



Technical Advisory Council

Item 11: 2026 Priorities and Visioning

Mar. 6, 2026

Introduction

The Technical Advisory Council (TAC) has been instrumental in shaping the Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resilience Program (ICARP). The TAC defined ICARP's vision and workstreams, helped develop the grant programs, and continues to provide valuable input and direction for activities. In 2025, the TAC updated its charter, amended its definition of vulnerable communities in the context of climate change, and created space to uplift local climate adaptation solutions and needs. This agenda item is an opportunity for the TAC to reflect on its goals for 2026. Please come prepared to discuss:

- What do you hope the TAC will achieve in 2026?
- Who and what should be uplifted through TAC meetings and products?
- Where do you envision the TAC being in five years?

2026 Products

ICARP staff suggest developing, with guidance from the TAC, a report that summarizes TAC discussions on adaptation funding and finance over the course of 2026. The report would be an opportunity to highlight key themes, lessons learned, challenges and gaps that could inform local, regional, and state strategies for funding resilience and adaptation work. The TAC could consider establishing a subcommittee to more closely engage in the development of the report.

Priorities

ICARP Priorities are used by ICARP staff to guide program efforts and track progress. In March 2025, the TAC adopted four priorities aligned with the goals of the Newsom administration: fostering community trust; strengthening storytelling of resilience investments; expanding data and research tools; and advancing innovative adaptation actions. In 2026, the ICARP Priorities will remain the same:

Cultivate Trust and Empower Communities

- A. Deepen partnerships with California Native American Tribes and Indigenous communities that meaningfully respond to Tribal feedback, include consistent and reliable engagement opportunities, and honor and respect Tribal sovereignty.
- B. Foster meaningful ongoing relationships with grantees, local governments, youth, and vulnerable communities.
- C. Strengthen participatory and equitable grant processes that prioritize community needs and enhance accessibility to State funds.
- D. Evaluate and address shortcomings in community support and engagement to better align State efforts with local priorities.
- E. Align public engagement, technical assistance, policies, investments, and State-funded research to meet the diverse needs and contexts across regions. This includes providing language access for non-English speaking communities.
- F. Build capacity in vulnerable communities through focused technical assistance and training programs.
- G. Guarantee reliable public access to statewide and locally specific information to support informed decision-making.

Showcase Impact Through Storytelling

- A. Develop tailored outreach campaigns, case studies, and storytelling initiatives to demonstrate the tangible outcomes of climate adaptation investments. Ensure outreach and storytelling are conducted in a way to meet the needs of vulnerable communities, including persons with disabilities and the hearing impaired.
- B. Highlight locally-led efforts and success stories across California communities to inspire action and enhance public understanding.
- C. Uplift Tribal voices, stories, and perspectives, highlighting the work California Native American Tribes and Indigenous communities have done since time immemorial.
- D. Track, analyze, and celebrate investments, policy adoption, and project implementation with robust data to ensure long-term progress.
- E. Communicate the co-benefits of resilience efforts, such as job creation, improved health, cost savings from disasters, and opportunities for innovative economic models (e.g., worker-owned cooperatives).

Expand Localized Data, Research and Tools

- A. Further develop and leverage informational resources, frameworks, and tools to guide local governments in assessing vulnerabilities and implementing adaptation actions.
- B. Identify shared regional and local priorities to streamline efforts, avoid duplicative processes, and ensure consistent messaging.
- C. Expand decision-support tools and data resources to deliver equity-centered guidance, enhance local planning capacity, and support resilience-oriented recovery from climate impacts.
- D. Support low-capacity users with technical assistance, translating complex data and information into actionable insights for projects and plans.
- E. Fund Tribally-led research and knowledge sharing that respects Indigenous data governance and acknowledges the unique relationships and histories of Tribes in California.
- F. Develop regionally-specific action-based research that uplifts local priorities through a community-driven research model.

Implement Innovative Adaptation and Resilience Action

- A. Prioritize investments in climate adaptation and resilience efforts in the communities most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.
- B. Utilize ICARP's role as an interagency connector to advance a comprehensive and coordinated response across state agencies for equitable climate adaptation and resilience outcomes.
- C. Foster and invest in diverse partnerships among public, private, Tribal, and community-based entities.
- D. Support access to multiple funding mechanisms for local projects.
- E. Provide technical assistance to align plans, accelerating the development and implementation of holistic resilience plans.
- F. Provide technical assistance, evaluation, and case studies for climate adaptation infrastructure and programs.
- G. Identify opportunities to fund regional resilience efforts that help interconnected and diverse communities build resilience across jurisdictional boundaries.