

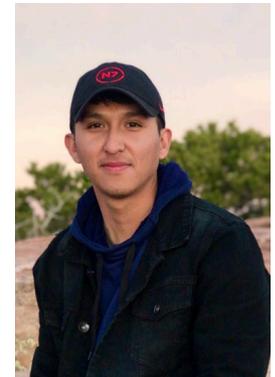
Tribal Climate Resilience Program



- 2021 NOFO- Tribal Organization Support for Regional Tribal Climate Resilience Liaisons •
- Informational Webinar & FAQ session •

TCRP Coordinator & Climate Science Coordinator: Rachael Novak
Natural Resources Specialists: Alyssa Samoy & Corwin Carroll

July 23, 2021



Tribal Climate Resilience Program (TCRP)

Awards Overview

1. TCRP Purpose/Focus
2. Solicitation
3. Categories of Funding
4. Items of Note
5. Description of Scoring System
6. Application Mandatory Components
7. Disallowed Costs and Food
8. Reporting Requirements
9. SOWs and Minimum Qualifications
10. What are the CASCs?
11. FAQs

TCRP Purpose

Empower Federally-recognized tribes and BIA Trust managers to achieve long-term program goals by **mainstreaming climate change considerations to reduce risk to tribal and Trust resources.**

- Enable identification of climate resilience strategies to improve outcomes for existing program operations
- Planning and project design can minimize impacts, reduce the scale of emergencies, infrastructure damage, and threats to human health and well-being
- Leadership engagement, delivery of data and tools, training, tribal capacity-building and federal coordination for improved planning and management



TCRP Focus Areas

TCRP supports resilient **adaptation planning** for climate risks

TCRP supports **management, and relocation, managed retreat and protect-in-place planning** in coastal and riverine communities

TCRP also supports **ocean and coastal management and planning**

- Includes Great Lakes tribes



Solicitation on Grants.gov

Open to **tribal non-profit, non-governmental organizations, and tribally-controlled colleges and universities (TCUs)** that serve federally-recognized tribes for the support of tribal climate science needs through the hiring of tribal climate resilience liaisons. Solicitation Opportunity Number: BIA-2021-TCRP

- Posted 07/16/2021, Closes 08/23/2021, 5pm AK Standard Time
- Submit proposals **directly on the Grants.gov**
- Please limit length to **12 pages** for the proposal, not including supplemental materials
- Other entities may participate as sub-grantees
- Find the solicitation here: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=334752>
- Awards will be issued as cooperative agreements between BIA and the tribal organizations



2021 Categories of Funding

After review, three tribal organization will be selected (one per region) to hire:

1. Alaska: up to three* tribal climate resilience liaisons to be hosted at the Alaska CASC, Anchorage, AK, or University of Alaska, Fairbanks, AK**.

2. Northwest: up to two* tribal climate resilience liaison to be hosted at the Northwest CASC, Corvallis, OR, or University of Washington, Seattle, WA**.

3. Southwest: up to two* tribal climate resilience liaison to be hosted at the Southwest CASC, Tucson, Arizona**.

One organization will be selected per Region.

*Final number of liaisons contingent on funding availability.

**Final hosting location may be determined between the regional CASC and the selected tribal organizations, but will allow for proximity and communication between the liaison(s) and the CASC.



Items of Note

- **Trainings:** May also coordinate with the BIA TCRP, regional CASC, and other potential partners to coordinate training activities for up to two tribal climate resilience trainings for tribes in the respective region per year, contingent on available funding.
- **Interns:** Each tribal organization may hire up to two tribal student interns each year (from federally-recognized tribes) to support the work of the tribal climate resilience liaisons, contingent upon funding, and in coordination with the CASC.
- **Current employee hiring:** is allowable as long as they meet the minimum qualifications.



Items of Note

The successful tribal organization will have:

- 1) various regional and/or national knowledge and familiarity to support all tribes in the service area,
- 2) functional expertise in areas that are or may be affected by climate change
- 3) broad tribal membership regionally or nationally and,
- 4) capacity to provide administrative supervision and mentorship for the liaisons, and engage in regular coordination with the CASC.

NOTE: Liaisons will be employees of the tribal organization, not hired contractors.



