

Program Information Sheet

Program Name

**Climate Program Office FY24 National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS)
Tribal Drought Resilience with Inflation Reduction Act Support**

Program Mission

The National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS), authorized in 2006, has an interagency mandate to coordinate and integrate drought research, building upon existing federal, tribal, state, and local partnerships in support of creating a national drought early warning information system. The mission of NIDIS is to help the nation move to a more proactive approach to understanding and managing drought risks and impacts, and to improve long-term drought resilience.

NIDIS is committed to increasing support to tribal nations, organizations, and partners to build drought resilience on tribal lands. The overarching goals of NIDIS, as defined by the public laws authorizing the program ([P.L. 109-430](#), [P.L. 113-86](#), and [P.L. 115-423](#)), related to this competition are to provide an effective and comprehensive drought early warning system that collects and integrates information on the key indicators of drought in order to make usable, reliable, and timely drought forecasts and assessments of drought that can support proactive response. This includes assessments of the severity of drought conditions and impacts, and the communication of drought forecasts, drought conditions, and drought impacts on an ongoing basis to decision-makers at the federal, **tribal**, regional, state, and local levels of government, the private sector, and the public. The 2006 Public Law also states that the Under Secretary shall consult with relevant federal, **tribal**, regional, state, and local government agencies, research institutions, and the private sector in the development of the National Integrated Drought Information System.

NIDIS recognizes that tribal communities face unique drought challenges and opportunities, requiring customized approaches, tools, and data that may integrate indigenous knowledge and cultural, medicinal, and spiritual values. It is also recognized that Indigenous experiences and perspectives of drought vary greatly across the United States. To effectively address tribal needs as mandated by the NIDIS Public Law, NIDIS and partners jointly developed the [NIDIS Tribal Drought Engagement Strategy: 2021-2025](#) in consultation with tribal partners. In FY22, NIDIS held its first grants competition solely focused on building tribal drought resilience. [Five projects were funded](#) that aim to implement drought resilience activities in existing drought, water, or related plans - a topic that came directly from tribal partners who helped develop the strategy. NIDIS has also worked to enhance the U.S. Drought Portal, [drought.gov](#), to make it more useful for tribal partners. All downloadable climate maps on drought.gov can now be customized to add tribal nation boundaries.

NIDIS' commitment to engage and support tribal nations in preparing for and responding to the impacts of drought on their land and communities is grounded in a whole of government commitment to respect Tribal sovereignty and self-governance, fulfill Federal trust and treaty

responsibilities to Tribal Nations, and to conduct regular, meaningful, and robust consultation (Executive Order 13175). These efforts are further grounded in a commitment to address the disproportionately high and adverse human health, environmental, climate-related and other cumulative impacts on underserved communities, as well as the accompanying economic challenges of such impacts (Executive Order 14008). On November 30, 2022, the Office of Science and Technology Policy and the Council on Environmental Quality released the [Guidance for Federal Departments and Agencies on Indigenous Knowledge](#) to improve the Federal Government’s recognition and inclusion of Indigenous Knowledge in Federal decision making. NIDIS welcomes and encourages the application of Indigenous Knowledge to increase drought resilience and is committed to working to implement guidance in this document.

Program Authority

[Public Law 115-423](#) National Integrated Drought Information System Reauthorization Act of 2018

Focus for FY2024

For FY2024, the Coping with Drought: Building Tribal Drought Resilience with Support from the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) competition will be focused on addressing current and future drought risk on tribal lands across the West to support decision making and build tribal drought resilience in a changing climate.

Funding for FY2024

Pending the availability of funds in FY2024, NIDIS anticipates a funding allocation of approximately \$2 million.

Proposals may request funding of up to \$700,000 total to be disseminated in year 1 and expended over three years in the form of Cooperative Agreements. A total of 3-5 projects may be funded depending on project budget requested.

Competition Information

Drought has plagued the Western U.S. almost continuously for the past 20+ years, which has prompted questions as to whether these drought conditions should still be considered drought or if this is evidence that the climate is changing in this region. This problem has complicated water planning and drought management, requiring decision makers to pivot toward assessing future drought risk differently than before. While tribal nations have historically shown that they are resilient and can adapt to change, it is now more important than ever for tribal nations to be prepared for future droughts. This opportunity is intended to provide

support for tribal nations to implement activities that will increase their resilience to drought and account for the impacts of climate change on water availability.

Applications should be developed by or in full partnership with tribal nations to fund the **implementation of activities that address current and future drought risk on tribal lands across the West in the context of a changing climate.**

For the purposes of this competition, the “West” is considered to be the areas within the following five Drought Early Warning System (DEWS) regions: California-Nevada¹, Intermountain West², Missouri River Basin³, Pacific Northwest⁴, and Southern Plains⁵.

