

National Indian Health Board



Tribal Geographic Information System (GIS) Pilot Project

Anticipated Award Amount: \$100,000
Application Deadline: February 25, 2022

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY OVERVIEW

The National Indian Health Board (NIHB) is accepting applications for a project, “Piloting A Tribal GIS Tool to Aide Covid-19 Epidemiological Investigations.” The GIS Pilot Project will support Tribal environmental health staff with conducting COVID-19 investigations and integrating environmental health data with data from other sources to enhance COVID-19 surveillance and monitoring. Entities awarded are required to pilot the Tribal-Focused Environmental Risk and Sustainability (Tribal-FERST) Tool and identify opportunities and challenges for improving the tool to support system-wide efforts. The United South and Eastern Tribes, in partnership with the NIHB and the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, developed the tool.

This grant is funded by a cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to support Tribal environmental health programs carrying out surveillance, epidemiology, laboratory capacity, and other COVID-19 preparedness and response activities.

NIHB will provide grants to a maximum of **three Tribes, TECs, or Tribal environmental health programs** in amounts up to **\$100,000** each. The award is expected to support one entity with significant experience using GIS tools, one entity with moderate experience, and one entity with little or no GIS experience. Awardees shall/will use these funds to complete the following activities:

- Conduct a pilot investigation to determine:
 1. Steps needed to collect, analyze, and contribute environmental health data to COVID-19 surveillance and monitoring efforts
 2. How best to incorporate environmental health and epidemiological data into GIS tool to support COVID-19 response decision-making
 3. How to foster greater collaborative efforts to support real-time bidirectional data sharing between TECs and/or Tribal environmental health programs
 4. What is needed to better coordinate with laboratories processing tests and samples
 5. How the use of GIS tools may contribute to tribal adaptation and mitigation planning to develop and implement actionable public health activities

- Complete a pilot report detailing the effectiveness of the GIS tool, the ability of the awardee to conduct investigations, and recommendations for further refinement of the GIS tool.

The completed application is due by **February 25, 2022**. The project period will run from approximately **April 1, 2022 - October 31, 2022**.



NIHB will host a
Webinar Overview of the GIS Tool
January 26, 2022, at 4:00 Eastern

[Click here to register for the webinar](#) or cut and paste this address into your browser

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZclceipqzwtGtelXi_OjhAP3trayYkuZFAu

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the call.

Potential applicants are encouraged, but not required, to attend the webinar to learn more about the Tribal FERST GIS tool.

Additional questions about this RFA may be directed to Brett Weber
BWeber@nihb.org

NIHB will not answer any questions or provide any information that may provide an unfair advantage to any applicants.

ELIGIBILITY

To be considered eligible for this funding opportunity, applicants must meet all of the following criteria:

- Applicants must be a Tribal epidemiology center (TEC) or a federally recognized Tribal Government, Tribal organization, or inter-Tribal consortium as defined in the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, as amended.
- Applicants must have an existing environmental health program or department in place or demonstrated staff expertise in the area of environmental health epidemiology.
- Applicants can have significant, moderate, or little/no experience using a GIS tool.

Applicants may be currently in receipt of or are welcome to apply for other NIHB funding opportunities.

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

Selected Tribal partners must agree to:

- Complete an agreed upon work plan that will enhance the capacity of the Tribe to conduct a pilot project. Workplan components should include, depending on applicant's submittal:
 - Pilot project design plan, including goals, activities, and success measures
 - Conduct the pilot project, dedicating staff time to become trained on the GIS tool, conduct the investigation, input data into the tool, and analyze the data output.
 - Participation in periodic check in calls with NIHB
 - Written final report on the pilot project's effectiveness and including recommendations to increase the GIS tool's effectiveness
- Sign and return a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with NIHB that stipulates the amount of funds to be distributed, a schedule of funds distribution, Tribal points of contact, and project activities. NIHB will furnish the MOA after funding decisions are made.
- Designate one main point of contact to serve as the project coordinator. Even if this person will not be leading all project activities, the Tribal partner must designate one individual with whom NIHB will directly communicate on all matters related to this project. This person will be responsible for submitting the final report, participating in conference calls, and completing evaluation activities.
- Permit NIHB to share project success, lessons learned and tangible products as part of a broader information dissemination strategy.
- Participate in project evaluation activities.
- Submit a final report and financial statement to NIHB by November 30, 2022.

NIHB will provide selected sites with:

- Specified amount of funds.
- Specialized tutorials for using the GIS tool from the developer
- Technical assistance from NIHB as requested.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- 1) Consider participating in the [optional](#) GIS tool overview webinar on **January 26, 2022, at 4:00 Eastern.**
- 2) Complete the application and attach the work plan, letter of support, and audit documentation in an email to Brett Weber, BWeber@nihb.org. The completed application is due by **February 25, 2022**

The following will comprise a complete application package:

Completed Application form, (Appendix A)	✓
Completed work plan (template provided)	✓
Copy of most recent audit letter to governance or schedule of findings	✓
A signed letter of support from Tribal official	✓

- 3) Contact Brett Weber, BWeber@nhib.org if you have any questions. No applications will be accepted by fax or postal mail. NIHB shall confirm the receipt of all applications.

