



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
PO Box 47890 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7890
Tel: 360-236-4030 • 711 Washington Relay Service

September 18, 2024

Dear Honorable Tribal Leaders & Tribal Partners:

SUBJECT: CONSULTATION CLOSURE - Two Environmental Justice Grants

Thank you for your participation in the Washington State Department of Health's (WA-DOH) final consultation for the development of two Environmental Justice Grants, the [*Workplace Safety for Workers Affected by Climate Change and the Community Budgeting for Decarbonization and Resilience grants*](#), which was held on Wednesday, July 10, 2024.

The consultation was in response to the passage of the [Healthy Environmental for All \(HEAL\) Act](#) and in accordance with [RCW 43.376, honoring our government-to-government relationship with Tribes](#).

As a result of the consultation, preceding listening session and roundtable discussions, we have committed to:

- Creating a clear, simple, and flexible grant process that respects Tribal sovereignty and incorporates learnings from WA-DOH and other state agency contracting efforts with Tribes.
- Holding a short initial application period for priority review and allowing rolling application submissions.
- Allowing reallocation of unspent funds.
- Allowing self-determination in application and scopes of work, while also providing templates to support the uniqueness of each Tribe and reduce administrative burdens on Tribes.
- Allowing both reimbursement and prepayment-based funding options for Tribes.
- Limiting the collection of Tribal data and protecting data to the extent allowable by law.
- Creating ongoing, frequent, and meaningful opportunities for collaboration as this and the other environmental justice focused grant programs are developed.


At consultation, through the following comment period, we heard a preference to prioritize funding to federally recognized Tribes with impacts to rights and interest in their Tribal lands (RCW [70A.65.305](#)). We were advised to prioritize 20% of the *Workplace Safety for Workers Affected by Climate Change* grant funds for Tribes, understanding Tribes will be eligible for any unspent funds.

We are following this advice and have developed a grant application for these funds. Twenty percent of the available funds, total \$2,000,000, which translates to \$62,500 per Tribe. For the ***Community Budgeting for Decarbonization and Resilience*** grant, we were advised to prioritize 10% of grant funds for Tribes. Ten percent of the available funds, total \$3,200,000, which translates to \$110,344 per Tribe.

The WA-DOH looks forward to continued collaboration on this important issue. If you should have any questions, please contact Candice Wilson – Quatz'tenaut, Executive Director of Tribal Public Health and Relations (OTPHR), at 360-819-7626 or candice.wilson@doh.wa.gov.

Thank you for your time and participation.

Best,



Umair A. Shah, MD, MPH
Secretary of Health
Washington

Enclosure: Consultation Presentation and Summary 7/10/2024

cc: Lacy Fehrenbach, Chief, Office of Prevention, Safety & Health, WA-DOH
Kris Holiday, Chief, Office of Strategic Partnerships, WA-DOH
Rachele Hurt, Tribal Relations Strategist, Environmental Public Health Sciences, WA-DOH
Lauren Jenks, Assistant Secretary, Environmental Public Health Division, WA-DOH
Laura Johnson, Director, Environmental Public Health Sciences, WA-DOH
The Honorable Misty Napeahi, Tulalip Tribes
Elizabeth Perez, Chief, Office of Public Affairs & Equity, WA-DOH
Kristin Peterson, Chief, Office of Policy, Planning & Evaluation, WA-DOH
Sierra Rotakhina, Manager, Environmental Justice Council
Jessica Todorovich, Chief of Staff, Office of the Secretary, WA-DOH
The Honorable Monica Tonasket, Spokane Tribe
The Honorable JJ Wilbur, Swinomish Indian Tribe
Candice Wilson – Quatz'tenaut (Lummi), Executive Director, OTPHR, WA-DOH