



COMMUNITY SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM

OVERVIEW

The Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc., in collaboration with the Climate Assessment for the Southwest, invites applications for the Community Small Grants Program to support integrated pest management projects that advance climate-adaptive practices.

This program provides direct support to Tribal communities in Arizona and New Mexico to address pesticide management, an emerging and under-resourced climate and health challenge. Through this opportunity, communities can strengthen their capacity to make informed, climate-responsive decisions and develop strategies that enhance resilience to increasing aridity and extreme heat, particularly in agricultural and structural pest management contexts.

All Federally Recognized Tribes and Pueblos located within the region covered by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Southwest Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments (RISA) team (Arizona and New Mexico) are eligible to apply. Up to four Tribal sub-awardees will be selected through this competitive process. Funding for all sub-award projects is contingent upon the continued availability of NOAA support.

BACKGROUND — ITCA & CLIMAS

The Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. (ITCA), is a tribally controlled non-profit organization established in 1975. ITCA has the goal of promoting American Indian self-reliance through public policy development, and to provide Member Tribes with the means for action on matters that affect them collectively and individually. The Member Tribes of ITCA are 21 federally-recognized Tribes located in the State of Arizona. The highest elected officials of each Member Tribe serve on the ITCA governing board. These leaders have a comprehensive view of the conditions and needs of the tribal communities they represent. ITCA provides an independent capacity to obtain, analyze, and disseminate information vital to tribal community self-development. More information about ITCA can be found at <https://itcaonline.com/>.

The Southwest RISA (Climate Assessment for the Southwest, or CLIMAS) is a NOAA funded program between the University of Arizona, New Mexico State University, and the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. CLIMAS serves the people of Arizona and New Mexico by providing information to help communities, resource managers, and agricultural producers make decisions related to drought, wildfire, extreme weather, and the economic and human health impacts of these phenomena. CLIMAS has been funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments (RISA) program since 1998. More information about CLIMAS can be found at <https://climas.arizona.edu/>.

BACKGROUND — CLIMATE IMPACTS & PESTS

Rising heat and increased aridity in the Southwest are driving changes in pest dynamics, pesticide use, and the risks faced by agricultural and structural pesticide applicators. Pest growth, development, and survival are strongly influenced by temperature, water availability, and light. As these conditions shift, pest populations are experiencing faster life cycles, higher seasonal survival rates, and expansion into geographic regions where they may not have been previously found. These changes increase vulnerability to pest infestations and vector-borne diseases, while also elevating risks to applicator health.

As pest pressures intensify, pesticide applicators may respond with more frequent applications and broader-spectrum chemical use. At the same time, shifting pest life cycles complicate application timing. These factors increase the likelihood of pesticide misuse or overuse, including applications at non-optimal stages of pest development, over-application, and reduced pesticide effectiveness that can contribute to resistance. Longer growing seasons further compound this issue by increasing the total number of applications per year, thereby raising cumulative exposure for handlers.

In both agricultural and structural integrated pest management (IPM) contexts, higher temperature can increase pesticide volatilization and drift potential, elevating the risk of off-target movement into nearby homes, schools, water sources, and culturally significant areas. Pesticide applicators working in extreme heat conditions may also face increased risk of heat-related illness, which can affect decision-making, adherence to label requirements, and proper use of personal protective equipment. In structural settings, this may also impact indoor air quality and occupant exposure, particularly in under-resourced housing. Limited access to training, certification resources, and technical assistance in rural and Tribal communities can further exacerbate these challenges, increasing the likelihood of unsafe handling, storage and disposal procedures across both sectors.

Extreme heat also creates significant barriers to safe pesticide handling. Personal protective equipment (PPE) can become difficult or unsafe to wear for extended periods, increasing the likelihood of improper use or non-compliance. In addition, symptoms of heat-related illness (HRI) and pesticide exposure can overlap, making it difficult to distinguish between the two. As a result, both HRI and pesticide-related illnesses are frequently under recognized, misdiagnosed, and underreported.

These risks are further compounded by structural challenges, including language barriers, limited access to effective training, and difficulties in enforcing Worker Protection Standards requirements under extreme climate conditions.

The cascading effects of a hotter and more arid climate are contributing to ecological imbalance of pest populations, increased reliance on pesticides, and heightened occupational health risks. Addressing these impacts requires integrated pest management strategies, climate-adaptive practices, and strengthened worker protection measures.

AMOUNT AVAILABLE

Four (4) grants of \$37,500 each will be awarded to support projects.

ELIGIBILITY

Federally Recognized Tribes and Pueblos in Arizona and New Mexico are eligible to apply.

