

Frequently Asked Questions Concerning an EMDP Grant

Creating a Proposal

Q) Who is eligible for EMDP funding?

EMDP funding can only be made available to tribes whose lands are held in trust or restricted fee by the Federal government. Congress has appropriated these funds for the development of energy and mineral resources only on Indian trust or restricted fee lands.

Q) Can Alaska Tribes or Allottees apply for and receive EMDP funding?

Except for the Metlakatla Indian Reservation on Annette Island, Alaska Tribes (Villages, Native Corporations) and Allottees do not have lands held in trust by the U.S. Government. Congress was clear in making that ruling for this grant program. However Alaska Tribes and Allottees may request technical assistance of DEMD staff, as DEMD has set aside funds for limited travel and in-house project work for Alaska Tribes.

Q) What is the annual budget for EMDP projects?

DEMD's budget for EMDP grant is funded under discretionary non-recurring appropriations by Congress each year. Consequently the total budget amount can vary year to year. A better guide is to refer to the following question on typical funding levels for individual projects.

Q) What are typical funding levels for projects?

The typical range of funding is \$5,000 to \$100,000, although we have funded higher on a few selected projects (there is no lower or upper limit to a request). DEMD usually receives more proposals than our budget can accommodate so we try to fund as many quality projects as possible. DEMD also reserves the right to not fund certain line items in a submitted project proposal, but those modifications to a budget will be discussed with the tribe by the DEMD project monitor.

Q) Can indirect costs, overhead, and fringe benefits be part of the budget?

DEMD prefers that awarded funds be applied entirely to direct project costs. Indirect costs and fringe benefits should be picked up by the tribe as a demonstration of a tribe's commitment to the project (which is one of the ranking criteria listed in the solicitation).

Q) What are the funding limits?

A) The EMD Program is funded under the non-recurring appropriation of the Bureau of Indian Affairs' (BIA) budget. Congress appropriates funds on a year-to-year basis. In the past funding has varied according to the total amount appropriated and available to disperse. In some cases

DEMD can only fund a portion of the proposal; this is why we also require a detail budget to show all areas of expenses. There is no minimum or limit available to award to tribal projects.

Q) May the EMDP award a multiple year grant?

DEMD cannot award multi-year funding for a project. Funding available for the EMDP is subject to annual appropriations by Congress and therefore DEMD may only consider funding on a single-year project or portion thereof. Generally, energy and mineral development projects are designed to be completed in one year. It is acceptable that a project continue after more than one year to complete due to circumstances such as weather, availability of the consultant, or scope of the project, etc. In those situations a tribe will not be penalized if they elect to submit another EMDP in a following year.

EMDP projects requiring funding beyond one-year intervals should be grouped into discrete, single-year units of operation, and then submitted as individual proposal for consideration of EMDP award funding. The Tribe must be aware, however, that there is no absolute guarantee of EMDP awards being available for future years of a multi-year project due to the discretionary nature of EMDP award funding.

Q) May EMDP funds be used for permit and application fees, etc?

A) Application fees associated with permitting, legal fees, contract negotiation fees, and application fees, etc. are not eligible to line items to received funding through the EMD Program. Low cost transmission and interconnection studies may be eligible. Please provide enough detail why certain studies would be critical.

Q) May tribal salaries an allowable line item to be funded through the EMDP?

Tribal salaries may be included only if the personnel are directly involved in the project and only for the duration of the project. Please provide sufficient detail concerning assigned tasks/deliverable as wells as cost detail in the budget.

Q) May tribe submit more than one proposal for difference resources?

DEMD will accept more than one application from a tribe concerning different resources and projects.

Q) May EMDP funds be used to purchase and install solar panels?

A) Solar panels units would be considered “equipment” and thus are not acceptable as a funding line item in the areas of purchase and installation.

Q) May EMDP funds be used to purchase and install Ground Source Heat Pumps?

Ground Source Heat Pumps Units would be considered “equipment” and thus are not acceptable as a funding line item in the areas of purchase and installation.

Q) May funds be used to purchase SODAR and anemometer tower to measure wind speeds?

SODAR and anemometer towers utilized to measure the wind speed may be rented for the duration of the grant year; however purchase of these equipments with EMDP funds is unallowable.