



BIA Tribal Resilience Awards Program 2020

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

Q: Is this announcement open to all tribes or just ocean and coastal tribes?

A: This is open to all federally recognized tribes and tribal organizations per 25 U.S.C. section 5304(l). Only two categories are specific to coastal tribes- Categories 4 and 5. Category 7 is for coastal and riverine tribes.

Q: Where is the announcement and application kit?

A: See the solicitation announcement on [Grants.gov](https://www.bia.gov). Find the solicitation application kit on the BIA Tribal Resilience Program site under FY2020 Solicitation Resources: <https://www.bia.gov/bia/ots/tribal-resilience-program>

FY 2020 TRIBAL RESILIENCE PROGRAM AWARDS

Regional Adaptation/Resilience Training; Adaptation/Resilience Planning and Data Development; Travel Support for Adaptation/Resilience planning; Ocean and Coastal Management Planning; Travel Support for Ocean and Coastal Management Planning; Capacity Building for Adaptation/Resilience Planning; Relocation, Managed Retreat, or Protect-in-Place Planning "

If you have questions or feedback about the proposal or review process, please submit it by email to resilience.funding@bia.gov.

FY 2020 SOLICITATION RESOURCES

- **FY 2020 Application Kit (pdf)** - Notice of Funding (proposal requirements)
- **Proposal Cover Page (fillable pdf)** - to aid in correct filing
- **Optional Application Forms (fillable pdf)** for:
 - **Category 3: Adaption Planning Travel Support**
 - **Category 5: Ocean and Coastal Management Travel Support**
 - **Category 6: Capacity Building**
- **BIA Regional Contacts (pdf)**
- **FAQ's for Proposal and Awards (pdf)**

Q: If a Tribe wants to submit proposals for multiple categories, are separate applications needed for each category?

A: Yes, a tribe can apply for more than one category but each needs to have a separate proposal and cover letter. There is a max of one large award/category/tribe not to exceed two large awards ("large"= \$150,000 max) **Note:** If applying for a Category 6, please do not apply for any other category except travel (Cat. 3 or 5). That Category is meant for tribes that don't yet have capacity to apply for larger Categories (1, 2, 4 or 7).

Q: What about one proposal for two categories?

A: To avoid confusion and duplication of reviews, please choose one category per proposal. Separate applications are needed for each category. A tribe can receive up to two larger awards (not including travel awards). One award per category per tribe/tribal organization. This is to allow for more awards overall, spreading the benefits more widely across Indian Country and Alaska Native Villages.

Q: Can I submit multiple proposals for components of the same large project? (For example, Categories 2, 3, 4)

A: If submitting multiple proposals, please provide separate proposals/applications that aren't dependent on one another being awarded, in case they are not all funded. Do not break up a project by cobbling two proposals together to exceed the \$150k



BIA Tribal Resilience Awards Program 2020

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

limit (the limit for Cat 1,2, 4 and 7). If the projects are integrated, then you may need all of the funding for it to work- it should then be a single category proposal (150k max). If they are related but stand-alone work then separate them as multiple proposals.

Q: Can the tribe apply for more money to continue a previously funded project?

A: Yes, as long as the project tasks are new (the government can't fund the same work twice) but there is a \$ limit per project. Describe the new work you are doing. Also, a project can have an overall cost greater than the maximum amount allowed, but the amount beyond the maximum must be covered by other sources.

Q: When would the funding get to me? What is the review process?

A: We anticipate awarding by May 2020. We anticipate a 30 day review and ranking process followed shortly thereafter by mailing of award letters directly from BIA Central Office.

Q: Can a Category 2 proposal have travel or just Categories 3 and 5? E.g., "I want to send all the tribal planning team to a workshop."

A: Yes. The question is, does the staff need that workshop only for the proposed planning activities or do they need it generally for their program too? If they will need the workshop for their program then we suggest a stand-alone travel award, so that they aren't depending on the Category 2 award for program needs.

