



## DOE Community Benefits Public Webinar:

### Maintaining and Enhancing Hydroelectricity Incentives (EPA Act 2005 Section 247)

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July 12, 2023



# Webinar Notice

- ▶ The purpose of this webinar is to provide an overview of the Community Benefits Plan requirements for the Maintaining and Enhancing Hydroelectricity Incentives.
- ▶ The webinar is being recorded and a transcript of the webinar may be made available on DOE's website.
- ▶ We are not accepting questions within this webinar. Please send your questions to [hydroelectricincentives@hq.doe.gov](mailto:hydroelectricincentives@hq.doe.gov).
- ▶ None of the information presented herein is legally binding.
- ▶ The content included in this presentation is intended for informational purposes only relating to the Maintaining and Enhancing Hydroelectricity Incentives (EPAAct 2005 Section 247).
- ▶ Any content within this presentation that appears discrepant from the guidance language is superseded by the guidance language.
- ▶ All applicants are strongly encouraged to carefully read the guidance document.





# DOE Webinar Agenda

## Maintaining and Enhancing Hydroelectricity Incentives (EPAct Section 247)

- ▶ Introduction: Luciana Ciocci, Stakeholder Engagement
- ▶ Opening Remarks: Nina Peluso, Senior Policy Advisor, Grid Deployment Office
- ▶ Overview of the Maintaining & Enhancing Hydroelectricity Incentives: Luciana Ciocci
- ▶ Overview of Community Benefits Plans: Luciana Ciocci
  - Preparing for Full Applications
  - Overview of Community Benefits Plan Framework
  - Community & Labor Engagement
  - Investing in the American Workforce
  - Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility
  - Justice 40 Initiative



# 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.

## Generation Credits Division

The Generation Credits 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.



# Maintaining & Enhancing Hydroelectricity Incentives (EPA 2005 Section 247)

- ▶ Funds capital improvements at qualified facilities directly related to grid resilience, dam safety, and environmental improvements
- ▶ BIL provided **\$553,600,000** to remain available until expended
- ▶ Incentive payments shall not exceed **30%** of the costs of the applicable capital improvement
- ▶ Not more than **\$5,000,000** to any facility in any fiscal year
- ▶ Letter of Intent (LOI) window closed June 22, 2023, the full application period is now open through October 6, 2023
- ▶ In order to submit a full application, a potential applicant must have first filed an LOI



# Hydropower Incentives Program Community Benefits Plan Goals

A **Community Benefits Plan (CBP)** is a **new requirement** added to all Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding.

- ▶ Advance community benefits through meeting the four following priority goals:
  - Support meaningful community and labor engagement
  - Invest in the American workforce
  - Advance diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA); and
  - Contribute to the goal that 40% of the overall benefits flow to disadvantaged communities (the Justice40 initiative)
- ▶ 12-page Community Benefits Plan limit
- ▶ Community Benefits Plan Objectives Summary is a useful tool, but not required

# Overview of Community Benefits Plan Framework

# Community Benefits Plan Implementation

## The CBP should outline:

- How the applicant intends to achieve DOE's priority areas of **Engagement, Justice40, Diversity, Equity, Access & Inclusion (DEIA), & Quality Jobs**.
- A Specific, Measurable, Assignable, Realistic, & Time-Based (SMART) milestone, per budget period, to measure progress on the proposed CBP actions.

