

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Notice of Funding Opportunity

NATIVE Act Tribal Tourism Cooperative Agreement

Funding Opportunity Number

BIA-NATIVEACT-2026-OIED

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BASIC INFORMATION

Announcement Type: Initial

Funding Opportunity Number: BIA-NATIVEACT-2026-OIED

Assistance Listing Number(s): 15.032

Estimated Total Program Funding: \$1,500,000

Expected Number of Awards: 1

Award Ceiling: \$1,500,000

Award Floor: \$1,500,000

Cost Sharing Required?

No

Closing Date Explanation

Electronically submitted applications must be submitted no later than 11:59 PM, ET, on the listed application due date.

Have Questions?

Programmatic Assistance: Mr. Dennis Wilson, Grant Management Specialist, Office of Indian Economic Development, telephone: (505) 917-3235; email: dennis.wilson@bia.gov and DEDDGrants@bia.gov

Application Process Assistance: Ms. Jo Ann Metcalfe, Grant Officer, telephone (410) 703-3390; email jo.metcalfe@bia.gov.

Executive Summary

The NATIVE Act cooperative agreement will support Tribal Tourism Grant Program (TTGP) and Office of Native Hawaiian Relations (ONHR) applicants, which is comprised of Tribes, Tribal organizations, and Native Hawaiian organizations, by identifying technical assistance needs and delivering targeted capacity-building support to expand cultural heritage tourism and increase visitation. The selected recipient will provide tools, strategies, and expertise to enhance and grow tourism activities and destinations, while facilitating coordination between the Department of the Interior and the Department of Commerce in planning and implementation.

The NATIVE Act requires identification of a means for delivering and coordinating Federal technical assistance and resources for cultural heritage tourism in collaboration with Federal partners, including the Secretary of the Interior, Secretary of Commerce and other Federal agencies and entities with tourism expertise. The NATIVE Act provides authority so the “Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce, shall enter into a memorandum of understanding or cooperative agreement with an entity or organization with a demonstrated record in tribal communities of defining, introducing, developing, and sustaining American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian tourism and related activities in a manner that respects and honors native traditions and values.”

Native Hawaiian organization means a nonprofit organization: (A) that serves the interests of Native Hawaiians; (B) in which Native Hawaiians serve in substantive and policymaking positions, and; (C) that are recognized for having expertise in Native Hawaiian culture and heritage, including tourism.

Awards are made for an initial one-year budget period and may receive continuation funding for up to four additional one-year budget periods, for a total period of performance not to exceed five years. Continuation funding is contingent upon satisfactory performance, the availability of funds, and agency priorities.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible Applicants

Public and State controlled institutions of higher education

Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized)

Native American tribal organizations (other than Federally recognized tribal governments)

Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS other than institutions of higher education

Nonprofits that do not have a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS other than institutions of higher education

Additional Information on Eligibility

Eligibility is limited to: 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; Tribal Colleges or Universities qualifying under [25 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.](#), [25 U.S.C. 640a note](#), and section [532 of 7 U.S.C. 301 note](#); Institute of higher education in any State admitting students as per [20 U.S.C. 1091\(d\)](#); Private institutions of higher education; and Nonprofits.

Cost Sharing Requirement

Cost Sharing Required?

No

GET READY TO APPLY

Required System Registrations

Unique Entity Identifier and SAM.gov Registration

Before applying, all **applicants** except individuals applying as a natural person **must be registered in SAM.gov**. During the SAM.gov registration the entity will obtain their Unique Entity Identifier (UEI).

The SAM.gov registration process can take several months. If your organization is not already registered in SAM.gov, begin the registration process as soon as possible.

To register in SAM.gov, go to the [SAM.gov website](#) and use the available resources to complete registration.

- **Financial assistance registrants** must review and certify compliance with the SAM.gov “Financial Assistance General Representations and Certifications”.
- **Already registered?** You already have a Unique Entity ID. Before applying, check that your “Financial Assistance General Representations and Certifications” on SAM.gov is

complete. Remember to renew your registration every year to keep it active while you have an award or application in progress. You can update your registration whenever you need, including during renewal.

- **Need help?** For additional information and contact information on the [SAM.gov Help page](#).

A Federal award may not be made to an applicant that has not completed the SAM.gov registration. If an applicant selected for funding has not completed their SAM.gov registration by the time the program is ready to make an award, the program may determine the applicant is not qualified to receive an award. Federal award recipients must also continue to maintain an active SAM.gov registration with current information through the life of their Federal award(s).

GRANTS.GOV

This program accepts applications through [Grants.gov](#) so once you receive your UEI return to Grants.gov to [register](#) with Grants.gov. Please allow 30 days to register and set up a Workspace in Grants.gov. See [Submission Instructions](#) section below for additional details.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Program Goals

The NATIVE Act cooperative agreement will support Tribal Tourism Grant Program (TTGP) and Office of Native Hawaiian Relations (ONHR) applicants, which is comprised of Tribes, Tribal organizations, and Native Hawaiian organizations, by identifying technical assistance needs and delivering targeted capacity-building support to expand cultural heritage tourism and increase visitation. The selected recipient will provide tools, strategies, and expertise to enhance and grow tourism activities and destinations, while facilitating coordination between the Department of the Interior and the Department of Commerce in planning and implementation.

Program Description

It is very important to thoroughly review the Full Announcement to fully understand how to apply for this opportunity.

Recipients are encouraged to prioritize projects in support of the celebration of America's 250th birthday (American250). This may include, but is not limited to, preservation 2 planning, interpretation, public engagement, and rehabilitation projects that recognize and honor the nation's founding, history, and cultural heritage.

Background & Summary

The DOI, Office of the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs, through the Office of Indian Economic Development (OIED), solicits proposals from eligible entities (see [Eligibility](#)) to support the implementation of the NATIVE Act.

The purpose of the NATIVE Act is to support Tribes, Tribal organizations, and Native Hawaiian organizations in building capacity to expand cultural heritage tourism opportunities on Tribal lands and in Hawai'i. The recipient will carry out a cooperative agreement as identified in the NATIVE Act with the OIED through their Division of Economic Development (DED). A cooperative agreement means that the recipient will work in collaboration with the DED and other entities and

organizations with subject matter expertise, as deemed appropriate and necessary by the DED to carry out three broad categories of activities:

1. Identify where technical assistance is needed through consultation with TTGP and ONHR awardees and non-awardees to empower them to participate fully in the tourism industry; and
2. Identify a means for the delivery of Federal and other technical assistance and facilitate the delivery of assistance to TTGP/ONHR awardees and non-awardees in collaboration with the DED, Federal agencies, and other entities with subject matter expertise as appropriate.
3. Support Federal coordination by serving as the facilitator between the Secretary of the Interior, Secretary of Commerce, Federal agencies, Tribes, Tribal organizations, and Native Hawaiian organizations in the development and implementation of plans to advance Tribal and Native Hawaiian Community tourism pursuant to the NATIVE Act.

The awardee of this cooperative agreement will provide targeted technical assistance to Tribes, Tribal organizations, and Native Hawaiian organizations who applied for grants awarded through OIED's Tribal Tourism Grant Program (TTGP) and the Secretary's Office of Native Hawaiian Relations (ONHR) NATIVE Act grant programs. The awardee will provide technical assistance to applicants to assist them in meeting the goals, objectives, and milestones of their respective grant programs.

TTGP

The TTGP is a competitive discretionary grant program that supports the NATIVE Act (25 U.S.C. 4354(b)) by expanding tourism visibility and driving increased visitation to Tribal destinations. The DED will provide grant awards to competitively selected eligible entities to facilitate, promote, and enhance tourism offerings. These efforts strengthen destination positioning, drive visitation, and support Tribal participation in the tourism industry, contributing to sustainable economic growth and community benefits.

ONHR's NATIVE Act Grants

ONHR's NATIVE Act grants are implemented through their Heritage Opportunities in Hawaii Grant Program (HOIHI), which is rooted in the Hawaiian value of hoihi – to treat with reverence and respect. Through this ethic, visitors are welcomed not merely as tourists, but as guests who share in the kuleana (responsibility) to care for Hawaii's natural resources and sacred sites. In advancing this model of culturally grounded tourism, HOIHI seeks to strengthen Native Hawaiian organizations' capacity to steward and share traditional knowledge in ways that protect existing wahi pana (beloved and sacred sites), while simultaneously creating jobs, elevating living standards, and expanding economic opportunity.

