



September 14, 2026

Energy Technology Innovation Partnership Project (ETIPP): Coastal, Remote, and Island Community Technical Assistance, 2026 Application Cycle

Agency	U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). Technical support is coordinated by the National Laboratory of the Rockies (NLR). Participating DOE National Laboratories: Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, National Laboratory of the Rockies (NLR), Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, and Sandia National Laboratories, working with regional partner organizations in eight regions.		
Program Description	ETIPP helps coastal, remote, and island communities develop more affordable, reliable, and secure energy systems through strategic energy planning support and deep-dive technical assistance. Through ETIPP, National Laboratory researchers and regional partner organizations collaborate with communities across eight regions in the United States and its territories for up to 24 months to develop strategies for more resilient, affordable energy systems. ETIPP connects communities to local organizations and four DOE National Laboratories to help them address challenges related to energy generation and storage, energy savings, transmission and distribution, workforce development, regulatory issues, and more. Each participant also receives support from a regional partner organization that has experience supporting community-based energy projects in their area and provides guidance before, during, and after ETIPP technical assistance. In addition to in-kind technical assistance, communities accepted to ETIPP are also eligible to receive direct funding to support their ETIPP engagement. In its first five cohorts, ETIPP has supported 95 community projects and partnered with local stakeholders, including local governments, Tribes, community-based organizations, and utilities, to strengthen energy systems in 21 states and territories. This is the sixth annual application cycle; the 2026 ETIPP application period runs from Aug. 13 to Nov. 18, 2026. Two assistance tracks are offered: Strategic Energy Planning (4 to 8 months) and Deep Dive (12 to 24 months). Applications are reviewed by a DOE review committee and energy experts.		
Application Due	November 18, 2026, 11:59 p.m. MT. Stakeholder Support Forms and the Utility Letter of Support are due on the same date and time, November 18, 2026, 11:59 p.m. MT. The application period opened Aug. 13, 2026. Informational webinar: September 30, 2026, 1 p.m. MT.		
Total Funding	Not specified. Selected communities receive up to 24 months of in-kind technical assistance from DOE National Laboratory researchers and regional partners, plus direct funding per the track selected.	Max Award: \$50,000 (Deep Dive track)	Min Award: Not specified in the announcement
Award Amount	NA		
Local Match:	NA		
Eligible Applicants	Must meet at least one of the following criteria: located on an island; located in Alaska; within 50 miles of a coastline (ocean, seacoast, or Great Lakes); population fewer than 50,000; or a federally recognized Tribe. Eligible lead applicants: local government (municipality, county, city, town); Tribe or Tribal organization; community-based organization (nonprofits, NGOs); special purpose district (school, water, sewer district); academic institution; municipal utility; electric co-op. Private entities must be incorporated and operate in the U.S., and academic institutions must be U.S. based. Ineligible: individuals; DOE employees and their immediate family members; federal employees and representatives of federal entities; entities debarred or suspended from doing business with the U.S. government; individuals participating in malign foreign talent recruitment programs; and entities owned or controlled by foreign countries of concern.		
Eligible Activities/Projects	Two tracks. Strategic Energy Planning (4 to 8 months, up to \$20,000): for communities developing actionable energy resilience goals; deliverables include a high-level energy assessment and baseline, individualized community goals, and a community action plan defining near-, mid-, and long-term energy resilience and affordability strategies. Deep Dive (12 to 24 months, up to \$50,000): requires an existing energy plan developed within the last 5 years or a specific project fitting the ETIPP scope, and includes thorough analysis by national laboratory experts; examples include feasibility analysis of local energy technologies for resilience, reliability, and affordability; energy policy guidance and decision-making support; and leading-edge technology and innovative system assessment. ETIPP does not fund equipment purchase or installation (such as solar panels or wind turbines), grant writing services, or advocacy support.		
Review Criteria	Applications are evaluated by a DOE review committee and energy experts based on: strength of the described energy resilience challenges; appropriateness of the proposed project to the selected track; quality of community and utility engagement demonstrated; team qualifications and decision-making roles; potential project impact, using quantitative metrics where possible; project replicability to similar communities; and coordination with Regional Partners during application development. Applications must address six categories: Need, Project, Community Engagement, Commitment, Replicability, and Support. When communities are not selected, ETIPP works with Regional Partners and national laboratories to identify alternative resources or funding opportunities.		
Link:	https://www.energy.gov/cmei/articles/doe-opens-sixth-annual-technical-assistance-application-coastal-remote-and-island		
Application Submission	Apply online at https://forms.cloud.microsoft/g/jTG2TWNNYF , or download and submit the PDF application. Questions: ETIPP@nlr.gov .		
BAC Partnership Opportunity	The Build America Center (BAC) is a technical assistance program funded by the USDOT, offering grant development services to localities at NO CHARGE. For more information, please visit our websites: https://bac.umd.edu/ and https://billaunchpad.com/		

If your agency is interested in exploring this opportunity, contact us at bac@umd.edu for details on collaboration