SELECTION PROCESS

- Incomplete application packages will not be reviewed.
- All complete applications will be reviewed by a team of qualified public health professionals
- NIHB shall notify all applicants of the status of their application by **March 31, 2022.**

APPENDIX A: APPLICATION

Instructions: Fill out this application in its entirety by typing directly into this document. **All completed applications should be sent to BWeber@nihb.org by February 25, 2022.**

SECTION A: TRIBAL OR TRIBAL ORGANIZATION AND CONTACT INFORMATION

CONTACT INFORMATION	
Name of Tribe or Tribal Organization	<i>Enter text here</i>
Contact information for the individual to receive notification of application status:	Name:
	Title:
	E-mail Address:
	Mailing Street Address:
	City, State, Zip Code:
Name and address where funding check should be sent should Tribe receive the funding	Pay to the order of:
	Mailing Street Address:
	City, State, Zip Code:

PROJECT COORDINATOR CONTACT INFORMATION	
Contact information for the individual to serve as Project Coordinator (if the same as above, then leave all fields blank). This person will be the main point of contact and be responsible for submitting all deliverables, participating in conference calls, and completing evaluation activities.	Name:
	Title:
	E-mail Address:
	Phone Number:
	Mailing Street Address:
	City, State Zip Code:

SECTION B: APPLICATION NARRATIVE AND SCOPE OF WORK

APPLICANT'S LEVEL OF EXPERIENCE WITH GIS TOOLS	
Please answer with one of these:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Significant• Moderate• Little/none	
Please expand on your answer (<i>150 words maximum</i>)	

PROJECT SUMMARY (<i>400 words maximum</i>)
Please add a brief description of your project and how it will identify environmental health data sources, conduct investigations, utilize the GIS tool, and recommendations for how to advance systems wide efforts.

SUBAWARD BUDGET

Please attach a budget with this application as a separate Word, Excel, or PDF document.

The requested amount should be appropriate to the level of effort required to engage in the proposed scope of work and produce the deliverables outlined in the next table. Expected budget categories include salary, consultant costs, and/or travel, etc.

No more than 10% of the subaward may be used to support indirect costs.

These funds will be provided as follows:

50% of the subaward will be paid at the beginning of the subaward cycle to begin activities included in the work plan. The balance of the subaward will be paid upon successful completion of all milestones and NIHB's receipt of the project deliverables and final report.

Subawards can be used to support staff salaries, fringe benefits, consultant services, travel, and trainings, among other things.

Subawards may not be used for lobbying or to influence the outcome of an election.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Please select the corresponding box for all supporting materials being submitted with the application package (they can be added as additional pages to this document or as a separate PDF).

Letter of Support from Tribal Health Official/Leader or the leadership of a Tribal organization (mandatory). The signed letter of support should be from the Tribal health departments or the organization's director or CEO, the chair of the Tribal Health committee, Tribal chairperson, or other official that oversees all or a portion of the public health activities. The letter should include the relevant body's awareness of and/or commitment to the project activities and support for completion of all deliverables.

Letter(s) of Support from Other Entities (optional)

Other (please identify:)

The applicant may submit additional material. However, these are not required for a complete application package.

PROPOSED SCOPE OF WORK

All sub awardees will have some aspects of their workplan and timeline the same and have been pre-filled in the workplan (Objective 2) below. There are blank fields available to add activities specific to individual project needs. Please add any additional rows, if needed.

Continue to work plan tables below

TABLE 1. PROPOSED SCOPE OF WORK

Objective 1: [insert description]			
Expected Outcome 1: [insert description]			
Activities	Deadlines	Deliverables	Person (s) Responsible
Activity 1.1:			
Activity 1.2:			
Activity 1.3:			
Objective 2*: Participate in processes and evaluation to ensure effective and successful project implementation.			
Expected Outcome 2: Successful project implementation and reporting through collaboration with the National Indian Health Board.			
Activities	Deadlines	Deliverables	Person (s) Responsible
Activity 2.1: Attend periodic check-in calls with NIHB.	Monthly	periodic calls	
Activity 2.2: Submit a mid-project progress report to NIHB.	June 17, 2022	1 mid-project report (includes meetings, work plan status, significant progress, etc.)	
Activity 2.3: Submit a project-end report to NIHB that will include evaluation data to evaluate progress toward project goals mentioned in Objective 1 and the impact of your project.	November 30, 2022	1 project-end report	
Activity 2.4: Participate in project evaluation activities as coordinated by NIHB, not to exceed 4 hours of project staff time	Biannual		

*This objective is mandatory for all NIHB sub awardees to include in the project work plan and budget.