

FUND DISTRIBUTION PROCESS

Program: Community Development Central Oversight -- NATIVE Act

Type of Funding: Non-recurring

Funding Authority/Responsibility: Public Law No: 114-221, the “NATIVE Act”

NOTE: These funds are appropriated across two directorates, with the Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development (IEED) as the primary recipient and the Director, IEED having the primary responsibility for the initial funding. The Director, IEED sub allots a portion of the funding to the Deputy Bureau Director, Office of Indian Services (OIS) who becomes the suballottee and has responsibility for those sub allotted funds. Denoted below are the distribution processes for the \$1 million retained by IEED and for those funds transferred to OIS, generally \$2.4 million of \$3.4 million appropriated annually.

Criteria for Distribution IEED:

The purpose of this program is to strengthen tribal capacity for economic development. Grant proposals are not requested from Tribes but from qualified, sole-source experts, including universities and colleges.

Project Proposals must outline and demonstrate the following economic development criteria:

- Long-term benefits to the Tribes;
- Identification of an economic opportunity through tourism projects for each Tribe; and
- Description of the location of the Native communities and focused areas for economic development

Distribution Process:

- Once apportionment is received, the Office of Budget and Performance Management (OBPM) distributes funding to the IEED budget address. (within 5 days)
- IEED suballots the OIS share of funding. (within 5 days)
- The program requests quotes from qualified sole-source experts for funding retained in IEED. (Within 30 days)
- Quotes are evaluated and approved. (Within 5 days)
- Awards are made through the commercial acquisition process following the evaluation and approval of submitted quotes. (within 14 days)

Criteria for Distribution OIS:

The Congress specifically authorizes a stated amount of funding annually that is to be provided to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to support the cooperative agreement between BIA and the “entity” described in the NATIVE Act who provides facilitation and coordination in support of Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce. The entity is AIANTA. Up to \$2 million annually based on available funds are distributed through a five-year, performance-based cooperative agreement pursuant to congressional direction. The remaining funds are appropriated specifically for the purpose of administrative support and projects development which fall under the OIS Tourism program.

Distribution Process:

- OIS must wait until IEED reallocates the OIS portion of funds and OBPM to execute the transaction. (within 8 days)
- Once received, OIS initiates the action to effect a Cooperative Agreement with AIANTA pursuant to congressional direction and established policy and procedures governing Cooperative Agreements. (timeline can vary as it is dependent upon negotiations and a submission of a signed agreement by AIANTA)
- Upon reaching a signed Agreement, OIS provides the funding source through a procurement requisition to the assigned Grants Officer to effect the obligation of funds to the recipient (AIANTA) for subsequent performance based drawdowns. (Within 3 days)