The scope of services requires one Hawai'i-based staff to provide in-person technical assistance to awardees/non-awardees in Hawai'i throughout the award period. Other staff should be located in the contiguous United States and/or Alaska based on the recipient's location.

Application Proposal Parameters

The awardee will serve as the facilitator between the Secretary of the Interior, Secretary of Commerce, Federal agencies, Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and Native Hawaiian organizations. The awardee, through a cooperative agreement, will continue to build, enhance and expand Federal

tribal tourism inclusive of technical assistance, assets, and other potential resources needed to empower the Tribes and organizations who applied for TTGP and ONHR funding to participate fully in the tourism industry. In addition, the recipient of this award will support the Federal government-to-government relationships with Tribal governments.

The following sections on project proposal structure and parameters are suggested to be used as a guide toward supporting a project that can be competitively ranked. Each Applicant should be well acquainted with the NATIVE Act to submit a proposal with a Project Narrative which addresses the parameters in this section as well as those in [Application Documents](#). Each proposal must address the following program needs, while having the freedom to provide for their own flexibility and methods. The application should show quality and be very clear in describing the program design:

1. Organizational Capacity, Experience & Project Approach

The proposal must demonstrate the applicant's capacity to successfully implement the cooperative agreement, including experience working with Tribal communities, understanding of Federal funding requirements, and the ability to manage complex, multi-entity projects. The applicant should describe prior experience in Tribal tourism, economic development, or related fields in a manner that respects and reflects Tribal values and cultural considerations. The proposal should also demonstrate experience coordinating across Federal agencies, organizations, or partners, as well as familiarity with Federal grant management requirements, including work planning, budgeting, reporting, and compliance.

The overall project approach must be clearly defined and should demonstrate how needs assessment, technical assistance delivery, Federal coordination, and reporting will function together as a cohesive system. The proposal should present a feasible and well-aligned model that connects staffing, partnerships, and activities to the scope and scale of the project.

2. Needs Assessment, Technical Assistance Delivery & Service Model

The proposal must define a structured and actionable approach to identifying needs and delivering technical assistance to TTGP and ONHR awardees and non-awardees. Although awardees will receive priority in the allocation of resources, applicants are expected to use reasonable discretion when planning support for non-awardee entities. Applicants should describe how consultations and needs assessments will be conducted to identify strengths, gaps, and opportunities across participating entities, and how this information will inform the delivery of services.

The proposal should demonstrate a logical progression from consultation and needs identification to technical assistance delivery and follow-up support. The technical assistance model must be clearly defined, including the type, frequency, and intensity of services, such as one-on-one consulting, in-person support, virtual engagement, or cohort-based learning. The approach should describe how services will be tailored to individual community needs while maintaining the ability to operate at a national scale.

Applicants must demonstrate that the proposed level of effort, staffing structure, and service delivery approach are sufficient to support approximately 60 entities within the period of performance. Technical assistance must focus on strategy, planning, capacity building, and problem-solving, and must complement, and not duplicate, existing TTGP or ONHR-funded projects or other Federal programs.

Applicants must clearly distinguish technical assistance from direct implementation. Allowable activities include advising, coaching, strategic planning, and the development of tools or resources. Proposals should not include the direct operation or implementation of tourism programs, services, or activities that are the responsibility of individual awardees or funded projects.

3. Communication, Federal Coordination & Knowledge Sharing

The proposal must demonstrate how the applicant will facilitate communication, coordination, and information sharing among Federal agencies, Tribal Nations, and participating entities. Applicants should describe how they will support coordination between the Department of the Interior, the Department of Commerce, and other relevant entities, and how these efforts will improve alignment of resources, reduce fragmentation, and strengthen tourism development outcomes.

The proposal should identify anticipated coordination activities, including meetings, planning processes, communication structures, and reporting mechanisms. The applicant should also describe how consistent communication will be maintained with OIED and participating entities throughout the period of performance.

All partnership opportunities should be considered and any planned implementation of sub-awards and partnerships with subject matter experts or consultants (i.e. Universities and colleges, private consulting firms, non-academic non-profit entities) should be identified.

In addition, the proposal must explain how technical assistance activities, outcomes, and lessons learned will be documented and shared. This includes providing reports on consultations and technical assistance delivery, identifying replicable models and success stories, and offering recommendations for program improvement. The applicant should demonstrate the ability to contribute to required semi-annual reporting and to support annual reporting to Congress.

4. Deliverables, Performance Measurement & Financial Management

The proposal must include clearly defined deliverables, timelines, performance measures, and budget justification aligned with the objectives of the cooperative agreement. Applicants should identify specific deliverables and demonstrate how they are achievable within the period of performance, as well as how they directly relate to the proposed activities.

The proposal should describe how progress, outcomes, and metrics will be tracked using quantitative and qualitative methods. Performance indicators should address metrics defined in the [Reporting](#) section. While performance measures will continue to be refined in coordination with OIED and ONHR, applicants must demonstrate a clear and thoughtful approach to measuring success.

Applicants should also describe how technical assistance services will be distributed across TTGP and ONHR awardees and non-awardees, including any prioritization or tiered service approach. The proposal should explain how geographic considerations will be addressed, including the balance of in-person and virtual service delivery and required support in Hawai‘i.

The budget must clearly demonstrate how requested funds support technical assistance delivery, coordination activities, and project outcomes. Costs must be reasonable, necessary, and aligned with the proposed level of effort. Applicants must demonstrate strong financial management systems, internal controls, and the ability to manage Federal funds in accordance with 2 CFR 200. The

proposal must also ensure that there is no duplication of costs, activities, or personnel effort across funding sources.

Applicant Procurement Procedures

The applicant is subject to the procurement standards under [2 CFR 200.318 through 200.326](#). In accordance with §200.318, an applicant must use its own documented procurement procedures which reflect their organizational laws and regulations, provided the procurements conform to applicable Federal law and standards identified in Part 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations. All awardees are subject to audit reviews once selected.

Legislative Authority

[Native American Tourism and Improving Visitor Experience Act of 2016 \(Public Law 114-221\)](#) (NATIVE Act) (25 U.S.C. 4354(b)), and the Commerce, Justice, Science; Energy and Water Development; and Interior and Environment Appropriations Act [P.L. 117-74, 2026](#).

Type of Award

Projects will be funded through CA (Cooperative Agreement)

PREPARE YOUR APPLICATION

Application Content and Format

Application Documents

Applicants must submit the following forms with their application as specified below. Instructions for accessing and submitting application forms are provided in the [Submission Instructions](#) section of this document below. For instructions on completing form fields, see the form instructions on the [Grants.gov Forms Repository](#). Any information in the possession of the BIA or submitted to the BIA throughout the process, including final work product, constitutes government records and may be subject to disclosure to third parties under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. 552, and the Department of the Interior's FOIA regulations at 43 CFR part 2, unless a FOIA exemption or exception applies, or other provisions of law protect the information.

Prior to applying, applicants should review presidential actions found at:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/> and DOI Secretary's Orders found at:

<https://www.doi.gov/document-library/secretary-order>. By applying in response to this NOFO, the applicant certifies awareness and compliance with all currently effective and applicable executive orders and secretary's orders, including but not limited to the Executive Order titled Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing as well as the Executive Order and Secretary's order titled Restoring Truth and Sanity to American History. Applicants are responsible for ensuring their proposed activities are consistent with the intent and requirements of these directives.

