



U.S. DEPARTMENT
of **ENERGY**

Office of Critical Minerals
and Energy Innovation

**HOME ENERGY
REBATES**
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY



Home Energy Rebates Program Notice 26-3

High-Efficiency Electric Home Rebate (HEEHR) Program for Indian Tribes

Effective Date: May 29, 2026

SUBJECT: Changes to Program Guidance for the High-Efficiency Electric Home Rebate (HEEHR) Program for Indian Tribes under the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Section 50122

INTENDED AUDIENCE: Indian Tribe HEEHR Grantees (Grantees)

INTENDED USE: The Department of Energy (DOE) is issuing this Program Notice to notify grantees of program guidance changes for the HEEHR Program for Indian Tribes only. This document provides information on how to proceed with a HEEHR Program for Indian Tribes, whether in conditional award status or not yet awarded. All other program requirements for Tribal HEEHR Program awards remain in effect with the exception of those identified in this document.

DOE intends to publish revised program guidance documents to further detail these changes in the near future. Grantees should work with their assigned DOE Project Officer on next steps for their specific award.

The following sections in this Program Notice address:

1. **Purpose**
2. **Legal Authority**
3. **Program Guidance Changes**
4. **Data Reporting**

1 PURPOSE AND EXTENSION OF THE APPLICATION DEADLINE

To revise grant guidance and program management information and reopen and extend the application deadline for the HEEHR Program for Indian Tribes. Tribes must apply for their formula awards from the Department by **December 11, 2026**.

This notice revises grant guidance and program management information superseding the items identified below in the following documents:

- Administrative and Legal Requirements Document (ALRD) Version 2 issued on 11/7/2024
- Program Requirements & Application Instructions Version 2 issued on 11/7/2024

All other program requirements for the HEEHR Program for Indian Tribes awards remain in effect with the exception of those identified in this notice.

1.1 SCOPE

The provisions of this Program Notice apply **only** to the HEEHR Program for Indian Tribes.

1.2 BACKGROUND

The program guidance changes in this Program Notice advance affordability, promote consumer choice, ensure good stewardship of taxpayer dollars, as well as streamline and empower grantees to tailor their HEEHR programs based on their local context and Tribal residents' needs.

2 LEGAL AUTHORITY

Section 50122 of the IRA authorizes DOE to administer the HEEHR Program for Indian Tribes through the Home Energy Rebates Program. Section 50122 specifies that a portion of the federal financial assistance made available to an Indian Tribe may be used for planning, administration, or technical assistance related to the Indian Tribe's programs.¹ All grant awards made under the HEEHR Program for Indian Tribes must comply with DOE and other federal regulations and procedures governing financial awards as outlined in the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, 2 CFR Part 200 as amended by 2 CFR Part 910 and other procedures applicable to this regulation as DOE may, from time-to-time, prescribe for the administration of financial assistance.

3 PROGRAM GUIDANCE CHANGES

DOE undertakes continuous improvement of the HEEHR Program for Indian Tribes operations and effectiveness. The following sections inform grantees of programmatic guidance changes. These revisions should be considered program policy changes. DOE's Home Energy Rebates Program adopts these changes to align the HEEHR programmatic requirements more closely with the statutory requirements in section 50122 of the IRA, ensure full alignment with Administration priorities, including the policies set in Executive Order 14173 and DOE Secretarial priorities on affordability, ensure good stewardship of taxpayer dollars, as well as streamline and empower grantees to tailor their HEEHR programs based on their local context and Tribal residents' needs. Grantee programs are required to align with new program requirements prior to launching.

3.1 PROGRAM NAME

DOE is changing the program name from "Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates" to "High-Efficiency Electric Home Rebates" (HEEHR) for Indian Tribes to align with the statutory name in section 50122 of the IRA.²

¹ See 42 U.S.C. § 18795a(c)(9).

² *Id.* § 18795a(d)(2).

3.2 DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION (DEI)

DOE is removing all program requirements not required by statute related to diversity, equity, and inclusion, Justice40 Initiative per rescinded Executive Order 14008, and disadvantaged communities. These actions include:

- Removing the Justice40 Initiative references and requirements.
- Removing the requirement that a Tribe allocate a percentage of its rebate funding for each of the rebate programs in line with its percentage of low-income households as determined by the Tribe.
- Removing the requirement for DOE approval to move to the next tranche of funding and for associated funds to be released related to minimum low-income spending milestones. Tribes are required to submit a progress tranche summary report at least ninety (90) calendar days prior to moving forward with the next progress tranche.
 - If DOE determines that the grantee has not fully and satisfactorily completed the work described in the ALRD, the Program Requirements & Application Instructions, Award Attachments, the Award's Special Terms and Conditions, this program notice, and the DOE approved plans for this award, then DOE will work with the grantee to develop a progress tranche improvement plan that lays out the additional steps the grantee must take to fully and satisfactorily meet such requirements and plans.
 - In the event of continued failure to make progress and achieve the program goals, DOE may take steps to halt or potentially discontinue funding.

