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2022 Tribal Solar Accelerator Fund (TSAF) Tribal Energy Plan Grant RFP

GRID Alternatives' Tribal Solar Accelerator Fund aims to catalyze the growth of solar energy and expand solar job opportunities in tribal communities across the United States.

TSAF Background

GRID Alternatives' and the National Tribal Program has worked since 2010 to help tribal communities across the United States achieve their renewable energy goals. In 2018, the TSAF was developed to provide tribes with access to philanthropic capital through a competitive grant program. As a tribal-led program we partner with tribes and tribal individuals to support renewable energy and job training opportunities. TSAF grants clearly focus on building renewable energy infrastructure and are feasible, cost-effective, and engage broad tribal community participation. Energy leadership, educational scholarships, workforce development, and training are also at the forefront of TSAF-funded projects and programs to ensure that tribal members from the communities we partner with have equitable access to career pathways and the economic benefits of renewable energy.

The TSAF, GRID, and the National Tribal Program work in alignment to identify, develop, finance and implement solar power projects that meet community needs, including education, hands-on training, and energy cost reductions for tribal members.

Please read about the past TSAF grantees at tribalsolar.org.

Tribal Energy Plans

Tribal Energy Plans help tribal communities work towards a better environment for all community members by using a comprehensive plan of action as a guide to develop a more sustainable tribal nation. They can be the starting point for a pipeline to a greener community.

The Tribal Energy Plan establishes priority sustainable energy initiatives based on demonstrated effectiveness, unique local factors, and co-benefits, such as improved local air quality, energy saving for residents, and workforce development.

A Tribal Energy Plan is developed by a team of tribal staff, tribal leadership and subject matter experts. This planning team integrates the perspectives of the broader community with established best practices for lowering greenhouse gas emissions within the tribal nation.

TSAF Tribal Energy Plan Grant

The development of Tribal Energy Plans are intended to help tribal communities quickly and efficiently triage the known practical and impactful strategies to reduce greenhouse gas, reduce energy costs, and operate more sustainably. The grants can be used to compensate the planning team for their time, contract the services of consultants or other third-party experts, and cover the costs of public meetings and other methods soliciting public input. **Applicants may apply for funding up to \$25,000 for up to one year.**

TSAF Grant timeline and reporting

RFP – INVITE TO APPLY NOTIFICATION	July 1, 2022
GRANT APPLICATION DUE	August 8, 2022 by 11:59 p.m. PST
INFORMATIONAL WEBINAR (tribalsolar.org)	July 6, 2022 12-1:00 p.m. PST
GRANT AWARD/DENIAL NOTIFICATIONS	Week of August 22, 2022
GRANT TIMELINE (PROJECT FISCAL YEAR START/END)	Sept 1, 2022 –August 30, 2023
GRANTEE CHECK-INS WITH TSAF STAFF	September 2022, January 2023, April 2023, July 2023

TSAF review and selection criteria

Upon receipt of a TSAF application, the following funding criteria should be met regardless of the funding area applied for:

- Clear focus on building renewable energy infrastructure in the tribal community
- Clear plan of action, including specific goals and measurable objectives
- Feasible and cost-effective budget
- Clear outline of invested parties

TSAF Eligibility

The TSAF is committed to serving, supporting, and strengthening American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) tribal communities by investing in solar energy development and sustainability.

The TSAF eligibility criteria is as follows:

- Federal tribal governments in the lower 48 states and Alaska (tribal government programs, such as natural resources authority, energy departments, etc.) as well as tribal-led non-profit organizations with direct ties to the tribal community.

TSAF Application Site and Submission Guidelines

- [Link to Application](#)
- TSAF will be awarding 16 planning grants to tribal nations
- All applicants will need to secure a letter of support from your tribal council acknowledging the application for the proposed planning grant due.
- **TSAF Tribal Energy Plan Grant Applications will remain open until funding is fully subscribed.**

Considerations for Communications and Receipt of Funding

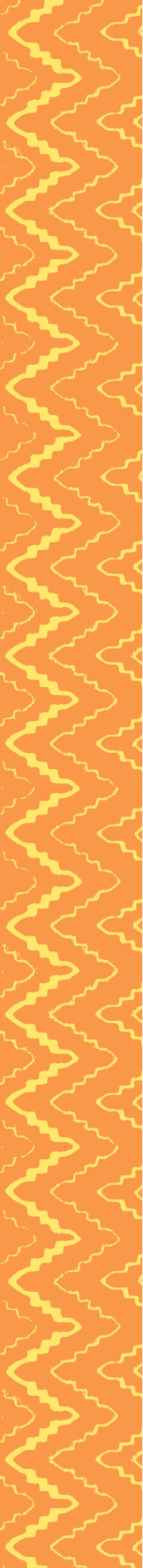
Participation in communications activities that acknowledge the support of TSAF funders, is a requirement of grants through the Tribal Solar Accelerator Fund. A full list of TSAF funders can be found at tribalsolar.org. GRID Alternatives and TSAF understand that tribes have different cultural values, expectations and traditions around communications, as well as ethical and moral principles when it comes to accepting financial resources. The following are GRID's commitments to and expectations of tribal partners participating in TSAF projects.

Our Commitments to You (TSAF grantee):

1. GRID Alternatives - TSAF will provide you with a single point of contact for all TSAF-related communications activities.
2. GRID Alternatives-TSAF will collaborate with your designated communications representative to develop a set of communications activities that is appropriate for the project and your tribe. Activities may include one or more of the following:
 - Press release announcing receipt of TSAF grant for local, regional or national audience
 - News item on GRID Alternatives' and TSAF website(s) and/or newsletter about the project
 - Groundbreaking or other public event with speaking opportunities and/or branding for TSAF funders
 - Project video produced by GRID Alternatives - TSAF or other approved partner
 - Listing/write-up in funder stakeholder reports
 - Listing in philanthropic funder press releases

Our Expectations:

1. You will provide a single point of contact for all TSAF-related communications activities who is authorized to provide and or/secure permissions on behalf of the tribe.

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2. You will collaborate with us in good faith to identify appropriate communications activities to promote the project and acknowledge TSAF support.
 3. You will provide timely review of external-facing communications assets, and not unreasonably withhold approval.