
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

SB 1322 (Richardson) - Tribal Housing Grant Program Trust Fund: tribal liaison

Version: March 25, 2026
Urgency: No
Hearing Date: April 27, 2026

Policy Vote: HOUSING 9 - 0
Mandate: No
Consultant: Mark McKenzie

Bill Summary: SB 1322 would require the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to adopt guidelines for the for the Tribal Housing Grant Program (THGP) that streamline and align the grant application process with federal tribal grant application requirements, as specified. The bill would also require HCD to include a tribal liaison in discussions with tribes throughout the grant process to ensure tribal sovereignty is honored.

Fiscal Impact:

- HCD estimates ongoing costs of approximately \$250,000 for 1.0 PY of new staff to serve as a dedicated resource supporting tribal engagement, application streamlining, and program implementation to ensure consistent coordination with tribal partners. (General Fund)

Background: California has taken meaningful steps in recent years, through legislation and executive orders, to address the continuing challenges and structural obstacles experienced by tribes and tribally designated housing entities as they have attempted to access and compete for funding in state housing programs.

Existing law, as enacted by AB 1010 (E.Garcia), Chap. 660/2019, expressly includes a duly constituted governing body of an Indian reservation or Rancheria, and tribally designated housing entities, as eligible applicants under numerous state housing programs. AB 1010 also reconstituted the “G. David Singleton California Indian Assistance Program” (CIAP), which requires HCD to provide comprehensive technical assistance to tribal housing authorities, housing sponsors, and governmental agencies on reservations, Rancherias, and on public domain to facilitate the planning and orderly development of suitable, decent, safe, and sanitary housing for American Indians residing in such areas. Existing law authorizes HCD to modify or waive various requirements of state financing provided to a housing development if the provisions of tribal law, governance, charter, or legal structure would cause a violation or not satisfy the requirements of any state funding being provided by HCD. Where inconsistencies exist, existing law authorizes HCD to waive financing requirements, as it deems necessary to avoid any unnecessary administrative burden, as specified.

Existing law, as enacted by SB 1178 (McGuire), Chap. 295/2024, establishes the THGP and requires HCD to allocate grant funds, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to federally-recognized Indian reservations and Rancherias, and tribally designated housing entities, for specified affordable housing projects and purposes. Existing law requires HCD, in close consultation with California tribes and a tribal equity advisory committee, to adopt guidelines to implement the THGP bill, including determining

allocation methodologies, and authorizes HCD, in consultation with California tribes and a tribal equity advisory committee, to amend the guidelines thereafter.

Existing law, as enacted by AB 1878 (E. Garcia), Chap. 660/2024, established the THGP Advisory Committee within HCD to provide outreach, education, and comprehensive technical assistance to tribes and various tribal housing entities throughout the development and application processes for state-funded housing grant programs. AB 1878 also revised HCD's tribal liaison and technical assistance requirements under the CIAP, including requirements for HCD to create tribal set-asides within each funding program, to include its designated tribal liaison or a designee in all discussions with tribes who are eligible recipients, and prohibiting HCD from requiring a tribe that is an eligible recipient of state funding to waive tribal sovereignty as a condition of accessing funds. AB 1878 also requires HCD to provide outreach, education, and comprehensive technical assistance to specified tribal entities in the development of tribal housing grant programs, and before, during, and after the grant application process.

Staff notes that the THGP Advisory Committee was recently formed and is expected to hold its first committee hearing in the next few months. Dedicated funding has not been provided for the THGP to date as part of the state budget. However, HCD recently released a Tribal Multifamily Finance Super Notice of Funding Availability for approximately \$50 million in dedicated funding for tribal applicants under the Multifamily Housing Program and the Infill Infrastructure Grant Program. Applications are being accepted on an over-the-counter basis until June 30, 2026.

Proposed Law: SB 1322 would require HCD, when adopting guidelines for the THGP, for grant applications due after January 1, 2028, to streamline and align the grant application process with federal tribal grant application requirements. The bill would also require HCD to include a tribal liaison in discussions with tribes throughout the grant process to ensure tribal sovereignty is honored.

Related Legislation: SB 1187 (McGuire), Chap. 295/2024, established the THGP and requires HCD to allocate grant funds, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to federally-recognized Indian reservations and Rancherias, and tribally designated housing entities, for specified affordable housing projects and purposes.

AB 1878 (E.Garcia), Chap. 266/2024, included a provision creating a THGP trust fund advisory committee within HCD to provide outreach, education, and comprehensive technical assistance to tribes and various tribal housing entities throughout the development and application processes for state-funded housing grant programs.

AB 1010 (E.Garcia), Chap. 660/2019, expanded applicant eligibility for numerous state housing programs to include a duly constituted governing body of an Indian reservation or Rancheria, or a tribally designated housing entity, and required HCD to provide technical assistance to specified tribal entities to facilitate housing development for American Indians.

Staff Comments: Despite progress in recent years, the author and sponsors assert that HCD's grant application process remains intricate and cumbersome for some applicants. This bill is intended to help tribal applicants apply for state grant funding

without compromising tribal sovereignty. HCD indicates that its staff resources that provide technical assistance and tribal liaison duties are operating at full capacity. HCD anticipates the need for 1.0 PY of new staff to serve as a dedicated resource supporting tribal engagement and related workload required under this bill. Staff assumes that the requirements to streamline the THGP grant application process to align with the more streamlined federal application process can be managed through the guideline adoption process.

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