Forms/Assurances/Certifications	Submission Requirement
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SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance Note: For applicants requesting more than \$100,000 in Federal funds, the Authorized Representative's signature (or electronic equivalent) on the Application for Federal Assistance form also represents their certification of the statements in Appendix A to 43 CFR 18-Certification Regarding Lobbying	Required from all applicants
SF-424A, Budget Information – Non-Construction Programs	Required for non-construction projects
SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities	Required if requesting more than \$100,000 in Federal funds <u>and</u> the applicant has used or plans to use funds other than Federal appropriated funds for lobbying related to the proposed project.
Project Abstract Summary (OMB 4040-0019). Must include, in plain language: • Award purpose, • Activities to be performed, • Expected deliverables or outcomes, • Intended beneficiaries, Subrecipient activities (if known or specified at time of award)	Required from all applicants

1. SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance [V4.0]

Applicants must submit the appropriate Standard Form (SF)-424, Application for Federal Assistance. The form should cover the entire funding of the initial 12-month period of performance. The required application forms are available with this announcement on Grants.gov. Please indicate the Legal Name of the organization that will be consistent in other federal programs for all correspondences. For federally recognized Tribes, please utilize the name as listed in the Federal Register Notice 91 FR 1402 01/30/2026 for Indian Entities Recognized by and Eligible To Receive Services From the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The programmatic point of contact should be provided as the individual to contact pertaining to all matters of the application. The Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number indicated must match what is registered as a vendor in SAM and must be current. Identify the County and the Congressional Districts in the fields provided. The Authorized Representative should be the Tribal Leader or their official designee. The SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance must be complete, signed, and dated. Do not include any proprietary or personally identifiable information. Please note: Enter only the entire amount for the initial 12-month period of performance requested from this Federal program in the "Federal" funding box on the SF-424 Application form. All matching funds will be indicated in the "Applicant" field. Include any other Federal sources of funding in the "Other" box and provide details on those Federal source(s) and funding amount(s) in the required Budget Narrative (see SF-424A, Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs section below).

The SF-424 [V4.0] form requires the County as well as the Congressional District number of the

applicant, which can be found at <https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>.

2. SF-424A, Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs

Reference Section 1. SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance [V4.0] and Section 4. Budget Narrative and Line-Item Budget, to correlate the Object Class Categories and Totals that will be expanded and justified in this section. The form should cover the entire funding of the initial 12-month period of performance. Applicants must submit the SF-424A “Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs” form. Federal award recipients and subrecipients are subject to Federal award cost principles at 2 CFR 200.

Complete the SF-424A for the initial 12-month term. Complete Section A – Budget Summary (page 1) columns (e) and (f) for the Federal amount requested and the non-Federal matching contribution, totaled in column (g). Complete Section B – Budget Categories (page 3) in column (1) for the first year for the appropriate rows, as applicable, totaled in the Total (5) column and Totals (k.) row.

The budget must identify the amount of grant funding requested and a comprehensive and itemized breakdown of all projected and anticipated expenditures, including contracted personnel fees, consulting fees (hourly or fixed), travel costs, data collection and analysis costs, computer rentals, report generation, drafting, advertising costs for a proposed project and other relevant project expenses, and their subcomponents.

- Travel costs should be itemized by airfare, vehicle rental, lodging, and per diem, etc., based on the current Federal government per diem schedule. See below Required Grantee Travel and Attendance at an Annual Grantee Meeting.
- Data collection and analysis costs should be itemized in sufficient detail for the OIED review committee to evaluate the charges.
- While the funding is designed to help provide technical assistance, it is not intended to establish or operate an Office (see Section D6. Funding Restrictions).
- Personnel may be charged directly or covered indirectly. Do not include the personnel costs or travel of consultants or contractors under this category. For any position, provide: the name of the individual (if known), their title; time commitment to the project in months; time commitment to the project as a percentage or FTE equivalent; annual salary; grant salary; wage rates; etc. Identify the project director or principal investigator, if known at the time of application. Costs of employee fringe benefits are the allowances and services provided by employers to their employees in addition to regular salaries and wages. Typically, fringe benefit amounts are determined by applying a calculated rate for a particular class of employee (full-time or part-time) to the salary and wages requested. Fringe benefits, like salary, will also be as direct cost (Health insurance, Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) taxes, retirement, taxes, etc.)
- Other expenses may include computer rental, report generation, drafting, and advertising costs for a proposed project.

3. Project Abstract Summary and Project Narrative

Provide a one-page summary of the project description. Do not cross-reference to other parts of your application. The summary must include:

- At the top, the project title, applicant name, address, phone numbers, email addresses, and any website URL.

- A brief description of the project, including the tourism capacity needs you will address and your proposed activities to support NATIVE Act grant applicants in developing tourism to increase tourism visitation and assist applicants in meeting the goals, objectives, and milestones of their respective grant programs.

Project Narratives are not judged based on their length. Please do not submit any attachments or documents beyond what is necessary. All information should follow the requirements as outlined in the [Program Description](#). The Project Narrative and subsequent Statement of Work may be revised, as needed, to align with OIED direction, administrative priorities, and identified programmatic needs. In the event additional funding periods are approved, the Statement of Work may also be updated to address evolving challenges, priorities, and technical assistance needs associated with the Cooperative Agreement.

The Project Narrative should not be duplicated elsewhere in the application. Supplemental information such as letters of support, graphs, charts, maps, photographs and other graphic and/or other relevant information may be included as attachments. At a minimum, it should include:

- A detailed technical description of the project as structured in the [Program Description](#).
- A description of the project objectives, milestones, timelines, and a work plan that will correlate to the technical description of the project.
 - The awardee must not duplicate, overlap or replace activities funded through a TTGP grant awardee, or any other federally funded award.
 - Technical assistance for a TTGP grant awardee must be complementary, and distinct from, the TTGP grant awardee's approved activities.
 - The application narrative proposal will show priority of assistance to the TTGP and ONHR awardees. However, there should be reasonable discretion in the planned support to the TTGP and ONHR non-awardee entities.
- All planning and development must be justified and commensurate with the needs of the program. They must be necessary and reasonable to accomplish the program objectives.
- Identify and report on the status of work plan deliverables and measurable milestones in interim reports, including whether they are on track with the timeline.
- Submit annual and final deliverables in the appropriate reporting periods.
- All strategic planning and workforce development, as it collaborates and elevates the program, must be mindful of Federal duplication of efforts, co-mingling of funding resources, double-dipping, or over allocating of FTE resources that can satisfy personnel involvement in other programs without violating the regulation and policy of each entity.
- Applicants must also demonstrate qualifications for key partnerships and of any consultants, as well as those responsible for project management oversight, towards the implementation of project activities. Applicants must describe the role of the partner organization and staff, including relevant expertise and experience, as well as clear roles and responsibilities for project implementation. If formal agreements have not been established at the time of application, the applicant must describe plans to finalize any partnership agreements, including firm commitments and contingency plans for these partners. The resumes of key consultants and personnel to be retained, if available, and the names of subcontractors, if applicable, may be included as an attachment to the application.

- Resume and Qualifications of all identified personnel who would provide project oversight and management must be submitted. These individual(s) may be full-time FTEs brought on specifically for the duration of the project, or be a portion of an FTE allocation. The utilization of various personnel must be demonstrated as necessary and reasonable with compensation that is commensurate to similar industry standards. The responsibilities of those project personnel, with sufficient qualifications to fulfill those responsibilities, must be demonstrated by the Applicant. If new staff members are to be hired, applicants should describe the recruitment and hiring process. Common challenges include, but not limited to, identification and retention of qualified staff, policies and procedures that delay hiring, etc. Applicants must describe accessibility of potential candidates and include contingency plans to describe how the project will progress until vacant positions are filled.

The Awardee must be aware of the metrics the TTGP awardees must provide. Every effort should be made to focus technical assistance to assist, enhance and promote those goals, without overlapping or duplicating:

- **Increase in the number of visitors to Tribal tourism operations**
This indicator measures the extent to which the project contributes to increased visitation at Tribal tourism destinations. Applicants should describe how they will track changes in visitor numbers over the project period and connect those changes to project activities.
- **Demonstrate expansion and promotion of Tribal tourism activities and visibility**
This indicator assesses how the project enhances tourism offerings and increases awareness of Tribal destinations. Applicants should describe how activities such as marketing, programming, or coordination efforts contribute to expanded tourism experiences and improved visibility.
- **Demonstrate economic and community impact, including participation, partnerships, and benefits**
This indicator evaluates the broader impact of the project on the Tribal community and economy. Applicants should describe how the project supports economic activity, strengthens partnerships, and increases participation from community members, businesses, or cultural practitioners.

4. Budget Narrative

Applicants must describe and justify items and costs listed in their budget. The budget narrative must identify the following cost items: total estimated costs, non-Federal cost share, third-party contributions, and any pre-award costs. Total project cost is the sum of all allowable costs, including required and voluntary cost share and third-party contributions.

