Bipartisan Infrastructure Law - SECTION 40101(d)

PREVENTING OUTAGES AND ENHANCING THE RESILIENCE OF THE ELECTRIC GRID

State of Maine

January 2023

Draft Program Narrative

About this document: Text in red indicates the prompts from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) that the Governor's Energy Office must respond to in the state's application for the Grid Resilience Formula Fund. The GEO seeks feedback on all sections of this program narrative and will consider comments received in preparing a final version of this narrative to submit to DOE. Please submit any comments to allie.rand@maine.gov by 5 pm on January 31, 2023. A final version will be submitted to DOE prior to the March 31, 2023 deadline.

Introduction

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Section 40101(d)[1] established the Grid Resilience Formula Grant Program to improve the all-hazards resilience of the electric grid. The Governor's Energy Office (GEO), as the designated state energy agency, is applying for the formula fund on behalf of the State of Maine. Since the release of the program guidelines in July 2022, GEO has led a planning process to design a program that meets the Department of Energy requirements, incorporates equity and community input, and advances Maine's energy policy objectives. As the grant applicant, GEO will distribute the funds to eligible sub-recipients following issuance of the grant by DOE. GEO anticipates initiating the sub-grant process to identify sub-recipient(s) following DOE approval of grant recipients.

Maine's Grid Resilience Program will focus on improving the resilience of the grid while encouraging clean energy deployment and empowering communities to be resilient to disruptive events. Through these priority areas, the desired program outcome is to reduce the frequency and duration of unplanned outages particularly in disadvantaged communities[2], while advancing grid modernization and creating clean energy workforce opportunities for Maine people.

Maine will apply for the combined Year 1 and Year 2 allocations, totaling $4,364,534 in advance of the March 31, 2023 deadline.

Background

[1] Throughout this document you may see a federal requirement referenced as 40101(d), which refers to the section of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) that establishes this program. Other sections of BIL will be referenced by paragraph/section number.

[2] The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has developed a working definition and tool, the Disadvantaged Communities Reporter map , to identify whether a community is considered disadvantaged, and will also recognize the White House Council of Environmental Quality's Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). DOE's Justice40 guidance is linked here. It is noted that some community members and advocates prefer the use of "overburdened" or "underserved" community, per a 2021 memorandum on interim implementation guidance for Justice40. This program uses "disadvantaged community" as this is the terminology used in BIL 40101(d) and in Executive Order 14008.

Maine's Geography and Regional Characteristics

The Energy Information Association (EIA) classifies Maine as the most rural U.S. state, with more than three-fifths of the population residing in rural areas. The state has the greatest proportion of forest land of all U.S. states, with forests accounting for nine-tenths of the state. Maine also has the highest per capita energy use in New England. In 2021, 72% of electricity generated in Maine was produced from hydropower, wind, and wood. Most of the state is part of the Independent System Operator New England (ISO-NE) regional transmission grid. The northernmost portion of the state is served by the Northern Maine Independent System Administrator (NMISA), which is not directly interconnected electrically with the rest of the U.S. electric grid. NMISA's connection to the ISO-NE grid is via the New Brunswick Power Corporation.

The Department of Energy Maine Energy Sector Risk Profile identifies flooding as the natural hazard contributing to the greatest overall property loss between 2009 and 2019, followed by thunderstorms. Annualized hazard frequency for the 2009 – 2019 period is highest for thunderstorms and lightening, followed by winter storms and extreme cold, and flooding.[3] The state ranked among the highest in the nation with regards to average total annual electric power interruption duration per customer in 2019 and average number of power interruptions in 2020.[4] The long power interruption durations in 2019 were attributed to major events, particularly winter storms.[5]

Maine Policy Context

The Grid Resilience Formula Funds align with Maine's ongoing work to address the current and future impacts of climate change. The Maine Climate Council, formed in 2019 by Governor Janet Mills through L.D. 1679, convened throughout 2019 and 2020, and published the *Maine Won't Wait* climate action plan in December of 2020. Strategy G of *Maine Won't Wait* identifies several pathways to bolster investment in climate-ready infrastructure, including the recommendation to establish a new State Infrastructure Adaptation fund to help local, regional, tribal, and state agencies meet federal cost-share requirements. The plan highlights a backlog of $325 million in infrastructure projects identified by communities across the 16 counties that would reduce disaster risk.