Application Mandatory Components

A complete application must contain all **six** Mandatory Components and **two** Requirements:

1. MC 1: Cover Page
 - *Req 1: Confirm current registration in SAM.gov*
 - *Req 2: Confirm current ASAP enrollment with BIA*
2. MC 2: SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance (form found on Grants.gov [SF-424 Family Forms](#) page)
3. MC 3: Cover letter with signature summarizing interest and leadership support
4. MC 4: A **12-page or less** proposal describing the proposed project and associated activities
5. MC 5: [SF-424A Budget Information for Non-Construction Projects](#) detailed budget and a budget narrative
6. MC 6: A copy of the Indirect Cost Rate or other statement



Description and Scoring System

Proposals will be scored using three weighted criteria:

1. Applicant's Demonstrated Capacity and Commitment to Assist Tribes and Develop the Tribal Climate Resilience Liaison: Weight = 30%.
2. Clarity and Reasonableness of the Proposed Plan to Carry-out Statement of Work for Tribal Organization and Liaison: Weight = 35%.
3. Budget Completeness, Cost Reasonableness, Cost Realism and Detail: Weight = 35%.



Disallowed Costs

- a) Establishing or operating an office and/or purchase of office equipment not specific to the proposed project- including items so general they cannot be considered specific to the proposed project (e.g., vehicles)
 - b) Supplementing employment for current positions not significantly and directly involved in the proposed project (e.g., positions like Executive Directors with little to no described involvement in the proposed work)
 - c) Fringe benefits of positions not significantly and directly involved in the proposed project (e.g., an Executive Director with little to no described involvement in proposed work)
 - d) International travel
 - e) Legal fees
 - f) Application fees associated with permitting
 - g) Contracted negotiation fees (e.g., legal counsel)
- Any other activities not authorized by the tribal award letter (e.g., a change in scope)



Disallowed Costs

h) Non-negotiated indirects (unless the entity is in negotiation process or has never received a negotiated indirect cost rate, then 10%)

i) Entertainment

j) If support for trainings/conferences (in coordination w/CASC), is included in budget:

a. For remote training/conference locations (where eating establishments are not within a reasonable distance), food costs are allowable, but should not exceed the GSA meals and incidental costs per attendee for that location, not to exceed \$5,000 for one event, and not more than twice in a calendar year (i.e., 2 trainings/conferences per year). GSA Per Diem rates: <https://www.gsa.gov/travel/plan-book/per-diem-rates>

b. Refreshments for non-remote training/conference locations are allowable for \$5/attendee/day, not to exceed \$1,000/event.

c. All other food costs are disallowed.

d. However, travel reimbursements for training participants are allowed, including costs for meals



Reporting Requirements

Mid-year and annual reporting on project updates, deliverables, etc. as outlined in scope of work.

Reports will be submitted in Grant Solutions portal.

2 Reports:

1. Narrative report
2. Financial report, SF-425



SOWs and Minimum Qualifications

See Solicitation for Appendices:

- Appendix A: SOW for BIA
- Appendix B: SOW for Tribal Org
- Appendix C: Minimum Qualifications and Skills for Liaisons (two model options- Sr. liaisons/Assistant liaisons or sub-regional liaisons)
- Appendix D: SOW for Liaison Appendix E: Helpful info on administrative requirements (DUNS, SAM, ASAP)



What are the DOI Climate Adaptation Science Centers?

“Partnership-driven program that teams scientific researchers with natural and cultural resource managers and local communities to help fish, wildlife, waters, and lands across the country adapt to changing conditions.”

<https://www.usgs.gov/ecosystems/climate-adaptation-science-centers>



Projects by Region



Wildlife and Plants



Drought, Fire and Extreme Weather



Water, Coasts and Ice



Landscapes



Native Communities



Science Tools for Managers



Webinars

Climate Adaptation Science Center (CASC) Regions

The CASCs collaborate across boundaries to address shared ecosystems, watersheds, and landscapes

- ★ University of Alaska Fairbanks
- University of Alaska Anchorage
- University of Alaska Southeast

ALASKA



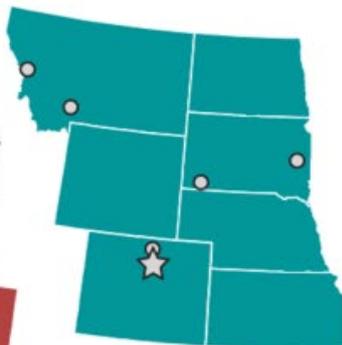
- ★ University of Washington
- Boise State University
- Oregon State University
- University of Montana
- Washington State University
- Western Washington University

