



TRIBAL SOLAR
ACCELERATOR FUND

GRID Alternatives

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Tribal Energy Innovators Fellowship – Request for Applications

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.

Tribal Energy Innovation Fellowship (TEI)

Tribal Energy Innovation fellowship is a new program under the Tribal Solar Accelerator Fund. The TEI is designated for federally-recognized tribal members who are interested, invested, or engaged in work which supports renewable energy infrastructure and tribal energy capacity building in tribal communities.

GRID Alternatives and the TSAF has a wide range of partners across the United States and in many international countries to provide a network of professional and educational support, networking opportunities with industry leaders, and exposure to advanced technologies from around the world. As a Tribal Energy Innovation Fellow, you will receive a \$10,000 award to advance your ideas while working in the Tribal Energy Innovation cohort that will participate in quarterly conference calls, and a culminating convening termed as a "Demo Day" in the California or Colorado area toward the end of the yearlong fellowship.

Tribal Energy Innovation Fellowship Priority:

- The TSAF will provide small grants and resources to federally recognized tribal members or tribal groups to support the development of innovative ideas and the use of problem-solving processes that lead to sustainable renewable energy solutions for a tribal community.

Tribal Energy Innovation Fellowship Objective(s):

- To provide a modest fellowship award to plan and develop new solutions to tribal community renewable energy challenges.
- To engage the tribal community, make the most of existing assets, and work collaboratively with other tribal organizations.

- To learn from and be mentored by an industry professional on best practices in renewable energy for rural and underserved communities, business/enterprise models and planning, and other areas of technical support.

Tribal Solar Accelerator Fund (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). Our mission is to catalyze solar energy and expand solar job opportunities in tribal communities across the United States. Our vision for Indian Country is a transition to energy sovereignty that is educational, entrepreneurial, and completely renewable.

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.

Other TSAF Project Funding Areas 2018-2021:

The broader goals of the TSAF is to support new tribal solar projects ranging from tribal facility buildings to single family homes or small multi-family complexes owned or rented by tribal members. Moreover, the TSAF established a partnership with the American Indian College Fund to support tribal college and university students with degree program interests in renewable energy.

- **Matched Funds:** Tribes that have a cost-share funding need, or an outstanding U.S. Department of Energy grant matching funds requirement
- **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

- **Tribal College and Universities (TCUs) Scholarships:**
The American Indian College Fund (College Fund) and GRID Alternatives (GRID) are pleased to develop a partnership that will expand access for Tribal College and University (TCU) students to provide support for educational achievement, project-based learning opportunities, and career development pathways in renewable energy, particularly in the solar industry.

Tribal Energy Innovators Fellowship timeline and reporting

RFP ANNOUNCEMENT	October 14, 2019
TEI INFORMATIONAL WEBINAR	November 1, 2019
FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION DUE	December 2, 2019 by 5:00 p.m. MST
AWARD/DENIAL NOTIFICATIONS	December 30, 2019
FELLOWSHIP TIMELINE (START/END)	January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020
INDIVIDUAL CHECK-IN'S WITH TSAF STAFF	Bi-monthly starting in February 2020
COHORT CHECK-IN'S WITH TSAF STAFF	Bi-monthly starting in March 2020
FELLOWSHIP CONVENING	October 1, 2020
FELLOWSHIP REPORT DUE	December 30, 2020

Expectations of fellowship participants

If selected as a TEI participant, you will be expected to:

- Maintain monthly email communication with TSAF staff to provide updates
- Attend bi-monthly individual check-in meetings with TSAF staff and mentors
- Attend bi-monthly cohort check-in meetings with TSAF staff and mentors
- Attend an annual convening or “Demo Day” in California or Colorado

TSAF Tribal Energy Innovators review and selection criteria

Upon receipt of a TSAF-TEI application, the following funding criteria should be met:

- Solid and concrete matches between fellowship purpose and energy innovation

- 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
- Budget narrative
- 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 TEI applications.

TEI 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 members in the lower 48 states and Alaska
- Must be 18 years of age and older

TEI Fellowship Application Site and Submission Guidelines

- Please download the TSAF application(s) in Microsoft Word at or google form at www.tribalsolar.org or email tclairmont@gridalternatives.org and cc contact@tribalsolar.org to request a TEI Fellowship application.
- The TSAF application must conform to the following requirements:
 - No more than 10 pages of application information and narrative questions section (including charts/graphs, maps, or photos). If application information and narrative questions section exceeds 10 pages, TSAF will only review and score the first 10 pages and disregard any additional pages.
 - TEI Application (if applying via Word document) must be submitted as ONE Adobe PDF document
 - 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 applicant must be included in the footer of every page (if applying via Word Document).**
- TSAF applicants are strongly encouraged to submit their applications at least 24 hours in advance of the submission deadline.
 - TEI Applications are due Monday December 2, 2019 by 5:00 p.m. Mountain Standard Time (MST).
 - Please submit applications via email at tclairmont@gridalternatives.org and “cc” contact@tribalsolar.org subject line “2020 TEI Application - <Applicant Name>.” 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 (7 sections) identified in the RFP.

TEI Funds Disbursement

- Must have a signed fellowship contract and W-9 by January 10, 2020
- Awards will be split into two payments of \$5000; first payment by February 1, 2020, and the second payment by July 1, 2020
- The second payment will be contingent on participation in 2 of 3 individual check-in calls by July 1, 2020.
- Travel will be paid for each participant to attend and present at the TEI convening or “Demo Day” which will be held in October 2020.

TEI FAQ's

Please monitor www.tribalsolar.org for FAQ's