## If the project is selected:

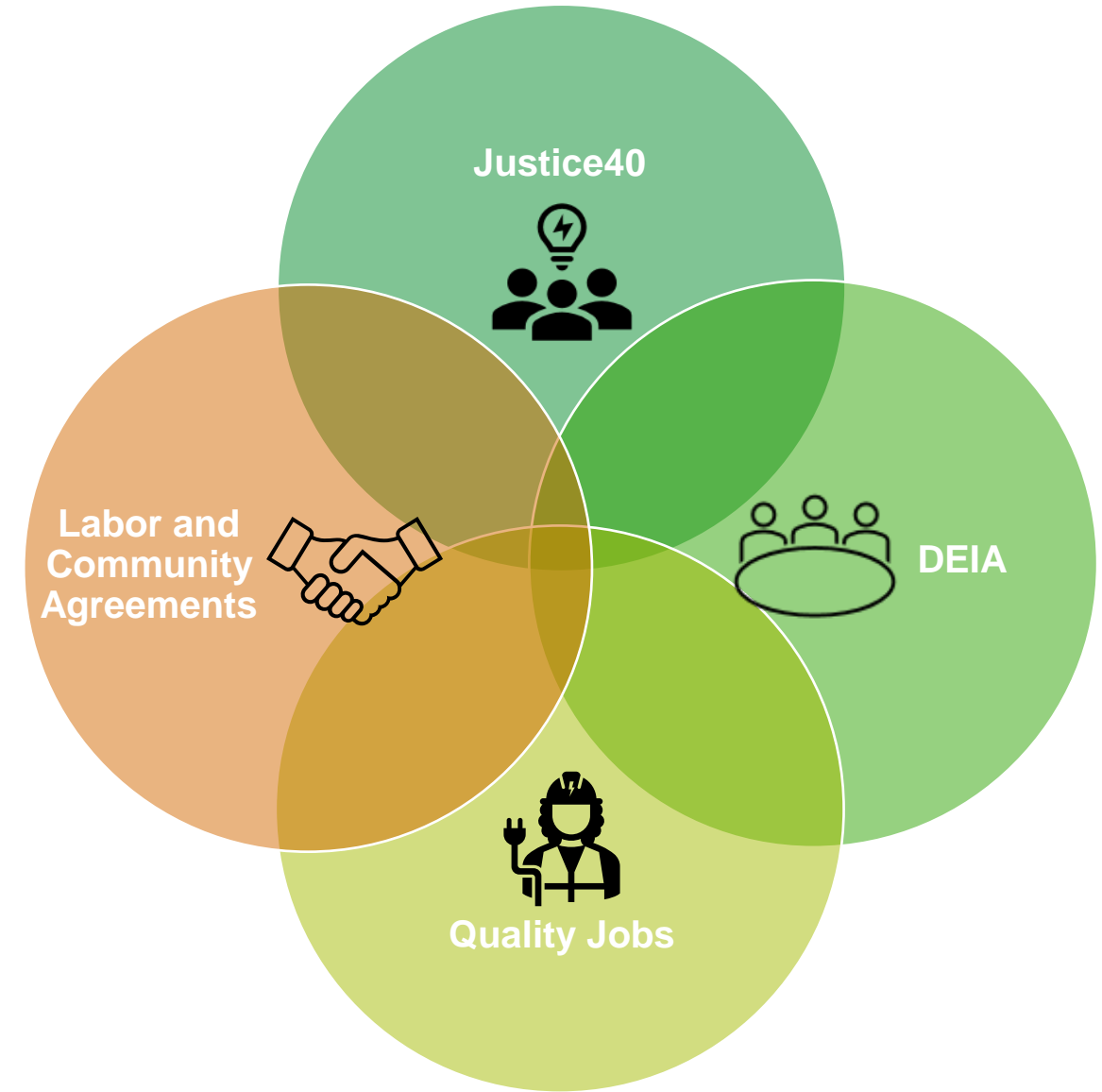
- DOE will incorporate the **CBP** into the award and the selectee will be **required** to **implement** the **CBP** as negotiated.
- During the life of the project, DOE will **evaluate** the selectee's progress.





# Community Benefits Plan: Four Priority Goals

1. Community and Labor Engagement- Meaningful engagement with community and labor partners leading to formal agreements with accountability to affected stakeholders
2. Investing in the American Workforce- Create quality jobs to attract and retain skilled workers and ensure workers have a voice on the job over decisions that affect them
3. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility- Equitable access to wealth-building opportunities (teaming, access to quality jobs, business and contracting opportunities, etc.)
4. Justice 40- Meet or exceed the objectives of the Justice40 initiative that 40% of the overall benefits of certain federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities



# Community & Labor Engagement

# Community and Labor Engagement

Successful applicants will consider:

- ▶ Proactively and meaningfully engaging with stakeholders, which ensures that community perspectives can be incorporated into the project plan
- ▶ Engagement is an opportunity for project proponents to hear from these stakeholders about their concerns and desires
  - Stakeholder engagement is a relatively small cost that delivers high value
- ▶ Ongoing engagement, and responsiveness to the issues raised is important for reducing or eliminating certain risks associated with the project
- ▶ Certain stakeholders are more vulnerable to and affected by project implementation than others
  - Frontline communities and workers are some of the most-impacted



# Community and Labor Engagement Within the Community Benefits Plan

Applicants should:

