

**Tribal Homeless Housing, Assistance and
Prevention Program Round 5 (Tribal HHAP 5)**

Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA)

DRAFT



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Section 1. Program Overview

Section 1.1 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA)

The California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) is pleased to announce the availability of \$25.65 million in Tribal Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (Tribal HHAP) grant funding. These funds are available for California Federally Recognized Tribes and are designed to be flexible to meet the unique needs of each community in their goals to prevent and end homelessness.

Since its creation in 2022, the Tribal HHAP Program has been developed in collaboration with California Federally Recognized Tribes and other key stakeholders. Tribal HHAP has been a dedicated Tribal set-aside within the broader Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Program developed specifically for—and in partnership with—California Federally Recognized Tribes. Through direct consultation and feedback, HCD aims to continue improving access, alignment, and culturally responsive implementation of these funds.

Section 1.2 Applicable Laws

This document provides HCD's guidelines for administering the Tribal HHAP Program and explains the program and procedures. Tribal HHAP, including the terms, conditions, forms, procedures, and other mechanisms that HCD deems necessary to administer Tribal HHAP, are not subject to the rulemaking provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act (HSC section 50232(h)). The guidelines in this document are considered to have "the dignity of statutes." (*Ramirez v. Yosemite Water Company, Inc.* (1999) 20 Cal. 4th 785, 799.)

Tribal HHAP was originally created by [Assembly Bill \(AB\) No. 140](#) (Chapter 111, Statutes of 2021), which was signed into law by Governor Gavin Newsom on July 19, 2021. HHAP Round 7 was established by Section 1 of [Senate Bill \(SB\) No. 131](#) (Chapter 24 Statutes of 2025; Health and Safety Code (HSC) Section 50245), which was signed into law by Governor Newsom on June 30, 2025, and was contingent upon enacting future legislation that specified enhanced accountability and performance measures for HHAP Round 7. [AB 179](#) (Chapter 51, Statutes of 2026), which was signed into law by Governor Newsom on July 13, 2026, further implemented the programmatic requirements applicable to HHAP Round 7 and appropriated \$900 million. HSC Section 50241(a)(3) set aside three percent of HHAP Round 7 to fund Tribal HHAP Round 5. State funding for housing and homelessness is subject to Welfare & Institutions Code Section 8255, which includes the expectation that programs and services follow Housing First philosophies and principles.¹

¹ In addition, Welfare & Institutions Code Section 8256 requires state agencies to collaborate with the California Interagency Council on Homelessness to adopt or revise guidelines and regulations that incorporate the core components of Housing First. In recognition of tribal sovereignty and the diverse needs of tribal communities, California's Federally Recognized Tribes may implement culturally responsive adaptations of Housing First. These adaptations can maintain the core vision and intent of Housing First while honoring each Tribe's cultural context, history, and self-determination.

The application materials submitted in response to this NOFA are public records available for public review pursuant to the California Public Records Act (CPRA). After final awards have been issued, HCD may be legally required to disclose materials provided by the Applicant to any person making a request under the CPRA.

See Section 5: Appendix for references to key statutes that support Tribal HHAP implementation and guidance.

Section 1.3 Timeline

Please note: Specific dates may be subject to change.

July 23, 2026	Publication of Draft NOFA, Standard Agreement Boilerplate, and Application	Publication of the draft Tribal HHAP Round 5 NOFA, Standard Agreement boilerplate, and application.
July 23 – August 22, 2026	Public Comment and Outreach	The 30-day public comment period begins. Comments may be submitted to TribalHHAP@hcd.ca.gov . HCD will seek feedback from tribal partners through public listening sessions on the draft Tribal HHAP Round 5 NOFA, Standard Agreement boilerplate, and application. These sessions offer tribes the opportunity to share concerns, submit comments, and help ensure the program reflects community-defined priorities.
August 22, 2026	Public Comment Deadline	Deadline to submit public comment on the draft Tribal HHAP Round 5 NOFA, Standard Agreement boilerplate, and application.
August – September 2026	Revisions to Draft NOFA, Standard Agreement Boilerplate, and Application	HCD will make the applicable revisions based on feedback it received during the public comment period.
October 2026	Publication of Final NOFA, Standard Agreement Boilerplate, and Application	Publication of the final Tribal HHAP Round 5 NOFA, Standard Agreement boilerplate, and application.
January 29, 2027	Application Deadline	Applications are due by 5:00 PM PDT. Applicants will receive an acknowledgment of receipt.
February 2027	Application Follow Up	HCD may contact applicants with questions necessary to finalize review and approval of submitted applications.

