



Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) Program Applicant Informational Webinar

February 8, 2023



Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships Program



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DOE's Grid Deployment Office

Mission Statement: The Grid Deployment Office (GDO) works to provide electricity to everyone, everywhere by maintaining and investing in critical generation facilities to ensure resource adequacy and improving and expanding transmission and distribution systems to ensure all communities have access to reliable, affordable electricity.

Power Generation Assistance
Division

The Power Generation Assistance Division works with existing generation facilities to ensure resilience and reliability.

Transmission Division

The Transmission Division supports innovative efforts in transmission reliability and clean energy analysis and programs, and energy infrastructure and risk analysis in support of the Administration's priorities to enhance grid resilience.

Grid Modernization Division

The Grid Modernization Division oversees activities that prevent outages and enhance the resilience of the electric grid.



Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships Program



Colin Meehan

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DE-FOA-0002740 Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) Program- Full Application Phase

Colin Meehan

February 8, 2023



Webinar Notice

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Agenda – GRIP Program Update for Potential Applicants

- ▶ Summary of Concept Papers
- ▶ Lessons learned from Concept Paper process
- ▶ Important updates & considerations for Full Applications
- ▶ Preparing for Full Applications
- ▶ There will be no Q&A for this webinar. Please continue to submit questions through the FedConnect portal (<https://www.fedconnect.net/>).



Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) Program Overview

- ▶ GRIP consists of three programs in this one funding opportunity, provides application opportunities to entities including states, tribes, utilities, and industry.
 - Topic Area 1- Grid Resilience Grants (Competitive)
 - Topic Area 2- Smart Grid Grants (Competitive)
 - Topic Area 3- Grid Innovation Program (Competitive)
- ▶ DOE Goals for the GRIP Program
 - Transform community, regional, interregional, and national resilience, including in consideration of future shifts in generation and load
 - Catalyze and leverage private sector and non-federal public capital for impactful technology and infrastructure deployment
 - Advance community benefits
- ▶ Concept papers were a required first step in the application process and due by:
 - Grid Resilience Grants- December 16, 2022
 - Smart Grid Grants- December 16, 2022
 - Grid Innovation Program- January 13, 2023



Grid Resilience Funding Available through BIL

Topic Area	GRIP Program	Anticipated Number of Awards (This funding cycle)	Approximate Total Federal Funding For All Awards- 1 st Issue of FOA 2740	BIL Provision and Purpose
1	Grid Resilience Grants (Utility and Industry)	10	\$918 million	Preventing Outages and Enhancing the Resilience of the Electric Grid / Hazard Hardening (Sec. 40101(c))
2	Smart Grid Grants	25-40	\$1.08 billion	Deployment of Technologies to Enhance Grid Flexibility (Sec. 40107)
3	Grid Innovation Program	4-40	\$1.82 billion	Program Upgrading Our Electric Grid and Ensuring Reliability and Resiliency (Sec. 40103(b))



Application Submission Timing / Info

FOA Released: November 18, 2022					
Topic Area 1 Grid Resilience Grants (40101(c))		Topic Area 2 Smart Grid Grants (40107)		Topic Area 3 Grid Innovation Program (40103(b))	
Concept Papers Due	December 16, 2022	Concept Papers Due	December 16, 2022	Concept Papers Due	January 13, 2023
Response to Concept Papers	February 2023	Response to Concept Papers	February 2023	Response to Concept Papers	March 2023
Full Applications Due	April 6, 2023	Full Applications Due	March 17, 2023	Full Applications Due	May 19, 2023

An entity may submit more than one Concept Paper and Full Application to this FOA, provided that each application describes a unique, scientifically distinct project and provided that an eligible Concept Paper was submitted for each Full Application.



GRIP Program Goals

- ▶ Transform community, regional, interregional, and national resilience, including in consideration of future shifts in generation and load
- ▶ Catalyze and leverage private sector and non-federal public capital for impactful technology and infrastructure deployment
- ▶ Modernize the electric grid to reduce impacts due to extreme weather and natural disasters
- ▶ Advance community benefits



Summary of Concept Paper Process

Unprecedented response to energy infrastructure needs

- ▶ 289 Concept Papers received in Topic Area 1
 - 144 encouraged
- ▶ 326 Concept Papers received in Topic Area 2
 - 157 encouraged
- ▶ 135 Concept Papers received in Topic Area 3
- ▶ Submissions from more than 50 states and territories
- ▶ 110 Concept Paper submissions from small utilities

Selection will be highly competitive

- ▶ Preferred interest in applications that meet our Strategic Goals
- ▶ Transforming resilience
- ▶ Catalyzing private & public (non-federal) investment
- ▶ Impactful community benefits



