Department of Energy (DOE)
Office of State and Community Energy Programs

2023 Funding Opportunity Announcement for Energy Future Grants (EFG) Creating a Community-Led Energy Future

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Expected Timeframe for Award Negotiations:	12/30/2023, 5:00 PM ET

Modifications

All modifications to the FOA are highlighted in the body of the FOA.

Mod. No.	Date	Description of Modification
000001	08/28/2023	The purpose of this modification is to update FOA Section VI.A.i's Criterion 1 from 20% to 40%, to better correspond to the weighting used in the Project Narrative. The Criterion requirements and Project Narrative requirements themselves were not modified.

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I. Overview of Key Information

Agency: U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)

Program Overview: This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) is for the Energy Future Grants (EFG), issued by the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of State and Community Energy Programs (SCEP). In accordance with Congressional direction, DOE will provide financial and technical assistance to support innovative – novel or early action – clean energy planning to benefit disadvantaged communities.[1]

Energy Future Grants provides $37 million total in financial assistance in two phases to advance:

- **Partnerships:** Create multijurisdictional partnerships between local, tribal, and/or state governments, with a goal of at least 3-4 partners per team.
- **Communities:** Develop deployment-focused clean energy plans in the transportation, building, and/or power sectors to meet community needs.
- **Innovation:** Prioritize innovative (novel or early action) approaches that maximize access to affordable clean energy across sectors, markets, and geographies.

Deadlines:

- **September 30, 2023, at 5 p.m. ET:** Full Application due

Funding Overview: DOE will award $37 million in funding in two phases. See Table 2, below.

- Phase 1: $27 million over 12-18 months in this funding opportunity.
  - Around 50 awards of up to $500,000 will be made in Phase 1.

  Phase 2: $10M over 2 years in a future funding opportunity.
  - Successful Phase 1 awardees will compete for awards of up to $1 million.

Eligible Applicants: Entities that may apply to this FOA are local governments, states, territories, and tribes. Applicants are encouraged to partner as multijurisdictional teams and with community-based organizations (CBOs), academia, utilities, and/or non-profit entities.

The following entities are eligible to apply as prime applicants:

- States/territories, local governmental entities, and tribal nations. It is suggested that applicants include at least 3-4 or more of these governmental partners (e.g., a state and three cities in the states, several cities in a region, and a city and multiple tribes, etc.).

[1] Communities are considered disadvantaged if they are in census tracts that meet the thresholds for at least one of the categories of burden (climate change, energy, workforce, water and wastewater, transportation, health, housing, legacy pollution) and are low-income, or are located on land belonging to Federally Recognized Tribes. See: Methodology & data - Climate & Economic Justice Screening Tool (geoplatform.gov)

The following entities are eligible subrecipients:

- Non-profit entities including CBOs.
- Institutions of higher education, including Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Minority Serving Institutions, Hispanic Serving Institutions, tribal colleges, community colleges, and think tanks.
- Local or regional planning organizations.
- Utilities including investor-owned, cooperative/public power, and municipal as well as third-party or independent power providers.
- For-profit entities such as architecture, engineering, or consultants.

Table 1: Eligible Applicants and Partners

Local government*	State*	Tribe*	Community-based organization (CBO)**	Utility***	Academia partner***	Consulting, Business, and Finance***
Local government with defined roles suited to designing and adopting plans.	State agency, office, or program.	All 574 federally recognized tribes .	A nonprofit able to influence decision-making processes to reflect community needs and maximize community strengths.	Investor-owned, municipal, or cooperative utilities, including regional or local grid operators.	University program (academic program, research institution think-tank), or community college.	Entity with localized expertise in engineering, urban planning, logistics, development, including small businesses. Philanthropy organizations, banks, community development finance institutions, etc.

*One entity is designated prime applicant. **CBOs are encouraged as partners and should be included in the team budget. ***Subrecipients. Lead applicants should submit formal letters of support from the partners (team members) as part of their application submission.

Key Benefits and Metrics:

- **Reduced energy burden and poverty**, measured through metrics such as improvement in energy burden from a baseline established prior to project implementation.[2]
- **Increased energy access in disadvantaged communities,** measured by reduction of homes or businesses able to access to affordable, clean electricity in disadvantaged communities.[3]

[2] For more information, see the LEAD Tool | Department of Energy

[3] Census tract meets the thresholds for at least one of the categories of burden (climate change, energy, workforce, water and wastewater, transportation, health, housing, legacy pollution) and are low-income or are located on belonging to Federally Recognized Tribes. See: Methodology & data - Climate & Economic Justice Screening Tool (geoplatform.gov)

- **Increased economic development**, measured in ongoing permanent jobs created in the community, improved wages and benefits, workforce training programs created or maintained, or other economic effects related to clean energy production and distribution.
- **Improved benefit to health public health,** measured through positive changes in metrics such as air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, and water quality.
- **Increased housing affordability,** measured by the housing price-to-income, expenditure-to-income in each community, or other indicators of housing affordability.

Topics and Example Areas of Interest:

Below are project examples. Ideas submitted must define the innovation and benefits to disadvantaged communities.

Topic Area 1: Transportation

- **Overview:** Efforts to reduce the energy intensity or greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector, with a focus on local or regional economic development partnerships that increase equitable infrastructure and/or mobility.
- **Potential Areas of Interest:**
  - Infrastructure: Transit-oriented development, zoning changes, streamlined permitting, or road fix-it-first/repair solutions.
  - Electric vehicles (EVs): Mobility roadmaps, EV-ready building codes, mobile charging stations, EV-friendly rates, pricing, or tariffs.
  - Net zero fuels: Public-private partnerships for production, regional or market-based deployment plans.
  - Fleet strategies: Light, medium, and heavy-duty fleet electrification plans, use of net zero carbon fuels, solutions to address demand charges in partnerships with utilities, or collaborations with ridesharing companies, trucking, transit, freight, and airport fleets.

Topic Area 2: Power Sector

- **Overview:** Scalable innovations in the power sector through distributed energy delivery models, such as microgrids, that emphasize demand flexibility. Expanded use of zero carbon fuels, clean energy siting, or procurement strategies.
- **Potential Areas of Interest:**
  - Electrification: Scaled adoption of electric devices (e.g., water heaters, heat pumps, EVs) that benefit consumers and the power grid.
  - Resource planning: Approaches to ensure local priorities for energy efficiency, storage, and distributed energy are incorporated in utility resource planning.
  - Local planning, siting, and procurement: Permitting or regulatory changes to benefit affordable energy access (e.g., agrivoltaics, brownfields, etc.), and deployment.

Topic Area 3: Buildings

- **Overview:** Innovations in net zero new and existing commercial and residential buildings, including solutions that address the energy burden in affordable housing or improve community facilities. Approaches include building retrofit programs or performance standards to drive outcomes (e.g., resilience, electrification, decarbonization).
- **Potential Areas of Interest:**
  - On-site generation: Plans to scale distributed energy including solar, storage, efficiency, geothermal, or other technologies to reduce emissions and costs.
  - Codes and incentives: New approaches that account for embodied carbon, environment, or other impacts from buildings. Relevant proposals in the housing sector should seek to leverage or align with IRA provisions, including Home Efficiency Rebates and Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates, and identify partnership opportunities with states and utilities.[4]
  - Strategic ideas: Approaches may include retrofits based on building typology, a focus on community assets, (e.g., libraries, schools) or opportunities in manufacturing housing or net zero energy construction.
- **Cross-Cutting Topics:** Applicants are not bound to the topics above, nor to a single area (transportation, power, buildings). Teams are encouraged to propose multi-sector integrated solutions (e.g., deployment of virtual power plants, distribution system upgrades to accommodate zero emission heavy duty EVs).

Table 2: Anticipated Awards in Phase 1 and Phase 2

Governmental Jurisdiction	Number of Awards for Phase 1	Award Size for Phase 1	Period of Performance (Phase 1)	Award Size Phase 2 (down select)	Number of Awards for Phase 2	Period of Performance (Phase 2)
State/Territory	Approximately 10	$500,000	12-18 months	$1,000,000	1-2	12-24 months
Local	Approximately 35	$500,000	12-18 months	$1,000,000	7-8	12-24 months
Tribal	Approximately 5	$500,000	12-18 months	$1,000,000	1-2	12-24 months
Total	**Approximately 50**				**10**	

Cost Share:

- **0% cost share required. Cost share is <u>encouraged</u> to maximize the impact of the projects. However, inclusion (or not) of cost share will <u>not</u> have an impact on review scores.**

[4] See Section II.E.ii. "Opportunities to Leverage Federal Resources" for more details.

