

EECBG Program Tribal Awards - Pooled Funds

Teaming & Consortia Options Reduce Burden, Maximize Impact

The EECBG Program provides \$8.8 million in flexible funds to 774 Tribes and Alaska Native Villages & Corporations, for projects that promote energy efficiency and conservation.

To reduce the administrative burden of applying for and managing the award, **Tribes may pool their funds and apply as a group.** Tribes may apply as a **team** or through a **Tribal Consortium.** In the consortium approach, a third-party (e.g., Inter-Tribal organization, non-profit) drafts the grant application and manages the grant overall, including reporting requirements. In the team approach, a lead Tribe submits the application on behalf of other Tribes.

These funds can be used across 14 eligible categories, such as (but not limited to):

- **Energy Planning & Strategy Development:** Project scoping, siting, and planning
- **Building Energy Efficiency Upgrades & Weatherization:** LEDs, HVAC, upgraded doors & windows, insulation
- **Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure:** EVs and hybrids, e-bikes, EV chargers
- **Renewables:** Solar panels, batteries coupled with solar, grid development to support renewables

*The Tribal application deadline is **May 31, 2025.***

How do Teams and Consortia work? What is the benefit?

Pooling funds can reduce the administrative burden of applying and managing the grant while expanding the impact of the funds.

There are two different types of these groups: teams and consortia.

- 1. Teaming approach:** a group of Tribes pool funds, select 'lead Tribe' to submit application and manage award.
- 2. Consortia approach:** a group of Tribes pool their funds and select a *third-party* (e.g., Inter-Tribal Organization, non-profit) to draft the application and manage the award.

Benefits of a group application.

- ✓ **Reduces application and reporting burden.** With only one application to submit and award to manage, this consolidates grant reporting requirements across Tribes.
- ✓ **Pooled funds can expand impact.** Economies of scale can lower costs and logistical burden for purchasing equipment in bulk, hiring energy professionals, or developing regional energy efficiency programs.
- ✓ **Streamline personnel costs.** Allows Tribes in geographic proximity to share personnel and resources.

What can pooled EECBG Program funds achieve?

Project examples are non-exhaustive. Inclusion is not endorsement.

- Purchase and deliver equipment in bulk
- Hire a shared energy manager whose services can be deployed across the region
- Pay for a regional workforce development or training program that staff across Tribes can attend
- Create a regional energy plan
- Hire a specialist in weatherization or heat pump installation to visit remote areas and perform work in multiple communities
- Build shared community solar or pursue other shared distributed energy projects

Teaming and Consortia Options Similarities and Differences

Teaming Option

- Allows Tribes to pool their funds with other Tribes or EECBG Program-eligible local governments
- Only one application per team is needed
- Participants choose a lead Tribe who is responsible for submitting the application and administering the award, including reporting
- *Teams may pursue the voucher application option or the traditional grant option*

See EECBG Program website for existing team projects:
energy.gov/scep/energy-efficiency-and-conservation-block-grant-program-awards

Tribal Consortium Option

- Allows Tribes to pool their funds with other Tribes
- Only one application is needed
- Group of Tribes choose lead Tribe to identify third-party administrator (e.g., Inter-Tribal Org)
- Lead Tribe submits the application – even if the third-party leads the drafting process
- Third-Party administrator manages reporting
- Third-party can lead bulk purchasing and equipment distribution to Tribes, among other tasks!
- *Only for Tribes pursuing traditional grant, not vouchers*

Consortia Leads Can Be Range of Tribal Groups

Project examples are non-exhaustive. Inclusion is not endorsement

- Inter-Tribal organizations/coalitions
- Tribal advocacy groups
- Energy alliances
- Tribal health organizations
- Regional sustainability coalitions
- 638 contract or compact
- Tribal and/or energy focused non-profits

Consortia Application Steps

- 1) A group of Tribes agree to form a consortium (all participating Tribes **must be eligible for EECBG Program formula funding**) and designate a lead Tribe
- 2) Lead Tribe designates a third-party administrator to serve as the consortium manager
- 3) Lead Tribe collects a “Tribal Council Resolution” or “Head of Government Letter” from each participating Tribe providing authority to the lead Tribe to act on behalf of the Tribal Consortium
- 4) Lead Tribe provides a Third-Party Authorization letter and completes an Assignment of Claims form, empowering the third-party to work on their grant
- 5) Lead Tribe notifies the EECBG Program of their intent to apply as a Tribal Consortium by submitting an email to EECBG@hq.doe.gov with the information collected in steps 1-4
- 6) Third-party administrator helps prepare application, submitted by the lead Tribe under its own UEI number
- 7) After application approval, third-party administrator receives reimbursement for allowable expenses and handles reporting requirements and overall grants management. *Note: the lead Tribe is ultimately responsible for complying with the requirements of the federal award.*