



Budget Formulation Kickoff – Tribal Priority Ranking Tool

October 13, 2026



Agenda

- ❖ **Key Documents**
- ❖ **Budget Formulation Timeline**
- ❖ **2029 Budget Schedule**
- ❖ **FY 2029 Tribal Priority Ranking Tool**
- ❖ **Roles and Responsibilities**
 - Tribal Budget Formulation at the Regions
- ❖ **Demo**

Key Documents



- <https://www.bia.gov/as-ia/obpm/budget-formulation-guides>
- *Budget Formulation Guidance* – Provides budget formulation key dates and describes roles and responsibilities for Tribes, IA Regional Offices, and IA Central Office.
 - Attachment A - Budget Formulation Timeline
 - Attachment B - Tribal Preferred Program Ranking Tool
 - Attachment C - Final Consolidated Tribal Preferred Program Ranking Tool by Region
 - IA Central and Regional Offices will receive 2029 budget formulation templates at a later date.

*Ranking Tool will be available after October 15, 2026.

2029 BUDGET FORMULATION TIMELINE

Attachment A

Fiscal Year 2027											
CY 2026			CY 2027								
Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Indian Affairs (IA) Office of Budget and Performance Management (OBPM) releases budget formulation guidance and ranking tool.	IA Regions hold the first of 2 Tribal budget formulation meetings - 1st meeting is to train on ranking tool and federal budget process.	Tribes submit ranking tool to their regional budget staff. IA Regions hold 2nd tribal budget formulation meeting to finalize regional ranking upon submission by all tribes or after the cut off submission date.	IA Regions submit Consolidated Tribal Ranking by Region to OBPM. OBPM calculates National and Regional Tribal Ranking results.	OBPM presents National and Regional Tribal Rankings to Tribal Interior Budget Council (TIBC). TIBC full committee deliberates budget strategy. TIBC budget subcommittee prepares Tribal Budget Request and clears with full TIBC body. TIBC Tribal Co-Chairs present the National Tribal Budget to Assistant Secretary, IA (ASIA).	ASIA deliberates with senior leaders and finalizes its budget proposal. OBPM prepares the IA budget request to DOI.	IA budget request submitted to DOI. IA leadership briefs DOI on its proposal.	DOI marks up and passes back the budget. IA appeals passback. DOI provides budget settlement.	OBPM prepares IA budget submission in accordance with OMB/DOI guidance. DOI reviews, edits, and finalizes OMB submission.	DOI transmits budget requests to OMB. Programs brief OMB as requested.	OBPM prepares guidance for new budget formulation year in October.	
					IA programs and regional offices provide budget requests to OBPM. OBPM drafts initial budget proposal and briefs ASIA and IA senior leadership.				OBPM works with IA programs to update Greenbook Overview Program Narratives thru November.		

Fiscal Year 2028			
Tribes meet with OMB		Tribes meet with Congressional Reps	Continue Meetings with Congressional Reps
CY 2027		CY 2028	
OMB/DOI/IA negotiate on President's Budget. OMB marks-up and passes back the budget. IA appeals. OMB provides budget settlement. OBPM finalizes IA President's Budget Request (Greenbook).		President's Budget Request (Greenbook) is submitted to Congress.	Congressional briefings to staff. Congressional hearings to members.
OBPM & DOI review, markup, and finalize budget overviews, narratives, and justifications. OBPM works with programs to obtain results data and estimated performance.		OBPM & DOI upload budget to MAX for final OMB review and clearance.	Congressional Mark-Up of Appropriations Bills. Effect and Capability Statements.

Fiscal Year 2029	
CY 2028	CY 2029
Enacted Budget, or Continuing Resolution if budget is not enacted.	
Execute FY 2029 budget	
↑	Tribes can provide input into the Budget and the Greenbook
↕	Tribes should meet with White House and Congressional Staff