II. Funding Opportunity Description

A. Background and Context

SCEP works directly with state and local organizations to accelerate the deployment of clean energy program innovation that catalyzes economic development and creates good jobs, reduces energy costs, and benefits human health through strategies involving a wide range of government, community, business, and other stakeholders.

With nearly $16 billion in grants for states, tribal nations, territories, local governments, school districts, and nonprofits under annual appropriations, Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), SCEP is investing in America through projects that reduce energy costs as well as increase access to clean energy for all Americans.

i. Program Purpose

This FOA supports meaningful clean energy investments in communities. In accordance with Congressional direction, Energy Future Grants (EFG) will provide financial and technical assistance to local government, state, territorial, and/or tribal partnerships to design innovative, multijurisdictional deployment plans that maximize scalable energy affordability.

EFG will provide approximately $27 million in cooperative agreements. Approximately 50 awards of $500,000 are expected.[5] The FOA will support innovative ideas in and across the power, building, and/or transportation sectors by funding deployment-focused strategic plans that benefit disadvantaged communities.

EFG applications will describe: 1) the market, technical, financial, legal, regulatory, or administrative barriers to clean energy deployment addressed, 2) the innovation approach or framework; and 3) how project will speed and scale clean energy deployment at the local, regional and/or state level and in disadvantaged communities. For more information Technical Review Criteria in Section VI.

ii. Strategic Goals

The strategic goals for the EFG FOA are to:

[5] As described in the FOA, total number of awards and the amount of each are estimates and DOE may make adjustments based on the applications received.

1. Establish collaborative and sustainable partnerships between local, tribal, and/or state governments, with a goal of at least 3-4 partners per applicant team.
2. Develop innovative deployment-focused clean energy plans in and across the transportation, power, and/or building sectors.
3. Prioritize plans that result in innovative (novel or early action) program designs that maximize energy affordability and provide other benefits of clean energy including economic development and jobs, housing affordability, health, mobility, and energy access.
4. Ensure all plans have deployment strategies that benefit disadvantaged communities.

B. Topic Areas

This FOA will support local, state, and tribal governments in developing and implementing plans that break new ground in three topic areas: 1) transportation; 2) power sector; and 3) buildings. Awardees are encouraged to think across these sectoral silos and propose multi-sectoral or integrated ideas to improve energy affordability and access and support good jobs and other economic benefits.

i. Topic Area 1 - Transportation

Proposals in this area should include planning approaches for reducing the energy intensity or greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector, with a focus on efforts to advance projects that benefit infrastructure, mobility, and net zero fuels. Innovative actions may include efforts to support on-and-off-road technology adoption and fuel use, including freight and aviation fleets. [6] *Teams should consider including US DOE Clean Cities Coalitions as partners.* [7]

ii. Topic Area 2 - Power Sector

Scalable innovations in the power sector including distributed energy delivery models that emphasize affordability and demand flexibility (e.g., pricing, rates, or tariffs). Other ideas include fuel switching to net zero carbon fuels,

[6] Applicants are encouraged to review deployment of EV infrastructure funding to states and communities by the US Department of Transportation in collaboration with DOE. For more information, see the Joint Office on Transportation and Energy which was created through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) to facilitate collaboration between the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Department of Transportation. https://driveelectric.gov/

[7] https://cleancities.energy.gov/

electrification, microgrids[8], supply chain and/or procurement strategies.[9] that support economic, health, and job benefits in disadvantaged communities. *Teams should consider utilities or regulatory agencies as partners.*

iii. Topic Area 3 - Buildings

Innovative strategies for creating net zero commercial and residential buildings, including opportunities in the multi-family sector or at community facilities. Approaches include the adoption of building engineering, construction, and retrofit programs that account for occupant behavior, technology integration, and procurement of energy efficient material or the wider use of performance standards to drive outcomes (electrification, decarbonization, resilience). *Teams should consider experts in affordable housing or building performance as partners.*

iv. Strategic or Cross-Cutting Projects

Applicants are not bound to a single area above. Any team should feel free to propose innovative ideas across the topics above (e.g., deployment of virtual power plants, distribution system needs to accommodate heavy duty electric vehicles).

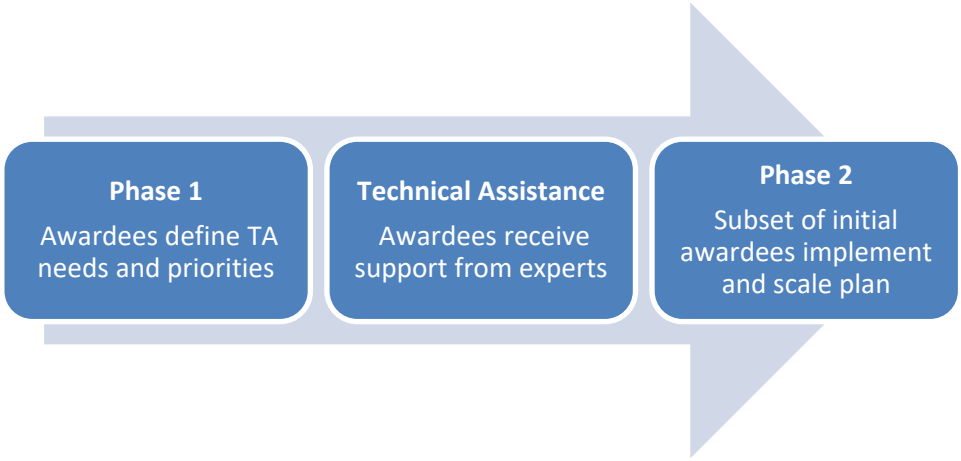
C. Project Implementation

The EFG program will encourage innovation by competitively awarding funds in two phases. This FOA represents the first phase. A second FOA or competitive process is expected via a 'down select', that will fund a subset teams making progress toward developing and/or implementing their clean energy program designs under this FOA, such as prioritizing benefits for disadvantaged communities, and providing clear opportunities for replicating the innovation in other places. The down-select application is a competitive application for an additional budget period.[10] Details on the down-select evaluation criteria are in Section VII.C.

[8] Multiple communities could engage community institutions to create job opportunities in disadvantaged communities for the design, operation and maintenance of a microgrid.

[9] For example, tribes may wish to partner to design solutions to produce and sell tribal carbon-free power to the federal government. The Indian Energy Purchase Preference at Federal Facilities encourages federal purchasing electricity and other energy products from Indian tribes and tribal enterprises.

[10] At the conclusion of the awards DOE anticipates a second round of funding based on near-term progress toward: 1) specified project goals, 2) impacts relative to other awards and 3) potential for the innovation to scale (benefit other jurisdictions nationwide). Additional funding is not guaranteed, and any support will be via a separate application process.



About Phase 1 – Planning Grants
This FOA funds Phase 1. SCEP intends to select approximately 50 teams for Phase 1. SCEP has not pre-determined the number of selections that will be made for Phase 1 and may make fewer selections or none if requirements are not adequately met.

In Phase 1, selected awardees will receive approximately $500,000 for a 12-to-18-month award period to provide design support and ensure engagement is inclusive of all jurisdictions and aligned with the needs of disadvantaged communities. Examples, led by the prime applicant, may include stakeholder engagement meetings, planning workshops, financial or economic analyses, or grid modeling. In addition, ongoing communication within teams is expected. Phase 1 activities will be limited to planning and outreach.

A collective set of success stories will be developed by DOE and awardees in Phase 1 to share progress with other jurisdictions. These high-level documents will highlight goals, barriers, and outcomes serving as a final report.

About Phase 2 – Deployment-Ready Grants
Following the completion of Phase 1, SCEP intends to conduct a competitive process for Phase 2. SCEP may select approximately 10 teams from all Phase 1 teams to receive approximately $1 million in additional funds. SCEP may make fewer selections or none if initial requirements are not adequately met.[11] See Section V.C.