Budget items must be:

- Reasonable, allowable, allocable, and necessary
- Compliant with [2 CFR §200 Subpart E](#) cost principles

Reference Section [1. SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance \[V4.0\]](#) and Section [2. SF-424A, Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs](#), to correlate Object Class Categories and Totals that will be expanded and justified in this section.

The project budget shall include detailed information on all cost categories and must clearly identify

all estimated project costs. Unit costs shall be provided for all budget items including the cost of work provided by contractors or sub-recipients. Applicants shall include a narrative description of the items included in the project budget. Cost categories can include, but are not limited to, those costs items included on the SF424A.

The Budget Narrative will include additional spreadsheets and narrative formats to help itemize and fully break down the individual budget items. Do not provide any blanket budget estimates that are not supported with documentation, itemized breakdown, and narrative justification. Rounding can be done to the nearest \$100s.

Appropriate summations of various budget sections should be correctly tabulated within each Object Class Category of the SF-424A. The budget should include the mandatory Grantee Meeting attendance budget that is fully itemized to Washington DC per the current GSA standards (See Required Grantee Travel and Attendance at an Annual Grantee Meeting below). Do not provide unsupported travel costs for the Grantee Meeting. Travel by consultants, contractors, etc., should be justified and included in the Travel category if it is paid by the Grantee directly, or added into the Contractor category if they will be reimbursed.

Required Indirect Cost Statement to be submitted with Application

Applicants must indicate in their budget narrative how they will charge indirect costs, including the rate to be applied:

- De Minimis Rate: If eligible, state if your organization is opting to use the de minimis rate of up to 15% of total modified direct costs. Entities that do not have a current Federal negotiated indirect cost rate (including provisional rate) may propose to use the de minimis rate. For more information, refer to [2 CFR 200.414\(f\)](#).
- Negotiated Rate: State if you will negotiate with your cognizant agency. If your organization has previously negotiated a rate, attach a copy of the most recently negotiated rate agreement (active or expired).

The Applicant utilizing IDC must submit a current copy of their signed Indirect Cost Agreement, with all mandatory documents (Budget Narrative, SF-424, SF-424A, etc.) supporting the appropriate application of those negotiated rates. All organizations must include the applicable statement from the following list in their application, and attach to their application any documentation identified in the applicable statement:

We are:

- A U.S. state or local government entity receiving more than \$35 million in direct Federal funding each year with an indirect cost rate of [insert rate]. We submit our indirect cost rate proposals to our cognizant agency. Attached is a copy of our most recently approved rate agreement/certification.
- A U.S. state or local government entity receiving less than \$35 million in direct Federal funding with an indirect cost rate of [insert rate]. We have prepared and will retain for audit an indirect cost rate proposal and related documentation.
- A [insert your organization type; U.S. states and local governments, do not use this statement] that has previously negotiated or currently has an approved indirect cost rate with

our cognizant agency. Our indirect cost rate is [insert rate]. [Insert either: “Attached is a copy of our most recently approved but expired rate agreement. In the event an award is made, we will submit an indirect cost rate proposal to our cognizant agency within 90 calendar days after the award is made.” or “Attached is a copy of our current negotiated indirect cost rate agreement.”]

- A [insert your organization type] that has never submitted an indirect cost rate proposal to our cognizant agency. Our indirect cost rate is [insert rate]. If we receive an award, we will submit an indirect cost rate proposal to our cognizant agency within 90 calendar days after the award date.
- A [insert your organization type] that has never submitted an indirect cost rate proposal to our cognizant agency and has an indirect cost rate that is lower than 15%. Our indirect cost rate is [insert rate; must be lower than 15%]. However, if we receive an award we will not be able to meet the requirement to submit an indirect cost rate proposal to our cognizant agency within 90 calendar days after award. We request as a condition of award to charge a flat indirect cost rate of [insert rate; must be lower than 15%] against [insert a clear description of the direct cost base against which your rate is charged (e.g., salaries; salaries and fringe benefits; or modified total direct costs)]. However, please note that your organization cannot charge indirect costs in excess of the indirect costs that would be recovered if applied against modified total direct costs as defined in [§2 CFR 200.68](#). We understand that we must notify BIA in writing if we establish an approved rate with our cognizant agency at any point during the award period.
- A [insert your organization type] that has never submitted an indirect cost rate proposal to our cognizant agency and has an indirect cost rate that is 15% or higher. Our indirect cost rate is [insert your organization’s indirect rate; must be 15% or higher]. However, if we receive an award we will not be able to meet the requirement to submit an indirect cost rate proposal to our cognizant agency within 90 calendar days after award. We request as a condition of award to charge a flat *de minimis* indirect cost rate of 15% to be charged against modified total direct project costs as defined in [2 CFR §200.68](#). We understand that we must notify BIA in writing if we establish a negotiated rate with our cognizant agency at any point during the award period. We understand that additional Federal funds may not be available to support an unexpected increase in indirect costs during the project period and that such changes are subject to review, negotiation, and prior approval by BIA.
- A [insert your organization type] that is submitting this proposal for consideration under the “Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit Network”, which has a Department of the Interior-approved indirect cost rate cap of 15%. If we have an approved indirect cost rate with our cognizant agency, we understand that we must apply this reduced rate against the same direct cost base as identified in our approved indirect cost rate agreement per [2 CFR §1402.414](#). If we do not have an approved indirect cost rate with our cognizant agency, we understand that we must charge indirect costs against the modified total direct cost base defined in [2 CFR §200.68](#) “Modified Total Direct Cost (MTDC)”. We understand that we must request prior approval from BIA to use the 2 CFR 200 MTDC base instead of the base identified in our approved indirect cost rate agreement. We understand that BIA approval of such a request will be based on: 1) a determination that our approved base is only a subset of the MTDC (such as salaries and wages); and 2) that use of the MTDC base will still result in a reduction of the total indirect costs to be charged to the award. In accordance with [2 CFR §200.405](#), we understand that indirect costs not recovered due to a voluntary reduction to our federally

negotiated rate are not allowable for recovery via any other means.

- A [insert your organization type] that will charge all costs directly.

Limitations

The NATIVE Act funding is to provide technical assistance that has not been previously funded under other federal assistance. The OIED will verify that all sources of federal funding have not overlapped in any way to be considered “double-dipping” ([Subpart E of 2 CFR 200.400](#), and [2 CFR 200.403](#)). All program goals and targets must adhere to the submitted budget, and no portion may be utilized for anything outside of the cooperative agreement objectives.

The funding must be expended in accordance with applicable federal statutory and regulatory requirements, including [2 CFR part 200](#). As part of the application review process, OIED may conduct a review of an applicant's prior OIED award(s). Applicants currently under BIA sanction Level 2 or higher resulting from noncompliance with the Single Audit Act are ineligible for this cooperative agreement. Applicants at Sanction Level 1 will be considered for funding.

Under no circumstances can OIED fund construction or construction related activities.

The OIED funding, once awarded, must stay in alignment with the approved Statement of Work. Due to the nature of this announcement and the facilitation of OIED discretionary grant programs, substantial changes to the SOW will not be allowable. Adjustments, as appropriate and necessary to provide effective technical assistance, will be routinely evaluated.

Only one application will be accepted from an eligible entity. Applications should address one cohesive project and any submissions that contain multiple project proposals will not be considered. OIED will apply the same objective ranking criteria to each proposal. NATIVE Act awards may not be used for:

- Sub-awarding to another Federal agency;
- Establishing or operating a Tribal office or department, nor to openly staff an Office;
- Supplemental employment, including fringe benefits, for current positions not significantly and directly involved in the proposed project (e.g., positions like Executive Directors with little to no described involvement in the proposed work);
- International travel;
- Outside Fees, Legal or Contract Negotiation fees, and application fees associated with permitting that are outside the scope of the grant award;
- Legal fees;
- Application fees associated with permitting;
- Contract negotiation fees;
- Entertainment costs
 - For remote training/conferences locations (where eating establishments are not within a reasonable distance), food costs may be allowable, but should not exceed the GSA meals and incidental costs per attendee for that location, not to exceed \$5,000 for one event, and not more than twice in a calendar year;

- Refreshments for non-remote training/conference locations are allowable for \$5/attendee/day, not to exceed \$1,000 per event;
- All other food costs are disallowed;
- However, travel stipends for training participants are allowed, including costs for meals which must follow the GSA Per Diem rates.
- Projects with core administration functions that essentially support only the applicant's ongoing administrative functions and are not related to the proposed project;
- Travel by staff, contractors, consultants, etc., that is not reasonable or necessary for the project. Additional scrutiny will be placed on repeated travel, blanket travel rounded and not itemized, travel in excess of common GSA rates, and travel that is considered unnecessary to the project.
- Implementation projects of energy, mineral, energy legal infrastructure, broadband related projects, businesses, or technologies that are addressed by the Energy and Mineral Development Program (EMDP) or Tribal Energy Development Capacity (TEDC);
- Projects that require funding for feasibility studies, business plans, marketing plans, or written materials such as manuals that are not an essential part of the applicant's long-range tourism implementation plan;
- Projects that support ongoing social service delivery programs or the expansion, or continuation, of existing social service delivery programs;
- And any other activities not authorized by the grant Notice of Award letter.