FY 2029 Budget Schedule

OCT 13, 2026	IA Office of Budget and Performance Management (OBPM) releases budget formulation guidance, including the Tribal Preferred Program Ranking Tool, through a virtual kickoff meeting .
OCT 2026 – JAN 2027	IA Regional Budget Staff releases budget formulation guidance, including the ranking Tool, to Tribes in their respective regions. IA Regional Offices hold a minimum of two (2) Tribal budget formulation meetings/work sessions , one of which is to obtain consensus on final rankings. Tribal submission due dates are determined by IA Regional Offices but should be no later than Feb 3, 2027.
FEB 10, 2027	IA Regional Offices ensure that all Tribal ranking Tool submissions (Attachment B) are completed and turned into OBPM, including the Final Consolidated Tribal Ranking by Region (Attachment C) by Feb 10, 2027.
FEB 10 – MAR 10, 2027	OBPM prepares the National Tribal Priority Rankings.
TBD	TIBC Spring Meeting. Results of the National and Regional Tribal Priority Ranking are presented to the full TIBC body by OBPM. The TIBC body deliberates budget priorities and determines budget strategy for FY 2029.
TBD	TIBC Budget Subcommittee will hold a 2-day work session following the TIBC meeting to develop Tribal budget submission .
TBD	TIBC Budget Subcommittee presents proposed budget and draft testimony to full TIBC Committee for approval through a virtual meeting.
TBD	TIBC Tribal Chairs meet with the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs on the approved Tribal budget and testimony.

FY 2029 Budget Schedule (tentative)

MAR 10, 2027	IA Regional Offices submit their 2029 budget requirements and priorities to IA Field Operations.
MAR 31, 2027	IA Field Operations submit their consolidated 2029 IA Regional Office Priorities. Priorities must be ranked. The consolidated 2029 IA Regional Office Priorities are shared with Central Office (CO) program staff for use in formulating their budgets.
APR 2027	CO program staff submits and briefs their 2029 budget requirements and priorities to OBPM.
APR–MAY 2027	OBPM prepares FY 2029 Budget Deliberation Information Briefing to include all Tribal, regional, and CO submissions.
APR–MAY 2027	IA budget deliberations with Senior Leaders. OBPM develops IA budget proposal.
JUN 2027	FY 2029 IA Budget Proposal due to Department of Interior Budget Office.
JUL–AUG 2027	DOI final decisions (DOI Passback) released. OBPM develops 2029 IA Budget Request to OMB.
TBD	TIBC Summer Meeting.
SEP 2027	FY 2029 IA Budget Request due to OMB.
OCT 2027	FY 2030 Budget Formulation begins.
DEC 2027	FY 2029 OMB Passback.
FEB 2028	FY 2029 IA Greenbook goes to print.
FEB 2028–SEP 2028	FY 2029 Congressional Hearings, Briefings, Markup.

Tribal Priority Ranking Tool



- *Provides a forum for American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes to submit recommendations for Tribal initiatives, policies, and budget recommendations.*
- *Ensures Tribes are able to provide meaningful input into the IA budget request by prioritizing program preferences.*
- *Biennial process – priority rankings will be used for 2029 and 2030 budget requests - but Tribes may submit an updated Tool each year.*
- *National and Regional Tribal Priority Ranking Results presented at TIBC Spring Meeting and used to develop Tribal Budget Request. Also used by IA during budget deliberations so senior leadership can make informed decisions.*

Tribal Priority Ranking Tool



➤ *IA programs (budget lines on Comp Table) are organized within eight (8) strategic funding categories*

- 1) Strengthening Tribal Communities
- 2) Trust Natural Resources Management
- 3) Trust Land & Water Rights Management
- 4) Public Safety and Justice
- 5) Economic Development
- 6) Education*
- 7) Construction
- 8) Resource Management Construction.

**Tribes may rank this category but it is not required. Schools & TCUs should only complete this category.*

Tribal Priority Ranking Tool

Trust - Natural Resources Management

Program	Priority (1-14)
Natural Resources (TPA) Supports the strategy of improving the management, protection, and development of Indian land and natural resource assets by allowing Tribes to manage their own natural resources and compliance with various regulations and requirements.	Not Ranked

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**Education -- Tribes may rank this category but it is not required.
Schools & TCUs should only complete this category.**

Program	Priority (1-19)
BIE Indian Student Equalization Program (ISEP) Formula Funds ISEP formula funds represent the primary school year funding source for school instructional and operational needs supporting thousands of K-12 students attending BIE elementary and secondary schools, which include day schools, residential schools, and dormitories. This funding provides resources for schoolteachers and other education administrative incentives, and Technology.	Not Ranked

