



Tribal Consultation on Safeguarding Tomorrow Revolving Loan Fund (Safeguarding Tomorrow RLF) Program Framing Paper

July 6, 2023, 3:00-5:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Overarching Consultation Questions

FEMA is open to implementing the maximum flexibilities allowable within the Safeguarding Tomorrow RLF program statute to help improve access and participation for Tribal Nations. What recommendations or concerns should FEMA consider to improve access to funding resources through the Safeguarding Tomorrow RLF program for interested Tribal Nations?

How can FEMA improve the program's implementation of future funding opportunities to better serve Tribal Nations?

Background

In 2021, the Safeguarding Tomorrow through Ongoing Risk Mitigation (STORM) Act became law, creating Section 205 of the [Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act \(42 U.S.C. § 5135\)](#). Section 205 authorizes the Safeguarding Tomorrow RLF program to provide capitalization grants to states, eligible federally recognized tribes, territories, and the District of Columbia to establish revolving loan funds that provide hazard mitigation assistance for local governments to reduce risks from natural hazards and disasters.

Federally recognized tribes that received a major disaster declaration are eligible to apply for funding as an entity in this new program. Tribal entities may provide a loan to any authorized tribal organization, including a sub-component within their respective governmental structures. Additionally, Indian tribes located within a participating entity (such as a state or territory) may also apply for a loan under a participating entity's revolving loan fund.

FEMA is implementing necessary measures to prepare eligible entities to apply for capitalization grants as well as manage and initiate loans to loan recipients in future funding opportunity cycles. The first funding opportunity was published on Dec. 20, 2022, and the application cycle closed in late-April.

To better serve Tribal Nations, FEMA would like to use this tribal consultation to provide an overview of the new Safeguarding Tomorrow RLF program and gather feedback from Tribal leaders to inform program implementation for future funding opportunities.

Tribal Feedback

Tribal leaders and other stakeholders shared important perspectives and suggestions during informal listening sessions held in the fall of 2022 and the [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) for

Tribal Governments webinar on March 9, 2023. This valuable feedback included, but was not limited to, the following topics:

- Need for additional information on the [Safeguarding Tomorrow RLF program](#),
- Options Tribal Nations have for receiving program funding, and [eligibility requirements for a direct revolving loan fund capitalization grant or as a potential loan recipient](#),
- Concerns regarding the technical capacity to run a revolving loan fund (RLF),
- The required [Environmental and Historic Preservation \(EHP\)](#) review process, and
- Need for access to technical assistance and support for participation

Discussion Questions

FEMA seeks tribal input on the implementation of the Safeguarding Tomorrow RLF program to help improve equity of access, participation for interested Tribal Nations, and future funding opportunities so that they may better serve Tribal Nations. Below are questions for your consideration. These questions are not in order of priority and are not meant to be an exhaustive list of discussion topics. FEMA welcomes broader input on our activities in support of Tribal Nations.

- What recommendations or concerns should FEMA consider to improve access to funding resources through the Safeguarding Tomorrow RLF program for interested Tribal Nations?
- What potential challenges or opportunities could there be for interested Tribal Nations to participate in the Safeguarding Tomorrow RLF program?
- Do you have any other comments or feedback that could help inform the Safeguarding Tomorrow RLF program's implementation for future funding opportunities so that they may better serve Tribal Nations?

All consultation materials may be found at: www.fema.gov/about/tribes/consultations. The official record will remain open for 32 days after the tribal consultation for Tribal Nations to submit written comments to FEMA-STORMRLF@fema.dhs.gov. Tribal Nations' written comments are due by Monday, August 7, 2023.