3.3 ADVANCING AFFORDABILITY

DOE is advancing affordability in the HEEHR Program by:

- Removing program allowances for upgrades for fuel-switching (i.e. replacement of non-electric appliances) and instead allowing rebates for upgrading HVAC and appliances only from existing electric equipment to more efficient electric equipment. HVAC and electric appliances in new construction will continue to be allowable. If any grantee has remaining funding after fully implementing the new program design, then DOE will consider allowing additional measures authorized by statute.
- Requiring that homes utilize rebates for insulation and air sealing prior to installing heating and cooling upgrades, unless they are already appropriately insulated and sealed to a DOE approved, Tribally-specified level, to ensure upgrades do not increase consumer energy costs.

- Requiring for eligible new construction rebates that the eligible entity representative and eligible entity must ensure operational and consumer cost effectiveness. An eligible entity representative must deduct the total eligible rebate amount from the total project cost prior to calculating the final cost to the eligible low- or moderate-income (LMI) household or LMI multifamily building owner. The total project cost, rebates applied, and remaining project cost documentation must be provided to the eligible entity and building owner, if different.
- Allowing dwellings to retain existing fossil-fuel HVAC systems when installing a heat pump, even if the heat pump will not become the primary source of heating and cooling.
- Expanding eligible electric heat pump clothes dryers to include ENERGY STAR certified combination washer-dryers.
- Expanding flexibility for eligible household/dwelling units to claim rebates for insulation, air sealing, ventilation, or electrical wiring projects incrementally, up to the maximum rebate amounts for those qualified projects.
- Allowing usage of rebate funds to cover product shipping and contractor travel costs for all Indian Tribes to provide access to products not locally available.
- Allowing usage of rebate funds to include warranties or accessories necessary for the base installation and operation of the retrofits.
- Allowing Grantees to use rebate funds to cover appropriate state, local, or Tribal taxes.

3.4 ENSURING GOOD STEWARDSHIP OF TAXPAYER FUNDS

DOE continues to prioritize stewardship of taxpayer funds but has identified areas of unnecessary duplication for oversight. Improvements include:

Replacing the Consumer Protection Plan with a Fraud, Waste, and Abuse Mitigation Plan and removing requirements for:

- Internal review plans
- Consumer satisfaction survey
- Dispute resolution procedures beyond existing state laws and regulations

DOE is also restricting the usage of self-attestation for income qualification to align the Tribal requirements with the fraud, waste, and abuse reduction requirements in the HEEHR Program for States and Territories. If self-attestation is allowed, Tribes must verify all rebate applications using self-attestation of income eligibility before issuing a

rebate; in cases of emergency replacements, Tribes may verify income eligibility after a rebate has been issued.

Additionally, grantees will apply to access the U.S. Department of Treasury’s “Do Not Pay” database, per President Trump’s [Executive Order 14249](#), OMB Memorandum [M-25-32](#) and program policy at the direction of the DOE Office of Inspector General Special Report [DOE-OIG-24-31](#). Grantees must use this resource to vet potential contractors to be added to their Qualified Contractor List in order to reduce fraud, waste, and abuse.

3.5 STREAMLINING & EMPOWERING GRANTEES

DOE is streamlining and empowering grantees to tailor their HEEHR programs based on their local context and Tribal residents’ needs.

3.5.1 STREAMLINING HEEHR PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

To help grantees save money and move faster in administering their HEEHR program, streamlining improvements include:

- In order to streamline grantee program launches, should the Grantee not receive a written notification of approval to launch from the Project Officer within 30 calendar days of receiving DOE feedback on the submission of final Implementation Blueprint document, the Grantee may proceed to launch. In addition to specified requirements, a Tribal Implementation Blueprint must include:
 - Fraud, Waste, and Abuse Mitigation Plan
- Indian Tribes and Consortia with awards below \$1 million are now only required to create a Fraud, Waste, and Abuse Mitigation Plan incorporating the requirements included in the “Data Review,” “Virtual Inspection,” and “Contractors and Other Partners” sections.
- Expanding flexibility on geotagging requirements when technical limitations impact the ability to obtain geotagged metadata. Grantees may propose to DOE an alternative approach to pre-installation and post-installation photos that provides assurance of installation.