Strengthening Tribal Communities

Program	Priority (1-8)
Aid to Tribal Government (TPA) Provides assistance to federally recognized Tribes to achieve and maintain stable government program and operational services, helping Tribes ensure adherence and compliance with their own governing documents. The program assists Tribal government systems by providing baseline funding for Tribal government programs and operational services to this effect.	Not Ranked 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
Small Tribes Supplement (TPA) In 1993, the Small Tribes Initiative was created to support P.L. 93-638 by fostering a stable Tribal governments' ability to exercise their authority as sovereign nations. The purpose of the initiative was to provide small Tribes with a minimum TPA base funding by which they could run viable Tribal governments.	
Social Services (TPA) Under the umbrella of Social Services, Tribes operate a multitude of programs, including Financial Assistance and Social Services, Child Protection Services and Child Welfare (CPS/CW), Adult Protection (APS), supervised IIM Services, and Family and Domestic Violence. These funds provide support for front line responders handling the child and domestic violence in Indian Country. This program also supports the TAP Kiosk project - a fingerprint-based check of national crime databases and abuse/neglect registry.	
Welfare Assistance (TPA) This program provides welfare assistance to American Indians and Alaska Natives who have no access to Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), who do not meet eligibility criteria for TANF, or have exceeded the lifetime limit for TANF services. The Welfare Assistance programs are designed to be secondary. Welfare Assistance has traditionally played a large role in the ability of Tribes to take care of their citizens and supports Tribal self-determination and self-governance.	Not Ranked
Indian Child Welfare Act (TPA) This program prevents the separation of Indian families and also provides assistance for the reunification of families. Tribal Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) directors have become central contact points for Tribes and Indian families in seeking temporary and permanent placement of Indian children. The work of ICWA staff has resulted in improved coordination and compliance with the Indian Child Welfare Act, thereby recognizing the Tribal authority over Indian children in need of permanent placement.	Not Ranked
Housing Program (TPA) Serves as a safety net program, targeting individual Indians residing within approved service areas who cannot meet income requirements set forth by Tribes administering Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) housing programs. This program improves the quality of life of Indians qualified to participate in the program by eliminating substandard housing and homelessness on or near federally recognized reservation communities.	Not Ranked
Road Maintenance (TPA) Provides the primary source of funds for maintenance of all IA roads and bridges constructed with Highway Trust Fund (HTF) resources under the Federal Highways Administration Indian Reservation Roads (IRR) program in Indian Country. Roads Maintenance program funding supports roads that serve BIE schools in Indian Country. Annually, BIE reports nearly 14 million student transportation miles on roads serving BIE schools in Indian Country. Roads in poor condition impact BIE school attendance and the delivery of educational services including food programs, student safety, and operating extra-curricular transportation programs.	Not Ranked
Job Placement & Training (TPA)	Not Ranked

- ❖ Within each category, Tribes are not required to rank all program lines.
- ❖ They can rank one line, all lines within the category, or any portion of the lines that apply to their Tribe.
- ❖ Additionally, they are not required to rank all categories, only those categories that are applicable to their Tribe.

CATEGORY RANKING

Category	Priority (1-8)
Strengthening Tribal Communities	Not Ranked
Trust Natural Resources Management	Not Ranked
Trust Land & Water Rights Management	Not Ranked
Public Safety and Justice	Not Ranked
Economic Development	Not Ranked
Education	Not Ranked
Construction	Not Ranked
Resource Management Construction	Not Ranked
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Tribal Priority Ranking Tool

- ❖ The information gathered from the Tribes using this Tool will be weighted to determine which programs in each category rank highest.
- ❖ Information will be weighted and totaled by category, first by Tribe, then consolidated to the regional level, and then on a national scale.

Priority #	Strengthening Tribal Communities	Trust Natural Resources Management	Trust Land & Water Management	Public Safety and Justice	Economic Development	Education	Construction	Resource Management Construction
Priority 1	8 Points	14 Points	18 Points	10 Points	7 Points	19 Points	15 Points	7 Points
Priority 2	7 Points	13 Points	17 Points	9 Points	6 Points	18 Points	14 Points	6 Points
Priority 3	6 Points	12 Points	16 Points	8 Points	5 Points	17 Points	13 Points	5 Points
Priority 4	5 Points	11 Points	15 Points	7 Points	4 Points	16 Points	12 Points	4 Points
Priority 5	4 Points	10 Points	14 Points	6 Points	3 Points	15 Points	11 Points	3 Points
Priority 6	3 Points	9 Points	13 Points	5 Points	2 Points	14 Points	10 Points	2 Points
Priority 7	2 Points	8 Points	12 Points	4 Points	1 Points	13 Points	9 Points	1 Points
Priority 8	1 Points	7 Points	11 Points	3 Points		12 Points	8 Points	
Priority 9		6 Points	10 Points	2 Points		11 Points	7 Points	
Priority 10		5 Points	9 Points	1 Points		10 Points	6 Points	
Priority 11		4 Points	8 Points			9 Points	5 Points	
Priority 12		3 Points	7 Points			8 Points	4 Points	
Priority 13		2 Points	6 Points			7 Points	3 Points	
Priority 14		1 Points	5 Points			6 Points	2 Points	
Priority 15		1 Points	4 Points			5 Points	1 Points	
Priority 16			3 Points			4 Points		
Priority 17			2 Points			3 Points		
Priority 18			1 Points			2 Points		
Priority 19						1 Points		