In addition to Maine's climate legislation, several recent grid modernization studies and stakeholder processes indicate alignment with the objectives established in this program narrative. Recommendations resulting from the 2020 Maine Utility/Regulatory Reform and Decarbonization Initiative, as well as the Electric Power Engineers (EPE) Distribution System Gap Analysis and Public Utilities Commission Docket 2021-00039 are recent and relevant efforts aimed at identifying Maine's grid modernization priorities.

In the summer of 2020, a broad range of public, private, and non-profit stakeholders participated in the Maine Utility/Regulatory Reform and Decarbonization Initiative (MURRDI). The MURRDI process aimed at building consensus around electric grid modernization and planning needs and developed a set of recommendations. The advancement of a holistic grid planning process, a greater level of granularity and transparency in grid data, assessment of costs and benefits and the consideration of equity and environmental justice are all areas identified as important and cross-cutting themes through the MURRDI process. Specific recommendations for future research coming out of MURDDI include the need for dynamic rate designs, improved valuation methods, interconnection data sharing, fostering innovation, and transmission development.

In spring 2022, EPE provided Distribution System Gap Analysis report to Central Maine Power, Versant Power, and the Maine Public Utilities Commission (Docket 2021-00039). The EPE report recommended priority areas

[3] Maine Energy Sector Risk Profile: https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2021-09/Maine%20Energy%20Sector%20Risk%20Profile.pdf

[4] EIA, 2019 and 2020, Annual Electric Power Industry Report. https://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.php?id=50316

[5] https://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.php?id=45796

including voltage control capabilities, demand-side management, advanced forecasting through time-series data and new full-time staff for utilities to work on electrical vehicles and electrification. Additionally, GEO has conducted several key studies in the past year. In 2021, GEO retained Energy & Environmental Economics (E3) and Applied Economics Clinic (AEC) to develop an assessment of the state's renewable energy market and pathways to achieve Maine's 80% renewable portfolio standard by 2030. This study found significant transmission and distribution upgrades needed after 2026, with transmission as a key factor in driving renewable development. GEO's 2022 Energy Storage Market Assessment shows that both grid-connected storage and customer-sited storage have the potential to provide benefits to Maine's electric grid, especially through the shifting of the electricity load profile from when it is generated to when there is customer demand.

The proposed objectives, metrics, and criteria below aim to leverage the findings from the above processes to meet state policy goals for climate change, including increased renewables and improved grid flexibility.

1. Objectives and Metrics

The objectives and metrics presented here are intended to apply to all five years of the program, with opportunity for feedback and input on the program objectives and metrics in future years. Across all objectives and metrics, the GEO seeks alignment with the Biden Administration's Justice40 Initiative which directs 40% of the overall benefits to flow to disadvantaged communities (DACs).[6] The GEO is particularly interested in proposals that increase community and economic resilience to extreme events and empower electric customers and communities to be resilient to disruptive events.

List 3-5 objectives that the applicant intends to apply for guiding their resilience investment decisions. The intent of this section of the Program Narrative is to ultimately develop a planning framework for resilience to address all-hazards including future climate implications. The first year, DOE is seeking input on criteria for determining investment decisions. At a minimum, the objectives and metrics should address:

a. *resilience and energy justice concerns, including reducing the frequency and duration of outages in disadvantaged communities,*
b. *how the project will use strong labor standards and protections (including for direct employees, contractors, and sub-contractors), such as through the use of project labor agreements, local hire agreements, and outline of a plan to attract, train, and retain an appropriately skilled workforce (i.e., through registered apprenticeships and other joint labor-management training programs that serve all workers, particularly those underrepresented or historically excluded); plans to partner with a training provider (labor, community college, etc); and the use of an appropriately credentialed workforce (i.e., requirements for appropriate and relevant professional training, certification, and licensure).*

Provide the metrics that will accompany the objectives to measure outcomes associated with improving resilience, creating good-paying jobs with the free and fair choice to join a union, and advancing energy justice.

[6] The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has developed a working definition and tool, the Disadvantaged Communities Reporter map , to identify whether a community is considered disadvantaged, and will also recognize the White House Council of Environmental Quality's Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). DOE's Justice40 guidance is linked here. It is noted that some community members and advocates prefer the use of "overburdened" or "underserved" community, per a 2021 memorandum on interim implementation guidance for Justice40. This program uses "disadvantaged community" as this is the terminology used in BIL 40101(d) and in Executive Order 14008.

