

**Office of Indian Energy
(\$K)**

FY 2022 Enacted	FY 2023 Enacted	FY 2024 Request
\$58,000	\$75,000	\$110,050

Overview

The Office of Indian Energy Policy and Program's (Office of Indian Energy, or IE) financial and technical assistance are beneficial to: promoting tribal energy development, efficiency, and use; reducing or stabilize energy costs; enhancing and strengthening tribal energy and economic infrastructure; and bringing electrical power and service to Indian land and homes -- with the ancillary benefit of creating jobs in American Indian and Alaska Native communities. IE achieves its mission through financial assistance, technical assistance, and education and outreach. This assistance is intended to overcome barriers to energy development, increase energy reliability and resiliency, and electrify Indian lands and homes.

Financial Assistance provides funding for IE to support two multi-year initiatives started in FY 2022: 1) transition all of the nation's Tribal Colleges and Universities to renewable energy; and 2) electrify the roughly 30,000 tribal homes that currently lack electricity. Both efforts include supporting a substantial interagency coordinated tribal energy job training component. DOE will continue to work together with US Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Department of the Interior (DOI), states, Indian tribes, and local utilities to ensure that resources are properly aligned, the right mix of loans, grants, and technical assistance is deployed, and the objectives are achieved as cost-effectively as possible, while fully respecting tribal sovereignty and self-determination. The FY 2024 Budget also provides funding to expand its current efforts for the transition of Indian Country to clean energy, including building capacity within tribes and tribal organizations.

Since 2010, DOE's Office of Indian Energy has invested over \$120 million in more than 210 tribal energy projects, leverage by over \$93 million in recipient cost share. Seventy-six percent (over \$93 million) has been invested in hardware installation projects in more than 100 Native communities, projects having tangible impacts in these often underrepresented and disadvantaged communities, investments that will install nearly 46-megawatts (MW) of new generation and provide electricity to over 8,800 tribal buildings across the Nation, collectively save those communities more than \$315 million over the life of the energy systems installed and save \$3.38 for every DOE dollar invested.

In FY 2022, the Office of Indian Energy announced \$9 million in funding to 13 American Indian and Alaska Native communities. These projects, selected for negotiation of award March 2022, are estimated to result in 3.3 MW of new clean energy generation and provide a combined \$48.5 million in savings over the life of the systems to these communities. Building on these investments, in November 2022, the Office of Indian Energy issued two funding opportunities announcing the availability of \$35 million, specifically geared toward deploying affordable, sustainable, and reliable energy for American Indian and Alaska Native communities. In February 2023, the Office of Indian Energy announced the availability of an additional \$50 million for tribal clean energy projects.

Technical Assistance leverages DOE laboratories and partner organizations to facilitate expeditious energy deployment. By building internal technical capability, local support is being provided, and tribal capacity increased. Technical assistance is provided at no cost to address a specific technical or financial barrier or to assist with energy planning. Since 2010, over 420 technical assistance requests have been completed, providing technical, financial and energy planning expertise to bear on overcoming barriers to Indian energy development.

**Office of Indian Energy
Appropriation Level and Program Level Funding (\$K)**

	FY 2022 Enacted	FY 2023 Enacted	FY 2024 Request	FY 2024 Request vs FY 2023 Enacted (\$)	FY 2024 Request vs FY 2023 Enacted (%)
Assistance Programs¹					
Financial Assistance	48,171	56,000	82,868	26,868	48%
Technical Assistance	4,306	5,000	6,829	1,829	37%
Total, Assistance Programs	52,477	61,000	89,697	28,697	47%
Program Direction					
Salaries and Benefits	2,443	4,856	4,906	50	1%
Travel	134	265	265	0	0%
Support Services	2,534	5,576	11,879	6,303	113%
Other Related Expenses	412	3,303	3,303	0	0%
Total, Program Direction	5,523	14,000	20,353	6,353	45%
Total, Office of Indian Energy	58,000	75,000	110,050	35,050	46.7%
Federal FTEs	12	29	29	0	0%

¹ Formerly named Tribal Energy Program which was an EERE Program

Outyear Funding

	FY 2024 Request	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
Office of Indian Energy Policy and Program	110,050	113,000	115,000	118,000	120,000

Major Outyear Priorities and Assumptions

In the FY 2012 Consolidated Appropriations Act (P.L. 112-74), Congress directed the Department to include a future-years energy program (FYEP) in subsequent requests that reflects the proposed appropriations for five years. This FYEP shows outyear funding for each account for FY 2025 - FY 2028. The outyear funding levels use the growth rates from and match the outyear account totals published in the FY 2024 President's Budget for both the 050 and non-050 accounts. Actual future budget request levels will be determined as part of the annual budget process.

