

4337-15
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Indian Affairs

Native American Technology and Manufacturing Grant Pilot Program
(IGNITE: Indigenous Growth in New & Innovative Trade Employment)
Solicitation of Proposals

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

Due Date for Applications: September 18, 2026

Basic Information	
Opportunity Title	The Native American Technology and Manufacturing Grant Pilot Program (IGNITE: Indigenous Growth in New & Innovative Trade Employment) IGNITE grant pilot program
Summary	The IGNITE grant pilot program will provide a competitive, discretionary grant under the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Office of Indian Services, Division of Workforce Development (DWD), Job Placement and Training (JP&T) program. IGNITE will fund implementation ready, Tribal workforce development programs preparing participants for employment in high-demand industries, including construction and infrastructure trades and emerging technology sectors such as advanced manufacturing, digital fabrication, artificial intelligence, drone and geospatial systems, and STEM-based workforce training. The program supports Tribal-led workforce models that provide direct pathways to employment, apprenticeship placement, and industry-recognized credentials, while aligning with local and regional economic priorities and workforce needs.
Total Program Funding	\$4.8M
Maximum Award Size	\$300,000
Minimum Award Size	\$100,000

Expected Number of Awards	18-22
Award Term	Twelve (12) month project period
Eligible Applicants	• Federally Recognized Indian Tribes • Tribal organizations acting on behalf of Federally Recognized Tribes • Tribal consortia Eligible applicants are Indian Tribes and Tribal Organizations, as defined in Section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA) (25 U.S.C. 5304), including Tribal Consortia, and consistent with Public Law 102-477.
Submission Requirements and Deadlines	Applications must be submitted through the Bureau of Indian Affairs - Office of Indian Services website (link forthcoming) or via email to JPTignite@bia.gov no later than 60 days after the official release of the funding announcement. Applications submitted through Grants.gov will not be accepted.
Expected Project Start Date	Fall 2026 (anticipated)
Agency Contact Information	Programmatic Assistance: Ms. Rebekah HorseChief, Division of Workforce Development, telephone: (505) 706-6536 email: JPTignite@bia.gov

Opportunity Title: The Native American Technology and Manufacturing Grant Pilot Program (IGNITE: Indigenous Growth in New & Innovative Trade Employment)

Background:

Federally Recognized Tribes may administer Job Placement and Training (JP&T) programs through the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA), Public Law 93-638 (25 U.S.C. § 5301 et seq.), or through integration under the Indian Employment, Training, and Related Services Demonstration Act, Public Law 102-477 (25 U.S.C. § 3401 et seq.), which allows for the coordination of employment and training services into a consolidated Tribal workforce plan. The DWD administers the JPT program providing tribes with funding to support employment assistance, vocational training, and job placement services to eligible American Indians and Alaska Natives. The JP&T program is authorized under 25 CFR Part 26 and supports workforce development activities leading to gainful employment and long-term economic self-sufficiency.

Summary:

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Office of Indian Services (OIS), Division of Workforce Development (DWD), will fund a new JPT grant pilot program, entitled, “The Native American Technology and Manufacturing Grant Pilot Program” - Indigenous Growth in New & Innovative Trade Employment (IGNITE) a competitive, discretionary grant administered under the Job Placement and Training (JP&T) program. The IGNITE grant pilot program supports implementation-ready Tribal workforce development programs designed to prepare participants for employment in high-demand industries.

The program prioritizes workforce pathways in construction and infrastructure trades, including apprenticeship-aligned programs, as well as emerging technology sectors such as advanced manufacturing, digital fabrication, artificial intelligence, drone and geospatial systems, and STEM-based workforce training. These sectors reflect critical workforce needs and provide opportunities for participants to obtain industry-recognized credentials and transition into livable wage employment.

Funding supports Tribal-led workforce models leading directly to employment, apprenticeship placement, or credential attainment and align with local and regional economic development priorities. All proposed projects must be implementation ready at the time of application and capable of delivering measurable workforce outcomes within the period of performance.

