



U.S. DEPARTMENT
of **ENERGY**

Office of Indian Energy
Policy and Programs

Unleashing Tribal Energy Development Notice of Funding Opportunity

DE-FOA-0003548

Informational Webinar

April 9, 2026

Disclaimer

This presentation summarizes the contents of Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) DE-FOA-0003548. No new information will be presented. If there are any inconsistencies between the NOFO and this presentation or statements from DOE personnel, the NOFO is the controlling document, and Applicants should rely on the NOFO language.

There are no particular advantages or disadvantages to the application evaluation process with respect to participating in the webinar today. Your participation is completely voluntary.

Disclaimer (cont.)

Upon the issuance of a NOFO, DOE personnel are prohibited from communicating (in writing or otherwise) with Applicants regarding the NOFO except through the established question and answer process described below.

Questions regarding this NOFO must be submitted to TribalGrants@hq.doe.gov no later than three (3) business days prior to the application due date and time.

Please note, feedback on individual concepts will not be provided through Q&A.

Office of Indian Energy Leadership



Eric Mahroum
Director
Washington, D.C.

NOFO Delivers New Opportunities for Tribes

Open to an expansive set of technologies and approaches

Zero or 10% cost share available with no reduction request required



Both Grants and Cooperative Agreements may be awarded

Projects in any phase can apply, from community-scale planning & deployment, to large-scale project planning

About the Office of Indian Energy

Office of Indian Energy Mission

The Office's mission is in its Congressional authorizing statute:

- **Promote** Tribal energy development, efficiency, and use.
- **Reduce** or **stabilize** energy costs.
- **Enhance** and **strengthen** Tribal energy and economic infrastructure.
- **Electrify** Indian lands and homes.

The Office of Indian Energy was established by Congress in the Energy Policy Act of 2005 under 45 USC 7144e & 25 USC 3502(b).



Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Biomass District Heating System (Minnesota) installed a biomass district heating system for its Brookston Community Center, adding 3 MMBtu per hour of energy/ heating capacity. The system is projected to save approximately \$31,000 annually. They celebrated with a ribbon cutting in June 2025. Photo by Josh Gregory / DOE

NOFO Alignment with Trump 47 & DOE Priorities

Secretary Wright Priorities

Advance Energy Addition, Not Subtraction

Strengthen Grid Reliability and Security

Key Administration Orders

E.O. 14154 Unleashing American Energy & Secretarial Order on Unleashing Golden Era of Energy Dominance

E.O. 14153 Unleashing Alaska's Extraordinary Resource Potential

Presidential Memorandum - Delivering Emergency Price Relief for American Families to Defeat the Cost-of-Living Crisis