FY 2024 Appropriation priorities include the following:

- Deployment grants to aid clean energy transition (tribal building energy efficiency measures, new clean generation, net-zero tribal college campuses);
- Capacity building and workforce development (student clean energy education, worker training, workforce transition, tribal leader capacity-building); and
- Policy analysis and support (state/tribal utility policy analysis, examination of the policy implications of new technologies, improving access to capital)

Office of Indian Energy Assistance Programs

Overview

The Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs serves all federally recognized Indian tribes, including Alaska Native Regional Corporations and Village Corporations, as well as tribal and intertribal organizations, and tribal energy development organizations. Numerous factors challenge Indian tribes interested in developing their vast energy resources. Energy and infrastructure development in Indian Country is constrained due to limited funding and financing, inadequate infrastructure, limited technical capacity, and a complicated legal and regulatory structure governing Indian lands. As a result, many Indian tribes spend a disproportionate amount of their income on energy (28.3% higher on average than the U.S. National median energy burden of 3% with some paying well over 4 times the national average) and a significant number, especially in Alaska, experience a severe energy burden (i.e., paying more than 10% of income on energy)², one in three American Indians and Alaska Natives (32%) live in poverty, which is nearly double the United States average (18%)³, are nearly five times as likely to live in inadequate housing⁴, and eight times more likely to live in overcrowded housing (16% versus 2% for the United States).⁵

In consultation with Tribal Leaders, Alaska Native Regional Corporations and other constituents, IE achieves its mission by: (1) promoting Indian energy development, efficiency, and use; (2) helping to reduce or stabilize the cost of electricity; (3) enhancing and strengthening tribal energy and economic infrastructure; and (4) electrifying Indian lands and homes. IE achieves its mission through financial assistance, technical assistance, and education and outreach.

Financial assistance, primarily through competitive grants to Indian tribes and other eligible tribal entities, supports the deployment of clean energy technology, infrastructure, efficiency, and electrification projects, reducing energy costs, increasing reliability and resiliency, and building human capacity within and among tribes.

In the area of technical assistance, IE is expanding its support through the use of local Subject Matter Experts (SME's) to assist American Indian and Alaska Native communities in developing energy projects and providing support for energy planning. In Alaska, this was implemented through an interagency agreement with the Denali Commission for local SME's.

Policy initiatives include coordination and collaboration with various sectors of government that are critical to investment, job creation, project development, and sustainability of energy systems throughout Indian Country, including the Indian Country Energy and Infrastructure Working Group (ICEIWG) and the White House Council on Native American Affairs (WHCNAA). ICEIWG advises the Office of Indian Energy Director and the Secretary of Energy on behalf of Indian tribes on their policy priorities. Policy analysts survey energy needs and energy resources on Indian lands, including available infrastructure support, and develop strategies for electrification and energy development and deployment. The Office participates in the WHCNAA and represents DOE on the Economic Development, Energy, and Infrastructure Committee to serve Tribes and Tribal communities by strengthening and developing federal programs and policies that support prosperous and resilient Tribal communities. As a government-wide effort, the WHCNAA and participating agencies are committed to supporting Tribal economic revitalization and energy transition. In support of this effort, in December 2022 the DOE and DOI entered into an MOU with the Navajo Nation⁶ to partner on their transition away from coal. DOE, in coordination with the WHCNAA and with involvement from DOD and the General Services Administration (GSA), is launching a new initiative to increase federal agencies' use of Tribal energy through purchasing authority established by

² Megan Day, Ricardo Oliveira, Jon Weers, and Aaron Vimont. (2019) [Low-Income Energy Affordability Data \(LEAD\) Tool Methodology](https://lead.openei.org/assets/docs/LEAD-Tool-Methodology.pdf). <https://lead.openei.org/assets/docs/LEAD-Tool-Methodology.pdf>.

³ U.S. Census Bureau 2006-2010 American Community Survey. <https://catalog.data.gov/dataset/2006-2010-american-community-survey-5-year-selected-population-tables>.

⁴ U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) report (2017), Assessment of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian Housing Needs. https://www.huduser.gov/portal/native_american_assessment/home.html.

⁵ U.S. Census Bureau 2013 American Housing Survey Data. <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/ahs/data/2013/ahs-2013-summary-tables/national-summary-report-and-tables---ahs-2013.html>

⁶ <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=867025754721364>

statute.⁷ Policy initiatives also include coordination and collaboration through a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of the Interior on issues including electrification and energy development in Indian Country. The Office of Indian Energy is working across DOE through the Tribal Energy Steering Committee and in consultation with Tribes to implement the policies and directives of Executive Order 13175 and includes broader actions to improve the Department's DOE Tribal Consultation Process and DOE Order 144.1, "Department of Energy American Indian Tribal Government Interactions and Policy."

