DESCRIPTION OF RFI:

The Energy Transition Act (ETA) establishes New Mexico as a national leader in clean energy. The ETA sets a statewide renewable energy standard of 50 percent by 2030 for New Mexico investor-owned utilities and rural electric cooperatives and a goal of 80 percent by 2040, in addition to setting zero-carbon resources standards for investor-owned utilities by 2045 and rural electric cooperatives by 2050. The law transitions New Mexico away from coal and toward clean energy, ensuring greater renewable energy production and reducing costs for consumers. It also provides tens of millions of dollars of economic and workforce support for communities impacted by coal plant closures, as well as the development of renewable replacement power in San Juan County.

The Energy Transition Act creates three funds that sit within three state departments- the Department of Workforce Solutions, the Economic Development Department, and the Indian Affairs Department. Each Department will administer its fund informed by the Community Advisory Committee and the public planning process. The State of NM and local conveners are asking for proposals to create economic activity for the region that focus on collaboration and tangible results for long-term jobs creation.

GUIDANCE FOR INFORMATION WE ARE SEEKING

Description of the project- What will your program do, who will benefit, who will you work with, etc.
Impact- Does this program make a meaningful difference in the lives of community members?
Level of Community Support – Is there significant support from the community?
Transformative Approach – Does this program address the root cause of an issue?
Alignment with affected community – Does this program align with the goals of the affected community?
Leverage – Does this program have existing capital, in-kind support or sweat-equity to achieve its goals outside of this grant?
Leadership – Who will be implementing the program and what is their experience in this work?

BACKGROUND: SUMMARY OF ENERGY TRANSITION ACT FUNDING
Department of Workforce Solutions

1. Total Funding Amount: Estimated $12 million available

2. Statutory Guidance:

The Energy Transition Act directs the Department of Workforce Solutions to administer the energy transition displaced worker assistance fund to assist displaced workers in the affected community.

The workforce solutions department shall develop a displaced worker development plan to assist displaced workers in an affected community that shall provide for the disbursement of money in the energy transition displaced worker assistance fund. Expenditures from the energy transition displaced worker assistance fund shall be made pursuant to the plan and as follows: (1) to assist employers of displaced workers to qualify for any tax relief established under state or federal law; (2) to the workforce solutions department: (a) to provide assistance to displaced workers using any program established at that department; and (b) for payment of costs associated with displaced workers enrolling and participating in certified apprenticeship programs in New Mexico; and (3) to a municipality, county, Indian nation, pueblo or tribe or land grant community in New Mexico for job training and apprenticeship programs for displaced workers or for programs designed to promote economic development in the affected community.

3. Additional Comments:

Any proposal should contain a plan for concrete career pathways for the local workforce that will allow a worker to obtain a job in an area of economic expansion for the area. Plans should consider long term economic prospects for any potential employment, including need for the next ten years and potential salary. Potential economic areas can include health care, construction trades, and the STEM/IT (needed statewide) or local areas of interest including clean energy, advanced manufacturing, film, and outdoor recreation.

Proposals that fund both educational costs, as well as provide living expenses for the worker and their family during any training period will be highly rated as will the certainty of obtaining good employment.

Plans should also align with the efforts of the San Juan Community to marker new job growth and the Navajo Nation’s efforts to grow the economy in Northwest New Mexico. It should also detail how specific dollars spend through this program can be combined with current programs (WIOA, JTIP, local contributions, etc) to create as much value for the local areas as possible.
Indian Affairs Department

1. Total Funding Available: Estimated $2 million available.

2. Statutory Guidance:

The Energy Transition Act directs the Indian Affairs Department to administer the energy transition Indian Affairs Fund to assist in addressing the conditions and issues of tribes and Native peoples in the affected community. Expenditures from the Fund shall be made as follows: (1) to an entity approved by the Indian Affairs Department to receive funds for any program established at the Indian Affairs Department; and (2) to tribal governments, public agencies or private persons to provide services and facilities in the affected community for promoting the welfare of Indian people.

3. Additional Comments:

The Indian Affairs Department will manage the Energy Transition Indian Affairs Fund. The fund will be used to address needs of the affected community. IAD hopes to fund projects that are innovative, demonstrate community support, and align with principles of tribal sovereignty and self-governance.

Proposals that take a transformative approach and focus on addressing systemic inequities will be prioritized for funding. Efforts aimed at building capacity within affected Navajo communities to revitalize a diverse economy will be prioritized as well.

Economic Development Department

1. Total Funding Amount: Estimated $6 million available

2. Statutory Guidance:

The Energy Transition Act directs the Economic Development Department to administer the energy transition economic development assistance fund to assist in diversifying and promoting the affected community’s economy by fostering economic development opportunities unrelated to fossil fuel development or use.

The economic development department shall develop an economic diversification and development plan to assist the affected community that shall provide for the disbursement of money in the energy transition economic development assistance fund. Expenditures from the fund shall be made pursuant to the plan and as follows: (1) to an entity approved by the economic development department to receive funds for any program established at
the economic development department; (2) to assist employers to qualify for any tax relief for hiring displaced workers established under state or federal law; and (3) to a municipality, county, Indian nation, pueblo or tribe or land grant community in New Mexico for programs designed to promote economic development in the affected community.

3. Additional Guidance

All investments made into a project are restricted to assets in New Mexico and all investments can only be made toward costs associated with land, buildings and infrastructure.

Any proposal submitted should include 3 key elements:

a. Total cost of the project - include all costs, land, building, equipment, engineering, design etc.

b. Total number of full-time positions resulting from the investment. Full-time positions identified as a minimum of 32 hours per week, New Mexico resident, direct employee (W-2). Contract (10-99) and temporary and part-time employees can be noted separately.

c. Wage range of each type of position to be created

Additional items that should be included, type of industry, how it will help diversify the economy, long term viability of the product produced.
ETAC RFI SUBMISSION FORM

Organization Name:

Principal Contact:

Contact Phone/Email:

Submission Date:

Description of Organization:

Statement of Need Idea Addresses:

Qualifications and Credentials of Organization or Key Partners:

Description of Proposal/Idea:
Respondents' proposal should be clearly defined and presented specific to each Department's fund allocations and the goals as stated by the Department.

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