



# CPUC Equity & Access Grant Program

## December 2023

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) launched an Equity & Access (E&A) Grant Program in July 2023 to provide \$30 million in grant funding opportunities for California Native American Tribes and community-based organizations (CBOs) throughout California. **Governor Newsom’s 2024-25 January Budget proposal reduces total E&A Grant funding to \$10 million.**

The program consists of three grant accounts that provide support to Tribes & CBOs to participate in CPUC initiatives and decision-making processes in ongoing efforts to include the needs and voices of underserved and underrepresented communities in the CPUC’s decision-making processes:

### 1) Public Participation (PP) Grant Account:

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Reimbursement for participation in CPUC activities such as working groups, panels, or focus groups.  
**Amount: \$150 per hour**

### 2) Equity, Engagement, and Education (EEE) Grant Account:

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Funding to build capacity to educate the community on and engage in CPUC decision-making processes.  
**Amount: Up to \$200,000**

### 3) Clean Energy Access (CEA) Grant Account:

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Funding for projects addressing access to or education on CPUC clean energy programs.  
**Amount: Up to \$500,000**

### Funding Summary:

Amounts in black reflect the Governor’s 2024-25 budget proposal; original amounts are in grey for reference.

Funding Account	Maximum Grant Award	Tribal Reserved Funds	General Non-Reserved	Total Available in Account
Public Participation	\$15,000 (org max)	\$9,677	\$90,323	\$100,000
		\$300,000	\$2,800,000	\$3,100,000
Equity, Engagement, and Education	\$200,000	\$277,662	\$3,331,938	\$3,609,600
		\$750,000	\$9,000,000	\$9,750,000
Clean Energy Access	\$500,000	\$721,488	\$5,068,912	\$5,790,400
		\$1,950,000	\$13,700,000	\$15,650,000

**Eligibility Guidelines & Rules:**

- Type 1: California tax-exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- Type 2: Federally and non-Federally recognized Tribes as defined in Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 21073.
- Type 3: Tribal entities, including organizations incorporated under Tribal law, Tribal Section 17 Corporations, Tribal utilities, and authorities operated under Tribal law.

**Guidelines for Ineligibility**

- Organizations that received or plan to receive funding from another source for the same activity.
- Organizations previously denied Intervenor Compensation due to lack of financial hardship.
- Organizations granted Intervenor Compensation for E&A work may have their award reduced by the CPUC at their discretion.

**Grant Cycles & Deadlines:**

Public Participation:	Rolling Application: September 8, 2023 – Funds Exhausted
Equity, Engagement, and Education:	Cycle 1: September 1, 2023 – October 31, 2023 Cycle 2: May 1 – June 30, 2024
Clean Energy Access:	Cycle 1: March 1 – April 30, 2024 Cycle 2: Summer 2024

**Submission Instructions:**

Apply online and upload required documents: <https://cpuc.smapply.io/>.

Alternatively, email completed forms and required documents to: [capacitygrants@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:capacitygrants@cpuc.ca.gov). Include the grant account name in the subject line.

Alternatively, mail completed forms and required documents to:

Business and Community Outreach  
Attn: Equity & Access Grant Program  
California Public Utilities Commission  
505 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco, CA 94102

**Contact Information:**

[capacitygrants@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:capacitygrants@cpuc.ca.gov)

More Information: visit [www.cpuc.ca.gov/capacitygrants](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/capacitygrants) to learn more about program guidelines and application forms.