IE Director Mahroum Priorities



Affordability



Public-Private Partnerships



Communications

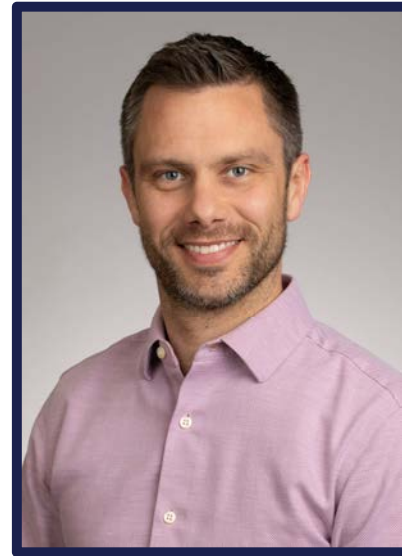


Workforce

Office of Indian Energy Deployment Team



Dan Kaim
NOFO Manager



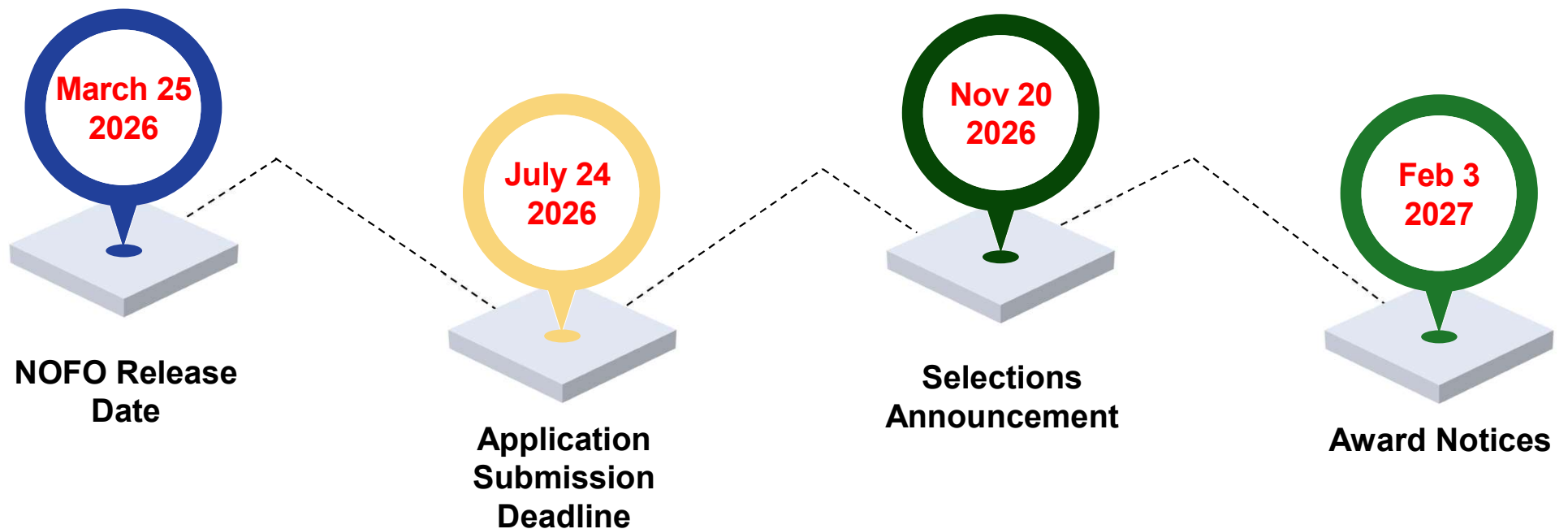
Mike Vehar
Financial Assistance
Technical Project Officer

Notice of Funding Opportunity Overview

Funding Opportunity Overview

Funding Opportunity Title	Unleashing Tribal Energy Development
Funding Opportunity Number	DE-FOA-0003548
Funding Instrument	Grants and Cooperative Agreements
Expected Total Available Funding	\$50 million
Funding Opportunity Description	DOE's Office of Indian Energy is soliciting applications to advance affordable, reliable and secure energy in Indian Country.
Estimated Period of Performance	12 – 48 months
Topic Areas	<p>Topic Area 1 (p. 15)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tribal community energy deployment projects <p>Topic Area 2 (p. 17)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tribal community energy project planning, assessment, and feasibility <p>Topic Area 3 (p. 23)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large scale planning, assessment, and feasibility for Tribal energy projects
Application Deadline	July 24, 2026 5pm E.T.

Key Dates and Milestones





U.S. DEPARTMENT
of **ENERGY**

Office of Indian Energy
Policy and Programs

Topic Areas and Eligibility

NOFO Objectives and Performance Goals

This NOFO seeks applications that will lead to energy projects that **aim to lower or stabilize Tribal energy costs, expand electric and other energy access, and advance energy projects for Tribal economic development.**

Topic Area 1

Tribal community energy deployment projects



Performance Goal: Serve the electric loads and support the energy needs of Tribes at the scale of a Tribal community or communities. These projects entail the construction of energy assets and projects.

Topic Area 2

Tribal community energy planning, assessment, and feasibility



Performance Goal: Complete all pre-development activities necessary for the deployment of community scale energy projects.