NORTHWEST



- ★ University of Colorado at Boulder
- Conservation Science Partners
- Great Plains Tribal Water Alliance
- South Dakota State University
- University of Montana
- Wildlife Conservation Society

NORTH CENTRAL



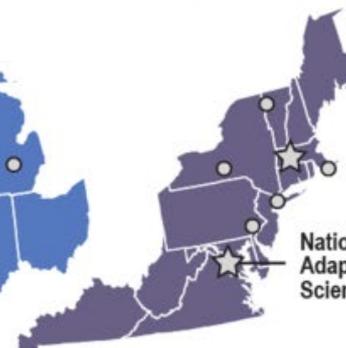
The Midwest CASC consortium will be established in FY22. The states in this footprint were previously part of the Northeast CASC, and the institutions currently displayed in the region are part of the Northeast consortium.

MIDWEST



- ★ University of Massachusetts Amherst
- College of Menominee Nation
- Columbia University
- Cornell University
- Michigan State University
- Woodwell Climate Research Center
- University of Missouri
- University of Wisconsin
- University of Vermont
- USFS Northern Research Station

NORTHEAST



National Climate Adaptation Science Center

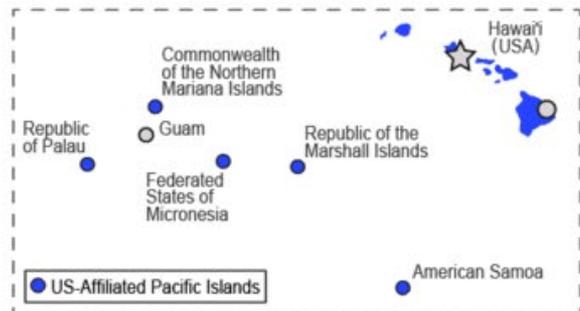
SOUTHWEST

- ★ University of Arizona
- Colorado State University
- Desert Research Institute (Nevada)
- Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UC San Diego
- University of California - Davis
- University of California - Los Angeles
- Utah State University



PACIFIC ISLANDS

- ★ University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
- University of Hawai'i at Hilo
- University of Guam



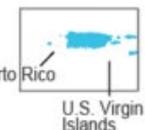
SOUTH CENTRAL

- ★ University of Oklahoma
- Chickasaw Nation
- Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
- Louisiana State University
- Oklahoma State University
- Texas Tech University
- University of New Mexico



SOUTHEAST

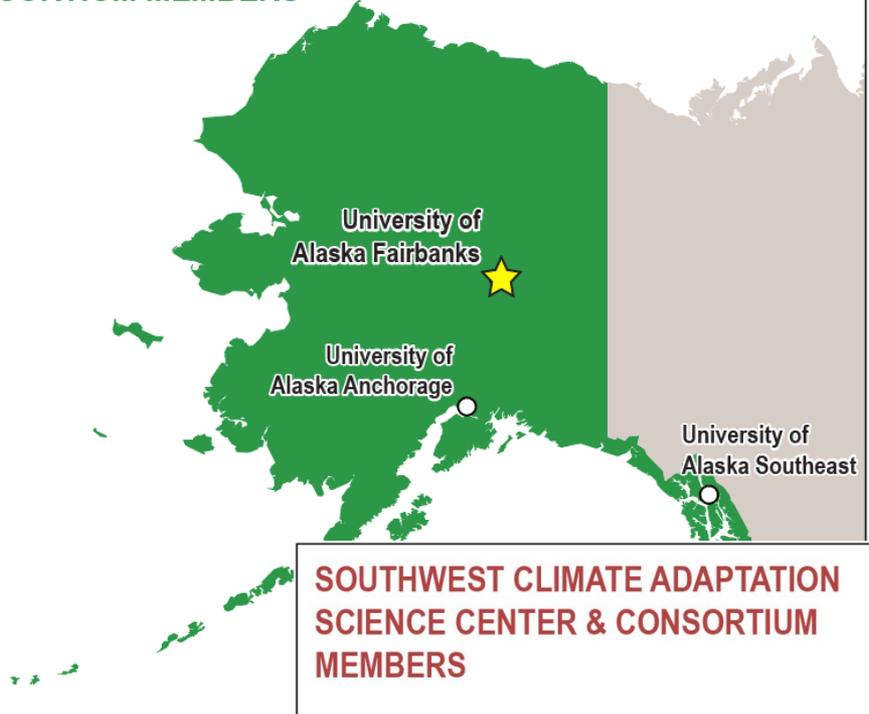
- ★ North Carolina State University
- Auburn University
- Duke University
- University of Florida
- University of South Carolina
- University of Tennessee



