



## **NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY**

### **Subawards for the Western Indigenous Network Solar for All (WIN-SFA) Program GRID Alternatives**

**Issued by:** Tribal Energy Alternatives, A GRID Affiliate (formerly National Tribal program at GRID Alternatives)

Application Period:

**1<sup>st</sup> Round of Applications 5/1/2025 – 6/30/2025**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Round of Applications 7/1/2025 – 8/30/2025**

Completed subaward applications will be accepted within the 60-day window. From the date of submission, expect a 2-week review period and 4-week turnaround for requesting more information or notification of award. (6 weeks total)

Technical Assistance Applications are only accepted if complete. TA responses will be responded to in the order they are submitted.

**Program Title:** Western Indigenous Network Solar for All (WIN-SFA) Subawards

**Funding Source:** U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – Solar for All Program

### **Program Overview**

Tribal Energy Alternatives, A GRID Affiliate (formerly National Tribal program at GRID Alternatives) is pleased to announce the availability of the **Western Indigenous Network Solar for All (WIN-SFA) Program** subawards for Federally Recognized Tribes. The WIN-SFA Program is a Coalition of The Alliance for Tribal Clean Energy, (ATCE) Native Renewables (NRI), California Tribal Energy Collective (CTEC) and Native CDFI Network (NCN).

The WIN SFA Program is designed to support the expansion of residential-serving solar energy access in Tribal communities across the western United States: Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah. WIN-SFA Tribal subawards aim to advance the deployment of distributed solar energy systems for residential projects, provide technical assistance, workforce development, and community engagement to create sustainable community-driven solar energy solutions in partnership with Tribal Nations.

This funding opportunity seeks to empower local communities to implement solar projects, reduce energy costs, and increase energy independence through collaboration with Tribal Energy Alternatives, a GRID Affiliate. In year one, subawards will be provided to demonstrate pilot project deployment in 2025. Pilot projects are intended to inform the WIN-SFA program design for full scale launch in 2026. The application process will outline the criteria for qualifying and eligible demonstration projects. Our funding will be open to Tribal Communities residential-serving single family and community solar projects located in the 6 targeted states.

### Subaward Purpose and Objectives

The purpose of this NOFO is to solicit proposals from eligible Federally Recognized Tribes and Tribal organizations for **Pilot Project** subawards that:

1. **Deploy Solar Systems:** Install solar energy systems in Low-income eligible Tribal communities to reduce household energy costs by at least 20% and reduce greenhouse gases.
2. **Workforce Development:** Strategize workforce development opportunities for local Tribal members and contractors to build capacity in clean renewable energy technologies, fostering career opportunities in solar energy.
3. **Energy Sovereignty:** Support projects that increase energy independence in Tribal communities. Providing clear goals for achieving energy planning and management of installed systems, self-sufficiency for maintaining systems and sustainable energy development.

### Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for a subaward, applicants must meet the following criteria:

1. **Tribal Entities:** Must be a **Federally recognized** Tribal government, tribal owned organization, or a Tribal non-profit organization directly supporting a tribe in the target region. Entities must have valid registration at SAM.gov and cannot be debarred from Federal funding.
2. **Geographic Focus:** Projects must be in one or more of the following states on Tribal Lands: Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah & California.

3. **Households served:** WIN-SFA will determine how the projects align with our stated goals of households served per state and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions pursuant to our EPA approved workplan.

### **Funding Available**

Tribal Energy Alternatives (a GRID Affiliate) anticipates making multiple subawards under this funding opportunity. The amount of funding for each subaward will be determined based on the scope and scale of the proposed project and the capacity of the State allocation the tribe applies under. We are looking for residential solar projects for approximately 15-45 homes per Tribe.

1. **Award Amount:** Will vary but target project size is 15-45 homes.
2. **Capital Stacking:** Applicants are encouraged to present financing and capital structures that strategically integrate state, federal, and other incentive programs such as the Investment Tax Credit. Proposals that effectively leverage these additional funding sources will receive a competitive advantage in the evaluation process. The use or non-use of additional incentive programs may increase or decrease project size and feasibility.

Funds may be used for project-related costs such as the installation of solar energy systems, training programs, equipment purchases, and other necessary expenditures pursuant to 2 CFR 200 procurement requirements.

### **Application Process**

Tribal Energy Alternatives at GRID Alternatives is offering no-cost pre-proposal project development and financial technical assistance with this application. Applicants must submit a complete proposal that includes the following components:

1. **Program Application:** The application form completed with the following information
  - a. **Work Plan:** A detailed description of the proposed solar installation project, including technical specifications, energy savings of at least 20% per household (annualized).
    - i. **Workforce Development Plan:** A plan outlining how the project will provide job training and workforce development for Tribal members or contractors.
    - ii. **Community Engagement Strategy & Implementation:** A strategy for engaging Tribal communities, including outreach, education, and ongoing support. Awardees are required to develop an engagement plan involving community input, workforce inclusion, leadership goals, education and awareness and implementing community action or change.

