

SYNOPSIS

DOE Office of Indian Energy — Energy Technology Deployment on Tribal Lands – 2025 (DE-FOA-0003548)

Due Date: Approximately 90 days after Spring 2025 NOFO issuance. Confirm exact deadline at ie-exchange.energy.gov.

Total Amount Available: Approximately \$25 million (subject to Congressional appropriations)

Award Range: \$100,000–\$2,500,000 (Areas of Interest 1–3); \$250,000–\$5,000,000 (Area of Interest 4)

Period of Performance: Approximately 2–4 years, including a mandatory 12-month project verification period

Cost Share: Confirm in Part 1; historically 50% non-federal for DOE Indian Energy deployment grants. Reduction may be available based on community poverty rate or median household income vs. statewide median.

Issuing Office: U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs

Application Portal: IE-Exchange (ie-exchange.energy.gov) — no other submission method accepted

Questions: TribalGrants@hq.doe.gov (no later than 3 business days before deadline)

Purpose:

To support the deployment of energy infrastructure and technology on Tribal lands, advancing Tribal energy sovereignty by reducing or stabilizing energy costs, increasing energy security and resilience, and providing electricity access to unelectrified Tribal buildings. Since 2010, DOE's Office of Indian Energy has invested over \$190 million in more than 240 Tribal energy projects across the contiguous 48 states and Alaska.

Eligible Grant Purposes (Areas of Interest):

1. Area of Interest 1 – Install energy generating system(s) and/or energy efficiency measure(s) for Tribal Building(s). Intended for buildings that are grid-connected or connected to a stand-alone microgrid. Awards: \$100,000–\$2,500,000.
2. Area of Interest 2 – Deploy community-scale energy generating system(s) or energy storage on Tribal Lands. Intended for grid-connected or stand-alone microgrid systems. Awards: \$100,000–\$2,500,000.
3. Area of Interest 3 – Install integrated energy system(s) for autonomous operation (independent of the traditional centralized electric power grid) to power a single or multiple Essential Tribal Building(s) during emergencies or for community resilience. Awards: \$100,000–\$2,500,000.

4. Area of Interest 4 – Power unelectrified Tribal Building(s), i.e., buildings not currently connected to the traditional centralized electric power grid or any stand-alone microgrid. Awards: \$250,000–\$5,000,000.

Important Note on Renewable Energy Technology Eligibility:

The current administration's FY2026 budget request stated that DOE Office of Indian Energy financial assistance will not 'support work on solar, wind, or battery technologies.' This is a significant policy change from prior years when solar, wind, and storage were explicitly supported under deployment grants. Applicants interested in renewables should confirm technology eligibility directly with DOE at TribalGrants@hq.doe.gov before investing substantial time in application preparation.

Eligible Applicants:

5. Indian Tribes (including Alaska Native Regional Corporations and Village Corporations)
6. Intertribal Organizations
7. Tribal Energy Development Organizations

In all cases, the proposed project(s) must be located on the applicant's Tribal Lands. Consortium applications must be submitted by a single Tribe acting as lead applicant. Applications may also be submitted by an authorized Tribal Organization on behalf of Tribe(s) with evidence of authority. DOE will not make eligibility determinations prior to the application due date; applicants are solely responsible for determining their own eligibility before submitting.

Projects are intended to be shovel-ready. In addition to technical merit, the Selection Official may consider: geographic distribution; high energy costs in the tribal community; whether the community is not connected to the traditional centralized electric power grid; and/or whether the applicant has not previously received a grant from the Office of Indian Energy.

Additional Eligibility Criteria:

8. No Entity of Concern (as defined under the CHIPS and Science Act, 42 U.S.C. § 18912) may receive DOE financial assistance of \$10 million or more. By applying, applicants certify neither they nor any project participant qualifies as an Entity of Concern.
9. All work must be performed in the United States unless a written Foreign Work Waiver is approved by the DOE Grants Officer prior to performance.
10. Applicants must be registered in SAM.gov with a valid Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) before submitting. SAM.gov registration can take several weeks — register early.

11. Applicants must register and create an account in IE-Exchange prior to application submission.

Required Application Elements:

