

## **Tribal Education Capacity Building Grant Program 2025 Request for Applications**

The Bonneville Power Administration, headquartered in Portland, Oregon, is a nonprofit federal power marketer that sells wholesale electricity from 31 federal dams and one nuclear plant to 143 electric utilities, serving millions of consumers and businesses in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, western Montana and parts of California, Nevada, Utah and Wyoming. BPA delivers power via more than 15,000 circuit miles of lines and 260 substations to 511 transmission customers. In all, BPA markets about a third of the electricity consumed in the Northwest and operates three-quarters of the region's high-voltage transmission grid. BPA also funds one of the largest fish and wildlife programs in the world, and with its partners pursues cost-effective energy savings and operational solutions that help maintain affordable, reliable and carbon-free electric power for the Northwest. More information about BPA can be found at [www.bpa.gov](http://www.bpa.gov).

### **Program Goals and Objectives**

The Bonneville Power Administration's Tribal Education Capacity Building Grant program provides funding assistance to federally recognized tribes and tribal serving organizations to advance awareness and understanding of the federal Columbia River Power and Transmission system and BPA programs.

BPA is requesting proposals that support tribal education programs in science, technology, engineering, math (STEM), and natural and cultural resource management. Proposals should be designed to strengthen the capacity of tribes, support government-to-government relationships, and increase opportunities for education about the operation of the Federal Columbia River Power System, Federal Columbia River Transmission System or integrated Fish and Wildlife Program.

Projects should include how the project will advance participants awareness and understanding of electrical generation and transmission, energy efficiency, hydropower, environmental stewardship of the Columbia River Basin habitat and ecosystems, and cultural resource management.

Individual grants awarded will not exceed \$25,000.

### **Eligibility Criteria**

- Application must be submitted by a federally recognized tribe or tribal serving organization within the Bonneville Power Administration service territory.
- Tribal serving organizations that will be considered include:
  - 501 (c) 3 non-profit organizations whose board of directors consists of at least 50% tribal members (see section 1. A) in application packet); or
  - 501 (c) 3 non-profit organizations that can demonstrate 3 years of activities serving tribal youth (see section 1. A) in application packet);

- Established organizations that are not 501 (c) 3 must prove at least 5 years serving the tribal community (see section 1. A) in application packet)

Applications must demonstrate how the grant will be used for STEM/natural and cultural resources educational purposes related to a BPA program area (such as transmission, energy efficiency, fish and wildlife, hydropower, and other programs related to environmental stewardship of the Columbia River Basin habitat and ecosystems) in the BPA service territory and be of service to tribal communities (federally and non-federally recognized tribes, and tribal descendants).

- Proposed project must be implemented between **June 1, 2025 and September 30, 2025**.
- Tribes and tribal serving organizations may submit more than one application, however, if multiple applications are ranked for selection, only the application with the higher score will be considered.
- Applications will be excluded from consideration if found to be debarred, suspended or otherwise ineligible to receive federal funding.

### **Instructions to Applicants**

Complete the Tribal Education Capacity Building Grant Application and submit to BPA Tribal Affairs at [tribalaffairs@bpa.gov](mailto:tribalaffairs@bpa.gov) by **December 16, 2024**. Please ensure your application is complete prior to submission.

### **Applicants must include the following information in the application template:**

- Contact information
- Grant title
- Program description
  - Include how the program supports tribal education programs in science, technology, engineering, math, or natural and cultural resource management.
- Goals and objectives
- Schedule/timeline
  - Estimated start and completion dates. Project must take place between June 1 – September 30, 2025.
- Describe how the proposed project will educate participants about the Federal Columbia River Power and Transmission System and the mission/programs of the Bonneville Power Administration.
- Statement of need
  - Why proposed project is needed and how requested funding is beneficial.
- Total participants served and how project intends to target tribal community for participation
- Cost share description (if applicable – not required)
- Total project budget (see Excel budget template)
  - Amount of BPA assistance being requested
  - Provide itemized budget detail to include cost descriptions (i.e. line-item description with quantity and cost or hourly rate, number of hours, etc. Travel costs should be

broken down to meet federal travel guidelines – breakdown the number of miles, hotel and per diem costs at the federal rate: <https://www.gsa.gov/travel-resources>

