Subject Specific Grant Guide

Hydropower and Dam General Grant Guide

This guide identifies funding opportunities that support hydropower and dam projects during the 2023 calendar year. The grants chosen for inclusion in this guide are opportunities that are typically reoccurring and are expected to be solicited again in the future.

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FEDERAL
GRANT PROFILE

Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Agency: Office of Rural Development

FY 2023 Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant Program

Grant Overview

This program provides affordable funding to develop essential community facilities in rural areas. Projects supported through this program must demonstrate substantial community support, and facilities must serve the rural area where they are or will be located. Eligible applicants are public bodies, community-based non-profit corporations, and federally recognized tribes.

Program History

	Total Funding	Awards
2021	$450 million	274
2020	$871 million	256

Key Information and Tips

Total Funding: Unspecified
Award Range: Varies
Match: Not required
Application Due: Rolling

- Grant awards will be contingent upon the availability of grant funding
- Funds may be combined with commercial financing to finance projects if all eligibility and feasibility requirements are met

https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities-direct-loan-grant-program

Awardee Profile

El Dorado County Community Health Center
El Dorado County, CA

AMOUNT: $18.5 million
YEAR: 2021

The El Dorado County Community Health Center received an $18.5 million loan to build a medical facility for residents and workers in and around Placerville. The center is a key plater in the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines in El Dorado County. It also provides medical, behavioral health, dental, pharmacy and substance misuse treatment services.

Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Agency: Office of Rural Development

FY 2023 Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant Program

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to provide affordable funding to develop essential community facilities in rural areas. Projects supported through this program must demonstrate substantial community support, and facilities must serve the rural area where they are or will be located.

For the purposes of this program, an essential community facility is defined as a facility that provides an essential service to the local community for the orderly development of the community in a primarily rural area, and does not include private, commercial, or business undertakings. Examples of essential community facilities include:

- Health care facilities such as hospitals, medical clinics, dental clinics, nursing homes, or assisted-living facilities
- Public facilities such as town halls, courthouses, airport hangars, or street improvements
- Community support services such as child care centers, community centers, fairgrounds, or transitional housing
- Public safety services such as fire departments, police stations, prisons, police vehicles, fire trucks, public works vehicles, or equipment
- Educational services such as museums, libraries, or private schools
- Utility services such as telemedicine or distance learning equipment
- Local food systems such as community gardens, food pantries, community kitchens, food banks, food hubs, or greenhouses

Priority will be given to projects that:

- Serve communities with populations of 5,500 or fewer
- Serve low-income communities having a median household income below 80 percent of the state non-metropolitan median household income

Funds may be used to purchase, construct, and/or improve essential community facilities; purchase equipment; and pay for related project expenses. Other costs include reasonable and necessary fees for:

- Legal
- Architectural and/or engineering
- Fiscal advisors
- Environmental
- Archaeological
- Mitigation measures
- Planning
- Establishing or acquiring rights

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are public bodies, community-based nonprofit corporations, and federally recognized tribes.

Facilities supported through this program must serve the rural area where they are or will be located. Rural areas include cities, villages, townships, and towns, including federally recognized tribal lands, with no more than 20,000 residents according to the latest U.S. Census data, which can be found online at www.census.gov.

Additionally, in order to be eligible, applicants must have the legal authority to borrow money, obtain security, and repay loans; and to construct, operate, and maintain the proposed facilities; and be unable to finance projects from their own resources and/or through commercial credit at reasonable rates and terms

Funding

In FY 2023, an unspecified amount of funding is available to support grants and low-interest direct loans through this program. Awards may be provided as combinations of grants and loans. Grant assistance is provided on a graduated scale, with smaller communities with the lowest median household income being eligible for projects with a higher proportion of grant funds. Grant assistance is limited to the following percentages of eligible project costs:

- Maximum of 75 percent if:
    - The project is located in a rural community having a population of 5,000 or fewer
    - The median household income of the service area is below the higher of the poverty line or 60 percent of the state non-metropolitan median household income
- Maximum of 55 percent if:
    - The project is located in a rural community having a population of 12,000 or fewer
    - The median household income of the service area is below the higher of the poverty line or 70 percent of the state non-metropolitan median household income
- Maximum of 35 percent if:
    - The project is located in a rural community having a population of 20,000 or fewer
    - The median household income of the service area is below the higher of the poverty line or 80 percent of the state non-metropolitan median household income
- Maximum of 15 percent if:
    - The project is located in a rural community having a population of 20,000 or fewer
    - The median household income of the service area is below the higher of the poverty line or 90 percent of the state non-metropolitan median household income

Grant awards will be contingent upon the availability of grant funding. Funds may be combined with commercial financing to finance projects if all eligibility and feasibility requirements are met.

Loan repayment terms may not be longer than the useful life of the facility, state statutes, the applicant's authority, or a maximum of 40 years, whichever is less. There will be no prepayment penalties. Interest rates will be set by the funding agency and are determined by the median household income of the service area. Once the loan is approved, the interest rate is fixed for the entire term of the loan. Current interest rates, when available, can be found online at www.rd.usda.gov.

No more than 25 percent of the total floor space of the project may be used for an ineligible purpose.

Contact Information

Questions should be directed to the appropriate local office listed online at www.rd.usda.gov/contact-us/state-offices. To initiate the application process, applicants must contact the appropriate local office.

https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities-direct-loan-grant-program

FEDERAL
GRANT PROFILE

Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Agency: Office of Rural Development

FY 2024 Electric Infrastructure Loan and Loan Guarantee Program

Grant Overview

The electric program makes loans and loan guarantees to maintain and improve electric infrastructure in rural communities nationwide in order to increase economic opportunities and quality of life. The loans and loan guarantees finance the construction of electric distribution, transmission, and generation facilities, including system improvements to improve electric service in rural areas, as well as demand side management, smart grid, energy efficiency and conservation programs, and on-grid and off-grid renewable energy systems. Eligible applicants are state and local government entities, federally recognized tribes, nonprofits, and for-profit businesses.

Program History

	Total Funding	# of Awards
2022	$2.7 billion	64

Key Information

Total Funding: Unspecified
Match: Not required
Solicitation Date: November 29, 2023
Proposal due: Rolling

https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/electric-infrastructure-loan-loan-guarantee-program

USDA

Awardee Profile

C & L Electric Cooperative Corporation

LOAN AMOUNT: $45,235,000
YEAR: 2018

This Rural Development investment will be used to connect 2,964 consumers and build and improve 331 miles of line. This loan includes various smart grid projects in the amount of $11,467,700 including the installation of 273 miles of fiber cable for the backbone communications network

Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Agency: Office of Rural Development

FY 2024 Electric Infrastructure Loan and Loan Guarantee Program

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to maintain and improve electric infrastructure in rural communities nationwide in order to increase economic opportunities and quality of life. This program provides investment capital in the form of insured loans and loan guarantees for the construction of electric distribution, transmission, and generation facilities, including system improvements and replacement required to furnish and improve electric service in rural areas, as well as demand-side management, energy conservation programs, and on-grid and off-grid renewable energy systems.

Funds may be used to finance:

- Maintenance
- Upgrades
- Expansion
- Replacement of distribution, subtransmission, and headquarters facilities
- Energy efficiency
- Renewable energy systems

The program may also provide hardship loans for qualified applicants in rural areas that are either economically distressed or recovering from an unavoidable event, such as a natural disaster.

All facilities receiving financing through this program must be used for public purposes.

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are state and local government entities, federally recognized tribes, nonprofits, and for-profit businesses. Eligible nonprofits include cooperatives and limited dividend or mutual associations.

Projects must serve qualified rural areas. Applicants should contact the appropriate general field representative (GFR) of the funding agency for their region to determine whether the proposed service area of the project qualifies as rural.

Applicants must have the legal authority to provide, construct, operate, and maintain the proposed facilities or services. Partnerships with federal, state, local, private, and nonprofit entities are encouraged.

Funding

In FY 2024, an unspecified amount of funding is available to support insured loans and loan guarantees through this program.

The interest rate for Treasury-rate loans and loan guarantees will be fixed at the time of each advance, based on rates established daily by the U.S. Treasury plus 1/8 of 1 percent. The interest rate of hardship loans will be fixed at 5 percent for up to 35 years.

In general, loan repayments may not exceed the useful life of the facility being financed, with a maximum repayment schedule of 35 years. Power supply borrowers will be limited by the terms of their wholesale power contracts.

Match and Cost Sharing

There are no stated matching requirements for this program.

Contact Information

Program Staff
(202) 720-0848

https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/electric-infrastructure-loan-loan-guarantee-program

FEDERAL
GRANT PROFILE

Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Agency: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

FY 2023 Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program

Grant Overview

The purpose of this program is to provide financial and technical assistance to help local communities relieve imminent threats to life and property caused by floods, fires, windstorms, and other natural occurrences that impair a watershed. Eligible sponsors are entities with a legal interest in, or responsibility for, the areas threatened by the watershed emergency, including states, state agencies, and legal subdivisions of a state government, local units of government, including cities, counties, towns, flood and water control districts, soil and water conservation districts, Native American tribes, and Tribal organizations.

Program History

	Total Funding	# of Awards
2019	$42.5 million	13

Key Information and Tips

Total Funding: Unspecified
Match: Cash/In-Kind
Proposal due: Rolling

- EWP does not require a disaster declaration by federal or state government officials for program assistance to begin.

For more information click here.

Awardee Profile

Town of Alstead
Cheshire County, NH

AMOUNT: $280,000
YEAR: 2019

Funding was awarded to Alstead following multiple rain events that caused flood-related damage in southwestern New Hampshire. The funds were used for emergency construction work and damage survey reports.

Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Agency: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

FY 2023 Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to provide financial and technical assistance to help local communities relieve imminent threats to life and property caused by floods, fires, windstorms, and other natural occurrences that impair a watershed. Funding will support projects that will:

- Provide protection from flooding or soil erosion
- Reduce threats to life and property
- Restore the hydraulic capacity to the natural environment to the maximum extent practical
- Be economically and environmentally defensible
- Be designed to acceptable engineering standards

In particular, funding will support recovery projects, such as:

- Removing debris from stream channels, road culverts, and bridges
- Reshaping and protecting eroded streambanks
- Correcting damaged or destroyed drainage facilities
- Establishing vegetative cover on critically eroding lands
- Repairing levees and structures
- Repairing certain conservation practices

This program may also support the purchase of floodplain property buyouts. In general, all projects must have a designated sponsor that will work with eligible public and private landowners to apply for assistance through this program. In some situations, eligible landowners may directly apply for assistance for the purchase of a floodplain easement if project funding for floodplain easements is available.

Responsibilities of sponsors include:

- Obtaining land rights for repairs
- Securing the necessary permits
- Accomplishing the installation of work
- Conducting operation and maintenance on completed projects

All projects must meet the following criteria:

- Address watershed impairment caused by a significant natural event that suddenly lowered the ability of a watershed to function properly or safely, such as:
    - Debris-clogged waterways
    - Unstable streambanks
    - Severe erosion jeopardizing public infrastructure
    - Wind-borne debris removal
    - Damaged upland sites stripped of protective vegetation by fire or drought
- Prevent major property damage or threat to human life that could be caused by another strong natural event in the near future

- Address eligible property, which, for the purposes of this program, is defined as any man-made structure permanently affixed to the land, such as houses, buildings, roads, utilities, structures, and dams

A disaster declaration by federal or state government officials is not required for program assistance to begin. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) state conservationist may declare a local watershed emergency and initiate program assistance in cooperation with an eligible sponsor.

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible sponsors are entities with a legal interest in, or responsibility for, the areas threatened by the watershed emergency, including:

- States, state agencies, and legal subdivisions of a state government
- Local units of government, including cities; counties; towns; flood and water control districts; and soil and water conservation districts
- Native American tribes
- Tribal organizations

Sponsors must apply on behalf of eligible public and private landowners. In some situations, eligible landowners may directly apply for assistance for the purchase of a floodplain easement if project funding for floodplain easements is available.

Eligible applicants may be located in the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Applicants may request support to address the same structural issue or practice no more than three times within a ten-year period.

Funding

In FY 2023, an unspecified amount of funding is available to support awards through this program. In addition to providing monetary awards, this program will provide technical assistance.

Funds will be provided on a reimbursement basis.

The design and construction of proposed recovery measures must be completed within 220 days, or 10 days for exigent situations where the threat is immediate.

- Recovery measures that are eligible for support under the Farm Service Agency's (FSA's) Emergency Conservation Program
- Addressing pre-existing damage or damage resulting from regular storm events
- Addressing damage that threatens farmland, woodland, or pastureland only

Matching and Cost Sharing

In general, sponsors must provide at least 25 percent of total construction costs for recovery projects, or total property costs, relation costs, and site restoration costs for floodplain property buyouts, via nonfederal cash or in-kind contributions.

Contact Information

Questions can be directed to regional program staff or to the appropriate state program manager listed online at https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/ewp-emergency-watershed-protection#contact.

FEDERAL
GRANT PROFILE

Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Agency: Natural Resource Convention Service (NRCS)

FY 2024 Watershed Rehabilitation Program

Grant Overview

This program provides assistance to local project sponsors to: 1) Rehabilitate aging dams that are reaching the end of their design life and/or no longer meet federal or state standards; or 2) Construct or augment existing water supplies based on current and future water supply demands. Eligible applicants are locally-led government agencies, organizations, and conservation districts.

Program History

Since 1948, the Natural Resources Conservation Service has assisted local sponsors in constructing over 11,845 dams.

Key Information and Tips

Total Funding: Unspecified
Award Range: Unspecified
Match: 35 percent
Proposal due: Rolling

- The funding agency prioritizes dams for rehabilitation based on the risks to life and property if a dam failure would occur.

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/watershed-rehabilitation

Awardee Profile

Pembina County Water Resource District, ND

AMOUNT: $3,117,900
YEAR: 2021

The purpose of the project was to bring Tongue River Dam #M-4, originally constructed in 1962, into compliance with current State and Federal dam design and safety criteria.

Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Agency: Natural Resources Convention Service (NRCS)

FY 2024 Watershed Rehabilitation Program

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to help project sponsors rehabilitate aging dams that are reaching the end of their design life and/or no longer meet federal or state standards. NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to local project sponsors to rehabilitate aging dams that protect lives and property, and infrastructure. The program allows sponsors to construct or augment existing water supplies based on current and future water supply demands. For dams funded for rehabilitation, a watershed plan is developed for each dam. The watershed plan addresses resource concerns including environmental impacts, costs, and benefits, planned conservation practices, and the responsibilities of involved parties. NRCS works with the local sponsors when developing a watershed plan.

Project sponsors are responsible for and agree to carry out specific parts of the project, including:

- Providing their share of project costs
- Assisting NRCS in developing a watershed plan
- Obtaining land rights
- Obtaining required permits
- Operation and maintenance throughout the evaluated life of the project
- Monitoring easement encroachment
- Developing and updating emergency action plans for high-hazard potential dams
- Conducting regular inspections of installed works of improvements

The funding agency prioritizes dams for rehabilitation based on the risks to life and property if a dam failure would occur. Applicants should contact their State Watershed Rehabilitation Program Manager to determine if their project is a good fit for the program.

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are locally-led government agencies, organizations, and conservation districts. Watershed projects must include one or more eligible sponsors. An eligible sponsor must be able to perform at least one of the following functions:

- Power of Eminent Domain
- Permitting and Licensing
- Authority to Levy Taxes
- Provide Land Treatment above Reservoirs
- Locally-Led Participation
- Fiscal Responsibility
- Watershed Management
- Municipal and Industrial (M&I) Water
- Operation and Maintenance (O&M)

- Storm and Sanitary Sewers

Funding

In FY 2024, an unspecified amount of funding is available to support awards through this program. In addition to monetary awards, award recipients will receive technical assistance to assist them with the planning, design, and construction of projects. Funding will be provided on a reimbursement basis. Funds may not be used for the operation and maintenance of dams, or new purposes added to the rehabilitation project that do not involve water supply storage.

Matching and Cost Sharing

In general, applicants must provide 35 percent of a project's costs as a cost-share. The cost share requirement for engineering or technical assistance is 0 percent.

Contact Information

For more information contact a local service center provider here.

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/watershed-rehabilitation

FEDERAL
GRANT PROFILE

Department: Department of Commerce
Agency: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

FY 2023 NOAA Restoring Fish Passage through Barrier Removal Grants Under the BIL and IRA

Grant Overview

The purpose of this grant is to provide federal financial and technical assistance to fish passage through the removal of dams and other in-stream barriers for native migratory or sea-run fish. Eligible applicants are institutions of higher education, non-profits, commercial (for profit) organizations, U.S. territories, and state, local, and Native American and Alaska Native tribal governments.

Program History

	Total Funding	# of Awards
2022	$87 million	23

Key Information

Total Funding: $175 million
Award Range: Up to $20 million
Match: Not required
Solicitation date: July 31, 2023
Due date: October 16, 2023

https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=349628

Tips

- Priority will be given to projects that include on-the ground construction likely to occur during the award period.
- Projects that include the removal of barriers will score highly during the evaluation process.
- Webinar series will be available on August 10, August 16, August 22 and August 24 – click here for more details.

Department: Department of Commerce
Agency: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

FY 2023 NOAA Restoring Fish Passage through Barrier Removal Grants Under the BIL and IRA

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this funding is to provide federal financial and technical assistance to fish passage through the removal of dams and other in-stream barriers for native migratory or sea-run fish. Funding will be used for fish passage that rebuilds productive and sustainable fisheries, contributes to the recovery and conservation of threatened and endangered species, enhances watershed health, promotes resilient ecosystems and communities, especially in underserved communities, and improves economic vitality, including local employment.

Applicants should address the following program priorities:

- Achieving measurable and lasting benefits for migratory fish populations
- Enhancing community resilience to climate hazards and providing other co-benefits
- Fostering regionally important habitat restoration
- Providing benefit to and engaging with underserved communities, including through partnerships with Indian tribes and other indigenous communities.

Proposals submitted under this funding opportunity should describe how the proposed fish passage project responds to one or more of the following objectives:

- Contribute to the recovery of threatened and endangered species listed under the Endangered Species Act
- Sustain or help rebuild fish stocks and their prey managed under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act
- Improve passage to support native fish species of the Great Lakes
- Enhance the sustainability of saltwater recreational fisheries
- Enhance community resilience, especially in tribal, indigenous and underserved communities, to climate hazards by removing or improving aging infrastructure and supporting other co-benefits
- Support hydroelectric license surrender to remove dams that are no longer economically viable or provide significant public benefits

Proposed activities may include future project development and feasibility studies; engineering and design; permitting; on-the-ground fish passage restoration; pre- and post-removal implementation monitoring; stakeholder engagement, including in tribal, indigenous and underserved communities; building the capacity of new and existing restoration partners to manage multi-faceted project design and construction; and education and outreach. Priority will be given to applications that include on-the-ground construction likely to

occur during the award period. Proposals that focus on the removal of barriers will score highly in the evaluation criteria. Proposals may include multiple locations throughout a watershed or other geographic area and should demonstrate how multiple locations collectively contribute to priorities within the watershed or geographic area. Applicants should identify if the project is located within tribal or underserved communities and/or whether a portion of the resilience benefits from the proposed work will flow to tribal, indigenous or underserved communities.

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are institutions of higher education, non-profits, commercial (for profit) organizations, U.S. territories, and state, local, and Native American and Alaska Native tribal governments.

Applicants must propose work in areas that benefit United States migratory fish. Eligible applicants for Great Lakes projects must propose work within one of the eight U.S. Great Lakes states (New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Minnesota), within the Great Lakes basin. Eligible applicants that propose projects in the Commonwealth and Territories of the United States must propose work in American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, U.S. Virgin Islands, or Puerto Rico.

Funding

In FY 2023, up to $175 million will be available to support cooperative agreements ranging from $1 million to $20 million through this program.

It is anticipated that typical federal funding awards will range from $3 million to $6 million. Single fish passage project awarded the maximum allowed request ($20 million) will have significant ecological impact, detailed and credible cost estimates and clear justifications, and construction readiness.

Project periods of up to three years are encouraged, with the potential for up to five years if necessary. The earliest anticipated start date for awards will be July 1, 2024.

Matching and Cost Sharing

A non-federal match is not required for this program; however, cost sharing or leveraging is an element considered in the evaluation criterion. Non-federal match funds may be optionally included within the application to demonstrate stakeholder support for the proposed work.

Contact Information

Competition Manager
Melanie Gange
(301) 427-8664
fish.passage.grants@noaa.gov

https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=349628

FEDERAL
GRANT PROFILE

Department: U.S. Department of Energy
Agency: National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)

FY 2023 Clean Energy to Communities Program: Peer-Learning Cohorts

Grant Overview

The purpose of this program is to create a platform for peer-learning cohorts to address cross-cutting energy challenges with a community-oriented approach. Participants in the cohorts will meet regularly to share strategies and best practices, learn collaboratively, and work on policy or program proposals, action plans, or strategies to tackle energy-related issues. Eligible applicants include local governments, tribal governments, metropolitan planning organizations, utilities, community-based organizations, regional planning organizations, and other public entities such as transit agencies, school districts, and housing authorities.

Program History

For the first round of FY2023 funding, 14-15 participants per cohort were selected to participate in one of the three peer-learning cohorts.

Key Information

Total Funding: Unspecified
Award Range: Unspecified
Match: None
Solicitation date: March 30, 2023
Proposal due: May 8, 2023

https://www.nrel.gov/state-local-tribal/c2c-peer-learning-cohorts.html?utm_medium=print&utm_source=state-local-tribal&utm_campaign=cohorts

Tips

- Applicants currently receiving support from other U.S. Department of Energy programs are eligible to apply; however, priority may be given to applicants that have not received, or are not currently receiving, support from the U.S. Department of Energy.
- Applicants may apply for up to two cohorts in a single cohort cycle.
- Applicants that have already been selected to participate in a cohort under this program are eligible to apply.

Department: U.S. Department of Energy
Agency: National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)

FY 2023 Clean Energy to Communities Program: Peer-Learning Cohorts

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to provide an opportunity for participation in peer-learning cohorts that will address cross-cutting energy challenges with a community-centered focus. Each peer-learning cohort will convene regularly to exchange strategies and best practices, learn in a collaborative environment, and workshop policy or program proposals, action plans, or strategies to overcome challenges around a common clean energy transition topic. Rather than providing monetary awards, this program will provide technical assistance provided by lab experts to cohorts, including education, case studies, analysis and modeling tools, templates, trainings, and facilitated collaboration to enable accelerated clean energy progress. This program is intended to bring together communities with similar clean energy goals, opportunities, or challenges to:

- Gain insights that will help them access upcoming funding or programmatic opportunities
- Learn from subject matter experts, who will provide education, best practices, analysis tools, templates, and other resources as needed
- Exchange case studies, experiences, and insights with other communities that can inform their own activities
- Develop proposals, action plans, and strategies to overcome common challenges and enable accelerated clean energy progress

For this solicitation, the program consists of three peer-learning cohorts that address the following topics:

1. Planning and funding for electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure deployment: This cohort will support participants to proactively plan equitable EV infrastructure, prioritize strategies, and prepare to pursue available federal funding for implementation. Key topics may include:
    a. Identifying the role of communities in meeting current and future demand for EV charging infrastructure
    b. Planning, permitting, and zoning best practices for EV charging infrastructure
    c. Funding and financing opportunities to support deployment of EV charging infrastructure
    d. Understanding best practices for identifying community partners, conducting engagement, and ensuring equitable outcomes
    e. Contracting with an EV charging provider
    f. Developing fee structures for operations and maintenance of EV charging stations
2. Implementing a municipal clean energy procurement strategy: This cohort will guide participants that have prioritized potential sites for clean energy development through the process of developing a request for proposal (RFP), incorporating equity criteria and community benefits into procurement, soliciting bids, negotiating contracts, and implementing the project. Key topics may include:
    a. Understanding clean energy procurement processes, best practices, ownership models, and financing structures

   b. Utilizing available tools and resources to ensure optimal project scale and performance
   c. Incorporating equity criteria and community benefits into procurement processes
   d. Developing an RFP and soliciting bids from consultants and developers
   e. Identifying federal incentives and awards that will lower the cost of a clean energy project
3. Incorporating community voices in clean energy planning and deployment: This cohort will support participants to adopt stakeholder and community engagement best practices and strategies to authentically include community voices in planning processes. Key topics may include:
   a. Understanding what authentic, inclusive, and equitable engagement looks like for clean energy planning
   b. Identifying community engagement methods and keys for success
   c. Developing facilitation and communication strategies to help a group constructively respond to conflict or disagreement
   d. Promoting transparency and accountability in the planning process and beyond
   e. Refining and implementing engagement plans

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible primary applicants are entities that have decision-making power or influence in their community but need access to additional clean energy expertise to inform upcoming opportunities. In general, eligible primary applicants include tribal governments; local governments, including city, town, or county governments; metropolitan planning organizations; regional planning organizations; utilities; community-based organizations; and other public entities, such as transit agencies, school districts, and housing authorities. Each cohort is estimated to consist of 8 to 15 communities; however, in some cases, cohorts may be larger or smaller.

Specifically, eligible primary applicants for each peer-learning cohort are as follows:

- Planning and funding for electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure deployment: eligible primary applicants are city, town, or county governments; tribal governments; municipal utilities; and metropolitan and regional planning organizations
- Implementing a municipal clean energy procurement strategy: eligible primary applicants are city, town, or county governments; tribal governments; and other public entities, including transit agencies, school districts, and housing authorities.
- Incorporating community voices in clean energy planning and deployment: eligible primary applicants are city, town, or county governments; tribal governments; utilities; metropolitan and regional planning organizations; and community-based organizations currently partnering with governmental entities to support clean energy planning.

Depending on the cohort topic focus, primary applicants may benefit from including secondary partners, such as electric utilities, community-based organizations, Clean Cities coalitions, and other public agencies, on their application, especially partners that may play a significant role in planning, decision-making processes, and implementation efforts.

For the peer-learning cohort regarding planning and funding for EV charging infrastructure deployment, applicants are encouraged to apply in partnership with their local or regional Clean Cities coalition. A database of Clean Cities coalitions can be found online at cleancities.energy.gov.

All applicants must indicate a primary community representative, which must be a member of the applicant organization.

Funding

Rather than providing monetary awards, this program will provide an opportunity for participation in three peer-learning cohorts regarding clean energy. Each peer-learning cohort will convene regularly to exchange strategies and best practices, learn in a collaborative environment, and workshop policy or program proposals, action plans, or strategies to overcome challenges around a common clean energy transition topic. This program will provide technical assistance provided by lab experts to cohorts, including education, case studies, analysis and modeling tools, templates, trainings, and facilitated collaboration to enable accelerated clean energy progress.

Participant communities will be selected and notified on approximately June 1, 2023. Cohorts will launch in July 2023. Each cohort is anticipated to last approximately six months on average; however, cohorts may be shorter or longer depending on the content and time needed to effectively meet participant needs. Each community representative is anticipated to commit approximately four hours per month for each cohort, including participation in sessions, limited one-on-one technical assistance, and individual work between sessions.

Contact Information

Program Staff
C2C@nrel.gov

https://www.nrel.gov/state-local-tribal/c2c-peer-learning-cohorts.html?utm_medium=print&utm_source=state-local-tribal&utm_campaign=cohorts

FEDERAL
GRANT PROFILE

Department: U.S. Department of Energy
Agency: Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations (OCED)

FY 2023 Energizing Rural Communities Prize

Grant Overview

This program incentivizes the development of clean energy projects in rural or remote areas of the country by offering a cash prize pool to kickstart development of clean energy projects. Funding will be provided under two categories. 1: Partner Track, to facilitate new or existing partnerships that enable development of clean energy projects in rural or remote communities and 2: Finance Track, to connect communities to capital for current or future clean energy projects by developing innovative and functional business models. Eligible applicants are private for-profit and nonprofit entities; nonfederal government entities, such as states, counties, tribes, and municipalities; and academic institutions.

Program History

This new program is part of OCED's $1 billion Energy Improvements in Rural or Remote Areas (ERA) program, which was created by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

Key Information

Total Funding: $15 million
Match: None
Solicitation date: January 17, 2023
Proposal due: May 24, 2023

https://www.herox.com/rural-energy

OCED
Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations

Tips

- Projects must benefit a rural or remote area, which for the purposes of this program is defined as a city, town, or unincorporated area that has a population of no more than 10,000 inhabitants.
- Applications submitted by organizations and communities that historically have not received awards from the funding agency are encouraged.

