

# Maine Grid Resilience Grant Program

## Request for Applications (RFA) Information Session

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February 28, 2024

12PM – 1PM, virtual meeting

*All material presented here is for informational purposes. Please refer the Maine Grid Resilience Grant RFA for complete information and any clarifications. In the event of an apparent conflict between this material and the RFA, the RFA shall be the controlling source.*

# Agenda

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- Welcome
- Grid Resilience Program Overview
  - Eligibility and Program Requirements
  - Priority Applications
  - Example Project Menu
- Application
  - Grid Resilience Grant Application Form Overview
  - Federal Requirements
- Project Review Criteria
- Resources
- Timeline and Next Steps

# Program & RFA Questions?

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- Submit written questions via email to [allie.rand@maine.gov](mailto:allie.rand@maine.gov)
  - Subject line “RFA# 202312239 Questions”
- Responses will be posted on the [Procurement](#) website as a Q&A Summary following the submitted questions deadline of **March 7, 2024**

# Grid Resilience Formula Fund (40101d)

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- Federal formula funds provided through the U.S. Department of Energy to states and tribes as authorized by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law
- Provides support for activities that reduce the likelihood and consequence of grid impacts due to extreme weather, wildfire, and natural disaster
- **Maine allocations (announced by U.S. DOE annually):**
  - FY 2022: \$2.19 million
  - FY 2023: \$2.17 million
  - FY 2024: \$2.45 million
  - FY 2025 & 2026: TBA
- Total funding amount available for Maine: \$4,364,534 (Y1&Y2)
- Request for Allocations (RFA) for Y1&Y2 released on February 9, 2024
- Future grant rounds are anticipated to occur at approximately 12 month intervals as funding is allocated by U.S. DOE

# Program Objectives (FY 2022-2026)

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In alignment with federal program requirements, the GEO is seeking proposals for projects that generate the greatest community benefit in fulfilling one or more of the program objectives

- Increase the resilience of the electric grid and/or decrease the frequency of outages, including within disadvantaged communities and areas experiencing high frequency and/or long duration outages;
- Improve community and economic resilience and empower electric customers and communities to be resilient to disruptive events;
- Increase clean energy workforce opportunities; and
- Align with ongoing electric grid modernization and state policy climate goals while mitigating disproportionate energy burdens.

# Eligible Entities

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Subawardees defined in BIL 40101(d) as:

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

In the application form, applicants must provide an explanation for the selection made from the above list to support a determination by the GEO and DOE that the applicant is an eligible entity

Prospective applicants not included on the eligible entity list within the RFA with an allowable resilience project can partner with an eligible entity, or request an eligibility determination through the US Secretary of the Department of Energy in its application

# Applicable Uses

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- weatherization technologies and equipment
- fire-resistant technologies and fire prevention systems
- monitoring and control technologies
- the undergrounding of electrical equipment
- utility pole management
- the relocation of power lines or the reconductoring of power lines with low-sag, advanced conductors
- vegetation and fuel-load management
- the use or construction of distributed energy resources for enhancing system adaptive capacity during disruptive events, including:
  - microgrids; and
  - battery-storage subcomponents
- adaptive protection technologies
- advanced modeling technologies
- hardening of power lines, facilities, substations, of other systems; and
- the replacement of old overhead conductors and underground cables, and
- other measures as determined or approved by DOE.

**Non-eligible uses:** Construction of a new electric generating facility or large-scale battery storage facility that is not used for enhancing system adaptive capacity during disruptive events; or cybersecurity

# Number of Awards and Contract Terms

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- Up to \$4.146M available
- GEO anticipates making two (2) or more awards through this RFA process
- Awards will not exceed \$2 million per project proposal for this round of grants
- Contract terms up to five (5) years, as specified by the applicant's proposal

# Small Utility Set Aside

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- The U.S. DOE defines a small utility for the purpose of this program as an eligible entity that sells less than 4 million megawatt hours per year
- The percentage of funding made available to eligible entities satisfying this definition of small utilities shall not be less than the percentage of customers in the State that are served by those entities
- The share of Maine's small utility set aside **can be no less than 25%**
- **25%** represents the minimum amount set aside for small utilities and does not limit additional funding allocations for small utilities
- **\$1,036,577** will be set aside for the highest scoring bidder(s) who meets the small utility set aside requirements. \$1,036,577 is the minimum amount set aside for small utilities and does not limit the amount of funding that may be awarded to small utilities