The IGNITE grant pilot program focuses on workforce programs leading directly to employment outcomes and align with Tribal economic development priorities. Areas of emphasis include construction and infrastructure trades, including apprenticeship pathways, as well as emerging technology sectors such as advanced manufacturing, digital fabrication, artificial intelligence, drone and geospatial systems, and STEM-based workforce training. These sectors represent critical opportunities for Tribal communities to build sustainable workforce pipelines that support infrastructure development, economic growth, and long-term employment.

Funds are appropriated on a fiscal year basis, and all awards are subject to the availability of appropriations. The period of performance for awards under this funding opportunity will be 12 months. All proposed projects must be fully implemented ready at the time of application, and funding is intended to support program execution rather than planning or start-up activities.

Publication of this solicitation does not obligate the Department of the Interior or the Bureau of Indian Affairs to award any specific grant or to obligate all or any part of available funds. The Bureau of Indian Affairs will not be responsible for proposal or application preparation costs.

Authority

This funding opportunity is authorized through the Job Placement and Training (JP&T) program under 25 CFR Part 26, which establishes the Bureau’s authority to provide employment assistance, vocational training, and job placement services to eligible American Indians and Alaska Natives. Applicants must comply with applicable Executive Orders and Department of Interior policy

directives. Funding for the IGNITE Grant pilot program is made available through congressionally appropriated funds to the Bureau of Indian Affairs and is subject to the availability of appropriations under applicable Interior and Environment Appropriations Acts.

Federal Award Information

The BIA will provide approximately \$4.8M awarding between 18 and 22 awards, with individual awards ranging from \$100,000 to \$300,000. The period of performance for all awards will be 12 months. Awards will be issued as grants, and cost sharing or matching is not required. Funding is subject to the availability of appropriations and does not oblige the Bureau to make all anticipated awards. Publication of this solicitation does not obligate the Bureau of Indian Affairs to award any specific grant or to obligate all or any part of available funds. The Bureau of Indian Affairs will not be responsible for proposal or application preparation costs.

Eligibility Information

Eligible applicants include Federally Recognized Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations acting on behalf of Federally Recognized Tribes, and Tribal consortia. Eligibility is consistent with the authorities provided under 25 CFR Part 26, Public Law 93-638 (the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act), and Public Law 102-477 (the Indian Employment, Training, and Related Services Demonstration Act). Only one application per Tribe or Tribal organization will be accepted, and proposed activities may not duplicate funding received under other Federal programs. The Bureau will review the System for Award Management (SAM.gov) exclusions database prior to award. Entities or key personnel listed as excluded, suspended, or debarred are not eligible to receive funding.

Program Description and Priorities

The IGNITE Grant Pilot Program will support workforce development efforts ready for immediate implementation leading directly to employment outcomes. Applicants must have an existing JPT program and demonstrate proposed projects are implementation-ready at the time of application, including established or near-finalized partnerships, defined workforce pathways, and clearly identified employment outcomes. Applications proposing planning, feasibility, or start-up activities will not be considered for funding. Funding is intended to support program execution and expansion and will not support planning, feasibility studies, or start-up activities. The Bureau is most interested in workforce programs aligned with construction and infrastructure trades, including those building established apprenticeship pathways such as Ironworkers and similar programs. In addition, applicants may propose programs focused on emerging technology and manufacturing pathways, including advanced manufacturing, digital fabrication, artificial intelligence applications, drone and geospatial systems, and STEM-based workforce training. Integrated workforce models that combine skilled trades and technology pathways are also encouraged, provided they maintain clear and direct connections to employment outcomes.

Funding will be awarded directly to Tribes and Tribal organizations through 638 contracts or compacts. **Applicants may apply to implement one of the two options below or may propose an integrated approach inclusive of both options, combining multiple workforce training opportunities.** Only one application per tribe or tribal organization will be accepted.

OPTION 1

Ironworkers Manufacturing: Successful applicants will focus on connecting job placement and training clients with Construction and Infrastructure Trades. The application should focus on Workforce training that prepares Tribal participants for high-demand jobs supporting housing, roads, utilities, and community infrastructure projects such as structural steel, rebar, bridges, buildings, and infrastructure projects.

