Grid Resilience Utility and Industry Grants

Funded through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), the Grid Resilience Utility and Industry Grants (40101c) support the modernization of the electric grid to reduce impacts due to extreme weather and natural disasters. This program will fund comprehensive transformational transmission and distribution technology solutions that will mitigate multiple hazards across a region or within a community, including wildfires, floods, hurricanes, extreme heat, extreme cold, storms, and any other event that can cause a disruption to the power system. The program will prioritize projects generating the greatest community benefit in reducing the likelihood and consequences of disruptive events.

The program will provide up to $2.5 billion over five years ($500 million/year FY 22-26). The first funding cycle will include FY22 and FY23, up to $1 billion. Funding is capped at the amount the eligible entity has spent in the previous three years on hardening efforts. There is a 100% cost match for this program. The program includes a small utility set aside – at least 30% of the program – for those entities selling no more than 4 million MWh of electricity per year. Small utilities must match 1/3 of grant amounts received.

Concept Papers are due December 16, 2022. DOE will provide a response to Concept Papers by January 27, 2023. Full Applications are due April 6, 2023.

Eligible entities that can apply for these grants include:

- Electric grid operators
- Electricity storage operators
- Electricity generators
- Transmission owners or operators
- Distribution providers
- Fuel suppliers

Grantees must address at least three of the following requirements for this event:

- utility pole management,
- hardening of power lines, facilities, substations, of other systems,
- undergrounding of electrical equipment,
- replacement of old overhead conductors and underground cables,
- relocation of power lines or reconductoring of power lines with low-sag, advanced conductors,
- vegetation and fuel-load management
- weatherization technologies and equipment,
- fire-resistant technologies and fire prevention systems,
- monitoring and control technologies,
- 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

Resilience measures that are not allowed under this grant include:

- Construction of a new electric generating facility
- Large scale battery-storage facility that is not used for enhancing system adaptive capacity during disruptive events
- Cybersecurity