Tribal Priority Ranking Tool



➤ *New this year:*

- *Removed New Tribes (TPA) from Strengthening Tribal Communities category.*
- *Added additional clarification on the Education category.*
- *Added instructions for Tribes to provide their unique requirements and circumstances, including but not limited to population, land base, service statistics, and budget and resource requirements in the Optional Justifications, Data, and Success Stories section.*

Key Roles and Responsibilities



- **IA Central Office Budget Staff** – Provides budget formulation guidance and support, prepares IA budget request; prepares National Tribal Priority Ranking.
- **IA Central Office Programs** – Identifies Central Office priorities and justifies budget needs, while considering Tribal and Regional Office priorities.
- **IA Regional Directors and Regional Budget Staff** – Provides budget formulation guidance, training, and support to Tribes, releases Tool to Tribes, monitors submissions, prepares regional rollup of Tribal priorities; identifies Regional Office budget requirements.
- **Tribal Representative by Region** – Attends regional Tribal budget formulation sessions and represents Tribes in their Region during the TIBC Spring Meeting.
- **TIBC Budget Subcommittee** – Discusses budget strategy and process improvements, develops Tribal Budget Request.

Tribal Budget Formulation Sessions



➤ *Each IA Regional Office will provide:*

- ❖ ***Two (2) budget formulation meetings with Tribes***
 1. *The first meeting is a training session on the Tribal Preferred Program Ranking Tool and the Federal Budget Process.*
 2. *The second meeting is a review and consensus on the consolidated regional Tribal ranking, including the categories.*
- ❖ ***The ranking **Tool** to all Tribes within their region, including OSG Tribes, and the BIE POC***
- ❖ ***Guidance on the overall budget formulation process.***

Finalizing Tribal Ranking Submissions by Region



➤ *To complete regional Tribal ranking submissions, each IA Regional Office will:*

- ***Consolidate** and weight all Tribal Preferred Program Ranking Tool information submitted by Tribes in their region. (See weighting instructions in the guidance document.)*
- ***Meet with Tribes** to discuss their overall regional Tribal ranking. Agree upon any changes or recommendations proposed to their final ranking.*
- *Provide Central Office, OBPM with a copy of their final regional Tribal ranking, including category rankings, using **Attachment C – Final Consolidated Tribal Preferred Program Ranking Tool by Region.***
- *During the **Spring TIBC Meeting**, regional representatives should be present to address any issues related to their regional rankings.*

Tribal Budget Formulation Sessions - BIE



- *The BIE Budget Officer and their budget formulation staff will*
 - *Coordinate with IA Regional Budget Offices to confirm the dates of initial and follow up budget formulation meetings with Tribes.*
 - *Coordinate with BIE ADDs and EPAs to designate POCs for each region.*

- *The designated BIE budget formulation staff and POC's will attend each IA Regional Office's budget formulation meetings with the Tribes.*

- *Then the **BIE budget formulation staff will meet (can be done virtually) with all schools in the regional area to provide a demonstration and distribution of the ranking Tool and guidance, outlining that the schools need to complete only the Education and Construction Category rankings.***