Whereas Phase 1 will fund planning efforts, Phase 2 will allow teams to fund work needed to make plans deployment ready – such as analyses that inform decision-makers or address

[11] Down-select funding for Phase 2 is contingent on (1) the availability of funds appropriated by Congress for the purpose of this program; (2) the availability of future-year budget authority; (3) Recipient's submittal of required reports; (4) Recipient's compliance with the terms and conditions of the Award; (5) Selection by DOE to proceed into the subsequent budget period based on the review criteria listed in Attachment 1, Statement of Project Objectives; and (6) written approval of the down-select application by the Contracting Officer

community-identified issues. Examples include zoning and siting studies for renewable energy in multiple counties or statewide, building engineering studies for affordable housing retrofit work in a city or region, or capacity expansion modeling to inform deployment of EVs across cities.

For those awarded funding in Phase 2, local government team members will be asked to directly engage with national stakeholder organizations, if not already, to help share project success stories.[12] Teams selected for Phase 2 will also be eligible to receive a DOE-sponsored, full-time field fellow to support program implementation. Details will be finalized when selected Phase 2 teams negotiate the Statement of Project Objectives (SOPO) or a similar workplan with DOE.

Phase 2 awardees are expected to start at the same time.

D. Teams

i. Teaming Approach

DOE encourages innovative partnership models that bring together at least 3-4 jurisdictions per team. Applications should identify existing expertise of partners and clearly define how the program innovation will benefit disadvantaged communities.[13]

ii. Teaming Structure and Partners

DOE encourages partners to team up on a single application. **DOE strongly encourages multi-jurisdiction teaming arrangements** that include a wide range of team members including 3-4 local governments working together, multiple local governments and states teaming up, tribes and local governments partnering, or other various arrangements. In addition, each team should ideally involve a community organization. Multijurisdictional teams are included as a program policy factor in Section VI.C. See table below.

Team partners include:

[12] Examples include the African American Mayors Association, US Conference of Mayors, National League of Cities, and the Urban Sustainability Directors Network.

[13] By accepting funds under this award, the prime recipient agrees that none of the funds obligated on the award shall be expended, directly or indirectly, to influence Congressional action on any legislation or appropriation matters pending before Congress, other than to communicate to Members of Congress as described in 18 U.S.C. § 1913.

a. Local governments

Including but not limited to mayors and city managers, economic development and finance agencies, sustainability departments, transportation departments, metropolitan planning organizations, regional planning organizations, and council of governments.

b. State governments

Including but not limited to state legislative staff, governors, and executive agencies (energy, environmental transportation, commerce, economic development). Public utility commissions are also critical to successful plans and should be considered.

c. Tribes

Including all federally recognized tribal governments, as well as tribal colleges and universities.

d. Community-based organizations

Applicants above (states, locals, and tribes) are encouraged to include a community-based organization (CBO) or other local partner such as an academic institution (e.g., Historically Black Colleges and Universities, community colleges, Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs), Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs), tribal colleges, etc.) as part of their team. CBOs are organizations that possess the knowledge, capacity (trained staff), and community connections to address community needs and priorities.

Table: Eligible Applicant Team Members by Entity Type (repeated from above)

Local government*	State*	Tribe*	Community-based organization (CBO)**	Utility***	Academia partner***	Consulting and Finance***
Local government with defined roles suited to designing and adopting a plan.	State agency, office, or program.	All 574 federally recognized tribes.	A nonprofit able to influence decision-making processes to reflect community needs and maximize community strengths.	Investor-owned, municipal, or cooperative utilities, including regional or local grid operators.	University program (academic program, research institution think-tank), or community college.	Entity with localized expertise in engineering, urban planning, logistics, development, including small businesses. Philanthropy organizations, banks, community development finance institutions, etc.

* One entity must be the designated lead or prime applicant. **Community-based organizations are encouraged, but not required, to be included as part of the team and budget. *** Entities cannot apply as a prime and must be a subrecipient of a team. For teaming details, see II.A and VI.C. and Program Policy Factors.

iii. Teaming Partner List

DOE is compiling a "teaming" partner list facilitate widespread participation in this FOA. The Teaming Partner List allows organizations with expertise in project topics to express their interest to potential applicants and to explore potential partnerships.

The Teaming Partner List will be made available on the SCEP Clean Energy Infrastructure Funding Opportunity Exchange under this FOA (DE-FOA-0002870). Any organization that would like to be included on this list should submit the following information to the Teaming List email box Energyfuturegrants@hq.doe.gov with the subject line *"Creating a Community-Led Energy Future":*

- Organization name, generic organization contact email, generic contact phone, organization type, geographical area of interest, area of technical expertise (bulleted list less than 25 words), and brief description of capabilities (less than 100 words).

By submitting a request to be included on the Teaming Partner List, the requesting organization consents to the publication of the above-referenced information. Each organization should provide a generic point of contact e-mail address to receive queries. Direct personal e-mail addresses will not be posted.

By facilitating this Teaming Partner List, SCEP does not endorse or otherwise evaluate the qualifications of the entities that self-identify themselves for placement on the Teaming Partner List.

E. Technical Assistance

Adopting new planning strategies can be a difficult activity when faced with capacity or knowledge restraints. Technical assistance aims to ensure innovative ideas have support through peer sharing, analyses, or other efforts. As such, technical assistance will help teams deliver their plans on time to benefit disadvantaged communities by filling those gaps. Assistance from DOE is viewed as an extension of the teams and will support project goals.[14]

i. Areas of Support

- **Peer-learning cohorts:** Small groups of teams with similar planning needs or strategic goals will meet regularly (e.g., every month) for approximately 6-12 months to learn from each other and selected experts in a collaborative environment. All grantees will be grouped into DOE-led peer cohorts at the solutions workshop. Peer cohorts will help define TA delivery needs and address other issues that arise.
- **Modeling or analytical support:** Individual teams, subject to needs and DOE resources, will receive modeling, analyses, plan design or other support to inform outcomes in the multijurisdictional plan. A grantee team may request support, for example, to add local data into an existing analysis, evaluate proposed community and stakeholder alternatives (e.g., emissions modeling, procurement contracts, and/or cost-benefit analysis).

ii. Opportunities to Leverage Federal Resources

An important consideration for EFG teams is to consider how to access or learn from existing programs across DOE and the federal government. DOE assistance providers will help provide matchmaking in the following areas:

- **Transportation:** Help teams identify and access relevant sustainable transportation opportunities in DOE and across the federal government including the Environmental Protection Agency[15], Department of Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, Department of Commerce, including the Joint Office of Transportation and Energy created to facilitate collaboration between the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Department of Transportation.

- **Power:** Provide information and insight for EFG teams to access DOE grid programs in the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy[16] (EERE),

[14] The term "technical assistance" refers to expertise and resources provided by DOE or on behalf of DOE to awardees. Phase 1 technical assistance will be aligned with community goals for energy affordability equity, affordable housing, air quality, reducing energy cost burden, resilience, and others. TA providers may include: subject matter experts (nonprofits, consultants); third-party facilitators to spur collaboration across sectors; equity providers to ensure community engagement happens; and/or finance experts to help identify and secure long-term project implementation capital.

[15] EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grants provide flexible support to states, local governments, tribes and territories on climate planning. These grants could be aligned with transportation funding across communities to help deploy EFG plans. See: https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/climate-pollution-reduction-grants

[16] DOE EERE's Communities to Communities Program (C2C) which provides in-depth analysis to support technology plans prior to installation. See: https://www.energy.gov/eere/clean-energy-communities-program

the Office of Community Energy Demonstrations (OCED), the Grid Deployment Office (GDO), and the Loan Programs Office (LPO).

- **Buildings:** Help ensure teams access existing building sector efforts in the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants (EECBG)[17], the State Energy Program, the Weatherization Assistance Program, and IRA's Home Efficiency Rebates and Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates, as well as workforce training programs.[18]

F. Applications Specifically Not of Interest

The following types of applications will be deemed nonresponsive and will not be reviewed or considered (See Section IV of the FOA):

- Applications that fall outside the technical parameters specified in Section I of the FOA.
- Applications for proposed technologies that are not based on sound scientific principles (e.g., violates the laws of thermodynamics).
- Applications that do not clearly identify the market barrier and how it will be addressed by a multijurisdictional team.
- Applications focused on emerging technologies.
- Applications focused on technology validation or demonstrations.
- Applications that do not clearly identify the underserved community or communities to be served by the solution being developed.