OPTION 2

Emerging Technology programs: Successful applicants will describe how the tribe or tribal organization intends to support employment and training development related to digital fabrication and prototyping, artificial intelligence technologies, drone and geospatial systems and/or STEM-based workforce training.

Allowable Activities

Allowable activities include the implementation of workforce training programs, development of apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship opportunities, delivery of certification and credentialing programs, and acquisition of equipment and training infrastructure necessary to support workforce development activities. Applicants may also support workforce partnerships and formal training agreements that enhance employment outcomes.

Supportive services may be provided to ensure successful program participation and completion. These services may include but are not limited to; transportation assistance, childcare support, training stipends, certification and licensing fees, and required training materials and supplies. All costs must be reasonable, necessary, and allocable in accordance with 2 CFR Part 200 (Uniform Guidance).

Funding under this opportunity may not be used for construction, general administrative operations not directly tied to the project, entertainment costs, unreasonable travel expenses, or activities not directly aligned with workforce training and employment outcomes.

Partnership Requirements

Applicants are encouraged to establish partnerships with apprenticeship programs, workforce training providers, educational institutions, and industry partners to support workforce training and employment outcomes. All partnerships should be documented through memorandums of understanding or formal agreements and must clearly demonstrate how the agreements will contribute to participant training and job placement. Funding will be awarded directly to Tribes and Tribal organizations, and funds may not be provided directly to external partners.

Program Integrity and Application Compliance

All funded projects must adhere to the approved program narrative submitted as part of the application. Substantial changes to the scope of work will not be permitted without prior written approval from the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Application and Submission Information

Applications must be submitted via email to **JPTignite@bia.gov** as announced through the Bureau of Indian Affairs-Office of Indian Services website. This funding opportunity will NOT be administered through Grants.gov.

A complete application package must include a program narrative, budget and budget justification, a description of the selected workforce pathway or pathways, documentation demonstrating implementation readiness, partnership documentation, a supportive services plan, and a description of expected outcomes. Applicants are expected to provide sufficient detail to demonstrate that the proposed project is fully developed and capable of immediate implementation upon award.

Applications will be evaluated using a 100-point scoring framework prioritizing implementation readiness, workforce impact, program design, partnerships, and cost effectiveness. The Bureau will place primary emphasis on implementation readiness, which evaluates whether the proposed project can be launched immediately upon award without the need for planning or start-up activities. This includes evidence of established or near-final partnerships, clearly defined workforce pathways, identified participants or recruitment strategies, and operational staffing and infrastructure necessary to begin program delivery.

Workforce impact and outcomes will be evaluated based on the extent to which the proposed program leads to measurable employment results, including the number of participants served, job placement or apprenticeship outcomes, attainment of industry-recognized credentials, alignment with livable wage career pathways and regional labor market demand. Program design and feasibility will be assessed based on the clarity, structure, and practicality of the proposed approach, including the timeline for implementation, the logical progression from training to employment, and the applicant's ability to successfully execute the project within the twelve-month period of performance.

Applications will also be evaluated on the strength and relevance of partnerships, including demonstrated collaboration with apprenticeship programs, training providers, educational institutions, and employers that support direct employment outcomes. All applications must limit the submission to 25 or less pages. Letters of support are not required for submission. Finally, the Bureau will assess the reasonableness and cost effectiveness of the proposed budget, including alignment between requested funds and program activities, appropriate use of supportive services, and compliance with Federal cost principles under 2 CFR Part 200.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs reserves the right to consider geographic distribution, Tribal diversity, and overall program balance when making final award decisions.

1. Project Narrative – 30 Points

Implementation readiness is the primary evaluation factor and reflects the Bureau's emphasis on funding projects that can be launched immediately upon award. Applications will be assessed based on the extent to which the proposed program demonstrates that all key components are in place, including established or near-final partnerships, clearly defined workforce pathways, identified participants or recruitment strategies, and the staffing and infrastructure necessary to begin program delivery. Projects that require planning, feasibility analysis, or start-up development will not be considered responsive to this funding opportunity. Applicants must also demonstrate the capacity to comply with program requirements, including submission of a single annual financial, statistical, and narrative report, and adherence to applicable Tribal appeals and dispute resolution processes.