Department: U.S. Department of Energy
Agency: Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations

FY 2023 Energizing Rural Communities Prize

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to incentivize the development of clean energy projects in rural or remote areas of the country by offering a cash prize pool to kickstart development of clean energy projects. The prize is intended to encourage applicants to take the first steps necessary to develop a clean energy project, and applicants should have an idea for a future project; however, construction is not required as part of the prize.

The program is intended to:

- Demonstrate innovative and replicable partnership and financial mechanisms that act as initial steps toward clean energy projects
- Better prepare rural or remote communities to secure funding for clean energy projects
- Identify, understand, and further develop activities that prepare communities to complete clean energy projects
- Build trust and strengthen the networks between and within rural and remote communities in support of energy improvements aligned with the funding agency's Justice40 priorities

Successful projects will demonstrate strong ties to rural or remote communities and show how they will serve as bridges between the funding agency and rural or remote communities with which the agency may not have previously engaged.

The program includes two individual award tracks, each with two phases. In phase one, applicants should develop a plan to accomplish the program goals, which should include proposed activities, milestones, and metrics measuring the impact and demonstrating the success of proposed activities by leading to targeted outcomes. In phase two, award recipients will receive additional funding to leverage the award to implement their plan developed during phase one.

Funding will be provided for the following program components:

Partner Track: The purpose of the Partner Track component is to facilitate new or existing partnerships that enable development of clean energy projects in rural or remote communities. Award recipients will create connections that lead to collaborative efforts for the development of clean energy projects in rural or remote communities.

This track encourages applicants to form new or leverage existing partnerships to facilitate clean energy projects in rural or remote areas. Formal partnership formation should advance the development of clean energy projects focusing on improving the resilience, safety, reliability, and availability of energy, and reducing the adverse environmental impacts from energy generation by rural or remote communities.

Maturity of the partnerships proposed through this track will be considered in the evaluation, with preference given to established, formal relationships with organizations capable of supporting clean energy projects. Collaborative efforts may include providing engineering services to advance project concepts, encouraging multiple communities to aggregate similar energy projects to unlock economies of scale, or facilitating equipment acquisition.

Applicants must have a vision for a clean energy project they intend to pursue in a rural or remote community that is supported by their proposed activity. Partnership activities pursued under this track should advance completion of this project, and applicants are encouraged to think creatively about what partnership activities would most directly benefit the clean energy project. Examples of supported activities include:

- Building relationships among multiple rural or remote communities that intend to improve resilience of their electricity systems through upgrading transmission and distribution lines, or to achieve economies of scale by aggregation of equipment procurement or engineering services
- Creating a project development team within an organization to facilitate the development of a clean energy project
- Identifying regional impacts of climate change that reduce the resilience and reliability of local energy systems
- Developing a contract between a local government and a clean energy training organization to build a local workforce to support a specific clean energy project

Finance Track: The purpose of the Finance Track component is to connect communities to capital for current or future clean energy projects by developing innovative and functional business models, new approaches to financing clean energy projects, the expansion of existing business models to new rural and remote areas, and innovative ways to leverage other fiscal incentives, such as tax credits. Goals of this component include:

- Enabling rural or remote communities to access conventional financing for energy projects
- Creating pathways for communities to pursue unconventional capital
- Connecting finance partners that want to expand businesses to support clean energy projects for the benefit of rural or remotes areas
- Other creative ideas for improving access to capital for clean energy projects in rural or remote communities

Applicants must identify one or more barriers that rural or remote communities face in financing clean energy projects, and financing activities pursued under this track should result in targeted outcomes that help overcome this barrier, either for a specific clean energy project or a type of clean energy project that is supported by the activity proposed. Applicants are encouraged to think creatively about what financing activities would most effectively enable access to capital for rural communities.

Examples of supported activities include:

- Conducting a market assessment to determine potential demand for and guide design of a clean energy loan program tailored to rural or remote communities
- Determining interest by utility customers or credit union members in a community solar project through community outreach
- Identifying sources of additional funding and developing a capital-raising strategy
- Issuing a request for information (RFI) to gather data from project developers
- Training staff that will be evaluating loan applications for clean energy projects
- Conducting community outreach to identify local partners

- Identifying tax credits and incentives that are available for projects in a specific rural or remote community
- Partnering with an organization with expertise in rural or remote communities to assist in design of financial products

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are private for-profit and nonprofit entities; nonfederal government entities, such as states, counties, tribes, and municipalities; and academic institutions.

For the Partner Track component eligible applicants may include energy project developers; nonfederal governments; utilities; community-based organizations with expertise in clean energy deployment, infrastructure, or resilience; and other organizations with creative ideas to help rural or remote communities connect with partners that enable improving the resilience, safety, reliability, and availability of energy, as well as environmental protection from adverse impacts of energy generation.

For the Finance Track component eligible applicants may include energy project developers; nonfederal governments; utilities; community development financial institutions, as defined on page 11 of the NOFA file, and credit unions; green banks and related loan funds that can adapt their current business models to rural or remote communities; and other organizations with creative ideas to help rural or remote communities fill funding gaps for clean energy projects.

Applicants must propose projects that benefit a rural or remote area, which for the purposes of this program is defined as a city, town, or unincorporated area that has a population of no more than 10,000 inhabitants. Applications are accepted from all U.S. states, territories, and tribal areas.

Applicants must identify at least one area in the county, including U.S. territories, with a population of no more than 10,000, using 2020 Census Bureau figures, that benefits from the project; however, the proposed project does not necessarily need to be located in a rural or remote area, as long as the area benefits from the project

Applicants are encouraged to form diverse teams while preparing their phase one submission. Applications submitted by organizations and communities that historically have not received awards from the funding agency are encouraged.

Applicants may submit multiple applications to both program tracks; however, only one submission per track per community served will be accepted and reviewed. If an applicant is unsure of which track to apply to, they may apply for consideration in both tracks. If an applicant submits the same submission under both tracks, that submission can only win a cash prize in one track. Applicants with separate, distinct submissions to each track may win a cash prize in both tracks if the funding agency determines that the submissions are sufficiently distinct and meritorious.

Additionally, phase two awards are only open to recipients selected through phase one. Recipients awarded during phase one through either track must stay within that track if they apply for a phase two award.

Funding

In FY 2023, a total of $15 million is available through this program overall, with a total of $10 million available to support awards through the Partner Track component and a total of $5 million available to support awards

through the Finance Track component. Funding will be dispersed through the two individual award tracks, each with two phases.

Partner Track: With a total of $10 million available to support awards through this component. Funding will be provided in two separate phases, as follows:

- Phase one: up to 60 winners will receive a cash prize of $100,000, mentorship, and be eligible to compete in phase two
- Phase two: up to 20 winners will receive an additional cash prize of $200,000 based on achievement of milestones and metrics demonstrating success, as proposed during phase one

Finance Track: With a total of $5 million available to support awards through this component. Funding will be provided in two separate phases, as follows:

- Phase one: up to 30 winners will receive a cash prize of $100,000, mentorship, and be eligible to compete in phase two
- Phase two: up to 10 winners will receive an additional cash prize of $200,000 based on achievement of milestones and metrics demonstrating success, as proposed during phase one

For both components, awards will be provided as prizes, rather than as grants or cooperative agreements.

Phase one awards will be announced and provided in July 2023. Phase two awards will be announced and provided in August 2024.

Matching funds are not required for either component; however, the applicant's description of staff resources they can use to execute the proposed activity will be considered during the evaluation, as will their description of any other resources and strategies they plan to utilize to execute the proposed activity, which may include technical resources and facilities.

Contact Information

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More information can be found here.

FEDERAL
GRANT PROFILE

Department: U.S. Department of Energy
Agency: Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations

FY 2023 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law: Energy Improvement in Rural or Remote Areas

Grant Overview

This program will provide financial investment, technical assistance, and other resources to advance clean energy demonstrations and energy solutions in rural and remote areas that can be replicated and scaled. Under this program a rural or remote area is defined as having less than 10,000 inhabitants. Eligible applicants include domestic institutions of higher education, nonprofits, for-profit entities, Tribal Nations, state and local governments, incorporated consortia, and unincorporated consortia.

Program History

This program is newly created by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, also known as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

Key Information

Total Funding: $300 million
Award Range: Between $5 million and $100 million
Match: Varies
Solicitation date: March 1, 2023
Due Date: April 14, 2023 (Concept Paper), June 28, 2023 (Full Application)

https://oced-exchange.energy.gov/Default.aspx#FoaId90cf93a3-9947-4d2e-b1fb-f98d7b30cdab

Tips

- The funding agency encourages projects that position rural or remote communities with energy solutions that are resilient to anticipated regional climate changes
- Projects must identify at least one area in the United States (including U.S. territories) with a population of not more than 10,000 inhabitants that benefits from the proposal
- Applicants must submit a Community Benefits Plan
- Applicants will have approximately 60 days from DOE's posting of the Concept Paper Encourage/Discourage notification to prepare and submit an Application

Department: U.S. Department of Energy
Agency: Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations

FY 2023 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law: Energy Improvement in Rural or Remote Areas

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to provide financial investment, technical assistance, and other resources to advance clean energy demonstrations and energy solutions in rural and remote areas that can be replicated and scaled. Under this program a rural or remote area is defined as having less than 10,000 inhabitants. The program intends to improve the cost, reliability, environmental impact, and climate and economic resilience of energy systems in rural or remote communities by funding clean energy projects with commercially viable or near-commercially viable technologies. Projects funded through this program will de-risk investment in the energy infrastructure of rural or remote communities. Funded projects will provide insights for future investments, such as deployment of similar technologies, use of similar business models, or adoption of similar community engagement best practices and clarify pathways to future good paying union jobs. The program aims to fund clean energy projects with three specific goals in mind:

- Delivering measurable benefits to energy customers in rural or remote areas by funding replicable energy projects that lower energy costs, improve energy access and resilience, and/or reduce environmental harm
- Demonstrating new rural or remote energy system models using climate-resilient technologies, business structures that promote economic resilience, new financing mechanisms, and/or new community engagement best practices
- Building clean energy knowledge, capacity, and self-reliance in rural America.

Projects funded under this program must meet at least one of the following resilient clean energy objectives:

- Improving overall cost-effectiveness of energy generation, transmission, or distribution systems
- Siting or upgrading transmission and distribution lines
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions from energy generation in rural or remote areas
- Providing or modernizing electric generation facilities
- Developing microgrids
- Increasing energy efficiency

Quantitative goals that may be used to assess benefit to rural or remote communities include, but are not limited to:

- Improving grid performance, measured through positive changes in metrics such as a reduction in total prolonged outages, reduction in threshold major event days, improvement in system average interruption duration index (SAIDI) and/or system average interruption frequency index (SAIFI), or similar metrics demonstrating improved reliability as a result of the project

- Improving resilience, measured through positive changes in metrics such as restoration time, total number of event days, and/or average number of customers impacted by fewer disruption events, as a result of the project
- Reducing energy burden and poverty, measured through positive changes in metrics such as improvement in energy burden from a baseline established prior to project implementation, reduction in the number or frequency of customer arrearages, and/or the percent of customers receiving shut-off notices as a result of the project
- Increasing economic resilience, measured in ongoing permanent jobs created in the community, wages and benefits, and build-out of the supply chain or other induced economic effects
- Improving environmental performance from energy generation to support public health, measured through positive changes in metrics such as air quality index, total dissolved solids, streamflow, and aquifer hydraulic head as a result of the project
- Reducing greenhouse gas impact of energy system, measured by change in carbon dioxide-equivalent emissions as a result of the project, relative to an established baseline
- Improving energy access by reducing the number of homes currently without access to electricity.

Under this program projects will fall under one of the following two topic areas:

Topic Area 1: Community-Scale Demonstrations: Topic Area 1 solicits proposals to implement clean energy projects using clean energy technologies that advance resilience and provide other benefits to one or more rural or remote communities. Projects must demonstrate solutions to barriers that impede broad-scale adoption of clean energy solutions, such as:

- Limited market size
- Lack of a locally trained workforce
- Higher project costs due to geographic isolation or other location factors
- Gaps in existing infrastructure

Projects proposed under this topic area should be appropriately sized to meet community energy challenges. Eligible projects include microgrid designs and service models that enable cost-competitive deployment to a broad set of rural or remote communities; small hydropower systems providing community benefits; hybrid configurations of distributed energy resources that are operable during extreme weather events; and demonstrating operation of existing technologies to new climates.

Applicants to Topic Area 1 must propose to only use commercially available technologies. Proposals must demonstrate the technology is commercially available and identify a plan to procure the proposed technology.

Topic Area 2: Large-Scale Demonstrations: Topic Area 2 solicits proposals to implement large-scale clean energy demonstration projects that benefit multiple communities, either through a single installation that benefits multiple rural or remote communities, or through a series of installations with similar or complementary characteristics across multiple communities. For multiple site proposals, the applicant must explain metrics to assess direct benefit to multiple communities. There are two Areas of Interest (AOIs) for this Topic Area. Proposals may address only one of the two AOIs, but not both, in the same proposal.

- Area of Interest 1: Aggregation: This AOI supports applications conducting similar projects at multiple locations in a manner that leads to a demonstratable benefit relative to conducting that project at only one location. The project will address one or more of the following:
    - Constraints to expanding clean energy, such as limited workforce and supply chain issues

  - Common barriers to rural or remote community energy investments
  - Achievement of lower capital investment costs, economies of scale in purchased equipment or materials, ability to leverage transportation of materials for multiple projects in very remote areas, or other measurable investment improvements.
  - Example proposals under this AOI include: an aggregation of solar and/or wind farms, with or without energy storage, in multiple locations that share a common administrative and support staff; or grid hardening and resilience efforts to multiple substations. In these scenarios, the applicant must demonstrate benefits to all indicated communities from the energy generation and related economic activity.
- Area of Interest 2: Single-Site Projects: This AOI supports projects that involve a single installation site that can enable replication of a solution and/or benefit multiple rural or remote communities. Replication can be achieved through projects that propose investments that can unlock a previously unavailable capability for multiple rural or remote areas that spur follow-on investment in those areas. Replicability also could be demonstrated by proposing demonstration-ready technologies that are not widely commercially available but leverage unique regional resources. In this latter case, the proposed project might include technology with competitive advantage when deployed in the region, or leverage existing energy assets that have ceased operation, or may soon cease operation, due to the renewable energy transition. Examples of projects proposed under this topic area include:
  - A utility-scale solar, wind farm and/or hydrogen or battery storage facility
  - A bioreactor that uses locally available biomass to replace fossil fuel generation
  - A renewables project that delivers significant additional benefits to a local community
  - A transmission investment that reduces reliance on fossil fuels
  - Clean energy generation in an area having had trouble attracting investment due to geographic isolation

Applicants may submit more than one Concept Paper and Application to this program provided that each Concept Paper and subsequent Application describes a unique, distinct concept and provided that an eligible Concept Paper was submitted for each Application. There are no limits to submissions by topic area by the prime applicant.

