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2023 Tribal Solar Accelerator Fund (TSAF) Tribal Energy Plan Grant RFP

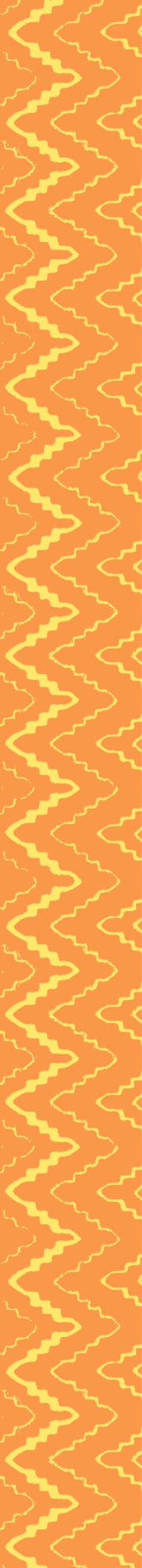
GRID Alternatives' Tribal Solar Accelerator Fund aims to catalyze the growth of solar energy and expand solar job opportunities in tribal communities across the United States.

TSAF Background

For the past five years, the Tribal Solar Accelerator Fund (TSAF), a tribal-led sustainability program has partnered with over 65 tribes and over 120 tribal individuals to support renewable energy infrastructure development and job training goals in Indian Country. The TSAF awards grants for projects that clearly focus on building renewable energy infrastructure and are feasible, cost-effective, and engage broad tribal community participation.

Energy leadership, educational scholarships, workforce development, and training are also at the forefront of TSAF-funded projects and programs to ensure that tribal members from the communities we partner with have equitable access to career pathways and the economic benefits of renewable energy.

The Tribal Solar Accelerator Fund works in partnership with tribes and funders to bring technical, financial, and cultural resources to support their projects and address their unique challenges and opportunities.



At its core, TSAF is about mobilizing and developing tribal solar projects and integrating workforce development and training, nation-building, and strengthening the energy resilience of tribal communities with visions for a clean energy outlook for generations to come. The TSAF supports tribes in asserting control over their energy resources and focuses on making solar implementation feasible by leveraging state and federal programs, philanthropic dollars, and partnerships with other tribes across Indian Country.

The TSAF remains one of the only grantmaking programs specifically designated for tribal solar projects and cultivating the next generation of tribal energy leaders. Through our grants, fellowships, and scholarships, we are strengthening the capacity of Indian Country to lead the way to a renewable energy future.

We are doing three key things to create a tribal renewable energy community that enhances and strengthens energy resilience and energy sovereignty by:

- Increasing access to funding for tribal communities to achieve their renewable energy goals;
- Supporting tribal leaders and youth in renewable energy transform their communities
- Supporting tribal partners build capacity to address their community's energy needs; and achieve their renewable energy visions.

Please read about the past TSAF grantees at tribalsolar.org.

Tribal Energy Plans

TSAF is committed to helping Tribal Nations build sustainable renewable energy infrastructure. We know that a solid energy plan establishes an effective foundation from which that infrastructure is built.

Tribal Energy Plans help tribal communities work towards a better environment for all community members by using a comprehensive plan of action as a guide to develop a more sustainable tribal nation. They can be the starting point for a pipeline to a greener community.

The Tribal Energy Plan establishes priority sustainable energy initiatives based on demonstrated effectiveness, unique local factors, and co-benefits, such as improved local air quality, energy saving for residents, and workforce development.

A Tribal Energy Plan is developed by a team of tribal staff, tribal leadership and subject matter experts. This planning team integrates the perspectives of the broader community with established best practices for lowering greenhouse gas emissions within the tribal nation.

TSAF Tribal Energy Plan Grant

The development of Tribal Energy Plans are intended to help tribal communities quickly and efficiently triage the known practical and impactful strategies to reduce greenhouse gas, reduce energy costs, and operate more sustainably. The grants can be used to compensate the planning team for their time, contract the services of consultants or other third-party experts, and cover the costs of public meetings and other methods soliciting public input.