March – April 2027	Allocation & Conditional Awards	If the total amount requested from applicants is more than \$25.65 million, an allocation formula based on need will be applied. See Section 3.2 for details on the allocation formula and process. After determining allocations for each applicant, HCD will inform Tribes of their allocations through a conditional award.
May 2027	Budget Revision & Disbursement	Following conditional awards, Tribes will provide a revised budget based on the allocation for HCD approval. Upon approval of the revised budget and execution of the Standard Agreements, payments will be disbursed. HCD strives to disburse payments within 60 days. However, actual disbursement dates may vary, depending on the speed at which the contract and paperwork are completed by the applicant.
December 31, 2033	Fund Expenditure Deadline	Deadline to expend Tribal HHAP Round 5 funds.

Section 1.4 Definitions

“Applicant” refers to a California Federally Recognized Tribe that is applying for Tribal HHAP.

“Grantee” is a Federally Recognized Tribe that receives grant funds from HCD for the purposes of the Tribal HHAP Program. Grantee is synonymous with “Recipient.”

“Homeless” means

1. An individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning:
 - (i) An individual or family with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground.
 - (ii) An individual or family living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state, or local government programs for low-income individuals); or
 - (iii) An individual who is exiting an institution where they resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution.
2. An individual or family who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence, provided that:
 - (i) The primary nighttime residence will be lost within 14 days of the date of application for homeless assistance;
 - (ii) No subsequent residence has been identified; and

- (iii) The individual or family lacks the resources or support networks, e.g., family, friends, faith-based or other social networks, needed to obtain other permanent housing.
3. Unaccompanied youth under 25 years of age, or families with children and youth, who do not otherwise qualify as homeless under this definition, but who:
- (i) Have not had a lease, ownership interest, or occupancy agreement in permanent housing at any time during the 60 days immediately preceding the date of application for homeless assistance;
 - (ii) Have experienced persistent instability as measured by two moves or more during the 60-day period immediately preceding the date of applying for homeless assistance; and
 - (iii) Can be expected to continue in such status for an extended period of time because of chronic disabilities; chronic physical health or mental health conditions; substance addiction; histories of domestic violence or childhood abuse (including neglect); the presence of a child or youth with a disability; or two or more barriers to employment, which include the lack of a high school degree or General Education Development (GED), illiteracy, low English proficiency, a history of incarceration or detention for criminal activity, and a history of unstable employment; or
4. Any individual or family who:
- (i) Is fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions that relate to violence against the individual or a family member, including a child, that has either taken place within the individual's or family's primary nighttime residence or has made the individual or family afraid to return to their primary nighttime residence;
 - (ii) Has no other residence; and
 - (iii) Lacks the resources or support networks, e.g., family, friends, and faith-based or other social networks, to obtain other permanent housing.

"Homeless youth" means an unaccompanied youth between 12 and 24 years of age who is experiencing homelessness, as defined in Section 725(2) of the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 11434a(2)). "Homeless youth" includes unaccompanied youth who are pregnant or parenting.

Section 2: Program Requirements

Section 2.1 Eligible Applicant

California Federally Recognized Tribes are the only Applicants eligible to receive funding from Tribal HHAP. However, Tribes may partner with other organizations or may designate another individual or entity to complete the application on their behalf, provided that the proper tribal authority signs and certifies the application.

Tribes may contract or subcontract with Tribal Designated Housing Entities (TDHE) and others to develop and/or implement their programs.

Section 2.2 Eligible Uses

Tribal communities hold the expertise to design and implement culturally responsive solutions that meet the needs of their communities. The Tribal HHAP Program supports tribal self-determination to flexibly use a variety of interventions to meet each Tribe's unique needs.

HSC section 50243(e) provides broad categories where Tribal communities can choose a variety of interventions in the following categories:

1. permanent housing solutions
2. homelessness prevention
3. interim housing solutions
4. non-housing solutions, including non-housing services

Tribes may use Tribal HHAP Round 5 funds to contract with entities, including Tribal Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs), for the development and administration of their Tribal HHAP programs.

Additionally, up to seven (7) percent of allocation amounts can go towards administrative costs, with an additional one (1) percent available for Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS) as applicable. Please note that data entry into HMIS is not required for Tribal HHAP. If a Tribe who is applying for Tribal HHAP has an active data sharing agreement for their nation, it is requested they submit the agreement with their Tribal HHAP application.

