

nrtc **FUNDING ALERT!**

Professional assistance for today's unprecedented funding opportunities



Funding Amount: **\$3.9 billion**

Program Details

Program Name: Grid Resilience and Innovative Partnerships (GRIP) Round 2

Administrator: US Department of Energy Grid Deployment Office (GDO)

Authorizing Legislation: Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)

Funding Details

Topic Area 1 – Grid Resilience

- Min Award: \$10 million for small utilities (sell < 4 million MWh/yr), \$50 million otherwise
- Max Award: \$100 million
- Total Available Funds: \$918 million
- Match Requirement: 33% of grant amount for small utilities, 100% otherwise

Topic Area 2 – Smart Grid

- Min Award: \$10 million
- Max Award: \$50 million
- Total Available Funds: \$1.08 billion
- Match Requirements: 50% of total project costs

Topic Area 3 – Grid Innovation

- Min Award: N/A
- Max Award: \$250 million
- Total Available Funds: \$1.82 billion
- Match Requirement: 50% of total project costs

Key Dates

January 12, 2024 – Submission Deadline for all Concept Papers

February 2024 – Expected date for concept paper notifications

April 17, 2024 – Submission Deadline for Full Applications (Topic areas 1 & 2)

May 22, 2024 – Submission Deadline for Full Applications (Topic area 3)

Summer/Fall 2024 – Expected date for selection notification

Winter 2024 – Expected timeframe for award negotiations

Eligible Applicants

Topic Area 1 – Grid Resilience

- Electric grid operator
- Electricity storage operator
- Electricity generator
- Transmission owner or operator
- Distribution provider
- Fuel supplier
- Any other relevant entity, as determined by the Secretary

Topic Area 2 – Smart Grid

- Institutions of higher education
- For-profit entities
- Non-profit and not-for-profit entities
- State and local government entities
- Tribal nations

Topic Area 3 – Grid Innovation

- States, either individual or in combination
- Indian Tribes
- Units of local government
- Public utility commissions

Eligible Projects

Topic Area 1 – Grid Resilience: Activities that reduce the likelihood and consequence of impacts to the electric grid due to extreme weather, wildfire, and natural disaster. Projects of particular interest:

- Address comprehensive transformational transmission and distribution tech solutions mitigating one or more *specific* hazards across a region or within a community
- Enable a system operator to develop expertise/demonstrate benefits of approaches that go beyond business-as-usual to provide improved system resilience
- Encourage consistency of approach and dissemination of learnings by including multiple eligible entities
- Aggregate resilience efforts across multiple service territories

Topic Area 2 – Smart Grid: Innovative and ambitious uses of cutting-edge, market-ready technologies that increase grid resilience, prioritize energy justice, and leverage private and non-federal capital. Projects of particular interest:

- Focus on the use of innovative materials, tools, and engineering approaches to improve system capacity and flexibility
- Improve grid operators' ability to use data to deliver benefits to ratepayers and support policy goals
- De-risk broad adoption of innovative technologies/approaches by including multiple entities

- Opportunity Evaluation
- Effective Grant Writing
- A Track Record of Success

Eligible Projects (cont'd)

Topic Area 3 – Grid Innovation: High-impact, innovative projects that increase grid resilience, prioritize energy justice, and leverage private/non-federal capital. Projects of particular interest:

- Improve the reliability and resilience of the electrical grid
- Leverage this program to affect durable and transformative change within and beyond the impacted project area
- Demonstrate meaningful partnerships through strategic involvement of both public and private sector actors

Eligible Costs

- Cost principles from [48 CFR 31.2](#) apply to for-profit entities
- Cost principles from [2 CFR Part 200, Subpart E](#) apply to all other entities
- Pre-Award costs are allowable only to the extent they would have been allowable if incurred after the date of the federal award

Selection Criteria

Concept Papers: Overall FOA Responsiveness and Project Viability

- The proposed work meets the objectives as stated in the FOA
- The proposed work aligns with and supports State, Local, Tribal, and/or regional resilience, decarbonization, or other energy strategies and plans
- The applicant has identified risks and challenges to both project success and the security of the applicant's assets and has outlined possible mitigation strategies for each
- The applicant has thoroughly explained the impact of DOE funding
- The applicant has proposed strategies and accountability mechanisms to ensure community and labor engagement, quality jobs and workforce development, support for diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility, and support for the Justice40 Initiative
- The applicant has the qualifications, experience, capabilities, and other resources necessary to complete the proposed project
- The applicant has provided an estimated total project cost, characterized the project's economic viability, and demonstrated that the project provides economic benefit as well as system value and/or cost-effectiveness

Application Scoring (maximum of 100 points):

- **Impact, Transformation, and Technical Merit – up to 40 points**
 - Project supports the objectives and desired outcomes
 - Level of ambition and innovation associated with the proposed approach
 - Potential to deliver near-term impact
 - Magnitude of the community or regional benefits that the project will generate
 - For Topic Area 1 Only
 - Project aligns with/adds to the applicant's current resilience investments
 - Application demonstrates the technical ability to mitigate natural hazards, minimize the consequences of outages due to natural hazards, and minimize the economic impacts of outages