Types of renewable energy that can be included in the plan are: Solar, wind, biomass, geothermal, bioenergy, biogas, biofuel, photovoltaic, hydroelectric, hydropower, nuclear, marine energy, ethanol, wave power, geothermal and ground source heat pumps.

Applicants may apply for funding up to \$50,000 for up to one year.

TSAF Grant timeline and reporting

RFP – INVITE TO APPLY NOTIFICATION	May 1, 2023
GRANT APPLICATION DUE	Applications will stay open until fully subscribed
GRANT AWARD/DENIAL NOTIFICATIONS	Week of July 24, 2023
GRANT TIMELINE (PROJECT FISCAL YEAR START/END)	August 1, 2023 –July 31, 2024
GRANTEE CHECK-INS WITH TSAF STAFF	August 2023, December 2023, March 2024, July 2024
GRANTEE FINAL REPORT DUE	August 30, 2024

TSAF review and selection criteria

Upon receipt of a TSAF application, the following funding criteria should be met regardless of the funding area applied for:

- Clear focus on building renewable energy infrastructure in the tribal community
- Clear plan of action, including specific goals and measurable objectives
- Feasible and cost-effective budget
- Clear outline of invested parties

TSAF Eligibility

The TSAF is committed to serving, supporting, and strengthening American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) tribal communities by investing in solar energy development and sustainability.

The TSAF eligibility criteria is as follows:

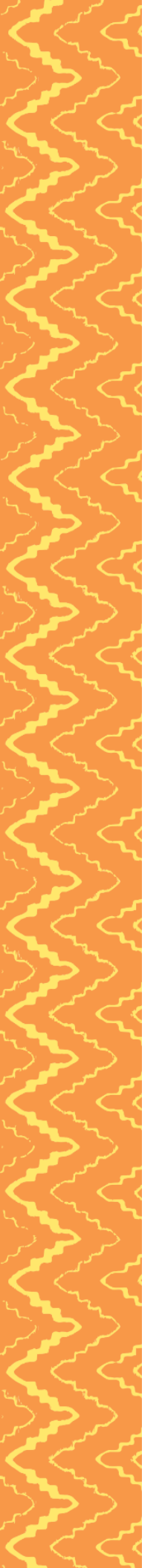
- Federal tribal governments in the lower 48 states and Alaska (tribal government programs, such as natural resources authority, energy departments, etc.) as well as tribal-led non-profit organizations with direct ties to the tribal community.

TSAF Application Site and Submission Guidelines

- [Link to Application](#)
- All applicants will need to secure a letter of support from your tribal council acknowledging the application for the proposed planning grant due.
- **TSAF Tribal Energy Plan Grant Applications will remain open until funding is fully subscribed.**

Considerations for Communications and Receipt of Funding

Participation in communications activities that acknowledge the support of TSAF funders, is a requirement of grants through the Tribal Solar Accelerator Fund. A full list of TSAF funders can be found at tribalsolar.org. GRID Alternatives and TSAF understand that tribes have different cultural values, expectations and traditions around communications, as well as ethical and moral principles when it comes to accepting financial resources. The



following are GRID's commitments to and expectations of tribal partners participating in TSAF projects.

Our Commitments to You (TSAF grantee):

1. GRID Alternatives - TSAF will provide you with a single point of contact for all TSAF-related communications activities.
2. GRID Alternatives-TSAF will collaborate with your designated communications representative to develop a set of communications activities that is appropriate for the project and your tribe. Activities may include one or more of the following:
 - Press release announcing receipt of TSAF grant for local, regional or national audience
 - News item on GRID Alternatives' and TSAF website(s) and/or newsletter about the project
 - Groundbreaking or other public event with speaking opportunities and/or branding for TSAF funders
 - Project video produced by GRID Alternatives - TSAF or other approved partner
 - Listing/write-up in funder stakeholder reports
 - Listing in philanthropic funder press releases

Our Expectations:

1. You will provide a single point of contact for all TSAF-related communications activities who is authorized to provide and or/secure permissions on behalf of the tribe.
2. You will collaborate with us in good faith to identify appropriate communications activities to promote the project and acknowledge TSAF support.
3. You will provide timely review of external-facing communications assets, and not unreasonably withhold approval.