



Susana Martinez
Governor

STATE OF NEW MEXICO INDIAN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

Wendell Chino Building, 2nd Floor
1220 South Saint Francis Drive
Santa Fe, NM 87505
Phone (505) 476-1600
Fax (505) 476-1601
www.iad.state.nm.us



Arthur P. Allison
Cabinet Secretary
Designate

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BFY2013 TRIBAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT FUND NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY

INTRODUCTION: The Tribal Infrastructure Act (“Act”) was signed into law in 2005. The Act recognizes that many of New Mexico’s tribal communities lack basic tribal infrastructure, including but not limited to water and wastewater systems, roads, and electrical power lines, and that the lack of such infrastructure results in poor social, health, and economic conditions in such communities. This Act created the Tribal Infrastructure Trust Fund and the Tribal Infrastructure Project Fund. The Act also created a thirteen person Tribal Infrastructure Board (“Board”), consisting of nine voting members and four non-voting members. The purpose of the Board is to evaluate project proposals and to award grants and loans to qualified projects from monies available in the Project Fund. The New Mexico Interim Indian Affairs Committee holds legislative oversight over the Board and the grants and loans made by the Board.

SUMMARY: This Notice announces that approximately \$13.2 million of Severance Tax Bond funding will be made available to the Tribal Infrastructure Project Fund program through the Tribal Infrastructure Fund Board. Grants will be made to qualified projects submitted by New Mexico tribal entities. (“Tribe” means a federally recognized Indian nation, tribe or pueblo located wholly or partially in New Mexico or any of its governmental entities or subdivisions.) At least ten-percent (10%) of the total available TIF allocation will be set-aside for various types of tribal planning activities. These may include but are not limited to: Project Planning; Preliminary Engineering Report; Comprehensive/Master Planning; Indigenous Planning; and Regionalization Planning.

Terms & Conditions

The following terms and conditions apply to the Tribal Infrastructure Fund (“TIF”) allocation and are made part of the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA):

1. Grants will be made to qualified projects submitted by New Mexico tribal entities
2. The project must be completed in **18 months or less**.
3. Project evaluation criteria require that the entity must be able to leverage other resources to match the TIF funds to complete the project.
4. Tribal entities are limited to applying for one planning project, and/or one design or construction project in a funding cycle.
5. Regional planning is encouraged and it does not preclude a community from submitting an individual project.
6. Any tribal entity with an **existing TIF-funded planning project**, that is still open in the IAD database by the application review deadline and that shows a cash balance, is not eligible to apply for another project in that category in this round of funding.
7. Any tribal entity with an **existing TIF-funded design or construction project**, that is still open in the IAD database by the application review deadline and that shows a cash balance, is not eligible to apply for another project in that category in this round of funding.
8. The project sponsor must be able to enter into one or more contracts with vendors to spend at least 5% of the bond proceeds for the project by January 21, 2013 and thereafter, will work on the

WORKSHOPS: The New Mexico Indian Affairs Department (IAD) in collaboration New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) will provide regional outreach and training sessions in September for all New Mexico Tribes. **If you have specific questions about the application process, please contact Rebecca Martinez (Capital Outlay Manager) at 505-476-1612 or email your questions to: rebecca.martinez2@state.nm.us.**

9/20/11 9 a.m. Mescalero Apache Tribe – Tribal Administration
 9/21/11 9 a.m. Southern Pueblos – BIA Complex Albuquerque, National Indian Programs Training Center, 1011 Indian School Rd. NW (Building II—to the West), Room 254
 9/22/11 9 a.m. Eight Northern Pueblos – Ohkay Casino Resort and Conference Center
 9/27/11 1 p.m. Jicarilla Apache Nation – Tribal Administration
 9/28/11 9 a.m. Northern Navajo Nation Chapters – Nenahnezad Chapter
 9/29/11 9 a.m. Eastern Navajo Nation Chapters – Smith Lake Chapter Veterans Hall

DATES: Tribal entities seeking TIF grant monies are required to complete and submit a Project Interest Form (PIF) at the New Mexico Environment Department’s (NMED) Water Infrastructure Portal (WIP). The PIF will also be linked to the NMIAD website. **The deadline for the PIF is November 15, 2011.**

TIMELINE	AGENCY	DATE
Conduct outreach, training and technical assistance to Tribes, Nations and Pueblos and key partners about the TIF process.	IAD/NMED	September 2011
Develop website layout and content; Launch TIF web link.	IAD/NMED	October 1, 2011
Project Interest Form (PIF) submission deadline.	IAD	November 15, 2011
Tribes, Nations and Pueblos receive confirmation notification of PIF submission along with information regarding next steps.	IAD/NMED	October 1- November 15, 2011
NMED/IAD compiles the Comprehensive Project List (CPL).	IAD/NMED	November 20, 2011
IAD presents the CPL at regular TIF Board Meeting.	IAD	December 1, 2011
NMED Community Services Group (CSG) makes contact, convenes meetings, and/or conducts interviews with each Tribe, Nation, and Pueblo that has submitted a PIF and conducts Proposed Reviews (P2) and Compliance, Capacity, Sustainability Checks (3C).	IAD/NMED	October 1, 2011-March 15, 2012
TIF Project Review Team (PRT) conducts Initial Project Evaluations (IPE) of all proposed projects on the CPL and develops a Fundable Project List (FPL)	PRT	March 16, 2012
NMED CSG/IAD informs Tribes, Nations and Pueblos whether or not their proposed project is being considered for TIF funding in this cycle. Proposed projects on the FPL will be informed and invited to develop a Formal Project Proposal (FPP) and present their project at a TIF Board Meeting.	IAD/NMED	March 20-30, 2012
Top ranking formal project proposals present at the TIF Board Meeting.	IAD	May 15, 2012
Notification of project award.	IAD	May 31, 2012
Contracting process begins.	IAD	June 1, 2012
BFY2013 TIF projects commence.	IAD	July 1, 2012

For more Information Contact:
 Rebecca Martinez, Capital Outlay Manager
 New Mexico Indian Affairs Department
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