Topic Area 3

Large scale planning, assessment, and feasibility for Tribal energy projects



Performance Goal: Complete necessary pre-development activities which lead to enhancement and strengthening of Tribal energy and economic infrastructure through development of Tribal energy resources.

Funding Details

Topic Area	Dollar Amount of Individual Awards	Minimum Cost Share Required	Project Period
Topic Area 1 Tribal community energy deployment projects	Up to \$7,500,000	10% of total project costs	24 – 48 months
Topic Area 2 Tribal community energy project planning, assessment, and feasibility	Up to \$1,500,000	Not required	12 – 48 months
Topic Area 3 Large scale planning, assessment, and feasibility for Tribal energy projects	Up to \$2,500,000	Not required	12 – 48 months



Eligible Applicants

Eligibility for this NOFO is restricted to:

- Indian Tribes (including Alaska Native Regional Corporations and Village Corporations);
- Tribal and intertribal Organizations;
- Tribal Energy Development Organizations; and
- Tribal Colleges and Universities

For the purposes of this NOFO, an eligible Indian Tribe, band, nation or other organized group or community (including Alaska Native villages), must be federally recognized as listed in *Indian Entities Recognized and Eligible to Receive Services from the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs*, published by the Department of Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs in the Federal Register on [January 30, 2026, 91 FR 4102](#).

Topic Area 1: Tribal Community Energy Development Projects

Under Topic Area 1, IE is soliciting applications for the development of:

- Community scale Tribal energy resources;
- Deployment of community-scale energy generation, storage and/or delivery assets;
- Energy efficiency measures;
- Equipment to strengthen energy infrastructure and implement resiliency enhancements;
- Improvements to lower or stabilize energy costs; and
- Projects that expand electricity access through the upgrade or addition of energy infrastructure

Applications under Topic Area 1 are expected to be implementation ready, indicating that all necessary pre-development and planning activities have been finalized previously and awarded DOE funds will enable the implementation of energy improvements in the Tribal community or communities.

Hypothetical example of a project

A project to address reliability of residential electricity access. The project will upgrade outdated electrical panels and/or wiring of residences to be in compliance with existing building codes. The panel and wiring upgrades will provide reliable electric access to Tribal homes, and allow for increased energy usage, and result in less power outages.

*A comprehensive list of hypothetical project examples can be found in NOFO Part 1.

Topic Area 1 Project Eligibility

To be eligible under Topic Area 1, applications must:



Use commercially proven and warranted technology



For enhancing energy resiliency projects, such as microgrids, the proposal must demonstrate the ability of the system to function autonomously



Be based on a comprehensive feasibility study



For projects proposing the upgrade or addition of energy infrastructure, demonstrate how the project will benefit the Applicant and/or Tribal members



Be based on a completed design and engineering



For energy generation or energy efficiency projects, include an estimate of the energy generated or saved annually (amount, cost, and percentage) based on the actual energy used and projected savings for energy loads

Topic Area 2: Tribal Community Energy Planning, Assessment, and Feasibility

Under Topic Area 2, IE is soliciting applications to:

- Conduct pre-development community-scale energy planning activities.

These projects are intended to allow for **all pre-development activities required to identify opportunities and bring projects from concept to implementation ready.**

Applicants who receive an award under Topic Area 2 and successfully complete project planning activities will be well positioned to apply to Topic Area 1 for project deployment/installation under a future NOFO (pending availability of funds).

Eligible planning activities may include, but are not limited to:

1. Tribal community energy planning
2. Conducting energy audits to establish baseload energy use and energy efficiency options
3. Tribal energy capacity building

*A comprehensive list of eligible planning activities can be found in NOFO Part 1.



Topic Area 3: Large Scale Planning, Assessment, and Feasibility for Tribal Energy Projects

Under Topic Area 3, IE is soliciting applications to:

- Conduct pre-development large-scale energy project planning activities

Examples of potential deliverables under Topic Area 3 include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Resource Assessment
- Offtake Agreements / Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs)
- Owner's Engineer Report
- Market Analysis
- Quantitative Financial Model and Analysis

These projects are intended to allow for pre-development feasibility activities required to identify opportunities to de-risk and advance project development beyond concept toward being investment ready.



