



TRIBAL SOLAR
ACCELERATOR FUND

GRID Alternatives

programs@tribalsolar.org
tribalsolar.org

Tribal Energy Innovators Fellowship – Request for Applications

GRID Alternatives' Tribal Solar Accelerator Fund aims to catalyze the growth of solar energy and expand solar job opportunities in tribal communities across the United States. Our vision for Indian Country is a transition to energy sovereignty that is educational, entrepreneurial, and completely renewable.

Tribal Energy Innovators (TEI) Fellowship

The 2022-2023 Tribal Energy Innovators Fellowship is entering the third year of entrepreneurial-focused funding under the Tribal Solar Accelerator Fund. The Fellowship is designated for federally recognized tribal members who are interested, invested, and engaged in work which supports renewable energy infrastructure and tribal energy capacity building within a tribal community, tribally focused programming, and/or tribal organization. **The TSAF will award up to five TEI Fellowships to support the development of innovative ideas and the use of problem-solving processes that lead to sustainable renewable energy solutions.**

GRID Alternatives and the TSAF have a wide range of tribal grantee partners, industry partners, and former fellows to provide a network



of professional and educational support, networking opportunities with tribal energy leaders, industry leaders, and exposure to advanced technologies. As a Fellow, you will receive a \$25,000 stipend to advance your ideas from August 1, 2022 – July 31, 2023 while participating in regularly scheduled individual and cohort conference calls, mentorship activities, and a culminating in-person convening or a conference presentation (Location TBD).

Tribal Energy Innovators Fellowship Priority:

- The TEI will provide fellows a stipend of \$25,000 and industry resources to federally recognized tribal members to support the development of innovative ideas and the use of problem-solving processes that lead to sustainable renewable energy solutions for a tribal community.
- The Fellowship is intended to support individual tribal change-makers and visionaries, from energy entrepreneurs and small business owners, to tribal administrators and community leaders working on renewable energy projects. Our previous cohorts have included academics, activists, community leaders, consultants, energy entrepreneurs, and others.

Tribal Energy Innovation Fellowship Objective(s):

- To provide Fellows the resources necessary to plan and develop new solutions to tribal community renewable energy challenges.
- To engage within a tribal community, tribal programming, and/or a tribal organization to make the most of existing assets and work collaboratively with other industry leaders.
- To learn from and be mentored by an industry professional on best practices in renewable energy for rural and underserved communities, business/enterprise models and planning, and other areas of technical support.

About the Tribal Solar Accelerator Fund (TSAF):

GRID Alternatives' National Tribal Program has worked since 2010 to help tribal communities across the United States achieve their



renewable energy goals. Using a community-centric approach, we partner with tribes to identify, develop, finance and implement solar power projects that meet community needs, including education, hands-on training, and energy cost reductions for tribal members.

The TSAF is excited to share our mission, vision, and goals with tribal communities across Indian Country through grantmaking, engagement and communication, advocacy, technical assistance, collaboration, and a commitment to build capacity in tribal energy sovereignty.

Tribal Energy Innovators Fellowship timeline and reporting

Request for Applications Announcement	June 1, 2022
TEI Informational Webinar (live and recorded)	June 9, 2022 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. MST
TEI Fellowship Application Due	July 15, 2022
Award/Denial Notifications	August 1, 2022
Fellowship Timeline (start/end)	August 1, 2022 – July 31, 2023
Individual Check-in calls with Leadership Programs Officer	Bi-monthly starting in August 2022
Cohort Check-in calls with staff	Bi-monthly starting in September 2022
Fellowship Presentation	End of fellowship year
Fellowship Report Due	July 1, 2023

Expectations of fellowship participants

If selected as a TEI Fellow, you will be expected to:

- 
- Maintain monthly email communication with TSAF staff to provide updates as necessary
 - Attend and be prepared for bi-monthly individual check-in meetings with TSAF staff and mentors
 - Attend and be prepared for bi-monthly cohort check-in meetings and writing prompts with TSAF staff and mentors
 - Develop your fellowship goals, timeline, activities, and outcomes throughout the year in preparation for the final all-expense paid convening/presentation.