1. SF-424 – Application for Federal Assistance (accessed through IE-Exchange). Dates (Block 17) and dollar amounts (Block 18) must reflect the complete project period, not just Year 1.
2. Eligibility Statements and Evidence – Documentation of both applicant eligibility and Tribal land status eligibility.
3. Technical Volume / Work Plan – Specific requirements and page limits in Part 1. Template available in IE-Exchange.
4. Budget Justification Workbook (SF-424A) – Breakdown of all costs by category for recipient, subrecipients, and contractors. Separate justification required for each subrecipient performing work exceeding \$500,000 of the total proposed budget.
5. Letters of Commitment – Required from all subrecipients and all third-party cost-share providers. Each letter must not exceed one page, be signed by an authorized representative, and state the specific dollar amount or in-kind value committed.
6. Transparency of Foreign Connections Disclosure – For the applicant and each proposed subrecipient. U.S. national laboratories and domestic government entities are exempt; institutions of higher education need only respond to asterisked items.
7. Lobbying Disclosure:
 - a. If lobbying activities exist: SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities
 - b. If no lobbying activities: Certification Regarding Lobbying (OMB 4040-0013)
8. Summary for Public Release – One-page publicly releasable project summary (applicant name, major participants and roles, PI/LPM names and titles, project title, project locations, objectives, description including methods, potential impacts, and project goals). Must not include proprietary or business-sensitive information.
9. Summary Slide – One slide including: project title, applicant, project locations, PI/LPM and key personnel, requested DOE funds, proposed cost share, technology summary, technology impact, project goals, key graphics, and key idea/takeaway. Template available in IE-Exchange.
10. Locations of Work – List of all locations where the recipient and subrecipients will perform project work. Template available in IE-Exchange.
11. Environmental Questionnaire – Required for each proposed project location, and separately for each subrecipient at every work location.
12. AI Use Disclosure – The project summary must state the extent to which generative AI technology was used in developing the application, if at all. Applicants remain responsible for accuracy and authorship.

13. Potentially Duplicative Funding Notice – If the applicant or any project team member has other active Federal awards with potentially overlapping activities, written notification is required describing the overlap and how funds will be kept distinct.

Application Format Requirements:

PDF format (unless otherwise specified). English. 8.5" x 11" paper. Minimum 1" margins on all sides. Times New Roman 12-point (minimum) black font; tables/figures may use 10-point. The control number assigned by IE-Exchange must appear in the upper right header of every page and in each filename (format: Control Number_Applicant Name_Document). Page numbers in footer. Maximum 50MB per file; oversized files may be split into labeled parts.

SYNOPSIS

DOE Office of Indian Energy — Tribal Energy Planning and Development – 2025 (DE-FOA-0003401)

Due Date: March 20, 2025, 5:00 PM ET (Note: this deadline has passed; confirm whether the opportunity has been reissued or if a successor FOA has been released at ie-exchange.energy.gov)

Total Amount Available: Approximately \$25 million (subject to Congressional appropriations)

Estimated Number of Awards: Approximately 20–40 awards

Award Range: \$100,000–\$2,500,000

Period of Performance: Approximately 2–3 years

Cost Share: 10% non-federal cost share required, unless reduced to 0% based on poverty rate or median household income of the tribal community relative to statewide median household income (reduction must be requested in the application)

Issuing Office: U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs

Application Portal: IE-Exchange (ie-exchange.energy.gov) — no other submission method accepted

Questions: TribalGrants@hq.doe.gov (no later than 3 business days before deadline)

Purpose:

To advance Tribal energy sovereignty and maximize the deployment of affordable, reliable, and local energy solutions by providing financial support for the planning, feasibility assessment, and project development of energy projects on Tribal Buildings or Tribal Lands. This FOA supports activities that lead to concrete, measurable energy project outcomes — from strategic energy plans through to project-ready designs — within Indian and Alaska Native communities.

Eligible Grant Purposes (Topic Areas):

1. Topic Area 1 – Tribal Energy Planning. Projects must result in specific, measurable outcomes such as:
 - a. Strategic energy plan or energy options analysis
 - b. Energy audits
 - c. Climate resiliency plan
 - d. Development of a tribal energy organization or office
 - e. Establishment of energy policy, regulations, or codes to reduce energy use or promote energy development
 - f. Skills development and training related to energy use, development, or management

Funds under Topic Area 1 are intended to cover internal personnel costs and may be used for community outreach including Native language translation.

2. Topic Area 2 – Comprehensive Energy Feasibility and Viability Assessment. Must comprehensively assess the feasibility and viability of deploying a specific energy technology on Tribal Lands, including an Energy Options Analysis. Assessments must address:
 - a. Technical viability of the proposed energy technology for the site
 - b. Financial feasibility including project economics and available incentives
 - c. Community and regulatory considerations
 - d. Resulting in a documented assessment that informs a go/no-go decision on project development
3. Topic Area 3 – Design and Development of Energy Projects. Must result in project-ready design and development outputs for a specific energy installation, such as:
 - a. Preliminary or final engineering design
 - b. Environmental review support (e.g., NEPA, National Historic Preservation Act)
 - c. Permitting and land use authorization activities
 - d. Power purchase agreements, interconnection agreements, or other transaction documents
 - e. Community engagement activities integral to project development

Important Note on Renewable Energy Technology Eligibility:

The current administration's FY2026 budget request stated that DOE Office of Indian Energy financial assistance will not 'support work on solar, wind, or battery technologies.' The DE-FOA-0003401 title was modified from 'Tribal Clean Energy Planning and Development' to 'Tribal Energy Planning and Development,' suggesting a deliberate broadening of eligible technology scope away from exclusively clean/renewable technologies. Applicants should confirm what energy technologies are eligible under any reissued version of this opportunity by contacting TribalGrants@hq.doe.gov.