G. Community Benefits Plan: Job Quality and Equity

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 (1) support community and labor engagement, (2) invest in the American workforce, (3) promote diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA), and (4) contribute to the President's goal that 40% of the overall benefits of certain federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities (the Justice40 Initiative). DOE recognizes that applicants have different levels of capacity and experience related to this kind of community-focused planning and will support FOA awardees to develop and implement robust, locally tailored, and measurable

[17] DOE's EECBG program provides funding or support to over 2,700 states, local and tribal governments. Grantees are encouraged to team up to advance analyses or programs; EFG teams could benefit from such collaboration.
[18] For more information on related workforce development funding opportunities, see the Career Skills Training Program and the Energy Auditor Training Grant Program.

plans. For more information relating to Community Benefits Plans, please reference DOE's Community Benefits Plan page.[19]

Applications must include a Community Benefits Plan (CBP) describing how the project will incorporate these four objectives. CBP milestones and workplan descriptions should be incorporated into the project documents submitted (e.g., schedule, workplan, budget, etc.). Applicants are encouraged to submit Community and Labor Partnership Documentation from established labor and community-based organizations that demonstrate the applicant's ability to achieve the above goals as outlined in the Community Benefits Plan. Within the Community Benefits Plan, the applicant is encouraged to provide specific detail on how to ensure the delivery of measurable community and jobs benefits, (e.g., through the use of tools such as good neighbor agreements, community workforce agreements, project labor agreements, other collective bargaining agreements, or similar agreements (collectively referred as "Workforce and Community Agreements")). See Section VI.A.i. for the Community Benefits Plan content requirements (Criterion 4).

CBP requirements are flexible to allow project teams to respond to needs of communities, workers, and impacted groups. In case of incomplete information, applicants should explain the reason and provide plans to address gaps. The CBP should provide a high-level summary of proposed goals, deliverables, outcomes, and implementation strategies for Phase 1 briefly referencing Phase 2 if possible.

H. Authorizing Statutes

Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (P.L. 117-328).

III. Award Information

A. Estimated Funding

DOE expects to make a total of approximately $27,000,000 of federal funding available for new awards under this FOA, subject to the availability of appropriated funds. DOE anticipates making approximately 50 awards under this FOA. DOE may issue one, multiple, or no awards. Individual awards will be approximately $500,000.

In Phase 1, approximately 50 total awards will be issued. DOE may issue awards in one, multiple, or none of the following topic areas in the table below.

[19] https://www.energy.gov/infrastructure/about-community-benefits-plans

Table: Anticipated Awards in Phase 1 and Phase 2

Governmental Jurisdiction	Number of Awards for Phase 1 (this FOA)	Award Size for Phase 1	Period of Performance (Phase 1)	Award Size Phase 2 (down select, future award)	Number of Awards for Phase 2	Period of Performance (Phase 2)
State/Territory	Approximately 10	$500,000	12-18 months	$1,000,000	1-2	12-24 months
Local	Approximately 35	$500,000	12-18 months	$1,000,000	7-8	12-24 months
Tribal	Approximately 5	$500,000	12-18 months	$1,000,000	1-2	12-24 months
Total	**Approximately 50**				**10**	

i. Period of Performance

DOE anticipates making awards that will run from 12 to 18 months for the initial period, comprised of one budget period. For those selected for phase two (down select), the period of performance will run from 12 to 24 months. Project continuation in both periods will be contingent upon several elements, including satisfactory performance.

ii. New Applications Only

DOE will accept only new applications under this FOA. DOE will not consider applications for renewals of existing DOE-funded awards through this FOA.

iii. DOE Funding Agreements

Through cooperative agreements and other similar agreements, DOE provides financial and other support to projects that have the potential to realize the FOA objectives. DOE does not use such agreements to acquire property or services for the direct benefit or use of the United States government.

iv. Cooperative Agreements

DOE generally uses cooperative agreements to provide financial and other support to prime recipients.

Through cooperative agreements, DOE provides financial or other support to accomplish a public purpose of support or stimulation authorized by federal statute. Under cooperative agreements, the government and prime recipients share responsibility for the direction of projects.

DOE has substantial involvement in all projects funded via a cooperative agreement. See Section VII.B.viii. of the FOA for more information on what substantial involvement may involve.

IV. Eligibility Information

To be considered for substantive evaluation, an applicant's submission must meet the criteria set forth below. If the application does not meet these eligibility requirements, it will be considered ineligible and removed from further evaluation.

A. Eligible Applicants

i. Prime Recipients: local, state, and tribal governments

Prime Recipients and Subrecipients must be legally formed in the United States, have majority domestic ownership and control, and have a physical location for business operations in the United States. The proposed prime recipient and subrecipient(s) must be domestic entities.

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.

The following types of domestic entities are eligible to participate as a prime recipient:

1. State and local governmental entities, and tribal nations (ideally in teams of cities and states, multiple cities-towns, multiple tribes and cites, etc.).

Nonprofit organizations described in Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 that engaged in lobbying activities after December 31, 1995, are **not** eligible to apply for funding.

ii. Subrecipients: Domestic Entities

The proposed subrecipient(s) must be domestic entities. The following types of domestic entities are eligible to participate as a subrecipient of this FOA:

1. State and local governmental entities, and tribal nations. It is suggested that applicants include at least 3-4 governmental partners or more.
2. Non-profit entities including community-based organizations.

3. Institutions of higher education, including Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Minority Serving Institutions, Hispanic Serving Institutions, tribal colleges, community colleges and think tanks.
4. Underserved businesses, including small and disadvantaged businesses, women-owned small businesses, service-disabled and veteran owned small businesses.
5. Local or regional planning organizations.
6. Utilities including investor-owned, cooperative/public power, and municipal as well as third-party or independent power providers.
7. For-profit entities.

iii. Incorporated Consortia

Domestic incorporated consortia are eligible to participate as a subrecipient. For consortia incorporated (or otherwise formed) under the laws of a state or territory of the United States, please refer to "Domestic Entities" above.

Each consortium must have an internal governance structure and a written set of internal rules. Upon request, the consortium must provide a written description of its internal governance structure and its internal rules to the DOE Contracting Officer.

iv. Unincorporated Consortia

Unincorporated Consortia must designate one member of the consortium to serve as the prime recipient/consortium representative. The prime recipient/consortium representative must qualify as a domestic entity.

Upon request, unincorporated consortia must provide the DOE Contracting Officer with a collaboration agreement, commonly referred to as the articles of collaboration, which sets out the rights and responsibilities of each consortium member. This agreement binds the individual consortium members together and should include the consortium's:

- Management structure;
- Method of making payments to consortium members;
- Means of ensuring and overseeing members' efforts on the project;
- Provisions for members' cost sharing contributions (optional); and
- Provisions for ownership and rights in intellectual property developed previously or under the agreement.

If the consortium includes foreign members, the applicant must submit a separate explicit written waiver request in the Full Application for each foreign member. See Appendix A.

B. Cost Sharing

Cost sharing is not required under this FOA. The cost share requirement for this FOA is 0%. Cost share is encouraged to maximize the impact of the projects. However, inclusion (or not) of cost share will not have an impact on review scores. Applicants that wish to submit cost share information should note this in the application.[20]

C. Compliance Criteria

All applicant submissions must:

- Comply with the applicable content and form requirements listed in Section V. of the FOA;
- Include all required documents;
- Be successfully uploaded in the SCEP Clean Energy Infrastructure Funding Opportunity Exchange including clicking the "Submit" button; and
- Be submitted by the deadline stated in the FOA, September 30, 2023.

DOE will not review or consider submissions submitted through means other than the SCEP Infrastructure Exchange, submissions submitted after the applicable deadline, or incomplete submissions.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit their Full Applications at least 48 hours in advance of the submission deadline. Under normal conditions (i.e., at least 48 hours in advance of the submission deadline), applicants should allow at least 1 hour to submit a Full Application. Once the Full Application is submitted in Clean Energy Infrastructure Funding Opportunity Exchange, applicants may revise or update that submission until the expiration of the applicable deadline. If changes are made to any of these documents, the applicant must resubmit Full Application before the applicable deadline. DOE will not extend the submission deadline for applicants that fail to submit required information by the applicable deadline due to server/connection congestion.

[20] Energy Policy Act of 2005, Pub. L. 109-58, sec. 988. Also see 2 CFR 200.306 and 2 CFR 910.130 for cost sharing requirements. Cost sharing is optional. Inclusion (or not) of cost share will not have an impact on review scores.

