grants be multi-year?

The grant term is 1 year. Currently, we are not offering multi-year grants, but our goal is to further engage the California and national philanthropic community to leverage additional support for the activities and goals of the California Truth and Healing Council during its term of operation as well as for its final recommendations to the state of California.

12. Will there be additional funding cycles after 2022?

There will be one round of funding in 2023. We aim to make grant-making cycles available annually at least through the end of the California Truth and Healing report submission, in 2025.

13. When are proposals due?

Grant proposals may be submitted at any time by **Thursday, October 26, 2023, 5:00 PM PST.**

14. When will funding decisions be made?

Funding decisions and grant disbursement will happen by December 2023.

PROPOSAL EVALUATION

15. How will proposals be evaluated?

An Advisory Committee of California Native American and Tribal leaders will be making funding decisions for the California Truth and Healing Fund. The advisors will be looking for the following qualities in the proposals:

- **Focus:** The work is timely and relevant to one or several of the funding priorities outlined above by the California Truth and Healing Fund.
- **Leadership:** The work is led by experienced and trusted CA Native leadership that demonstrates accountability to and support from the Native community or communities they lead.
- **Community-Centered:** The proposal clearly demonstrates how the work will benefit a specific CA tribal community or communities.
- **Quality of the Project and Plan:** The problems being addressed and solutions being implemented are described clearly and sufficiently in the proposal narrative and attachments.
- **Capacity for Impact:** The organization or tribe demonstrates capability to pull off the proposed work through the proposal narrative and attachments (Note that impact is not necessarily scale!)

16. Who's making decisions about funding?

Funding decisions are made through a democratic process by an engaged, experienced group of CA Native leaders, facilitated by DWP staff. The advisors are listed in our Fund announcement press release [here](#).

17. For multi-regional projects or organizations seeking funding for one specific region, do we need to submit letters of support from California Tribes in all regions of our work, or just the specific region for which we are applying?

Nonprofit Organizations that work across multiple regions should submit letters of support from California Tribes, as applicable, in the regions that they propose to do their work supported by the California Truth and Healing Fund. Organizations do not need to submit letters of support from Tribes in regions that are not relevant to or described by the activities of their proposals for the CA Truth and Healing Fund.

18. Would providing college tuition assistance to California Native American students who enroll in a Tribal college qualify for the California Truth and Healing Fund?

No, that work does not qualify for funding under the current priorities of the California Truth and Healing Fund.

Funding priorities of the California Truth and Healing Fund are listed on the [RFP page](#) in order of priority and will shift over time as the work progresses.

19. Would the fund support a virtual reality app development to record stories from Indigenous families?

While we can't guarantee that any proposal will be funded, the fund is designed to support tribal history, research and narrative work that supports the goals of the Council process, such as the digitization of tribal history, research, narratives, documentation of land loss, cultural items, or archival material, etc. This may include efforts to record first-hand accounts and first person narratives that captures oral history, clarifies and corrects the historical record, addresses grievances, and/or promotes truth-telling.

20. Can CA Native narratives collected under the funding priorities come from all generations, or specific time periods?

The Fund is interested in supporting the documentation and sharing of narratives from California Native peoples of all generations.

21. What are some characteristics of the strongest proposals you saw in 2022?

The strongest proposals made a clear and direct connection between the proposed project, and the California Truth and Healing Council goals and objectives.

Additionally, they were projects with clear leadership and support from California Tribes.

For 2023, we expect the strongest proposals for activities most aligned with the funding priorities outlined in the RFP; proposals that provide resources directly to California families for the direct engagement in the process; and clear documentation of partnerships and support from Tribes, if you are not a Tribal entity.

ELIGIBILITY

22. We have a fiscal sponsor, can we still apply?

Yes, fiscally-sponsored organizations may apply.

23. Can I apply if my group doesn't have a 501c3 status?

If your organization does not have 501(c)(3) status or fiscal sponsorship, but meets our other eligibility criteria, you may be able to apply (for example, if you are applying as a federally recognized tribe). There are limitations on how we can distribute funds to groups that are not 501(c)(3) and do not have fiscal sponsorship, so before submitting an application you must speak with a DWP staff person so we can help determine if your organization is a fit and explain what you need to know about how our process works for non-501(c)(3) groups.