Also, small awards for Category 3 are almost always funded (for appropriate resilience to extreme events/harmful environmental trends sessions and non-international).

Q: Can I make changes after the award is made?

A: Things change- contact the BIA Project Monitor named in the award letter to work out the within scope change and get that into the grant file. However, changes cannot be made to the overall scope of work since proposals were reviewed and ranked largely based on their proposed scope.

Q: Is indirect allowed?

A: Yes, and an Indirect Cost Agreement is required for each proposal (unless it hasn't been negotiated). Include indirect in the BIA share of the budget request. If the tribe wants to add the cost of staff time or indirect to the cost share/in-kind, that's also allowed. If no negotiated indirect rate exists, the 10% de minimus is allowable.

Q: Is there a specific format we have to use for our application?

A: There aren't exhaustive formatting requirements this year, but here are some recommendations:

- 12-pt font
- Single space, double space between paragraphs
- Use 1-inch margins all around
- Use one font throughout, recommended: Times New Roman, Arial, Georgia, Helvetica, or Palatino Linotype
- Do a final edit, including spell-check and number all pages



BIA Tribal Resilience Awards Program 2020

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

Q: My proposal is for a project, what category is that?

A: We don't fund "projects" or implementation for any categories except 4 and 7. We fund *planning, data and tools for managers* to consider the risk from extreme events and harmful environmental trends in their programs. For Categories 4 and 7, implementation is allowed (if named in a planning document as long as does not include movement or construction of infrastructure or large equipment- e.g., vehicles) but for Category 4 this is only after funding cooperative ocean and coastal planning, vulnerability assessments, inventory and monitoring.

Q: Are fringe benefits and employment costs disallowed?

A: Fringe benefits and employment for those directly involved in the project are allowable. Fringe and salary costs for those not involved directly are *not allowable*. This is meant to avoid cost-shifting award funds toward base programs, and to avoid skimming resources away from the project costs to positions not directly involved.

Q: Where are the criteria used to score proposals?

A: See the Solicitation (Application Kit) section F. Categories of Funding, Review Criteria and Evaluation. Criteria and scoring are combined this year into one section for simplicity.

Q: Why is there one solicitation this year?

A: We're using a simpler definition to apply to applicants: federally recognized tribes and entities falling under 25 U.S.C. section 5304(I). The definition is listed in the solicitation on the first page. Other entities may participate as sub-grantees.

Q: What about youth?

A: Feel free to put components into other categories that include youth involvement in planning, training, etc. Suggest to term it "workforce development".

Q: If we are awarded, what happens if we don't finish the project in two years?

A: Things change, this happens. Just submit a no-cost extension letter request at least 60 days before the end of period of performance for more time.

Q: Could we provide a two-year workplan and period of performance as long as the request is still within the maximum amount?

A: Yes, this year we are allowing two-year timelines.

Q: How do we know if are considered "ocean and coastal" under Categories 4 and 5?

A: The footnote in the Solicitation lists 16 U.S. Code Section 1453:

"(1)The term "coastal zone" means the coastal waters (including the lands therein and thereunder) and the adjacent shorelands (including the waters therein and thereunder), strongly influenced by each other and in proximity to the shorelines of the several coastal states, and includes islands, transitional and intertidal areas, salt marshes, wetlands, and beaches. ... The zone extends inland from the shorelines only to the extent necessary to control shorelands, the uses of which have a direct and significant impact on the coastal



BIA Tribal Resilience Awards Program 2020

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

waters, and to control those geographical areas which are likely to be affected by or vulnerable to sea level rise. ...