FUNDING TIMEFRAME

October 1, 2026 – August 31, 2027

EXAMPLE OF SMALL GRANTS GOALS

- Increased compliance with Worker Protection Standard (WPS) through appropriate training, with an emphasis on pesticide safety under extreme heat conditions.
- Improved knowledge and competency in pesticide safety and use, including pesticide labeling, proper handling, storage, and application, as well as understanding applicable laws and regulations.
- Reduced pesticide misuse, overuse, and occupational exposure by promoting best management practices, including correct application timing aligned with pest life cycles and environmental conditions.
- Support implementation and expansion of IPM in agricultural and structural settings to reduce reliance on chemical controls and improve long-term pest control.
- Build organizational and program capacity by identifying workforce and structural needs, including the potential hiring of certified applicators.
- Provide training in pest identification, biology, and climate-driven pest dynamics, including monitoring techniques and appropriate mitigation and control strategies.
- Promote heat-safe work practices for pesticide handlers, including proper PPE use in high temperatures.
- Strengthen ongoing monitoring and evaluation of pest outbreaks, pesticide-related incidences, and worker health protection.
- Improve environmental and occupational health outcomes by reducing pesticide-related risks.

EXAMPLES OF ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

- Conduct pesticide safety trainings that emphasize proper handling, labeling, storage, and application with additional focus on safe practices under extreme heat conditions.
- Conducting needs assessments to identify gaps in WPS compliance, training access, and heat-related safety challenges among pesticide handlers.
- Support attendance at relevant trainings, workshops, and certification programs to build program capacity in pesticide safety, heat illness prevention, and climate-adaptive pest management.
- Conduct pesticide use assessments, including evaluation of current practices (including traditional practices), identification of undertrained handlers, and documentation of pesticide application frequency and methods.
- Conducting agricultural or structural IPM training to identify the pests and their biology, assessing the number of pests and their associated damage, implementing guidelines for when management action is needed, and identification of biological, cultural, mechanical, and physical controls.
- Deliver IPM training in agricultural or structural settings that includes: pest identification and biology, monitoring and assessment of pest populations, decision-making frameworks for management action, and the use of biological, cultural, mechanical, and physical control methods.

- Provide climate-adaptive IPM training focused on pest control challenges associated with extreme heat and aridity.
- Develop and implement pesticide safety protocols for extreme heat conditions.
- Conduct outreach and education on IPM as needed.
- Establish and improve record keeping systems for pesticide use, pest populations, work training compliance, and health incidents to better inform IPM decision-making.
- Develop additional activities aligned with the goals of the Community Small Grants Program.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS & SUBMISSION

The application must include standard proposal components: a narrative, work plan, budget, and budget justification. All materials should clearly demonstrate alignment with program goals, include climate-informed pest management, pesticide safety, and worker protection.

- Narrative (6-10 pages), which needs to include:
 - Organizational description: A description of the applying organization or Tribe, including the relevant department(s), mission, and a staff overview for those involved in the proposed project, and the capacity to complete the proposed activities and deliverables.
 - Statement of need: A description of the environmental, occupational, and public health challenges being addressed, including the impacts of increasing heat and aridity on pesticide handling.
 - Proposed work plan: A detailed description of project activities and how they will build capacity, improve WPS compliance, support IPM initiatives, and address climate-related challenges such as shifting pest dynamics and extreme heat.
 - Outcomes and deliverables: A description of expected outputs and outcomes.
 - Evaluation: A description of how project success will be measured.
- Budget, which needs includes:
 - Budget (the provided template may be used)
 - Budget justification
 - Indirect cost agreement
- Optional:
 - Tribal Resolution
 - Letters of Support

APPLICATION SELECTION

Proposals will be reviewed through a competitive process based on the following criteria:

- submission of a completed application, including all required components,
- alignment with the Community Small Grants Program scope and goals,
- clarity and feasibility of proposed activities,
- budget reasonability and justification,
- demonstrated capacity and experience to implement proposed project activities,
- and measurable impact and outcomes.

SELECTED AWARDEE RESPONSIBILITIES

- Selected awardee(s) must be willing to enter into a subcontract agreement with the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc.
- Selected awardee(s) must be willing to participate in a co-evaluation of the small grants project with the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona and the Climate Assessment for the Southwest.
- Selected awardee(s) must complete quarterly reporting, detailing project progression via written narratives and financial reporting.
- Selected awardee(s) must be willing to meet virtually for regularly scheduled project check-ins.
- Other responsibilities as outlined in the awarding documents.

Applicants will be notified by email of awarded funds. The Master Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) approval and supporting documents will be provided at that time. Tribes will follow their internal processes for MOA signatures and programming approval.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Proposals, including all the required documents identified in the "Application Requirements & Submission" section, must be submitted via email no later than **Friday, September 11, 2026**, to kelly.jendrisak@itcaonline.com.

CONTACT

Questions? Please contact:

Kelly Jendrisak, Air Quality Coordinator, Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc.
Email: kelly.jendrisak@itcaonline.com | Phone: 602-307-1535