# Priority Applications

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- GEO intends to prioritize awards that increase community and economic resilience to extreme events and empower electric customers and communities to be resilient to disruptive events; projects that benefit areas identified as disadvantaged communities; and projects that indicate partnership with communities
- Applicants should identify disadvantaged or priority communities that would benefit from the resilience project
- Disadvantaged communities may be identified utilizing the federal mapping tool [Climate & Economic Justice Screening Tool \(CEJST\)](#) and/or methods described in the Community Benefits section of the application [Section H-3 in RFA] that demonstrate how the communities are disparately burdened by outages

# Example Project Menu

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<b>Example Projects</b>
Proposed resilience project activities [see “Applicable Uses,” p.g. 3 of RFA] at worst-performing circuits and/or in areas identified as disadvantaged or disparately vulnerable to grid outages
Battery components for microgrid deployment to enhance system adaptive capacity during disruptive events at critical facilities
Deploying automatic load management systems
Deploying dynamic line rating systems
Three-phase location modeling
Implementation of SCADA for distribution feeders
Planning or implementation supporting time series load data capabilities at the feeder level
Replacing generation components with new components of the same type in order to ensure weatherization/resilience, such as wind turbine blade replacement or damaged solar photovoltaic cells within an existing solar farm
Building inventories of parts and components needed for providing grid resilience benefits
Training and contracts for critical maintenance needs
Refurbishment of existing transformers

*Note this is not an exhaustive list but rather an illustrative list of example projects that are eligible*

# Cost Match

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The GEO reserves the right to alter a cost match during award negotiations within the ranges provided:

Entity Type	Total Cost Match Required
<b>Small Utilities. As defined in BIL Section 40101(h)(2) for the purpose of this grant program, a Small Utility sells not more than 4,000,000 megawatt hours of electricity per year.</b>	Between 33.33% and 48.33%
<b>Large Utilities. A Large Utility entity sells over 4,000,000 megawatt hours of electricity per year.</b>	Between 100% and 115%

The application form will ask applicants to indicate which range applies, and the anticipated source of the cost match

# Application Components

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- ✓ Maine Grid Resilience Grant Application Form (attached at the end of the RFA)
- ✓ Environmental Questionnaire (National Environmental Policy Act)
- ✓ Budget Justification Form
- ✓ Appendix A: Performance Metrics Checklist

**Applicants are encouraged to review and familiarize themselves with the application form linked at the bottom of the RFA well in advance of the March 7, 2024 question submission deadline and the March 28, 2024 application deadline**

# Federal Reporting and Compliance Requirements

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- Compliance with applicable Federal Requirements including:
  - NEPA
  - Davis Bacon
  - Build America Buy America (BABA)
  - Foreign National Participation
- Quarterly and annual report on project progress and resilience metrics
- All awards subject to written notice and approval by the U.S. Department of Energy
- GEO may not proceed with the subaward/subcontract until the DOE determines, and provides GEO written notification, that the information provided is adequate

# Application Components – Application Form

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## **1. General Information, Eligibility, and Application Information (Pass/Fail)**

- Eligibility entity type and explanation
- Cost match meets utility size requirements
- Whether applicant is a large or small utility (><4,000,000 MWh sold / year)
- Eligible activities to be completed
- Federal requirements acknowledgements
- If another application is under consideration under 40101(c), description of differences

## **2. Summary of Proposed Project and Alignment with Program Objectives (Criteria 2: 25 total points available)**

## **3. Grid and Community Benefits (Criteria 3: 30 points available)**

## **4. Technical Merit and Feasibility (Criteria 4: 30 points available)**

## **5. Partnerships and Letters of Support (Criteria 5: 15 points available)**

**Please reference the RFA and accompanying Application form for components to address within each of the above categories**

# Federal Requirements - NEPA

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- Completion of an Environmental Questionnaire for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review and approval by US DOE is required component of application
- Prospective applicants should review the Environmental Questionnaire in advance

# Federal Requirements – Davis Bacon

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Recipients shall provide written assurance acknowledging the Davis Bacon Act requirements for the award or project and confirming that all of the laborers and mechanics performing construction, alteration, or repair work in excess of \$2000 on projects funded directly by or assisted in whole or in part by and through funding under the award are paid or will be paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing on projects of a character similar in the locality as determined by Subchapter IV of Chapter 31 of Title 40, United States Code (Davis-Bacon Act)

*Refer to Davis Bacon guidance linked in Application for full information.*

# Federal Requirements – BABA

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**None of the funds provided under this award (federal share or recipient cost-share) may be used for a project for infrastructure unless:**