2. Workforce Impact and Outcomes – 25 Points

Workforce impact and outcomes will be evaluated based on the applicant's ability to demonstrate measurable employment results. Data reporting/outcome measures must include: The number of tribal participants who are receiving training and the types of training provided which increased opportunities because of IGNITE efforts; The number of tribal participants who completed training and who were connected to prospective jobs, Number of jobs created or maintained which were increased because of IGNITE; and Any other information the Secretary may require evaluating the effectiveness of the IGNITE efforts. Data tracking must also include job placement or apprenticeship outcomes, and how many participants obtained industry-recognized credentials or certifications. Applications should also clearly describe how the proposed program aligns with livable wage career pathways and regional labor market demand, and how participants will transition from training into sustained employment.

3. Program Design and Feasibility – 20 Points

Program design and feasibility will be evaluated based on the clarity, structure, and practicality of the proposed approach. Reviewers will assess whether the program includes a well-defined implementation timeline, a logical progression from training to employment, and a realistic plan for execution within the twelve-month period of performance. Applications must define and describe which options are being selected. Descriptions must include whether the training efforts will include the ironworkers manufacturing, the emerging technology programs, or proposing an integrated approach inclusive of both options, combining multiple workforce training opportunities. Applications should demonstrate an understanding of potential risks and include reasonable strategies to mitigate those risks while maintaining alignment with the objectives of the Job Placement and Training program.

4. Partnerships and Workforce Alignment – 15 Points

Applications will be evaluated on the strength and relevance of proposed partnerships and their direct connection to employment outcomes. This includes collaboration with apprenticeship programs, training providers, educational institutions, and employers. Strong applications will demonstrate clearly defined partner roles and responsibilities, as well as evidence that partnerships

are structured to support participant training, credential attainment, and job placement in high-demand industries.

5. Budget and Cost Effectiveness – 10 Points

Budget and cost effectiveness will be evaluated based on the reasonableness and appropriateness of proposed costs in relation to program activities and expected outcomes. Applications should demonstrate clear alignment between the budget and the scope of work, including the efficient use of funds to support participant success. Reviewers will consider whether costs are allowable and compliant with Federal cost principles under 2 CFR Part 200, whether supportive services are appropriately justified, and whether the proposed budget reflects sound financial planning without duplication of funding.

Selection Considerations

The Bureau of Indian Affairs reserves the right to consider geographic distribution, Tribal diversity, and overall program balance when making final award decisions. Applicants must maintain an active System for Award Management (SAM.gov) registration and Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and must comply with all applicable Federal requirements, including 2 CFR Part 200. Applicants must also certify proposed activities do not duplicate other Federal funding and must disclose any potential conflicts of interest. Applicants must disclose any actual or potential conflict of interest in accordance with 2 CFR 200.112 and 2 CFR 1402.112. Recipients must maintain internal controls to identify, disclose, and mitigate conflicts of interest throughout the life of the award. Information submitted as part of the application may be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. §552, unless exempt under applicable law.

Application Review Information

Applications will be evaluated based on the applicant's demonstrated ability to implement the proposed program immediately, the Job Placement and Training program structure, the projected workforce impact and employment outcomes, the strength and feasibility of the program design, the quality and relevance of partnerships, and the reasonableness and effectiveness of the proposed budget. The Bureau may also consider prior performance under Federal awards and the extent to which the proposed activities align with program priorities. Applicants determined to be ineligible, and those applications found to be incomplete, will be notified immediately and will not be included in the consideration for funding by the Objective Review Panel. Organizations whose applications have not been selected will be advised as promptly as possible.