What is the difference between Topic Areas 2 & 3?

Topic Area 2 supports community-scale projects and activities, whereas **Topic Area 3 supports activities that are large-scale (e.g., of regional scope or significance) and commercial in nature.**

Hypothetical example of a project








An energy-focused project strengthening American leadership in AI by supporting the development of data centers. The project could include pre-feasibility studies for siting a data center, including considerations such as land, power availability, and water rights, or for developing power and/or transmission and distribution infrastructure to address increased power needs related to data centers.

*A comprehensive list of hypothetical project examples can be found in NOFO Part 1.



Applications Not of Interest

The following types of applications will be deemed nonresponsive to this NOFO and will not be reviewed or considered. For a comprehensive list, please reference NOFO Part 1.

-  Applications that fall outside the Topic Areas
-  Applications that propose research and development
-  Applications for proposed technologies that are not based on sound scientific principles (e.g., violate the laws of thermodynamics)
-  Project concepts or approaches not based on established scientific principles
-  Applications proposing the construction of a building(s) or structure(s) such as carports. Only the incremental costs associated with the installation of energy generating system(s), energy storage system(s), integrated energy system(s), or energy efficiency measures will be considered allocable to the proposed DOE funded project and not the cost of constructing the building(s) or structure(s), unless those structures are integral to the proposed project.
-  Applications proposing the use of materials, supplies, or equipment which are not commercially-proven and warrantied
-  Applications proposing the evaluation of product marketing opportunities, assessment of manufacturing opportunities, research, product development, or the construction of manufacturing facilities or buildings



Application & Budget Requirements

Application Requirements

- An eligible Applicant, individually or as part of a consortium, **may submit more than one application to this NOFO (including more than one application under a particular Topic Area), provided that each application describes a unique, distinct project.**
- Each application must have a distinct title, unique Control Number as assigned by IE-Exchange during the registration process and be readily distinguishable.
- Applications must conform to the requirements by Topic Area and must not exceed the stated page limits.
- Each application must be limited to a single project; unrelated projects cannot be consolidated in a single application.
- Please refer to the NOFO Part 1, *Application Content Requirements* for a complete list of application requirements, file formats, and file naming conventions.



Application Requirements – By Topic Area

Component	File Format	Page Limit	Topic Area 1	Topic Area 2	Topic Area 3
Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)	PDF	n/a	Required	Required	Required
Technical Volume*	PDF	15	Required	Required	Required
Workplan*	MS Word	5, see description	Required	Required	Required
Biosketch (for each covered individual)*	PDF	n/a	Required	Required	Required
Site and Resources Maps and Graphics*	PDF	n/a	Required	Optional	Optional
Design and Engineering File*	PDF	n/a	Required	Optional	Optional
Economics File*	PDF	n/a	Required	Optional	Optional
Budget Justification Workbook	MS Excel	n/a	Required	Required	Required
Subrecipient Budget Justification	MS Excel	n/a	If Applicable	If Applicable	If Applicable
Eligibility Statements and Evidence File	PDF	n/a	Required	Required	Required

Application Requirements – By Topic Area (cont.)

Component	File Format	Page Limit	Topic Area 1	Topic Area 2	Topic Area 3
Applicant Tribal Council Resolution or Declaration of Commitment and Cost Sharing File	PDF	n/a	Required	Required	Required
Additional Impacted Indian Tribes Documentation	PDF	n/a	If Applicable	If Applicable	If Applicable
Participant Letters of Commitment and Cost Sharing File*	PDF	n/a	If Applicable	If Applicable	If Applicable
Studies and Analyses File*	PDF	n/a	Required	Optional	Optional
Potentially Duplicative Funding Notice	PDF	n/a	If Applicable	If Applicable	If Applicable
Transparency of Foreign Connections	PDF	n/a	If Applicable	If Applicable	If Applicable
Disclosure of Lobbying Activities, if applicable (SF-LLL)	PDF	n/a	If Applicable	If Applicable	If Applicable
Certification Regarding Lobbying (OMB 4040-0013)	PDF	n/a	If Applicable	If Applicable	If Applicable
Waiver for Foreign Entity Participation	PDF	n/a	If Applicable	If Applicable	If Applicable
Performance of Work in the United States (Foreign Work Waiver)	PDF	n/a	If Applicable	If Applicable	If Applicable