Indicate whether the objectives and metrics are provisional pending further discussion and consideration by the State or Indian Tribe with its stakeholders. DOE expects that recipients will establish a formal set of objectives and metrics in order to receive Year 2 formula funding. Examples of objectives and metrics, in addition to reporting on any DOE required metrics, and approaches for establishing them are available at: Section 40101(d) Formula Grants to States & Indian Tribes | netl.doe.gov

Objective #1: Increase resilience of the electric grid and decrease the frequency and duration of outages, including within disadvantaged communities and areas experiencing high frequency and/or long durations of outages.

Metrics

- Average quarterly SAIFI, SAIDI, CAIDI[7] from a current (baseline) level
- Average quarterly community SAIFI, SAIDI, CAIDI reported as relative to service area averages
- Zip code(s) where funds are deployed

Objective #2: Improve community and economic resilience to extreme events and empower electric customers and communities to be resilient to disruptive events.

Metrics

- Average quarterly SAIFI, SAIDI, CAIDI from a current (baseline) level for residential, commercial, and industrial customers located in the community
- Number and duration of outages to critical facilities providing essential community services during extreme or emergency events
- Description of how the project incorporates customer and community participation and feedback mechanisms, including customer and community ownership options, and community engagement in identifying critical facilities
- Zip code(s) where funds are deployed

Objective #3: Increase clean energy workforce opportunities and ensure alignment with existing initiatives.

Metrics

- Number of new good paying jobs as a result of the resilience project
- Number of total new jobs that are new union jobs as a result of the proposed resilience project
- Number of Maine high school, community college, university and secondary career and technical education (CTEs) graduates employed by contractors and subcontractors in the state of Maine
- Training programs or opportunities created as a result of the proposed resilience project
- Zip code(s) where funds are deployed

Objective #4: Align with ongoing electric grid modernization and state policy climate goals while mitigating disproportionate energy burdens.

Metrics

[7] SAIDI = System Average Interruption Duration Index. It is the minutes of non-momentary electric interruptions, per year, the average customer experienced.
SAIFI = System Average Interruption Frequency Index. It is the number of non-momentary electric interruptions, per year, the average customer experienced.
CAIDI = Customer Average Interruption Duration Index. It is average number of minutes it takes to restore non-momentary electric interruptions. (Definitions from EIA).

- Avoided air pollutants (CO2 equivalents, NOx, SO2 and/or PM2.5) in the community or communities
- Size (MWh) of clean energy resources the project supports
- Energy burden of residential customers in the community
- Number of customers that have access to real time or hourly energy usage data, electricity prices, and outage information in an online portal that is easily accessible and in a format that is readily exportable to authorized third parties
- Number of customers using real-time, Time of Use (TOU), demand management, and other dynamic pricing and load management mechanisms either through a utility or third-party service provider
- Zip code(s) where funds are deployed

Prompting Questions for public input:

- Are there additional program objectives that GEO should consider including?
- What other metrics may best track the program objectives?
- What technical assistance do you anticipate requiring to provide quantitative data requirements?

2. Criteria:

Describe the criteria used for selecting and determining the awards to eligible entities. At a minimum, the criteria should address specific requirements set forth in Section 40101(d), which include that:

a. Priority should be given to projects that will generate the greatest community benefit (whether rural or urban) in reducing the likelihood and consequences of disruptive events,

b. The percentage made available to eligible entities that sell not more than 4,000,000 megawatt hours of electricity per year should not be less than the percentage of all customers in the State or Indian Tribe that are served by those eligible entities, and

c. Awards should be provided to eligible entities for projects within the State or on the land of the Indian Tribe.

Determining greatest community benefit:

GEO will prioritize projects that benefit areas identified as disadvantaged communities, indicate partnership with a community, and demonstrate increased community and economic resilience to extreme events while empowering electric customers and communities to be resilient to disruptive events. Evaluation may consider both quantitative and qualitative factors.