Under this program projects will be categorized into nine geographic regions, each with its own set of broad energy challenges that provide applicants the opportunity to propose creative solutions at a variety of sizes and scales to address those challenges. Applicants are required to identify at least one applicable region for the project, along with any regional climate risk(s) the project is proposing to help mitigate. The funding agency seeks projects that leverage a region's natural resources, local industry, stakeholders, climate and/or economic risks, or other factors, as such factors may be critical towards the ultimate replicability of the project in other rural or remote areas within the region. The nine regions and their regional energy challenges are as follows:

- Northeast: This region includes the states of CT, D.C., DE, MA, ME, MD, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, WV, VA, VT and common regional challenges are coastal and grid infrastructure resilience, aging infrastructure, and a reliance on fuel oil. Examples of regional technology solutions are utility-scale storage, coal to renewable energy conversion, and district heating.
- Southeast: This region includes the states of AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN and common regional challenges are coastal resilience of renewable power and grid infrastructure, aging infrastructure and energy systems integration. Examples of regional technology solutions are utility-scale solar and wind, utility-scale energy storage, and grid modernization.

- Midwest: This region includes the states of IA, IL, IN, MI, MN, MO, OH, WI and common regional challenges are aging infrastructure, wind energy integration, and reliance on coal. Examples of regional technology solutions are utility-scale solar and wind, biorefineries, decarbonizing the industrial and agricultural sectors and grid modernization.
- North Central: This region includes the states of CO, KS, ND, NE, MT, SD, UT, WY and common regional challenges are reliance on coal, grid expansion, integration, and modernization, working with tribal governments to support next-generation clean energy and efficient water use and limited transmission access and capacity. Examples of regional technology solutions are utility-scale solar and wind, biorefineries, grid modernization, and carbon-free agriculture.
- South-Central: This region includes the states of AR, LA, NM, OK, TX and common regional challenges are wind energy integration, climate impacts, and grid expansion, integration, and modernization. Examples of regional technology solutions are utility-scale solar and wind, hydrogen infrastructure and utility-scale energy storage.
- Southwest: This region includes the states of AZ, CA, NV and common regional challenges are • Water constraints increasing energy demand, climate impacts, limited transmission capacity, and utilities Examples of regional technology solutions are energy-water nexus efficiency, geothermal, biomass, and distributed storage and microgrids.
- Northwest: This region includes the states of ID, OR, WA and common regional challenges are climate change impacts on energy reliability and energy demand, balancing multiple resource interests and protecting the environment, and working with tribal governments to support next-generation clean energy and efficient water use. Examples of regional technology solutions are microgrids, hydro and marine hydrokinetic power, and geothermal for generation and district heating.
- Alaska: This region includes the state of AK and common regional challenges are providing affordable, reliable, resilient energy for small, isolated populations, reliance on costly diesel fuel, and opportunities to apply available hydropower and wind resource baseload power in railbelt electric grids. Examples of regional technology solutions are microgrids, small-, large-scale, and long-duration storage.
- Islands and Territories: This region includes the states and territories of AS, GU, HI, PR, USVI, and MP and common regional challenges are reliance on relatively high-cost fuel oil and diesel generation, power quality and reliability, and climate impacts. Examples of regional technology solutions are utility and microgrid solar/wind, long-duration energy storage, and small-scale green hydrogen.

The program is designed to enable citizens in rural or remote communities, to realize material benefits as the result of investment in their energy infrastructure. These benefits can include, but are not limited to lower energy costs, improved energy access, economic resilience, and environmental protection from adverse impacts of historic energy generation. Selected projects will implement cost-effective clean energy technologies that promote the overall resilience of the local energy system against climate impacts, and support more diversified rural economies better able to weather economic shocks.

To ensure that these benefits are spread equitably across affected communities applicants are required to submit a Community Benefits Plan (CBP). This plan outlines how the project will support community and labor engagement, invest in the American workforce, contribute to the President's goal that 40 percent of the overall benefits of certain federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities (the Justice40 Initiative), and promote diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA).

The program seeks to build confidence of decision makers to invest in clean energy in rural and remote areas, including financiers, utilities, and tribal, state, and local governments, who can enable project replication.

Proposed projects can demonstrate established, commercial technologies for the first time in a new setting or place, or at a larger scale; an innovative approach to improve siting and permitting timelines; enabling energy access for homes/communities that do not have access to electricity; self-reliance, or reduction in environmental harm from generation; economic development and local job creation leading to more overall economic resilience, and/or an innovative technology application in a rural or remote area.

Projects proposed to be built outside of a rural or remote area may be considered for funding but must clearly define the rural or remote area(s) of less than 10,000 inhabitants receiving the benefits, the types of benefits, and the method through which these benefits will be quantitatively measured and accounted for in the CBP.

Projects will follow a follow a structured, phased management approach. Applicants will describe how the project will be managed in accordance with these phases. The approach includes the following five phases:

- Phase 0 – Application
- Phase 1 – Detailed Project Planning
- Phase 2 – Project Development, Permitting, and Financing
- Phase 3 – Installation, Integration, or Construction
- Phase 4 – Ramp-Up and Sustained Operations

Each phase includes specific activities and associated requirements, which will be tailored during award and phase negotiations to the size and complexity of the proposed project. More details on each phase can be found on the funding agency's website here.

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants include domestic institutions of higher education, nonprofits, for-profit entities, Tribal Nations, state and local governments, incorporated consortia, and unincorporated consortia. To qualify as a domestic entity, the entity must be organized, chartered, or incorporated (or otherwise formed) under the laws of a particular state or territory of the United States; have majority domestic ownership and control; and have a physical place of business in the United States.

Federal agencies and instrumentalities (other than DOE) are not eligible to participate in projects funded under this program under any capacity. DOE/National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Federally Funded Research and Development Center (FFRDC) and nonDOE/NNSA FFRDC are not eligible to participate as prime or subrecipients.

Funding

In FY 2023, approximately $300 million is available to support between 7 and 28 projects through this program. Award information for each topic area is as follows:

- Topic Area 1 Community-Scale Demonstrations: An estimated $40 million in funding is available to support 4-8 awards ranging from $5 million to $10 million under this topic area.
- Topic Area 2 Large-Scale Demonstrations: An estimated $260 million in funding is available to support 3-20 awards ranging from $10 million to $100 million under this topic area.

In general, a minimum of 50 percent non-federal cost share is required for projects under this program. For projects where the prime recipient is a domestic institution of higher education; domestic nonprofit entity; or

U.S. state, local, or tribal government entity (including Alaska Native Corporations and Alaska Native Village Corporations) the non-federal cost share is 20 percent.

The maximum project period is 7 years, and the scope of the proposed project would determine that specific project period within the maximum project period.

Technical assistance is also available to communities to support the initial development of project concepts. Applicants can access the technical assistance through the program website.

Contact Information

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https://oced-exchange.energy.gov/Default.aspx#FoaId90cf93a3-9947-4d2e-b1fb-f98d7b30cdab

FEDERAL
GRANT PROFILE

Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
Agency: Rural Utilities Service

FY 2023 Empowering Rural America (New ERA) Program

Grant Overview

This program provides financial assistance to eligible entities, to achieve the greatest reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through electric cooperatives' voluntary transformation of rural electric systems in a way that promotes resiliency and reliability of rural electric systems and affordability for their members. Eligible applicants are electric cooperatives described in section 501(c)(12) or 1381(a)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 who are currently or have been in the past a RUS electric loan borrower pursuant to the RE Act, electric cooperatives serving predominantly rural areas, or wholly or jointly owned subsidiaries of such electric cooperatives.

Program History

This is a new program appropriated through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).

Key Information

Total Funding: $9.7 billion
Award Range: $970 million
Match: 25% (cash match or equity investment)
Solicitation date: May 16, 2023
Letter of Interest (LOI) due: August 31, 2023

https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/05/16/2023-10392/notice-of-funding-opportunity-for-the-empowering-rural-america-new-era-program

Tips:

- LOIs will be accepted starting on July 31, 2023. Applicants must submit an LOI to be considered for an Innovation to Proceed. Those receiving an Invitation will have 60 days to submit an ERA full application from the date received.
- The most competitive applications will receive the best financial offerings in terms of grant amounts and interest rates.

Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
Agency: Rural Utilities Service

FY 2023 Empowering Rural America (New ERA) Program

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to provide financial assistance to eligible entities to achieve reductions in GHG emissions from rural electric systems in a way that promotes resiliency, reliability, and affordability of rural electric service. Project eligibility is broad and includes any Portfolio of Actions related to generation, transmission and distribution, including distributed energy resources.

Such actions include, but are not limited to:

- The purchase or construction of:
  - Renewable Energy
  - Renewable Energy Systems
  - Zero-Emission Systems
  - Carbon Capture and Storage Systems
- Activities that will enable the deployment of the aforementioned systems and/or improve energy efficiency including:
  - Instituting grid-edge, microgrid solutions, and other distributed energy strategies
  - Deploying energy Storage Systems in support of GHG emission reductions or Renewable Energy Systems
  - Installing or upgrading software and hardware to enable the integration and other system improvements
  - Modifying or refinancing existing loans from RUS or refinancing non-RUS loans for retiring non-Renewable Energy assets on an accelerated basis with savings reinvested into clean energy investments
  - Entering a long-term agreement to purchase power from a Renewable Energy System or Zero-Emissions System
  - Upgrading existing Renewable Energy Systems or Zero-Emission Systems or related transmission facilities that increase the operating energy efficiency of these systems
  - Improving transmission that can significantly enable Renewable Energy Systems and Zero-Emissions Systems, reduce congestion, and improve the efficiency of the system
  - Activities that will significantly reduce energy demand and GHG emissions

Applicants may request either a Project Award or a System Award. A Project Award is backed by assets and revenues associated with project seeking funding, while a System Award is secured with assets and revenues from the applicant's entire system. Project awards will require a greater level of cash reserves than System Awards, and a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) associated with a project award will require specific arrangements with RUS.

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are electric cooperatives described in section 501(c)(12) or 1381(a)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 who are currently or have been in the past a RUS electric loan borrower pursuant to the RE Act, electric cooperatives serving predominantly rural areas, or wholly or jointly owned subsidiaries of such electric cooperatives.

For the purposes of this program, the term "predominantly rural" shall mean a service territory that must include at least 50 percent Rural Areas. RUS defines Rural Areas as those with less than 50,000 inhabitants adjusted to exclude individuals incarcerated on a long-term or regional basis or the first 1,500 individuals who reside in on-base military housing.

Funding

In FY 2023, approximately $9.7 billion is available to support awards through this program, through September 30, 2031. No one applicant may receive an amount equal to more than 10 percent of the total $9.7 billion, which equals $970 million.

The applicant's Portfolio of Actions may cost more than $970 million as long as the funded application uses less than $970 million in budget authority.

The following types of financial assistance are offered through this program:

- Loan Only: An applicant may request an award to finance any project or combination of projects in its application with a loan only award. The interest rate for a loan only award may be set at a fixed percent at 2 percent, zero percent, or at a rate tied to the Federal government's cost of money, based, at least in part, on level of carbon reduction. A zero percent interest rate is available to refinance stranded assets or for projects that serve predominantly distressed, disadvantaged, or energy communities.
- Loan and Grant Combinations: An applicant may request an award to finance any project or combination of projects in its application with a grant or grant/loan combination where the grant amount equals no more than 25% of the Eligible Award Costs. The interest rate for a loan only award may be set at a fixed percent at 2 percent, zero percent, or at a rate tied to the Federal government's cost of money, based, at least in part, on level of carbon reduction. Applicants may propose substituting cash for the loan component, or any portion of the loan component, at the time of the application.
- Grants Only: An Applicant may request an award to finance any project or combination of projects in its application with a 100 percent grant. A 100 percent grant award may finance no more than 25 percent of the total eligible Project costs.
- Loan Refinancing or Loan Modification: An applicant may request to modify existing RUS or RUS guaranteed debt, or refinance debt from a third party, but only as such modification or refinancing relates to a stranded asset. The applicant must demonstrate that it will utilize the benefits of such refinancing or modification to pay for or otherwise finance eligible activities. The interest rate for a loan only award may be set at a fixed percent at 2 percent, zero percent, or at a rate tied to the Federal government's cost of money , based, at least in part, on level of carbon reduction.

Anticipated award announcements for this program will begin on March 1, 2024. The performance period for this program is five years from the date of environmental clearance, but no later than September 30, 2031.

Matching and Cost Sharing

For project loans, RUS will finance up to 75 percent of the total capitalized cost of the project in the loan component of a project award. The awardee will be required to initially provide and maintain for the term of the project award at least 25 percent of the project's total capitalized cost in the form of cash or an equity investment.

Applicants may propose substituting cash for the loan component, or any portion of the loan component, at the time of the application.

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https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/05/16/2023-10392/notice-of-funding-opportunity-for-the-empowering-rural-america-new-era-program

FEDERAL
GRANT PROFILE

Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
Agency: Rural Development - Rural Utilities Service (RUS)

FY 2023/2024 Powering Affordable Clean Energy (PACE) Program

Grant Overview

This program will support clean, affordable energy growth across America. The program will provide loans to projects that construct renewable electric generation and storage facilities to resale to rural and nonrural residents. Eligible applicants are for-profit organizations, state or local governments, Indian tribes, nonprofits, Alaska Native corporations, institutions of higher education, community-based organizations, distribution cooperatives, and generation or transmission cooperatives.

