



Department of the Interior – Indian Affairs  
Office of Indian Economic Development  
Tribal Electrification Program (TEP)  
Inflation Reduction Act Program Plan

Tribal Electrification Listening Sessions held  
**May 25, 26, 30, 2023**

# Tribal Electrification Program Overview

**\$150 million total** - \$145.5 million for programs and \$4.5 million for administration

- The program will coordinate financial and technical assistance to Tribes to increase the number of Tribal homes with zero emission electricity.
- Recognizing the need for electrification across Indian Country is significant, and each Tribe has its own energy and electrification related needs and implementation capacity, this program will meet the unique needs of individual Tribal communities.
- Funding will be awarded through a proposal process to be deployed via PL-638.
- Criteria to make awards will vary based on the categories of capability to implement and parameters will be determined based on need and project readiness. Time for feasibility studies prior to project start will be accepted.

# Tribal Electrification Program Goals and Major Policy Decisions

- ***Program Goal:*** Increase the number of American Indian and Native Alaskan households with electricity through renewable energy sources.
- ***Major Policy Decisions:***
  - Criteria used to allocate funding.
  - How to ensure some level of equity given wide array of capacity across Tribes.

# Tribal Electrification Program Consultation

- *During Consultation the following issues were presented to Tribes*
  - Given the amount of funds available, does the criteria for awarding funding seem like an appropriate and equitable approach, or should we consider other factors?
  - Do the proposed funding approaches align with your priorities?
  - Does the initial proposed criteria for awarding funds seem like an appropriate approach or should we consider other factors?
- Consultation feedback largely was related to
  - Need for technical assistance.
  - Tribes prefer not to compete for funding and Tribes with less means need more assistance to apply or a lower bar for applying.
  - Ensure Tribes with less means are able to participate.
  - Total funding level is inadequate.

# Tribal Electrification Program Design

- Program will increase staff and utilize existing electrical services contract to provide technical assistance.
- Criteria for awards may vary based on the categories of capability to implement, with each category receiving no less than 15% of the total funding available:

## **Initial pilot sites for Tribes who are ready to implement could include this criterion:**

- Low levels of households with electrification
- Community-readiness, existing plans or designs
- Potential to yield lessons-learned for other Tribes facing similar issues

## **Tribes with potential to implement community scale projects:**

- Low levels of households with electricity
- Low levels of households with zero emissions electricity
- Community is at high level of risk from climate change or actively planning community driven relocation

## **Tribes with less capacity and higher poverty to implement projects at community or individual home level:**

- Low levels of households with electricity
- Low levels of households with zero emissions electricity
- Community is at high level of risk from climate change or actively planning community driven relocation
- Higher levels of poverty

# Tribal Electrification Interagency Coordination

- *Indian Affairs has been actively coordinating with the agencies below:*
  - ***Department of Energy** is providing expertise on technical implementation of renewable energy projects. Connecting with DOE regarding tribal grid resilience programs and how to implement within IA guidance.*
  - ***USDA** and other member agencies of the **Rural Prosperity Network**: have supported identifying opportunities to leverage investments. Continual work with RPN and to access RPN resources that support electrification.*

# Tribal Electrification Alignment with Administration Policy Priorities

- *As all of these funds are targeted to support AI/AN Tribes the effort strongly aligns with Justice40 goals.*
- *Supports Administration goals to reduce Greenhouse gases*
- *Supports job development in Green Industries*

# Tribal Electrification Engagement

- ***Stakeholder engagement plan:***
  - Focused listening sessions in different BIA regions
  - Provide pre-application technical assistance
  - Provide support on planning and applying for IRA funding
  - Invite other federal agencies to attend Tribal TA sessions



# Tribal Electrification Monitoring and Performance

Performance will be monitored by the Inflation Reduction Act Executive Committee in areas such as:

- Project milestones will be tracked (allocating of funding, progression of tribal projects).
- Program is exploring development of metrics such as the additional number of households with zero emission electrification and megawatts of clean energy deployed as a result of this program

# Anticipated Award Size and Funding Amount

- Anticipated Number of Awards 5-50
- Anticipated Award Size \$250,000 - \$20M
- Total Anticipated Fed Share \$145.5M
- Anticipated Applicant Share \$0

# Pre-application Framework

- Review the Funding Opportunity Announcement
- Fill in all relevant answers from the downloaded template (once available – will be 4-6 pages)
- Request Technical Assistance for Planning
- Application/Proposal Submittal (Optional)
- Submit pre-application by established deadline August 15, 2023
- Application will be reviewed according to criteria established in the upcoming funding announcement. Based on the results of the review, DOI-OIED review panel will invite qualified applicants to submit a full application.
- An invite to submit a full proposal will be sent at which time invitees will be provided TA to support proposal submittal. The full application period will be open September 1, 2023 – September 30, 2023 (tentatively).

# TEP Pre-Application Sample Questions

- Applicant Information
- Project Location
- Project Overview
- Project Benefits/Community Impact
- Tribal Resolutions Approving the Project (must be final by proposal submission)
- Land Identification
- Environmental and/or Cultural Site Concerns
- Anticipated Workforce Development Opportunities
- Community Preparedness

# Tribal Electrification Key Milestones, Deliverables and Deadlines

- **Budget Obligations:** The program expects to obligate roughly half of the funding (\$72.5 million) by end of year 2023
- **Key Milestones**
  - **Pre-application (August 16<sup>th</sup> - tentative)**
  - **Invites for full application sent (September 15<sup>th</sup> - tentative)**
  - **Full Proposal Open for Invitees (October 1<sup>st</sup> - tentative)**
  - **Proposals Due (November 15<sup>th</sup> - tentative)**
  - **Announcements of Awards (March 1<sup>st</sup> - tentative)**

# Questions?

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