Draft Evaluation Criteria:

The following qualitative and quantitative criteria to be used for assessment of project proposals may include the following:

Community Benefit

- The extent to which the proposed project provides benefits to the electric grid, customer, and community;

- The extent to which the proposed project demonstrates reduced energy burden within the community or communities;
- A description of how the project will incorporate customer and community participation and feedback mechanisms, including but not limited to customer and community ownership options, and community engagement in identifying critical facilities;
- A description of how the applicant shows that community and labor engagement will lead to the creation of high-quality jobs in Maine;
- Throughout the qualitative and quantitative components of the project proposals, the extent to which the proposed project contributes to or goes beyond the Justice40 objective of 40% of the benefits of climate and clean energy investments flowing to disadvantaged communities, as defined by guidance available from DOE and through the use of federal mapping tools.

Technical Merit and Feasibility

- Proposed project cost;
- A description of the current stage of project planning;
- A demonstration of how the funds will aid in the successful completion of the project;
- If applicable, other existing funding sources. For projects receiving funding from other sources, a demonstration that the additional funds provided from Section 40101d will result in the greatest community benefit;
- Alignment with Maine's climate goals, including achieving of 80% of electricity generated by renewable sources by 2030 per the state's Renewable Portfolio Standard, with a goal of 100% by 2050; indication of how project will not increase reliance on non-renewable resources;
- A description of how the project will fulfil at a minimum one of the core program objectives, while also at a minimum not undermining other core program objectives;
- Efficient use of program funds, for example through leveraging, matching or securitization;
- Demonstrated ability to comply with Buy America and Davis-Bacon Act requirements.

Prompting Questions for public input:

- What other criteria should be considered?

Small utility set aside:

Maine is expected to receive a Year 1 allocation of $2,190,737 and a Year 2 allocation of $2,173,797, resulting in a total of $4,364,534 available for the current application cycle, which combines Years 1 and 2. Per the DOE program requirements established by 40101(d)(6), the percentage of funding made available to small utilities that sell less than 4 million megawatt hours per year shall not be less than the percentage of customers in the State that are served by those entities.

The primary data source used to determine annual sales and customer count was obtained through annual report data submitted to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC), available on the PUC website. Both the annual report and EIA Form 861 data indicated that the following transmission and distribution utilities sell under 4 million megawatt hours annually, and therefore qualify as small utilities: Versant Power, Eastern Maine Electric Cooperative, Houlton Water Company, Van Buren Light and Power District, Kennebunk Light and Power District, Madison Electric Works, Fox Island Cooperative, Isle-au-Haut Electric Power Company, Matinicus Plantation Electric Company and Monhegan Plantation Power District.

Based on the GEO's calculations, the share of Maine's set aside for small operators can be no less than 25%. Therefore, 25% * $4,364,534 = $1,091,134 will be set aside for the highest scoring bidder(s) who meets the small utility set aside requirements. $1,091,134 is the minimum amount set aside for small utilities and does not limit additional funding allocations to this amount for small utilities.

Projects located within the State of Maine

All projects that receive a funding award shall be located within the State of Maine. As part of the application, eligible entities shall report the project location and the community or communities benefiting from the project.

3. Methods:

Provide a description of the methods the applicant anticipates using for soliciting, awarding, and distributing funds. These might include several options, including the use of competitive solicitations, direct awards, and the use of financial instruments, such as Green Banks, to leverage the funds through 40101(d).

Provide also a description of the methods the applicant anticipates using to track and make public the metrics achieved by awardee uses of program funds to improve resilience by reducing the likelihood and consequences of disruptive events, to generate quality jobs, and to improve equity and community benefits.

The GEO anticipates undertaking a competitive solicitation of project proposals. The GEO will follow state and federal procurement procedures, which may include, but not be limited to, competitive or sole source solicitation for project proposals. As per Section 40101d, "eligible entities" include:

1) An electric grid operator;
2) An electricity storage operator;
3) An electricity generator;
4) A transmission owner or operator;
5) A distribution provider;
6) A fuel supplier and;
7) Any other relevant entity, as determined by the (U.S. Department of Energy) Secretary

The GEO will track metrics associated with projects receiving funding under this program to assess progress towards the stated program objectives.

4. Funding Distribution:

Provide a description of the proposed funding distributions and categories of recipients of the subgrants to be provided to eligible entities. Also, indicate preferences for eligible entities if they do not explicitly appear on the list of eligible entities provided in Section 40101.