Response Letters and Next Steps

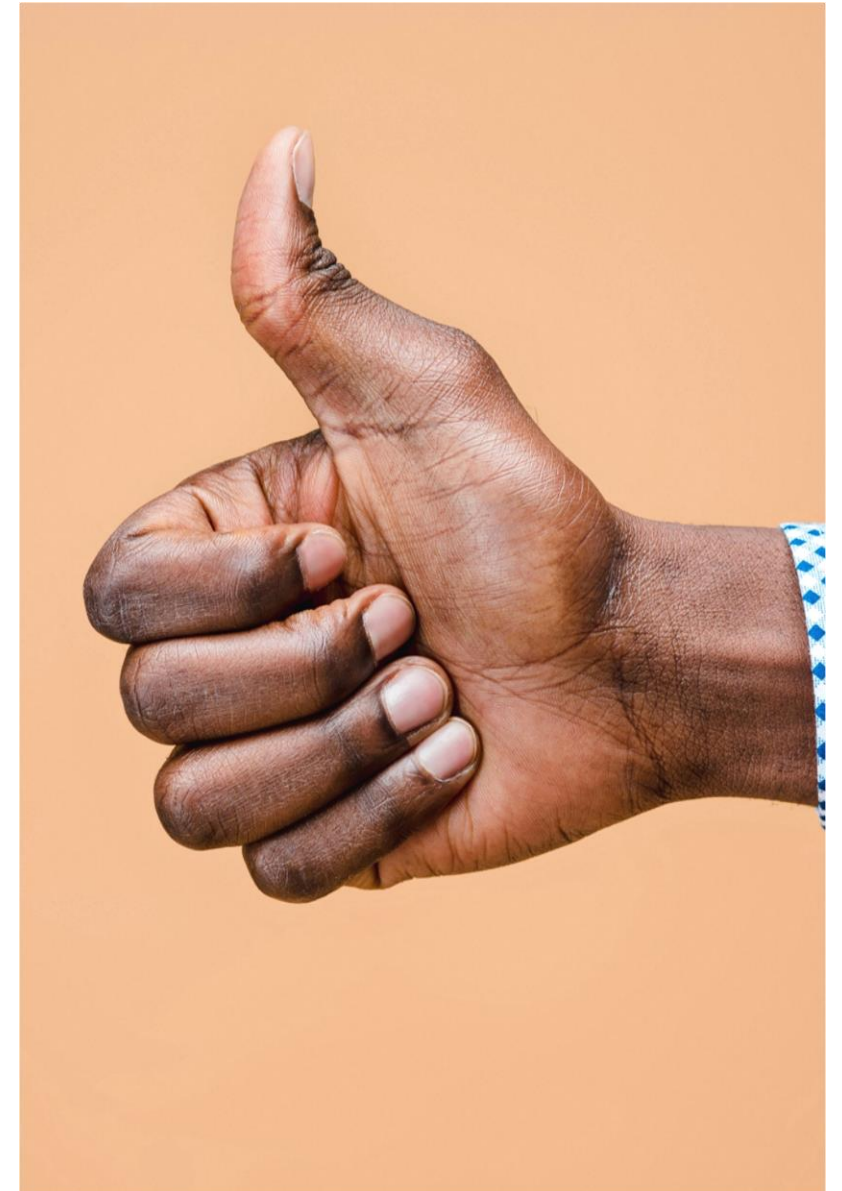
- ▶ Response letters for Topic Areas 1 & 2
 - Sent to the registered business POC
 - Encourage/Discourage notice
 - Criteria feedback
- ▶ Regardless of the determination, if you submitted a compliant Concept Paper for FY 22-23 you may submit a full application for FY 22-23
 - One full application per Concept Paper
 - NOTE: Our Concept Paper review process and response letters did not include an entity eligibility determination
 - We highly recommend reviewing all FOA eligibility requirements thoroughly before submitting full application



Concept Paper Promising Responses

Positive indicators from Concept Paper submissions:

- ▶ Clear need for funding opportunities
- ▶ Strong technical grounding in proposals
- ▶ Creative and transformative projects
- ▶ Workforce and DEIA initiatives
- ▶ Use of the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST) to identify Justic40 Communities



Concept Paper Areas for Improvement



- ▶ The full application phase will require specific details for the review criteria including
 - DOE Funding Impact
 - Community Engagement & Benefits
 - Cybersecurity
- ▶ For initiatives that have not yet begun, provide a rationale and reasonable timeline with goals for implementation
- ▶ Please see Section V of the FOA for full review criteria

Application Eligibility Considerations

Project Related Issues

- ▶ Restrictions on the funding of new generation in GRIP Programs
 - Topic Area 1*:
 - New transmission lines at or above 69kV are not an eligible use.
 - Construction of a new generating facility is not an eligible use.
 - Topic Area 2*:
 - Investments or expenditures for Smart Grid technologies, devices, or equipment that utilize specific tax credits or deductions under the Internal Revenue Code, as amended are not a qualifying investment.
 - Expenditures for electricity generation, transmission, or distribution infrastructure or equipment not directly related to enabling Smart Grid functions are not a qualifying investment.
- ▶ Projects that do not meet topic areas objectives, are not ready for timely deployment (e.g. no locations identified), or do not adhere to program criteria will likely not be competitive.