D. Responsiveness Criteria

All "Applications Specifically Not of Interest," as described in Section I of the FOA, are deemed nonresponsive and are not reviewed or considered.

E. Other Eligibility Requirements

i. Requirements for DOE/NNSA FFRDCs Listed as the Applicant

A DOE/NNSA FFRDC is eligible to apply for funding as a subrecipient only under this FOA if its cognizant Contracting Officer provides written authorization and this authorization is submitted with the application.

The following wording is acceptable for the authorization:

Authorization is granted for the Laboratory to participate in the proposed project. The work proposed for the Laboratory is consistent with or complementary to the missions of the Laboratory and will not adversely impact execution of the DOE assigned programs at the Laboratory.

If a DOE/NNSA FFRDC is selected for award negotiation, the proposed work will be authorized under the DOE work authorization process and performed under the laboratory's Management and Operating (M&O) contract.

F. Limitation on Number of Full Applications Eligible for Review

An entity may only submit one Full Application to this FOA. If an entity submits more than one Full Application, DOE will request a determination from the applicant's authorizing representative as to which application should be reviewed. Any other submissions received listing the same entity as the applicant will not be eligible for further consideration. This limitation does not prohibit an applicant from collaborating on other applications (e.g., as a potential subrecipient or partner) so long as the entity is only listed as the lead applicant on only one Full Application submitted under this FOA.

G. Questions Regarding Eligibility

DOE will not make eligibility determinations for potential applicants prior to the date on which applications to this FOA must be submitted. The decision whether to submit an application in response to this FOA lies solely with the applicant.

V. Application and Submission Information

A. Application Process

The application process includes a single Application phase.

All submissions must conform to the form and content requirements described below, including maximum page lengths.

- Each must be submitted in Adobe PDF format unless stated otherwise;
- Each must be written in English;
- All pages must be formatted to fit on 8.5 x 11 inch paper with margins not less than one inch on every side. Use Calibri typeface, a black font color, and a font size of 12 point or larger (except in figures or tables, which may be 10 point font). A symbol font may be used to insert Greek letters or special characters, but the font size requirement still applies. References must be included as footnotes or endnotes in a font size of 10 or larger. Footnotes and endnotes are counted toward the maximum page requirement;
- A **control number** will be issued when an applicant begins the Clean Energy Infrastructure Funding Opportunity Exchange application process. The control number must be included with all application documents. Specifically, the control number must be prominently displayed on the upper right corner of the header of every page and included in the file name (i.e., *Control Number_Applicant Name_Full Application*);
- Page numbers must be included in the footer of every page; and
- Each submission must not exceed the specified maximum page limit, including cover page, charts, graphs, maps, and photographs when printed using the formatting requirements set forth above and single spaced. If applicants exceed the maximum page lengths indicated below, DOE will review only the authorized number of pages and disregard any additional pages.

i. Additional Information on Clean Energy Infrastructure Funding Opportunity Exchange

The Clean Energy Infrastructure Funding Opportunity Exchange is designed to enforce the deadlines specified in this FOA. The "Apply" and "Submit" buttons will automatically disable at the defined submission deadlines. Should applicants experience problems with Clean Energy Infrastructure Funding Opportunity Exchange, the following information may be helpful.

Applicants that experience issues with submission PRIOR to the FOA deadline: In the event that an applicant experiences technical difficulties with a submission, the applicant should contact the Clean Energy Infrastructure Funding Opportunity Exchange helpdesk for assistance (S3Exchangehelp@hq.doe.gov). The Clean

Energy Infrastructure Funding Opportunity Exchange helpdesk system administrators will assist applicants in resolving issues.

B. Application Forms

The application forms and instructions are available on Clean Energy Infrastructure Funding Opportunity Exchange. To access these materials:

- Clean Energy Infrastructure Funding Opportunity Exchange website at https://infrastructure-exchange.energy.gov (energy.gov) and select the appropriate funding opportunity number.

Note: The maximum file size that can be uploaded to the Clean Energy Infrastructure Funding Opportunity Exchange website is 50 megabytes (MB). Files in excess of 50MB cannot be uploaded, and hence cannot be submitted for review. If a file exceeds 50MB but is still within the maximum page limit specified in the FOA, it must be broken into parts and denoted to that effect. For example:

- **TechnicalVolume_Part_1**
- **TechnicalVolume_Part_2**

DOE will not accept late submissions that resulted from technical difficulties due to uploading files that exceed 50MB.

C. Full Application

Applicants must complete the following application forms found on the Clean Energy Infrastructure Funding Opportunity Exchange website at https://infrastructure-exchange.energy.gov (energy.gov)

The submission deadline for the Full Application remains the date and time stated on the FOA cover page.

All Full Application documents must be marked with the control number issued to the applicant. Each Full Application must be limited to a single concept. Full Applications must conform to the following requirements and must not exceed the stated page limits.

Application Requirements				
Section	**Component**	**File Format**	**Page limit**	**File Name**
i.	Project Narrative	PDF	10	{{ControlNumber}}_{{LeadOrganization}}_ProjectNarrative

ii.	Budget Information (SF-424A)	Excel	N/A	{{ControlNumber}}_{{LeadOrganization}}_SFApp424A
iii.	Letters of Commitment indicating role and contribution of partners.	PDF	1-2 pages each	{{ControlNumber}}_{{LeadOrganization}}_LOCs
iv.	Community Benefits Plan	PDF	12	{{ControlNumber}}_{{LeadOrganization}}_CBBenfits
v.	SF-424: Application for Federal Assistance	PDF	N/A	{{ControlNumber}}_{{LeadOrganization}}_SF424
vi.	Summary/Abstract for Public Release	PDF or MS Word	1	{{ControlNumber}}_{{LeadOrganization}}_Summary
vii.	Summary Slide	MS Powerpoint	1	{{ControlNumber}}_{{LeadOrganization}}_Slide
viii.	SF-LLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities	PDF	N/A	{{ControlNumber}}_{{LeadOrganization}}_ SF-LLL
The following items may be required in the full application, only if applicable				
i	DOE Work Proposal for national lab partner (FFRDC), if applicable (see DOE O 412.1A, Attachment 3)	PDF	N/A	{{ControlNumber}}_{{LeadOrganization}}_WorkProposal
ii.	Authorization from cognizant Contracting Officer for FFRDC, if applicable	PDF	N/A	{{ControlNumber}}_{{LeadOrganization}}_FFRDCAuth
Additional items will be required only if the applicant is selected, including the following				
i.	Statement of Project Objectives	MS Word	4-6 pages	{{ControlNumber}}_{{LeadOrganization}}_SOPO
ii.	Full Budget Justification Workbook	MS Excel	N/A	{{ControlNumber}}_{{LeadOrganization}}_Budget_Justification
iii.	Subrecipient Budget Justification, if applicable	MS Excel	N/A	{{ControlNumber}}_{{SubRecipient}}_Budget_Justification
iv.	Potentially Duplicative Funding Notice, if applicable	PDF	1 page	{{ControlNumber}}_{{LeadOrganization}}_PDFN
vi.	Key Personnel List from Participants and Collaborating Organizations	MS Word	1-2 pages	{{ControlNumber}}_{{LeadOrganization}}_Collaboration
vii.	Rate Proposal	Excel	N/A	{{ControlNumber}}_{{LeadOrganization}}_Rate_Proposal
viii.	Pre-Award Info Sheet	MS Word	1-3 pages	{{ControlNumber}}_{{LeadOrganization}}_Pre-Award Info Sheet

Note: The maximum file size that can be uploaded to the Clean Energy Infrastructure Funding Opportunity Exchange website is 50MB. See Section V.B.

DOE provides detailed guidance on the content and form of each component below. The Project Narrative is limited to 10 pages and a separate Community Benefits Plan. **The table below helps the applicant estimate the length of each e narrative section and how each section roughly aligns with the Technical Merit Criteria (See Section VI.A.).**

Project Narrative (* is priority topic)

Project Narrative Content Requirements	
SECTION/PAGE LIMIT	**DESCRIPTION**
Cover Page <1 page	The cover page should include the: • Control number; • Project title; • Prime applicant organization; • Names and contact information for the lead project manager and business points of contact; • Names of all team member organizations; • Federal budget requested, as divided among prime and sub-recipients, if applicable; and • Any statements regarding confidentiality.