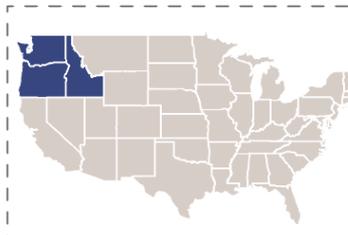
EXPLANATION

- ★ CASC Host Institution
- CASC Consortium Member

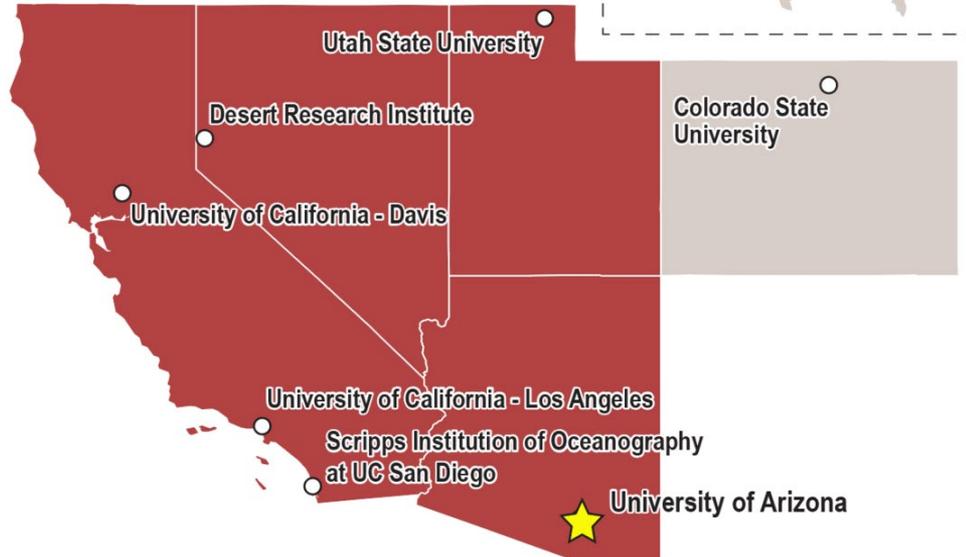
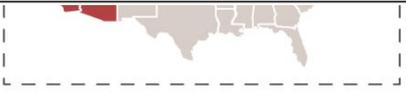
ALASKA CLIMATE ADAPTATION SCIENCE CENTER & CONSORTIUM MEMBERS



NORTHWEST CLIMATE ADAPTATION SCIENCE CENTER & CONSORTIUM MEMBERS



SOUTHWEST CLIMATE ADAPTATION SCIENCE CENTER & CONSORTIUM MEMBERS



Other Helpful Resources

- BIA's Tribal Resilience Program Home Page:
<https://www.bia.gov/bia/ots/tribal-resilience-program>
- Tribal Resilience Resource Guide:
<https://biamaps.doi.gov/tribalresilience/resourceguide/>
- NAU's Institute for Tribal Environmental Professional's
<http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/tcc/Resources/newsletters>
- UO's Tribal Climate Change Guide:
<http://tribalclimateguide.uoregon.edu/>
- Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units: <http://www.cesu.psu.edu/>
- **Intro to Applying on Grants.gov:**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fIZZH74021I&feature=youtu.be>
- **How to Register with Grants.gov:**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sj3X2XPAQ5g&feature=youtu.be>

FAQs



Q: Is indirect allowed in the budget?

A: Yes, Indirect Costs are allowed, just include your current, up-to-date (non-expired) IDC (see solicitation for more information here).



- **Q:** Will the liaison position be stationed in Alaska, Washington, Oregon and Arizona? Is Northern California an option for placement?/ My tribal consortium is located in rural Alaska off the road system. Could the Tribal Climate Response Liaison work with the CASC remotely or would they need to relocate to Fairbanks or Anchorage to work with the CASC in person?
- **A:** The solicitations states that: “The BIA’s Office of Trust Services, Tribal Climate Resilience Program, will evaluate all proposals and select three tribal organization (one per region) to hire:
 1. Alaska: up to three* tribal climate resilience liaisons to be hosted at the Alaska CASC, Anchorage, AK, or University of Alaska, Fairbanks, AK**.
 2. Northwest: up to two* tribal climate resilience liaison to be hosted at the Northwest CASC, Corvallis, OR, or University of Washington, Seattle, WA**.
 3. Southwest: up to two* tribal climate resilience liaison to be hosted at the Southwest CASC, Tucson, Arizona**.

