

Grants

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NEWS MEDIA CONTACT:
Dolline Hatchett, 202/586-5806



Wednesday, August 28, 2002

Department of Energy Awards \$345,000 to the Eight Northern Indian Pueblos Council Community Reuse Organization

Grant Will be Used as Start-Up Funding to Facilitate Economic Development Planning in Northern New Mexico

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Department of Energy (DOE) today announced that it will award \$345,000 to the Eight Northern Indian Pueblo Council (ENIPC). The grant will enable the ENIPC to begin to facilitate economic development planning and implementation activities in Northern New Mexico to produce alternative replacement employment sources in communities affected by DOE downsizing.

ENIPC was designated as a Community Reuse Organization (CRO) by the department in April 2000, and is the only Native American CRO in the United States.

In order to obtain funding, the ENIPC was required to develop a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analysis. Upon completion of the SWOT, a planning proposal was submitted that allowed the organization to do a strategic assessment to determine what projects would be proposed to the department for funding. To date, the department has made available to the ENIPC \$75,000 for the SWOT analysis, as well as an additional \$35,000 to support its completion.

The department will provide \$75,000 in start-up funding to enable ENIPC to hire an executive director and a secretary, rent office space, buy computers and secure telephones. While the SWOT has been completed, the department has been working with the ENIPC to assist them in the planning process so they will be eligible for additional funding.

The start up funding, along with the planning grant in the amount of \$270,000 should carry the CRO long enough to complete the planning process. Once the planning process has been completed, ENIPC will be eligible to apply for an operational grant and additional competitive grants made available to all CROs in fiscal year 2003.
