



CALIFORNIA INDIAN LEGAL SERVICES

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MEMORANDUM

To: California Tribal Leaders
From: Devon Lee Lomayesva, Executive Director *Devon Lomayesva*
Subject: Free Assistance with Applying for, Reporting on, and Implementing the Use of Recovery Act Funds
Date: October 14, 2009

California Indian Legal Services (CILS) has recently received a grant from the California Endowment to provide **free legal and technical assistance** to California Indian tribes with their applications for stimulus funding available in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (the “Recovery Act”). We can also provide **free** assistance with the reporting requirements that are attached to this funding and with putting your Recovery Act awards to work.

For more information about remaining stimulus funds, we highly recommend that you spend a few minutes at the Recovery Act website set up by the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) at www.indiancountryworks.org, which lists the specific opportunities available in the general areas of: Transportation, Housing and Community Development, Public Safety, Health, Education and Social Services, Food and Nutrition, Water, Environment, Energy, Telecommunications, Economic and Workforce Development, and (individual) Tribal Members.

While distribution of the stimulus money began early this year, there are several significant funding opportunities still available. For example, the Recovery Act authorized the issuance of \$2 billion in tax-free bonds by Indian tribal governments. The Recovery Act also removed the “essential government function” requirement from such bonds, meaning that tribes can use tax-free bonds to finance a much wider range of projects than before. While \$1 billion has been recently released, the remaining \$1 billion is still open for applications, with a deadline of January 2, 2010.

As another example, there are a number of programs through the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Rural Development office which received large amounts of money from the Recovery Act that Indian tribes are eligible to apply for. Tribes in rural areas may be able to qualify for guaranteed loans or grants to stimulate economic development, improve or construct community service buildings, and develop or repair water supply systems, sanitation systems, and waste disposal systems.

As a third example, more application periods will soon be announced for programs like the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants (EECBGs), which aim to reduce fossil fuel use, increase energy efficiency, and promote energy use awareness, and the Broadband



Initiatives Program (BIP) and the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP), which aim to provide broadband service to unserved, underserved, and rural areas.

We are able to offer **free** assistance with drafting grant proposals, associated data collection and analysis, and assuring that all requirements for a particular proposal have been met. In addition, we can provide free assistance with drafting or amending any necessary tribal governing documents (e.g., a tribal constitution, a housing ordinance, etc.). We can also provide free assistance to successful recipients with implementing their proposals and with the reporting requirements attached to the stimulus funds.

CILS will be making brief informative presentations via conference call on the dates and times listed below. These presentations will address 1) a basic overview of the reporting requirements and how CILS can assist your tribe, and 2) certain funding opportunities still available.

Reporting Requirements: Monday, November 9, 2009 at 2:00 pm

Available Funding: Tuesday, November 10, 2009 at 2:00 pm

Reporting Requirements: Thursday, November 12, 2009 at 10:00 am

Available Funding: Friday, November 13, 2009 at 10:00 am

You can join each of the above conference calls by calling our toll-free conference call number at **(866) 212-0875** and entering the access code of **4172572#**.

Please feel free to contact one of our offices directly at any time if you would like to know more about how we can assist your tribe with available funding opportunities or a specific grant that your tribe has received.

Because the stimulus funds were meant to be spent quickly in an effort to jump-start the economy, much of the money has already been distributed, and remaining application deadlines are approaching or passing every day. Therefore, it is very important to apply **as soon as possible**. Visit CILS' website at www.calindian.org/news or NCAI's website (above) for updates on the remaining available funds. Again, all of our services under this grant will be provided **at no charge** to your tribe.