5. Attachments [V1.2]

See [Other Required Information](#) for more information. Utilize the “attachments form” to include items that will focus information in the Project Narrative, Budget, and other sections, as applicable.

6. Key Contacts [V2.0]

Applicants must include the Key Contacts information page(s) that includes the individuals who will be responsible for the programmatic, financial, leadership and associated communication roles:

- Please identify the lead Project Point of Contact information of who will oversee the project, including address, email, desk, and cell phone number.
- Please identify the lead Fiscal Point of Contact information including address, email, desk, and cell phone number.
- Please identify individuals for the following roles in the GrantSolutions system that will manage the grant, communicate with the OIED staff, as well as be responsible for reporting:
 - Grantee Administrative Official / Grantee Authorized Representative
 - Grantee Principal Investigator / Program Director
- If there is more than one contact, please provide an additional key contacts form.

Other Required Information

Note: The U.S. Department of the Interior Office of Native Hawaiian Relations is managing NATIVE Act tourism grants to Native Hawaiian Organizations. For additional information on grants for Native Hawaiian Organizations, please visit their webpage at <https://www.doi.gov/hawaiian/grants>, or contact directly at hawaiian@ios.doi.gov.

Conflict of Interest and Unresolved Matters Disclosures:

If any actual or potential conflict of interest exists related to this project at the time of application, the applicant must provide sufficient information to support a program determination of significance per [2 CFR 1402.112](#). Refer to [2 CFR 200.112](#) Conflict of Interest and [2 CFR 200.113](#).

Overlap or Duplication of Effort Statement:

Applicants must state in their application if the activities, costs, or time commitment of key personnel proposed in this application overlap with those in any other Federal proposal or award or not. If no overlap exists, include a statement to that effect. If any overlap exists, provide:

- Activities: Description any overlapping activities.
- Costs: Description of any overlapping costs.
- Time: Description of any overlapping key personnel time.
- A copy of any overlapping or duplicative proposal submitted to any other potential funding entity.
- Details on when any overlapping proposal was submitted, to whom, and the expected date of the funding decision.

Grantee Meeting

The awardee will be required to include in their budgets the costs for two individuals who work directly on the project to attend an in-person annual DOI/OIED grantee meeting, or to convene as a group to a designated conference determined by OIED during the term of the award. Applicants must include an itemized budget for a week duration according to GSA guidelines for Washington, DC. Travel costs must not exceed \$8,000 for those two individuals. Applicants should follow their own travel policies to budget for this meeting, plus travel days, with a complete itemized breakdown of those anticipated costs. While the meeting may be anywhere in the U.S., we will plan on costs per Washington, DC, area. Additional funds for these expenses will not be available once the cooperative agreement is awarded. In the event the meeting is canceled, converted to a virtual meeting, shortened in length or the location changes to a cheaper venue, any additional unused funds may be repurposed into the award.

BIA ASAP Registration

Please make sure an active Automated Standard Application for Payment (ASAP) number is provided. Applicants must have an active enrolled ASAP number with the BIA to be eligible.

GrantSolutions

Please confirm registration in the GrantSolutions system with identified Roles for the Grantee Principal Investigator / Program Director and the Grantee Administrative Official / Grantee Authorized Representative (See [Application Documents Section](#)). You may also assign additional roles or duplicate roles as necessary.

Application Forms

All mandatory forms will be found on [Grants.gov](#). Other necessary system registration forms will be

found at the registration sites (i.e., ASAP, GrantSolutions).

Mandatory Components Checklist

The applicant is responsible for confirming submission of all mandatory and necessary documents, enrollments, and registrations are submitted prior to the announcement close date. All supporting documentation to ensure demonstration of eligibility and a complete application must also be submitted. See [Application Documents Section](#).

Component	Grants.gov Form
Narratives ☐ Project Narrative including Table of Contents ☐ Line-Item Budget and Associated Spreadsheets ☐ Budget Narrative	Use the Project Narrative Attachment Form [V1.2]
Standard forms ☐ Project Abstract Summary [V2.0] ☐ Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424) [V4.0] ☐ Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424A) [V1.0] ☐ Key Contacts [V2.0] ☐ Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL) (if applicable)	Upload using each required form
Attachments ☐ Conflict of Interest Disclosure (if applicable) ☐ Indirect Cost Rate Statement and Agreement ☐ Certification Regarding Lobbying ☐ Overlap or Duplication of Effort Statement ☐ Single Audit Statement ☐ Registration in BIA ASAP with an established Recipient ID ☐ Pre-Registration in GrantSolutions for identification of roles ☐ Other relevant attachments	Insert each in the Other Attachments Form

SUBMISSION REQUIRMENTS AND DEADLINES

Address to Request Application Package

All Applications must be electronically submitted in grants.gov, no physical or electronic submissions will be accepted. All correspondence will be via email or phone at the contacts below.

For Further Information Contact

Mr. Dennis Wilson, Grant Management Specialist, Office of Indian Economic Development, telephone: (505) 917-3235; email: dennis.wilson@bia.gov and DEDGrants@bia.gov.

If you have questions regarding the application process, please contact Ms. Jo Ann Metcalfe, Grant Officer, telephone (410) 703-3390; email jo.metcalfe@bia.gov.

Individuals in the United States who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services. Additional Program information can be found at: <https://www.bia.gov/service/indigenous-tourism>

Questions and Requests for OIED Assistance

Technical consultation from OIED may include clarifying application requirements, confirming whether an applicant previously submitted the same or similar proposal, and registration information for SAM or ASAP. The applicant is solely responsible for the preparation of its grant proposal. The OIED cannot provide application pre-screening nor provide eligibility determination

For **Grants.gov technical registration and submission, downloading forms and application packages**, contact:

Grants.gov Customer Support

1-800-518-4726

Support@grants.gov

Submission Dates and Times

Closing Date for Applications: August 28, 2026

Closing Date Explanation

Electronically submitted applications must be submitted no later than 11:59 PM, ET, on the listed application due date.

Submission Instructions

Apply Through Grants.gov

To apply through [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov), please follow the instructions in the [Quick Start Guide for Applicants](#). Before applying, ensure that at least one person at your organization is registered and has the Authorized Organization Representative (AOR). Only the AOR can submit the application. If you need more users, they must create their own Grants.gov account. Follow these steps below to apply:

- *Create a Workspace:* Creating a workspace allows you to complete it online and route it through your organization for review before submitting.
- *Complete a Workspace:* Invite participants to the workspace so you can collaborate on the application. Required applications forms are included in the Grants.gov Funding Opportunity Package and can be completed in the Workspace, unless noted otherwise in the Required Forms table above. Check for errors before submission.
- *Submit a Workspace:* An application may be submitted through workspace by clicking the Sign and Submit button on the Manage Workspace page, under the Forms tab
- *Track a Workspace Submission:* After successfully submitting a workspace application, a

Grants.gov Tracking Number (GRANTXXXXXXXX) is automatically assigned to the application.

The system generates a date and time stamp and sends it to the applicant's AOR via email as proof of submission. Make sure your application passes the Grants.gov validation checks. Do not encrypt, zip, or password-protect any files. Only registered individuals in SAM as both a user and an AOR can submit applications. Please allow 30 days to register in Grants.gov.

Application System Technical Support: For Grants.gov technical registration and submission, downloading forms, and application packages, contact Grants.gov Customer Support at 1-800-518-4726 or by email at Support@grants.gov.

APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

Eligibility Review

During the eligibility review, the application is checked for timely submission, completed packages (see [Application Documents](#) above) and alignment with the requirements of this announcement. The Federal agency may remove an application if it does not pass the eligibility review.

The OIED follows application review procedures as outlined in [2 CFR 200.204](#). It is important to review the [Program Description](#) and implement those identified parameters in the application project narrative which will constitute the SOW.

Any proposal that is received after the date and time, see [Submission Dates and Times](#) section of this notice, will not be reviewed. Once the announcement is closed, all applications will be reviewed for applicant eligibility and application completion. Reviews will be completed to identify any duplication or overlap with current funded Federal or OIED projects.

If an applicant selected for funding hasn't finished their SAM.gov registration (see [2 CFR 25.200](#) and [2 CFR 25.110](#)) when the federal agency is ready to make an award, we may decide that the applicant is ineligible for the award and choose to grant it to someone else. Please refer [2 CFR 25.205](#) for more information.

Prior to making an award, the DOI checks the anticipated recipient and their key project personnel against the current list of prohibited or restricted persons or entities in the System for Award Management (SAM.gov) Exclusions database. We are prohibited from making an award if a recipient or any key personnel are found ineligible, prohibited, restricted, or otherwise excluded from receiving or participating in an award, as their ineligibility condition applies to this program.

Ineligible and Incomplete Applications

Applicants that do not satisfy the definition of eligibility will be considered ineligible for NATIVE Act funding and the application will not be reviewed. See [Eligibility](#).

Eligible applicants that do not submit a complete application (see [Application Documents](#)) will be considered incomplete for NATIVE Act funding and the application will not be reviewed.

Please ensure that all forms, sections, mandatory components and supporting documentation as listed in this announcement are completed and submitted in grants.gov. This cooperative agreement will be funded under a non-recurring appropriation of the BIA budget. The funding periods and amounts referenced in this announcement are subject to the availability of funds at the time of award, as well as the DOI and Indian Affairs priorities at the time of the award. Neither DOI nor Indian Affairs will be held responsible for proposal or application preparation costs. Publication of this announcement does not obligate DOI or Indian Affairs to award any specific grant or to obligate all or any part of available funds. Future funding is subject to the availability of appropriations and cannot be guaranteed. DOI or Indian Affairs may cancel or withdraw this announcement at any time.

Merit Review

It is important to review the [Program Overview](#) for application segment parameters that provide additional context on the Criteria.

The OIED follows application review procedures as outlined in [2 CFR 200.204](#). It is important to review the [Program Description](#) and implement those identified parameters in the application project narrative which will constitute the SOW.

Any proposal that is received after the date and time, see the [Submission Dates and Times](#) section of this announcement, will not be reviewed. Once the announcement is closed, all applications will be reviewed for applicant eligibility and application completion. Reviews will be completed to identify any duplication or overlap with current funded Federal or OIED projects.

Please see [Program Description](#) and [Application Documents](#), which aligns with the review criteria below:

Criterion 1 – Organizational Capacity, Experience & Project Approach

Maximum Points: 25

The application will be evaluated on the applicant's demonstrated capacity to successfully implement the cooperative agreement, including experience working with Tribal communities, understanding of Federal funding requirements, and ability to manage complex, multi-entity projects.

Reviewers will assess the extent to which the proposal demonstrates experience in Tribal tourism, economic development, or related fields in a manner that respects and reflects Tribal values and cultural considerations. Reviewers will also evaluate the applicant's experience coordinating across Federal agencies, organizations, or partners, as well as familiarity with Federal grant management requirements, including work planning, budgeting, reporting, and compliance.

Strong applications will present a clear, cohesive project approach that demonstrates how needs assessment, technical assistance delivery, Federal coordination, and reporting will function together as an integrated system. The proposal should demonstrate a feasible and well-aligned model that connects staffing, partnerships, and activities to the scope and scale of the project.

Organizational Experience and Tribal Engagement (0–10 points)

Reviewers will assess the extent to which the applicant demonstrates relevant experience working with Tribal communities, including cultural awareness, community engagement, and experience in

tourism, economic development, or related fields.

Federal Coordination and Grants Management Experience (0–5 points)

Reviewers will evaluate the applicant’s experience working with Federal agencies and managing Federal funding, including demonstrated ability to develop workplans, budgets, reporting structures, and maintain compliance with Federal requirements.

Clarity and Feasibility of Project Approach (0–10 points)

Reviewers will assess how clearly the proposal defines the overall project approach and how effectively it integrates needs assessment, technical assistance delivery, coordination, and reporting into a cohesive and achievable model aligned with the scope of the cooperative agreement.

Criterion 2 – Needs Assessment, Technical Assistance Delivery & Service Model

Maximum Points: 30

The application will be evaluated on the strength and clarity of the proposed approach to identifying needs and delivering technical assistance to TTGP and ONHR awardees and non-awardees. The planned assistance should distribute the majority of resources to the TTGP and ONHR awardees, with reasonable and tiered plans for non-awardees.

Reviewers will assess how effectively the proposal describes consultation and needs assessment processes, including how the applicant will identify strengths, gaps, and opportunities and use that information to inform service delivery. Strong applications will demonstrate a logical progression from consultation and needs identification to technical assistance delivery and follow-up support.

The proposal must clearly define a technical assistance model, including the type, frequency, and intensity of services, and demonstrate how services will be tailored to individual community needs while operating at a national scale. Reviewers will also assess whether the proposed level of effort, staffing structure, and service delivery approach are sufficient to support approximately 60 entities.

Technical assistance must focus on strategy, planning, capacity building, and problem-solving. Proposals must clearly distinguish technical assistance from direct implementation and demonstrate that activities will complement, and not duplicate, existing TTGP or ONHR-funded projects or other Federal programs.

Strength of Needs Assessment and Consultation Approach (0–10 points)

Reviewers will assess how clearly and effectively the proposal describes methods for identifying needs, including consultation strategies and approaches to assessing strengths, gaps, and opportunities.

Quality and Clarity of Technical Assistance Model (0–10 points)

Reviewers will evaluate how well the proposal defines the technical assistance delivery model, including type, frequency, intensity, and customization of services, and how effectively it supports participating entities.

Feasibility, Level of Effort, and Non-Duplication (0–10 points)

Reviewers will assess whether the proposed staffing and qualifications of staffing, level of effort, and service delivery approach are sufficient and realistic, and whether the proposal clearly demonstrates

that technical assistance activities will complement, and not duplicate, existing efforts or funded projects.

Criterion 3 – Communication, Federal Coordination & Knowledge Sharing

Maximum Points: 20

The application will be evaluated on the extent to which the proposal demonstrates an effective approach to communication, coordination, and information sharing among Federal agencies, Tribal Nations, and participating entities.

Reviewers will assess how clearly the proposal describes coordination between the Department of the Interior, the Department of Commerce, and other relevant entities, including anticipated coordination activities such as meetings, planning processes, communication structures, and reporting mechanisms. Strong applications will demonstrate how coordination efforts will improve alignment of resources, reduce fragmentation, and strengthen tourism development outcomes.

The proposal should also demonstrate how consistent communication will be maintained with OIED and participating entities, and how technical assistance activities, outcomes, and lessons learned will be documented and shared. This includes identifying replicable models, providing recommendations for program improvement, and contributing to required reporting.

Federal Coordination and Systems Alignment (0–10 points)

Reviewers will assess how effectively the proposal demonstrates a structured and feasible approach to facilitating coordination across Federal agencies and partners, including clarity of roles, activities, and expected outcomes.

Communication, Reporting, and Knowledge Sharing Approach (0–10 points)

Reviewers will evaluate the clarity and strength of the applicant’s approach to communication, documentation, reporting, and sharing of outcomes, including the ability to provide meaningful insights, success stories, and recommendations.

Criterion 4 – Deliverables, Performance Measurement & Financial Management

Maximum Points: 25

The application will be evaluated on the clarity and strength of proposed deliverables, performance measurement approach, and budget justification. Reviewers will assess how well the proposal defines specific deliverables, timelines, and expected outcomes, and how clearly those deliverables are aligned with proposed activities and achievable within the period of performance. Strong applications will include well-defined performance indicators related to tourism capacity, visitor engagement, economic participation, and coordination effectiveness.

The proposal should describe how technical assistance services will be distributed across TTGP and ONHR awardees and non-awardees, including any prioritization or tiered service approach, and how geographic considerations will be addressed, including the balance of in-person and virtual service delivery.

