BPA Tribal Low Income Energy Efficiency Grant Program

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Bonneville Power Administration

- Nonprofit federal power marketing administration based in Pacific Northwest
- Part of U.S. Department of Energy
- Non appropriated – self funded
Power Marketing

- Markets wholesale electrical power from 31 federal dams, 1 nonfederal nuclear plant and several small nonfederal power plants
- BPA provides 1/3 electric power in Northwest
- 142 Utility Customers
Transmission

- BPA operates $\frac{3}{4}$ of the high-voltage transmission system
- 15,238 circuit miles
Federal Columbia River Power System
BPA Service Area
BPA Energy Efficiency Overview
1980 Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act

Assure the Pacific Northwest of adequate, efficient, economical and reliable power supply

- BPA to encourage conservation and renewables where cost effective
- BPA to provide benefits to residential and small farm customers of investor-owned utilities (residential exchange).
- BPA to protect, mitigate and enhance fish and wildlife affected by federal hydropower construction and operation.
- NW Power and Conservation Council to guide power and fish planning for the region.
In 1999, BPA specifically set-aside funds from its **Low-income Weatherization Program** to be targeted towards increasing the installation of energy efficiency measures in Native American homes.
Low Income Energy Efficiency Program

- Funded by public purpose funding set aside by BPA
- ~$5.5 million dollars annually total
- ~$550,000 directly distributed from BPA, government to government, for the “Tribal Set Aside” program
- Remaining 4.5 million is distributed to states in the form of grants
  - State allotment based on census
  - 3% is required to be spent on tribal members (based on census)
Benefits of the Tribal Set Aside Program

- Government to government partnership
- Allows for a more effective way in reaching Native American households.
- The program allows for flexibility in the implementation based on the tribe’s specific needs.
- Many tribal residents are more comfortable participating in the program if working with fellow tribal members
- Provides long term employment opportunities for tribes
Grants Compliment DOE program

- Very similar to DOE with the exception of some minor changes
  - 30% for health and safety (DOE is 15%)
  - 30% for LIWx repairs (DOE 15%)
  - Allows for more appliances
  - No age requirement for dwelling, can return to unit as many times as necessary
Options for utilizing grants

- Training
  - Travel, lodging, registration, per diem
- Equipment
- Weatherization Programs
  - Labor costs, Transportation costs, Materials
- Energy Efficiency Technologies/Appliances
  - Ductless Heat Pumps
  - Heat Pump Water Heaters
  - Lighting
  - Appliances
Options For Tribal Program Structure

- Tribe independently implements program utilizing BPA funding
  - outreach, qualification screening, coordination and marketing activities to full weatherization, appliance, HVAC and LED installation programs
  - Tribe can conduct installations and weatherization audits when they have the trained staff

- Tribe can collaborate with the State and the local Community Action Agency (CAAs) for installations and audits

- Tribes can collaborate with other tribes for installation and audits
Building a Tribal Program with BPA Funding

- BPA Funded Workshops

BPA Training Workshop, BPC, Bellingham WA
Building a Tribal Program with BPA Funding

Technical Training
Hosted By Yakama
Building a Tribal Program with BPA Funding

- Equipment, Training and Certifications

Siletz Tribal Auditor
Encourage Collaboration with Utilities

- BPA offers dollar for dollar reimbursement to customer utilities for cost effective energy efficiency measures

- BPA communicates with CAAs and utilities to help inform and encourage collaboration

- Conservation targets provide good incentive for working with tribes

Quileute Housing Authority
What Works

- Visiting the tribes and building relationships
- Directly funding the tribe
- Aligning our grants with DOE, supplementing with more flexibility
- Helping tribes connect with each other and with the CAAs
- Holding a Semi-Annual workshop
- Making reporting simple
Thank You!

Questions?

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