

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

General

What's the difference between a funding opportunity and a grant?

TEDC and EMDP are considered funding opportunities because funds will be dispersed through the 638 process.

NABDI is considered a grant because funds will be dispersed using the standardized federal assistance process for grants and cooperative agreements.

When are proposals due?

All applications are due **July 8, 2016** by **9pm EST** at IEEDgrants@bia.gov. Applications received after this time will not be considered for funding.

The announcement says salaries or fringe benefits for tribal employees cannot be paid, but you ask for a list of key personnel. What does this mean?

For all programs, applicant organizations include costs for contracted personnel and consultants that tend to perform most if not all the work. Although IEED can provide suggestions for consulting groups or organizations, this should not be interpreted as endorsements of these groups or their work. Applicants should choose contracted personnel and consultants based their existing protocols and procedures. IEED will NOT intervene in any disputes with contract awarding.

Specifically for NABDI projects, applications that do not specify specific contracted personnel and consultants will have to complete Justification for Other than Full and Open Competition (JOFOC) document and be approved by the awarding official prior to funds being spent.

What is the minimum and maximum amount for awards?

There is no minimum or maximum limit for projects.

What if my tribe doesn't or cannot provide a tribal resolution by the due date?

TEDC and EMDP applications require a duly enacted Tribal Resolution.

NABDI applications can include a current Tribal Resolution or a Letter of Support from Tribal leadership.

Can a tribe submit more than one application?

Yes, a tribe can submit more than one application. For multiphase projects, a tribe can apply for phase one in FY '16 and apply for phase two in FY '17, however it is not guaranteed that phase two will be awarded just because phase one was.

What is the average award amount for a project?

Updated 6/21/16

In FY '15, the average awarded TEDC project was \$155,760.

In FY '15, the average awarded EMDP project was \$98,797.

In FY '13, the average awarded NABDI project was \$61,556.

When do you expect the start date to be for projects?

Awarded projects are expected to be in one year (12 months). Expected start date for projects will be between August and October 2016.

What is required in the application?

The major components required in all the program applications are 1) a statement of work, 2) proposed budget, and 3) a tribal resolution.

Additionally for TEDC and EMDP proposals, make sure section a) through m) are addressed in the application.

What does subpart (h) mean?

Great question. That particular provision doesn't refer to matching funds. The first part of 25 CFR 900.8(h)(1) refers to what's sometimes called the "Secretarial amount" or "106(a)(1) amount", which is the amount of funds the Secretary would have otherwise provided for the operation of the program. The second part refers to the tribe's tribal shares. Tribal shares are the amounts determined for that tribe for a particular program at BIA regional, agency, and central office levels.

900.8 doesn't require the tribe to submit anything on the use of matching funds, but 900.8(i)(5) provides that the tribe may identify the programs specified in the contract proposal which will be funded from sources other than the Secretary.

EMDP Specific

Are Alaska tribes allowed to apply?

Eligible projects must be on Indian Land where the surface or mineral estate is held in Trust or Restricted status. If a tribe in Alaska has land in trust or restricted status, they may apply for a grant under EMDP for assessing resources located on that land.

Is there a limit to how many applications can be submitted?

There is no limit to how many applications can be submitted.

NABDI Specific

In addition to completing the feasibility analysis for a project, can a "Business Development Plan" also be completed?

Updated 6/21/16

No. NABDI Funding for FY '16 is only available for feasibility studies, not business plans.

Can only new businesses be funded?

No. The feasibility study can be performed for new business ventures but also existing businesses looking to enter comparable markets or restructuring for new business ventures.

Would any/all data derived from the feasibility study be proprietary, specifically could the data be able to be exempted from FOIA request?

Any information in the possession of the IEED or submitted to the IEED throughout the NABDI grant process constitutes government records and may be subject to disclosure to third parties under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. 552, and the Department of the Interior's FOIA regulations at 43 CFR part 2, unless a FOIA exemption or exception applies or other provisions of law protect the information. A tribal applicant may, but is not required to, designate information it submits as confidential commercially or financially sensitive information, as applicable, in any submissions it makes throughout the NABDI grant process. If the IEED receives a FOIA request for this information, it will follow the procedures in 43 CFR Part 2. An applicant may present the description in any form it wishes, so long as the description is well organized, and contains as much detail as possible, so as to provide the IEED Review and Ranking Panel with a quick and thorough understanding of the applicant's need for NABDI competitive technical assistance. The description should not exceed 20 pages.

What should we do if we have not selected a specific consultant or contracting firm for the proposed project?

A qualifications document is acceptable in place of including resumes of qualified professionals.