All eligible entities, as indicated above in "Methods," may apply. GEO may give preference to entities serving rural and disadvantaged communities and partnerships that demonstrate the greatest community benefit from supplemental funding. While only entities that qualify as small utilities are eligible for the small utility set aside described in "2. Criteria," small utilities are not limited to the amount of funding in the small utility set aside, both in the amount they may request or the amount they may be awarded.

Cost Match

Section 40101(d)(8) requires each State and Indian Tribe to match 15 percent match of the total grant allocation amount. Maine's 15 percent match for Year 1 and Year 2 is $654,680. The GEO is considering several possible mechanisms for meeting the cost match requirement, which may include some combination of these or other options: cash contributions, in kind contribution, or passing through the match obligation to the subrecipients. Eligible entities selling over 4,000,000 MWh annually receiving funding will need to provide 100 percent cost match as a subrecipient, as required by Section 40101(h)(1). Eligible entities selling under 4,000,000 MWh receiving funding will need to provide 33 percent cost match, as required by Section 40101(h)(2). Eligible applicants may be required to apply with match identified.

5. Equity Approach:

To achieve the greatest impact for all Americans with this once-in-a-generation investment in infrastructure, it is critical that the BIL-funded projects not only contribute to the country's energy technology and climate goals, but also (1) support the BIL objectives to invest in America's workforce by including specific elements to accelerate job growth and job quality, including approaches to give workers a free and fair choice to join or form a union; and (2) advance DOE's equity, environmental and energy justice priorities, including DOE's commitment to the Justice40 Initiative. Accordingly, the Program Narrative must describe how the State or Indian Tribe will ensure their proposed project will incorporate:

a. *Quality Jobs: Strengthening prosperity by expanding good-paying, safe jobs accessible to all workers and supporting job growth through investments in domestic supply chains is a key goal set by President Biden, discussed in depth in his Executive Orders on Ensuring the Future Is Made in All of America by All of America's Workers (EO 14005), Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad (EO 14008), Worker Organizing and Empowerment (EO 14025), Boosting Quality of Federal Construction Contracts (EO 14063), Promoting Competition in the American Economy (EO 14036), and Implementing the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (EO 14052). Accordingly, this section of the Program Narrative should address efforts to achieve these goals, including*
    i. *efforts to attract, train, and retain a skilled workforce and*
    ii. *workforce opportunities in communities that have lost jobs due to the displacements of fossil energy jobs; and*

b. *Community Benefits: Section 40101(d)(5) requires a State or Indian Tribe to give priority to projects that would generate the greatest community benefit (whether rural or urban) in reducing the likelihood and consequences of disruptive events. The Program Narrative should include an explanation of how the State or Indian Tribe will make such a determination for the projects that will be receiving funding and should include information on how the projects go beyond measures that are already being undertaken through current resilience planning by the State or Indian Tribe.*

c. *Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility: DOE strongly encourages efforts to reach historically underserved populations, racial minorities, and women. These strategies should create the connectivity and conditions for growth where they may not exist, such as in rural and underserved communities. The Program Narrative should articulate the strategy the State or Indian Tribe will use for sharing and maximizing the project's benefits across disadvantaged communities and include a discussion of how resident, worker, and community leadership will be engaged throughout the project's duration.*

Provide an explanation of how the State or Indian Tribe will make such a determination for the projects that will be receiving funding and should include information on how the projects go beyond measures that are already being undertaken through current resilience planning by the State or Indian Tribe.

Community Benefits

The application components required for subrecipients of funding may include reporting on customer impact, project benefits, and indication of alignment with the Justice40 Initiative. Project benefits to a community may include but are not limited to increased resilience, reduced outages, reduced energy burden, and reduced greenhouse gas emissions. GEO believes that the objectives and metrics described here go beyond current measures by seeking proposals that align with Justice40 and consideration of a range of benefits to consumer, community, and the electric grid. By conducting a competitive solicitation, GEO seeks to foster equitable opportunity for a range of eligible entities to propose projects that align with stated program objectives while advancing state and federal commitments towards advancing energy justice. Determination for projects receiving funding will be based on the criteria described within the program narrative submitted to DOE. Through the public comment and hearing process, the GEO seeks public input on the use of these criteria in determining the greatest community benefit.

