

Notice of Intent No. DE-FOA-0001452

Notice of Intent to Issue Funding Opportunity Announcement No. DE-FOA-0001453

The Department of Energy's (DOE) [Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs](#) (Office of Indian Energy) intends to issue a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) in February, 2016 entitled "Establishment of an Inter-tribal Technical Assistance Energy Providers Network".

In accordance with Federal policies promoting Indian self-determination and the purposes of the Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self Determination Act of 2005 (Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAcT 2005), Title V, codified at 42 USC § 15801), the Department of Energy's Office of Indian Energy is charged by Congress to "provide, direct, foster, coordinate, and implement energy planning, education, management, conservation, and delivery programs that –

- (1) Promote Indian tribal energy development, efficiency, and use;
- (2) Reduce and stabilize energy costs;
- (3) Enhance and strengthen Indian tribal energy and economic infrastructure relating to natural resource development and electrification; and
- (4) Bring electric power and service to Indian land and homes for tribal members located on Indian lands or acquired, constructed, or improved (in whole or in part) with Federal funds."

As a precursor to this Notice, the Office of Indian Energy issued a Request for Information (RFI) to obtain information from "inter-tribal organizations"¹, Indian Tribes (including Alaska Native regional corporations, and village corporations), and other interested stakeholders relative to its planned efforts to develop an Inter-Tribal Technical Assistance Energy Provider Network. After careful review and consideration of those responses, the Office of Indian Energy intends to initially pilot the Technical Assistance Energy Providers Network through "inter-tribal organizations". Therefore, the DOE Office of Indian Energy plans to issue a FOA targeted at "inter-tribal organizations" interested in establishing internal energy experts to provide technical energy assistance and informational resources to their member Indian tribes and/or Alaska Native villages.

Through this planned FOA, the Office of Indian Energy will continue its efforts to maximize the development and deployment of energy solutions for the benefit of American Indians and Alaska

¹ For the purposes of this Notice, "inter-tribal organization" means any organization comprised of *two or more* Indian Tribes, established under congressional, state, or tribal law to act on behalf of the participating Indian Tribes. "Inter-tribal organizations" may include, but are not limited to, inter-tribal councils, regional tribal organizations or associations, Alaska Regional Development Organizations, and tribal federations.

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Natives and together, with “inter-tribal organizations”, intends to provide tribal communities and Alaska Native villages the knowledge, skills, and resources needed to implement successful strategic energy solutions.

It is envisioned that “inter-tribal organizations” will structure their technical assistance to best meet the needs of their member Indian tribes and/or Alaska Native villages, resulting in clear measurable outcomes or end-products that include a plan to become financially sufficient beyond DOE’s Office of Indian Energy funding.

As part of these inter-tribal regional programs, it is envisioned that energy experts would:

- 1) Coordinate energy solutions among participating Indian Tribes (including Alaska Native regional corporations and village corporations);
- 2) Network with regional and national energy organizations;
- 3) Deliver technical assistance to participating Indian tribes (including Alaska Native regional corporations and village corporations) within the region;
- 4) Build the human capacity of participating Indian tribes (including Alaska Native regional corporations and village corporations) by providing information to tribal leaders and staff through workshops or webinars;
- 5) Serve as an information clearinghouse;
- 6) Advise DOE’s Office of Indian Energy on the energy goals and needs within their region; and
- 7) Enhance DOE’s technical assistance network across Indian Country.

Under the planned FOA, the Office of Indian Energy will only consider applications from “inter-tribal organizations” interested in providing energy services to their member Indian tribes.

Under the planned FOA, a 10% cost share of the total project costs is anticipated and that cost share must come from non-Federal sources, unless otherwise allowed by law. Cost share may include cash or in-kind contributions (e.g., contribution of time, services, or property; donated equipment, buildings, or land; donated supplies; or unrecovered indirect costs).

The following sources of Federal funds are also allowed by law as cost share.