Budget Requirements - Cost Share

Cost share requirements differ by Topic Area as shown in the following table:

Topic Area	Minimum Cost Share
1: Tribal community energy deployment projects	10%
2: Tribal community energy project planning, assessment, and feasibility	Not Required
3: Large scale planning, assessment, and feasibility for Tribal energy projects	Not Required

Cost share percentage is calculated by dividing the cost share by the total allowable project costs for the award where the total allowable project costs include government share (including Federally Funded Research and Development Center costs if applicable) and cost share.

To help Applicants calculate proper cost share amounts, DOE has included a cost share information sheet and sample cost share calculation in the NOFO Part 2.

Biosketch – New Requirement

The screenshot shows the SciENcv website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the NIH logo and the text "National Library of Medicine National Center for Biotechnology Information". A "Log in" button is visible in the top right corner. Below the navigation bar, the SciENcv logo is displayed on the left, and the text "SciENcv: Science Experts Network Curriculum Vitae" is shown on the right. A description of the system is provided: "A researcher profile system for all individuals who apply for, receive or are associated with research investments from federal agencies. SciENcv is available in My NCBI." Below this, there are two main sections: "About SciENcv" and "Log in". The "About SciENcv" section includes links for "Background Information" and "Help Documentation". The "Log in" section features buttons for "eRA Commons" and "National Science Foundation", a "More Options" button, and a link for "Forgot your username/password?". At the bottom of the page, there is a footer with the text "You are here: MyNCBI > SciENcv > SciENcv: Science Experts Network Curriculum Vitae" and a "Support Center" link. A blue bar at the very bottom contains the text "FOLLOW NCBI".

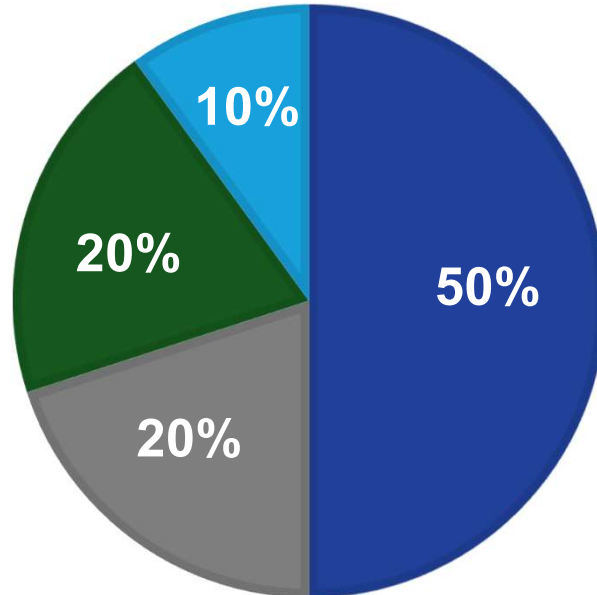
(FAL 2026-02) Biographical Sketch and Current and Pending (Other) Support Common Form Usage Requirements in Financial Assistance | Department of Energy

- The Biosketch is a requirement for all Topic Areas, replacing resumes
- There is no template, you need to use provided link and have a Login.gov account

Application Evaluation Criteria

Technical Review Criteria

Applications will be evaluated against the technical review criteria shown below. Please refer to the NOFO Part 1, *Technical Review Criteria* on page 47 for a comprehensive list of Sub-Criteria and Other Selection Factors.