- ▶ Describe prior actions and plans to engage with labor unions and worker organizations, tribal governments, and community-based organizations representing local stakeholders including disadvantaged communities
- ▶ Describe plans to negotiate formal workforce and community agreements to detail benefits, partner obligations, and remedies to ensure accountability



# Investing in the American Workforce: Workforce Continuity and Good Jobs Plan



# Workforce Continuity and Good Jobs Plan

Applicants should detail commitments to:


- ▶ Invest in workforce training to **support a skilled workforce** and provide pathways to advancement
- ▶ Foster **safe, healthy, and inclusive** workplaces and communities **free from harassment and discrimination**
- ▶ Describe how the project prioritizes **local hires**
- ▶ Provide description of engagement and any agreements with relevant **trade unions**



# Compounding effects of investing in the American Workforce

## 1. Grow American jobs

By investing in infrastructure and domestic supply chains and adopting/enforcing domestic content, manufacturing, and assembly requirements



## 2. Improve the quality of energy jobs

By supporting responsible employers, adopting and ensuring accountability with strong labor standards, and encouraging collective bargaining.



## 3. Facilitate equitable access to good jobs and training opportunities

By focusing workforce development efforts on removing barriers to career-track training, quality jobs, and career advancement

# Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility

# Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility

BIL and IRA create wealth-building opportunities, including new jobs and business opportunities.

Barriers to access are systemic and institutional.

Ensuring they are equitable opportunities requires intentionally reducing barriers to access

## Opportunities to enhance DEIA:

- ▶ Business opportunities
- ▶ Access to new, good-paying jobs
- ▶ Creative partnerships between community members
- ▶ Career track training and other workforce development
- ▶ Apprentice utilization
- ▶ Recruitment for operations jobs





# DEIA in Community Benefits Plans

- ▶ The Community Benefits Plan must describe how diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) objectives will be incorporated into the project
- ▶ Should detail how the applicant will partner with:
  - Underrepresented businesses
  - Training organizations that serve workers who face barriers to accessing quality jobs, and/or
  - Other project partners to help improve DEIA in energy jobs





# Justice40 Initiative

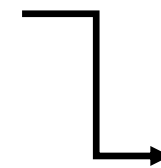
# The Justice40 Initiative

Executive Order 14008, Sec 223 – Justice40 – how **Federal investments** might be made toward a goal that **40% of the overall benefits** flow to **disadvantaged communities**.

**Federal  
investments**



**40% of the overall  
benefits**



**Disadvantaged  
communities**




# Justice40 Initiative within the Community Benefits Plan

The **Justice40 Initiative** section must include:

- Identification of **applicable Disadvantaged Communities (DACs)** where the anticipated project benefits will flow.
- Identification of applicable benefits that are **quantifiable, measurable, and trackable**, including, at a minimum, a discussion of the relevance of each of the **eight DOE Justice40 benefits**.
- A description of **how** and **when** anticipated benefits are **expected to flow to DACs**.
- A discussion of anticipated **negative** and **cumulative environmental impacts** on DACs.



# Justice40 Policy Priorities

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1. **Decrease** energy burden in disadvantaged communities (DACs).
  2. **Decrease** environmental exposure and burdens for DACs
  3. **Increase** access to low-cost capital in DACs.
  4. **Increase** clean energy jobs, job pipeline and job training for individuals in DACs.
  5. **Increase** clean energy enterprise creation and contracting (MBE/DBE) in DACs.
  6. **Increase** energy democracy, including community ownership in DACs.
  7. **Increase** parity in clean energy technology access and adoption in DACs.
  8. **Increase** energy resiliency in DACs.



# Maintaining & Enhancing Hydroelectricity Incentives (EPA 2005 Section 247)

## Info to Apply

- ▶ The **Letter of Intent** window closed **June 22, 2023**
- ▶ Submit **full applications** through 5:00 p.m. ET, **October 6, 2023**
- ▶ To be eligible to file a full application, prospective applicants must have first filed a Letter of Intent
- ▶ Submit through the Clean Energy Infrastructure Funding Opportunity eXCHANGE
- ▶ Resources:
  - About Community Benefits Plans (DOE webpage)
  - Community Benefits Plan Objectives Summary (template)
  - Check the Frequently Asked Questions page for additions
  - Sign up for the Grid Deployment Office Newsletter to receive updates. Be sure to select the Hydroelectric Incentives topic.





**Thank you**