Highlights and Major Changes in the FY 2024 Budget Request

IE's FY 2024 budget priorities are continuing and expanding efforts towards (1) universal energy access for Indian country, (2) 100% renewable tribal colleges and universities; (3) transitioning Indian Country to clean energy; and (4) building capacity in Indian Country.

Universal Energy Access for Indian Country

Tens of thousands of U.S. citizens living on tribal land currently live in homes without electricity. Without electricity, these families lack access to what many consider basic necessities like wired lights, computers, and refrigeration. The Department of Energy, working through the Office of Indian Energy, seeks to remedy this inequitable situation and bring clean energy to every tribal home that wants it. IE will work in partnership with the USDA, DOI, states, Indian tribes, and local utilities to ensure that incentives are properly aligned, the right mix of loans, grants, and technical assistance is deployed, and that universal electrification is achieved as cost-effectively as possible, while fully respecting tribal sovereignty and self-determination.

100% Renewable Tribal Colleges and Universities

Tens of thousands of tribal students' study at the nation's 37 tribal colleges and universities each year⁸ – seeking an education that will lead to meaningful work that will help their homelands and provide good paying jobs for their families. This initiative will combine the ingenuity of tribal students with the vast energy potential of tribal lands to bring renewable energy projects to every tribal college and university in the nation, with the ultimate goal of those schools being powered by 100% renewable energy and becoming net-zero. Students will be engaged in hands-on learning, with opportunities to help plan, design, and install renewable projects at their schools – helping to equip them to go on to good paying jobs in the renewable energy sector.

Transitioning Indian Country to Clean Energy

Building on past successes, IE will expand efforts to transition American Indian and Alaska Native communities to clean energy while building local economies, stabilizing or reducing energy costs, and building local capacity. Native communities pay some of the highest energy costs in the Country. By transitioning to clean energy Native Nations can tap into their vast energy resources, build local economies and internal capacity, and increase resiliency for future generations.

Capacity Building

Indian country has only just barely tapped into its vast energy resources. IE will work through technical assistance, education, and outreach to build skills and knowledge in Indian country to take advantage of these energy resources, provide good paying jobs, and power Indian country with renewable energy. IE will partner with tribal climate and energy education programs to train and build capacity of community members, college students, and professionals in Indian Country – and – expand IE's local network of technical assistance providers to improve effectiveness and efficiency and to target the needs of tribes using local experts.

⁷ [FACT SHEET: Biden-Harris Administration Announces New Actions to Support Indian Country and Native Communities Ahead of the Administration's Second Tribal Nations Summit | The White House](#)

⁸ American Council on Education Issue Brief (C. Nelson and J. Frye). *Tribal College and University Funding: Tribal Sovereignty at the Intersection of Federal, State, and Local Funding* (2016). <https://www.acenet.edu/Documents/Tribal-College-and-University-Funding.pdf#:~:text=Tribal%20colleges%20and%20universities%20%28TCUs%29%20continue%20to%20provide,enroll%20nearly%2028%2C000%20full-%20and%20part-time%20students%20annually>. Accessed March 25, 2022.

**Indian Energy
Assistance Programs
Activities and Explanation of Changes**

FY 2023 Enacted	FY 2024 Request	Explanation of Changes FY 2024 Request vs FY 2023 Enacted
Assistance Programs \$61,000,000	\$89,697,000	\$28,697,000
Financial Assistance \$56,000,000	\$82,868,000	\$26,868,000
Competitive grant program supporting energy development and electrification in Indian Country, and associated support contracts.	Competitive grant program supporting energy development and energy access in Indian Country, and associated support contracts. Financial Assistance: Maximize available funding for financial assistance awards and expand opportunities for historically underserved populations, including those who have not previously received funding from IE.	The increase in funding will maximize the amount of funding for awards, reduce cost share, and increase the number of awards to those not previously funded.
Technical Assistance \$5,000,000	\$6,829,000	\$1,829,000
Technical Assistance disseminates information to Indian Country through in-person and on-line training, internships, regional/national workshops, webinars, and printed guides and materials.	Technical Assistance: Enhancing technical assistance by expanding the network of local service providers to improve effectiveness and efficiency and to target local needs of tribes.	The increase in funding will enable the expansion of technical assistance to more tribes and increased local providers.
On-request technical assistance efforts provides high-level support for electrification and energy development in Indian Country.	Education and Outreach: Expand STEM ⁹ education and internship programs, vocational/technical opportunities for non-traditional students, and increase outreach efforts to engage American Indian and Alaska Native communities and better educate the public on tribal energy potential, development challenges, and viable deployment solutions.	
Efforts will also focus on building partnerships and leveraging resources to maximize education, training, and technical assistance.		