WEIGHT

- Viability, Impacts, and Outcomes
- Needs, Goals, and Objectives
- Roles, Responsibilities, Capabilities, and Commitment
- Workplan



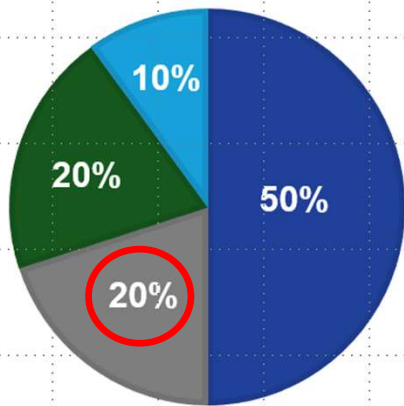
Technical Review Criterion #1

Needs, Goals, and Objectives (20%)

This criterion involves consideration of the following factors:

- The extent to which the project directly addresses the identified energy needs of the applicant(s), is consistent with the applicant's stated energy goals, and enhances the applicant's capacity for self-determination and control over its energy resources.
- Strength of the discussion for why DOE funding is essential for the project to proceed and achieve its intended outcomes, including a clear articulation of the ramifications if not funded.

Technical Review
Criteria Weight



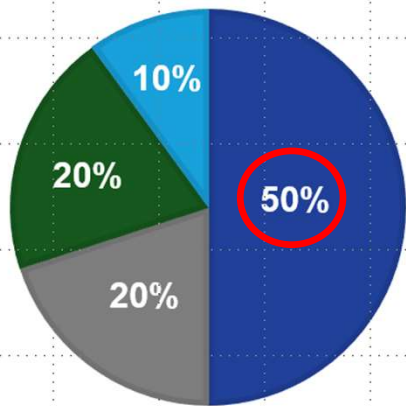
Technical Review Criterion #2

Viability, Impacts, and Outcomes (50%)

This criterion involves consideration of the following factors:

- The extent to which the project can contribute to increasing affordable, reliable, and secure energy.
- The extent to which potential project is technically viable, the barriers and risks (technical, financial, logistical, regulatory, other) are comprehensively identified and discussed, and the soundness of the proposed mitigation strategies and contingency plans to ensure project success.
- Strength and comprehensiveness of the discussion, in both quantitative and qualitative terms, of the proposed project's anticipated results.
- The ability of the proposed project to effectively deliver significant benefits to the Applicant(s).

Technical Review
Criteria Weight



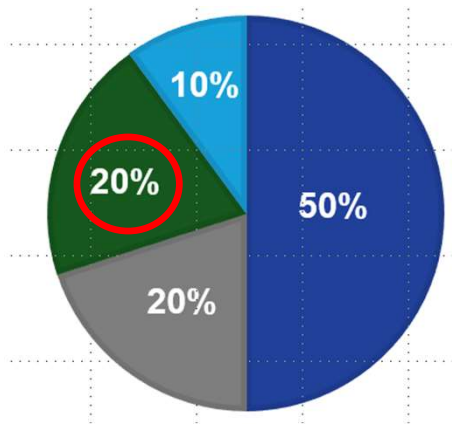
Technical Review Criterion #3

Roles, Responsibilities, Capabilities, and Commitment (20%)

This criterion involves consideration of the following factors:

- The capabilities of the Applicant team with appropriate expertise and experience assigned to each role, as evidenced by biosketches, to comprehensively address all aspects of the proposed project, including the reasonableness of any plan to obtain qualified vendors or contractors
- The demonstrated level of commitment of the Applicant and each participating organization as evidenced by Letters of Commitment

Technical Review
Criteria Weight



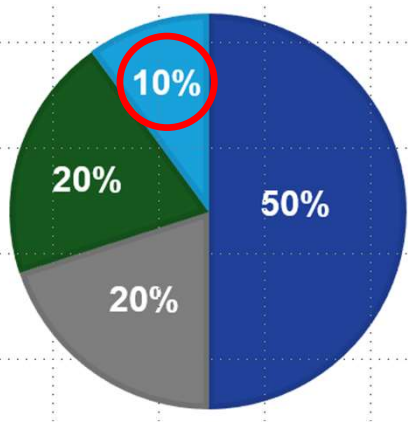
Technical Review Criterion #4

Workplan (10%)