Program History

This is a new program funded through the Inflation Reduction Act.

Key Information and Tips

Total Funding: $1 billion
Award Range: $1 million - $100 million
Match: Varies
Solicitation date: May 16, 2023
Application due: September 29, 2023 (Letter of Intent). Full applications will be due approximately 60 days after being invited by the funding agency to apply.

https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/electric-programs/powering-affordable-clean-energy-pace-program

Tips

- Projects must use technologies that are commercially available
- Applicants are encouraged to work with Distressed and Disadvantaged Communities, Energy Communities, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands (USVI), Guam, American Samoa or other U.S. territories or Compact of Free Association (COFA) states, tribal entities, and rural partner network communities

Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
Agency: Rural Development - Rural Utilities Service (RUS)

FY 2023/2024 Powering Affordable Clean Energy (PACE) Program

Detailed Summary

This program will support clean, affordable energy growth across America. The program will provide loans to projects that construct renewable electric generation and storage facilities to resale to rural and nonrural residents. The funding agency encourages applicants to consider projects that will advance the following key priorities:

- Assisting rural communities to recover economically through more and better market opportunities and through improved infrastructure;
- Ensuring all rural residents have equitable access to Rural Development (RD) programs and benefits from RD funded projects; and
- Reducing climate pollution and increasing resilience to the impacts of climate change through economic support to rural communities.

Eligible projects under this program include:

- Developing new renewable power generation from renewable energy resource (RER) and energy storage systems (ESS) for use by Off-Takers through a power purchase agreement (PPA) or a financial guarantee that ensures Financial Feasibility.
- Establishing new facilities that generate electricity from an RER, including facilities that store electricity that support such assets, however, RUS will not approve facilities that violate the terms of an applicant's existing wholesale power contract.
- New linear facilities, including microgrids, and equipment that are necessary to operate the Project including, but not limited to, transmission or distribution facilities that are needed to export, transmit, and deliver power from the generating facility to the Off-Taker.
- Upgrading existing linear facilities and equipment that are necessary to operate the project including, but not limited to, transmission or distribution facilities that are needed to export, transmit, and deliver power from the generating facility to the Off-Taker.
- Installing RERs and ESSs so that the RER can provide energy and any ancillary services for resale to rural and nonrural residents located in eligible service areas.
- Requesting interconnection and other costs associated with being able to deliver the RER and/or the ESS to Off-Takers, including related microgrid investments. Successful applicants may also recover a portion of their capitalizable pre-application costs pursuant to 7 CFR part 1767 and this notice.

Facilities may be co-located to operate interconnectedly or independently or constructed at separate sites.

Projects may benefit both rural and nonrural residents however, at least 50 percent of the population served by a proposed renewable energy project must live in communities with populations of 20,000 or fewer. The rural percentage of an eligible service territory will be calculated at the applicant's choosing by either:

- The population located in the Rural Areas of a service territory versus the total population of the entire service territory; or
- Meters served in the Rural Areas of a service territory versus meters served in the entire service territory.

Eligible projects include projects where construction began after August 16, 2022, the effective date of the Inflation Reduction Act.

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are for-profit organizations, state or local governments, Indian tribes, nonprofits, Alaska Native corporations, institutions of higher education, community based organizations, distribution cooperatives, and generation or transmission cooperatives.

Applicants are encouraged to work with distressed and disadvantaged communities, energy communities, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands (USVI), Guam, American Samoa or other U.S. territories or Compact of Free Association (COFA) states, tribal entities, and rural partner network communities.

Entities that plan to submit or have submitted applications under the RUS Empowering Rural America (New ERA) program may not apply for the same project under this program.

Funding

In FY 2023 and 2024, approximately $1 billion is available to support loans ranging from $1 million to $100 million through this program. Loan terms are the shorter of 35 years, the useful life of the equipment financed, the term of the PPA, or the term of any leased real property. Project interest rates are determined by the RUS municipal rate in effect at the time of the advance. These rates are set quarterly. Funding will be provided through with varying levels of loan forgiveness as follows:

- Category 1: Provides up to 20 percent total loan forgiveness for applicants if they meet the minimum set of standards set forth in the funding guidance.
- Category 2: Provides up to 40 percent total loan forgiveness if the project is in or serves 50 percent or more of the population of a designated energy community, disadvantaged community, or distressed community.
- Category 3: Provides up to 60 percent total loan forgiveness if:
  - The project is located in U.S. territories or in Compact of Free Association areas
  - Serves areas with Tribal populations of 60 percent or greater, are owned by a Tribal government, or are in a Substantially Underserved Trust Area.

The funding agency will offer both Project Loans and System Loans as described below:

Project Loans: This loan type applies to applicants that are not eligible for, or have decided not to pursue, a System Loan. Project Loans will be used to finance specific eligible projects where the award will be secured through a senior security interest on the project's assets and the revenues generated from the project's assets. A project may also require the awardee to commit additional cash reserves. Further, to the extent that a PPA is in place with respect to the project's assets, the awardee must collaterally assign the PPA to the funding agency as security, with the Off-Taker's consent to such assignment. The funding agency may consider tax credits or direct payments in lieu of tax credits the awardee receives under the Internal Revenue Code

when calculating equity investment requirements for an applicant's proposed Project. Further, the funding agency may utilize its authority under Section 306F of the RE Act and finance up to 100 percent of the cost of projects benefiting substantially underserved trust areas. Project award funds will only be released after commercial operation of the project has commenced and the funding agency has confirmed that the awardee has satisfied all other conditions specified in the award.

System Loans: These loans are only available to currently operating electric utilities. An applicant will provide, if it has not already provided, the funding agency with a perfected senior lien on all of its existing assets, both real and personal, including intangible personal property, as well as after-acquired property. Applicants which are generation and transmission suppliers may be permitted to secure a System Loan through an indenture, provided that the funding agency is granted a perfected senior security interest in all its assets by the trustee. System Loans may finance 100 percent of the project costs included in an application. At the discretion of the funding agency, System Loan funds can be released to finance projects for costs incurred during construction of the facilities; however, loan forgiveness will not occur until the project has been completed and the funding agency has confirmed that the awardee has satisfied all other conditions specified in the award.

The period of performance will be five years from the date of environmental clearance, but no later than September 30, 2031. The anticipated start date will be from September 2023 to December 2025.

Matching and Cost Share

Project loan awardees will be required to provide at least 25 percent of the project's total capitalized cost in the form of cash or equity investments for project loans. System loans will not require a match.

Contact Information

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https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/electric-programs/powering-affordable-clean-energy-pace-program

FEDERAL
GRANT PROFILE

Department: U.S. Department of Energy
Agency: Grid Deployment Office

FY 2023 Section 242: Hydroelectric Production Incentive Program

Grant Overview

This program will provide incentive payments to qualified hydroelectric facilities for electricity generated and sold. Eligible applicants include any owner or authorized operator of a qualified hydroelectric generation facility.

Program History

	Total Funding	# of Awards
2020	$13.5 million	55

Key Information and Tips

Total Funding: $125 million
Award Range: Varies
Match: Not required
Solicitation date: March 22, 2023
Due Date: May 8, 2023

https://www.energy.gov/gdo/section-242-hydroelectric-production-incentive-program

Awardee Profile

Inside Passage Electric Cooperative, AK

AMOUNT: $119,512

YEAR: 2020

The Gunnuk Creek Hydro facility received funding as a result of increased energy production.

Department: U.S. Department of Energy
Agency: Grid Deployment Office

FY 2023 Section 242: Hydroelectric Production Incentive Program

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to provide incentive payments to qualified hydroelectric facilities for electricity generated and sold. To qualify for an incentive payment, an eligible applicant must demonstrate that its hydroelectric facility meets all of the following criteria of a qualified hydroelectric facility:

- Is located in a State or in U.S. jurisdictional waters
- Has a water-powered turbine or other generating device (including conventional or new and innovative technologies capable of continuous operation)
- Is owned by a non-Federal entity and operated by a non-Federal entity. The owner or authorized operator must be applying on behalf of:
    - A Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)-jurisdictional hydroelectric facility, as the holder of a license or exemption issued by FERC for the operation of such hydroelectric facility; or
    - A non-FERC-jurisdictional hydroelectric facility, as the holder of the exclusive rights to the beneficial use of the hydroelectric facility, including legal title
- Began producing hydroelectric energy for sale on or after October 1, 2005, either through added generation capability, or at a facility where operations began prior to October 1, 2005, so long as the facility had been offline because of disrepair or dismantling for at least five consecutive years prior and underwent significant changes
- Has either:
    - Added generation capability to an existing dam or conduit (as defined above), and began operation between October 1, 2005 and September 30, 2027 or;
    - A generating capacity of not more than 20 megawatts, must be a non-Federal entity which received a construction authorization from FERC, if applicable, and is constructed in an area in which there is inadequate electric service. To be considered an area in which there is inadequate electric service, the facility must demonstrate one of the following:
        - A lack of access to the electric grid, as demonstrated by a lack of connection to a regional or national interconnected transmission system, such as the Eastern Interconnect, the Western Interconnect, or the Texas Interconnect;
        - A significantly high frequency of electric outages, as demonstrated by a reported annual common reliability metric, including but not limited to SAIFI without MED, that is in the highest 10% of total annual reported outages;
        - A significantly high cost of electricity, as demonstrated by a reported annual average price of retail residential electricity that is in the highest 10% of total annual reported average retail residential electricity price.

To be eligible for funding a project must have produced electrical power produced from a hydroelectric generation facility placed in operation on or after October 1, 2005, and on or before September 30, 2027.

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants include any owner or authorized operator of a hydroelectric generation facility may apply for incentive payments for net electric energy generated by and sold from its operation during the eligibility window.

Funding

In FY 2023, approximately $125 million is available to support awards through this program. Specific award amounts will be calculated as follows:

- The amount of eligible kWhs produced by the hydroelectric generation facility is multiplied by the statutory incentive rate of $0.018/kWh, which is adjusted as required by 42 U.S.C. § 15881(e)(2).
- A payment to a qualified hydroelectric facility shall not exceed the statutory limit established in 42 U.S.C. 15881(e)(1) per applicant per calendar year

Subject to the availability of appropriated funds, a hydroelectric generation facility may receive payments for a period of 10 consecutive fiscal years. Such period shall begin with the first fiscal year in which the facility began producing hydroelectric energy for sale. For example, a hydroelectric generation facility that began producing hydroelectric energy for sale on June 1, 2020, and continued to produce and sell hydroelectric energy for 10 consecutive years would be eligible to apply for incentive payments through the end of fiscal year 2029 but not beyond that time period.

The period for payment under this program ends with fiscal year 2036.

Contact Information

Program Staff
hydroelectricincentives@hq.doe.gov

https://www.energy.gov/gdo/section-242-hydroelectric-production-incentive-program

FEDERAL
GRANT PROFILE

Department: U.S. Department of Energy
Agency: Grid Deployment Office

FY 2023 Section 243: Hydroelectric Efficiency Improvement Incentives Program

Grant Overview

This program will make incentive payments to the owners or authorized operators of a hydroelectric facility at an existing dam for capital improvements directly related to improving facility efficiency by at least three percent.

Program History

This is a new program created through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

Key Information

Total Funding: $75 million
Award Range: Varies
Match: Not required
Solicitation date: March 22, 2023
Due Date: June 20, 2023

https://www.energy.gov/gdo/section-243-hydroelectric-efficiency-improvement-incentives-program

Tips

- An applicant must demonstrate an increase of at least three percent in the efficiency improvement percentage for the hydroelectric facility where the capital improvement(s) were made or are to be made.

Department: U.S. Department of Energy
Agency: Grid Deployment Office

FY 2023 Section 243: Hydroelectric Efficiency Improvement Incentives Program

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to make incentive payments to the owner or authorized operator of a hydroelectric facility at an existing dam, for capital improvements directly related to improving facility efficiency by at least three percent.

In order to be eligible for a hydroelectric efficiency improvement incentive payment under this program, the following qualifications must be met:

- The hydroelectric facility at the dam must have been placed in service before November 15, 2021
- The hydroelectric facility must be operable at the time an application is submitted
- The capital improvement(s) are made:
    - On the hydroelectric facility side of the point of interconnection or common coupling with the electric utility, or
    - In a facility that remotely controls hydroelectric facility operations
- The capital improvement(s) must increase the efficiency of the hydroelectric facility by at least 3 percent.

To be eligible to apply for a hydroelectric efficiency improvement incentive payment, a capital improvement project at an eligible hydroelectric facility must have applied for or already received all Federal, State, and/or Tribal authorizations and have initiated, requested, or completed any required federal environmental review processes under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA).

The funding agency seeks eligible projects that not only contribute to the country's energy technology and climate goals, but also promote the following goals:

- Create good paying, high quality, local jobs
- Advance diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility for all, including people of color and others who have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent poverty and inequality
- Support meaningful community and labor engagement
- Contribute to the goal that 40 percent of the overall benefits from certain federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants include any owner or authorized operator of a hydroelectric facility at an eligible existing dam that meets the eligibility criteria mentioned above.

Funding

In FY 2023, approximately $75 million is available to support awards of up to $5 million per facility through this program. Under this program incentive payments shall not exceed 30 percent of the costs of the applicable capital improvement.

The funding agency may set aside up to 25 percent of the funding under this program for small projects, defined as hydropower projects that have a nameplate capacity of less than 10 MW and owned by small businesses, municipal entities, nonprofit organizations, electric cooperatives, and/or Indian Tribes.

Contact Information

Program Staff
hydroelectricincentives@hq.doe.gov

https://www.energy.gov/gdo/section-243-hydroelectric-efficiency-improvement-incentives-program

FEDERAL
GRANT PROFILE

Department: U.S. Department of Energy
Agency: Grid Deployment Office

FY 2023 Section 247: Maintaining and Enhancing Hydroelectricity Incentives

Grant Overview

This program will make incentive payments to the owner or authorized operator of a qualified hydroelectric facility for capital improvements directly related to improving grid resilience (including the addition of energy storage such as reservoir capacity, pumped storage hydropower, and batteries) and dam safety and related to environmental improvements. Eligible applicants include any owner or authorized operator of an existing facility that is licensed or has received an exemption from licensing from FERC pursuant to the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 791a et seq.) or is a hydroelectric project constructed, operated, or maintained pursuant to a permit or valid existing right-of-way granted prior to June 10, 1920, or a license granted pursuant to the Federal Power Act prior to November 15, 2021.