The budget must clearly demonstrate how requested funds support technical assistance delivery, coordination activities, and project outcomes. Reviewers will assess whether costs are reasonable, necessary, and aligned with the proposed level of effort. The proposal must also demonstrate strong

financial management systems, internal controls, and the ability to manage Federal funds in accordance with 2 CFR 200, while ensuring no duplication of costs, activities, or personnel effort.

Deliverables, Timelines, and Performance Measurement (0–15 points)

Reviewers will assess the clarity, specificity, and feasibility of the Awardee’s approach to assisting TTGP and ONHR applicants in achieving their project deliverables and outcomes, including proposed timelines, measurable outcomes, performance measurement methods, and the distribution of services across participating entities and geographic areas.

Budget Alignment and Financial Management Capacity (0–5 points)

Reviewers will assess the reasonableness and alignment of the budget with proposed activities and outcomes, as well as the applicant’s demonstrated capacity to manage Federal funds, maintain internal controls, and ensure compliance with all applicable requirements.

Administrative Costs (0-5 points)

Applications are encouraged to minimize administrative costs and maximize the use of funds for direct program services. Proposals that clearly itemize direct costs and demonstrate low or reasonable use of indirect costs, including use of the de minimis rate (15%) where applicable, may receive the maximum points for this section. Applicants must identify and justify any indirect cost rate applied.

Review and Selection Process

This program reviews proposed budgets to ensure:

- figures are correct
- estimated costs are necessary and reasonable and clearly linked to project narratives
- avoid obviously unallowable costs
- identify costs requiring prior approval
- ensure indirect cost rates are applied correctly
- confirm cost sharing requirements are reflected in the budget.

This program reviews applications for potential overlap or duplication between the proposed project and any other funded or proposed project. Depending on the circumstances, DOI may choose to not make an award.

The OIED will follow selection and award procedures as outlined in [2 CFR 200.204](#) and §1187.20. Prior to award, the program will review any applicant statement regarding potential overlap or duplication between the project to be funded and any other funded or proposed project in terms of activities, funding, or time commitment of key personnel. Depending on the circumstances, the program may request modification to the application, other pending applications, an active award, or as needed to eliminate any duplication of effort. The BIA may also choose not to fund a selected project.

Organizations 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.

Prior to conducting the comprehensive merit review, an initial review will be performed to determine whether: (1) the applicant is eligible for an award; (2) the information required by the NOFO has been submitted; (3) all mandatory requirements of the NOFO are satisfied; (4) the proposed project is responsive to the program objectives of the NOFO (program determination); and (5) the proposed project is in compliance with all applicable executive and secretary orders, including the President’s executive order on Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing as well as the executive order and Secretary order on Restoring Truth and Sanity to American History. If an applicant fails to meet the requirements or objectives of the NOFO, or does not provide sufficient information for review, the applicant will be considered nonresponsive and eliminated from further review.

The OIED Review Committee will be comprised of OIED staff, staff from other Federal agencies, and subject matter experts, to evaluate the proposals against the ranking criteria. Proposals will be evaluated with a maximum achievable total of 100 points.

Apart from the NOFO and relevant statutes and regulations, reviewers will not access, or review, any materials that are not part of the application documents. This includes information accessible on websites via hyperlinks that are referenced, or embedded, in the application. Though an application may include web links, or embedded hyperlinks, reviewers will not review this information as it is not considered to be part of the application documents. Reviewers must evaluate and score an application based on the documents that are presented in the application and must not refer to, or access, external links during the objective review.

Reviewers will evaluate applications using the criteria outlined in this section, with a maximum achievable total of 100 points:

Criterion 1 – Organizational Capacity, Experience & Project Approach	Maximum Points: 25
Criterion 2 – Needs Assessment, Technical Assistance Delivery & Service Model	Maximum Points: 30
Criterion 3 – Communication, Federal Coordination & Knowledge Sharing	Maximum Points: 20
Criterion 4 – Deliverables, Performance Measurement & Financial Management	Maximum Points: 25

The reviewers will assess to what degree the application addresses the parameters to be feasible, effective and if the applicant demonstrates alignment with NATIVE Act priorities. Commentary will be required from each Panelist in the criteria Weakness section when scores less than the maximum point available are allocated for that section.

Final award selections will be determined by the Director of OIED, as approved by the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs and the Associate Deputy Secretary, DOI, or their designee. Applicants not selected for award will be notified in writing and will receive the reviewer scores and comments. Those who are not selected for funding may request a debrief on their application.

The Director of OIED will have final approval of all award decisions. Final award decisions may include consideration of factors including the following:

- The project appears to have originated or been designed by consultants outside of the Applicant and Community, who have provided a major role for themselves in the performance of the project, and who are not members of the applicant organization.
- The project is essentially identical or substantially similar, in whole or in part, to previously funded projects proposed by the same applicant, or activities or projects proposed by a consortium that duplicate activities for which any consortium member also receives or has received funding from OIED.
- The project is duplicative of projects currently funded by other federal agencies.
- The application includes activities that were previously implemented without federal assistance.
- Past performance and award non-compliance associated with prior OIED awards.

In accordance with Executive Order 14332 Improving Oversight of Federal Grantmaking and, 2 CFR 200.340, the Federal awarding agency may terminate this award, in whole or in part, when it is determined it no longer effectuates the program goals or agency priorities. This may occur even if the Recipient is in compliance with the terms and conditions of the award. If the award is terminated, the Recipient must take all reasonable steps to minimize additional costs and stop work as directed.

The Recipient remains responsible for completing all closeout requirements in accordance with 2 CFR 200.344, including submission of all required final financial, performance, and other reports. Allowable costs incurred prior to termination, as well as reasonable closeout and settlement costs, will be handled in accordance with 2 CFR 200.472. Nothing in this section limits the Government's authority to terminate the award for cause or under other applicable Federal regulations or Departmental policies.

Risk Review

Prior to making an award, the applicant will be assessed for their level of risk per [2 CFR 200.206](#). Programs document applicant risk evaluations using the BIA's "Financial Assistance Recipient Risk Assessment" form. This assessment includes the applicant's financial management capabilities, project delivery experience, staffing resources, past award performance, administration and reporting compliance records, and overall project complexity and potential for challenges. If an award will be made, special conditions may be applied to the award corresponding to the assessed risk. For awards over the simplified acquisition threshold (currently \$350,000), a review of the applicant's eligibility and financial integrity information in the applicant's SAM.gov records will also be performed per [2 CFR 200.206](#). The BIA will consider this information when completing the risk review. The BIA uses the results of the risk evaluation to establish monitoring plans, recipient reporting frequency requirements, and to determine if one or more of the specific award conditions in [2 CFR 200.207](#) should be applied to the award.

AWARD NOTICES

Notices of Federal Award are sent electronically via GrantSolutions or e-mail. These notices outline the terms, conditions, and payment instructions per [2 CFR 200.211](#). The Notice of Federal Award signed by an authorized Grants Officer is the legal instrument obligating financial assistance to a recipient. Any other prior notice is not an authorization to begin work. If the program allows pre-award costs per [2 CFR 200.458](#), beginning performance before receiving a Notice of Federal Award is at the applicant's own risk.

Upon being selected for the award, successful applicants will receive a notification of the selection of their application for funding. BIA will notify the applicant selected for award by email and public notice. A notice of selection is not an authorization to begin performance on an agreement. This notice will detail the next steps in the awarding process. Once all clearances and reviews have been conducted, a Notice of Award will be issued from GrantSolutions. No work or fund drawdowns can begin prior to the indicated Period of Performance. Once the first drawdown is complete, the Terms and Conditions in the Notice of Award will be binding. No pre-award costs incurred prior to the receipt of a Notice of Award and the Period of Performance will be reimbursed. The Notice of Award is the only authorizing document to begin performance.

Anticipated Project Start Date: 09/25/2026

Anticipated Project End Date: 09/30/2031

POST AWARD REQUIREMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

Administration and National Policy Requirements

For award administration and national policy requirements, see the [DOI General Terms and Conditions](#). Infrastructure projects require the use of American iron, steel, manufacture products, and construction materials per [2 CFR 184](#).