1. All iron and steel used in the project is produced in the United States—this means all manufacturing processes, from the initial melting stage through the application of coatings, occurred in the United States;
2. All manufactured products used in the project are produced in the United States—this means the manufactured product was manufactured in the United States; and the cost of the components of the manufactured product that are mined, produced, or manufactured in the United States is greater than 55 percent of the total cost of all components of the manufactured product, unless another standard for determining the minimum amount of domestic content of the manufactured product has been established under applicable law or regulation; and
3. All construction materials are manufactured in the United States—this means that all manufacturing processes for the construction material occurred in the United States.

**Waivers.** When necessary, the Recipient may apply for, and DOE may grant, a waiver from the Buy America Requirement. *Refer to BABA guidance linked in Application for full information.*

# Quarterly Reporting

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- GEO is required to report quarterly to the U.S. DOE on project implementation and annually on project impact
- Applicants must submit a Performance Metrics checklist with application indicating the metrics expected to be reported quarterly
  - Linked in the Application Form

# Annual Program Metrics and Impact Report

BASELINE IMPACT METRICS (performance measures)														
Impact Metric (select from list)	Outage Type (select from list)	Does outage data include Major Event Days (MED)?	Coverage (select from list)	Metric Type (char lim: 366)	Outage Type (char lim: 166)	Coverage Type (char lim: 166)	Baseline (Before Project Implementation) <i>Please ONLY enter values for the 5 years preceding this Fiscal Year Report</i>							
							2017 Value	2018 Value	2019 Value	2020 value	2021 Value	2022 Value	2023 Value	2024 Value
Largest outage cause Number of outages Hours to repair outages System Average Interruption Duration Index (SAIDI) Customer Average Interruption Duration Index (CAIDI) System Average Interruption Frequency Index (SAIFI) Customer Average Interruption Frequency Index (CAIFI) Number of individual customers with more than 5 interruptions														

CURRENT FISCAL YEAR IMPACT METRICS (performance measures)									
Impact Metric (select from list)	Outage Type (select from list)	Does outage data include Major Event Days (MED)?	Coverage (select from list)	Metric Type (char lim: 366)	Outage Type (char lim: 166)	Coverage Type (char lim: 166)	Progress (During Project Implementation)		
							Value	Start Date of Data Collection (mm/dd/yyyy)	End Date of Data Collection (mm/dd/yyyy)

# Annual Program Metrics and Impact Report (cont.)

JOB CREATION AND TRAINING			
Metrics	Select from List	Number	Explanation
<b>Training</b>			
Was training offered as part of the project? (specify in "Explanation" field)			
Type of training provided			
Does your program target underserved or underrepresented population(s) for training?			
If yes, what target population do you serve?			
Did the Subward Entity partner with a community-based organization?			
Did the Subward Entity partner with a labor union?			
Number of individuals receiving training (including registered apprenticeships) as part of the project.			
Average number of hours of training per individual (including on-the-job training/work performed by registered apprentices).			
Number of individuals receiving raise or promotion as a result of training.			
Number of individuals that are placed in new paid positions (including registered apprenticeships) as a result of training.			
<b>Labor</b>			
Number of employees a part of this project (specify in "Explanation" field as needed)			
Is there a project labor agreement (PLA) for the construction project?			
Is there a collective bargaining agreement (CBA) for the project's non-construction work?			
Has the Subward Entity pledged neutrality with respect to union organizing?			
Is the Subward Entity contributing to or otherwise supporting registered apprenticeship programs (e.g., financial support, hiring participants, providing training materials and facilities, etc.)? (specify in "Explanation" field)			
Is the Subward Entity contributing or otherwise supporting non-registered apprenticeship joint-labor management or other training program? (specify in "Explanation" field)			
Is the Subward Entity offering support services to workers or training participants (e.g., child care, transportation) (specify in "Explanation" field)?			
Does the project have a formal anti-discrimination or anti-harassment program or plan?			
Does the Subward Entity have a formal Diversity, Equity, Access, and Inclusion (DEIA) Plan?			
Does the project have a workplace health and safety plan that was designed and is implemented in partnership with employees? (specify in "Explanation" field as needed)			
In support of second chance opportunities, does the Subward Entity refrain from asking about job applicants' criminal records, arrest history, or any other history with the justice system?			
Does the Subward Entity have specific goals for the hiring of local workers?			
Does the project have specific objective for hiring of underrepresented or disadvantaged groups?			

