

Bureau of Indian Affairs Land Acquisition Criteria and Application Process

Program Information

The BIA, Office of Trust Services received an increase of \$2 million in Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 and in FY 2023 to be used for land acquisition efforts focused on “new and land limited” Tribes, to assist these Tribes in establishing a Tribal trust land base over which to exercise their sovereign authority. A total of \$4 million is currently available for this purpose.

This new funding supports Tribal sovereignty through the restoration and protection of Tribal homelands, and fosters at regional authority levels and within applicable regulatory policies:

- The establishment of a Tribe’s significant historical connection to land
- Tribal self-sufficiency and economic development
- Self-determination on Tribal trust land to enhance Tribal authority
- Sustainable Tribal communities

Applicant Eligibility

Eligibility is limited to Federally recognized Tribes under § 102 of the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994, 25 U.S.C. 5129(a), as listed in the Federal Register, Notice of Indian Entities Recognized and Eligible to Receive Services from the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs, 88 FR 2112 (January 12, 2023), that are *both* “new” and “land limited” as defined in this document. Please see the definitions of “New Tribe” and “Land limited Tribe” below.

Proposal Eligibility

- Proposals must provide the contact information for the Tribal project manager overseeing the project.
- The proposal budget cannot include tribal indirect rate. *Tribal indirect rate comes from a separate account and should be requested at the time you develop the budget with BIA contracting officials (if selected for funding).*

Project Eligibility

Funding supports a broad range of land acquisition-related projects, including:

- Purchase of property
 - Surface only
 - Surface and Minerals
- Costs relating to land acquisition, including title insurance
- Technical assistance

Note: This funding does *not* support environmental clean-up or habitat and ecosystem restoration.

Definitions

New Tribe – A Tribe that has been: 1) acknowledged under Part 83 of Title 25 of the Code of Federal Regulations – Procedures for Federal Acknowledgment of Indian Tribes; or 2) recognized by Congressional action on or after October 2, 1978, when the regulations at 25 CFR Part 83 became effective.

Land limited Tribe – A Tribe that does not hold any interest in trust or restricted lands at the time the funding proposal is submitted. This definition does *not* restrict Tribes that own lands in fee simple status from participating. It also does *not* restrict participation by Tribes that have a fee-to-trust application pending with the BIA for which no Notice of Decision has been issued.

Ranking Criteria

Given the limited amount of funding available and short time frame for obligating funds, priority consideration will be given to proposals based on existing plans or studies. Projects will be ranked according to the following criteria:

- Justification for need
- Project readiness
- Capability to implement

How to Apply

Submit your proposal via email to landacquisitionproposals@bia.gov, with a copy to the respective Bureau of Indian Affairs Regional Realty Officer (contact information below).

Proposals are due by close of business on August 11, 2023.

Proposals should be submitted in the following format and should clearly address both the eligibility and ranking criteria listed above. Proposals are **limited to six pages (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 to accomplish the task. Include a timeline for completion of tasks. Please attach a copy of any completed management plan by 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?
- V. Budget – Need a detailed line item expenditure breakdown. Do not include contract support cost (indirect cost).
- VI. Letters of support/contributions, if available.

BIA Regional Realty Officer Contact List

Great Plains	Southern Plains	Eastern	Midwest	Eastern Oklahoma	Rocky Mt.
Darrell Laducer, Acting Regional Realty Officer, 605-226-7618 darrell.laducer@bia.gov	Debra Williams, Acting Regional Realty Officer O: 405-247-6673, x307 C: 405-247-1607 debra.williams@bia.gov	Randall Trickey, Regional Realty Officer O: 615-564-6770 C: 615-289-3255 randall.trickey@bia.gov	Sandra Dietz, Regional Realty Officer O: 612-725-4536 C: 952-324-0319 sandra.dietz@bia.gov	Justin Vann, Acting Regional Realty Officer 918-781-4633 x1077 justin.vann@bia.gov	Robin White, Regional Realty Officer 208-631-7823 robin.white@bia.gov
Navajo	Southwest	Western	Pacific	Northwest	Alaska
Dena Ness, Regional Realty Officer O: 505-863-8334 C: 505-728-0035 dena.ness@bia.gov	Douglas Hickman, Regional Realty Officer 505-563-3330 douglas.hickman@bia.gov	Stan Webb, Regional Realty Officer O: 602 379-6781 x1232 C: 602 309-6866 stan.webb@bia.gov	Kimberly Yearyean, Regional Realty Officer 916-978-6062 kimberly.yearyean@bia.gov	Sherry Johns, Regional Realty Officer 503-872-2879 sherry.johns@bia.gov	Cyril Andrews, Regional Realty Officer 907-271-1553 cyril.andrews@bia.gov