Program History

This is a new program created through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

Key Information

Total Funding: $553.6 million
Award Range: Up to $5 million
Match: Not required
Solicitation date: May 8, 2023
Due Date: June 22, 2023 (Letter of Intent) October 6, 2023 (Full Application)

https://www.energy.gov/gdo/section-247-maintaining-and-enhancing-hydroelectricity-incentives

Tips

- A public webinar will be held on May 24th to provide an overview of the application guidance document. Click here to register.
- A letter of Intent must be submitted to be eligible to apply under the full application
- Only materials procured or other costs incurred after November 15, 2021, are eligible for incentive payments.

Department: U.S. Department of Energy
Agency: Grid Deployment Office

FY 2023 Section 247: Maintaining and Enhancing Hydroelectricity Incentives

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to make incentive payments to the owner or authorized operator of a qualified hydroelectric facility for capital improvements directly related to improving grid resilience (including the addition of energy storage such as reservoir capacity, pumped storage hydropower, and batteries) and dam safety and related to environmental improvements. Under this program all developments within an individual Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)-licensed hydroelectric project will be treated as a single hydroelectric facility and may receive one incentive payment subject to the above limitations per fiscal year.

A qualified hydroelectric facility:

- Is licensed by FERC or is a hydroelectric project constructed, operated, or maintained pursuant to a permit or valid existing right-of-way granted prior to June 10, 1920, or a license granted pursuant to the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 791a et seq.), or has a FERC-issued exemption;
- Was placed into service before November 15, 2021; and
- Is in compliance with all applicable Federal, State, and Tribal requirements, or would be brought into compliance with all applicable Federal, State, and Tribal requirements as a result of the capital improvements carried out using an incentive payment

Funding will be available through the following categories:

Category 1: Improving grid resiliency: eligible capital improvement projects will directly relate to improving grid resiliency and include:

- Adapting more quickly to changing grid conditions
- Providing ancillary services (including black-start capabilities, voltage support, and spinning reserves).
- Integrating other variable sources of electricity generation
- Managing accumulated reservoir sediments.

Category 2: Improving dam safety: eligible capital improvement projects will improve dam safety to ensure acceptable performance under all loading conditions (including static, hydrologic, and seismic conditions) and include:

- The maintenance or upgrade of spillways or other appurtenant structures
- Dam stability improvements, including erosion repair and enhanced seepage controls
- Upgrades or replacements of floodgates or natural infrastructure restoration or protection to improve flood risk reduction

Category 3: Environmental improvements: eligible capital improvement projects will directly relate to environmental improvements and include:

- Adding or improving safe and effective fish passage, including new or upgraded turbine technology, fish ladders, fishways, and all other associated technology, equipment, or other fish passage technology to a qualified hydroelectric facility
- Improving the quality of the water retained or released by a qualified hydroelectric facility
- Promoting downstream sediment transport processes and habitat maintenance
- Improving recreational access to the project vicinity including roads, trails, boat ingress and egress, flows to improve recreation, and infrastructure that improves river recreation opportunities.

The funding agency seeks eligible projects that not only contribute to the country's energy technology and climate goals but also promote the following goals:

- Create good paying, high-quality, local jobs
- Advance diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility for all, including people of color and others who have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent poverty and inequality
- Support meaningful community and labor engagement
- Contribute to the goal that 40 percent of the overall benefits from certain federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants include any owner or authorized operator of an existing facility that is licensed or has received an exemption from licensing from FERC pursuant to the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 791a et seq.) or is a hydroelectric project constructed, operated, or maintained pursuant to a permit or valid existing right-of-way granted prior to June 10, 1920, or a license granted pursuant to the Federal Power Act prior to November 15, 2021.

There is no limit to the number of facilities for which applications can be filed by a single owner. Applications for capital improvements across different categories (i.e., grid resiliency, dam safety, and environmental improvements) must be filed in separate applications. However, developments within an individual FERC-licensed hydroelectric project will be treated as a single hydroelectric facility and only one incentive payment may be made to each hydroelectric facility per fiscal year.

Funding

In FY 2023, approximately $553.6 million is available to support awards up to $5 million. An estimated 25 percent of this total funding will be reserved for small projects defined as hydropower projects that have a nameplate capacity of less than 10 MW and are owned by small businesses, municipal entities (including electric cooperatives), and nonprofit organizations or Indian Tribes. Incentive payments shall not exceed 30 percent of the costs of the applicable capital improvement.

Matching and Cost Share

There is no matching requirement for this program.

Contact Information

Program Staff

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https://www.energy.gov/gdo/section-247-maintaining-and-enhancing-hydroelectricity-incentives

FEDERAL
GRANT PROFILE

Department: U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Agency: Federal Emergency Management Agency

FY 2023 Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)

Grant Overview

The Building Resilient Infrastructures and Communities (BRIC) program provides support to communities for hazard mitigation activities that promote climate adaptation and resilience with respect to the growing hazards associated with climate change. Program priorities for FY 2023 are to incentivize natural hazard risk reduction activities that mitigate risk to public infrastructure and disadvantaged communities, incorporate nature-based solutions, enhance climate resilience and adaptation, and increase funding to applicants that facilitate the adoption and enforcement of the latest published editions of building codes. Eligible applicants are states, territories, and tribal governments. **Local governments may apply as a sub-applicant through their state specific process.**

Program History

	Total Funding	# of Awards
2021	$1 billion	53

Key Information

Total Funding: $1 billion
Award Range: Varies
Match: Varies
Solicitation date: October 12, 2023
Proposal due: February 29, 2024

https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/building-resilient-infrastructure-communities

Awardee Profile

County of Nevada, California

AMOUNT: $31,030,000
YEAR: 2021

The County of Nevada received pass-through funding to use nature-based solutions and a multi-faceted approach to directly address wildfire risk to lives, homes and community lifelines through home-hardening and near-home defensible space vegetation management, landscape level fuel modification, and community education.

Department: U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Agency: Federal Emergency Management Agency

FY 2023 Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to provide support to communities for hazard mitigation activities that promote climate adaptation and resilience with respect to the growing hazards associated with climate change and of the need for natural hazard risk mitigation activities that promote climate adaptation and resilience with respect to those hazards. These include both acute extreme weather events and chronic stressors which have been observed and are expected to increase in intensity and frequency in the future. The guiding principles of the program include supporting communities through capability and capacity-building; encouraging and enabling innovation, including multi-hazard resilience or nature-based solutions; promoting partnerships; enabling large, systems-based projects; maintaining flexibility; and providing consistency. Through these efforts communities are able to better understand disaster risk and vulnerabilities, conduct community-driven resilience, hazard mitigation planning, and design transformational projects and programs.

The program aims to shift the focus of federal investments away from reactive, post-disaster spending and toward research-supported, proactive investments in community resilience. These investments aim to reduce future disaster losses, including loss of life and property as well as future spending from the Disaster Relief Fund (DRF). BRIC focuses on cost-effective mitigation measures including protecting public infrastructure so that critical services can withstand or more rapidly recover from future disasters, as well as other projects and activities to increase resilience throughout the nation. Through the program, the funding agency can engage state, local, tribal, and territorial partners in enhancing climate resilience and adaptation through systems-based, community-wide investments. The funding agency is including new provisions to implement the Community Disaster Resilience Zones Act, a new law which aims to direct public and private resilience investments in communities that are most vulnerable to natural hazards.

The program objectives are to:

- Increase climate literacy among the emergency management community, including awareness of natural hazard risks and knowledge of best practices for mitigation
- Increase awareness of stakeholders and partners with capabilities to support mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery
- Ensure more innovative risk-informed mitigation projects are developed and completed, including multi-hazard resilience or nature-based solutions
- Assist communities identify and mitigate the risks to natural hazards and their own threats from climate change.
- Direct increased resources to eliminate disparities in equitable outcomes across underserved communities

The program priorities are to:

- Incentivize natural hazard risk reduction activities that mitigate risk to public infrastructure and disadvantaged communities as referenced in Executive Order 14008
- Incorporate nature-based solutions including those designed to reduce carbon emissions
- Enhance climate resilience and adaptation
- Increase funding to applicants that facilitate the adoption and enforcement of the latest published editions of building codes

The program encourages mitigation projects that meet multiple program priorities.

Financial assistance awards will be provided for the following activities:

- Capability- and Capacity-building Activities: enhancing the knowledge, skills, and expertise of the current workforce to expand or improve the administration of mitigation assistance. This includes activities in the following sub-categories: building codes activities, partnerships, project scoping, hazard mitigation planning and planning related activities, and other activities.
- Hazard Mitigation Projects (construction): cost-effective projects designed to increase resilience and public safety; reduce injuries and loss of life; and reduce damage and destruction to property, critical services, facilities, and infrastructure (including natural systems) from a multitude of natural hazards and the effects of climate change.
- Management Costs: financial assistance to reimburse the recipient and subrecipient for eligible and reasonable indirect costs, direct administrative costs, and other administrative expenses associated with a specific mitigation measure or project in an amount up to 15 percent of the total amount of the grant award, of which not more than 10 percent of the total award amount may be used by the recipient and 5 percent by the subrecipient for such costs generally.

Applicants may also request non-financial direct technical assistance via the BRIC Technical Assistance program which supports the development of climate resilience planning and project design in, and with, underserved and/or disadvantaged communities, and federally recognized tribal governments that are disproportionately affected by natural hazard risk and climate change.

In accordance with the BRIC program's guiding principle of promoting equity and in implementing the Justice40 Initiative, the BRIC program is prioritizing assistance that benefits disadvantaged communities as referenced in EO 14008 and subsequent guidance. BRIC is prioritizing assistance to disadvantaged or Justice40 communities as identified by the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST), an Economically Disadvantaged Rural Community (as defined in 42 U.S.C. § 5133(a) as a small impoverished community), or a Community Disaster Resilience Zone (as defined in 42 U.S.C. § 5136(a)(1)).

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are states, territories, and tribal governments. Eligible applicants must have had a major disaster declaration under the Stafford Act in the seven years prior to the annual application period and have an approved state or tribal hazard mitigation plan in accordance with Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 201 by the application deadline.

Communities, including local governments, cities, townships, counties, special district governments, and tribal governments, may choose to apply as sub-applicants and request financial assistance from their state, territory, or tribal applicant agency. Many states have fixed subapplication deadlines that precede the application deadline. Contact your State Hazard Mitigation Officer to learn about its sub-application process.

Funding

In FY 2023, approximately $1 billion in funding will be available to support awards. Of the total amount, funding will be allocated as follows:

- State/territory Allocation: a total of $112 million is available to support awards of up to $2 million.
- Tribal Set-aside: a total of $50 million is available to support awards of up to $2 million.
- State/territory Building Code Plus-Up: a total of $2 million is available to support awards to carry out eligible building code adoption and enforcement activities
- Tribal Building Code Plus-Up: a total of $25 million is available to support awards to carry out eligible building code adoption and enforcement activities
- National Competition: a total of $50 million is available to support awards of up to $50 million.

Matching and Cost Sharing

Applicants must provide at least 25 percent of the project costs via nonfederal cash, donated or third-party in-kind services, materials, or any combination thereof; however, the match requirement is decreased to 10 percent of the project costs for economically disadvantaged rural community applicants and federally recognized Indian tribal government. Projects performed within, and/or that primarily benefit a designated Community Disaster Resilience Zone also have a decreased cost sharing requirement of 10 percent of the total project costs.

Award recipients may be reimbursed for management costs that include indirect costs, direct administrative costs, and other administrative expenses associated with a specific mitigation measure or project in an amount of up to 15 percent of the award, of which not more than 10 percent of the total award may be used by the recipient and 5 percent by the subrecipient for such costs.

The project period will last for 36 months, starting on the date of award.

Contact Information

For general questions about the BRIC program can be directed to the appropriate State Hazard Mitigation Officer or FEMA Regional Office.

https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/building-resilient-infrastructure-communities

FEDERAL
GRANT PROFILE

Department: U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Agency: Office of Federal Emergency Management (FEMA)

FY 2023 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)

Grant Overview

This program helps states, tribes, and territories enact mitigation measures following a presidential major disaster declaration that reduces or mitigates future disaster losses in their communities. Eligible applicants are the emergency management agencies or similar offices of the 50 states, U.S. territories, and federally recognized tribes. Sub-applicants include state agencies, tribes, local governments or communities, and private nonprofit organizations.

Program History

A program history is unavailable.

Key Information

Total Funding: Unspecified
Award Range: Varies
Match: 25 percent
Solicitation date: Program opens after the announcement of a Presidential Major Disaster Declaration.
Proposal due: Varies by State

https://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-grant-program

Tips

- State and local governments may apply for funding under this program through a state's governor in eligible communities within a state, tribe, or territory
- Applicants must have a FEMA approved Local Hazard Mitigation plan
- The process for states and local governments to receive funding under this program is further explained by FEMA here

Department: U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Agency: Office of Federal Emergency Management (FEMA)

FY 2023 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to help states, tribes, and territories develop hazard mitigation plans and rebuild following a presidential major disaster declaration in a way that reduces or mitigates future disaster losses in their communities. Awards will be provided for hazard mitigation activities that include long-term efforts to reduce the impact of future disasters.

For the purposes of this program, hazard mitigation includes long-term efforts to reduce the impact of future disasters. Eligible risk reduction projects include:

- Planning and enforcement, including:
  - Developing and adopting hazard mitigation plans
  - Acquisition of hazard-prone homes and businesses that will enable owners to relocate to safer areas
  - Post-disaster code enforcement
- Flood protection, including:
  - Protecting homes and businesses with permanent barriers to prevent floodwater from entering
  - Elevating structure above known flood levels to prevent and reduce losses
  - Reconstructing a damaged dwelling on an elevated foundation to prevent and reduce future flood losses
  - Drainage improvement projects to reduce flooding
- Retrofitting, including:
  - Structural retrofits to make a building more resistant to floods, earthquakes, wind, wildfire, and other natural hazards
  - Retrofits to utilities and other infrastructure to enhance resistance to natural hazards
- Construction, including:
  - Construction of safe rooms for both communities and individual residences in areas prone to hurricane and tornado activity
  - Slope stabilization projects to prevent and reduce losses to structures

This program only accepts applications following an applicable presidential major disaster declaration. Should the program open, applicable disaster declarations and deadlines to apply for this program will be posted online at www.fema.gov/disasters. Sub-applicants should check State Emergency Operations websites to learn about State HMGP deadlines.