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES	
Metrics	Select from List
Does this project operate under a negotiated Community Benefits Agreement?	
Is a Community Based Organization part of the project leadership?	
Did this project get approval of tribal governments with authority over impacted areas?	
Does this project operate under Memorandums of Understanding with Community-Based Organizations?	
Did this project get letters of support or any other indication that they are engaging in consent-based planning?	
Did this project engage Citizen Advisory Committees?	
Did a representative of the Community Based Organization or Community Advisory Committee review and approve this report?	

# Annual Program Metrics and Impact Report (cont.)

WORKFORCE DEMOGRAPHICS								
Gender	Number of employees working on project	Number of trainees in project specific programs	Race	Number of employees working on project	Number of trainees in project specific programs	Ethnicity	Number of employees working on project	Number of trainees in project specific programs
Male			American Indian or Alaska Native			Hispanic or Latino		
Female			Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander			Not Hispanic or Latino		
Non-Binary			Asian			No Designation		
Other			Black or African American			Veteran Status	Number of employees working on project	Number of trainees in project specific programs
No Designation			White			Veteran		
Disability Status	Number of employees working on project	Number of trainees in project specific programs	Other			Not a Veteran		
Has Disability			No Designation			Other Protected Veterans		
Does Not Have Disability			From Disadvantaged Communities (DACs)	Number of employees working on project	Number of trainees in project specific programs	No Designation		
Disability Status Unknown								
No Designation								

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENTS															
Event Details				Community Engagement			Number of Attendees by Community of Interest						Event Outcomes		
Event # (Unique Identifier)	Community Engagement Event Name (Virtual or In-Person)	5-Digit Zip Code	Zip Code +4	Type of Engagement (select from list)	Degree of Engagement (select from list)	Did This Event Include An Open Planning Forum with Participant Polling?	Tribal Community	Disadvantaged Community	Fossil Energy Community	Rural Community	Other	If Other, Please Specify	Total Attendees	Outcomes or Barriers	Event Links

# Scoring Criteria

Scoring Criteria	Points Available	
Criteria 1: General Information, Eligibility, and Completeness	Pass/Fail	
Criteria 1a: Cost Match	<i>Large Utility</i>	<i>Small Utility</i>
	Between 100% and 115% match – Compliance Review	Between 33.33% and 48.33% match – Compliance Review
Criteria 2: Project Summary and Alignment with Program Narrative Objectives	Objective Alignment	
	Objective #1 – Increased Grid Resilience	Points Available 5
	Objective #2 – Increased Community Resilience	10
	Objective #3 – Workforce and Quality Jobs	5
	Objective #4 – Grid Modernization and Policy Alignment	5
Criteria 3: Grid & Community Benefits	30	
Criteria 4: Technical Merit and Feasibility	30	
Criteria 5: Partnerships and Letters of Support	15	
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>100 points</b>	

# Resources for Applicants

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- [Guidance for Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Grid Resilience Formula Grant Metrics Tracking](#)
- [Microgrid Overview – DOE Guide](#)
- [Low-Cost Grid Resilience Projects – DOE Guide](#)
- [U.S. DOE Build America, Buy America Requirements](#)
- [U.S. DOE Davis Bacon Act Requirements](#)
- [U.S. DOE Justice40 General Guidance](#)
- [National Environmental Policy Act Requirements](#)
- [Climate & Economic Justice Screening Tool](#)
- [DOE Community Benefits Toolkit](#)
  
- **Additional Resources for Technical Assistance**
- [White House: Investing in American Technical Assistance Guide \(September 2023\)](#)
- [White House: Investing in America State Directed Technical Assistance Resources \(September 2023\)](#)

# Key Events

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- February 9: RFA Opens
- February 28: Info Session
- March 7: Submitted Questions Deadline
- March 28: RFA Proposals due at 11:59 PM submitted to State of Maine Division of Procurement services, via e-mail, to [proposals@maine.gov](mailto:proposals@maine.gov) as specified in the RFA

All amendments (if any) released in regard to this Request for Applications will be posted on the Division of Procurement Services [Grant RFPs and RFAs](#) website. It is the responsibility of all interested parties to go to this website to obtain amendments.

# Acronyms

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**BABA:** Build America, Buy America

**GEO:** Maine Governor's Energy Office

**NEPA:** National Environmental Policy Act

**RFA:** Request for Applications

**U.S. DOE:** United States Department of Energy