Tribal Energy Innovators review and selection criteria

Upon receipt of a TEI Fellowship application, the following criteria should be met within the proposed narrative, recommendation letter, and resume:

- Solid and concrete match between fellowship purpose and renewable energy innovation
- Clear focus on building renewable energy capacity and visions for infrastructure within a tribal community
- Demonstrated interest, ability, and/or foundational knowledge and experience necessary for a successful fellowship
- Clear plan of action, including specific goals and measurable objectives and activities that align with a year-long fellowship
- Budget narrative: \$25,000 will support you in anyway you deem relevant to your success as a TEI fellow (i.e. living expenses, professional development, project costs, etc.)
- Tribal community/organization partnerships that engage broad tribal participation and support
- Potential for application and replication in other tribal communities



The TSAF will solicit knowledgeable, experienced tribal and non-tribal renewable energy professionals to conduct a review, scoring, and selection of TEI Fellowship applications.

TEI Fellowship Eligibility

The TSAF is committed to serving, supporting, and strengthening American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) tribal communities and individuals by investing in renewable energy development and capacity building, while looking to the long-term sustainability of knowledge and furthering opportunities.

The Fellowship eligibility criteria is as follows:

- Federal and state-recognized tribal members in the lower 48 states and Alaska
- Must be 18 years of age and older
- Must commit to all fellowship expectations and requirements

TEI Fellowship Application Site and Submission Guidelines

- Please download the TEI Fellowship application in Microsoft Word or google form at www.tribalsolar.org or email awright@gridalternatives.org and CC: programs@tribalsolar.org to request all TEI Fellowship application materials.
- The TSAF application must conform to the following requirements:
 - No more than 10 pages of application information, narrative questions section (including charts/graphs, maps, or photos) and budget. If the application information and narrative questions section exceeds 10 pages, TSAF will only review and score the first 10 pages



which does not include the letter of recommendation and resume.

- TEI Application materials (Word doc or Google form) must be saved and submitted as *one* Adobe PDF file. Please do your best to combine all application materials (all application sections, budget narrative, letter of recommendation, and resume) to avoid multiple email attachments. If you need assistance with combining your application documents, please submit and request assistance to Angelica Wright three days prior to the due date.
 - All pages must be formatted to fit on 8.5 x 11-inch paper with margins not less than one inch on every side. Use a font size of 11 point or larger (except in figures or tables, which may be 10-point font). A symbol font may be used to insert tribal letters or special characters.
 - References must be included as footnotes or endnotes in a font size of 10 or larger. Footnotes and endnotes are counted toward the maximum page requirement.
 - **Page numbers and name of applicant must be included in the footer of every page (if applying via Word Document).**
- TEI Fellowship applicants are strongly encouraged to submit their applications at least 24 hours in advance of the submission deadline.
 - TEI Fellowship Applications are due Friday July 15, 2022 by 5:00 p.m. Mountain Standard Time (MST). No applications will be accepted after this date or time, no exceptions.
 - If using Microsoft Word application, please submit applications via email at awright@gridalternatives.org and CC: programs@tribalsolar.org subject line "2022-2023 TEI



Application - <Applicant Name>.” In the body of the email please direct the salutation to: Angelica Wright, Leadership Programs Officer.

- Applicants may revise or update their application until the expiration of the applicable deadline.
- All applications that pass eligibility and initial review will undergo a comprehensive review between July 18 – July 31, 2022 and will be scored according to the criteria (7 sections) identified in the RFP.

TEI Fellowship Funds Disbursement

- Selected fellows must have a signed fellowship contract and W-9 by August 8, 2022
- Awards will be processed based on the fellow’s participation in monthly individual and cohort calls. If an emergency arises and a call is missed, there will be no penalty of payment for that month.

TEI FAQ’s

Please monitor www.tribalsolar.org for FAQ’s