Mandatory Components Checklist

Component	Please Attach/Include
Narratives	
☐ Project Narrative including Table of Contents	
☐ Line-Item Budget and Budget Narrative/Justification	

☐ Tribe Appeals and Dispute Resolution Process ☐ Acknowledge Reporting Requirements: A single financial, statistical and narrative report required annually	
Standard forms ☐ Project Abstract Summary ☐ Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424) ☐ Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424A) ☐ Key Contacts ☐ Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL) (if applicable)	
Attachments ☐ Tribal Resolution or Authorization Letter ☐ Conflict of Interest Disclosure (if applicable) ☐ Assurances and certifications ☐ Overlap or Duplication of Effort Statement ☐ Single Audit Statement ☐ Registration in SAM/UEI with an established Recipient ID ☐ Other relevant attachments may be submitted at the applicant's discretion to support program design, partnerships, or implementation readiness.	

Federal Award Notice

Upon selection for funding, successful applicants will receive notification from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) regarding the status of their application. Notification will be provided via email and may also be communicated through a public posting on the Bureau of Indian Affairs website. A notice of selection does not constitute authorization to begin performance or incur costs under the award. The notification will outline next steps in the award process, including any additional documentation or information required prior to issuance of the award. Following completion of all required reviews, clearances, and approvals, the Bureau of Indian Affairs will issue a formal Notice of Award. Award Letter will be transmitted directly to the recipient and will include the approved Program Narrative, budget, period of performance, and applicable terms and conditions. The Notice of Award is the only authorizing document that permits the recipient to begin performance under the award. No work may begin, and no funds may be obligated or expended, prior to the start date of the period of performance as specified in the Notice of Award. Recipients are not authorized to incur pre-award costs, and any costs incurred prior to the issuance of the Notice of Award and the start of

the period of performance will not be reimbursed. All terms and conditions outlined in the Notice of Award become binding upon acceptance of the award by the recipient.

Award Administration Information

Recipients must comply with all applicable Federal requirements, including 2 CFR Part 200, Single Audit requirements where applicable, and Federal lobbying restrictions. Failure to comply with program requirements may result in corrective action, withholding of funds, or termination of the award. Recipients must comply with Single Audit requirements under 2 CFR Part 200 Subpart F if applicable. Federal funds may not be used for lobbying activities in accordance with 31 U.S.C. §1352 and 43 CFR Part 18. Applicants must certify compliance and submit required disclosures if applicable. Failure to comply with Federal requirements may result in remedies in accordance with 2 CFR 200.339, including suspension, termination, or debarment.

Reporting and Compliance

Financial Reports

All recipients must use the SF-425, Federal Financial Report (FFR) form for financial reporting. At a minimum, all recipients must submit a final financial report. Final reports are due no later than 120 calendar days after the award period of performance end date or termination date. DWD will describe all financial reporting requirements in the Notice of Award.

The recipient must deliver all products and data required by the Notice of Award for the proposed IGNITE grant pilot program to DWD within 30 days of the end of each 6-month period, and 120 days after completion of the project. The reporting periods will be established in the terms and conditions of the Notice of Award.

Performance Reports

Performance reports must contain a comparison of actual accomplishments with the established goals and objectives of the award; a description of reasons why established goals were not met, if appropriate; and any other pertinent information relevant to the project results. Final reports are due no later than 90 calendar days after the award period of performance end date or termination date. Under Public Law 102-477, tribes can combine IGNITE funds with other federal employment and training grants as authorized by the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act of 1992. All P.L. 102-477 programs must comply with JPT regulations. The recipient must deliver all report data required by the Notice of Award for the proposed IGNITE grant pilot program 90 days after completion of the project. The reporting periods will be established in the terms and conditions of the Notice of Award. The recipient should report on every aspect of the grant, particularly as it applies to the objectives, milestones and timelines. Additional items to consider, but not limited to; challenges and set-backs; successes and achievements; FTEs; budget issues; best practices; established relationship collaboration grown; new collaborations; etc.

