



Puerto Rico Energy Resilience Fund 2023 Funding Opportunity Announcement

For far too long, Puerto Ricans have lived with an unreliable and expensive electric system. In December 2022, President Biden signed the Fiscal Year 2023 Consolidated Appropriations Act into law, which included **\$1 billion** for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to establish the **Puerto Rico Energy Resilience Fund (PR-ERF)** to improve energy resilience of Puerto Rico's electric grid, with a focus on the Island's most vulnerable households and help the Commonwealth meet its goal of 100% renewable energy by 2050.

On July 31, 2023, DOE's Grid Deployment Office (GDO) released a **Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) for up to \$450 million** to support residential solar photovoltaic (PV) and battery storage installations and offer consumer protection and education resources. Potential applicants may include private industry educational institutions; Territory, state, and local governmental entities; non-profit organizations, and energy cooperatives. Through this deployment-focused PR-ERF funding, DOE aims to incentivize the installation of roughly **30,000–40,000 residential systems**. Qualified beneficiaries of the systems installed by selected partners will include very low-income, single-family households that are either located in areas that have a high percentage of very low-income households and experience frequent and prolonged power outages or contain a family member with an energy-dependent disability, such as individuals who need electric wheelchairs for mobility or those that use at-home dialysis machines.

Solar and Storage Deployment Funding Opportunities

Topic Area 1: Third-Party Residential Deployment

- Topic Area 1 solicits qualified solar companies to deploy residential rooftop solar PV and battery storage to enhance resilience and reduce household energy burden.
- The goal of Topic Area 1 is to rapidly deploy systems to qualified beneficiaries as efficiently as possible.
- *GDO anticipates awarding \$380 million to \$400 million, with up to 5 separate awards.*

Topic Area 2: Community-Sponsored Residential Deployment

- Topic Area 2 provides funding directly to nonprofits and electric cooperatives to sponsor residential solar PV and battery storage installations to enhance energy resilience and reduce household energy burden.
- *GDO anticipates awarding \$20 million to \$40 million, with up to 10 separate awards.*

Topic Area 3: Beneficiary Education, Training, and Consumer Protection

- Topic Area 3 solicits applications from nonprofits, educational institutions; Territory, state, and local governmental entities; and for-profit entities to enhance homeowner knowledge and understanding of solar and storage systems, serve as a consumer protection resource to assist program beneficiaries on an ongoing basis with system education and/or advocate for consumer protection.
- *GDO anticipates awarding \$5 million to \$10 million, with between 1–3 awards.*

For more details on eligibility and other aspects of each of the Topic Areas of the FOA, please consult the Funding Opportunity Announcement at <https://infrastructure-eXCHANGE.energy.gov>.

Application Timeline

- ▶ Applications for all topic areas are due on **September 18, 2023 at 5 PM AT/ET**.
- ▶ Awards will be announced by early 2024.

How to Apply

Visit <https://infrastructure-eXCHANGE.energy.gov> and select funding opportunity number **DE-FOA-0003096** to access application forms and instructions. Applicants requiring translation assistance to submit applications in English under this FOA should contact DOE at GDO_FOA3096@netl.doe.gov no later than September 4 at 5 PM AT/ET.

Puerto Rican Stakeholder Engagement is Vital

The development of the PR-ERF has relied heavily on local collaboration and centers community priorities for improving energy resiliency in Puerto Rico. On February 21, 2023, DOE issued a Request for Information (RFI) to collect feedback about both short- and long-term energy solutions including residential rooftop solar deployment, community and critical service energy resilience, partnerships with non-profit organizations, and workforce training to sustain Puerto Rico's clean energy economy. Comments are being used to inform the implementation strategy for the PR-ERF, including identifying priority energy technologies and solutions, eligibility, funding structure, and timing.

Questions

- ▶ For more information on this FOA, including videos in English and Spanish about how to apply, visit www.energy.gov/gdo/PRFOA2023.
- ▶ For more information on the Solar Ambassador Prize, a funding opportunity through the PR-ERF for organizations in Puerto Rico to assist DOE in identifying eligible households for solar PV and battery storage installations, visit www.energy.gov/gdo/solar-ambassador-prize.
- ▶ For more information on the PR-ERF and other efforts of DOE's Grid Recovery and Modernization Team, visit www.energy.gov/gdo/puerto-rico-energy-resilience-fund.
- ▶ Questions about the PR-ERF and this FOA can be sent to PuertoRicoGDO@hq.doe.gov.

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