*Final number of liaisons contingent on funding availability.

**Final hosting location may be determined between the regional CASC and the selected tribal organizations, but will allow for proximity and communication between the liaison(s) and the CASC.

- **Q:** Can you clarify what it means for the liaisons to be hosted by the CASCs while simultaneously being employees of the Tribal organization?
- **A:** The liaisons will be employees of the tribal organization and coordinate with their tribal organization, but their proximity to and integration into the CASC is crucial in connecting the resources and expertise of the CASC to tribal climate resilience needs in each respective CASC region, so the liaison will be located at the CASC on a general day-to-day basis. However, per examples in the recent past, some liaisons have had office space at both the CASC and the tribal organization employing them, and spend part of the year (e.g., 1 week orientation about the tribal organization upon hiring and 1 week per quarter at the tribal organization, per the arrangement and agreement between the CASC and tribal organization. Additionally, the CASC and Tribal organization sign an MOU outlining their collaborative activities and regular communication and coordination (after the tribal organization is selected).

- **Q:** How does a University become part of this network?
- **A:** Tribally-controlled Colleges and Universities (TCUs) are eligible to apply employ liaisons. The Climate Adaptation Science Center (CASC) partnerships are between USGS and a host university in each CASC region. They are based on cooperative agreements that have to be openly re-competed every 5 years. Host university applicants can apply during this period and they coordinate with potential consortium member universities, tribal organizations (and sometimes other partners) as they develop full applications to host the CASC at their institution. See the map of the CASCs and current university consortia on slide 16 or here: <https://www.usgs.gov/media/images/climate-adaptation-science-centers-map>.



- **Q:** Does the Maximum award of \$600k include funding for the optional 2nd and 3rd liaison positions in the various regions?
- **A:** Yes. That award ceiling also includes a potential for two trainings per year and two interns per year. Also, this comes with the recognition that costs are higher in some regions than others (e.g., AK costs on average are higher than lower 48). Also, keep in mind that 35% of the overall scoring system is based on budget: “(c) Budget Completeness, Cost Reasonableness, Cost Realism and Detail: Weight = 35%. BIA and USGS will review budget proposals for completeness, organization, and the reasonableness of identified costs. Consider that BIA and USGS’s ranking panel will be asking questions during its review such as: Does the budget comply with Mandatory Component 5b (Detail Budget Estimate) from the solicitation guidelines? Are line item budget numbers appropriate and reasonable to complete the proposed tasks?”



- **Q:** Does the \$600k ceiling include funding for more than one liaison position? Are you actually looking for proposals that describe multiple liaisons in the narrative?
- **A:** Yes, the \$600k ceiling does include funding for more than one liaison already and also trainings and interns. Yes, each proposal received is expected to describe multiple liaisons (2 for the NW, 2 for the SW, and 3 for AK), though the final number of liaisons that will be supported is contingent on available funding (per annual Congressional appropriations). Again, the budget is 35% of the scoring criteria and includes considerations of completeness, reasonableness, and realism.



- **Q:** Does the up to 3 liaisons for AK and 2 in the NW and 2 in the SW included in the NOFO include the 1 that the current regions and tribal organizations already have? Should the new orgs plan to write in the current liaisons into their proposal?
- **A:** The applicant organization can choose who to write into their proposal (e.g., if they already have an employee or potential employee identified who meet the minimum qualifications), or choose to go out for hiring for candidates that meet the minimum qualifications. The selected tribal organizations just need to ensure that their liaisons meet the minimum qualifications. The current tribal organization cooperative agreements with BIA for the NW, SW, and AK all end at the end of September 2021. The current liaisons are employed through this agreement. The BIA is advertising the current solicitation because it is the end of the maximum period a cooperative agreement can run.



Thank you/Ahe'hee!

For more programmatic questions, please email rachael.novak@bia.gov
or alyssa.samoy@bia.gov;
For questions on the application process, please contact jo.metcalfe@bia.gov;

The presentation will be recorded and archived for those unable to attend the live session. A link to this will be available at the ITEP website here:
http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/tcc/Training/Webinars_Schedule.

