


DOE Vehicle Technologies Office (VTO) Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) Information Session Series

Part 1: Basics of a VTO Funding Opportunity

May 2023

The background of the slide is a blurred photograph of a multi-lane highway at night. The image shows the motion of cars, with their headlights and taillights creating streaks of light. A white arrow on the road points downwards, indicating traffic flow. The overall color palette is dark with highlights from the car lights.

*Erin Russell-Story
Project Manager - NETL*

On behalf of the U.S. Department of Energy Vehicle Technologies Office (VTO)

Agenda

VTO FOA Information Session Series: Part 1

1. **Vehicle Technologies Office (VTO) Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOA)**
2. **VTO FOA Application Process**
3. **Key FOA Content to Check**
4. **Understanding FOA language**
5. **Key Application Components**
6. **Resources**

VTO Funding Opportunity Announcements



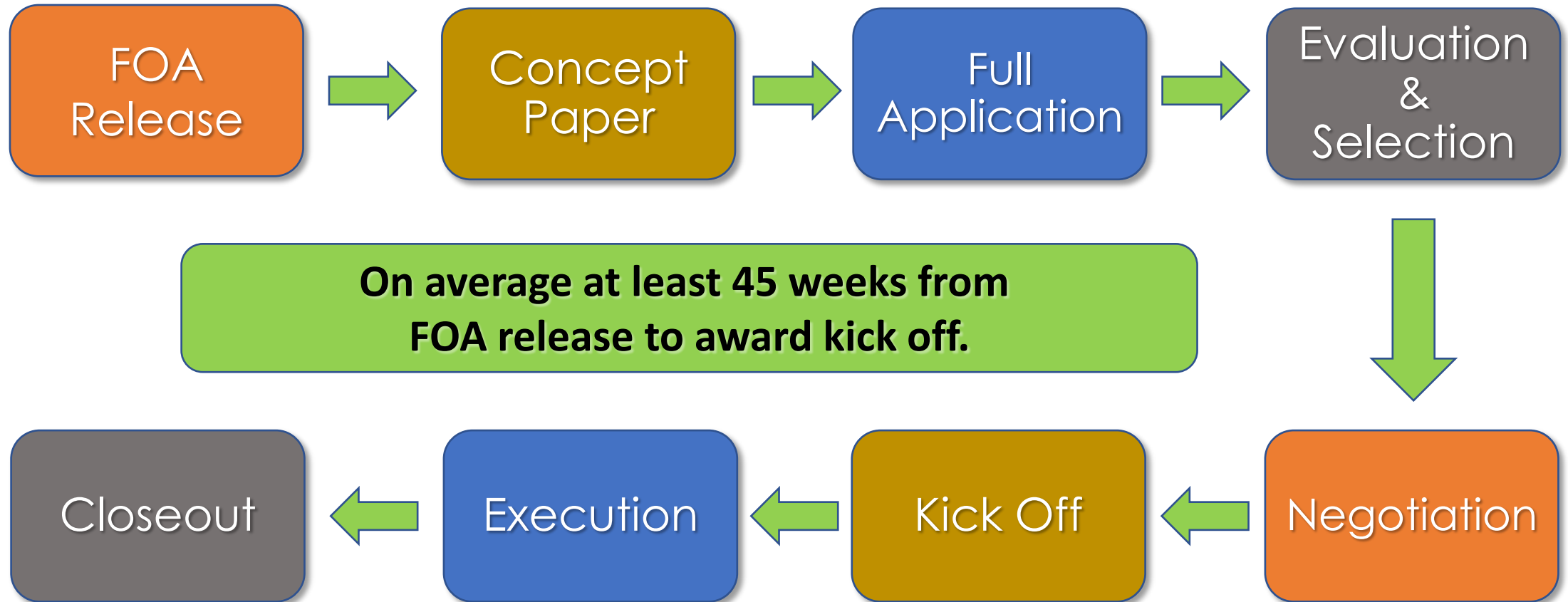
VTO FOA Information Session Series: Part 1