3.5.2 EMPOWERING PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

To introduce additional flexibility to further empower grantees to tailor their HEEHR programs based on their local context and Tribal residents’ needs, improvements include:

- Highly recommending Tribes to stack and braid HEEHR funding with other programs and funding sources to maximize impact as permitted by statute³, improve cost-effectiveness, and expand access to HEEHR rebates.
- Expanding categorical eligibility flexibility for tenant-based assistance for single-family and multifamily rental properties.
- Expanding categorical eligibility for low-income rebate amounts to housing units that receive Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) funding from the Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- Clarifying that rebate eligibility for multifamily properties is not less than 50% of the occupied dwelling units having low-income or moderate-income households, based on area median income levels.
- Clarifying the definition of a “new” contractor to refer to contractors who are newly certified, qualified, or licensed to perform work.
- Expanding the definition of multifamily buildings to also include multiple buildings (e.g., apartment complexes).
- An eligible rebate recipient that would otherwise receive the rebate value may direct that payment to an eligible entity representative, such as a third-party lender, after completion of a qualified project. In this situation, the eligible entity would not receive any additional rebate payment for that transaction. To facilitate this action, the Grantee or implementer would remit payment to the eligible entity representative once the eligible entity representative submits all required data and documentation regarding the rebated project. Eligible entity representatives would be subject to all programmatic requirements and may facilitate other permissible actions as described in the program requirements.

3.5.3 EXPANDING POINT OF SALE PATHWAYS

To offer flexibility for point-of-sale rebates and to encourage Tribes to meet consumers where they are, DOE has made the following improvements:

- Clarifying and encouraging grantees to utilize options in how to provide point-of-sale rebates to promote visible consumer choice and energy affordability, including, but not limited to retail, e-commerce, direct-to-consumer and/or marketplace vendors. Grantees can also have different pathways for different qualified projects, depending on which kinds of rebates they choose to offer within their overall Tribal rebate program.
- Clarifying and encouraging grantees to also allow rebates for do-it-yourself (DIY) retail purchases and installations, with the exception of HVAC system

³ Rebates provided through the HEEHR Program “may not be combined with any other Federal grant or rebate..., for the same qualified electrification project.” See 42 U.S.C. 18795a(c)(8).

installations, where such installations are otherwise allowed by state and local building codes.

- Clarifying that products purchased by the homeowner or building owner that can be installed as a DIY, alternatively can be installed by third parties that are not on the grantee's qualified contractor list. Those installation costs can be allowable as part of the rebate, so long as the costs are reasonable and consistent with typical installation costs for such projects.
- Expanding flexibility to implement mail-in rebates in addition to their statutory point-of-sale rebate retail pathway for each qualified project category.

While Indian Tribes can choose to offer point-of-sale rebates to households through a retail pathway, grantees can also choose a different strategy for their point-of-sale rebates funding, such as coordinating rebates for upgrading housing owned directly by the Tribe.

3.6 DESIGNING PROGRAMS FOR TRIBAL NEEDS

DOE welcomes Indian Tribes to design their HEEHR programs in a way that best meets Tribal needs. This includes making use of the following existing opportunities:

- The ability to form a Tribal Consortium, which allows Tribes to combine administrative funding and more efficiently administer programs. Tribes can join a Tribal Consortia at any point in time prior to application submission with the approval of a Tribal Council Resolution or a Head of Government letter.
- The ability for an Indian Tribe or Tribal Consortium to designate a third-party agent to apply for and administer a HEEHR program on behalf of the Tribe. A Tribe can choose any third-party for this role, including but not limited to Tribally-Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs), Tribal Energy Organizations, and Inter-Tribal Organizations or Regional Organizations. Tribes can designate a third-party agent at any point in time prior to application submission with the approval of a Tribal Council Resolution or a Head of Government letter.
- The ability to choose to provide rebates for only certain technologies or certain residential building types, based on the Tribe's specific needs.

4 DATA REPORTING

The HEEHR for Indian Tribes Data Requirements Guide delineates the data and information that grantees must collect, retain, and/or report to DOE prior to launch as well as throughout the course of the HEEHR Program. Grantees should work with DOE and the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory to implement additional improvements and streamlining efforts for rebate transaction data reporting. These include:

- Updates to rebate transaction data elements, including removals, changes, and clarifications to align with the above program guidance changes.

CONCLUSION: On behalf of DOE, we thank the Indian Tribes participating in the HEEHR Program for your dedication to the households we serve across the country. We applaud the work of the Indian Tribes for being a part of reducing energy costs for their Nations and communities. Thank you for being a part of this effort.

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