

Tribal Land Acquisition Grant FY27-28 Application Guide

The RFR for this grant program provides the most comprehensive guide to the grant program itself; please see the attached document in the GMS or on CommBuys and review it carefully. A brief summary of application information is included here for easy reference.

All applicants must set up an account in the Grants Management System (GMS) before beginning their application. Please see Appendix A in the RFR for details about this process.

Tribal Land Acquisition applicants will be prompted to respond to the following questions within the Grants Management System (GMS):

Contact person information

- Name
- Title/Role
- Email
- Phone number

Basic project information

- Project title
- Project address/location information
- Acres of land to be purchased/protected
- Amount of funding requested
- A brief (1-paragraph) summary of the project

Detailed project description

- Characteristics of the land to be protected: Natural characteristics and ecological value of the property (e.g., occurrence of wetlands, presence of [BioMap](#) designated habitat types such as Critical Natural Landscape or Forest Core); proximity to other conserved land; location in or near an area with a burdened population (as defined in [Mass EnviroScreen](#)); and presence of historical or cultural resources, particularly those of significance to the tribal government.
- Additional relevant information about the property interest to be acquired: current owner, presence of buildings or any other development, encroachments, and any encumbrances including mortgages, liens, and easements.
- Description of the legal mechanism whereby the land will be permanently protected (CR, APR, WPR, charitable trust)
- Entity that will hold the restriction.
- Climate resiliency benefits of the proposed acquisition, including the land's climate resiliency score as defined by The Nature Conservancy's [Resilient Mapping Tool](#).
- Applicant capacity: This may include: a resolution or other formal commitment to land conservation and/or stewardship; any laws, regulations, bylaws, plans, guidelines, or policies governing land acquisition and/or stewardship by the tribal government; and information about staff, volunteers, or members who will take on stewardship roles.
- Land management and community access: A description of the applicant's intended relationship with the land. This may include a plan for post-acquisition land stewardship

as well as the proposed relationship between the tribal government, its citizens and the land.

- An anticipated project timeline

Applicants will also be prompted to upload the following **attachments** with their application:

1. Project budget. This should include a list of all project expenses (due diligence, acquisition, etc), broken down by state fiscal year (FY27 or FY28) and funding source for each (grant or match). A template for the budget is provided.
2. Maps: a USGS topographic map with the parcel(s) associated with the grant proposal clearly identified is required with all proposals. Applicants are encouraged to include other maps, graphics, and images that are responsive to the review criteria and the required application elements.
3. Full narrative appraisal. A market analysis may be substituted for properties valued at under \$350,000.
4. Documentation of approval to submit the application and commitment to any optional matching funding from the appropriate authority (tribal leadership, organizational executive director, etc)
5. If applicable, a commitment letter from an entity to which a restriction will be conveyed or that will work with the Applicant to create a charitable trust obligation.
6. If applicable, a letter of commitment from any collaborating organization or tribal government.
7. Letters of support, if any

Documentation of eligibility as Massachusetts tribal government

Massachusetts tribal governments that have not received funding from this grant program previously, and that have not yet submitted eligibility documents for this program, will be asked to do that here. Three types of documentation are required:

- *Indicia of tribal identity*: documentation of identity as a Native American tribe, such as presence on a list of tribes acknowledged by the Commission on Indian Affairs; documented enrollment process and eligibility criteria based on objective criteria; state or federal recognition; or other information.
- *System of government*: documentation of the tribal system of government, including documentation of established governance bodies (legislative, executive, or judicial) such as a tribal council with established roles and responsibilities. We recognize that the system of government may be based on traditions other than United States legal traditions and may be based on heirship or other traditions of the tribe. Regardless of the form of the system of government, the entity should provide information about its structures and procedures. Such information may include documentation of a tribal constitution or bylaws, if present, or other documents that show that decisions have been made as a body, such as meeting minutes or materials explaining the system of government, including how governance bodies are selected and their roles and responsibilities.
- *Massachusetts locus*: documentation that the tribal government is based in Massachusetts or has a significant continued presence in Massachusetts. Tribes not based in Massachusetts may demonstrate a significant presence in Massachusetts by providing evidence that the tribe's historical homelands were in Massachusetts, or the tribe has a

physical business office or headquarters in Massachusetts.

This documentation may be submitted by email prior to preparing a full application for review by EEA, so that prospective applicants can confirm their eligibility prior to completing a full application. If an applicant has already submitted this documentation and confirmed eligibility, they can select that option in this section and do not need to resubmit documentation here.