

FUND DISTRIBUTION PROCESS

Program: Water Management Planning and Pre-Development (WMPPD)

Type of Funding: Non Recurring – Project Proposal Based

Funding Authority/Responsibility: 25 U.S.C. 13 (The Snyder Act of November 2, 1921), 42 Stat. 208, Pub.L. 67-85; 90 Stat. 2233, Pub.L. 94-482. 25 U.S.C. 450 (The Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act), 88 Stat. 2203, Pub.L. 93-638, Pub.L. 100-472; 102 Stat. 2285, Pub.L. 103-413.

The Deputy Bureau Director, Office of Trust Services has responsibility for this funding.

Criteria:

The primary focus of the program is to provide the necessary technical research, studies and other information for Indian tribes to serve as informed and prudent managers of adjudicated decreed or water otherwise appurtenant to tribal and/or Indian trust lands including public domain allotments. The program provides funding for crucial tasks involving protection of tribal water resources necessary for sustainable tribal water supply. Tribes throughout the country compete for project funding for these technical studies.

The program awards funding for projects using BIA's published process (Notice of Revised Instructions for Preparing and Prioritizing Water Program Funding Requests, Federal Register, Vol 70, No. 201, October 19, 2005) by Trust Services. The program funds higher scoring proposals at various levels, subject to the constraints of available funding. Funding priorities for the program include technical assistance from BIA to the Tribes, project funding for water surveys, including quantification studies and characterization of water concerns, as well as training that is necessary to develop human capacity for water resources management.

Tribal requests are due to Trust Services by September 15th each year.

Funding proposals are ranked and scored for department priority, quality of proposal submitted, and the evaluation process set forth within the federal register notice. Funding proposals are usually partially funded based on yearly requirements within the proposal. Project funds are annual and non-recurring.

The Review Team which consists of six members, one member from the Solicitor's office, one member from the Secretary's Indian Water Rights office, one Member from BIA's office of Trust Services, and one member from three Regions is assembled to evaluate, score, and prioritize all proposals. The Ranking Team members from the Regions are rotated each year

Note: The Program is required to hold back 5% for emergency projects that involve litigation.

Distribution Process:

Proposals are ranked and scored by the "Ranking Team by October 31st each year.

Upon apportionment, OBPM distributes funding directly to Trust Services, DWP. (within 5 days)

Proposal funding recommendations are determined and subsequently approved by the Deputy Bureau Director of Trust Services. (within 10 days)

Funding Allocations are then sent to the Regions and OSG for distribution to the Tribes. The funds manager prepares a FED of distribution to the Regional level for further distribution and OSG for distribution to the tribal level. (within 10 days of funding receipt)

Regional Processing:

- Indian Self Determination (ISD) Awarding Official negotiates terms, conditions of award, including payments. They calculate Contract Support Costs and prepare contract award/modifications in PRISM. (within 5 days)
- The ISD Awarding Official prints and mails the award/modification to tribe for review and acceptance. (within 5 days)
- Tribal elected official approves award/modification and returns the documentation to the Region/Agency.
- The ISD Awarding Official executes the award/modification and releases the obligation in PRISM. PRISM interfaces with ASAP and funds are available to tribes. (within 3 days of receipt of signed document)

OSG Processing:

- Once both OSG and OBPM are in agreement with the distribution list, a FED document is processed to OSG for fund distribution. (within 3 business days.)
- OSG will process the FED, subsequent PR, and obligate funding. (within 7 business days.)

Tribes log into ASAP to draw funds into their account.