Project Description and Opportunity
(Approximately 20% of the Project Narrative)
1-2 pages (estimate)
See Review Criterion 1
	The Project Overview should contain the following required information:
	• **Partners:** The applicant should briefly list the lead jurisdictions, ideally all jurisdictions (i.e., states, territories, cities, towns, tribes, etc.), CBO partners and others.
	• **Problem/Opportunity:** The applicant should describe problem and proposed innovation:
	  ○ What is the barrier (financial, legal, regulatory, or administrative barrier) or challenge the team is addressing?
	  ○ What is the innovation or solution in brief?
	  ○ How does the solution align with strategic goals for the FOA (Section II.A.ii)?
	• **Existing Support:** The applicant should briefly describe how existing laws, incentives, regulations (e.g., building codes, utility programs, tax credits), as well as available data and prior analyses, provide an adequate foundation for a successful deploy-ready innovation plan.
	• **Innovation:** The applicant should:
	  ○ Show how the idea will achieve the key goals of SCEP and the FOA to improve energy affordability and access.
	  ○ Estimate the number of communities that will benefit, both the team and potential broader impacts.
	  ○ Define measurable benefits or metrics to disadvantaged communities (e.g., economic development, mobility, renewable production, energy savings, health, etc.). *
	• **Scale of Impact:** The applicant should highlight how and where the impacts will accrue, including scalable benefits to disadvantaged communities. Applicants should describe what will be needed long-term evaluation and monitoring of project metrics.*

 **Community Opportunity Profile** (Approximately 20% of the Project Narrative) 2-3 pages (estimate) **See Review Criterion 1 and 2**	The Community Opportunity Profile should contain the following information: • **Partnerships and Letters of Support:** The applicant should describe partnerships outlined in Community Benefits Plan. Applicants should indicate if the main recipient has worked with the partner list before, and if so, describe previous engagements. Applicants should articulate the strategic value and anticipated role of each partner, providing letters of commitment that describe roles, project benefits or impacts. * • **Community Input:** The applicant should include what existing outreach engagement has been developed/conducted to support community goal setting and planning. Applicants should best describe how community stakeholders will be engaged in the planning process. * • **Technical Assistance:** The applicant should describe what technical assistance is needed and what value it adds. (See Section II.E. for a description of the technical assistance and the need it provides).
Community Benefits Plan (Approximately 20% of the Project Narrative) **This will be a Separate Narrative and Review Criterion 4 (see VI.A.i)**	Please see the Community Benefits Plan (see I D. xv) information on metrics development and use. One area to include is: • **Community Benefit:** The applicant shall outline the expected benefits to the project geography (state, community, tribe, U.S. territories) of the proposed project in quantitative and/or qualitative terms. • **Metrics:** The applicant should include proposed metrics to measure how the program will increase affordability and access including expected energy savings, energy efficiency improvements, health benefits, access to good jobs, and/or emissions reductions. **Final metrics will be developed during award negotiation should the applicant be deemed meritorious.**
 **Innovation and Leverage** (Approximately 30% of the Project Narrative) 2-3 pages (estimate) **See Review Criterion 1 and 2**	The details on how proactive project planning supports innovation and impact: • **Innovation Ecosystem:** The applicant should describe their innovation ecosystem and how it supports success. The innovation ecosystem (e.g., small and underutilized business, utilities, consumers, unions, advocates, philanthropy, industry, etc.) is defined as the organizations that will come together and benefit from EFG support. • **Scale:** The applicant should describe how the team and partners will ensure the program leads to impact or scale across jurisdictions. • **Leveraged Funds:** The applicant should identify other resources available to carry out the team's innovation (e.g., utility programs, energy-related performance contracts, public benefit funds, business/industry). The applicant should note whether these funds are currently available, requested but not yet received, or potential opportunities the applicant could pursue.*



Technical Qualifications and Workplan
Project Management Methods and Tools (Approximately 10% of the Project Narrative)

1-2+ pages (estimate)

See Review Criterion 2 and 3

The Technical Qualifications and Workplan should contain the following information:

- **Technical Scope Summary:** The applicant should provide a summary description of the overall work scope and approach to achieve the project objective(s). The applicant should describe the specific expected results of each performance period, including milestones, in the Community Benefits Plan.
- **Workplan and Task Description:** Applicants shall briefly describe the work to be accomplished, milestones and key deliverables will be used to meet the project goal(s). **Deliverables should accurately and effectively convey the progress and positive impact the program will have for disadvantaged communities.** The Workplan is to be structured with a hierarchy of performance period (approximately annual) with tasks and subtasks, which is typical of a standard Workplan for any project. The Workplan shall contain a concise description of the specific activities to be conducted over the life of the project. The description shall be a full explanation and disclosure of the project being proposed (i.e., a statement such as "we will then complete a proprietary process" is unacceptable).
- **Milestones:** The applicant should provide a summary of appropriate milestones throughout the project to demonstrate success. A milestone may be a progress measure (which can be activity based). The applicant should also provide how the milestone will be verified.
- **End of Project Goal:** The applicant should provide a summary of the end of project goal(s).
- **Project Schedule (Gantt Chart or similar):** The applicant should provide a schedule for the entire project, including task and subtask durations, milestones.
- **Project Management:** The applicant should define team's proposed management plan.
- **Team:** The applicant should describe the project team's unique qualifications and expertise, including those of key subrecipients. Applicants shall also describe the time commitment of the key team members to support the project.
- **Leadership Support:** The applicant should describe project buy-in from primary and secondary stakeholders. Applicants can explain how elected officials, community decision-makers and stakeholders will be engaged, including specific plans for elected leadership briefings for DOE at least 2 times per year (required). Letters of support from partners are required (see Community Opportunity Profile).

This section should also include relevant, previous work efforts, demonstrated innovations, and how these enable the applicant to achieve the project objectives. Information to include:

- The roles and the work to be performed by the Project Manager and senior/key personnel at the prime and sub levels;

	• The technical and management aspects of the management plan, including systems and practices, such as financial and project management practices; • How communications will be maintained among project team members; and • Publication arrangements.

Icons align with the Application Review Criteria Section VI.

i. Budget Information

Applicants must complete the Budget Information (SF-424A) spreadsheet, which is available in the Clean Energy Infrastructure Funding Opportunity Exchange attachment under this FOA posting in Exchange. Applicants should consider all costs associated with implementing the project as outlined in the Project Narrative. Save the Budget Information spreadsheet in a single Microsoft Excel file using the following convention listed in the table above.

ii. Letters of Commitment and Cost Share

Cost sharing is not required. Cost share is encouraged to maximize the impact of the projects. However, inclusion (or not) of cost share will not have an impact on review scores.

If a team wishes to do so they may submit letters of commitment from all partners. If applicable, the letter must state if the third party is committed to providing a specific minimum dollar amount or value of in-kind contributions allocated to cost sharing. The following information for each third party contributing to cost sharing should be identified: (1) the name of the organization; (2) the proposed dollar amount to be provided; and (3) the proposed cost sharing type – (cash-or in-kind contributions). Each letter must not exceed 1 page. Save the letters of commitment in a single PDF file.

Letters of support or endorsement for the project from entities that do not have a substantive role in the project are not accepted.

iii. Community Benefits Plan: Job Quality and Equity

The Community Benefits Plan: Job Quality and Equity must set forth the applicant's approach to ensuring that federal investments advance the following four goals: 1) community and labor engagement; 2) investing in the American workforce 3) advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA); and 4) contributing to the Justice40 Initiative.

The sections below set forth the Plan requirements for each of the foregoing goals. At this stage of the application process, the Community Benefits Plans

should indicate the applicant's intention to engage meaningfully with community stakeholders on these goals, including the potential of entering into a formal Workforce and Community Agreement.

Given project complexity and sensitivities, applicants should consider pursuing multiple agreements.

For your convenience, a Community Benefits Plan template is available at: About Community Benefits Plans. Applicants are encouraged to use the template, which is designed to help them complete their specific Plan. If the template is not used, the Plan must address the elements described below, and as outlined in the template.

The applicant's Community Benefits Plan must include at least one Specific, Measurable, Assignable, Realistic and Time-based (SMART) milestone per budget period in order to measure progress on the proposed actions. The Community Benefits Plan will be evaluated as part of the technical review process. If the project is selected, DOE will incorporate the Community Benefits Plan into the award and the recipient will be required to meet the Community Benefits Plan it proposed. During the life of the DOE award, DOE will evaluate the recipient's progress.