Per the Indian Self-Determination Act (Public Law 93-638) as codified and amended, funding under the Indian Self-Determination Act may be used as non-Federal cost share by Indian Tribes on Federal grants.

For Tribal self-governance funding agreements, see 25 U.S.C. Section 458cc(j), Funds, “All funds provided under funding agreements entered into pursuant to this subchapter, and all funds provided under contracts or grants made pursuant to this subchapter, shall be treated as non-Federal funds for purposes of meeting matching requirements under any other Federal law.”

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For self-determination contract funding, see 25 U.S.C Section 450h(c), Use as matching shares for other similar Federal grant programs, “The provisions of any other Act notwithstanding, any funds made available to a tribal organization under grants pursuant to this section may be used as matching shares for any other Federal grant programs which contribute to the purposes for which grants under this section are made.”

For compact funding, see 25 U.S.C. Section 450j-1(j), "Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a tribal organization may use funds provided under a self-determination contract to meet matching or cost participation requirements under other Federal and non-Federal programs."

DOE envisions awarding multiple financial assistance awards in the form of grants. The estimated period of performance for each award will be approximately three to five years.

DOE currently anticipates making three to seven grant awards in amounts ranging from \$300,000 to \$1,000,000 for the entire period of performance (e.g. three to five years).

Pursuant to the Office of Indian Energy’s authority to provide grant funding to Indian Tribes, applications for funding under the planned FOA must be submitted by an authorized inter-tribal organization on behalf of one or more Indian Tribe(s). The inter-tribal organization applicant must provide evidence of its authority to submit the application on behalf of one or more Indian Tribe(s) as part of the application, along with its own Statement of Commitment which may be in the form of a resolution, declaration, or letter from an authorized representative. Evidence of the authority to submit an application on behalf of Indian tribes may include, but is not limited to, a constitution, resolution, ordinance, executive order, charter, P.L. 93-638 contract, self-governance compact, or other legal documentation. If evidence of that authority does not currently exist, Tribal Council Resolutions from member Indian tribes will be required.

The Office of Indian Energy plans to issue the FOA mid-**February 2016** via the EERE Exchange website (<https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/>). If potential applicants wish to receive official notifications and information regarding the planned FOA, they should register in EERE Exchange and join our email list at <http://energy.gov/indianenergy/office-indian-energy-policy-and-programs>. When the FOA is released, applications will be accepted **only** through EERE Exchange.

This Notice is issued so that interested “inter-tribal organizations” are aware of DOE’s intention to issue a FOA. All of the information contained in this Notice is subject to change. DOE will not respond to questions concerning this Notice. However, once the FOA has been released, DOE will provide an avenue for potential applicants to submit questions.

In anticipation of a FOA being released, potential applicants are advised to complete the following steps, which are **required** for application submission:

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- Register and create an account in EERE Exchange at <https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/>. This account will allow the user to register for any open FOAs that are currently in EERE Exchange. It is recommended that each organization or business unit, whether acting as a team or a single entity, use only one account as the contact point for each submission.

Questions related to the registration process and use of the EERE Exchange website should be submitted to: EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov.

- Obtain a Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number (including the plus 4 extension, if applicable) at <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>.
- Register with the System for Award Management (SAM) at <https://www.sam.gov>. Designating an Electronic Business Point of Contact (EBiz POC) and obtaining a special password called an MPIN are important steps in SAM registration. Please update your SAM registration annually.
- Register in FedConnect at <https://www.fedconnect.net/>. To create an organization account, your organization's SAM MPIN is required. For more information about the SAM MPIN or other registration requirements, review the FedConnect Ready, Set, Go! Guide at https://www.fedconnect.net/FedConnect/PublicPages/FedConnect_Ready_Set_Go.pdf.
- Register in Grants.gov to receive automatic updates when Amendments to a FOA are posted. However, please note that applications will not be accepted through Grants.gov. <http://www.grants.gov/>. All applications must be submitted through EERE Exchange.

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