

45577_DOE_GDO_Jan 12 Application Guidance Videos_BEFORE YOU APPLY_v01

HOMARI AOKI: Hello and welcome to this grant application assistance series for the Grid Resilience State and Tribal Formula Grants, available under Section 40101(d) of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. This program is a noncompetitive grant available for Indian tribes, including Alaska Native corporations, as well as states and US territories to reduce the likelihood and consequences of disruptive events to the electric grid.

My name is Homari Aoki, and I work for the Department of Energy's Grid Deployment Office, where we are implementing the grid resilience provisions from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

This presentation is an update to one that was recorded last summer, as some changes to the application process have been made, and new assistance has been made available. We have also received some applications for this grant already and would like to provide additional guidance to applicants who are still in the process of developing their submissions based on some frequently asked questions we received.

To help tribes, states, and territories with the applications, the Grid Deployment Office has established application assistance through different means, including the development of templates, example applications, webinars, and these recorded presentations. This recording is the first of a mini series to help applicants through the application process.

By the end of this mini series, you should have everything you need in order to apply for the Grid Resilience State and Tribal Formula Grant. This series will cover the following objectives-- what you will need to know before applying for the Grid Resilience formula grant, what you will need during the application process, and what the next steps are for submission.

This presentation will go into the details of the application process and the required forms. If you would like an overview of the Grid Resilience formula grant and how the grant can be used to implement projects, we have other webinar recordings available for you to view on the GDO grants website. I would encourage you to view the other recordings and presentations on the overview of the Grid Resilience formula grant before returning to this presentation.

Please note, the contents of this application is only relevant to new grant applicants. If you have applied for previous years of funding for the Grid Resilience State and Tribal Formula Grant, please reach out to your federal project officer assigned to your grant. You should have received an email from a federal project officer from the National Energy Technology Laboratory regarding your application.

The Grid Resilience State and Tribal Formula Grant program is designed to strengthen and modernize America's power grid against disruptive events, including events such as wildfires, extreme weather, and other natural disasters that are exacerbated by the climate crisis. The Grid Resilience formula grant is available for states, territories, and federally recognized tribes, including Alaska Native regional corporations and Alaska Native village corporations.

The office that administers the Grid Resilience formula grant is the Grid Deployment Office. The Grid Deployment Office, or GDO, was launched in August 2022 to maintain and invest in critical generation facilities, such as hydropower, and nuclear energy, increase grid resilience, and improve and expand transmission and distribution systems to provide reliable, affordable electricity to everyone everywhere.

Working in strong partnership with energy-- working in strong partnership with energy sector stakeholders on a variety of grid initiatives, GDO deploys its efforts via three divisions-- Generation Credits, Transmission, and Grid Modernization. These divisions leverage unique authorities to drive investment, improve resource adequacy, boost transmission and distribution system resilience, and provide access to expertise, capabilities, and technical assistance on a variety of transformational grid modernization and market strategies.

That's it for the introduction. Our next video will be on what you need to know before applying to the grant. Welcome back to this mini series on the Grid Resilience State and Tribal Formula Grant application. This recording will be on what you need to know before you apply to the formula grant.

There are a few pieces of information that you'll need to know and a few action items that will need to be taken before applying to the grant. The first is that you'll need to understand the grant requirements. You'll also need to know your funding allocation numbers. You'll need to determine who will apply for the grant and identify points of contact, as well as download the application materials and register for the proper online application systems.

Applicants can access the application materials through the URL on the screen at energy.gov/gdo/gridresilience. Once you're on the website, there will be a section on application resources that will redirect you to the National Energy Technology Laboratory's grant website. If you have questions regarding the grant, they can be sent to GDOTribalAssistance@hq.doe.gov. If you need special accommodations, please message us.

Before we go into the grant requirements, I wanted to provide a quick guide to the different websites that will be helpful in applying for the grant. We'll include additional information regarding these websites in additional videos.

