

Bureau of Indian Affairs Tribal Youth Initiative (TYI) Program, Ranking Criteria and Application Process

Program Information

Initiative funding for the support and development of tribal youth programs focused on science in alignment with conservation and resource management will be distributed on a competitive basis to tribes and inter-tribal organizations. The programs will provide opportunities for youth to engage in the field of natural resource management and encourage their interest in pursuing educational opportunities and careers in natural resources management.

Applicant Eligibility

Eligibility is limited to federally Recognized Indian Tribal Governments and Native American Organizations authorized by Indian tribal governments (Tribes and inter-tribal organizations authorized under PL 93-638).

Successful applicants **must commit to providing annual reporting to the Regional BIA point-of-contact (listed below) by September 1st of each year until the project is completed.** Reports should include:

- Project Status
- Expected completion date
- Objectives achieved

Also, please submit a final report to your Regional Bureau contact (listed below) within 90 days of project completion. Reporting helps support future appropriations!

Proposal Eligibility

- **Proposals must provide the contact information for the Tribal project manager overseeing the project. Failure to provide this information will result in disqualification.**
- **Proposal budget cannot include tribal indirect rate. *Tribal indirect rate comes from a separate account and should be requested upon budget development in conjunction with BIA contracting officials (if selected for funding).***
- **All proposals must be signed (at a minimum) by the equivalent of the Director of Natural Resources. This is to ensure the Tribe is aware is aware of this project.**

Project Eligibility

Successful applications will focus on promoting native youth interest in natural resources management, including career opportunities in natural resources.

- Encourage 638 contract - this facilitates reporting and support of FW&R program funding

Funding requests can range from \$2,000 to \$50,000 per application.

The applicant must commit to submitting annual reports to the Regional BIA point-of-contact until the project is completed. Reports are due by September 1 of each fiscal year. Reporting helps support future appropriations.

- Project Status
- Expected completion date
- Objectives achieved

Ranking Criteria

Projects should focus on providing mechanisms whereby tribal youth (ages up to and including 25 years of age) are encouraged to work towards careers in the field of natural resources. Project participants are strongly encouraged to provide mentoring for upcoming students or to assist current students in remaining with the project through to its conclusion.

Eligible projects will be ranked according to the degree to which they meet the following criteria:

- The extent to which a project **engages tribal youth** in natural resources management (number/age of youth, and the degree to which the material will motivate or otherwise support tribal youth on a path to a career in natural resources)
 - provides hands-on resource management activities
 - addresses recognized local resource management issues
 - addresses recognized broad-scale resource management issues
 - demonstrates interdisciplinary approach to resource management
 - accomplishes meaningful resource conservation/management results
- **Safety:** Applicants must demonstrate the prioritization of safety. Applicants must assume responsibility for working with tribal youth and demonstrate that participants will be provided a safe learning environment. **This criterion must be addressed in the applicants' proposal.** Describe steps that will be taken to ensure a safe environment (mentor/student ratio, supervision provided, past experience, accreditation, etc.).
- **Collaboration:** Applicants should show their investigation/pursuit of collaborating partners to maximize resources and partner participation (include letter of support for partnerships).
- **Cost Containment:** Proposals should show the extent to which applicant will provide a **cost effective** means of encouraging tribal youth to pursue careers in natural resources.
- **Reporting:** Applicants must commit to providing **reports** highlighting project successes by Sept. 1st of each year.

Native American Fish & Wildlife Society: BIA encourages tribal membership in the Native American Fish & Wildlife Society (NAFWS). For more than 35 years, the NAFWS has addressed needs of its member tribes, through conferences, training, youth education, and assisting tribal efforts to build capacity and services. The NAFWS enriches tribes through its mission: Assisting Native American and Alaska Native tribes with conserving, protecting, and enhancing their fish, wildlife, habitat, and cultural resources. **Membership in the NAFWS is an allowable budget item** (one membership for a two-year period. See www.nafws.org). Further, successful applicants who are confirmed speakers at NAFWS events may be eligible for reimbursement of travel costs (per diem) by BIA.

How to Apply

Applicants should submit a proposal in the format detailed below. **The proposal should clearly address the eligibility and ranking criteria listed above and should not exceed six pages maximum** (not including letters of support/contributions).

- I. Introduction/Background: Name of applicant, project name, project location, a brief background and description of the issue. This section should conclude with a brief statement summarizing your request.
- II. Goal/Objectives: What are the goals of the project? List measurable objectives that work towards achieving the project goals.
- III. Methodology: How you plan on accomplishing the task. Include a timeline for completion of tasks. Please attach a copy of any completed management plan in which you are seeking funding for implementation.
- IV. Outcome/Results: What are the expected work products? What measurable benefits are expected? What is the expected timeline?
- I. Budget: Need a detailed line item expenditure breakdown. Do not include contract support cost (indirect cost).
- V. Letters of support/contributions.

BIA Regional Contact List for Tribal Youth Initiative Program

Submit your proposal to the Regional Office Bureau of Indian Affairs. **Proposals are due (contact info below) by close of business on January 13, 2023.**

Kimberly Bouchard, Acting Regional Director
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