Examples of these categories are provided below. **Applicants are encouraged to apply a culturally appropriate lens to each category, ensuring that programs and services are customized to meet the needs of their population.**

HHAP Statute	Eligible Use Category	Explanation and Examples of Eligible Uses of Tribal HHAP funds
Category #1: Permanent Housing Solutions that can prevent or serve those experiencing unsheltered homelessness, including, but not limited to, persons	Rapid Rehousing/ Rental Subsidies, per HSC 50243(e)(1)(A)-(C) and (E)	Examples include, but are not limited to: • Rental subsidies, including rental subsidies in rapid rehousing programs or longer-term rental subsidy programs. • CARE Act petitioning activities and support for placement and related services for individuals (respondents) in the CARE Act process. • Landlord incentives, such as security deposits, holding fees, funding for needed repairs, and landlord relationship management costs. • Move-in expenses.

HHAP Statute	Eligible Use Category	Explanation and Examples of Eligible Uses of Tribal HHAP funds
experiencing homelessness coming from encampment sites	Operating Subsidies – Permanent Housing, per HSC 50243(e)(1)(D)	• Operating Subsidies in new and existing affordable or supportive housing units serving people experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness, and new or existing residential care facilities. • Operating Subsidies may include capitalized operating reserves (funds held in reserve to cover multiple years of operating support, or cover large, unexpected operating expenses).
	Permanent Housing Services and Services Coordination, per HSC 50243(e)(1)(E) and (G)	Supportive services for people in permanent housing, so long as the services are trauma-informed and practice harm reduction, to include, but not limited to: • Intensive case management services, • Assertive community treatment services, • Critical time intervention services, • Other tenancy support services, • Evidence-based employment services, • Traditional peer mentorship or Elder-guided support, • Culturally rooted practices to support housing stability, • Coordinating or providing mental health, traditional medicine/traditional healers, Red Road to Wellbriety,² substance use, and primary care treatment, • Other evidence-based supportive services to increase housing retention, or • Services coordination, which may include access to workforce, education, and training programs, or other services needed to promote housing stability in permanent supportive housing.
	Capital for Permanent Housing, per HSC 50243(e)(1)(F)	• Capital for permanent housing that serves people experiencing homelessness, including conversion of underutilized buildings or existing interim or transitional housing into permanent housing.

² The Red Road to Wellbriety is a culturally specific program used by some Native American communities to help those overcome addiction with Indigenous teachings.

HHAP Statute	Eligible Use Category	Explanation and Examples of Eligible Uses of Tribal HHAP funds
Category #2: Homelessness Prevention Activities that can prevent or serve those experiencing unsheltered homelessness, including, but not limited to, persons experiencing homelessness coming from encampment sites.	Prevention and Diversion, per HSC 50243(e)(2)(A) and (B)	• Problem solving and diversion support programs that prevent people at risk of or recently experiencing homelessness from entering unsheltered or sheltered homelessness. • Culturally appropriate talking circles and/or mentorship. • Ceremonial practices to promote intergenerational healing and stability. • Tribal family preservation strategies or processes that help prevent displacement. • Cultural activities.
Category #3: Interim Housing Solutions that can prevent or serve those experiencing unsheltered homelessness, including, but not limited to, persons experiencing homelessness coming from encampment sites.	Navigation Centers, per HSC 50243(e)(3)(A)	• Navigation Centers or other emergency shelters that are low barrier as defined in Government Code sections 65660 and 65662.
	Motel/Hotel Vouchers, per HSC 50243(e)(3)(D)	• Vouchers for motels and hotels that are used as interim shelter for people experiencing homelessness, until they can be connected to permanent housing resources.
	Operating Expenses – Interim Housing, per HSC 50243(e)(3)(B) and (C)	• Operating expenses in existing congregate shelter sites. • Operating expenses in new or existing non-congregate shelter sites and transitional housing for youth. • Operating expenses may include capitalized operating reserves (funds held in reserve upfront to cover multiple years of operations, or large, unexpected operating expenses).

