Funding Research Memo
Capacity Building and Organizational Development

<u>August 2018</u>

THIS MEMO WILL BE UPDATED PERIODICALLY. IF YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING RESOURCES, PLEASE CONTACT THE SNC FUND DEVELOPMENT TEAM: sncfundingteam@sierranevada.ca.gov.

CAVEAT – Grant guidelines and deadlines are subject to periodic change. Please check the program web sites for new information. The deadlines listed are projected from the last funding round and may be unreliable. Check the program's web site!

FUNDING SUMMARY TABLE

(*Hyperlinks to more complete information later in memo, including links to program web sites)

Grant	Funding Range	Funding Focus	Estimated Deadline *(most recent deadline)*	Eligible Costs
U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Community Development Initiative	$50,000 - $250,000. 1:1 match required, must be cash or confirmed funding commitments	Develop the capacity and ability of rural nonprofits, low-income communities, and federally recognized tribes to undertake housing, community facilities, or economic development projects.	Different each year *(June 25, 2018)*	Technical assistance and capacity building, including staff assistance, training, predevelopment consultations, and some computer and software expenses.
Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant Planning/ Technical Assistance	Up to $100,000. 5% local match required.	Planning and research	Changes each year *(December 1, 2017)*	Research, analysis, and planning for community needs for public improvements, community facilities, and economic development projects. Funding cannot be used for specific project feasibility study, but could analyze feasibility of a biomass business park, for example.
AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps	Funding is per participant. Match is necessary	AmeriCorps participants assist with service projects in various areas.	January *(January 17, 2018)*	Federal funding pays small stipend and educational benefits for AmeriCorps participants.

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Grant	Funding Range	Funding Focus	Estimated Deadline *(most recent deadline)*	Eligible Costs
Healthy Watersheds Consortium Grant Program	$50,000 - $150,000 per year. Multiple-year awards are allowed. 25% of total program cost required as match.	Protection of healthy watersheds. Building watershed protection capacity is one of three areas of focus.	February *(February 1, 2018)*	Expanding organizational infrastructure, staffing costs, increasing funding, outreach and education, and developing and sharing information about planning, implementing, and assessing healthy watershed protection.
National Park Service Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance	No funding provided, technical assistance only	Development of parks, trails, access to rivers, and other special places.	June, July, or August *(July 30, 2018)*	Will provide staff assistance in form of planning, facilitation, design, outreach, etc.
Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) Foundation	Usually below $5,000, but there are exceptions	Programs designed to promote energy sustainability, environmental conservation, and stewardship of land and resources.	March through October *(October 5, 2018)*	No specific limitations. Applications should be at invitation of PG&E staff.
Rose Foundation for the Community and the Environment	Usually around $5,000	Supporting small-scale organizations in conducting environmental improvements in Northern California.	Multiple *(Aug 1, 2018)*	Community-based advocacy, technical assistance, litigation, restoration projects, organizing expenses, grassroots campaigns, and environmental education.
National Environmental Education Foundation: Every Day Capacity Building Grants	Up to $5,000 No match required	Program builds the organizational capacity of 'friends' groups to serve public lands.	November *(November 5, 2018)*	Organizational development, such as strategic planning, board training, communications, fund-raising, etc.
Seventh Generation Fund for Indigenous Peoples: General Operating, Project-Specific, and	Up to $10,000	To support culturally grounded, indigenous community-organizing efforts initiated and led by the communities impacted.	Rolling	General operating costs, project-specific support for special events or initiatives, and capacity building for staff training, purchasing of equipment, or other organizational development needs.

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Grant	Funding Range	Funding Focus	Estimated Deadline *(most recent deadline)*	Eligible Costs
Capacity Building and Mini-Grants				
The Strong Foundation for Environmental Values	$2,000 - $5,000. No match required.	Programs and education supporting ecological ethics in individuals and communities, and grassroots environmental action.	February and September *(September 15, 2018)*	Program planning, implementation, education, training, capacity building, citizen participation, and land acquisition.
Satterberg Foundation Core Support Grants	$100,000 per year for up to 3 years	Conserving and protecting natural resources, avoiding practices and activities which pollute, and educating and advocating for environmental stewardship.	August *(October 22, 2018 for letter of interest)*	General operating support.

U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Community Development Initiative
https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-community-development-initiative-grants

The objective of this program is to develop the capacity and ability of private, nonprofit community-based housing and community development organizations, and low-income rural communities, to improve housing, community facilities, and community/economic development projects in rural areas.

This grant provides funding to an intermediary organization which in turn provides the technical assistance to sub-grantees – the community organizations developing the housing, community facilities, or economic development projects. The intermediary can assist multiple sub-grantees as long as they meet specific organizational requirements. Part of the scoring criteria is the income level for the community served by the organization, which is determined to be the area where the organization's office is located.