Quality Jobs

The clean energy sector provides many distinct career pathways and opportunities to attain family sustaining wages, including opportunities to "earn while you learn" through pre-apprenticeship and registered apprenticeship programs. Existing clean energy workers in Maine that responded to a survey of career attributes indicated a high career satisfaction, with opportunities for upward wage mobility, career advancement, and other benefits such as healthcare, retirement, and paid vacation and sick time.[8]

Implementation of the funding will promote the creation of high-quality jobs and workforce development, including in communities that have been historically underrepresented and/or in communities that have lost jobs due to the displacement of fossil energy jobs, by encouraging alignment with existing initiatives. Eligible entities submitting project proposals should detail efforts to attract, train, and retain a skilled and diverse workforce. Strong project proposals should consider alignment with existing efforts and processes around workforce development, such as the Clean Energy Partnership (CEP) program. The CEP was created to advance Maine's clean energy, climate, economic development, and workforce goals, and is guided by an Advisory Group, which includes members from clean energy and energy efficiency companies, academic institutions, labor and workforce organizations, construction firms, technology experts and representatives from state government.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility

GEO seeks to include diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility as core elements of the State's 40101(d) program. GEO's mission is to ensure Maine people have a reliable and affordable energy supply. Historically underserved communities, communities of color, rural communities, and disadvantaged communities experience disproportionately high energy costs and burdens. Through the proposed program objectives, metrics and criteria, GEO will require subrecipients consideration of equity and Justice40 and indication of

[8] https://www.maine.gov/energy/sites/maine.gov.energy/files/inline-files/2022%20Maine%20Clean%20Energy%20Workforce%20Report.pdf

benefits to underserved and disadvantaged communities in Maine. Project proposals should include a description of how the project will engage resident, worker, and community throughout the duration of the project.

As part of the public comment process for establishing Section 40101(d) objectives, metrics and criteria, GEO seeks stakeholder feedback on organizational and community capacity to identify and engage in funding opportunities and processes such as the Section 40101(d) formula grant. GEO will continue to work with stakeholders to advance equity in program implementation.

6. Technical Assistance and Administration:

Provide a description of how the State or Indian Tribe intends to utilize up to 5 percent of Federal grant funds for project administration and technical assistance.

The GEO will use the 5 percent allocation towards technical assistance and project administration for staff resources and project management. If the state requires greater than 5 percent of Year 1 and Year 2 amounts in administration & technical assistance funds, then the state will need to use part of its 15 percent match to cover the remaining costs.

7. Public Notice and Hearing:

Public Notice and Hearing: Section 40101(d)(2)(B)(ii) requires that eligible applicants give notice and undertake a public hearing to review the criteria and methods they anticipate using to grant awards to eligible entities and the proposed funding distributions and recipients of the grant awards to eligible entities. The applicant should use the public hearing to share the approach envisioned for setting objectives and metrics and the proposed funding distributions and recipients of the grant awards to eligible entities. Provide a brief description of the notice and public hearing process, including the number and types of organizations that attended. Also, report on the outcome of the public hearing such as approaches for engaging stakeholders for establishing formal objectives and metrics and for implementing strategic planning processes. Provide a copy of the notice as an attachment to the Program Narrative.

The GEO held two public events related to the planning and administration of Section 40101(d) funding. Notice of an informational webinar held on August 9th was sent to over 250 interested parties and existing listserv members. The notice was published on the GEO's website as well as the State of Maine public events calendar. The goal of the webinar was to share information on the Section 40101(d) funding opportunity and the Department of Energy program requirements and solicit broad feedback on program objectives and metrics. In conjunction with the public webinar, GEO created a new webpage specific to the 40101(d) funding opportunity with a summary of the program requirements. A survey was posted on the website to collect feedback following the webinar. The webinar was held on August 9th, 2022, and the survey was available for asynchronous public comment and feedback through August 12th.

After collecting the initial round of input from the informational webinar, and following the release of the updated Administrative and Legal Requirements Document (ALRD) by DOE in November 2022, the GEO will hold the required public hearing on program objectives and metrics on February 9, 2023. A draft program narrative was posted in advance of the webinar on the GEO website, and interested parties are encouraged to submit feedback on the draft program narrative.

Note: *DOE anticipates that the Program Narrative will be between 5 and 15 pages, depending upon the grant amount and complexity of resilience activities. DOE may reject applications and require revisions, if it determines that the program narrative lacks sufficient detail or does not comply with stated requirements.*