

nrtc **FUNDING ALERT!**

Professional assistance for today's unprecedented funding opportunities



Funding Amount: **\$8.96 million**

Program Details

Program Name: FY 2023 Rural and Municipal Utility Cybersecurity (RMUC) Advanced Cybersecurity Technology (ACT) 1 Prize

Administrator: US DOE Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response

Authorizing Legislation: Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2022

Program will be administered in 3 phases:

- Phase 1 – Commitment: Submission should describe resources, needs for improving cybersecurity posture, and commitment to participating in the ACT 1 Prize
- Phase 2 – Planning: Complete system assessments, identify areas for training, risks & solutions, and draft implementation roadmap
- Phase 3 – Implementation: Make progress toward completing the implementation roadmap
- For phases 2 and 3, only applicants that received an award in the previous round are eligible to apply

Funding Details

Award Range:

- Phase 1: Up to \$50,000 and 60 hours of technical assistance
- Phase 1: Up to \$50,000 and 60 hours of technical assistance
- Phase 1: Up to \$100,000

Match Required: No

Key Dates (Phase 1)

August 30: Application opens

September 27: Workshop 1 - [Prize Overview and How to Compete](#) (1 pm ET)

October 11: Workshop 2 - [How Future Prize Phases Will Work](#) (1 pm ET)

November 29: Proposals due

March 2024 (anticipated): Winners announced

Eligible Applicants

- Rural electric cooperatives
- Utilities owned by a political subdivision of a state, such as a municipally owned electric utility
- Utilities owned by any agency, authority, corporation, or instrumentality of one or more political subdivisions of a state
- Investor-owned electric utilities that sell less than 4,000,000 megawatt hours of electricity per year
- Priority will be given to applicants that have limited cybersecurity resources or serve a military installation

Eligible Areas

Requirements for specific areas are not given, but applicants will be asked to describe:

- Their utility service territory
- The communities they serve
- The work they have done to support disadvantaged communities in their service territory

Eligible Projects

Work completed for this program should accomplish one or more of the following:

- Increase a utility's ability to identify cybersecurity threats within their information technology (IT) and operational technology (OT) systems
- Improve a utility's ability to protect against cybersecurity threats
- Improve a utility's ability to detect cybersecurity events and incidents soon after they occur
- Prepare a utility to respond to and mitigate damage from a cybersecurity incident rapidly and effectively
- Recover from a cybersecurity incident and identify and implement process improvements

Scoring Criteria (Phase 1)

Scoring (maximum of 90 points):

- Utility Need and Cybersecurity Maturity Level: **24 points possible**
- Initial Goals, Expected Outcomes, and Impacts on Utility: **18 points possible**
- Commitments to Implement Cybersecurity Improvements and Capacity to Utilize Technical Assistance: **24 points possible**
- Service Territory and Community Benefits: **24 points possible**

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

Application Process

- Applicants must create an account using the [HeroX](#) website and upload materials before the deadline
- Submission packages must include:
 - Cover page and narrative
 - Letter of support from the organization's authorizing official
 - Utility Profile Form (provided)
 - RMUC Utility Service Territory Report (provided)
 - Mandatory ACT 1 Prize virtual workshop attendance confirmation
 - Recordings of both workshops will be available up until November 22nd

Links & Contacts

- [ACT 1 Prize Home Page](#)
- [Official rules](#)
- [Phase 1 Application Templates](#)
- [FAQs](#)
- [RMUC Program Website](#)
- If you have questions, email ACT.Prizes@nrel.gov

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