(3)The term “coastal waters” means (A) in the Great Lakes area, the waters within the territorial jurisdiction of the United States consisting of the Great Lakes, their connecting waters, harbors, roadsteads, and estuary-type areas such as bays, shallows, and marshes and (B) in other areas, those waters, adjacent to the shorelines, which contain a measurable quantity or percentage of sea water, including, but not limited to, sounds, bays, lagoons, bayous, ponds, and estuaries.” The language above is sufficient but for the full language: <https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/16/1453>

Q: If we are going to work with an academic partner in the CESU network, or another partner like USGS, how should we include that in the application?

A: Include it in 1) the fillable cover sheet (as a partner), 2) the proposal, and the 3) the budget with the amount going to that partner made very clear (vs. cost-share). The fillable cover sheet is available online (link also in solicitation application) https://www.bia.gov/sites/bia.gov/files/assets/bia/ots/tcrp/FY20TRPAward_CoverSheet.pdf. If you have a letter(s) of support, include it in supplemental materials in an appendix.

Q: Is food an allowable expense?

A: See the Solicitation Section **D. Disallowed Costs**. For remote training/conference locations (where eating establishments are not within a reasonable distance), food costs are allowable, but should not exceed \$10,500 or 7% of the total requested amount (whichever is less). Refreshments for non-remote training/conference locations are allowable up to \$1,000. All other food allowances are disallowed.

Q: If I am proposing to work with tribal partners, do I need a resolution from these partnering tribes?

A: For Categories 2 or 4, if the proposed work is to develop a framework, plan, assessment or dataset for *multiple* tribes, *and the applicant wants to receive the supplemental points for "broad benefits"*, a resolution or letter of support from each of the tribes is required. This ensures partnerships are formalized and active, and that proposed work will be used by and benefit partner tribes. If existing resolutions indicate this and are still in effect, provide these.

Q: Do I have to use the available fillable application form for the smaller Travel Categories 3, 5, and Capacity Building Category 6?

A: The fillable application forms for Categories 3, 5, and 6 are provided on the TRP website <https://www.bia.gov/bia/ots/tribal-resilience-program> and links are in the Solicitation. These are for the convenience of the tribal applicant and provide all the necessary information to streamline the process for these smaller award categories. These are not required, but are strongly suggested to simplify both the tribal application process and the TRP review process for these award categories.



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Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

Q: Do I have to enroll in ASAP with BIA before submitting my application?

A: Yes, it is a Requirement this year. Please enroll in ASAP with BIA (vs. with other federal agencies) before or very soon after submitting your application. This will tremendously speed up the process and avoid any delays in getting awards finalized and to tribes or tribal organizations. It is a one-time process, so even if you aren't awarded this year it will save you time in following years if you are already enrolled. See enrollment information in the Solicitation **Appendix**.

Q: How is "tribal organization" defined in eligibility?

A: Tribal organizations that serve federally-recognized tribes per 25 U.S.C. section 5304(l): "legally established organization of Indians which is **controlled, sanctioned, or chartered by such governing body or which is democratically elected by the adult members of the Indian community to be served by such organization** and which includes the maximum participation of Indians in all phases of its activities: Provided, That in any case where a contract is let or grant made to an organization to perform services benefiting more than one Indian tribe, the approval of each such Indian tribe shall be a prerequisite to the letting or making of such contract or grant;"

Q: Can categories 1, 2, 4 and 7 fund salaries?

A: Yes, larger awards can fund salaries and fringe as long as those are directly related to the proposed work and they are not for positions already fully funded (no "double-dipping"). Travel Categories 3 and 5 do not fund salaries. Salaries are for adaptation planning work, not positions whose work is already funded.

Q: Does there already need to be a plan in place in order to apply for Categories 1, 2, 4 or 7?

A: No, there does not need to be a plan already in place- unless the funding is going toward implementation actions, then yes.

Q: What is new in the 2020 solicitation?

A: Category 7 is new and designed to support tribes facing questions and decisions regarding managed retreat, expansion, protect-in-place, and relocation options due to threats from intensifying coastal or riverine erosion, flooding and permafrost degradation impacts, sea level rise, and similar impacts.