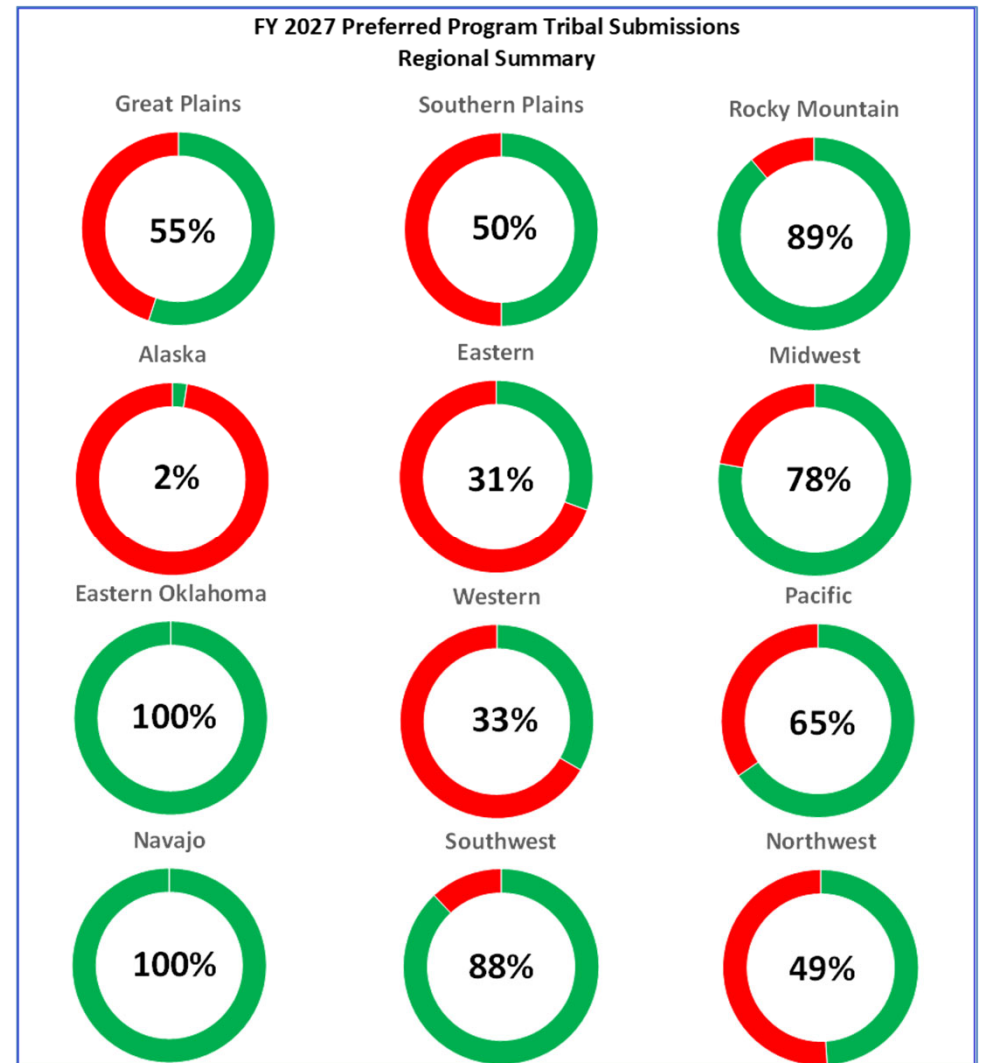
Tribal Budget Formulation Sessions - BIE



- *The BIE POC will monitor ranking Tool completion rates, reach out to those schools that have not completed the ranking Tool, and offer technical assistance or other assistance to obtain and complete their submission.*
- *The BIE budget formulation staff will consolidate overall weightings for each line item within the Education and Construction Categories for all of their schools using the weighting factors included in this guidance.*
- *Once consolidated, the BIE budget formulation staff will send that weighting to each IA Regional Office for inclusion in their overall weighting process. The BIE budget formulation staff and POC should attend the second budget formulation session with each region, review the consolidated ranking, and develop a unified regional ranking for the Education and Construction Categories.*
- ***During rollout of the National Ranking, OBPM and BIE budget staff will present the Education and Education Construction rankings from schools as well as Tribes both separately and combined.***

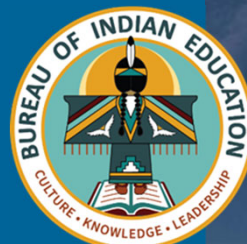
Encourage Participation

- *Review FY 2027 participation rate*
- *Conduct outreach to Tribes that did not participate last time*
- *Provide training on the tool, monitor submissions, send out reminders*
- *Emphasize rankings are used to inform IA leadership when making budget decisions*
- *Provide examples of positive outcomes*
 - *Increased funding to Tribal Courts O&M, Tiwahe*





TRIBAL PREFERRED PROGRAM RANKING TOOL DEMONSTRATION



THANK
YOU!