Eligible Applicants:

4. Indian Tribes (including Alaska Native Regional Corporations and Village Corporations)
5. Intertribal Organizations
6. Tribal Energy Development Organizations

In all cases, the proposed project(s) must be located on, or directly benefit, the applicant's Tribal Lands. Consortium applications are accepted but must be submitted by a single Tribe acting as lead applicant. Authorized Tribal Organizations may submit on behalf of Tribe(s) with evidence of authority included in the application. Applicants

may submit more than one application, including more than one under the same Topic Area, provided each application is for a distinctively different project and addresses only one Topic Area. Each application must have a distinct title and unique control number.

DOE will not make eligibility determinations prior to the application due date. The Selection Official may also consider program policy factors including: geographic distribution; optimum use of available DOE funding to achieve programmatic objectives; whether the tribal community has high energy costs; whether the community is not connected to the traditional centralized electrical power grid; and/or whether the applicant has not previously received a grant from the Office of Indian Energy.

Additional Eligibility Criteria:

7. No Entity of Concern (as defined under the CHIPS and Science Act, 42 U.S.C. § 18912) may receive DOE financial assistance of \$10 million or more. By applying, applicants certify neither they nor any project participant qualifies as an Entity of Concern.
8. All work must be performed in the United States unless a written Foreign Work Waiver is approved by the DOE Grants Officer.
9. Applicants must be registered in SAM.gov with a valid UEI before submitting. Registration can take several weeks.
10. Applicants must have a registered account in IE-Exchange prior to application submission.
11. Pre-award costs are not allowable except with prior DOE written approval. Costs incurred prior to award selection cannot be counted as cost share or reimbursed by DOE.

Required Application Elements:

1. SF-424 – Application for Federal Assistance (accessed through IE-Exchange). Dates (Block 17) and dollar amounts (Block 18) must reflect the complete project period.
2. Eligibility Statements and Evidence (must be signed by an authorized representative) – Documentation of both applicant eligibility and Tribal land status eligibility to support DOE's eligibility determination.
3. Technical Volume – Specific requirements and page limits in Part 1. Templates available in IE-Exchange by Topic Area (Topic Area 1, 2, and 3 templates are separate).
4. Work Plan – Description of specific activities, who will carry them out, timeframes for accomplishing objectives, and expected deliverables. Template available in IE-Exchange.
5. Budget Justification Workbook – Breakdown of all costs by category for recipient and subrecipients. Separate justification required for each subrecipient performing work exceeding \$500,000 of the total proposed budget.

6. Budget Support Template (must be signed by authorized representative) – Supporting documentation for proposed costs.
7. Cost Share Reduction Request Template (if applicable, must be signed by authorized representative) – Required if requesting reduction of the 10% cost share requirement to 0% based on poverty rate or median household income of the tribal community relative to statewide median household income.
8. Letters of Commitment – From all subrecipients and third-party cost-share providers. Each letter must not exceed one page, be signed by an authorized representative, and state the specific dollar amount or in-kind value committed.
9. Energy Options Analysis Template (Topic Area 2 only) – Required for comprehensive feasibility assessments. Template available in IE-Exchange.
10. Transparency of Foreign Connections Disclosure – For the applicant and each proposed subrecipient. U.S. national laboratories and domestic government entities are exempt; institutions of higher education respond only to asterisked items.
11. Lobbying Disclosure:
 - a. If lobbying activities exist: SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities
 - b. If no lobbying activities: Certification Regarding Lobbying (OMB 4040-0013)
12. Summary for Public Release – One-page publicly releasable project summary (applicant name, major participants and roles, PI/LPM names and titles, project title, locations, objectives, description including methods and potential impact, project goals). Must not include proprietary information.
13. Summary Slide – One slide summarizing the project. Template available in IE-Exchange.
14. Locations of Work – List of all locations where the recipient and subrecipients will perform project work. Template available in IE-Exchange.
15. Environmental Questionnaire – Required for each proposed project location and separately for each subrecipient at every work location.
16. AI Use Disclosure – The project summary must state the extent to which generative AI technology was used in developing the application, if at all.
17. Potentially Duplicative Funding Notice – If the applicant or any project team member has active Federal awards with potentially overlapping activities, written notification is required describing the overlap and how funds will be kept distinct.

Application Format Requirements:

PDF format (unless otherwise specified). English. 8.5" x 11" paper. Minimum 1" margins on all sides. Times New Roman 12-point (minimum) black font; tables/figures may use 10-point. The control number assigned by IE-Exchange must appear in the upper right header of every page and in each filename (format: Control Number_Applicant Name_Document). Page numbers in footer. Maximum 50MB per file; oversized files may be split into labeled parts. Late submissions due to upload difficulties for oversized files will not be accepted.