



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Washington, DC 20240

May 20, 2026

## Memorandum

To: All Regional Directors

From: Deputy Bureau Director, Trust Services **JOHNNA BLACKHAIR**

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JOHNNA BLACKHAIR  
Date: 2026.05.20  
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Subject: Request for Proposals (RFP) for Fisheries, Wildlife, and Recreation Program Funding

This memo serves as the announcement of the availability of funding through the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Fisheries, Wildlife, and Recreation Programs (FW&R). FW&R expects to provide competitive and non-recurring project funding within three different program areas in Fiscal Year 2026 (FY 26):

1. Endangered Species Program – Approximately \$6 million will be awarded by the Bureau in competitive funding for this program. The attached, *Bureau of Indian Affairs, Endangered Species Program, Ranking Criteria and Application Process*, provides guidance for those interested in participating in this program.
2. Hatchery Maintenance Program – The Bureau will award approximately \$9 million in competitive funding for this program. The attached, *Bureau of Indian Affairs, Fish Hatchery Maintenance Program, Ranking Criteria and Application Process*, provides guidance for those interested in participating in this program.
3. Tribal Youth Initiative Program – The Bureau will award approximately \$1.5 million in competitive funding for this program. The attached, *Bureau of Indian Affairs, Tribal Youth Initiative (TYI) Program, Ranking Criteria and Application Process*, provides guidance for those interested in participating in this program.

FW&R requests your assistance in informing the tribes within your Region of these funding opportunities and also in conducting initial processing of funding requests. Each Region will be responsible for distributing program materials to eligible entities, receiving completed funding proposals from applicants, reviewing proposals to assure they meet eligibility criteria, and ranking proposals according to ranking criteria and regional priority.

**All applications for FW&R program funding must be received by the Bureau's Regional Office by July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026.**

Regional contact information is included within the application guidance documents for each of the FW&R programs referenced above. Application guidance documents for each of the three programs are enclosed. Please contact Trina Locke, Director of Environmental and Natural Resources at [Trina.Locke@bia.gov](mailto:Trina.Locke@bia.gov) or (202) 617-0610 with questions.

NOFO Section: Program Overview, Program Description

Certified Local Governments 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.

NOFO Section: Application Content and Format, Pre-Application Requirements

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 Notice of Funding Opportunity, 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.

NOFO Section: Review and Selection Process, Initial Review

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.

Attachments

cc: Deputy Bureau Director, Field Operations