



## Notice of Intent No. DE-FOA-0002770

### Notice of Intent to Issue Funding Opportunity Announcement No. DE-FOA-0002771

## Powering Unelectrified Tribal Buildings - 2022

The [Department of Energy](#) (DOE) [Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs](#) (hereafter referred to as the DOE Office of Indian Energy) intends to issue a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA), entitled “Powering Unelectrified Tribal Buildings – 2022”.

The DOE Office of Indian Energy is charged by Congress under the Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self Determination Act of 2005 ([Energy Policy Act of 2005](#) (EPAAct 2005), Title V, § 502, codified at 42 U.S.C. § 7144e and 25 U.S.C. § 3501 et seq.), 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.” 42 U.S.C. § 7144e(b)

For more information on the DOE Office of Indian Energy, see its [website](#).

**This Notice is issued so that interested parties are aware of DOE’s intention to issue this FOA in the near term. 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.**

The FOA will build on efforts by the DOE Office of Indian Energy and the authorities granted to the DOE Office of Indian Energy under EPAAct 2005, to bring electric power to unelectrified tribal buildings and homes on Tribal Land. Between 2010 and 2021, the DOE Office of Indian Energy invested over \$114 million in more than 200 tribal energy projects implemented across the contiguous 48 states and Alaska. These projects, valued at nearly \$200 million, are leveraged by over \$80 million in recipient cost share. See the DOE Office of Indian Energy [website](#) for a map and summaries of these competitively funded projects.

Through this planned FOA, the DOE Office of Indian Energy will be continuing its efforts to maximize the deployment of energy solutions for the benefit of American Indians and Alaska Natives, and help build the knowledge, skills, and resources needed to implement those energy

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solutions. In support of these objectives, the DOE Office of Indian Energy intends to solicit applications to install energy infrastructure to bring electric power to unelectrified Tribal Lands and homes. Through grants, the DOE Office of Indian Energy intends to provide financial support under the provisions of the Title V of EAct 2005.

More specifically, the DOE Office of Indian Energy plans to solicit applications from Indian Tribes, which include Alaska Native Regional Corporations and Village Corporations (hereafter referred collectively as “Indian Tribes”), Intertribal Organizations, and Tribal Energy Development Organizations for one Area of Interest in the FOA: to deploy energy infrastructure or integrated energy system(s) to provide electricity to Tribal Buildings which otherwise would be unelectrified, where “unelectrified” means Tribal Buildings that are not connected to (1) the traditional centralized electric power grid, or not connected to (2) an integrated energy system(s) operating independent of the traditional centralized electric power grid.<sup>1</sup>

For purposes of this planned FOA, a Tribal Building is a building or buildings where the eligible entity has the authority to augment or modify the building and where the building is either owned by the eligible entity or tribal members, or the eligible entity has a long-term lease (as a minimum, for the useful life of the proposed project). Tribal Building(s) may include, but are not limited to, tribal member homes, schools, community buildings, clinics/hospitals, tribal government buildings, fire stations, police stations, radio stations, washaterias, utility facilities (such as water/waste water systems), or tribal businesses.

In addition to specific technical evaluation criteria to be identified in the planned FOA, the Selection Official may also have the ability to consider the following program policy factors in making selections under the FOA: geographic and technology diversity; the optimum use of available DOE funding to achieve programmatic objectives; and/or applicants who have not previously received a grant from the Office of Indian Energy.

Upon request, the DOE Office of Indian Energy may also provide technical assistance to all eligible applicants who apply under this FOA and whose applications are comprehensively reviewed, but not selected for negotiation. If that requested technical assistance is within the scope of the technical assistance offered by the DOE Office of Indian Energy, that technical assistance will be provided on a priority basis over those who request technical assistance but do not apply to this FOA.

Pursuant to its authorizing statute, the DOE Office of Indian Energy will only consider applications from: (1) an Indian Tribe; (2) Intertribal Organization, or (3) Tribal Energy Development Organization; and (4) on whose Tribal Lands the project(s) will be located. Applications from a consortium of Indian Tribes (Tribal Consortium) will be accepted but must be submitted by a single

<sup>1</sup> **Note:** a separate FOA is planned for the deployment of energy infrastructure on Tribal Lands to include: (1) clean energy generating system(s) or energy efficiency measures on Tribal Building(s); (2) community-scale clean energy generating system(s) or energy storage on Tribal Lands; or (3) integrated energy system(s) for autonomous operation to power a single or multiple essential; buildings during emergency situations or for tribal community resilience.