- b. **Budget and Timeline Justification:** A detailed budget outlining how the funding will be used and a timeline for the project's implementation.
    - i. **Project Timeline:** A detailed timeline of the budget including who is responsible for each deliverable.
- 2. **Technical Assistance** will be an embedded link into the main application and tribes can opt into the TA application. This is offering no-cost pre-proposal project development and financial technical assistance with this application. The point of contact for WIN SFA Technical Assistance is:  
Project Manager Jillian Wilde [jwilde@gridalternatives.org](mailto:jwilde@gridalternatives.org)

### **Project Development Technical Assistance**

- 1. Remote assessment of homes and community buildings suitable for rooftop installation
- 2. Budget development
- 3. Preliminary engineering designs
- 4. Contractor network resources
- 5. Procurement process for contractors, equipment, and supplies
- 6. Workforce development
- 7. Community Outreach strategizing and planning
- 8. Operation and Maintenance plan development

### **Financial Assistance Technical Assistance**

- 1. Financial modeling to promote stacking capital, state incentives, and loans
- 2. Ownership modeling
- 3. ITC Tax Credit
- 4. Resources for state incentives, tax credits, gap loans, and capital investments

### **Evaluation Criteria**

Proposals will be evaluated based on their readiness in each of the following categories;

- a. Solid and concrete performance objectives aligned between project purpose and within projected household size and count.
- b. Priority will be given to proposals that effectively leverage additional funding sources and incentive programs.
- c. Clear project plan, including specific goals and measurable objectives
- d. Clear focus on building renewable energy infrastructure in the Tribal community
- e. Demonstrated ability and/or experience necessary for a successful project
- f. Feasible, cost-effective, and sustainable budget
- g. Partnerships that engage broad Tribal community participation and support

- h. Applications with partnerships involving local entrepreneurs, small businesses and non-profits
- i. Internal Controls and acceptable score on Subaward Risk Assessment.

**Our Commitments to You:** WIN-SFA communication considerations and receipt of funding,

1. Tribal Energy Alternatives will provide you with a single point of contact for all WIN-SFA-related communications activities.
2. Tribal Energy Alternatives will collaborate with your designated communications representative to develop a set of communications activities that are appropriate for the project and your tribe. Activities may include one or more of the following
  - a. Press release announcing receipt of WIN-SFA grant for local, regional, or national audiences.
  - b. News item on Tribal Energy Alternatives' website(s), press releases, and/or newsletter about the project.
  - c. Groundbreaking or other public event with speaking opportunities and/or branding for WIN-SFA Team.
  - d. Project video produced by Tribal Energy Alternatives or another approved partner.
  - e. Tribal Energy Alternatives will provide you with the opportunity to review and approve all external-facing communications assets and their intended use prior to their release.

### **Our Expectations**

1. Applicant will provide two points of contact for all WIN-SFA-related communications activities who may provide and/or secure permissions on behalf of the tribe. At least one point of contact must have capacity for meeting weekly, authority to work directly with the Tribes' decision-making entity to collect required documents and resolutions, and either working directly or coordinating with Tribal Housing Authority or other tribal entities overseeing tribal housing and homeowners.
2. Applicant will collaborate with us in good faith to identify appropriate communications activities to promote the project and acknowledge WIN-SFA support.
3. Applicant will provide prompt review of external-facing communications assets, and not unreasonably withhold approval.
4. It is the responsibility of the awarded grantee to communicate with the WIN-SFA team within 30 days of award notifications. Failure to communicate within 30 days may result in the grant award being null and void.

## Submission Instructions

Completed applications can be submitted to

<https://form.asana.com/?k=QOtKrxdlE8xyhv1iC9rmzQ&d=9796543884054>

Paper copies are available for download on website & submission via email: Please include "WIN-SFA Subaward Proposal" in the subject line of your email to:

[tribalsfa@gridalternatives.org](mailto:tribalsfa@gridalternatives.org)

**Contact Information:** For questions or additional information regarding this Notice of Funding Opportunity, please contact:

### GRID Alternatives

Attn: WIN-SFA Program

Email: [tribalsfa@gridalternatives.org](mailto:tribalsfa@gridalternatives.org)

Website: [www.tribalalternatives.org](http://www.tribalalternatives.org)

### Informational Webinar: MAY 21<sup>th</sup>, 2025 @ 12:00pm MDT

Webinar on WIN-SFA Program, application elements, and eligibility criteria will be pre-recorded and provided on our website: [www.tribalalternatives.org](http://www.tribalalternatives.org)

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**Additional Information:** Subawards funded through the WIN-SFA program are subject to all applicable federal regulations and policies. GRID Alternatives reserves the right to modify or withdraw this NOFO at any time during the selection process.

