



Puerto Rico Energy Resilience Fund

In December 2022, Congress approved **\$1 billion** for the U.S. Department of Energy to improve the resilience of the Puerto Rican electric grid, with a focus on the island's most vulnerable and disadvantaged households and communities.

DOE Requesting Feedback on Program Design

DOE issued a formal Request for Information (RFI) in **February 2023** to gather feedback from stakeholders on how best to design this grant fund to maximize impact. DOE is seeking comment on eligible technologies, deployment models, beneficiary prioritization, community partnership, and supporting workforce development and technical assistance.

First Round of Funding to Open in Summer 2023

DOE is acutely aware of the need for rapid deployment of resilience solutions, and the urgency of funding projects quickly. With that in mind, DOE will conduct an accelerated funding round through an open Request for Proposals (RFP) from the public, non-profit, and private sectors. Potential applicants may include institutions of higher education, local governments, non-profit organizations, private industry, community organizations, and public entities.

DOE currently plans for at least two rounds of funding for the Puerto Rico Energy Resilience Fund (PR-ERF). The first round will rapidly deploy residential **rooftop solar and storage for vulnerable households and households that include individuals with disabilities**. The subsequent round of investments may include energy resilience solutions like community solar, microgrids, and other grid modernization solutions as well as potential partnerships with local groups and workforce training.

Puerto Rican Stakeholder Engagement is Vital

As DOE works to aid Puerto Rico recovery efforts and grid improvements, we have heard directly from local leaders that **communities want more direct access to renewable energy to power their homes and businesses**, particularly as distributed energy resources offer resilience benefits during extreme weather such as hurricanes. However, the upfront cost of these systems is often out of reach for low- and moderate-income households and businesses, limiting access to the benefits of technologies such as rooftop solar.

DOE will work to leverage this \$1 billion through the PR-ERF and collaborate proactively **with Puerto Ricans** to develop this program effectively and efficiently to support a more reliable, affordable, and clean grid. We understand the **urgency** to move quickly in Puerto Rico and will work to implement this program in a timely manner, while ensuring that **Puerto Rican communities are heard and involved** in the design and implementation.

Published February 2023

