

THIRD READING

Bill No: SB 1322
Author: Richardson (D)
Amended: 3/25/26
Vote: 21

SENATE HOUSING COMMITTEE: 9-0, 4/15/26

AYES: Arreguín, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cortese, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson,
Ochoa Bogh, Padilla

NO VOTE RECORDED: Seyarto

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 5/14/26

AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

SUBJECT: Tribal Housing Grant Program Trust Fund: tribal liaison

SOURCE: California Tribal Business Alliance

DIGEST: This bill requires the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to streamline the application for the Tribal Housing Grant Program (TGHP) to align with federal tribal grant application requirements, and requires HCD to include a tribal liaison to honor tribal sovereignty throughout the grant process.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) 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 Native Americans residing in those areas.

- 2) Includes a tribally-designated housing entity or a duly constituted governing body of an Indian reservation or rancheria as a qualifying applicant to a variety of state housing programs.
- 3) Creates the TGHP Fund to be administered by HCD, to provide flexible, culturally appropriate funding to support the construction, rehabilitation, and management of affordable housing in Tribal communities. Acknowledges the historical marginalization of Tribes in state housing programs and seeks to rectify these disparities.
- 4) Upon appropriation, allocates money to the TGHP Fund as follows:
 - a) 80% on an entitlement basis for a federally recognized Indian reservation or Rancheria, in the form of multipurpose block grants for housing and housing-related planning, programming, project predevelopment, operating subsidies, staffing, and administrative activities, as specified;
 - b) 15% on a competitive basis for a federally recognized Indian reservation, Rancheria, or tribally designated housing entity for the construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or acquisition and rehabilitation of housing and infrastructure improvements, as specified; and,
 - c) 5% for technical assistance to eligible tribes and tribally designated housing entities for capacity building.
- 5) Establishes 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 housing grant programs.

This bill:

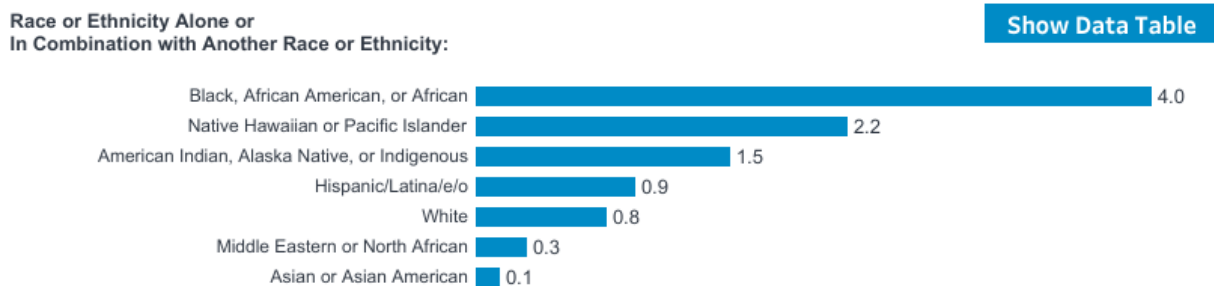
- 1) Requires HCD, for THGP applications due after January 1, 2028, to streamline and align the grant application process with federal tribal grant application requirements.
- 2) Requires HCD to include a tribal liaison designated by HCD in discussions with tribes throughout the TGHP grant process to ensure that tribal sovereignty is honored.

Comments

- 1) *Author’s statement.* “California has demonstrated a strong commitment to supporting Native American tribes through the establishment of the California Indian Assistance Program (CIAP) and the Tribal Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention (THHAP) program, both of which play a critical role in addressing homelessness in tribal communities. However, despite the substantial funding and application assistance provided by these programs, the Department of Housing and Community Development’s grant application process remains intricate and cumbersome for applicants. Tribes continue to face ongoing challenges in this lengthy process, including navigating complex state funding requirements and reconciling state regulations with tribal sovereignty. SB 1322 would require the Department of Housing and Community Development to streamline and improve its application process, while strengthening the tribal liaison role as a designated point of contact for effective government-to-government communication. By increasing access to funding and ensuring applicants are better supported throughout the process, this bill would help tribal applicants apply for crucial grants with ease without compromising their sovereignty.”

- 2) *Disparities in access and outcomes.* Among the over 630,000 Californians who identify in whole or part as Native American or American Indian, or both, the rate of poverty is more than twice that of the rest of California's population and one third of tribal residents live below the federal poverty line. Further, Native Americans in California experience disparate rates of homelessness, at a likelihood of more than two times the general population. The 2024 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count data illustrate these disparities.¹

Likelihood for people of a race or ethnicity to experience homelessness and access services compared to the general population in **California** in 2024.



¹ California Business, Consumer, and Housing Agency. *Acting to Prevent, Reduce and End Homelessness*. Accessible here: <https://bcsh.ca.gov/calich/hdis.html>.

Prior to Executive Orders issued by Governors Brown and Newsom, and recent changes to state law, tribal communities had been excluded from benefiting from state housing programs. Over time, this led to worsened inequities in safe, affordable housing access, which is known to be negatively correlated with rates of homelessness and housing insecurity. While state actions in the past handful of years have made measurable progress toward connecting tribal communities to state housing resources, including through the TGHP Fund, tribes have identified difficulties with applying for and receiving funds.

- 3) *Legislative action to ensure government-to-government coordination.* In recent years, California has taken steps to improve coordination with and support of tribal governments. For instance, SB 1187 created the TGHP Fund to provide targeted housing funding to tribes and AB 1878 established the TGHP Advisory Committee to ensure HCD provides outreach, education, and comprehensive technical assistance to tribes applying for funds. This bill seeks to further improve the process of tribes receiving the housing resources they need by streamlining the application and providing a tribal liaison.
- 4) *An onerous application.* This bill seeks to address the concerns raised by tribes in two primary ways: aligning the TGHP application with a federal application that is much shorter and simpler, and designating a tribal liaison to honor tribal sovereignty in all stages of the process. The Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake wrote the following in support of the bill: “The grant application process [is] lengthy and intricate compared to federal tribal housing programs. Tribes face ongoing issues when navigating complex state funding requirements, reconciling state regulations with tribal sovereignty, and addressing severe shortages of land when developing infrastructure... By strengthening tribal liaison responsibilities to enhance necessary communication and coordination for effective government-to-government relations, this bill helps ensure that tribes are adequately equipped to apply for and receive crucial funding with ease while simultaneously protecting sovereignty.”

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- 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)

SUPPORT: (Verified 5/15/2026)

California Tribal Business Alliance (Source)
California Teachers Association
Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake
Pala Band of Mission Indians

OPPOSITION: (Verified 5/15/2026)

None received.

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the California Tribal Business Alliance, “CTBA strongly supports SB 1322 that builds on the prior work and progress. By aligning the state’s tribal housing grant process with proven federal tribal housing practices, the bill will enhance the performance of the state’s tribal housing programs to achieve intended policy goals.”

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5/16/26 11:10:26

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