

MEETING DATE: November 17, 2023

AGENDA ITEM: D

TO: BSCC Chair and Members

FROM: Eddie Escobar, Field Representative, eddie.escobar@bscc.ca.gov

SUBJECT: Missing and Murdered Indigenous People Grant–
Cohort 2 Request for Proposals: **Requesting Approval**

Summary

This agenda item requests Board approval to release the Missing and Murdered Indigenous People Grant Program Cohort 2 Request for Proposal (RFP) (Attachment D-1) with the funding that remains unallocated from the first round of awards and an additional one-time augmentation contained in the Budget Act of 2023.

This agenda item also requests Board approval to fund a proposal submitted by the Trinidad Rancheria in response to the original RFP, which was incorrectly disqualified from funding in Cohort 1.

Background

The Budget Act of 2022 (Senate Bill 154, Chapter 43, Statutes of 2022) established the MMIP Grant Program. Per the Budget Act, funds shall be awarded by the Board of State and Community Corrections as competitive grants to federally recognized Indian tribes in California to support efforts to identify, collect case-level data, publicize, and investigate and solve cases involving missing and murdered indigenous people.

Grants should focus on activities including, but not limited to, developing culturally based prevention strategies, strengthening responses to human trafficking, and improving cooperation and communication between state, local, federal, and tribal law enforcement to investigate and solve cases involving missing and murdered indigenous people.

On July 25, 2022, the Board approved a staff recommendation to appoint a Chair and establish an Executive Steering Committee (ESC) to develop a Request for Proposal (RFP). On April 13, 2023, the Board approved release of the RFP with a proposal due date of June 23, 2023. The RFP made \$11.4 million available across three fiscal years to implement the grant program, subject to future appropriations.

The BSCC received three proposals requesting \$2.44 million in funding. The Board approved these awards at the September 14, 2023, meeting, leaving \$8.96 million unallocated. Since that time, BSCC staff determined that a fourth proposal, submitted by Trinidad Rancheria requesting \$436,003, was incorrectly disqualified and should have been included in the first round of awards. The proposal had been disqualified because it had not been timely submitted through the BSCC grants submission portal. It was later determined that the grants submission portal would not allow Trinidad Rancheria to submit the proposal because of how the portal handles mailing addresses; Trinidad Rancheria uses a mailing address the

platform did not recognize, which prevented the submission.¹ Instead Trinidad Rancheria timely submitted the proposal via email, which was subsequently scored by the ESC and met the minimum scoring threshold. As such, staff recommends that the proposal be fully funded. With this fourth award, \$8.52 million remains unallocated.

The Budget Act of 2023 (Senate Bill 101, Chapter 12, Statutes of 2023) contained the expected annual appropriation of \$4 million for this grant but added a one-time augmentation of \$12 million (Attachment D-2). BSCC may retain five percent of this amount for administration of the grant, leaving an additional \$11.4 for tribal grants. With the unallocated \$8.52 million from the first round of funding, and the one-time augmentation of \$11.4 million, \$19.92 million is available for a second round of grant funding.

To increase awareness of the MMIP grant, solicit feedback from the tribal community, and encourage participation in the next RFP, BSCC representatives spoke with state and local tribal leaders and attended the following tribal events:

September 22, 2023

California Native American Day at the State Capitol

Hosted by: California Native American Heritage Association

September 25, 2023

MMIP Virtual Round Table Meeting for Tribal Leaders and Advocates

Hosted by: Yurok Tribe

September 26, 2023

AB 1314 Feather Alert Implementation Roundtable

Co-hosted by: California Legislative Native American Caucus and LA County Board of Supervisors in partnership with LA City/County Native American Indian Commission and the California Native Vote Project

September 28, 2023

Roundtable Policy Discussion: MMIP grant funding & AB 1574 (Waldron)

Hosted by: Pala Band of Mission Indians in partnership with California Tribal Business Alliance

September 30, 2023

Missing in California Indian Country, Southern California Region

Hosted by: Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians in partnership with Riverside County Sheriff's Office, Attorney General Rob Bonta and the California Department of Justice-Office of Native American Affairs

Based on feedback from the tribal community, staff propose to re-release the MMIP RFP, with several non-substantive modifications. Modifications include the addition of language to highlight the flexibility afforded by the authorizing legislation in the types of activities that can be implemented and to encourage collaborative applications among one or more tribes. At the urging of tribal representatives, BSCC also increased the application period, from two

¹ Note: this feature of the grants submission portal will be disabled for the next round of RFP submissions.

months to four months. Tribes that were successful in the first round of funding are eligible to apply for this second round but will be awarded only if there are funds remaining after all eligible first-time applicants have been funded. The MMIP ESC (Attachment D-3) convened on October 25, 2023 to approve these modifications.

Recommendation/Action Needed

On behalf of the MMIP ESC Chair, staff recommends that the Board:

- Fund the proposal submitted by the Trinidad Rancheria in response to the original RFP, in the amount of \$436,003.
- Approve an amendment to the RFP that changes the recommended start date of the grant from July 12, 2024 to August 1, 2024 for administrative purposes.
- Release the Cohort 2 Missing and Murdered Indigenous People Grant Program RFP with approximately \$19.92 million in total funding.

Attachments

D-1: MMIP Cohort 2 Request for Proposals

D-2: MMIP 2023 Budget Language

D-3: MMIP Executive Steering Committee Membership