Rural Community Development Initiative grants may be used for, but are not limited to:
- Providing technical assistance to sub-grantees on how to effectively prepare a strategic plan
- Providing technical assistance to sub-grantees on how to access alternative funding sources
- Building organizational capacity through board training
- Developing training tools, such as videos, workbooks, and reference guides to be used by the sub-grantee
- Providing technical assistance and training on how to develop successful child care facilities
- Providing training on effective fundraising techniques

The grants require 1:1 cash match; federal funding may be an eligible match in some cases.

Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant program Planning/Technical Assistance Grants
http://www.hcd.ca.gov/grants-funding/nofas.shtml

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program funding comes from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and is distributed through the California Office of Housing and Community Development (HCD). CDBG funding is provided on a pro-rata basis to most large, urban areas (entitlement jurisdictions), but the remaining rural (non-entitlement) areas can obtain funding through a competitive process. CDBG funding comes in multiple categories which are delineated in a 'Super Notice of Funding Availability

(NOFA)' that usually comes out at the beginning of each year. Applications are due a few months after the NOFA is released. There are many technical requirements for submission of these applications (two public meetings with specific types of notice, etc.), so start early. Since only incorporated tribes, cities, and counties may be applicants, you should contact the appropriate planning or economic development department to work with you on the application. There are set-asides for non-federally recognized tribes in the standard CDBG program. For federally recognized tribal programs, applications should be made to the Indian CDBG program.

These grants are not for general capacity building. However, if there is an interest in housing or economic development work, the Planning/Technical Assistance (PTA) grants can be very useful for planning and prioritizing projects and strategies. CDBG grants can be used to research, analyze, and plan housing, public improvements, community facilities, economic development projects and programs, and public services. A five percent match is required.

AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC)
https://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/americorps/americorps-nccc

AmeriCorps NCCC is a full-time, residential, team-based program for young adults age 18-24. Members develop leadership skills and strengthen communities by completing service projects and gaining life experience. Non-profit, tribal, and local government organizations can apply for funding which covers stipends for participants, but are expected to provide low-cost housing and transportation, as well as supervision, as their contributions. Applicants generally apply for 20-50 participants at a time, however smaller organizations can sometimes obtain the services of one or two AmeriCorps participants through regional agencies that have on-going programs.

Healthy Watersheds Consortium Grant Program
http://www.usendowment.org/healthywatersheds.html

The Heathy Watersheds Consortium Grant Program is a joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U. S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities (Endowment), which manages the partnership. The goal of the program is to accelerate strategic protection of healthy, freshwater ecosystems and their watersheds. For the purposes of this program, a healthy watershed is one in which the hydrological, biological, and land-based functions of the ecosystem are largely intact. So, unlike many programs which seek to restore the most impaired watersheds, this program seeks to protect watersheds that are currently in a healthy state but are at risk of deterioration. The principle is to protect and sustain healthy watersheds so that they will continue to provide ecological services such as clean water, drinking water, habitat for fish and wildlife, recreation, and protection from natural hazards.

The program has three categories of funding, one of which is Building Watershed Protection Capacity. The objective of grants in this category is to grow the

organizational sustainability necessary for large-scale, long-term protection of healthy watersheds. Funding ranges from $50,000 to $150,000 per year and grants can be renewed for up to five years based on the previous year's performance. These grants are targeted toward coalescing groups or coalitions working on watershed protection.

The grant requires the applicant to provide a 25 percent match of the total project cost. This requirement can be decreased if the applicant can prove it will impose an undue hardship. The match may include cash donations or in-kind contributions from third-parties.

National Park Service Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance Program
http://www.nps.gov/orgs/rtca/index.htm
https://www.nps.gov/orgs/rtca/apply.htm

This program does not provide funding, but rather National Park Service staff provide free, on-location facilitation and planning expertise for projects related to development of parks, trails, access to rivers, and other special places. They can help guide a project from conception to completion. Some of the ways they can help:

- Define project vision and goals
- Inventory and map community resources
- Identify and analyze key issues and opportunities
- Engage collaborative partners and stakeholders
- Design community outreach and participation strategies
- Develop concept plans for trails, parks, and natural areas
- Set priorities and build consensus
- Identify funding sources
- Develop a sustainable organizational framework to support the project

The application deadline is usually in the summer months. It is a good idea to contact the staff several weeks in advance of the deadline to discuss your project.

Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) Foundation
http://www.pge.com/en/about/community/grants/index.page?

Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) gives small grants in three areas, one of which is 'environment'. It appears this is very broadly defined. There is a preference for low-income and underserved communities. Grants applications are invited by PG&E employees, so the best idea is to contact local PG&E public affairs staff. Once invited to submit a grant, the application process is done online.

Grants are small, usually under $5,000. However, the corporation gives out a lot of grants, so if you just need a few thousand dollars for events, training resources, equipment, etc., this might be worth pursuing. The funding process is open for a period of about six months every year, but this period changes year to year.