This criterion involves consideration of the following factors:

- The extent to which the project tasks are clearly defined, complete, and presented through a logical task structure, and interdependencies between tasks and phases are clearly articulated.
- The extent to which the proposed timeline for project completion is realistic given the scope, resources, and potential complexities.
- The extent to which specific milestones are identified at appropriate intervals, key dates are clearly indicated, and tasks are associated with easily understandable deliverables.
- The extent to which the necessary human, financial, and material resources are identified and allocated effectively to support the proposed workplan.

Technical Review
Criteria Weight



Other Selection Factors

In addition to the previous stated criteria, the Selection Official may consider the following program policy factors in determining which applications to select for award negotiations:

1. The degree to which the proposed project will support the supply of firm, reliable power;
2. The degree to which the proposed project, or group of projects, represent a desired geographic distribution;
3. The degree to which the proposed project, or group of projects, represent a desired technology diversity;
4. The degree to which the proposed project optimizes the use of available DOE funding to achieve programmatic objectives;
5. The degree to which the proposed project serves Tribal communities with high energy costs;
6. The degree to which the proposed project serves an Indian Tribe(s) with inadequate electric service;
7. Applicants who have not previously received financial assistance from the Office of Indian Energy; and
8. The degree to which the Applicant contributes to a broad range of recipients likely to produce immediately demonstrable results and recipients with the potential for potentially longer-term, breakthrough results, consistent with the objectives of the NOFO.

Additional Information for Applicants

Navigating the NOFO

To reduce the burden on Applicants and limit the length of the NOFO information requests, DOE has separated the NOFO into two parts:

- **NOFO Part 1:** Describes the specific DOE programmatic goals and evaluation criteria, eligibility, and other components that are specific to each funding opportunity
- **NOFO Part 2:** Includes the fixed DOE requirements that generally do not change from NOFO to NOFO, including standard information for the application phase, expectations for award negotiations, and post-award requirements

Applicants must review both the NOFO Part 1 and the NOFO Part 2 prior to applying.

NOFO Application Details:
<https://ie-exchange.energy.gov>

NOTE: You **must** have an active account with SAM.gov. This includes having a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI).

SAM.gov registration can take several weeks.





To register, go to [SAM.gov Entity Registration](#) and click Get Started.



Standards for Application Evaluation

Compliance Criteria

All applications must:

-  Comply with the applicable content and form requirements listed in *Application Content Requirements and Submission Requirements and Deadlines* of the NOFO Part 1 and 2
-  Include **all** required documents
-  Be uploaded successfully in IE-EXCHANGE site (<https://ie-exchange.energy.gov>) **clicking the “Submit” button**
-  Comply with the submission deadline **no later than July 24, 2026, 5pm E.T.**

Applications that are determined to be eligible will be evaluated in accordance with this NOFO and the guidance provided in the “DOE Merit Review Guide for Financial Assistance,” effective October 1, 2020, which is available at: <https://energy.gov/management/downloads/merit-review-guide-financial-assistance-and-unsolicited-proposals-current>

Technical Assistance

IE provides free technical assistance (TA) designed to support Tribes and other eligible Applicants evaluate and advance energy projects during early-stage project development. Some early-stage project activities that are eligible activities under this NOFO may be completed through technical assistance.

IE cannot advise or facilitate a NOFO application

Applicants should consider applying for TA if:

- Looking for IE review and input on strategic energy planning
- Seeking guidance on:
 - Energy efficiency assessments
 - Resource assessments
 - Energy governance Support
 - Energy project planning
 - Sustainable competitive business environment

Applicants should consider applying for the NOFO if:

- Using in-house expertise for strategic energy planning
- Developing a proposal that will lead to energy projects that:
 - Lower or stabilize Tribal energy costs
 - Expand energy access
 - Advance development of energy projects for Tribal economic development

To request technical assistance:

www.energy.gov/indianenergy/technical-assistance-tribal-energy-projects



Funding Opportunity Overview

Funding Opportunity Title	Unleashing Tribal Energy Development
Funding Opportunity Number	DE-FOA-0003548
Funding Instrument	Grants and Cooperative Agreements
Expected Total Available Funding	\$50 million
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Application Deadline	July 24, 2026, 5pm E.T.