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are the emergency management agencies or similar officers of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands, and federally recognized tribes. Each state, territory, commonwealth, or federally recognized tribe must designate one agency to serve as the applicant. All interested sub applicants must apply to the applicant. Eligible sub applicants include state agencies, federally recognized tribes, local governments/communities, and private nonprofit organizations.

Applicants must have a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)- approved mitigation plan at the time of the presidential major disaster declaration, and at the time HMGP funding is obligated to the recipient or subrecipient. There is no mitigation plan requirement for the development of a new mitigation plan.

Funding

In FY 2023, there is an unspecified amount of funding available to support awards through this program. The maximum amount of funding available is calculated using a “sliding scale” formula based on a percentage of the estimated total federal assistance available under the Stafford Act, excluding administrative costs for each presidential major disaster declaration.

Applicants with a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)-approved state or tribal standard mitigation plan may receive:

- Up to 15 percent of the first $2 billion of the estimated aggregate amount of disaster assistance
- Up to 10 percent for the next portion of the estimated aggregate amount more than $2 billion and up to $10 billion
- Up to 7.5 percent for the next portion of the estimate aggregate amount more than $10 billion and up to $35,333,000,000

Applicants with a FEMA-approved state or tribal enhanced mitigation plan are eligible to receive up to 20 percent of the estimated total federal assistance under the Stafford Act, not to exceed $35,333,000,000, excluding administrative costs authorized for the disaster. Advance assistance may be available in the amount of up to 25 percent of the HMGP ceiling or $10 million, whichever is less, to applicants/sub applicants to accelerate the implementation of the program.

For presidential major disaster declarations for all hazards, an additional 5 percent of the grantee's HMGP ceiling may be used to fund hazard mitigation activities. Grantees may request a flat percentage rate of 4.89 percent of the projected eligible program costs for management costs.

Applicants must provide at least 25 percent of the total project costs via cash and/or in-kind contributions.

The program period of performance will begin with the opening of the application period and end no later than 36 months from the close of the application period.

Contact Information

Program Staff
(866) 222-3580
ehhelpline@fema.dhs.gov

https://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-grant-program

FEDERAL
GRANT PROFILE

Department: U.S. Department of Interior
Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)

FY 2024 National Fish Passage Program - Restoring River, Floodplain, and Coastal Connectivity and Resiliency

Grant Overview

This program aims to provide direct technical and financial assistance to partners to remove instream barriers and restore aquatic organism passage and aquatic connectivity for the benefit of Federal trust resources. Eligible applicants include: state, local, and special district governments; independent school districts; institutions of higher education; tribal governments and organizations; housing authorities; nonprofits, small businesses; for-profit organizations; and individuals.

Program History

	Total Funding	# of Awards
2023	$9.2 million	150
2022	$38 million	40

Key Information and Tips

Total Funding: $70 million
Award Range: $250,000 - $10 million
Match: Not required
Solicitation date: October 11, 2023
Proposal due: November 17, 2023 (LOI); December 31, 2024 (Invited Applicants)

- Priority will be given to applications that can demonstrate a clear timeline and pathway for on-the-ground implementation within one to four years.

https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=345976

Awardee Profile

Kenai Peninsula Borough, AK

Year: 2022

Amount: $1,614,106

Kenai Peninsula Borough was awarded funding to replace an undersized culvert with a channel spanning bridge and restore access to 10.8 miles of Coho Salmon spawning and rearing habitat on Tyonek Creek is one of the largest and most important salmon streams near the village of Tyonek, Alaska.

Department: U.S. Department of Interior
Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)

FY 2024 National Fish Passage Program - Restoring River, Floodplain, and Coastal Connectivity and Resiliency

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to provide direct technical and financial assistance to remove instream barriers, restore aquatic organism passage, and restore climate-resilient aquatic connectivity in rivers, floodplains, and coastal habitat, for the benefit for federal trust resources. This program is intended to maintain or increase native fish populations to improve ecosystem resiliency and provide quality fishing experiences for the American people. This program is also intended to restore fish passage that will support the modernization of the country's infrastructure, such as road culverts, bridges, and water diversions, which will enhance community resilience to the impacts from climate change and other public safety hazards. Funding will support a variety of projects that are based upon sound scientific and technical principles, advance the funding agency's mission, and promote aquatic system resilience, including:

- Dam removals
- Culvert replacements
- Floodplain restoration and reconnection
- Dike breaches
- Reconnection of tidal habitats

All dam removal projects must include written consent of the dam owner submitted with the application if ownership is established. Ultimately, this program works to restore native fish and other aquatic species to self-sustaining levels by reconnecting habitats fragmented by barriers, and also strives to deliver benefits to human communities through infrastructure improvements and other actions that increase resilience to climate change impacts. Eligible activities include:

- Project planning and feasibility studies
- Engineering and design
- Permitting
- On-the-ground fish passage restoration
- Near-term implementation monitoring
- Project outreach
- Capacity to manage project-related activities

The funding agency will prioritize projects that:

- Maximize benefits to native priority species and habitats
- Provide sustainable fish passage benefits
- Contribute to or otherwise leverage regional or watershed priorities for habitat restoration, fish passage, or aquatic connectivity

- Enhance community resilience to climate change, address other public safety hazards, and generally provide other co-benefits, such as job creation or recreational fishing opportunities
- Involve advance coordination on species and watershed priorities with tribes and states
- Provide benefits to or engage with disadvantaged communities
- Are supported by partners, affected stakeholders, and the local community

This program is delivered through the funding agency's Fish and Aquatic Conservation (FAC) offices across states and territories. FAC staff will coordinate with project partners, stakeholders, and other U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) programs to identify and collaboratively develop and implement projects within regional priority areas. Projects will be selected on a regional basis based upon regional priorities.

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants include: state, local, and special district governments; independent school districts; institutions of higher education; tribal governments and organizations; housing authorities; nonprofits, small businesses; for-profit organizations; and individuals.

For eligible applicants to receive funding, NFPP projects must be implemented in coordination with Aquatic with Fisheries and Conservation (FAC) staff. FAC Program staff work collaboratively with potential applicants to identify common conservation priorities. It is strongly suggested that all potential applicants work with the local FAC Program staff to ensure that their project meets conservation needs of the Service.

Funding

An estimated $70 million is available to support approximately 80 awards ranging from $250,000 to $10 million through this program. In general, the expected award amount is $1 million.

Matching and Cost Sharing

Matching funds are not required for this program; however, this program seeks to secure 50 percent of total project costs at the program level. The funding agency encourages cost and resource sharing to build partnerships and demonstrate partner support for the projects. Matching contributions may include any non-funding agency funding or in-kind services or materials. Applications proposing matching contributions will receive additional points in the application evaluation process.

Contact Information

Program Staff
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Applicants should contact their regional office for their agency contact.

https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=345976

FEDERAL
GRANT PROFILE

Department: U.S. Department of Interior
Agency: Bureau of Reclamation

FY 2024 Small Surface Water and Groundwater Storage Projects

Grant Overview

This program provides Federal assistance to enhance water storage opportunities for future generations in support of the Department of Interior's priorities. Eligible applicants are state governments, county governments, city or township governments, special district governments, independent school districts, institutions of higher education, Native American Tribal governments (Federally recognized) and organizations, public housing authorities/Indian housing authorities, nonprofits, Individuals, for-profit organizations and small businesses.

Program History

	Total Funding	# of Awards
2023	$20 million	4

Key Information

Total Funding: $25 million
Award Range: Unspecified
Match: 75 percent
Solicitation date: September 18, 2023
Proposal due: November 30, 2023

https://www.usbr.gov/smallstorage/

Awardee Profile

Kern Fan Groundwater Storage Project

AMOUNT: $4,700,000

YEAR: 2023

The Kern Fan Groundwater Storage Project received funding for Phase 1 activities. Phase one of the Kern Fan Project includes the acquisition of 350 acres in Kern County for the construction and operation of recharge basins, recovery wells, and conveyance infrastructure. The storage capacity is approximately 28,000 acre-feet with a projected average annual yield of 2,482 acre-feet.

Department: U.S. Department of Interior
Agency: Bureau of Reclamation

FY 2024 Small Surface Water and Groundwater Storage Projects

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to invite sponsors of small surface water and groundwater storage projects to request cost-shared funding for the planning, design, and/or construction of those projects. Eligible projects under this program include the planning, design, and construction of small surface water and groundwater storage facilities. Eligible projects must meet the following requirements:

- A project must have a completed feasibility study that meets the requirements of CMP TRMR127 by the opening date of this program (September 18, 2023)
- Projects must be located in the Western United States as identified in the Reclamation Act of June 17, 1902, as amended and supplemented; specifically: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.
- Projects must be ready to proceed once a financial agreement is in place
- Projects must have water storage capacity of not less than 200 acre-feet and not more than 30,000 acre-feet, and increase surface water or groundwater storage, or convey water, directly or indirectly, to or from surface water or groundwater storage.
- The project must increase yield, on average, above existing conditions to identified beneficiaries and the environment.
- Project work must be planned or underway between November 15, 2021 and November 15, 2026.

This program also advances the Biden-Harris Administration's Justice40 Initiative with a goal that 40 percent of the overall benefits, flow to disadvantaged communities.

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are state governments, county governments, city or township governments, special district governments, independent school districts, institutions of higher education, Native American Tribal governments (Federally recognized) and organizations, public housing authorities/Indian housing authorities, nonprofits, Individuals, for-profit organizations and small businesses.

Funding

In FY 2024, approximately $25 million is available to support an estimated 2 - 6 awards through this program.

The average amount of funding per Federal award, based on previous funding opportunities, is about $5,000,000. The anticipated award date is May 1, 2024, and the anticipated project completion date is November 15, 2026. Projects can continue to compete for and receive funding from future Small Storage Program awards until they receive 25 percent of the total project cost or $30 million in Federal funding, whichever is less.

Matching and Cost-Sharing

Applicants must be capable of cost sharing 75 percent or more of the total project costs. The total project cost is defined as the total allowable costs incurred under a federal award and all required cost share and voluntary committed cost-share contributions, including third-party contributions.

Applicants may cost share through cash, costs contributed by the applicant, or third-party in-kind contributions. Third-party in-kind contributions are the value of non-cash contributions of property or services that benefit the Federally assisted project and are contributed by non-Federal third parties, without charge. The applicant should secure and ensure cost-share funding from sources outside the applicant's organization (e.g., loans or State grants) is available prior to award.

Other sources of Federal funding received by the applicant for the project may not be counted towards the required non-Federal cost share. The exception to this requirement is where the Federal statute authorizing a program specifically provides that Federal funds made available for a program can be applied to matching or cost-sharing requirements of other Federal programs, such as awards to tribal organizations under PL 93-638, as amended. If Reclamation determines that the Federal funding cannot be applied towards the non-Federal cost share, the work associated with the funding may be removed from the proposed project or the Federal funding will be counted toward the 25 percent Federal cost share for the project.

Contact Information

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https://www.usbr.gov/smallstorage/

FEDERAL
GRANT PROFILE

Department: U.S. Department of Interior
Agency: Bureau of Reclamation

FY 2023-2024 WaterSMART Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Projects

Grant Overview

WaterSMART Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Projects provide funding for the restoration and protection of aquatic ecosystems. Eligible applicants are states, tribes, irrigation districts, water districts, and other organizations with water or power delivery authority located in Reclamation States, including entities and organizations that own a dam that is eligible for upgrade, modification, or removal. Nonprofit conservation organizations working in partnership with the entities listed above or that notify entities listed above are also eligible to apply.

Program History

This is a new program funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

Key Information

Total Funding: $95,000,000
Award Range: Up to $20 million depending on category
Match: 35 percent
Solicitation date: August 3, 2023
Proposal due: January 24, 2024

https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/aquatic/index.html

Tips

- Projects that support the Administration's priorities regarding Climate Change, Disadvantaged or Underserved Communities, and Tribal Benefits will receive priority during the review process.
- Projects that affect water resources management in two or more river basins provide regional benefits not limited to fisheries restoration, and are a component of a larger strategy to replace aging facilities that are prioritized under this program.

Department: U.S. Department of Interior
Agency: Bureau of Reclamation

FY 2023-2024 WaterSMART Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Projects

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to support the study, design, and construction of aquatic ecosystem restoration projects that are collaboratively developed; have widespread regional benefits; and are for the purpose of improving the health of fisheries, wildlife, and aquatic habitat through restoration and improved fish passage.

For the purposes of this program, aquatic ecosystems refer to freshwater and brackish water habitats such as lakes, ponds, rivers, streams, wetlands, swamps, and estuaries and the adjacent floodplains, riparian corridors, deltas, and shallow aquifers that interact with surface water.

Projects that affect water resources management in two or more river basins provide regional benefits not limited to fisheries restoration, and that are a component of a larger strategy to replace aging facilities are prioritized under this program.