Reporting

The recipient's Notice of Award will detail all reporting requirements, including frequency, due dates, and instructions for requesting extensions. In general, but not limited to, recipients must:

- Submit Federal Financial reports and Program Performance reports.
- Use the [Federal Financial Report \(SF-425\) form](#) for financial reporting,
- Monitor award activities and report on program performance per [2 CFR 200.329](#),
- Promptly notify the awarding program in writing of any issues, delays, or conditions impairing award objectives per [2 CFR 200.329\(e\)](#),
- Disclose any conflicts of interest related to their award that arise during the award period per [2 CFR 1402.112](#),
- Report on the status of real property acquired under the award in which the Federal government retains an interest per [2 CFR 200.330](#), and
- Report all violations of Federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the Federal award per [2 CFR 200.113](#).
- Report any matters related to recipient integrity and performance to SAM.gov per [Appendix XII to 2 CFR 200](#).
- If the Federal share of the award is more than \$100,000 and the recipient makes or agrees

to make any payment using non-appropriated funds for lobbying in connection to the award, disclose those activities using the Disclosure of Lobbying (SF-LLL) form per [43 CFR 18.100](#).

- Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (FFATA) requires certain recipients to report information on executive compensation through SAM.gov and information on all sub-awards, subcontracts, and consortiums over \$30,000 to the [FFATA Subaward Reporting System \(FSRS\)](#).

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).

Performance Reports

Performance Progress Reports (PPRs) must report on the metrics established in the approved Statement of Work including the defined metrics below. The following performance measures are intended to assess the impacts and outcomes experienced by TTGP and ONHR awardees and non-awardees receiving technical assistance under this cooperative agreement. These measures are designed to evaluate how technical assistance activities support Tribal tourism capacity, visitor engagement, economic participation, and coordination efforts in alignment with the goals of the NATIVE Act. Reporting requirements and associated metrics may be refined or adjusted, as needed, to reflect updates to the approved Statement of Work, program priorities, or technical assistance needs identified during the period of performance.

Tribal Tourism Grant Program Metrics

Improvements in Tribal Tourism Capacity

Quantitative Measurements

- Number of tourism strategies or tourism-related tools developed or enhanced
- Number of trainings, workshops, or consultations conducted

Qualitative Measurements

- Examples of new or enhanced tribal tourism experiences, operations, ventures, recreational activities, guided tours, offerings, visitor service delivery, or long-term tourism development efforts resulting from technical assistance

Visitor Engagement and Tourism Visibility

Quantitative Measurements

- Number of entities reporting increased visitors at Tribal tourism operations.
- Number of promotional materials, campaigns, websites, marketing or outreach efforts developed or enhanced
- Level of increased website traffic among tourism projects (number of website visitors)

Qualitative Measurements

- Examples of new or enhanced marketing assets, destination awareness, or tourism promotion.

- Demonstrated improvements in access to tourism information, experiences, or promotional visibility

Economic Participation Related to Tribal Tourism

Quantitative Measurements

- Number of entities reporting tourism-related revenue opportunities/streams, increased revenue generation, new jobs, or business engagement activities
- Number of Tribal entrepreneurs, businesses, or artists engaged in the tourism project.

Qualitative Measurements

- Examples of expanded economic participation opportunities related to Tribal tourism

Coordination Effectiveness

Quantitative Measurements

- Number of partnerships, networks, or collaborative initiatives established or strengthened

Qualitative Measurements

- Demonstrated improvements in collaborative planning, stakeholder engagement, and inter-organizational coordination among Tribal entities, Department of Commerce, Department of the Interior, and other tourism-related partners in fulfilment of the NATIVE Act.

Office of Native Hawaiian Relations Metrics

- Enhance the entrepreneurial capacity of the Native Hawaiian Community by developing business opportunities in the visitor industry, providing business development training, or stimulating economic activity;
 - **Quantitative Measurement**
Number of Native Hawaiian Community member entrepreneurs, businesses, or cultural practitioners engaged through project activities
 - **Qualitative Measurement**
Demonstrated impacts on Native Hawaiian Community member business development, tourism-related economic opportunities, or community economic activity
- Uplift, perpetuate, and in some cases revive, traditional Hawaiian practices (e.g., olelo Hawaii, kapa making, lauhala and kaula weaving, hula, amongst many others, including lesser-known practices) by creating opportunities for demonstrations, visitor education on history, usage, and protocols, or hands-on visitor participation experiences in the cultural practice;
 - **Quantitative Measurement**
Number of cultural demonstrations, educational activities, workshops, or visitor participation experiences conducted
 - **Qualitative Measurement**
Examples of efforts supporting the perpetuation, revitalization, or intergenerational sharing of traditional Hawaiian practices
- Undertake related activities with visitors that convey respect and reaffirm the principle of reciprocity to the place, resources, and traditional knowledge holders and practitioners;
AND/OR

- **Quantitative Measurement**
Number of visitor education, outreach, or interpretive activities focused on respect, reciprocity, or cultural protocols
- **Qualitative Measurement**
Demonstrated incorporation of Native Hawaiian values, cultural protocols, or principles of reciprocity within visitor engagement activities
- Support the maintenance, enhancement, and protection of Hawaii's natural resources, wahi kupuna (ancestral places), and wahi pana (sacred sites) at areas impacted by tourism while enhancing visitor services to promote respect and reciprocity.
 - **Quantitative Measurement**
Number of tourism-related stewardship, preservation, restoration, or resource protection activities supported
 - **Qualitative Measurement**
Examples of enhanced stewardship, protection, or preservation of culturally or environmentally significant areas impacted by tourism

The awardee must also be aware of metrics that are established in the TTGP and ONHR approved Statements of Work. In addition, OIED requires all those grant award recipients to track and report on the following core performance indicators, which the awardee technical assistance must be in alignment with:

- Increase in the number of visitors at Tribal tourism operations (measured as the difference between baseline visitation and post-project visitation)
- Number of new or enhanced Tribal tourism experiences, offerings, or marketing assets
- Strengthening of Tribal tourism through partnerships, increased visibility, and/or community and cultural benefits
- Indicators of increased economic activity and participation related to Tribal tourism, including increased revenue generation

Examples of supporting measures may include:

- Number of new jobs
- Number of Tribal entrepreneurs, businesses, or artists engaged
- Number of new or expanded guided tours or tourism experiences
- Website traffic (number of visitors)
- Number of new or expanded tourism operations or ventures
- Number of new revenue streams
- Number of new or expanded recreational activities

Significant Development Reports

Events may occur between the scheduled performance reporting dates which have significant impact upon the supported activity. In such cases, recipients are required to notify the BIA in writing as soon as the recipient becomes aware of any problems, delays, or adverse conditions that will materially impact the ability to meet the objective of the Federal award. This disclosure must include a statement of any corrective action(s) taken or contemplated, and any assistance needed to resolve the situation. The recipient should also notify BIA in writing of any favorable developments that enable meeting time schedules and objectives sooner or at less cost than anticipated or producing

more or different beneficial results than originally planned.

Other Information

Payments

The OIED's obligation under this announcement is contingent on receipt of congressionally appropriated funds. No liability on the part of the U.S. Government for any payment may arise until funds are made available to the awarding officer for this award and until the recipient receives notice of such availability, to be confirmed in writing by the grant officer.

All payments under this agreement will be made by electronic funds transfer through the ASAP system. All award recipients are required to maintain a current and accurate UEI number to receive funds. All payments will be deposited to the banking information designated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs in the SAM.

The OIED will disburse funds awarded to eligible applicants in annual installments except that, OIED may make disbursements more frequently, on request by the applicant, as long as disbursements are not made more frequently than quarterly. Awards may not be duplicative of existing Federal funding from another source that overlaps funding for the same activities described in the Applicant's proposal.

Domestic recipients are required to register in and receive payment through the U.S. Treasury's Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP), unless approved for a waiver by the BIA program. Foreign recipients receiving funds to a final destination bank outside the U.S. are required to receive payment through the U.S. Treasury's International Treasury Services (ITS) System. Foreign recipients receiving funds to a final destination bank in the U.S. are required to enter and maintain current banking details in their SAM.gov entity profile and receive payment through the Automated Clearing House network by electronic funds transfer (EFT). The Bureau will include recipient-specific instructions on how to request payment, including identification of any additional information required and where to submit payment requests, as applicable, in all Notices of Award.