The Community Benefits Plan must be submitted in PDF format and must not exceed twelve pages. This Plan must address the technical review criterion titled, "Community Benefits Plan: Job Quality & Equity." See Section VI.A. of the FOA.

Applicants must submit the Community Benefits Plan electronically in a single PDF file.

1. Community and Labor Engagement: The Community Benefits Plan must describe the applicant's actions to date and plans to engage with community partners, such as local and/or tribal governments, labor unions, and community-based organizations that support or work with underserved communities, including disadvantaged communities as defined for purposes of the Justice40 Initiative. By facilitating community input, social buy-in, and accountability, such engagement can substantially reduce or eliminate stalls or slowdowns, litigation, and other risks associated with project implementation.

Community and labor engagement should lay the groundwork for the negotiation of Workforce and Community Agreements, which could take the form of one or more kinds of negotiated agreements with communities, labor unions, or, ideally, both. Registered apprenticeship programs, labor-

management training partnerships, quality pre-apprenticeship programs, card check provisions, and local and targeted hiring goals are all examples of provisions that Workforce and Community Agreements could cover that would increase the success of a DOE-funded project.

Applicants should also provide Community and Labor Partnership Documentation from representative organizations reflecting substantive engagement and feedback on the applicant's approach to community benefits, including job quality and workforce continuity; diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility; and the Justice40 Initiative detailed below.

2. Investing in the American Workforce: A well-qualified workforce is necessary to ensure project stability, continuity, and success, and to meet program goals. Job quality is critical to attracting and retaining the qualified workforce required.

The Plan must describe the applicant's approach to investing in workforce education and training of both new and incumbent workers and ensuring jobs are of sufficient quality to attract and retain skilled workers in the industry.

Specific components of the Plan must include:

A) A summary of the applicant's plan to attract, train, and retain a skilled and well-qualified workforce for both construction and ongoing operations/production activities. A collective bargaining agreement, project labor agreement, labor-management partnership, or other similar agreement would provide evidence of such a plan. Alternatively, applicants may describe:
   i. Wages, benefits, and other worker supports to be provided.
   ii. Commitments to support workforce education and training, including measures to reduce employee turnover costs for employers, increase productivity from a committed and engaged workforce, and promote a nimble, resilient, and stable workforce for the project.
   iii. Efforts to engage employees in the design and execution of workplace safety and health plans.

B) It is declared to be the policy of the United States to eliminate the causes of certain substantial obstructions to the free flow of commerce by encouraging the practice and procedure of collective bargaining and by protecting the exercise by workers of full freedom of association. Applicant should provide a description of how and if they plan to affirmatively support worker organizing and collective bargaining. This

might include a commitment to negotiate pre-hire project labor agreements for construction activity, a pledge to remain neutral during any union organizing campaigns, intention or willingness to permit union recognition through card check (as opposed to requiring union elections), intention or willingness to enter into binding arbitration to settle first contracts, a pledge to allow union organizers access to appropriate onsite non-work places (e.g., lunch rooms), a pledge to refrain from holding captive audience meetings, and other supportive commitments or pledges.

3. DEIA: The Community Benefits Plan must include a section describing how diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) objectives will be incorporated into the project. The section should detail how the applicant will partner with underrepresented businesses, educational institutions, and training organizations that serve workers who face barriers to accessing quality jobs, and/or other project partners to help address DEIA.

The following is a non-exhaustive list of potential DEIA actions that could be included in a Plan. This list is offered to provide guidance to applicants and is not intended to be comprehensive or mandatory.

A) Commitment to partner with Minority Business Enterprises, Minority Owned Businesses, Woman Owned Businesses, and Veteran Owned Businesses for contractor support needs.
B) To fill open positions for the DOE-funded project, partner with workforce training organizations serving under-represented communities and those facing systemic barriers to quality employment such as those with disabilities, returning citizens, opportunity youth, and veterans. To fill open positions for the DOE-funded project, partner with workforce training organizations serving underrepresented communities and those facing systemic barriers to quality employment, such as those with disabilities, women, returning citizens, opportunity youth, and veterans.
C) Provide workers with comprehensive support services, such as childcare and transportation, to increase representation and access in the project's construction and operations jobs.

4. Justice40 Initiative: Applicants must provide an overview of benefits to disadvantaged communities that the project can deliver, supported by measurable milestones.

Specifically, the Justice40 Initiative section must include:

1. *Identification of applicable disadvantaged communities to which the anticipated project benefits will flow*. DOE recognizes disadvantaged communities as defined and identified by the White House Council of Environmental Quality's Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST), which can be located at https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/.

2. *Identification of applicable benefits that are quantifiable, measurable, and trackable, including, at a minimum, a discussion of the relevance of each of the eight DOE Justice40 Initiative benefits outlined below.*

   Benefits include (but are not limited to) measurable direct or indirect investments or positive project outcomes that achieve or contribute to the following in disadvantaged communities: (1) a decrease in energy burden; (2) a decrease in environmental exposure and burdens; (3) an increase in access to low-cost capital; (4) an increase in job creation, the clean energy job pipeline, and job training for individuals; (5) increases in clean energy enterprise creation and contracting (e.g., minority-owned or disadvantaged business enterprises); (6) increases in energy democracy, including community ownership; (7) increased parity in clean energy technology access and adoption; and (8) an increase in energy resilience. In addition, applicants should also discuss how the project will maximize all of the benefits listed in #4.

3. *A description of how and when anticipated benefits are expected to flow to disadvantaged communities.* For example, will the benefits be provided directly within the disadvantaged communities identified in the Justice40 Initiative section, or are the benefits expected to flow in another way? Further, will the benefits flow during project development or after project completion, and how will applicant track benefits delivered?

4. *A discussion of anticipated negative and cumulative environmental impacts on disadvantaged communities*. Are there anticipated negative or positive environmental impacts associated with the project, and how will the applicant mitigate any negative impacts? Within the context of cumulative impacts created by the project, applicants should use Environmental Protection Agency EJSCREEN tool to quantitatively discuss existing environmental impacts in the project area.

   i. For projects funded under this FOA, DOE will provide specific reporting guidance for the benefits described above.

Community Benefits Plan Budget Justification
Applicants must provide a separate budget justification identifying the Community Benefit Plan costs included in the "Budget Justification Workbook." This Community Benefits Plan Budget Justification must include the same justification information described in the "Budget Justification Workbook" section above but should only include Community Benefits Plan costs. Save the Community Benefits Plan Budget Justification in a Microsoft Excel file.

iv. SF-424: Application for Federal Assistance

Complete all required fields in accordance with the instructions on the form. The list of certifications and assurances in Field 21 can be found at http://energy.gov/management/office-management/operational-management/financial-assistance/financial-assistance-forms, under Certifications and Assurances. Note: The dates and dollar amounts on the SF-424 are for the complete project period and not just the first project year, first phase or other subset of the project period. Save the SF-424 in a single PDF file.

v. Summary/Abstract for Public Release

Applicants must submit a one-page summary of their project that is suitable for dissemination to the public. It should be a self-contained document that identifies the name of the applicant, the project director/principal investigator(s), the project title, the objectives of the project, a description of the project, including methods to be employed, the potential impact of the project (e.g., benefits, outcomes), major participants (for collaborative projects), and the project's commitments and goals described in the Community Benefits Plan. This document must not include any proprietary or sensitive business information as DOE may make it available to the public after selections are made. The summary must not exceed 1 page when printed using standard 8.5 x 11 paper with 1" margins (top, bottom, left, and right) with font not smaller than 12 point. Save the Summary for Public Release in a single PDF file.

vi. Summary Slide

Applicants must provide a single slide summarizing the proposed project. The Summary Slide template must include the following information:

- A summary;
- A description of the project's impact;
- Proposed project goals;

- Any key graphics (illustrations, charts and/or tables);
- The project's key idea/takeaway;
- Topline community benefits;
- Project title, prime recipient, Principal Investigator, and senior/key personnel information; and
- Requested DOE funds.

Save the Summary Slide in a single Microsoft Powerpoint file.

vii. SF-LLL: Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (required)

Recipients and subrecipients may not use any federal funds to influence or attempt to influence, directly or indirectly, congressional action on any legislative or appropriation matters.