HHAP Statute	Eligible Use Category	Explanation and Examples of Eligible Uses of Tribal HHAP funds
	Interim Housing Services and Services Coordination, per HSC 50243(e)(3)(E) and (H)	Services provided to people in Interim Housing, so long as the services are trauma-informed and practice harm reduction, to include, but are not limited to: • Intensive case management services; • Housing navigation; • Cultural welcoming protocols and Indigenous-designed service environments; • Hosting of traditional gatherings or healing events at Interim Housing sites; • Coordinating or providing mental health, traditional medicine/traditional healers, Red Road to Wellbriety, substance use, and primary care treatment, public benefits advocacy; • Other supportive services to promote stability and referral into permanent housing; and • Youth-focused services in transitional housing.
	Capital for New Interim Housing, per HSC 50243(e)(3)(F), (G), and (J)	Capital funding to build new noncongregate shelter sites and transitional housing sites for homeless youth, including for construction, rehabilitation, and capital improvements to convert existing congregate sites into noncongregate sites. Capital funding for clinically enhanced congregate or noncongregate shelter sites.
	Improvements to Existing Interim Housing, per HSC 50243(e)(3)(I)	Renovation of existing Interim Housing to improve the quality of life for people experiencing homelessness who are residing in the Interim Housing. Examples include, but are not limited to: • Maintenance of an Interim Housing facility; • Minor/major rehabilitation or renovation of an Interim Housing facility; and • Minor/major conversion, additions, updates, and/or enhancements that lower barriers and/or increase privacy.

HHAP Statute	Eligible Use Category	Explanation and Examples of Eligible Uses of Tribal HHAP funds
Category #4: Non-housing Solutions that can prevent or serve those experiencing unsheltered homelessness, including, but not limited to, persons experiencing homelessness coming from encampment sites.	Services and Services Coordination for People Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness, per HSC 50243(e)(4)	Non-housing services for people experiencing unsheltered homelessness, so long as the services are trauma-informed and practice harm reduction, to include, but are not limited to: • Street outreach • Evidence-based engagement services • Intensive case management services • Assertive community treatment • Housing navigation • Harm reduction services • Coordination with street-based health care services • Hygiene services for people living in encampments and unsheltered individuals • Services coordination, which may include access to workforce, education, and training programs, or other services needed to promote housing stability • Costs that support people with lived experience of homelessness to participate in and/or provide input for regional and system planning (e.g., lived experience advisory boards, youth advisory boards, etc.) • Traditional wellness gatherings or seasonal ceremonies that support those living unsheltered • Community-based cultural navigators or Elders who provide guidance to unsheltered individuals
Administrative Costs	Administrative Costs (up to 7 percent of allocation amount), per HSC 50243(g)	Eligible uses include overhead costs related to the administration of Tribal HHAP programs. Administrative costs do not include staff or other costs directly related to implementing activities funded by the program allocation.

Section 2.3 Program Deadlines

The expenditure deadline for Tribal HHAP Round 5 funds is December 31, 2033.

Section 2.4 Documentation & Reporting Requirements

Grantees must be able to demonstrate that Tribal HHAP Program funds were expended for eligible uses to benefit members of the target population. To maintain accountability, while reducing workload on Grantees, Tribal HHAP will have annual reporting requirements. These reports are essential to demonstrate the effective use of Tribal HHAP 5 funding while upholding our commitment to safe and secure housing.

Annual program reports include:

- Fiscal data of program funds obligated and expended in each eligible use category
- Narrative information about project progress
- Aggregate data regarding the individuals served and their outcomes in each eligible use category

Reporting Schedule

Report Type	Report Period Through	Report Template Given to Grantees	Report Due
Annual	December 31	March 1	April 1

Draft annual report templates are available for viewing in advance of Tribal HHAP Application submission. HCD may request additional information separately from the annual reports as needed.

Section 3. Application Process, Allocation Methodology, and Appeals

Section 3.1 Application Process and Submission

The draft Tribal HHAP Round 5 application will be available on HCD's website:

<https://www.hcd.ca.gov/funding/tribalhhap>

Applications will be submitted through an online portal.

Each California Federally Recognized Tribe may submit one (1) application and is able to request funding for a variety of eligible activities, including activities to be delivered by subcontractors.

The application must include:

- The amount of grant funds requested.
- An explanation of the Tribe's local needs, including an estimate of the number of people who need homelessness services and existing available resources.
- A description of the services for which the Tribe plans to utilize funds.

- A Tribal Resolution.
- Government Agency Taxpayer ID Form, as applicable.
- Data entry into a Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is not required for Tribal HHAP. **If a Tribe who is applying for Tribal HHAP has an active data sharing agreement for their nation, it is requested they submit the agreement with their Tribal HHAP Application.**

Tribes may also include funding in their application to conduct a community assessment that identifies areas for improvement and informs targeted interventions. The costs associated with this assessment can be included in the application budget. For more details on eligible uses, please review section 2.2 on Eligible Uses.

HCD's Tribal HHAP team will provide technical assistance and application support upon request. To be connected with assistance, please email: TribalHHAP@hcd.ca.gov.