Q: Is there a match requirement for any of the awards?

A: No, there is not a requirement for a tribe to have a match but there are supplemental points in the scoring criteria for leveraging as it's included in all necessary components of the proposal, budget table, and budget narrative.

Q: If we are partnering with different tribes, can we submit multiple proposals to a single category and potentially be awarded multiple times in a single category?

A: If one tribe or tribal organization is the lead on both proposals, then no. The limit is one award per category per tribe/tribal organization up to two large awards total. Each of the applications would need to have a different leading tribe or tribal organization.



BIA Tribal Resilience Awards Program 2020 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

Q: If we have recently received a no-cost extension on a TRP grant and are currently working with this funding, does this limit us from applying for 2020 funding?

A: As long as the application submitted in 2020 proposes new work, or building off of and expanding previous work, then no, there are no limits here. In other words, as long as there is no duplication of efforts.

Q: Is GHG mitigation planning an eligible project for this funding?

A: Greenhouse Gas (GHG) mitigation, while important, is more associated with the mission and funds of other agencies and offices (e.g., Dept of Energy's Office of Indian Energy, National Renewable Labs, and BIA's Dept of Energy and Mineral Development). TRP's focus is supporting adaptation planning and preparedness. The rationale is that if tribes incorporate climate considerations into their current program(s) then they can implement programs in a more resilient way with existing resources. Tribes might consider resilience of energy infrastructure in the face of extreme events as part of adaptation planning (which might include for example, renewable energy options for community resilience).

Q: What does "riverine communities" refer to in Category 7 (for coastal and riverine communities)?

A: The "riverine communities" component of Category 7 (for coastal and riverine communities), refers to tribes or tribal communities facing threats due to proximity to a river, floodplain/wetland area (including Great Lakes), that are causing the tribal community to face decisions regarding managed retreat, expansion, protect-in-place, and relocation. Applicants need to describe the geographic location (including proximity to coastal or riverine area) and the challenges the tribe is facing from such extreme events such as intensifying riverine erosion, flooding, and permafrost degradation impacts, sea level rise (coastal riverine) and similar impacts. See scoring criteria under Category 7.

Q: Is a tribal department or are multiple tribal departments considered a tribal organization?

A: TRP considers tribal departments as a "tribe" whether it is a single tribal department or multiple tribal departments *of the same tribe working together*, since tribal departments work under a tribal government. Refer to 25 U.S.C. 5304(I) for the definition of tribal organization.

Q: Should we submit our proposals in pdf?

A: Yes. See E. Submission of Application in Digital Format. Applicants should break down the application submission into separate files by each Mandatory Component and each Requirement. Appendices of additional information are optional. All components of the proposal in pdf form except the budget table, which should be in either Excel (preferred) or Word.



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Q: What is the total amount of funding available for FY 2020?

A: The amount varies from year to year, but is generally around \$8-8.5 million. This year the budget appropriations were larger, so the increase will likely be reflected in the amount of awards.

Q: Can fuels mitigation be funded through this solicitation?

A: TRP's focus is supporting adaptation planning and preparedness, not on the ground implementation. A tribe could plan or design fuels mitigation if it's in the context of added adaptation or resilience to extreme events, but not implement the plan/design with this funding. The rationale is that if tribes incorporate climate considerations into their current program(s) then they can implement programs in a more resilient way with existing resources. We encourage planning for adaptive modifications to integrated management plans or to multiple Forest, Fire, Rangeland, Water Quality, Air Quality and GHG Emissions-related Management Plan program subcomponents of an overarching Tribal Adaptation Plan.

Thank you/Ahe'hee!

For more programmatic questions, please email rachael.novak@bia.gov;
For questions on the application process, please contact jo.metcalfe@bia.gov. The 2020 Awards Program Overview presentation will be recorded and archived for those unable to attend the live session.

A link to the webinar will be available at the ITEP website here:
http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/tcc/Training/Webinars_2020