

#### 8. Will Tribal Representatives Be Involved in Reviewing or Ranking Proposals?

No, only Federal employees will review and rank proposals in this initial year.

#### 9. Who Will Make the Final Determination for Grant Approval?

The Director will make the final determination for grant award.

#### 10. How Will the Tribes Be Notified Whether or Not They Have Been Awarded Grants?

Applicants will be notified by the Director through the Regional Native American Liaison as to whether or not they have been awarded grants.

#### B. Application Requirements

##### 1. Is TLIP Exempt From Federal Grant Program Compliance?

No, the TLIP program must comply with all Federal grant program compliance requirements as specified in 43 CFR part 12; OMB Circulars A-133, A-102, and A-87; and Service Manual Chapters 522 FW1 and 523 FW1, except where specifically exempted. Tribal grantees are responsible for ensuring that subgrantees and contractors adhere to these requirements.

##### 2. What Must Proposals Include for Participation in TLIP?

Proposals must include a cover letter, program summary, program narrative, budget narrative, a completed Standard Form 424 Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424), and tribal resolution of support as described herein.

- A *cover letter* briefly states the main features of the proposed program.
- A *program summary* describes, in one-half page, the type of activity that would take place if the Service funds the proposal.
- A *program narrative* clearly identifies the problems that the proposal will correct or help solve for the protection and management of habitat to benefit federally listed, proposed, or candidate species, or other at-risk species on tribal lands, and the expected results or benefits. It must contain a needs assessment, objectives, timeline, methodology, geographic location (with maps), monitoring plan, and identification of clear, obtainable, and quantifiable goals and performance measures that will help achieve the management goals and objectives of the TLIP and relevant Service and tribal performance goals. The relevant Service goals are Goal 1 Sustainability

of Fish and Wildlife Populations, including Migratory Bird Conservation (Goal 1.1), Imperiled Species (Goal 1.2), Interjurisdictional Fish (Goal 1.3), Marine Mammal Management (Goal 1.4), Species of International Concern (Goal 1.5), and Invasive Species (Goal 1.6); Goal 2, Habitat Conservation including; Habitat Conservation of Service Lands (Goal 2.3); and Mission Goal 4, Partnerships in Natural Resources, including Tribal Governments (Goal 4.1) all of which can be found in the Service's Long-Term Strategic Plan for 2000 to 2005 at <http://planning.fws.gov/USFWStrategicPlanv3.pdf>. Related Service planning and results can be found at <http://planning.fws.gov/>.

- A *budget narrative* clearly justifies all proposed costs and indicates that the grantee will provide adequate management systems for fiscal and contractual accountability, including annual monitoring and evaluation of progress toward desired project objectives, goals, and performance measures. It should include discussion of direct cost items such as salaries, equipment, consultant services, subcontracts, and travel, as well as program matching or cost sharing information. If some partners will provide in-kind matching, they must be listed in the grant proposal with a letter of commitment from each. Applicants may cover new project administrative costs and the Tribal Indirect Cost Rate, but they cannot include pre-existing administrative costs.
- An *SF-424* form will be included with the Grant Application Package and is available on the internet at <http://training.fws.gov/fedaid/toolkit/sf424-f.pdf>.
- A *resolution of support* from the appropriate tribal governing body or from an individual with delegated tribal authority stating support for the proposal. If a resolution of support is not submitted with the proposal, one will be required prior to awarding the grant.

##### 3. Where Can Applicants Obtain a Grant Proposal Package?

Applicants can obtain a grant proposal package from the Native American Liaison in the appropriate Regional Office (*see* Table 1 under **ADDRESSES**) or at the Service's Grants Web site <http://grants.fws.gov/tribal.html>.

##### 4. Are Matching Funds Required?

Yes, the Service requires a minimum of 25 percent non-Federal matching

funds for participation in this program. This is the same matching contribution requirement States must make under the LIP.

##### 5. Are In-Kind Contributions Eligible as Matching Funds?

Yes, in-kind contributions provided by the tribe or a third party may be counted towards the required 25 percent non-federal matching requirement. Any in-kind contributions in excess of the required 25 percent may be used as a match to improve the potential ranking of a proposal. The Federal Government has defined "in-kind" as non-cash contributions made by the tribe. In-kind contributions must be necessary and reasonable for carrying out the project, and must represent the same value that the Service would have paid for similar services or property if purchased on the open market. Allowable in-kind contributions are defined in 43 CFR 12.64. Additional information can be found at <http://training.fws.gov/fedaid/toolkit/inkind.pdf>.

##### 6. Can a Tribe Submit More Than One Grant Proposal?

Tribes are encouraged to submit a single comprehensive grant proposal but multiple proposals are allowable.

##### 7. What Maximum Level of Project Funding Will Be Considered Under TLIP?

The Service will award grants up to a maximum of \$200,000. If more than one proposal is submitted by any one tribe, no more than \$200,000 total can be awarded to that tribe. This amount is approximately 5 percent of the annual appropriation, and it allows for grants that are large enough to make a significant impact and be widely distributed.

##### 8. What Minimum Level of Project Funding Will Be Considered Under TLIP?

There is no proposal or grant award minimum, but the Service is concerned that an excess number of small grants could result in an undue administrative burden.

#### C. Ranking Criteria

##### What Ranking Criteria Will the Service Use?

The Service will score proposals based on the following criteria: the Proposed Guidelines we assigned (67 FR 79131; December 27, 2002), specific point values to these criteria for the purpose of gaining public comment. Based on public comments and our understanding of Congressional intent in creating this program, the following