

Arizona Commerce Authority Consultation Policy

December 2022

This Consultation Policy statement is advisory only. A consultation policy statement does not include internal procedural documents that only affect the internal procedures of the agency and does not impose additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties or include confidential information or rules made in accordance with the Arizona Administrative Procedure Act.

Tribal Government Consultation Policy

Contact for Information:

Keith Watkins

Senior Vice President of Rural and Economic Development, Tribal Relations Liaison (602) 845-1278

PURPOSE

This policy establishes the basic principles governing the Arizona Commerce Authority's (ACA) relations with the Tribal governments in the State of Arizona.

INTRODUCTION

The ACA is charged with promoting and enhancing statewide economic growth and development. There are 22 distinct Tribal governments within the State of Arizona that have jurisdiction over approximately 28% of the land base. These tribal jurisdictions provide economic, workforce and community development activity, which contribute to the overall health of the state's economy. The State of Arizona and Tribes share the recognition that through leadership and collaborative partnerships, vibrant communities and a globally competitive Arizona can be created.

Economic challenges cross political boundaries, thus encouraging cooperation in the areas of economic, workforce and community development. Tribal governments and officials are primarily responsible for the general welfare and health of the sovereign nations they serve. Coordinated economic efforts with the ACA can enhance the overall economic wellbeing of Tribes and the goal of self-sufficiency. It is primarily through specific leadership dialogue and program-level interactions that mutual trust and understanding are developed.

POLICY

The ACA recognizes the sovereignty of Tribal governments and their jurisdiction over lands within reservation boundaries as defined by federal law. (The definition in federal law includes all lands within reservation boundaries [18 U.S.C.A. §1151].)

The ACA recognizes that the Tribal and federal governments have the primary responsibility for promoting, enhancing, and implementing economic, workforce and community development initiatives within Tribal lands.

The ACA supports the strengthening of Tribal capacity for economic, workforce and community development progress. The ACA's support to Tribes will be provided in the interest of State and Tribal relations and will not be used as the basis for assertion of State authority within Tribal lands.



The ACA is committed to developing cooperative relationships with Tribes and stakeholders, and will respect the economic, workforce, community development, and data sovereignty initiatives and concerns of Tribes. Without Tribal consent, ACA will not solicit or assert claim to federal resources that would otherwise be provided directly to Tribes.

RESPONSIBILITY

Responsibility for the enforcement of this policy lies with ACA's President & CEO, executive management, division directors, and all ACA staff.

PROCEDURES

1. The ACA will assign a Tribal Relations Liaison to interact, engage and work with Tribal governments, communities, stakeholders, and other State and Federal agencies.
2. The ACA will assist Tribal governments to develop economic, workforce and community development initiatives and programs by providing technical assistance, sharing data, and conducting joint Tribal-State projects to the extent resources allow.
3. The ACA will enter into Intergovernmental Agreements (IGA) or Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) when considered mutually appropriate by the ACA and an interested Tribal Government.
4. The ACA will work cooperatively with Arizona Tribes to increase resources for economic, workforce and community development activities within the State so that additional resources are available for Tribes.
5. The ACA will open its education programs to Tribal officials and Tribal staff whenever possible.
6. The ACA will share appropriate technical information and data with Tribes.
7. The ACA staff will relay Tribal issues, including requests from Tribes for technical assistance, to the appropriate division director(s) as quickly as possible.

APPROVED BY:



Sandra Watson
President & CEO

