

Program Information Sheet

Program Name

National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS)
Coping with Drought: Building Tribal Drought Resilience

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, regional, State, tribal, 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, regional, State, tribal, 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 traditional tribal 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 addition, the White House issued a Memorandum on Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Relationships on January 26, 2021 which reaffirmed Executive Order 13175 of November 6, 2000. The Memorandum prioritizes respect for Tribal sovereignty and self-governance, commitment to fulfilling Federal trust and treaty responsibilities to Tribal Nations, and regular, meaningful, and robust consultation with Tribal Nations as cornerstones of Federal Indian policy. Executive Order 14008 Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad was signed on January 27, 2021 and commits agencies to make achieving environmental justice part of their missions by developing programs, policies, and activities 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. These only strengthen NIDIS' commitment to engage and support tribal nations in preparing for and responding to the impacts of drought on their land and communities.

Program Authority

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

Focus for FY2022

For FY2022, the Coping with Drought: Building Tribal Drought Resilience competition will be focused on **the implementation of actions - together with research on those actions - to build tribal drought resilience contained in existing plans and strategies.**

[Note: There is a separate competition through the NIDIS FY2022 Coping with Drought: Ecological Drought competition. Please see the relevant Information Sheet for details.]

Funding for FY2022

Pending the availability of funds in FY2022, NIDIS anticipates a funding allocation of approximately \$1.5 million.

Proposals may request funding of up to \$500,000 to be expended over two years in the form of Cooperative Agreements. A total of 6-7 projects may be funded.

Competition Information

Over the past few years, tribal nations have made significant advances in their drought planning activities. Many tribal nations have developed drought (or climate change) risk assessments and/or action plans. Yet, many tribal resource managers have expressed frustration by the lack of adequate funding for implementation of actions to build drought resilience embedded within those plans. Additionally, assessing the feasibility and efficacy of these actions, from the tribal perspective, is critical to ensuring that lessons are learned and shared. This opportunity is intended to contribute to the larger effort to address this gap between planning and implementation.

Applications should be developed by or in full partnership with tribal nations to fund the **implementation of actions - together with research on those actions - to build drought resilience contained in existing plans and strategies.**

Plans may include, but are not limited to drought contingency plans; drought, water, or natural resource plans; agricultural resource management plans; or climate adaptation plans.

Projects could include, but are not limited to:

- green infrastructure
- application of techniques to improve soil health
- diversification of cropping
- installation of fish ladders/maintaining fish refugia
- expansion of tools/response options for fish and wildlife managers
- cultural/native plant range expansion/nurseries
- ecosystem/landscape restoration
- plans/education to increase drought tolerant plants use for homes, farms and ranches
- additional planning/research in advance of implementation

There must be some research component to the proposed project that could include, but is not limited to, the following exemplar questions:

1. What metrics will you use to know when you are in drought, drought is worsening, or drought is improving; for example, observed changes in plant or animal behavior or landscape changes that indicate drought? How will these feed into monitoring and evaluation of your action?
2. How can a monitoring and evaluation process be designed and implemented that incorporates traditional ecological knowledge/traditional knowledge (TEK/TK) and/or cultural values to define and assess the success of the action to build drought resilience? What metrics will you use to understand whether drought impacts have been reduced or minimized based on your action(s)?
3. Are planning processes and implementation of actions that adhere to traditional ways of knowledge and adapting more effective? How is the effectiveness of these processes and actions defined and captured?
4. Is there a consideration of observed or future trends (climate change, land use, population, etc.) in the actions to build drought resilience, and if not, how might the actions be adapted to incorporate these trends to increase likelihood of success?
5. What processes or criteria are used to determine which actions to undertake and where they should be implemented? For example, what approaches, tools, metrics, and/or analyses are used - or need to be developed - to understand the full range of benefits and costs, inclusive of traditional knowledge, and cultural, ecological, and other values of importance of potential actions?
6. How can this project improve and document our understanding of the cultural, economic, human health, ecological, and/or other costs or impacts of drought?

We welcome proposals that leverage previous or ongoing work related to climate and drought vulnerability assessments and planning such as those funded under the BIA Tribal Resilience Grants or Department of the Interior Climate Adaptation Science Centers, etc.

Guidelines for Applicants

Project funds will be awarded as Cooperative Agreements, thus ensuring a working partnership and substantial interaction between the Project Primary Investigators (PI) and the NIDIS Program, NOAA scientists, and other relevant staff. Projects will be expected to submit

annual reports and respond to periodic data and information requests including quarterly calls to ensure co-production.

Proposals will:

- Demonstrate full partnership of tribal nations by including at least one full investigator on the project representing a federally-recognized tribe.
- Demonstrate an integrated project team with or considering 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) with 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).

Proposal 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 climate and drought vulnerability assessments and planning such as those funded under the BIA Tribal Resilience Grants or Department of the Interior Climate Adaptation Science Centers, etc.

Additional Guidelines for Applicants:

- Project teams will be encouraged to work with the NIDIS Tribal Coordinator to share outcomes and lessons learned with other tribal nations and tribal organizations, where appropriate, to strengthen national tribal drought preparedness and response.
- Investigators are strongly encouraged to submit an LOI prior to developing and submitting a full proposal using the [FY22 CWD LOI 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.

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 webinar on Thursday July 15, 2021 at 3pm ET/2pm CT/1pm MT/12pm PT 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. Please register [here](#) or check the [Climate Program Office Grants website](#) for registration information and a recording of the webinar if you cannot attend.

The National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) Coping with Drought 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.