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Indian Tribe acting as the Applicant and representing the Consortium. Applications may also be submitted on behalf of Indian Tribe(s) by an authorized Tribal Organization, provided evidence of that authority is included as part of the application.

Tribal Lands, for purposes of the planned FOA, include: (1) Indian lands (lands located within the boundaries of an Indian Reservation, land not within the boundaries of an Indian Reservation which is held in trust, and conveyed by the United States to a Native Corporation pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. § 1601 et seq.), any land located in a census tract in which the majority of residents are Natives (as defined in section 3(b) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1602(b)); and any land located in a census tract in which the majority of residents are persons who are enrolled members of a federally recognized Tribe or village); (2) lands held in fee simple (purchased or owned) by an eligible entity; (3) lands held under a long-term land lease (as a minimum, for the useful life of the proposed project) by an eligible entity; and (4) land that was conveyed to a Native Corporation pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. § 1601 et seq.) and subsequently conveyed to another entity, provided that entity is either a Native village or Tribal governmental entity or the land is held, invested, managed for and on behalf of a Native village or Tribal governmental entity.

An executed Tribal Council Resolution from each participating Indian Tribe, a declaration (or resolution) from each Alaska Native Regional Corporation, Alaska Native Village Corporation, Intertribal Organization, and Tribal Energy Development Organization, and a letter of commitment from all other project participants are required as a part of the application, unless an Indian Tribe provides a commitment in a format other than a Tribal Council Resolution and evidence of the statutory or other legal authority authorizing that form of commitment in lieu of a Tribal Council Resolution accompanies that commitment. Such evidence must establish that the commitment submitted carries the same level of Tribal leadership commitment as a Tribal Council Resolution.

If an Application is being submitted on behalf of Indian Tribe(s) by an authorized Tribal Organization, evidence of that authority is required as part of the Application, along with a declaration (or resolution) from the Tribal Organization, and a letter of commitment from all other project participants. Evidence of the authority to submit an application on behalf of Indian Tribe(s) 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.

All Tribal Council Resolutions, declarations, resolutions, and letters of commitment must be specific to this FOA, must include a statement of the total amount and type of cost share being committed regardless of source, and the cost share must be verifiable at the time of submission of the application.

Under the planned FOA, a 20% recipient cost share of the total project costs is required and must come from non-Federal sources and be clearly identified in the application, unless otherwise allowed by law. However, the DOE Office of Indian Energy may provide an opportunity for eligible

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applicants to obtain a reduced cost share of not less than 10%, based on poverty rate and median household income of the tribal community relative to the statewide median household income.

The DOE Office of Indian Energy envisions awarding multiple financial assistance awards in the form of grants. The estimated period of performance for each award will be approximately from one (1) to three (3) years including a 12 month mandatory verification period.

Under the planned FOA, the DOE Office of Indian Energy anticipates making awards that range from \$250,000 to \$4,000,000.

The DOE Office of Indian Energy plans to issue the FOA **Summer of 2022**. If Applicants wish to be notified when the FOA is issued, they should subscribe to the DOE Office of Indian Energy email newsletter list on its website homepage (<https://energy.gov/indianenergy>).

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

- **IE Exchange:** Register with and submit application materials through IE Exchange at <https://ie-exchange.energy.gov>, the DOE Office of Indian Energy online application portal obtained a control number while registering for use as an identifier and **required** on all application documents.
- **Unique Entity Identifier (UEI):** Obtain a UEI through SAM.gov (UEI replaced the data universal numbering system (DUNS) number for entities doing business with the federal government).
- **System for Award Management (SAM):** Register in SAM at <https://www.sam.gov> and continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active federal award or an application or plan under consideration by a federal awarding agency. Designating an Electronic Business Point of Contact (EBiz POC) and obtaining a special password called an MPIN are important steps in SAM registration.
- **FedConnect:** Register in FedConnect at <https://www.fedconnect.net> in order to receive award documentation. 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/Marketing/Documents/FedConnect\\_Ready\\_Set\\_Go.pdf](https://www.fedconnect.net/FedConnect/Marketing/Documents/FedConnect_Ready_Set_Go.pdf).
- **Grants.gov:** Register in Grants.gov in order to receive automatic updates when Amendments to this FOA are posted. However, please note that applications will not be accepted through Grants.gov. All applications must be submitted through IE Exchange.

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