- Why does VTO issue Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs)?
 - A. For public benefit
 - B. VTO issues funding opportunities that support a portfolio of high-impact projects that can significantly advance its mission to reduce petroleum reliance by developing and deploying more energy efficient and sustainable transportation technologies.
- What does it mean to have a financial assistance award with the government?
 - A. Regulations dictated by the 2 CFR 200 (Code of Federal Regulations)
 - i. Terms and Conditions
 - ii. Reporting requirements and deliverables
 - iii. Allowable/unallowable costs
 - B. Government accounting rules may differ from those used in the private sector

<https://www.energy.gov/eere/vehicles/funding-opportunities>

VTO FOA Application and Award Process

VTO FOA Information Session Series: Part 1



VTO Newsletter: <https://www.energy.gov/eere/vehicles/vehicle-technologies-office-newsletters>

FOA Content Checklist

VTO FOA Information Session Series: Part 1

Review these items carefully:

1. Topic descriptions (Topics = Areas of Interest [AOI])
2. Concept Papers (CP) may be required.
 - A. If Concept Papers are required, applicants must submit a concept paper in order to submit a full application.
 - B. From CP to full application – must be the same prime applicant.
 - C. Can submit a full application even if the Concept Paper is discouraged.
3. Full Application
 - A. Technical volume requirements – may differ by AOI
 - B. Technical volume page limit
 - i. will not be reviewed beyond page limits
 - ii. number of pages per technical volume section are recommendation, not requirements
 - C. Full application evaluation criteria – may differ by AOI

Understanding FOA Language

VTO FOA Information Session Series: Part 1

<u>MUST</u>	<i>Strongly Encouraged</i>
Items included as must haves for an application are <u>imperative</u> to include.	Items included as strongly encouraged for an application are <u>optional</u> to include.

<u>NOT OF INTEREST</u>	<i>Discouraged</i>
Activities/items not of interest <u>will not receive DOE funding or be recognized as cost share.</u>	Applications that include activities / items discouraged <u>will receive full merit review.</u>



Anticipated award sizes are designed to help set scope of project, they are not hard limits.

Commonly Not of Interest:

- Projects that promote a specific brand
- Rebates/tax incentives
- Purchase of land

Key Application Components

VTO FOA Information Session Series: Part 1

1. Application for Federal Assistance SF 424
2. Budget Justification and Subrecipient Budget Justification (if necessary)
3. One page publicly releasable summary
4. Technical Volume
5. Statement of Project Objectives (SOPo) aka Statement of Work (SOW)
6. Project summary slide
7. Resumes of key personnel
8. Letters of Commitment / Cost Share
9. Data Management Plan (DMP) [if required by FOA]
10. Community Benefits Plan (CBP)

Recently Added: Community Benefits Plan

VTO FOA Information Session Series: Part 1

- The **Community Benefits Plan (CBP)** details the applicant's approach to ensuring Federal investments advance these objectives:

DEIA

- Advance **diversity, equity, inclusion** and **accessibility**

Equity

- Contribute to **energy equity**

Labor

- Invest in America's **workforce**

- Will be evaluated as part of the technical review process
- Specific to the proposed project – not a restatement of organization's policies
- At least one **Specific, Measurable, Assignable, Relevant, Timely (SMART)** milestone per budget period
- Review the CBP section of the FOA and Appendix

More about Community Benefits Plans:

<https://www.energy.gov/clean-energy-infrastructure/about-community-benefits-plans>

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) FOA Requirements

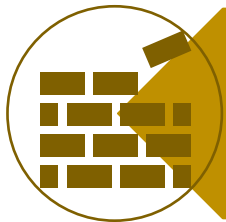
VTO FOA Information Session Series: Part 1

- Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) FOAs have some unique requirements, such as:



Specific Reporting

On job creation and preservation.



Buy American

All iron, steel, manufactured goods, and construction materials used in the infrastructure activities of applicable projects are produced in the United States.



Prevailing Wages

Ensuring laborers and mechanics employed by contractors or sub-contractors on BIL-funded projects are paid wages equivalent to prevailing wages on similar projects in the area.

Resources

VTO FOA Information Session Series: Part 1

EERE Exchange:

<https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/>

Exchange Applicant User Guides:

<https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/Manuals.aspx>

Recipient Guide to Award Negotiations with EERE:

https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2022-08/EERE_G_540.127_Recipient_Guide_to_Negotiating_with_EERE.pdf

2 CFR 200:

<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part-200>

