

## **U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy, Tribal Energy Program: Funding Opportunities for Tribes**

### **DOE Funding Available for Tribal Energy Projects**

Through these funding opportunity announcements (FOAs), the Energy Department is continuing its efforts to promote tribal energy sufficiency and to spur increased renewable energy and energy efficiency deployment on Indian lands. Under these FOAs, the Energy Department's Tribal Energy Program, in cooperation with the DOE Office of Indian Energy, is soliciting applications from Indian Tribes, tribal energy resource development organizations, and tribal consortia to install community- or facility-scale clean energy projects to provide electricity and/or heating and cooling for local use in tribal buildings. Read the full DOE Progress Alert:

[http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/news/progress\\_alerts.cfm/pa\\_id=871](http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/news/progress_alerts.cfm/pa_id=871)

Note that the FOAs have been amended, so please visit the links below. Following is a summary of the FOAs (see links to the amended FOAs for more information)

#### Funding Opportunities Listed:

- 1. Community-Scale Clean Energy Projects in Indian Country**
  - 2. Tribal Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Deployment**
  - 3. EDA Economic Development Assistance Funding Opportunity**
  - 4. USDA-RUS Infrastructure Funding for Substantially Underserved Trust Areas**
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**“Community-Scale Clean Energy Projects in Indian Country”**  
(DE-FOA-0000852)

<https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/Default.aspx#Foaldf8e15b4-5138-484d-97c0-d8108f81e339>

Requesting applications for the installation of clean energy systems that will reduce fuel use in either new or existing tribal buildings by at least 15%.

- Financial assistance awards will range from \$50,000 to \$1.5 million (a total of \$2.5 million to \$4.5 million is available for funding).
- Limited to community- facility-scale deployment of clean energy systems (must be commercial warrantied equipment, no R&D). For purposes of this announcement, clean energy systems include renewable energy systems and combined heat and power systems fueled by either renewable energy resources or natural gas.
- May be used for either new OR existing buildings.
- Must reduce fuel use by at least 15%, and systems for electricity power generation only must be a minimum of 50 kilowatts (kW).
- Cost share requirement may be reduced from 50% to 10% upon applicant request and DOE approval.

**Tribal Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Deployment Assistance” (DE-FOA-000853)**

<https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/Default.aspx#FoaIdce3e7d60-50f9-44d1-b4d8-45611d38bacf>

Seeking applications for the installation of renewable energy and/or energy efficiency technologies to reduce fuel use in existing tribal buildings. Under this announcement, DOE hopes to leverage state or local incentives to reduce fuel use by at least 30%.

- Financial assistance awards will range from \$50,000 to \$250,000 (a total of \$2.5 million is available for funding).
- Limited to community- or facility-scale deployment of renewable energy and/or energy efficiency projects (must be commercial warranted equipment, no R&D).
- Limited to existing tribal buildings only.
- Must reduce fuel use by at least 30%, and systems for electricity power generation only must be a minimum of 10 kW.
- Designed to promote leveraging of state or utility incentive programs (extra points).
- Cost share requirement is at least 50% of the total project cost (DOE will provide up to \$250,000).

See the FOAs (and any amendments) for a complete description, eligibility requirements, instructions on how to apply, application content, and the criteria by which applications will be selected for funding. Please note that *\*only\** applications submitted through the DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy's (EERE's) Exchange website will be considered.

The full FOAs are available online at EERE's Exchange website:

<https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/>

Or accessible through the Energy Department's Tribal Energy Program website:

[http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/tribalenergy/financial\\_opportunities.cfm](http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/tribalenergy/financial_opportunities.cfm)

The Energy Department's Tribal Energy Program promotes tribal energy sufficiency and fosters economic development and employment on tribal lands through the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies. The program, which has invested \$41.8 million in 175 tribal clean energy projects since 2002, provides financial and technical assistance to tribes for the evaluation and development of their renewable energy resources, implementation of energy efficiency to reduce energy use, and education and training to help build the knowledge and skills essential for sustainable energy projects. Learn more about the

Tribal Energy Program here: <http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/tribalenergy/about.cfm>

Learn more about the DOE Office of Indian Energy [<http://www.energy.gov/indianenergy>]

## **EDA Economic Development Assistance Funding Opportunity**

The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) is accepting applications for funding under EDA's Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Programs. Grants made under these programs will leverage regional assets to support the implementation of regional economic development strategies designed to create jobs, leverage private capital, encourage economic development, and strengthen America's ability to compete in the global marketplace.

The application deadline varies by funding cycle, and the next deadline is \*June 13, 2013\*. Eligible entities include state and local governments, federally recognized tribes, nonprofits, and institutions of higher education.

For more information, see the Fiscal Year 2013 Economic Development Assistance Programs grant opportunity synopsis:  
<http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?oppId=208353&mode=VIEW>

### **ANA Sustainable Employment and Economic Development Strategies**

- Applications due: \*July 15, 2013
- Award ceiling:\* \$500,000
- Expected number of awards:\* 15
- Eligible entities: \*Native American tribal governments (federally recognized); Native American tribal organizations (other than federally recognized tribal governments); nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education; others

The Administration for Native Americans (ANA) supports economic development in Native American communities through the provision of discretionary grants to tribal governments and native-serving nonprofit organizations. The current economic climate has increased ANA's focus on developing employment opportunities and business creation in Native communities, resulting in this special funding initiative to promote Sustainable Employment and Economic Development Strategies (SEEDS). In an effort to reduce unemployment and stimulate local economies, ANA, within the Administration for Children and Families, announces the availability of \$5 million in SEEDS funding for Fiscal Year 2013 for new, community-based projects that will foster economic development through the creation of small businesses and sustainable job growth.

One of ANA's primary goals is to promote economic self-sufficiency for American Indians, Native Hawaiians, Alaskan Natives, and Native American Pacific Islanders, including American Samoa Natives. In pursuit of this goal, four priorities that ANA will promote through the SEEDS initiative are: 1) creation of sustainable employment opportunities; 2) professional training and skill development that increases participants' employability and earning potential; 3) creation and

development of small businesses and entrepreneurial activities, and; 4) a demonstrated strategy and commitment to keeping the jobs and revenues generated by project activities within the Native communities being served. Improving access to employment opportunities and supporting small businesses will enhance local economies, enable more tribal members to acquire and maintain gainful employment, and improve the long-term financial health of tribal members and their families.

For more information, read the full funding announcement:

<http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?mode=VIEW&oppId=235693>

## **USDA-RUS Infrastructure Funding for Substantially Underserved Trust Areas**

The Rural Utilities Service (RUS), an agency within U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development, was given new tools through the 2008 Farm Bill (the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008) to finance improvements in electric, telecommunications, and water and sewer infrastructure in substantially underserved trust areas—land held in trust by the United States for Native Americans. This part of the 2008 Farm Bill is known as the "Substantially Underserved Trust Area (SUTA) provisions." The provisions are designed to make RUS infrastructure financing more accessible to, and affordable for, Native Americans in trust areas because those areas, historically, have had difficulty receiving federal assistance. For more on the benefits of the SUTA Provisions, see the SUTA fact sheet available at the following link:

[http://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/USEERE/2013/06/06/file\\_attachments/216400/SUTA%2BFact%2BSheet%2B05-2013.pdf](http://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/USEERE/2013/06/06/file_attachments/216400/SUTA%2BFact%2BSheet%2B05-2013.pdf)