



REQUEST FOR BIDS (RFB)

Private Investigative Services for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP) Cases

Issued by: Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria/ Social Services Department

Funding Source: California Board of State and Community Corrections Grant Program

Issue Date: July 1st 2026

Proposal Due Date: August 5th 2026 5PM

1. Introduction

The Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria is soliciting proposals from qualified, licensed private investigators or investigative firms to provide investigative services in support of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP) cases. This project is funded in whole or in part by the California Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) and must comply with all applicable Tribal, Federal and State laws, grant conditions, and reporting requirements.

2. Background and Purpose

The Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria seeks to address the disproportionate rates of violence against Indigenous Persons through enhanced investigative capacity, improved interagency coordination, and culturally responsive victim-centered approaches. This effort aligns with Tribal, Federal and California statewide priorities to improve public safety, victim services, and equity in underserved communities.

3. Scope of Work

The selected contractor shall:

- Conduct independent and supplemental investigations into designated MMIP cases



- Review, assess, and analyze existing case files and evidence
 - Conduct interviews and field investigations in a trauma-informed and culturally appropriate manner
 - Coordinate, as appropriate, with tribal, federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies
 - Develop investigative leads and provide actionable findings
 - Produce written reports, case summaries, and documentation suitable for legal and grant reporting purposes
 - Participate in case review meetings and multidisciplinary team coordination
 - Maintain compliance with all Tribal and BSCC data collection and reporting requirements
-

4. BSCC Grant Compliance Requirements

The contractor must comply with all applicable requirements of California Board of State and Community Corrections, including but not limited to:

- **Data Collection & Reporting:** Timely submission of performance metrics, case activity reports, and outcome data as required by the grant
 - **Audit Compliance:** Maintenance of accurate financial and programmatic records subject to state audit
 - **Confidentiality:** Adherence to all applicable privacy laws, including protection of victim information
 - **Trauma-Informed Practices:** Use of victim-centered, culturally responsive approaches consistent with state guidance
 - **Cooperation with Monitoring:** Participate in site visits, audits, or evaluations conducted by the Tribe or BSCC
-

5. Minimum Qualifications

Bidders must demonstrate:

- Current and valid private investigator license in California and/or applicable jurisdictions
- Minimum 3 years of experience in criminal investigations (e.g., homicide, missing persons, cold cases)



- Demonstrated experience working with Native American/Indigenous communities or equivalent cultural competency
 - Knowledge of jurisdictional issues involving tribal, federal, and state law enforcement
 - Ability to comply with BSCC grant requirements, including reporting and documentation
 - Strong communication and report-writing skills
-

6. Proposal Requirements

Proposals must include:

- Cover letter describing understanding of the project and commitment to MMIP work
 - Statement of qualifications and relevant experience
 - Resumes of key personnel
 - Description of investigative methodology, including trauma-informed and culturally responsive practices
 - Proof of licensure and certifications
 - At least three professional references
 - Proposed rate of pay and availability
 - Sample investigative report (redacted if necessary)
 - Disclosure of any conflicts of interest
-

7. Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on:

- Relevant experience and demonstrated expertise
- Cultural competency and trauma-informed approach
- Quality of proposed methodology
- Cost-effectiveness and budget clarity
- References and past performance
- Native American Preference: Pursuant to Section 7(b) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act and Native American preference requirements under 25 U.S.C. § 450e(b) and (c), preference shall be given to qualified Indian organizations and Indian-owned economic enterprises in procurement and employment opportunities, to the greatest extent feasible.



Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria

- For purposes of this solicitation, an “Indian enterprise” means a business or organization that is at least 51 percent (51%) owned, controlled, and operated by one or more enrolled members of a federally recognized Indian Tribe.

8. Contract Terms and Conditions

- Contract term: August 1st 2026 through June 1st 2028
- Payment structure: Hourly rate that is invoiced and paid monthly
- Contractor must comply with all applicable federal, state, and tribal laws and regulations
- The Tribe reserves the right to terminate the contract for cause, noncompliance, or funding changes
- All work products produced under this contract shall become the property of the Tribe

9. Insurance and Liability

The selected contractor must maintain appropriate insurance coverage, including:

- If you are an armed private investigator or an LLC with 5 managing members a minimum policy of \$1 million is required.
 - Professional liability (errors and omissions)
 - Liability Insurance

Proof of insurance must be provided prior to contract execution.

10. Submission Instructions

A. Notice of Intent to Submit a Proposal: All prospective Bidders must formally declare their intent to submit a proposal by submitting a signed Notice of Intent to Bid to the Trinidad Rancheria Social Services Department no later than July 15th 2026 at 11:59PM. The Notice of Intent must be submitted via email to ghaas@trinidadrancheria.com. Failure to submit a timely Notice of Intent will disqualify the Bidder from participating in the remainder of the solicitation process.



Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria



B. Questions and Clarifications: Prospective Bidders requiring clarification on this Invitation to Bid or the procurement documents must submit all questions in writing to Graciela Haas at ghaas@trinidadrancheria.com no later than July 27th 2026 at 11:59PM.

C. Written Addenda via Email: The Agency will answer all timely questions by issuing an official written Addendum on or before July 29th 2026. This Addendum will be sent via email directly to the address provided in each bidder's Notice of Intent. Bidders must confirm receipt by replying to the email.

D. Proposals must be received no later than August 5th 2026 5PM and submitted to:

Graciela Haas
Assistant Director / Social Services
Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria
ghaas@trinidadrancheria.com

Late or incomplete submissions may be disqualified.

11. Reservation of Rights

The Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, waive informalities, request additional information, and award a contract in the best interest of the Tribe and in compliance with BSCC requirements.

END OF REQUEST FOR BIDS