Frequently Asked Questions

Direct all questions to: TribalGrants@hq.doe.gov

Question 20: Are there any specific technologies or energy systems that would not be eligible for funding under this NOFO?

Answer 20: No, there are no specific ineligible technologies or energy systems under DE-FOA-0003548: Unleashing Tribal Energy Development. Please note that to be eligible under Topic Area 1, applications must use commercially proven and warranted technology and see Section E on page 25 of NOFO Part 1 regarding “Applications Specifically Not of Interest.” For all Topic Areas, the NOFO contains hypothetical examples of projects that could be considered for funding; these examples are not exhaustive and are provided for illustrative purposes. The projects funded under the NOFO are intended to lower or stabilize Tribal energy costs, expand energy access, and advance development of energy projects for Tribal economic development. This NOFO supports Indian Country to unleash its own energy resources to meet its own needs and to share in the prosperity of American energy dominance.

Question 9: My Tribe is interested in exploring nuclear power and/or critical minerals. Are these technologies only allowable under Topic Area 3?

Answer 9: Yes. Regarding nuclear power and critical minerals, these technologies are allowable under Topic Area 3. They are not eligible under the community-scale requirement for Topic Areas 1 and 2.

Frequently Asked Questions: <https://ie-exchange.energy.gov/>

Stay Connected!



All questions regarding the NOFO should be directed to:
TribalGrants@hq.doe.gov



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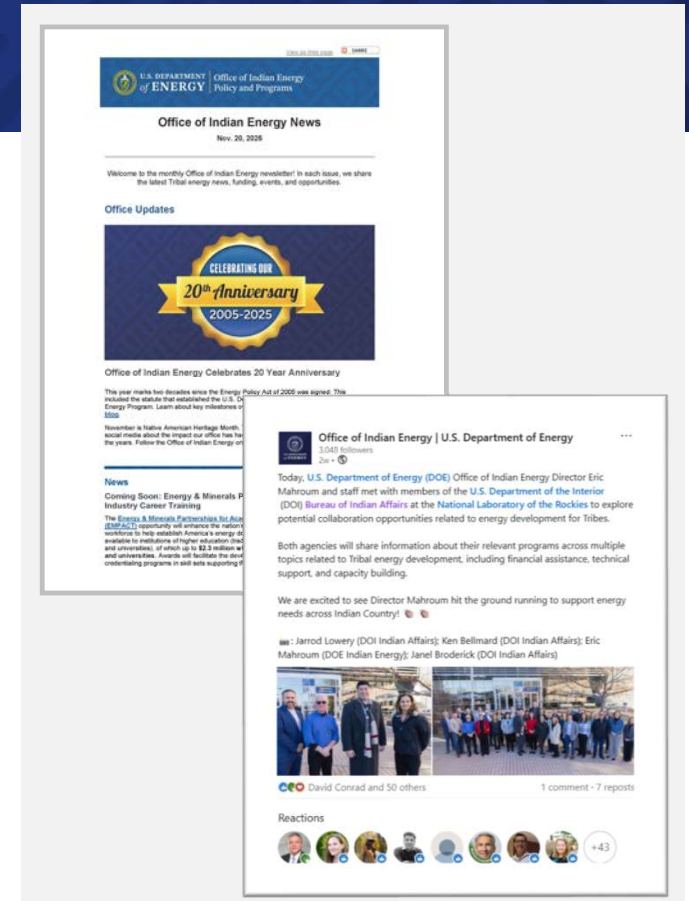
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Thank you!



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