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# Indian Energy Policy and Programs

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**Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs  
(\$K)**

<b>FY 2025 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2026 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2027 Request</b>	<b>FY 2027 Request vs FY 2026 Enacted</b>
70,000	75,000	50,038	-24,962

**Proposed Appropriation Language**

For necessary expenses for Indian Energy activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), \$50,038,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That, of the amount appropriated under this heading, \$10,038,000 shall be available until September 30, 2028, for program direction.

**Mission**

The mission of the Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs (45 U.S.C. § 7144e) is to: promote Tribal energy development, efficiency, and use; reduce or stabilize energy costs, enhance and strengthen Tribal energy and economic infrastructure; and bring electricity to Indian lands and homes. The Office carries out this mission within the scope of DOE's mission and in accordance with Tribal self-determination policies.

**Overview**

The Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs (IE) partners with federally recognized Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Corporations to catalyze the development of affordable, reliable, and secure energy on Tribal lands. These efforts support economic development in Tribal communities while contributing to broader American energy dominance efforts.

The FY 2027 Budget Request will focus on the following priorities:

- Expand the development of affordable, reliable, and secure energy in federally recognized Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Corporations.
- Leverage IE’s competitive grant making authority to fund energy infrastructure planning and deployment
- Provide expert assistance to Tribes for productive engagement with project developers to unleash American energy
- Increase access for Tribes to technical resources through collaboration with National Laboratories
- Improve electricity access for Tribes

**Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs  
Funding by Budget Control (\$K)**

	<b>FY 2025 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2026 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2027 Request</b>	<b>FY 2027 Request vs FY 2026 Enacted</b>	
				<b>\$</b>	<b>%</b>
Assistance Program	56,000	61,000	40,000	-21,000	-34%
Program Direction	14,000	14,000	10,038	-3,962	-28%
<b>Total, Office of Indian Energy</b>	<b>70,000</b>	<b>75,000</b>	<b>50,038</b>	<b>-24,962</b>	<b>-33%</b>

## Assistance Programs

### Overview

IE serves all 575 federally recognized Indian Tribes, in addition to Alaska Native Regional Corporations and Village Corporations, Tribal and Intertribal organizations, and Tribal energy development organizations. Numerous factors challenge Indian Tribes interested in developing their vast energy resources. Energy and infrastructure development in Indian Country is constrained due to limited funding and financing, inadequate infrastructure, limited technical capacity, and a complicated legal and regulatory structure governing Indian lands. As a result, the highest energy burden for Tribes is over 4x greater than that of the average national energy burden.<sup>1</sup> Alaska Natives spend more than 10% of their income on energy. IE offers financial and technical assistance to American Indian and Alaska Native communities to advance energy development on Indian lands:

**Financial assistance to increase affordable, reliable and secure power:** IE provides competitive funding opportunities for reliable energy infrastructure deployment to federally recognized Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Corporations across the Nation.

**Technical Assistance to overcome energy development barriers:** IE provides technical assistance at no cost to federally recognized Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Corporations to develop a tangible product or specific deliverable to address a need or barrier and move energy projects forward, and to enable a competitive business environment for energy development in Indian Country. The FY 2027 budget request enables IE to continue this assistance which leverages DOE's network of subject matter experts and local partner organizations to unleash Tribal energy development.

### Highlights and Major Changes in the FY 2027 Budget Request

IE's FY 2027 budget streamlines the Office of Indian Energy focus while expanding energy development in Indian Country.

#### Assistance Programs (\$K)

	<b>FY 2025 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2026 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2027 Request</b>
Technical Assistance	5,000	10,000	10,000
Financial Assistance	51,000	51,000	30,000
<b>Total, Assistance Programs</b>	<b>56,000</b>	<b>61,000</b>	<b>40,000</b>

### Explanation of Changes for Assistance Programs

Technical assistance funding will enable the expansion of technical assistance offerings, enable the continued use of local providers, and increase Tribal access to technical and scientific resources through collaboration with National Laboratories. The decrease in financial assistance funding focuses support on affordable, reliable, and secure energy infrastructure.