***Please see Section I.B.i. of the FOA for further information on Topic Areas and eligibility.**



Preparing for Full Application Submission

- ▶ Our reviews and response letters do not include a determination of entity eligibility
- ▶ Every potential applicant must review FOA guidelines thoroughly before application submission
- ▶ All GRIP Program selections will be competitive
- ▶ Eligible applicants can still submit a full application even if discouraged response is received
- ▶ Please note that there is an upcoming award cycle for FY2024, and we encourage those who may need more time to apply to next cycle



Registration Requirements*

- ▶ Registration requirements include several one-time actions that must be completed before submitting an application (e.g., register with the System for Award Management (SAM), obtain a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number, register with Grants.gov, and register with FedConnect.net to submit questions)
- ▶ Please ensure you have reviewed and completed the registration requirements. Some may take several weeks, and failure to complete them could interfere with an applicant's ability to apply

***Please also see pages 3-5 of the FOA for registration requirements.**



Full Application Considerations

Impact of DOE funding

- ▶ **GRIP Strategic Goal**: Catalyze and leverage private sector and non-federal public capital for impactful technology and infrastructure deployment*
- ▶ Areas of Improvement for Full Applications:
 - Applications need to demonstrate why and how DOE funding will catalyze and leverage additional capital to support deployment
 - (e.g., active or ongoing projects that don't go beyond reducing existing costs don't support GRIP Strategic Goals)
 - Many Concept Papers lacked sufficient detail on the impact of DOE funding including project finances and benefits, other government funding programs like tax credits and rebates, and eligible project expenditures

*Please see FOA Section I.A.ii for further information on strategic goals of the FOA.



Full Application Considerations (Cont'd)

State, Local, Tribal, Regional Goals Alignment Issues

- ▶ **GRIP Strategic Goal**: Transform community, regional, interregional, and national resilience, including in consideration of future shifts in generation and load*
- ▶ Areas for improvement:
 - Discussion of state, regional, and interregional alignment
 - Highlight areas where more interregional cooperation is possible
 - Exploration of existing and planned local resilience and decarbonization efforts

*Please see FOA Section I.A.ii for further information on strategic goals of the FOA.



Application Areas for Improvement (Cont'd)

Community Benefits Plan Issues

- ▶ **GRIP Strategic Goal:** Advance community benefits*
- ▶ The implementation of the Community Benefits Plan (CBP) does not need to be complete for proposal to demonstrate a thoughtful plan with tangible goals, defined development stages, and accountability.
- ▶ Areas for improvement:
 - CBP should be specific to the communities your proposal impacts, and include a clear demonstration of engagement with the communities throughout all stages of the proposed project
 - Incorporate community input, especially from historically underrepresented communities, into both project and Community Benefits planning process
 - To the extent your project provides J40 benefits, provide details beyond the fact that there are J40 tracts in service area. Does project scope include work directly in area?
 - Importance of union/labor agreements, community agreements, letters of support, SMART, etc.

*Please see FOA Section I.A.ii for further information on strategic goals of the FOA.



Cybersecurity Plan Requirements*

- ▶ As described in the FOA, these investments are meant to support the DOE, electric sector, and industry stakeholder priorities of reliability, resiliency, and security of the U.S. power grid
- ▶ To communicate an applicant's commitment to security, risk evaluation and mitigation measures should be an active component in a project (or product) lifecycle from early development stages to implementation
- ▶ Applicants selected for award negotiations must submit a Cybersecurity Plan during the award negotiations phase and prior to receiving funding.
- ▶ The Cybersecurity Plan shall be revised as necessary, during the project to capture implementation changes that are focused on project specific risks



*This requirement applies to awards under Topic Areas 2 & 3 only

Cybersecurity Plan Requirements* (Cont'd)

- ▶ DOE intends to work with awardees to assist in the development, review and revision of their respective cybersecurity plans. DOE will provide SME technical assistance, including but not limited to the development, deployment, and maintenance of guidance products, planning and reporting tools, training materials, and other resources for the awardees to use.



Enhance cyber posture



Consistently measure cyber capabilities



Share knowledge



Prioritize actions and investments

- ▶ Cybersecurity done correctly is a shared responsibility between all partners
- ▶ It is important that awardees, DOE Staff, and the SME teams to build a strong and trusted working relationships to share the burden of what will need to be done to keep sensitive data secure

***This requirement applies to awards under Topic Areas 2 & 3 only**

Additional Program Updates

- ▶ Training opportunities
 - Community Benefits Plan - February 27th
 - Cybersecurity – February 28th
- ▶ Funding Cycles
 - Next funding cycle is anticipated to begin Q1 of FY24



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Thank you

