

## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

### **Where can I find the FY 2019 NABDI grant solicitation?**

IEED's solicitation for NABDI grants can be found on [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov), specifically at BIA-NABDI-2019-0001. It was posted on April 1, 2019.

### **When are NABDI proposals due?**

Applications for FY 2019 NABDI grants must be submitted on or before midnight, Monday, July 1, 2019.

### **Are NABDI grants awarded through the Public Law 93-638 process?**

No. They are competitive, discretionary grants.

### **Are Alaska Native entities eligible to apply for NABDI grants?**

Yes.

### **This year, NABDI grant selection priority will be given to applicants whose proposals focus on businesses and projects located in Opportunity Zones. What are Opportunity Zones?**

An Opportunity Zone is an economically distressed community where new investments, under certain conditions, may be eligible for preferential tax treatment. Opportunity Zones were added to the tax code by the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act on December 22, 2017, 26 U.S.C., 1400Z-1 and 1400Z-2.

### **Why are applications which focus on projects and businesses in Opportunity Zones being given priority?**

This is being done to create an incentive for outside investment in the projects and businesses proposed for NABDI feasibility studies.

### **If the feasibility study my Tribe is seeking does not involve a project or business that would be located in an Opportunity Zone, should we be discouraged from applying for a NABDI grant?**

No. You should be encouraged to apply whether or not your application involves a feasibility study that focuses on a project or business to be located within an Opportunity Zone. While Opportunity Zone applicants will be given priority (ten additional rating points), there are other factors that the NABDI Review Panel will weigh in considering each application. Selection results will be based on the number of applications submitted relative to the grant funds available and the

number of those applications that deal with Opportunity Zones. The demand for funding has exceeded available funds every year that NABDI grants have been offered.

**What is the minimum and maximum amount for awards?**

There is no minimum or maximum limit for projects. In FY 2018, NABDI awards averaged \$33,333. Keep in mind that the demand for NABDI grants has historically exceeded available funding. So applications which seek funding far in excess of the norm will receive added scrutiny. IEED also reserves the flexibility to reduce the amount of an award in order to preserve limited funds and serve more grantees.

**Can a Tribe submit more than one application?**

Yes, a Tribe can submit more than one application if it is seeking grants for more than one proposal. For multiphase projects, a Tribe can apply for phase one in FY 2019 and apply for phase two in FY 2020, for example. However it is not guaranteed that phase two will be awarded just because phase one was.

**How much time is given for completion of a grant project?**

Awarded projects are expected to be completed in one year (12 months).

**What is required in a NABDI application?**

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

**Does my NABDI proposal need an active ASAP number and active DUNS number?**

Yes, it is a requirement that all NABDI proposals submitted include an active ASAP number and an active DUNS number. All tribes applying must enroll in ASAP to have an active ASAP number prior to submitting a proposal.

For ASAP issues or questions, please call the ASAP Help Desk at 855-868-0151. Press 2, then 3 to reach an agent who can help.

**Can an existing business as well as a new one be the focus of a NABDI proposal?**

Yes. The feasibility study can be performed for new businesses as well as existing businesses looking to enter a new market or restructure for new business ventures.

**Might any/all data derived from the feasibility study be shared with the public?**

Yes.

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. Pursuant to Secretarial Order 3369 “Promoting Open Science,” and 2 CFR 200.315(d), all grantees “shall make the data produced under this award and any subaward(s) available to the Government

for public release, consistent with applicable law, to allow meaningful third party evaluation and reproduction of the following:

- (i) The scientific data relied upon;
- (ii) The analysis relied upon; and
- (iii) The methodology, including models, used to gather and analyze data.”

Trade secrets, commercial information, materials necessary to be held confidential by a researcher until they are published, or similar information protected under law may not be subject to this requirement and may qualify as exceptions to or exemptions from 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.

**Are proposals dealing with industrial hemp eligible for NABDI grant consideration?**

Yes, NABDI proposals may focus on the cultivation, marketing, and retail uses of industrial hemp, which was removed from the federal list of controlled substances when the President signed the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018.

However, proposals that involve cannabis containing illegal concentrations of the psychoactive ingredient tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) are ineligible for NABDI funding. Under the federal Controlled Substances Act of 1970, it is illegal to possess, use, buy, sell, or cultivate marijuana.

A NABDI proposal involving marijuana is ineligible even if the Tribe submitting it is located in a state which does not prohibit its possession, use, buying, selling or cultivation.

**May a NABDI grant pay for salaries of tribal members?**

No.

**May a NABDI grant pay for energy or mineral feasibility studies?**

No. These kinds of studies are already funded by grants under IEED’s Energy and Mineral Development Program (EMDP).

**How do I apply for a NABDI grant?**

The solicitation is posted on [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov). However, IEED does not accept submissions through [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov). Proposals must be submitted through IEED’s grant email: [ieedgrants@bia.gov](mailto:ieedgrants@bia.gov).

**If I have additional questions about the NABDI grant, who can I contact?**

Please contact James R. West, IEED Program Analyst, by email at [jamesr.west@bia.gov](mailto:jamesr.west@bia.gov) or phone (202) 595-4766.