



Notice of Intent No. DE-FOA-0003402

Notice of Intent to Issue

Funding Opportunity Announcement No. DE-FOA-0003403

Tribal Colleges and Universities Planning for Clean Energy Transition - 2025

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 “Tribal Colleges and Universities Planning for Clean Energy Transition - 2025”.

The DOE Office of Indian Energy assists Indian tribes in addressing barriers to developing their vast energy resources and accelerating the deployment of energy technology on Tribal Lands. Specifically, 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](#) (EPAcT 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 or 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](#).

NOTE: 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.

This FOA builds on efforts by the DOE Office of Indian Energy and the authorities granted to the DOE Office of Indian Energy under EPAcT 2005, to accelerate the deployment of clean energy technology on Tribal Lands. In addition to the \$75 million committed to tribal energy projects selected in 2023, between 2010 and 2022, the DOE Office of Indian Energy invested over \$120 million in more than 210 tribal energy projects implemented across the contiguous 48 states and Alaska. These projects, valued at more than \$215 million, are leveraged by over \$93 million in Recipient cost share. See the DOE’s Office of Indian Energy [website](#) for a map and summaries of these competitively funded projects.

This is a Notice of Intent (NOI) only. DOE may issue a FOA as described herein, may issue a FOA that is significantly different than the FOA described herein, or DOE may not issue a FOA at all.



Through this planned FOA, the DOE Office of Indian Energy will continue its efforts to advance Tribal energy sovereignty and maximize the deployment of clean, reliable, affordable and local energy solutions. In support of these objectives, the DOE Office of Indian Energy intends to provide financial support to Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) to plan the transition of their campuses to clean energy.

For purposes of the FOA, eligible Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) **must** be (1) institutions of higher education located in the 48 contiguous United States or Alaska **and** be (2) defined and eligible based on the Tribally Controlled Community College Assistance Act of 1978 ([25 U.S.C. § 1801\(a\)\(4\)](#)), and the Higher Education Act of 1965 ([20 U.S.C. § 1001, et seq.](#)), respectively, as follows:

“Tribal Colleges and Universities,” for purposes of the FOA, mean institutions of higher education which are formally controlled, or have been formally sanctioned, or chartered, by the governing body of an Indian tribe or tribes, except that no more than one such institution shall be recognized with respect to any such tribe;

including:

Those institutions cited and eligible for funding under section 532 of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 ([7 U.S.C. § 301 note](#)), any other institution that qualifies for funding under the Tribally Controlled Community College Assistance Act of 1978 ([25 U.S.C. § 1801 et seq.](#)), and Diné College, authorized in the Navajo Community College Assistance Act of 1978, Public Law 95-471, Title II ([25 U.S.C. § 640a note](#)).¹

Through grants, the DOE Office of Indian Energy intends to provide financial support under the provisions of the Title V of EPAAct 2005.

In addition to specific technical evaluation criteria to be identified in the planned FOA, the Selection Official may also have the ability to consider program policy factors in making selections under the FOA, which may include but are not necessarily limited to: geographic distribution; the optimum use of available DOE funding to achieve programmatic objectives; whether the tribal community has high energy costs; whether the tribal community is not connected to the traditional centralized electrical power grid; and/or Applicants who have not previously received a grant from the Office of Indian Energy.

¹ See also Executive Order 13270 (July 3, 2022), as extended by Executive Order 13316 (September 17, 2003). Note: Although 25 U.S.C. § 640a note has now been omitted from the U.S. Code as being of special and not general application, Diné College remains an eligible TCU. See the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008, Pub. L. 110–315 (August 14, 2008), §§ 945, 946 (establishing the Navajo Nation Higher Education Act of 2008 and reauthorizing the Navajo Community College Act).



The DOE Office of Indian Energy will only consider applications from TCUs. Applications from a consortium of TCUs (Consortium) will be accepted but must be submitted by a single TCU acting as the Applicant and representing the Consortium.

No recipient cost share is anticipated under the planned FOA.

Under the planned FOA, DOE's Office of Indian Energy anticipates making approximately \$5 million available with awards that range from \$100,000 to \$250,000 for planning grants.

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 two (2) to three (3) years.

The DOE Office of Indian Energy plans to issue the FOA **late Summer 2024**. 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, and obtain a control number while registering for use as an identifier **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.

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- **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.