

Bureau of Indian Affairs, Tribal Youth Initiative (TYI) Program, Ranking Criteria and Application Process

Program Information

Initiative funding for the support and development of tribal youth programs focused on science in alignment with conservation and resource management will be distributed on a competitive basis to tribes and inter-tribal organizations. The programs will provide opportunities for youth to engage in the field of natural resource management and encourage their interest in pursuing educational opportunities and careers in natural resources management.

Applicant Eligibility

Eligibility is limited to Federally Recognized Indian Tribal Governments and Native American Organizations authorized by Indian tribal governments (Tribes and inter-tribal organizations authorized under PL 93-638).

We request that successful applicants provide an annual report to the Regional BIA point-of- contact (listed below) by September 1st of each year until the project is completed. Reporting helps support future appropriations! Reports might include:

- Project Status
- Expected completion date
- Objectives achieved
- Photos / short narratives

Proposal Eligibility

- Proposals must provide the contact information for the Tribal project manager overseeing the project. Failure to provide this information will result in disqualification.
- Proposal budget cannot include tribal indirect rate. *Tribal indirect rate comes from a separate account and should be requested upon budget development in conjunction with BIA contracting officials (if selected for funding).*
- All proposals must be signed (at a minimum) by the equivalent of the Director of Natural Resources. This is to ensure the Tribe is aware of this project.
- Funding requests can range from \$2,000 to \$50,000 per application.
- An eligible entity may submit multiple applications.

Project Eligibility

Successful applications will focus on promoting native youth interest in natural resources management, including career opportunities in natural resources.

Ranking Criteria

Projects should focus on providing mechanisms whereby tribal youth (ages up to and including 25 years of age) are encouraged to work towards careers in the field of natural resources. Project participants are strongly encouraged to provide mentoring for upcoming students or to assist current students in remaining with the project through to its conclusion.

Eligible projects will be ranked according to the degree to which they meet the following criteria:

- The extent to which a project engages tribal youth in natural resources management (number/age of youth, and the degree to which the material will motivate or otherwise support tribal youth on a path to a career in natural resources)
 - provides hands-on resource management activities
 - addresses recognized local resource management issues
 - addresses recognized broad-scale resource management issues
 - demonstrates interdisciplinary approach to resource management
 - accomplishes meaningful resource conservation/management results
- **Safety:** Applicants must demonstrate the prioritization of safety. Applicants must assume responsibility for working with tribal youth and demonstrate that participants will be provided a safe learning environment. **This criterion must be addressed in the applicants' proposal.** Describe steps that will be taken to ensure a safe environment (mentor/student ratio, supervision provided, past experience, accreditation, etc.).
- **Collaboration:** Applicants should show their investigation/pursuit of collaborating partners to maximize resources and partner participation (include letter of support for partnerships).
- **Cost Containment:** Proposals should show the extent to which applicant will provide a cost effective means of encouraging tribal youth to pursue careers in natural resources.
- **Reporting:** Applicants must commit to providing reports highlighting project successes by Sept. 1st of each year.

How to Apply

Proposals should be submitted to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Regional office that services the applicant's area (**address and contact info below**) by **close of business on July 1st, 2026**.

Applicants should submit a proposal in the format detailed below. **The proposal should clearly address the eligibility and ranking criteria listed above and should not exceed six pages maximum** (not including letters of support/contributions).

- I. Introduction/Background: Name of applicant, project name, project location, a brief background and description of the issue. This section should conclude with a brief statement summarizing your request.
- II. Goal/Objectives: What are the goals of the project? List measurable objectives that work towards achieving the project goals.
- III. Methodology: How you plan on accomplishing the task. Include a timeline for completion of tasks. Please attach a copy of any completed management plan in which you are seeking funding for implementation.
- IV. Outcome/Results: What are the expected work products? What measurable benefits are expected? What is the expected timeline?
 - I. Budget: Need a detailed line-item expenditure breakdown. Do not include contract support cost (indirect cost).
- V. Letters of support/contributions.

BIA Regional Contact List for Tribal Youth Initiative Program

Great Plains	Southern Plains	Eastern	Midwest	Eastern Oklahoma	Rocky Mt
Todd Hauge, Safety of Dams (605) 226-7621 todd.hauge@bia.gov	Robert Codopony, Acting NR Branch Chief (405) 850-6772 robert.codopony@bia.gov	Mikail Kane, Regional NRS (629) 203-2337 mikail.kane@bia.gov	Chase Meierotto, Acting Fish Wildlife & Parks Branch Chief (715) 519-0742 chase.meierotto@bia.gov	Justin Morgan Soil Conservationist (918) 315-1465 justin.morgan@bia.gov	Frank D. Rollefson, Regional Wildlife Biologist frank.rollefson@bia.gov
Address: Great Plains Regional Office, Division of Natural Resources MC 301, 115 4th Ave SE Suite 400, Aberdeen, SD 57401	Address: Southern Plains Regional Office, Branch of Natural Resources P.O. Box 368, Anadarko, OK 73005	Address: 545 Marriott Drive Suite 700, Nashville TN 37214	5600 W. American Blvd, suite 500, Bloomington, MN 55437	Address: 3100 W Peak Blvd Muskogee, OK 74401	Address: Rocky Mountain Regional Office, Division of Natural Resources, 2021 4'th Avenue North, Billings, Montana 59101
Navajo	Southwest	Western	Pacific	Northwest	Alaska
Delores Becenti, Regional Geospatial coordinator delores.becenti@bia.gov (505) 863-8253	D. Chris Kitcheyan - Regional Biologist (505) 563-3408 david.kitcheyan@bia.gov	Catherine Wilson, Supervisory Water Rights Specialist catherine.wilson@bia.gov	Peter DeJongh peter.dejongh@bia.gov (916) 718-9770	Ashton Harp, Fisheries Biologist (971) 378-2302 ashton.harp@bia.gov	Rosalie Debenham, Fish and Wildlife Biologist rosalie.debenham@bia.gov (907) 310-9935
Bureau of Indian Affairs Navajo Regional Office 301 W Hill St., PO BOX. 1060, Gallup, NM 87305	Bureau of Indian Affairs, Southwest Regional Office, 1001 Indian School Road, NW, Albuquerque, NM 87104	Address: 2600 N. Central Ave, 4th Floor Mailroom, Phoenix, AZ 85004	Address: Bureau of Indian Affairs, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA 95825	Address: BIA, 911 NE 11th Avenue, Portland Oregon 97232	Address: BIA, P.O. Box 21647, Juneau, AK 99802