



TRIBAL SOLAR
ACCELERATOR FUND

GRID Alternatives

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Tribal Solar Accelerator Fund (TSAF) Request for Proposals

GRID Alternatives' Tribal Solar Accelerator Fund aims to catalyze the growth of solar energy and expand solar job opportunities in tribal communities across the United States.

TSAF Background

GRID Alternatives' National Tribal Program has worked since 2010 to help tribal communities across the United States achieve their renewable energy goals. Using a community-centric approach, we partner with tribes to identify, develop, finance and implement solar power projects that meet community needs, including education, hands-on training, and energy cost reductions for tribal members.

GRID Alternatives has a long-standing partnership with the Wells Fargo Foundation, which has supported the national expansion of GRID's renewable energy access work since 2012. In 2018, GRID Alternatives received a 3-year, \$5 million grant from the Wells Fargo Foundation to support GRID's National Tribal Program as well as provide new, independent funding to tribes for renewable energy projects. This concept and program scope was developed into what is now the Tribal Solar Accelerator Fund (TSAF).

TSAF PRIORITIES

- The TSAF will provide necessary capital to support the development of new solar demonstration projects in tribal communities around the country
- The TSAF supports solar education, training, and workforce development in tribal communities
- The TSAF prioritizes the development of long-term energy plans to increase tribal energy security and resiliency.

The TSAF is excited to share our mission, vision, and goals with tribal communities across Indian Country through engagement and communication, advocacy, technical

assistance, collaboration, and a commitment to build capacity in tribal energy sovereignty.

TSAF Funding Areas

Each TSAF funding area has its own application for funding; please go to tribalsolar.org to download the application(s).

DOE Matching Funding - Application deadline: May 3rd

- **Matched Funds:** Tribes that have a cost-share funding need, or an outstanding U.S. Department of Energy grant matching funds requirement
- Proposals will be funded up to \$250,000 per project

Tribal Solar Project Funding - Application deadline: May 3rd

- **Tribal Facility Solar Projects:** These projects can include rooftop, carport or ground-mount solar installations that meet the energy needs of the tribal community
- **Tribal Residential Solar Projects:** These projects will be for low-income single-family homes in tribal communities
- Proposals will be funded up to \$200,000 per tribe

TSAF Grant timeline and reporting

RFP ANNOUNCEMENT	March 4, 2019
TSAF INFORMATIONAL WEBINAR	March 15, 2019
GRANT APPLICATION DUE	May 3, 2019 by 5:00 p.m. MST
GRANT AWARD/DENIAL NOTIFICATIONS	June 3, 2019
GRANT TIMELINE (PROJECT FISCAL YEAR START/END)	July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020
GRANTEE CHECK-INS WITH TSAF STAFF	July 1, 2019, October 1, 2019, January 1, 2020
GRANTEE FINAL REPORT DUE	March 1, 2020

TSAF Initial review and selection criteria

Upon receipt of a TSAF application, the following funding criteria should be met regardless of the funding area applied for:

- Solid and concrete matches between project purpose and funding priority area
- Clear focus on building renewable energy infrastructure in the tribal community
- Demonstrated ability and/or experience necessary for a successful project
- Clear plan of action, including specific goals and measurable objectives
- Feasible, cost-effective, and sustainable budget
- Partnerships that engage broad tribal community participation and support
- Potential for application and replication in other tribal communities

The TSAF will solicit knowledgeable, experienced tribal and non-tribal renewable energy professionals to conduct a review, scoring, and selection of TSAF grant applications.

TSAF Eligibility

The TSAF is committed to serving, supporting, and strengthening American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) tribal communities by investing in solar energy development and sustainability.

The TSAF eligibility criteria is as follows:

- Federal and state-recognized tribal governments in the lower 48 states and Alaska (tribal government programs, such as tribal housing authority, cultural departments, economic development entities, etc.)
- Tribally-led 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations (fiscally-sponsored tribal community organizations, tribal community organizations without a 501(c)(3) nonprofit status may submit an application through a sponsoring organization if the sponsor has IRS 501(c)(3) status and can provide written authorization confirming its willingness to act as the fiscal sponsor.
- Schools that are tribally-controlled 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations and schools that are tribally-operated such as tribal colleges and universities (TCUs), any public or Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) schools.
- The definition of “tribal-led” is: an organization in which a majority (>51%) of the board of directors and leadership team are American Indian or Alaska Native. Organizations that are not tribal-led are not eligible to apply (with or without a fiscal sponsor).
- For tribal facility projects, the community served must be designated low-to-moderate income (LMI) as demonstrated by eligibility for federal, state, or tribal low-income programs, or with Census data.