⁹ Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) is a broad term used to group together these academic disciplines.

Office of Indian Energy Program Direction

Overview

Program direction provides federal staff responsible for the management and execution of IE's programs and activities, as well as the associated support contractors, rent, supplies, travel, and other related expenses. The staff is responsible for providing overall guidance and direction for DOE program offices on tribal energy activities and initiatives necessary to achieve IE's mission and provides day-to-day management of financial assistance, technical assistance, and outreach and capacity building efforts. Program direction also provides managerial support for the reporting, compliance, and other statutory responsibilities.

The FY 2024 Budget anticipates 29 federal staff: 10 FTEs in Washington, D.C., 5 FTEs in Anchorage, Alaska, and 14 FTEs in Golden, Colorado. The Washington, D.C. staff includes executive leadership, operations, and policy analysis. The Anchorage, Alaska staff provides education and technical assistance for the nearly 230 Alaska Native villages, over 200 Alaska Native Village Corporations, and 13 Alaska Regional Corporations. The Golden, Colorado staff provides management and oversight for approximately 80 existing financial assistance awards throughout the nation, while delivering technical assistance within the contiguous U.S. for nearly 340 Indian tribes and dozens of tribal and intertribal organizations.

Highlights and Major Changes in the FY 2024 Budget Request

- Energy access: Expand efforts towards achieving 100% universal energy access for Indian country and address the inequities to provide basic necessities like wired lights, computes, and refrigeration.
- Education and Outreach: Expand STEM education and internship programs to include vocational/technical opportunities for non-traditional students, as well as increasing stakeholder outreach efforts to better educate the public on tribal energy development challenges. Develop partnership with tribal climate and energy education programs to train and build capacity of community members, college students, and professionals in Indian Country;
- Increase outreach efforts to engage American Indian and Alaska Native communities and better educate the public on tribal energy potential, development challenges, and viable deployment solutions;
- Support project management and procurement across IE's portfolio of projects, including closing out completed financial assistance awards; and
- Maximize the efficient and effective use of additional resources to accomplish IE's new initiatives and core mission while reducing overall expenses and improving the delivery of IE's services in Indian Country.

**Program Direction Funding
(\$K)**

	FY 2022 Enacted	FY 2023 Enacted	FY 2024 Request	FY 2024 Request vs FY 2023 Enacted (\$)	FY 2024 Request vs FY 2023 Enacted (%)
Salaries and Benefits	2,443	4,856	4,906	50	1%
Travel	134	265	265	0	0%
Support Services	2,534	5,576	11,879	6,303	113%
Other Related Expenses	412	3,303	3,303	0	0%
Total, Washington Headquarters	5,523	14,000	20,353	6,353	45%
Federal FTEs	15	29	29	0	0%

**Program Direction Summary
Indian Energy Federal Salaries and Expenses**

**Office of Indian Energy
Program Direction
Activities and Explanation of Changes**

FY 2023 Enacted	FY 2024 Request	Explanation of Changes FY 2024 Request vs FY 2023 Enacted
Program Direction \$14,000,000	\$20,353,000	\$6,353,000
Salaries and Benefits \$4,856,000	\$4,906,000	\$50,000
29 Federal Salaries and benefits to implement new initiatives program activities, monitor 80 active projects, and increase technical assistance efforts related to education/outreach environmental justice, energy access, and energy poverty.	29 Federal Salaries and benefits to implement new initiatives program activities, monitor 80 active projects, and increase technical assistance efforts related to education/outreach environmental justice, energy access, and energy poverty.	A minor increase related to pay raises.
Travel \$265,000	\$265,000	\$0
Travel required for Federal staff delivery of program management and Office of Indian Energy deployment activities, including outreach and education, technical assistance, and project management to support the 574 federally recognized Indian tribes throughout the nation, many of which are located in remote and rural areas.	Travel required for Federal staff delivery of program management and Office of Indian Energy deployment activities, including outreach and education, technical assistance, and project management to support the 574 federally recognized Indian tribes throughout the nation, many of which are in remote and rural areas.	No change
Support Services \$5,576,000	\$11,879,000	\$6,303,000
Management, administrative, and operations support.	Management, administrative, and operations support.	The additional funding will support the ability to monitor an increased number of grants, support execution of technical assistance, and outreach.
Other Related Expenses \$3,303,000	\$3,303,000	\$0
Computer hardware and software provided through the Office of Chief Information Officer (OCIO), Working Capital Fund, additional office space, registration fees, supplies, and small purchases through the micro-purchase credit card.	Computer hardware and software provided through the OCIO, Working Capital Fund, additional office space, registration fees, supplies, and small purchases through the micro-purchase credit card.	No change in support.