Applicants can apply for funding for projects in one of two task areas:

- Task A: Study and Design: Projects eligible for funding under Task A include study and design activities to develop an aquatic ecosystem restoration project, resulting in the development of a study and design package that can be used to apply for funding under Task B. To be eligible for Task B: Construction, applicants must have conducted study and design activities resulting in a design package at a 60 percent design level. A 60 percent design package should include technical study and design documentation supporting the preferred alternative in sufficient detail to be able to obtain the necessary permits and estimate funding required for project implementation. Prior to applying for Task A: Study and Design funding, it is expected that applicants will have already performed some general planning work and preliminary studies (e.g., a watershed restoration plan, planning on a river/stream-reach scale, or other planning effort) that led to the identification of a specific restoration concept and prioritization of the restoration project(s), and that included some stakeholder involvement. Eligible activities include:
    - Project Outreach
    - Restoration Project Design Alternatives Analysis
    - Project Analysis and Design
    - Complete site-specific design and engineering of the restoration project to reach a target 60 percent level of final project design
    - Preparation of project cost estimates and development of project construction plan
    - Legal and Institutional Requirements Research

- Task B: Construction: Projects eligible for funding under Task B include the construction of aquatic ecosystem restoration projects that are collaboratively developed, have widespread regional benefits, and are for the purpose of improving the health of fisheries, wildlife, and aquatic habitat

through restoration and improved fish passage. Projects that affect water resources management in two or more river basins provide regional benefits not limited to fisheries restoration, and that are a component of a larger strategy to replace aging facilities are prioritized under this program. Proposed projects submitted after June 1, 2023, and before January 24, 2024, application deadline should not have an estimated construction start date that is prior to November 1, 2024. These projects include:

- Completion of Final Design for Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Construction
- Outreach to Affected Stakeholders
- Restoration Activities
  - Removal or Modification of Barriers to Fish Passage
  - Restoration of Connectivity
  - Restoration of Aquatic Habitat
  - Improvement of Water Availability, Quality, and Temperature
  - Monitoring Plan Development, Baseline Assessment, and Equipment Installation

Projects that include the removal or modification of a dam must submit documentation verifying the dam owner has agreed to the study, design, or construction of the project and that impacted water or power delivery customers have been notified.

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are divided into Categories outlined below.

- Category A applicants: States, Tribes, irrigation districts, and water districts; state, regional, or local authorities, the members of which include one or more organizations with water or power delivery authority; agencies established under State law for the joint exercise of powers; and other entities or organizations that own a dam that is eligible for upgrade, modification, or removal.
- Category B applicants: Nonprofit conservation organizations that are acting in partnership with and with the agreement of an entity described in Category A. Category B applicants must include with their application a letter from the Category A partner stating that the Category A partner:
  - Is acting in partnership with the applicant;
  - Agrees to the submittal and content of the application; and
  - Intends to participate in the project in some way, for example, by providing input, feedback, or other support for the project.

All applicants must be located in a Reclamation State. The Reclamation States are defined as the following 17 States and 4 Territories: Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, or the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Category B applicants may receive a maximum of up to 3 awards provided that the Category A partner entity for each project is different. In general, if you are seeking funding for multiple project components, and the components are interrelated or closely related (e.g., a project to restore and enhance flood plains and a project to remove a barrier to fish passage that are physically and geographically linked), you should combine these in one application. However, if the projects are only loosely related, you should submit them as separate applications.

Funding

In FY 2023 and FY 2024, up to $95 million of funding is available to support approximately 10 to 15 projects per application submittal period. Task A project awards are anticipated to range from $500,000 - $2 million per project and Task B project awards are anticipated to range from $3,000,000 to $20 million per project. Task A projects are expected to be completed in two years and Task B projects are expected to be completed in four years.

Matching and Cost Sharing

In general, applicants must provide at least 35 percent of total project costs via cash and/or in-kind contributions. Note, this cost-sharing requirement is not applicable to American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, or the Virgin Islands.

Contact Information

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https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/aquatic/index.html

FEDERAL
GRANT PROFILE

Department: U.S. Department of Interior
Agency: Bureau of Reclamation

FY 2024 WaterSMART Grants: Drought Response Program Drought Resiliency Project Grants

Grant Overview

The WaterSMART Drought Response Program supports a proactive approach to drought by providing assistance to water managers to develop and update comprehensive drought plans and implement projects that will build long-term resiliency to drought. Eligible applicants are states, tribes, irrigation districts, water districts, and other state, regional, or local authorities with water or power delivery authority located in the Western United States, as well as nonprofit conservation organizations working in partnership with the entities listed above.

Program History

	Total Funding	# of Awards
2023	$84 million	36
2022	$20.5 million	13
2021	$15.4 million	18

Key Information

Total Funding: Unspecified
Award Range: Varies by category
Match: 50 percent
Solicitation date: August 7, 2023
Proposal due: October 31, 2023

https://www.usbr.gov/drought/

Awardee Profile

Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency, California

AMOUNT: $5 million
YEAR: 2023

This project received funding to construct a water treatment and disinfection facility to combat Polyfluoroalkyl Substances.

Department: U.S. Department of Interior
Agency: Bureau of Reclamation

FY 2024 WaterSMART Grants: Drought Response Program Drought Resiliency Project Grants

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to support projects that build long-term resilience to drought and reduce the need for emergency response actions. Resiliency projects are intended to increase the reliability of water supplies and improve water management.

Efforts to build resiliency that are eligible for support include the following task areas:

- Task A: Increasing the reliability of water supplies through infrastructure improvements, including:
    - System modifications or improvements
        - Constructing or modifying surface water intakes to access supplies when water levels are low (e.g., at dead pool), or to allow access at different locations.
        - Constructing new conveyance system components (pipelines, canals, pumping plants, etc.) to increase flexibility to deliver water from different sources, to facilitate voluntary water marketing or to deliver water from alternative sources.
        - Constructing interties between water conveyance systems to increase options for water deliveries.
        - Installing barriers or other facilities to prevent saltwater intrusion into surface supplies.
    - Storing water and/or recharging groundwater supplies
        - Developing or expanding small-scale surface water storage facilities such as off-stream storage ponds.
        - Installing water towers and storage tanks to store water for municipal and domestic use.
        - Installing recharge ponds or injection wells to increase recharge of surplus, inactive, or reclaimed water. Recharged water can serve multiple purposes such as sustainable conjunctive use in times of drought, deterring saltwater.
    - Developing alternate sources of water supply including water treatment
        - Constructing or expanding small-scale water treatment facilities to treat impaired groundwater, municipal wastewater, stormwater runoff, for environmental, agricultural, or potable purposes.
        - Constructing stormwater capture and reuse systems, including green stormwater infrastructure solutions such as rain gardens, cisterns, and bioswales
        - Installing residential grey water and rain catchment systems.
- Task B: Increasing the reliability of water supplies through groundwater recovery through:
    - Constructing wells to provide back-up water supplies during times of drought.

    - Constructing extraction wells at groundwater banks or other recharge areas to improve extraction and return capabilities during dry years.
- Task C: Improving water management through decision support tools, modeling, and measurement, including:
    - Developing water management and modeling tools to help communities evaluate options and implement strategies to address drought.
    - Installing water measurement equipment and monitoring instrumentation devices to accurately track water supply conditions.
- Task D: Construction of domestic water supply projects of which the primary purpose is to provide domestic water supplies to Tribal or disadvantaged communities that do not have reliable access to water supplies. This can include the development of new supplies and/or associated infrastructure for treatment and delivery. Projects need to demonstrate that the primary purpose of the proposed project is to provide domestic water supplies to communities or households that do not have reliable access to domestic water supplies and that the project will benefit Tribes or disadvantaged communities.

Proposed projects must include activities beyond routine water management required by state law for conservation and efficiency and must have ongoing benefits to build long-term resilience to drought. In addition, projects should help avoid the need for emergency response actions, such as water hauling programs and temporary infrastructure. Applicants must also demonstrate that the proposed project is supported by an existing drought planning effort.

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are states, tribes, irrigation districts, water districts, and other state, regional, or local authorities with water or power delivery authority. Applicants must be located in the western U.S., which includes the states and territories of Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Virgin Islands. Additionally, nonprofit conservation organizations that are acting in partnership and with the agreement of an entity described above are eligible.

Applicants may seek funding under one application for multiple project components that include one or a combination of tasks if the project components are interrelated or closely related (e.g., a project to construct a new storage and conveyance system [Task A] coupled with a decision support tool for operation of the system [Task C]). However, if the projects are only loosely related, separate applications need to be submitted.

Funding

In FY 2024, an unspecified amount of funding is available to support an estimated 25-40 awards through this program. Awards are provided through three separate funding groups:

- Group I: Up to $500,000 will be available for projects generally completed within two years
- Group II: Up to $2,000,000 will be available for projects completed within three years and funded on an annual basis, contingent upon future appropriations
- Group III: Up to $5,000,000 will be available for larger projects completed within three years and funded on an annual basis, contingent upon future appropriations

- Domestic Water Supply Projects for Tribes or Disadvantaged Communities: Up to $10,000,000 will be available for the construction of domestic water supply projects for Tribes or disadvantaged communities that do not have reliable access to water supplies and will be completed within three years

The anticipated award date is October 31, 2024.

Matching and Cost-Share

Applicants applying for funding under Tasks A-C must be capable of cost sharing 50 percent or more of the total project costs. Applicants applying for funding through Task D must provide a five percent cost-share of the total project's costs.

Contact Information

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https://www.usbr.gov/drought/

FEDERAL
GRANT PROFILE

Department: U.S. Department of Interior
Agency: Bureau of Reclamation

FY 2024/2025 WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grants

Grant Overview

This program supports projects that result in quantifiable and sustained water savings, implement renewable energy components, and support broader sustainability benefits. Projects will conserve and use water more efficiently, increase the production of renewable energy, mitigate conflict risk in areas at a high risk of future water conflict, and accomplish other benefits that contribute to sustainability in the Western United States. Eligible applicants are states, tribes, irrigation districts, water districts, any state, regional, or local authority whose members include one or more organizations with water or power delivery authority, and other organizations with water or power delivery authority located in the Western United States, as well as nonprofit conservation organizations working in partnership with the entities listed above.

Program History

	Total Funding	# of Awards
2023	$140 million	84

Key Information

Total Funding: Unspecified
Award Range: Varies by funding type
Match: 50 percent
Solicitation date: November 15, 2023
Proposal due: February 22, 2024 (Application Period 1), October 30, 2024 (Application Period 2)

https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/weeg/

Awardee Profile

City of Hemet, CA

AMOUNT: $100,000
YEAR: 2023

This project received funding to implement a rebate program for residential and commercial water users to convert up to 90,000 square feet of turf lawns to drought tolerant landscaping. The project is expected to result in annual water savings of 8 acre feet, which will reduce the city's need to pump groundwater.

Department: U.S. Department of Interior
Agency: Bureau of Reclamation

FY 2024/2025 WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grants

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to support projects that result in quantifiable and sustained water savings, implement renewable energy components, and support broader sustainability benefits. Projects should conserve and use water more efficiently; increase the production of hydropower; mitigate conflict risk in areas at a high risk of future water conflict; enable farmers to make additional on-farm improvements; and accomplish other benefits that contribute to water supply reliability in the western United States. Ultimately, the aim of the funding agency is to stretch and secure water supplies for future generations.

Eligible projects under this program include:

- Water conservation projects: projects that result in quantifiable and sustained water savings or improved water management, including:
    - Canal lining/piping projects that line or pipe canals, resulting in conserved water
    - Municipal metering projects that line or pipe canals, resulting in conserved water
    - Irrigation flow measurement projects that line or pipe canals, resulting in conserved water
    - Supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) and automation projects that line or pipe canals, resulting in conserved water
    - Landscape irrigation measures projects that provide water savings by reducing outdoor water usage. These measures include turf removal, smart irrigation controllers (weather or soil-moisture based) and high-efficiency nozzles (sprinkler heads).
    - High-efficiency indoor appliances and fixtures projects that promote installation of high-efficiency indoor appliances and fixtures to provide water savings for municipal water entities where there is significant potential for replacing existing non-efficient indoor appliances and fixtures
    - Commercial cooling systems projects to retrofit or replace large evaporative cooling units (cooling towers) to reduce consumptive water use and energy, such as conversion to air-cooled units or high-efficiency cooling towers

- Renewable energy projects: projects that increase the use of renewable energy sources in managing and delivering water and/or projects that upgrade existing water management facilities resulting in quantifiable and sustained energy savings. Projects include but are not limited to:
    - Developing new hydropower capacity by installing a new hydropower facility or uprating (i.e., increasing) the capacity of an existing hydropower facility
    - Bringing existing mothballed hydropower capacity back online through facility investment
    - Installing solar-electric, wind energy, or geothermal power systems

Projects that include renewable energy components will typically require additional permitting not needed for water management improvements. Improvement to federal facilities must comply with all additional federal requirements.

This program prioritizes projects that address a specific water and/or energy sustainability concern(s), including enhancing drought resilience, addressing the current and future impacts of climate change, and resolving water related conflicts in the region. Points will be awarded for other project benefits that demonstrate support for the Biden Administration's priorities including combatting the climate crisis, supporting disadvantaged or underserved communities, and providing tribal benefits.

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are classified under two categories.

Category A - applicants include states, tribes, irrigation districts, water districts, any state, regional, or local authority whose members include one or more organizations with water or power delivery authority, and other organizations with water or power delivery authority.

Category B - applicants include nonprofit conservation organizations that are acting in partnership with, and with the agreement of an entity described in Category A.

Applicants must be located in the western U.S., which includes the states and territories of Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico.

Funding

In FY 2024 and FY 2025, an unspecified amount of funding is available to support awards through this program. Reclamation will determine the final amount of funding available based on final FY 2024 and FY 2025 appropriations, as well as funding available under the Bipartisan Infrastructure law in FY 2024 and FY 2025. An estimated 40-50 awards will be available in each application period.

Category A applicants are limited to a total of $5,000,000 in Federal funding per application period while Category B applicants may be considered for multiple awards up to a total of $15,000,000 per application period, if the Category A partners are different for each project selected.

Awards are provided through three separate funding groups:

- Funding Group I: An unspecified amount of funding is available for awards of up to $500,000 in funding with a project period of 2 years.
- Funding Group II: An unspecified amount of funding is available for awards of up to up to $2,000,000 in funding with a project period of 3 years.
- Funding Group III: An unspecified amount of funding is available for awards of up to $5,000,000 in funding with a project period of 3 years.

The anticipated award date for application period one projects is December 31, 2024 and the anticipated award date for application period two projects is October 31, 2025. Proposed projects for Application Period 1 should not have an estimated construction start date that is prior to December 31, 2024. Proposed projects

for Application Period 2 should not have an estimated construction start date that is prior to October 31, 2025.

Matching and Cost-Share

Applicants must be capable of cost sharing 50 percent or more of the total project costs. Cost share may be made through cash, costs contributed by the applicant, or third-party in-kind contributions. Third-party in-kind contributions include the value of non-cash contributions of property or services that benefit the federally assisted project and are contributed by non-Federal third parties, without charge. Applicants from the American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, or the Virgin Islands are not required to provide a match.

Contact Information

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https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/weeg/