24. Is budget size part of your eligibility criteria?

There is no minimum or maximum budget size to be eligible to apply for funding from Liberated Capital. However, we do give special consideration to groups that have less access to more mainstream sources of funding.

25. Can we submit a joint proposal with another organization?

Joint proposals are permitted and will be evaluated with the same lens as single-organization proposals.

26. Is there a match requirement?

No, we do not require matching funds.

27. If my organization does not have a California Native CEO or ED, does that disqualify us?

CA Native-led defined: the organization's Board of Directors and Executive leadership must be majority California Native-led, and must primarily service California Natives.

28. If my organization supports California Native tribes but not primarily, does that disqualify us?

Yes, to be eligible, you must meet the criteria of CA Native-led: the organization's Board of Directors and Executive leadership must be majority California Native-led, and must primarily service California Natives.

29. If my organization supports primarily Natives in California that are not the original peoples of California, does that disqualify us?

Yes. While we understand and are supportive of efforts to address harms enacted upon relocated Native peoples, the California Truth and Healing Council's work is specific to California Native peoples. To be eligible, you must meet the criteria of CA Native-led: the organization's Board of Directors and

Executive leadership must be majority California Native-led, and must primarily service California Natives.

30. Can the recipients of 2022 funding apply for and receive funding in 2023?

Prior recipients of funding via the California Truth and Healing Fund can apply for and receive funding in future subsequent years.

SUBMITTING YOUR PROPOSAL

Liberated Capital uses the JustFund platform to accept and review applications. To apply, follow the steps below:

Visit www.justfund.us to log in or register for an account.

- If you have an existing JustFund account, click 'Sign In' and login to access the RFP. If you are having trouble accessing your account, reset your password or contact info@justfund.us.
- If you do not have an existing account, click 'Sign Up' and complete the form. **Please note that registrations require 48 business hours for approval. We encourage applicants to register as early as possible.**

Once you are logged into JustFund, click 'Funding Opportunities' at the top of your screen, and select 'The California Truth and Healing Fund' RFP. Once you have reviewed the opportunity and determined you qualify to apply, click the 'Apply' button at the bottom of the screen.

If you have additional questions, view JustFund's, [Help Center](#) or contact info@justfund.us for support!

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

- Before you get started, learn more about how the [JustFund Common Application™](#) works. Please ensure that all fields in your profile are up to date. As part of your application, your profile information will also be submitted and dated at time of submission.

Application Specific Questions

- The mission of the California Truth & Healing Council is to bear witness to, record, examine existing documentation of, and receive California Native American narratives regarding the historical relationship between the State of California and California Native Americans in order to clarify the historical record of such relationship in the spirit of truth and healing. How does your proposal align with this mission and how do you plan to engage community members in this work? *
- Other than financial, what barriers are you facing to fully participate in this opportunity for truth and healing? What strategies are you considering to overcome them? *

Application Specific Attachments

- Leadership and Team Bios (Required) (Please remember that the proposing organization's Board of Directors and Executive leadership must be majority California Native-led, and must primarily service California Natives.)*
- Program Budget & Work Plan (Required)*
- Letters of Support from CA tribe(s) or tribally-affiliated references (Required for CA Native-led 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, coalitions or projects fiscally-sponsored by a 501(c)(3) based in CA - Not Required for CA Tribes)*

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

31. What are the grantee reporting requirements?

There will be no written reports. We may arrange periodic reflection meetings with you to find out how the work is going, and what you need from us. This enables us to share learnings, continue fundraising for this work and celebrate wins.

INFORMATIONAL WEBINAR

32. If I missed the informational webinars, where can I find a recording?

A recording of our informational webinar session is available [here](#). In the recording, we share more technical support and information about the fund, eligibility, funding priorities, application requirements, and the Justfund platform.

We'll update this document as additional questions surface.

Questions submitted will be answered individually via email and shared in the document for community learning: info@decolonizingwealth.com

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