The deadline to submit final applications is 5:00 PM PDT on January 29, 2027.

Section 3.2 Application Approval, Allocation Methodology, and Award Process

Application Approval

After applications are submitted, HCD may follow up with Applicants to verify eligibility, clarify proposed activities and budgets, and ensure all required materials have been provided.

Allocation Methodology

If total requested funding **does not exceed** the amount available under this NOFA, all eligible Applicants will receive their full requested amount, subject to application approval. In accordance with HSC section 50241(a)(3)(A), if the total amount requested by all eligible and approved Applicants exceeds the amount available under this NOFA, HCD will apply a proportional allocation methodology based on each Applicant's demonstrated need relative to all Tribes that apply.

If funding requests exceed the allocated amount available under this NOFA, the following methodology will be utilized to distribute the funds:

1. Base Award: Seventy-five percent (75%) of the total Tribal HHAP Program funds will be allocated as base awards, divided equally among all eligible Applicants.
2. Proportional Award Based on Need: Following the distribution of base awards, twenty-five percent (25%) of the total Tribal HHAP Program funds will be allocated based on community need. Community need will be determined by the Applicant's estimated number of people to be served, along with any other federal, state, or other funding sources received within the last three (3) years to address the Applicant's housing and homelessness needs. HCD staff will review and verify this information for accuracy.
3. Maximum Award Cap: Depending on the volume of applications received, HCD may impose a maximum cap of \$1.5 million per Applicant. Any awarded funds exceeding this cap will be redistributed among Applicants who have not yet reached the cap or

received their full requested amount.

Award Notification and Budget Adjustment

Once applications are approved and award amounts determined, HCD will issue **conditional award letters** notifying each Tribe of its funding amount. If a Tribe receives less than its requested amount due to the proportional allocation formula, the Tribe must submit a **revised budget** reflecting the awarded amount, subject to HCD approval.

Standard Agreement Execution

Following conditional awards, or full awards, as applicable, HCD will then prepare and issue the Standard Agreement for signature and execution. **Please note that the Tribal HHAP's Standard Agreement does not require a waiver of sovereign immunity as a condition of receiving grant funds.**

Disbursement of Funds

Awarded funds will be disbursed in a one-time payment directly to the California Federally Recognized Tribe upon the completion of the following:

- Signed and executed STD 213 Standard Agreement.
- If an allocation formula was applied and the Tribe was not awarded the original requested amount from their revised budget, they must have submitted a revised budget within the awarded amount, and it must be approved by HCD.

Section 3.3 Appeals

HCD's decision to approve or deny an application, as well as the determination of the funding amount, shall be final and not subject to appeal.

Section 4. Miscellaneous Information

Section 4.1 Culturally Responsive Technical Assistance

The Tribal HHAP team will provide technical assistance and application support to assist California Federally Recognized Tribes with their applications and award implementation. Additionally, HCD makes available culturally responsive technical assistance to support Tribal communities in their goals to address and prevent homelessness with respect for self-determination.

To be connected with technical assistance, please contact: TribalHHAP@hcd.ca.gov.

Section 4.2 Further Information

Additional information and updates such as the application, a list of upcoming workshops, and

resources can be found on the Tribal Program [website](#). You may contact Amy Lopez, Tribal HHAP Program Manager, at Amy.Lopez@hcd.ca.gov or by phone at (916) 890-8376.

For additional information, or to request a consultation or a presentation on Tribal HHAP for your community or Tribal Council, please contact us at TribalHHAP@hcd.ca.gov.

Section 4.3 Requests for Program Flexibility

In accordance with HSC section 50406(p), and as expanded under Assembly Bill (A.B.) 1878 (Chapter 266, Statutes of 2024), HCD recognizes the unique legal, cultural, and governance structures of California Federally Recognized Tribes. As such, HCD may modify or waive standard program requirements to prevent administrative or legal barriers to Tribal participation in Tribal HHAP Round 5. Tribal Applicants may request flexibility in areas including, but not limited to, instrument recordation, security and title insurance requirements, affordability thresholds, target population definitions, service area delineations, housing element compliance, income limits, and timeline requirements. **Additionally, consistent with HSC section 50469, HCD does not require a waiver of tribal sovereign immunity as a condition of receiving funds under this NOFA.** These flexibilities are designed to ensure that Tribal Applicants can fully access and implement the Tribal HHAP Program in a manner consistent with their laws, customs, and self-determined priorities. Requests for program flexibility must be submitted in writing, with sufficient explanation of the Tribal legal or structural circumstances necessitating the request.