The Annual/Final performance report must include:

No later than 90 days following the end of the period of performance, the awardee must submit a report describing the accomplishments the awardee provided under the IGNITE efforts during the preceding year. Reporting must include a detailed breakdown of the training opportunities and the job placement efforts for the year covered by the report: The number of tribal participants who are receiving training and the types of training provided which increased opportunities because of IGNITE efforts; The number of tribal participants who completed training and who were connected to prospective jobs, Number of jobs created or maintained which were increased because of IGNITE; job placement or apprenticeship outcomes, and how many participants obtained industry-recognized credentials or certifications and Any other information the Secretary may require evaluating the effectiveness of the IGNITE efforts.

Past Performance and Non-Compliance with Award Provisions

Unsatisfactory performance under prior Federal awards may result in an application not being considered for funding. Failure to comply with any or all provisions of an award may have a negative impact on future funding by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and may be considered grounds for enforcement actions. These actions may include, but are not limited to, establishing an account receivable, withholding payments under any Bureau of Indian Affairs award, changing the method of payment from advance to reimbursement, imposing additional award conditions, suspending active awards, or terminating active awards in accordance with 2 CFR Part 200.

Significant Development Reporting

Recipients are required to notify the Bureau of Indian Affairs in writing of any significant developments that may impact the ability to meet program objectives. This includes any problems, delays, or adverse conditions that materially affect performance, as well as any favorable developments that enable the project to be completed ahead of schedule, at reduced cost, or with improved outcomes. Notifications must include a description of the issue or development, any corrective actions taken or planned, and any assistance needed.

Past Performance and Non-Compliance with Award Provisions

Unsatisfactory performance under prior Federal awards may result in an application not being considered for funding. Failure to comply with any or all of the provisions of an award may have a negative impact on future funding by the BIA, and may be considered grounds for any or all of the following actions: (1) establishing an account receivable; (2) withholding payments to the recipient under any BIA award(s); (3) changing the method of payment from advance to reimbursement only; (4) imposing other specific award conditions; (5) suspending any active BIA award(s); and (6) terminating any active BIA award(s).

Conflict of Interest Disclosures

Recipients must disclose in writing any actual or potential conflicts of interest that arise during the life of the award, including those identified by subrecipients or contractors. Recipients must also

disclose any relationships between project personnel and Federal employees involved in the administration or oversight of the program. All disclosures will be reviewed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and appropriate actions will be taken to resolve any identified conflicts. Failure to disclose conflicts of interest or to adequately resolve them may result in enforcement actions, including termination of the award.

Other Mandatory Disclosures

Recipients and applicants must disclose, in a timely manner and in writing, any violations of Federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations that may affect the Federal award. Recipients must also comply with all reporting requirements related to recipient integrity and performance, including those outlined in 2 CFR Part 200, Appendix XII. Failure to make required disclosures may result in enforcement actions, including suspension, termination, or debarment.

Program Oversight and Use of Funds

The Bureau of Indian Affairs will monitor recipient performance and use of funds to ensure compliance with program requirements and alignment with approved activities. Recipients are responsible for ensuring that all Federal funds are used for allowable, allocable, and reasonable costs in accordance with 2 CFR Part 200. Program oversight will focus on both financial accountability and performance outcomes. Recipients must ensure that program activities align with the approved Statement of Work and that any changes are approved in advance by the Bureau.

Payments

The Bureau of Indian Affairs' obligation under this funding opportunity is contingent upon the availability of congressionally appropriated funds. No liability on the part of the United States Government for any payment may arise until funds are made available to the awarding official and the recipient has received written notice of such availability through the Notice of Award. Recipients may not draw down or expend funds prior to the start of the approved period of performance as specified in the Notice of Award. All funds must be used solely for allowable, allocable, and reasonable costs directly related to the approved project. Funding provided under this award may not supplant or duplicate existing Federal funding for the same activities. Recipients are responsible for ensuring that all funds are used in compliance with applicable Federal laws, regulations, and the terms and award conditions.

Specific instructions regarding payment requests, documentation requirements, and submission procedures will be provided in the Notice of Award.

Agency Contact Information

Rebekah HorseChief

Division of Workforce Development

Bureau of Indian Affairs

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