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The Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment: Northern California Environmental Grassroots Fund
http://rosefdn.org/grassrootsfund/about

The purpose of this program is to support small-scale organizations in conducting environmental improvements in Northern California. The foundation seeks to strengthen and diversify the capacity of the grassroots base of California's environmental movement, and to provide training opportunities to develop skills in budgeting, communications, strategic planning, computer software, working with volunteers, and more. General support is available for organizations with an environmental mission, and project support is available for community-based advocacy, technical assistance, litigation, restoration projects, organizing expenses, grassroots campaigns, and environmental education. One of the focus areas of the organization is the Sierra Nevada.

The program supports small groups and first-time grant seekers with an annual budget that does not exceed $100,000. Grants are usually $5,000 or less, and there are multiple deadlines.

National Environmental Education Foundation: Every Day Capacity Building Grants
https://www.neefusa.org/resource/2018-every-day-capacity-building-grants

The purpose of this program is to build the organizational capacity of 'friends' groups to serve public lands. 'Friends' groups are defined as 501(c)(3) community-based nonprofit organizations whose mission is focused on serving a public land site and the improvement and responsible use of that site, and public lands are defined as any federal, state, local, county, or regional land or waterway held in the public trust and/or spaces that are accessible to the public. Examples of public land include national forests, national parks and monuments, national wildlife refuges, and state/local lands that are accessible to the public, such as state parks and forests, community gardens, and urban green spaces.

Proposals must align with one of the following project types:

- Organizational assessment
- Strategic planning
- Board development
- Communications
- Finance
- Fundraising
- Tax-exemption process
- Technology
- Staff training

- Volunteer recruitment
- Volunteer training

Successful applications must:

- Demonstrate a positive, collaborative partnership with a local public land site that has been in effect for at least one year
- Describe a needed and well-planned project that can be carried out by the applicant within the duration of the project period
- Demonstrate that the project will contribute to the long-term sustainability of the organization
- Demonstrate that the project will strengthen the organization's ability to serve the public land site

Seventh Generation Fund for Indigenous Peoples: General Operating, Project-Specific, and Capacity Building and Mini-Grants
http://www.7genfund.org/apply-grant

The purpose of this program is to support culturally grounded, indigenous community-organizing efforts initiated and led by the communities impacted. The funding agency generally supports projects engaged in community empowerment and organizing endeavors, issue advocacy, cultural revitalization, strengthening of indigenous knowledge and practices, and Native leadership development in the following program pathways:

- Art and creativity: enhancing tribal identity and cultural vitality through individual and collective creative expression and practices
- Health and well-being: achieving physical, mental, and spiritual wellness through traditional healing practices, cultural engagement, and food security
- Leadership development: strengthening Native leadership strategies by building the skills and knowledge systems that fortify organizational and community-centered work
- Rights of Mother Earth: protecting Earth's natural systems and ability to nurture and sustain life by supporting Native stewardship practices and traditional ecological knowledge
- Sustainable communities and economies: developing culturally relevant and ecologically sustainable Native community assets
- Peace, equity, and justice: securing harmony and parity for and within Native communities and nations and the right of self-determination

Awards of up to $10,000 are available for general operating costs, project-specific support for special events or initiatives, and capacity building for staff training, purchasing of equipment or other organizational development needs.

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The Strong Foundation for Environmental Values
http://strongfoundationgrants.org/

The purpose of this program is to support efforts that instill an ecological ethic in individuals and communities and encourage grassroots environmental action. The program emphasizes awards for environmental and conservation efforts, eco-spirituality, environmental education, capacity building, citizen participation, planning, and training.

Eligible applicants are 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations and local governments. Applicants must have organization budgets of no more than $1 million. The program is focused on projects located in California, specifically the geographic areas of:

- Northern California, which for the purposes of this program is defined to extend from the Oregon border in the north to the San Luis Obispo, Ventura, Los Angeles, and San Bernardino County lines in the south
- The Central Valley
- The Sierra Nevada, including:
  - The entire California-Oregon Klamath River watershed
  - The watersheds that arise in the Sierra Nevada and terminate in Nevada's terminal lakes

Awards range from $2,000 to $5,000. There are no stated matching requirements for this program. However, all secured or pending sources of funding must be detailed in the application.

Satterberg Foundation
http://www.satterberg.org/

The Satterberg Foundation's mission is to strengthen communities by promoting a just society and a sustainable environment. The vision for a sustainable environment is where humanity and the natural world are in balance, with each supporting the other. Their environmental grants focus on conserving and protecting natural resources, avoiding practices and activities which pollute, and educating and advocating for environmental stewardship.

Through the Core Support Grant program, the Foundation seeks to fund organizations doing the majority of their work in Washington and California that are highly aligned with their mission. They provide multi-year grants to organizations meeting specific criteria for general operating support. These grant applications involve a multi-phase process including letters of intent, site visits, and full applications.