Projects could include, but are not limited to the following types of activities:

- Identifying primary drought impacts
- Identifying optimal drought indicators and/or triggers
- Developing a drought communication/information dissemination plan
- Improving/enhancing drought monitoring
- Developing an online dashboard with relevant drought tools and information
- Conducting a drought vulnerability assessment
- Developing a drought plan
- Convening workshops with key partners, within the tribe and/or external to the tribe, to increase communication and sharing of drought information
- Demonstrating the application of drought data and information to enhance decision-making

The outcomes of the projects funded will not only provide an opportunity for building community resilience, but also the integration of traditional ecological knowledge and western knowledge systems which is key to understanding and adapting to drought in a changing climate.

¹<https://www.drought.gov/dews/california-nevada>

²<https://www.drought.gov/dews/intermountain-west>

³<https://www.drought.gov/dews/missouri-river-basin>

⁴<https://www.drought.gov/dews/pacific-northwest>

⁵<https://www.drought.gov/dews/southern-plains>

Guidelines for Applicants

The funding instrument for awards is expected to be Cooperative Agreements, as it is anticipated NOAA will be substantially involved in the implementation of the project. Examples of substantial involvement may include, but are not limited to, collaboration between NOAA scientists and a recipient, quarterly to semi-annual informal meetings with NIDIS and the investigators, assistance identifying technical experts as appropriate, networking opportunities with other tribal investigators, identifying opportunities to support investigators to share outcomes of their work, etc.

Proposals will:

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- Demonstrate full partnership of tribal nations. If the primary applicant is not a tribal nation, full partnership with a tribal nation can be demonstrated by: 1) including at least one full investigator on the project representing a federally recognized tribe and 2) indicating through the budget and budget justification that funds are being disseminated to the tribe.
 - Demonstrate an integrated project team that also considers partners from the public and private sectors; academia, including Tribal Colleges and Universities; local, regional, tribal, and federal governmental entities; non-governmental organizations (NGOs); environmental groups; intertribal councils and consortia, tribal allottee organizations, citizen groups, etc.
 - Demonstrate adherence to the Guiding Principles of Tribal Engagement as defined in the [NIDIS Tribal Drought Engagement Strategy: 2021-2025](#) (pgs 9-11) which include: 1) respecting tribal sovereignty, 2) ensuring trust and reciprocity, and 3) ensuring drought related work is culturally appropriate and useful for tribal nations.
 - As part of the description of project activities, provide detailed information on the activities to be conducted, locations, sites, timeline (seasons), species and habitat to be affected, possible construction activities, and any environmental concerns that may exist, as NOAA must analyze the potential environmental impacts, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Proposals may:

- Demonstrate external contributions (e.g., in-kind contributions and/or funding) to be leveraged with these federal research funds, though there are no match or cost-share requirements.
- Leverage previous or ongoing work related to drought risk assessment and the implementation of actions to build drought resilience such as those funded under the BIA Branch of Tribal Climate Resilience, the Department of the Interior Climate Adaptation Science Centers, etc.
- Demonstrate a partnership with a Tribal College or University (TCU) to enhance collaboration and utilize the valuable resources that TCUs have to offer in terms of their faculty/staff, students, and facilities.

Additional Guidelines for Applicants:

- Project teams will be encouraged to work with the NIDIS Tribal Engagement Coordinator to share outcomes and lessons learned with other tribal nations and tribal organizations, where appropriate, to strengthen national tribal drought preparedness and response.
- Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) prior to developing and submitting a full proposal using the [FY24 CWD Tribal submission form](#). Investigators unable to submit via the form should email their LOI to britt.parker@noaa.gov. If you email your LOI you will receive confirmation of receipt; if you do not please follow-up before the deadline.
- A checklist has been developed to assist applicants in confirming that all required components of the Letter of Intent and the application have been addressed and can be found on the competition webpage.

Successful applicants who accept a NOAA award under this solicitation will be bound by the Department of Commerce Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions. This document will be provided in the award package in NOAA's Grants Online system at <http://www.ago.noaa.gov> and at <http://go.usa.gov/hKbj>.

This competition lead will be holding an informational webcast to discuss the background of the programs and expectations for this competition, as well as to address questions related to the development and submission of letters of intent and proposals. For times and accessibility, please monitor the [Climate Program Office Grants website](#).

The National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) Coping with Drought competition will be managed by Britt Parker at britt.parker@noaa.gov.

Administrative questions regarding the Federal Funding Opportunity (e.g. proposal formatting or submission guidelines) should be directed to Diane Brown at diane.brown@noaa.gov.