

Capital Infrastructure Program – FY 2026

Applicant Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. Who is eligible to apply for Capital Infrastructure Program funding?

Eligible applicants include IHS service units and tribally owned or operated health care facilities. All project proposals must be submitted through the appropriate IHS Area Office.

2. What types of projects are eligible for funding?

Eligible projects include improvements to existing health care facilities that reduce energy or water use, lower operating costs, or improve indoor environmental quality. Examples include energy efficiency upgrades, renewable energy projects, water conservation measures, and building system renovations or modernizations.

3. How do applicants submit a proposal?

Applicants must submit an IHS Area-approved Request for Funding (RFF) through their respective IHS Area Office. Proposals submitted directly to the Division of Facilities Planning and Construction (DFPC) will not be accepted.

4. How are projects evaluated and selected?

Projects are reviewed and prioritized by DFPC based on return on investment, reductions in energy and water use, enhancement of indoor environmental quality, and compliance with applicable sustainability and efficiency requirements. Projects are funded in ranked order until available funds are exhausted.

5. Does receipt of funding authorize construction, and what are the NEPA requirements?

No. Funding awarded through the Capital Infrastructure Program does not constitute approval to construct. All required environmental reviews and approvals must be completed prior to the start of construction.

Each awarded project must comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and associated environmental laws and regulations before construction activities begin.

NEPA responsibilities depend on the project type:

- **Title V Construction Agreements:** The Tribe is responsible for NEPA compliance in accordance with 42 CFR § 137.285.
- **Title I Contracts and Federal Projects:** IHS is responsible for NEPA compliance and associated costs.

After award and prior to construction, IHS staff will complete the required Environmental Information and Documentation (EID) form and associated reviews in accordance with GAM 30 and the IHS Environmental Review Manual.

In some cases, an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) may be required. For many building alterations or renovation projects, a Categorical Exclusion may apply, provided no extraordinary circumstances exist.

For Title I projects, the IHS Area Office will estimate NEPA compliance costs and include that estimate in its support letter to Headquarters. If awarded, the NEPA estimate may be retained by the Area as a project technical support fee to cover anticipated NEPA compliance costs.

Applicants should coordinate early with their respective Area NEPA Coordinator to determine the appropriate level of environmental review and should account for NEPA timelines in their project schedule.

6. Can a single applicant submit more than one proposal?

Yes. Applicants may submit multiple proposals through their IHS Area Office. Each proposal must be submitted as a separate RFF and will be evaluated independently on its own merits.

7. What happens if a project is not selected for funding?

Unawarded funds may be carried forward to a future funding cycle. Applicants whose proposals are not selected are encouraged to contact their IHS Area Office for feedback and to consider resubmitting in a future cycle.

8. How detailed does the cost estimate need to be?

Cost estimates should identify major cost components, the total project cost, and the amount requested from the Capital Infrastructure Program. Supporting documentation such as contractor quotes or cost models should be included as appendices where available. More detailed estimates generally strengthen a proposal.

9. Can projects involve new construction?

No. Capital Infrastructure Program funds support improvements to existing health care facilities only. New construction projects are not eligible under this program.

10. When will funding decisions be announced for FY 2026?

Proposals are due by May 30, 2026 (close of business), with review and funding decisions anticipated in June–July 2026.

11. Who should applicants contact with questions or for assistance?

Applicants seeking assistance with project development should contact their respective IHS Area Office. A directory of IHS Area Offices is available at www.ihs.gov/locations.

For program-level questions, contact:

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This FAQ provides general information only and does not replace official program guidance or DFPC determinations.