- For tribal household or multi-family projects, the resident households must be 80% or below the area median income as defined by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) or another LMI-serving program.

TSAF Application Site and Submission Guidelines

Please download the TSAF application(s) in Microsoft Word or a fillable Adobe PDF at tribalsolar.org or email contact@tribalsolar.org to request an emailed application(s).

The TSAF application must conform to the following requirements:

- No more than 10 pages of application organization information and proposal narrative (including charts/graphs, maps, or photos). The budget, project timeline, tribal council resolution or letter of support, and tribal council roster or board of directors list are required attachments excluded from the 10-page maximum. If application information and proposal narrative exceeds 10 pages, TSAF will only review the first 10 pages and disregard any additional pages.
- Each file must be submitted in a combined Adobe PDF format, unless stated otherwise.
- All pages must be formatted to fit on 8.5 x 11 inch paper with margins not less than one inch on every side. Use font size of 11 point or larger (except in figures or tables, which may be 10 point font). A symbol font may be used to insert tribal letters or special characters.
- References must be included as footnotes or endnotes in a font size of 10 or larger. Footnotes and endnotes are counted toward the maximum page requirement.
- Page numbers and name of tribe must be included in the footer of every page.

TSAF Applications are due Friday May 3, 2019 by 5:00 p.m. Mountain Standard Time (MST), 4:00 p.m. PST, 6:00 p.m. CST, 7:00 p.m. EST.

TSAF applicants are strongly encouraged to submit their applications at least 24 hours in advance of the submission deadline.

Please submit applications via email at contact@tribalsolar.org subject line "2019 TSAF Application - <tribe>". In the body of the email please direct the salutation to: Tanksi Clairmont, TSAF Director.

Applicants may revise or update their application until the expiration of the applicable deadline.

All applications that pass eligibility and initial review will undergo a comprehensive review and will be scored according to the criteria identified in the RFP.

PLEASE READ THOROUGHLY

Considerations for Communications and Receipt of Wells Fargo Funding

Participation in communications activities that acknowledge the support of TSAF funders, including Wells Fargo Foundation, is a requirement of grants through the Tribal Solar Accelerator Fund.

All applicants will need to secure a tribal resolution or a letter of support from your tribal council acknowledging the application for the proposed project and that Wells Fargo Foundation is the source of funding regranted through the Tribal Solar Accelerator Fund.

GRID Alternatives and TSAF understand that tribes have different cultural values, expectations and traditions around communications, as well as ethical and moral principles when it comes to accepting financial resources. The following are GRID's commitments to and expectations of tribal partners participating in TSAF projects.

Our Commitments to You (TSAF grantee):

1. GRID Alternatives will provide you with a single point of contact for all TSAF-related communications activities.
2. GRID Alternatives will collaborate with your designated communications representative to develop a set of communications activities that is appropriate for the project and your tribe. Activities may include one or more of the following:
 - Press release announcing receipt of TSAF grant for local, regional or national audience
 - News item on GRID Alternatives' website(s) and/or newsletter about the project
 - News item on Wells Fargo Stories about the project
 - Groundbreaking or other public event with speaking opportunities and/or branding for TSAF funders
 - Project video produced by GRID Alternatives, Wells Fargo or other approved partner
 - Listing/write-up in Wells Fargo stakeholder reports
 - Listing in Wells Fargo philanthropy press releases
3. GRID Alternatives will provide you the opportunity to review and approve all external-facing communications assets and their intended use prior to their release.

Our Expectations:

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1. You will provide a single point of contact for all TSAF-related communications activities who is authorized to provide and or/secure permissions on behalf of the tribe.
 2. You will collaborate with us in good faith to identify appropriate communications activities to promote the project and acknowledge Wells Fargo's support.
 3. You will provide timely review of external-facing communications assets, and not unreasonably withhold approval.