First, we have the Grid Deployment Office's Grid Resilience State and Tribal Formula Grant web page. A comprehensive list of resources for the grant can be found on the Grid Deployment Office website. This includes application assistance and a list of quick facts, as well as links to the other two websites.

The Grid Deployment Office's website is where the latest updates to the program will be listed.

Information about webinars and upcoming events will be listed on the Grid Deployment Office's website as well. And links to the grant application contents can be found here.

The Grid Deployment Office has contracted with the National Energy Technology Laboratory, or NETL, to award and administer the grant agreements. Applicants may receive emails and correspondence from NETL regarding this formula grant due to their role in grant administration. The NETL's grant page includes the funding allocations list, application forms, the frequently asked questions, and post-award reporting documents.

Finally, the application itself for the Grid Resilience formula grant is hosted on FedConnect and can be accessed through either the GDO or NETL pages. It's listed as the application submission page on both GDO and NETL's web pages.

The FedConnect site includes the Administrative Legal Requirements Document, which details the grant program, including the objectives and scope, eligibility, application information, and award information. These three websites will be the main pages that can be used to access grant information.

Application requirements can be found on the FedConnect website. Once you're on the FedConnect grant page, you'll be able to see the documentation on the right side of the screen. The guidance and

requirements for this grant are listed on the document known as the Administrative and Legal Requirements Document, or ALRD.

This is similar to a Funding Opportunity Announcement, or FOA, which you may be familiar with if you've applied to federal financial assistance grants in the past. The distinction between an ALRD and FOA comes from the differences in funding types. This grant is a formula grant and is not competitive, as each eligible applicant has a specific allocation they can request.

The ALRD is specific to the Grid Resilience formula grant and may be amended with updates. Please make sure to review the latest ALRD amendment when submitting your application. On the FedConnect web page, you will be able to see the latest version of the last amendment to the funding opportunity under the Documentation column. It should be on the bottom of the list of Documentation. Once you access the ALRD, you can find the application requirements needed for this grant under Section IV. One thing to note is that the ALRD may be amended from time to time. Changes to the ALRD will be highlighted in a different color for each amendment. You can quickly view the changes by looking for the highlighted sections of the amended ALRD. Please make sure you refer to the latest amendment when submitting your application.

The GDO team is available to meet with grant applicants one on one to discuss the grant. Please contact GDOTribalAssistance@hq.doe.gov to schedule a call. We'll be happy to provide an overview of the grant, as well as answer any questions you may have.

Next, you'll need to know the funding allocations for your state, territory, or Indian tribe. These allocations can be found on the NETL Grid Resilience Formula Grant web page. Allocations will be posted on the NETL site each year. These allocations will not be the same each year, as the data used in the grant formula will be updated yearly.

There are three main points of contact that will be identified within the application. First is the sole authorized applicant on behalf of the Indian tribe, state, or territory. This ensures that only one application is submitted on behalf of the applicant and that the submission has been approved by the applicant. The sole authorized applicant for tribes must be a tribal entity and cannot be a third party. If you have any questions regarding the authorized applicant, please reach out to GDO.

Second, you'll need to identify the principal investigator, also known as the technical project manager, for the projects and technical activities performed under the grant. They're responsible for reporting on all technical aspects of the work being performed.

Finally, the business point of contact, who is responsible for administering the financial aspects of the grant and completing and certifying financial reporting requirements, must be identified as well. The same person could potentially be all three points of contact, but it may likely be different individuals.

If you are a tribe that is applying as part of a tribal consortium or is working with a third-party agent, you will need some additional information. For a tribal consortium application, you'll need to identify the lead Indian tribe that will apply on behalf of the consortium, and they will need to identify the points of contact. If your tribe is interested in having a third-party representative, you'll need to identify the third-party agent that will represent the tribe or the tribal consortium. As mentioned, a third party cannot be listed as the sole authorized applicant. However, they may assist in the development and implementation of the grant. That concludes the section on Before You Apply. Thank you and see you in the next one.