



Notice of Intent No. DE-FOA-0002977
Notice of Intent to Issue
Funding Opportunity Announcement No. DE-FOA-0002978

**Transitioning Tribal Colleges and Universities to Clean Energy -
2023**

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 “Transitioning Tribal Colleges and Universities to Clean Energy – 2023”.

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](#) (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 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](#).

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 accelerate tribal energy development. Between 2010 and 2022, the DOE’s 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 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 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 solutions. In support of these objectives, the DOE Office of Indian Energy intends to solicit applications to install clean energy technology at Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs).

For purposes of the planned FOA, Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) are 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. § 1059](#)), 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 in 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 EPLA 2005.

The DOE Office of Indian Energy plans to solicit applications from TCUs for:

- (1) clean energy project planning (Area of Interest 1); and,
- (2) clean energy technology deployment (Area of Interest 2).

This FOA is intended to promote energy independence through the use of commercially warranted clean energy technologies.

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;

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).



technology diversity; the optimum use of available DOE funding to achieve programmatic objectives; whether the proposed project serves tribal communities with high energy costs; the degree to which the proposed project will employ procurement of U.S. iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials; and/or Applicants who have not previously received a grant from the Office of Indian Energy.

Within scope and budget, the DOE Office of Indian Energy may, upon request, provide technical assistance to all eligible Applicants who apply under this FOA and whose applications are comprehensively reviewed, but not selected for negotiation. Such technical assistance will be provided on a priority basis over those who request technical assistance but do not apply to this FOA.

The DOE Office of Indian Energy will only consider applications from: (1) TCUs; and (2) on whose campuses the project(s) will be located. 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.

A commitment from the governing board (e.g., trustees, regents, or director) of the TCU and an executed Tribal Council Resolution from each Indian tribe who chartered the college or university will be required, unless 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. Evidence may include, but is not limited to, constitution, resolution, ordinance, executive order, or other legal documentation.

All commitments must be executed, 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 10% recipient cost share of the total project costs will be required and must come from non-Federal sources and be clearly identified in the application, unless otherwise allowed by law.

Under the planned FOA, DOE's Office of Indian Energy anticipates making approximately \$15 million available with awards that range from \$100,000 to \$250,000 for planning grants (Area of Interest 1) or from \$1,000,000 to \$3,000,000 for deployment grants (Area of Interest 2).

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 four (4) years, including for Area of Interest 2 a 12-month mandatory verification period.

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The DOE Office of Indian Energy plans to issue the FOA **spring of 2023**. 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.
- **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.