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Selection Criteria (cont'd)

- For Topic Area 3 Only
 - Project demonstrates innovative approaches to support deployment goals across transmission, distribution, and/or storage to achieve Topic Area 3 primary objectives
 - Clearly enhances collaboration between eligible entities and owners/operators to meet Topic Area 3 objectives
- **Project Management, Financial Feasibility, Project Plan, SOPO – up to 20 points**
 - Project Approach, Workplan, and SOPO
 - Approach/critical path clearly described and thoughtfully considered
 - Task descriptions are clear, detailed, timely, and reasonable
 - Project Management
 - Clarity/appropriateness of the roles and responsibilities of management organization and project team, including relevant subrecipients/vendors
 - Capability of Project Manager(s)/proposed team to manage/address all aspects of the proposed work with a high probability of success
 - Qualifications, relevant expertise, and time commitment of team members
 - Participant involvement evidenced by letter(s) of commitment and how well they are integrated into the Project/Work Plan
 - Inclusion/documentation of partnerships with critical entities
 - Definition/description of project management structure that addresses interfaces with DOE
 - Project Financial Feasibility
 - The reasonableness of the budget and spend plan
 - Soundness of proposed cost share
 - Justification of the project's economic viability
- **Viability, Replicability, and Additionality – up to 20 points**
 - Project Viability, Risks, and Mitigations
 - Project's physical scope and implementation plan
 - Demonstrated understanding of key anticipated risks in the proposed work and the mitigation strategies to address them
 - Feasibility and resulting community or regional benefits
 - Specific mitigants or commitment to develop mitigants for known risks and risks that develop over the project life cycle
 - Project Replicability, Baseline, Metrics, and Deliverables
 - Baseline, strong quantifiable metrics, milestones, and mid-point deliverables all clearly defined in the application
 - Supports/works in tandem with State, Local, Tribal, or regional resilience plans, resource or system plans, decarbonization plans, or other energy strategies and plans as applicable
 - Impact of the project to catalyze additional private sector investments and/or non-federal public or regulated capital

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Selection Criteria (cont'd)

- Public benefit with a path to replication, scale, and ability to ensure electricity system reliability and/or resilience, provide enhanced system value and economic benefit, and increase energy system decarbonization
- Identifies partnerships with entities outside of the applicant's jurisdiction, who will commit to encourage asset operators to replicate the proposed approaches, technologies, or solutions
- For Topic Area 3 Only: The potential impact of the project to increase adoption of innovative approaches
- Project Additionality
 - Yields additive benefits, efforts, and accelerates or expands planned activities that would not be taken without the federal funds
 - Will deliver the greatest benefits for less Federal cost share than the minimum federal share required under this FOA
- **Community Benefits Plan – up to 20 points**
 - Community and Labor Engagement
 - Demonstrates community and labor engagement in support of the proposed project
 - Clear/robust plan to engage with labor unions, Tribal entities, and community-based organizations that support or work with disadvantaged communities and other affected stakeholders
 - Considers affected workers/community stakeholders, with a plan to publicly share SMART Community Benefits Plan commitments
 - Demonstrates community and labor engagement will lead to the delivery of high-quality jobs, minimal environmental impact, and project benefits for disadvantaged communities
 - Job Quality and Workforce Continuity
 - Will create and/or retain high quality, good-paying jobs with employer-sponsored benefits for all classifications and phases of work
 - Provides employees the ability to organize, bargain collectively, and participate in decisions that affect them
 - Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility
 - Community Benefits Plan includes specific, high-quality actions to meet DEIA goals
 - Partnerships/agreements with apprenticeship readiness programs, or community-based workforce training and support organizations serving workers facing systematic barriers to employment

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Selection Criteria (cont'd)

- Justice40 Initiative
 - Community Benefits Plan identifies specific, measurable benefits for disadvantaged communities, how benefits will flow to disadvantaged communities, and how negative environmental impacts affecting disadvantaged communities would be mitigated
 - Contributes to objective that at least 40% of the benefits of climate and clean energy investments flow to disadvantaged communities

Application Process

- The content and form requirements for the concept paper can be found on p. 41, Section (C) of the [Funding Opportunity Announcement](#)
 - DOE will either encourage/discourage applicants to submit a full application
- The content/form requirements for full application can be found on p. 43, Section (D) of the [Funding Opportunity Announcement](#)

Links & Contacts

- [Funding Opportunity Announcement](#)
- [GRIP Round 2 FOA Webinar](#)
- [GRIP Home Page](#)
- [GRIP Overview Fact Sheet](#)
- [GRIP FAQ](#)
- [Clean Energy Infrastructure Funding Opportunity Exchange](#)
- [Concept Paper Form](#)
- For questions regarding the content of the FOA, email FOA3195@netl.doe.gov

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