



cultural resource fund
the MICA group

April 24, 2015

Executive Director & State Historic Preservation Officer
City, State

Dear SHPO:

We are pleased to inform you that [SHPO designation] is eligible to receive funding from the newly created Cultural Resource Fund (CRF). The CRF is an unprecedented initiative under which, pursuant to Memoranda of Understanding with the Federal Communications Commission, seven freight railroads agreed to pay \$10 million into a fund for Tribal and State cultural and historic preservation projects.

In February 2015, the MICA Group received authorization to administer the CRF, and in March 2015, the FCC published the list of Eligible Tribal Nations and State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs). You are receiving this letter because your agency or office is one of 237 Tribes and 41 SHPOs that the FCC listed as eligible to apply for a grant from the CRF.

The MICA Group has established an Advisory Board to direct the CRF. Members of the CRF Advisory Board are Samuel E. Cata (Ohkay Owingeh, former Acting SHPO, State of New Mexico), Walter Echo-Hawk (Pawnee), Katherine Slick (former SHPO, State of New Mexico), Richard A. Trudell (Santee Sioux), Della C. Warrior (Otoe-Missouria), and W. Richard West, Jr., (Cheyenne).

The Memoranda of Understanding between the FCC and the railroads require that CRF funding be used for cultural or historic preservation purposes only. The CRF Advisory Board has decided to broadly define "culture" to provide Tribal Nations and States with maximum flexibility in deciding how to use the CRF's resources. An overview of the CRF is attached. Additional information will follow according to the time schedule set forth below on the attached Distribution Plan.

The MICA Group is honored to have been selected to administer the CRF. We look forward to working closely with you and all eligible Tribal Nations and SHPOs throughout the process.

Please direct questions to Peggy Mainor by phone at (505) 415-0787 or email at peggy@micagroup.org.

Sincerely,

Peggy Mainor
Executive Director
The MICA Group

Attachments: Cultural Resource Fund Description
Distribution Plan

Washington D.C. Area Office
5301 Springlake Way
Baltimore, MD 21212

The Tides Center
The Presidio
PO Box 29198
San Francisco, CA 94129
www.tides.org



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Cultural Resource Fund: Strengthening Tribal Communities and Cultures

The Cultural Resource Fund (CRF) is an unprecedented initiative under which seven freight railroads agreed to pay a total of \$10 million into a fund for Tribal and state cultural and historic preservation projects.

Background

Congress has mandated railroads to erect Positive Train Control (PTC) poles along their tracks to prevent catastrophic accidents. According to the FCC, some of these poles, erected prior to May 2013, may have been erected without undergoing environmental and historic preservation review, as required by law. In response, the FCC and seven freight railroads established the CRF. The CRF provides an opportunity for Tribal Nations and state historic preservation offices to apply for grants to be used for cultural and historic preservation projects.

Types of Projects that Can be Funded by the CRF

In recognition of its inherent value to the survival of Tribal Nations, and in support of Tribal sovereign autonomy, the CRF Advisory Board will utilize a broad definition of "cultural projects" that may be funded by the CRF. Cultural projects supported by the CRF may include:

- preservation of cultural and historic sites, including conducting or commissioning field surveys, ethnographic studies, cultural resource reports, purchasing or enhancing hardware and/or software for processing historic preservation review requests, cultural resource staff training
- language revitalization
- cultural conservation
- core cultural value systems, beliefs and practices
- cultural education
- traditional knowledge
- cultural sovereignty
- other cultural projects

New and existing projects will be eligible. Funding requests may include, but will not be limited to: salaries, consultants, planning, travel, training, equipment, technology, construction, and repair of existing facilities. Funding may be used as matching funds.

SHPO projects in partnership with Tribal Government or other underserved communities are strongly encouraged.

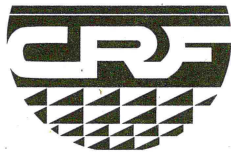
All funding decisions will be made by the CRF Advisory Board.

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Distribution Plan

To address immediate needs that may have been generated by the placement of PTC poles, as well as to provide funding for cultural projects with long-lasting impact, the CRF will follow a three-phase distribution plan to begin in May and June 2015.

Phase 1

Grants to All Eligible Tribal Nations and State Historic Preservation Offices

The Phase 1 grant process will consist of a brief application designed to identify the cultural and historic preservation projects for which the grants will be used and to assist the CRF Advisory Board in identifying cultural and historic preservation priorities. Applications will be mailed in May and June 2015. Upon receipt of the completed application, MICA, through our fiscal agent, the Tides Foundation, will disburse a \$10,000 or \$15,000 grant for an identified cultural or historic preservation project to each Eligible Tribal Nation and SHPO. MICA's contract requires MICA to take into account the number of PTC poles placed prior to May 31, 2013 in the states where the Tribe and SHPO is located. Therefore, Eligible Tribal Nations and SHPOs located in the ten states with the highest numbers of PTC poles as of May 31, 2013 will be eligible to receive \$15,000 grants, while all other Eligible Tribal Nations will be eligible to receive \$10,000 grants. Phase 1 will total approximately \$3.5 million in grant distributions. These grants must be used for identified cultural and historic preservation projects, and may be used for planning for applications for larger Phase 2 and 3 grants.

Phase 2

Larger Grants for Cultural Projects

Phase 2 will provide an opportunity for Tribal Nations and SHPOs to submit applications for larger grants, potentially between \$50,000 and \$100,000. These grants will be competitive. Phase 2 applications will be mailed in early Fall 2015.

Phase 3

Grants for Major Cultural Initiatives

Phase 3 grants will offer individual Tribal Nations, Tribal coalitions, regional Tribal partnerships, Tribal/SHPO collaborations and other Tribally-led or Tribally supported collaborations the opportunity to apply for funding for major initiatives. The CRF Advisory Board encourages leveraging of grants, and MICA will assist Tribes and SHPOs in finding matching funds when possible. The CRF Advisory Board hopes to fund several major initiatives, and currently anticipates mailing Phase 3 grant applications in early 2016.

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