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<sup>1</sup> LEAD Tool; Tribal Energy Access and Reliability Report to Congress -2023

## Program Direction

### Overview

Program direction provides federal staff responsible for the management and execution of IE’s programs and activities, as well as the associated support contractors, rent, supplies, travel, and other related expenses. The staff is responsible for providing overall guidance and direction for DOE program offices on Tribal energy activities and initiatives necessary to achieve IE’s mission and provides day-to-day management of financial assistance, technical assistance, and capacity building efforts. Program direction also provides managerial support for the reporting, compliance, and other statutory responsibilities.

**Salaries and Benefits** support federal employees who provide management and programmatic and project oversight, Tribal affairs and engagement, and analysis for the effective implementation of IE program. The FY 2027 Budget anticipates 24 federal staff.

**Travel** includes expenses allowing IE to effectively deliver on its mission. Major drivers of travel include the need to support Tribal energy engagement and capacity building, enhance energy planning and management while advancing energy deployment on Tribal lands, and raising awareness among Tribes of IE and DOE services and resources to unleash American energy through effective partnership with Tribes.

**Support Services** include contractor support to perform administrative and analytical tasks in support of IE’s mission.

**Other Related Expenses** include DOE’s Working Capital Fund (WCF) support, information technology services, equipment purchases, upgrades, and replacements, office furniture, commercial credit card purchases, general and advanced training, security clearances, and other miscellaneous expenditures.

### Highlights and Major Changes in the FY 2027 Budget Request

This budget request accounts for FTEs, supports project management and procurement across IE’s portfolio of projects, and supports effective Tribal engagement and consultation across DOE programs.

### Program Direction (\$K)

	<b>FY 2025 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2026 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2027 Request</b>
Salaries and Benefits	5,036	5,036	4,700
Travel	265	265	200
Support Services	5,396	5,396	2,800
Other Related Expenses	3,303	3,303	2,338
<b>Total, Program Direction</b>	<b>14,000</b>	<b>14,000</b>	<b>10,038</b>
Federal FTEs	29	34	24
<b>Total, IE Funded FTEs</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>24</b>

**Program Direction  
Activities and Explanation of Changes  
(\$K)**

FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2027 Request	Explanation of Changes FY 2027 Request vs FY 2026 Enacted
<b>Program Direction</b>		
<b>14,000</b>	<b>10,038</b>	<b>-3,962</b>
<i>Salaries and Benefits</i>		
5,036	4,700	-336
Provided salaries and benefits for 34 full-time equivalents (FTEs) that provide executive management, programmatic oversight, and analysis for the effective implementation of the IE program.	Provides salaries and benefits for 24 FTEs that provide executive management, programmatic oversight, and analysis for the effective implementation of the IE program.	The decrease is due to a lower number of FTEs as a result of streamlined hiring.
<i>Travel</i>		
265	200	-65
Provided for travel, subsistence and incidental expenses of FTEs to support the 575 federally recognized Indian Tribes throughout the nation, many of which are in remote and rural areas.	Provides travel, subsistence and incidental expenses of FTEs to support the 575 federally recognized Indian Tribes throughout the nation, many of which are in remote and rural areas.	Decreased due to streamlined travel.
<i>Support Services</i>		
5,396	2,800	-2,596
Provided for management, administrative, and operations support to monitor grants, support execution of technical assistance, and outreach.	Provides for management, administrative, and operations support to monitor grants, support execution of technical assistance, support to DOE program offices on Tribal matters, energy access strategy and execution, and outreach.	Decreased due to streamlined scope of technologies.
<i>Other Related Expenses</i>		
3,303	2,338	-965
Computer hardware and software provided through the Office of Chief Information Officer (OCIO), WCF, office space, registration fees, supplies, and small purchases through the micro-purchase credit card.	Computer hardware and software provided through the OCIO, WCF, office space, registration fees, supplies, and small purchases through the micro-purchase credit card.	Decreased due to anticipated costs for EITS, WCF, other IT systems and cost sharing.

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

**Funding by Site Detail**

TAS\_0342 - Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs - FY 2027

(Dollars in Thousands)

	<b>FY 2025 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2026 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2027 Request</b>
<b>Undesignated LPI</b>			
Indian Energy Policy & Programs	56,000	51,000	40,000
Program Direction - Indian Energy Program	14,000	14,000	10,038
<b>Total Undesignated LPI</b>	<b>70,000</b>	<b>65,000</b>	<b>50,038</b>
<b>Total Funding by Site for TAS_0342 - Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs</b>	<b>70,000</b>	<b>65,000</b>	<b>50,038</b>