- Amounts, descriptions and sources of other contributions/cost share
- If including federal indirect rate to applicable costs, include a copy of the current agreement
- Copy of approved federal indirect rate (if including to applicable costs)
- Copy of most recent Single Audit (unless tribe's federal expenditures are less than \$750k per year)

Unless publicly available or required to be made available under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), information submitted by applicant will be used for evaluation only and will not be disclosed outside of BPA without the applicant's approval.

### **Proposal Evaluation**

Applications will be evaluated by an internal BPA selection committee. The selection committee is comprised of BPA subject matter experts and does not include Tribal Affairs staff. Grant applications will be selected based on the evaluation criteria below.

### **Terms and Conditions of Award**

BPA may fund all or part of a proposed project. Because this is a grant, grantees may request a 90-day advance payment by submitting Standard Form 270 to the Tribal Affairs Contracting Officers Representative (COR) after award.

Award recipients are required to file a progress report halfway through the project and a statement of completion at the end of the performance period. Grants are awarded on annual basis and do not provide ongoing program funding. Funding cannot be extended.

Recipients are required to acknowledge BPA as appropriate in public materials such as press releases, web sites, handouts, signage, etc. Recipients are required to work in coordination with BPA Tribal and Public Affairs staff to highlight their project via newspaper articles, video clips or other media.

### **Evaluation Criteria**

Applications will be evaluated on each of the following criteria and rated on a scale of 1-5.

- **Criteria 1:** Application clearly explains the project goals and objectives.
- **Criteria 2:** Application provides a clear and reasonable approach to accomplish the project within the performance period.
- **Criteria 3:** The proposed activity is clearly linked to STEM education and/or education fields related to BPA programs.
- **Criteria 4:** Application clearly describes how the proposed project will educate participants about the Federal Columbia River Power and Transmission System, and the mission/programs of the Bonneville Power Administration.

- **Criteria 5:** Provides clear statement of need including how the requested funding is beneficial.
- **Criteria 6:** The application clearly provides budget details on how funds will be effectively used to serve program participants and meet program objectives.

#### **Deliverables (Submitted no later than 30 days after the end of performance period)**

- Final report
  - A written report on grant activities completed.
  - Description of how the project educated participants about the mission the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA Tribal Affairs staff may be available to participate in program if requested).
  - If applicable, copy of any publicity on the project (e.g., tribal newspaper article, video, etc.)
- A final federal financial report shall be submitted at the completion of the award agreement. Financial accounting should be consistent with the approved budget.
- Complete a Federal Financial Report form (SF 425).
- Photos with captions of program activities and quotes from program participants/program manager about the benefits of the program. **Send to your BPA Contract Officer Representative by October 30, 2025.**

#### **Schedule and Point of Contact**

- Applications will be accepted until **December 16, 2024**. Please contact Tribal Affairs at (503) 230-7685 for questions. Send completed applications to [tribalaffairs@bpa.gov](mailto:tribalaffairs@bpa.gov).
- Grantees that are recommended for funding by the selection committee will be contacted by **February 21, 2025**.
- Grantees will then be contacted by the Contracting Officer Representative to discuss the application, invoicing procedures and coordinate any details needed prior to funding.
- Tribal Affairs anticipates funding between 4-6 grant applications.
- Project implementation must take place **June 1, 2025 - September 30, 2025**. Work must be completed by **September 30, 2025** – due to the end of the fiscal year, funding and performance periods **cannot** be extended.
- Grantees will have 30 days after the end of the performance period to submit a final report.

#### **BPA's Financial Assistance Terms and Conditions**

To view BPA's financial assistance terms and conditions, please visit our website at <https://www.bpa.gov/Doing%20Business/finassist/Pages/default.aspx> and select the "BFAI 17-1 - Full Text of Parts 1-8 and Appendices."