Recipients and subrecipients are required to complete and submit SF-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities" (https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms/sf-424-individual-family.html) to ensure that non-federal funds have not been paid and will not be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence any of the following in connection with the application:

- An officer or employee of any federal agency;
- A member of Congress;
- An officer or employee of Congress; or
- An employee of a member of Congress.

Save the SF-LLL in a single PDF file.

A. Post Selection Information Requests

If selected for award, DOE reserves the right to request additional or clarifying information regarding the following (non-exhaustive list):

- Personnel proposed to work on the project and collaborating organizations (See Section VI.B.xviii. Participants and Collaborating Organizations);
- A Data Management Plan (if applicable) describing how all research data displayed in publications resulting from the proposed work will be digitally accessible at the time of publications;
- Indirect cost information;
- Other budget information;
- Letters of Commitment from third parties contributing to the project, if applicable;

- Name and phone number of the Designated Responsible Employee for complying with national policies prohibiting discrimination (See 10 CFR 1040.5);
- Information related to Davis-Bacon Act Requirements;
  Information related to any proposed Workforce and Community Agreement, as defined above in "Community Benefits Plan: Job Quality and Equity," that applicants may have made with the relevant community; and
- Any proposed or required Project Labor Agreements.

i. Statement of Project Objectives (SOPO)

If selected for an award, applicants are required to complete a SOPO. A SOPO template is available on Clean Energy Infrastructure Funding Opportunity Exchange at https://infrastructure-exchange.energy.gov/Default.aspx The SOPO, including the Milestone Table, must not exceed 6 pages when printed using standard 8.5 x 11 paper with 1" margins (top, bottom, left, and right) with font not smaller than 12 point (except in figures or tables, which may be 10 point font). Save the SOPO in a single Microsoft Word file.

ii. Full Budget Justification Workbook

Applicants must complete the Budget Justification Workbook, which is available on Clean Energy Infrastructure Funding Opportunity Exchange at https://infrastructure-exchange.energy.gov/Default.aspx. Applicants must complete each tab of the Budget Justification Workbook for the project as a whole, including all work to be performed by the prime recipient and its subrecipients and contractors. Applicants should include costs associated with implementation of the Community Benefits Plan and with required annual audits and incurred cost proposals in their proposed budget documents. The "Instructions and Summary" included with the Budget Justification Workbook will auto-populate as the applicant enters information into the Workbook. Applicants must carefully read the "Instructions and Summary" tab provided within the Budget Justification Workbook. Save the Budget Justification Workbook in a single Microsoft Excel file.

iii. Subrecipient Budget Justification (if applicable)

Applicants must provide a separate budget justification for each subrecipient that is expected to perform work estimated to be more than $250,000 or 25 percent of the total work effort (whichever is less). The budget justification must include

the same justification information described in the "Budget Justification" section above. Save each subrecipient budget justification in a Microsoft Excel file.

iv. Waiver Requests (if applicable)

Foreign Entity Participation
For projects selected under this FOA, as set forth in Section IV., all recipients and subrecipients must qualify as domestic entities.

Foreign Entity Participation
As set forth in Section IV., all recipients must qualify as domestic entities. See Section IV.

Performance of Work in the United States (Foreign Work Waiver)
As set forth in Section V.F.ii, all work for the projects selected under this FOA must be performed in the United States.

v. Definitions:

Foreign Government-Sponsored Talent Recruitment Program – An effort directly or indirectly organized, managed, or funded by a foreign government, or a foreign government instrumentality or entity, to recruit science and technology professionals or students (regardless of citizenship or national origin, or whether having a full-time or part-time position). Some foreign government-sponsored talent recruitment programs operate with the intent to import or otherwise acquire from abroad, sometimes through illicit means, proprietary technology or software, unpublished data and methods, and intellectual property to further the military modernization goals and/or economic goals of a foreign government. Many, but not all, programs aim to incentivize the targeted individual to relocate physically to the foreign state for the above purpose. Some programs allow for or encourage continued employment at United States research facilities or receipt of federal research funds while concurrently working at and/or receiving compensation from a foreign institution, and some direct participants not to disclose their participation to United States entities. Compensation could take many forms including cash, research funding, complimentary foreign travel, honorific titles, career advancement opportunities, promised future compensation, or other types of remuneration or consideration, including in-kind compensation.

Senior/key personnel – An individual who contributes in a substantive, meaningful way to the scientific development or execution of project proposed to be carried out with DOE award.[21]

vi. Potentially Duplicative Funding Notice

If the applicant or project team member has other active awards of federal funds, the applicant must determine whether the activities of those awards potentially overlap with the activities set forth in its application to this FOA. If there is a potential overlap, the applicant must notify DOE in writing of the potential overlap and state how it will ensure any project funds (i.e., federal funds) will not be used for identical cost items under multiple awards. Likewise, for projects that receive funding under this FOA, if a recipient or project team member receives any other award of federal funds for activities that potentially overlap with the activities funded under the DOE award, the recipient must promptly notify DOE in writing of the potential overlap and state whether project funds from any of those other federal awards have been, are being, or are to be used (in whole or in part) for one or more of the identical cost items under the DOE award. If there are identical cost items, the recipient must promptly notify the DOE Contracting Officer in writing of the potential duplication and eliminate any inappropriate duplication of funding.

Save the Potentially Duplicative Funding Notice in a single PDF file.

B. Content and Form of Replies to Reviewers Comments (Optional Submission)

DOE may provide applicants with reviewer comments following the evaluation of all eligible Full Applications. If DOE does provide comments, applicants have a brief opportunity to prepare a short Reply to Reviewer Comments (Reply). The Reply must not exceed three (3) pages. If a Reply is more than three (3) pages in length, DOE will review only the first three (3) pages and disregard any additional pages. Applicants may use the Reply to respond to one or more comments or to supplement their Full Application. The Reply may include text, graphs, charts, or data.

DOE may also choose to post the reviewer comments in Clean Energy Infrastructure Funding Opportunity Exchange. It is the applicant's responsibility to monitor Clean Energy Infrastructure Funding Opportunity Exchange in the event that the expected date changes. The deadline will not be extended for applicants who are unable to

[21] Typically, these individuals have doctoral or other professional degrees, although individuals at the masters or baccalaureate level may be considered senior/key personnel if their involvement meets this definition. Consultants, graduate students, and those with a postdoctoral role also may be considered senior/key personnel if they meet this definition.

timely submit their Reply due to failure to check Clean Energy Infrastructure Funding Opportunity Exchange or relying on the expected date alone. Applicants should anticipate having approximately three (3) business days to submit a Reply.

Applicants are not required to submit a Reply to Reviewer Comments. DOE will review and consider each eligible Full Application, even if no Reply is submitted or if the Reply is found to be ineligible.

C. Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and System for Award Management (SAM)

Each applicant (unless the applicant is an individual or federal awarding agency that is excepted from those requirements under 2 CFR 25.110(b) or (c), or has an exception approved by the federal awarding agency under 2 CFR 25.110(d)) is required to: (1) be registered in the SAM at https://www.sam.gov before submitting its application; (2) provide a valid UEI number in its application; and (3) continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active federal award or an application or plan under consideration by a federal awarding agency. DOE may not make a federal award to an applicant until the applicant has complied with all applicable UEI and SAM requirements and, if an applicant has not fully complied with the requirements by the time DOE is ready to make a federal award, the DOE will determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive a federal award and use that determination as a basis for making a federal award to another applicant.

NOTE: Due to the high demand of UEI requests and SAM registrations, entity legal business name and address validations are taking longer than expected to process. Entities should start the UEI and SAM registration process as soon as possible. If entities have technical difficulties with the UEI validation or SAM registration process they should utilize the **HELP** feature on **SAM.gov**. SAM.gov will work entity service tickets in the order in which they are received and asks that entities not create multiple service tickets for the same request or technical issue. Additional entity validation resources can be found here: **GSAFSD Tier 0 Knowledge Base - Validating your Entity**

D. Submission Dates and Times

All required submissions must be submitted in Clean Energy Infrastructure Funding Opportunity Exchange no later than 5 p.m. ET on the dates provided on the cover page of this FOA.

E. Intergovernmental Review

Technology Office Subject to Executive Order 12372
This FOA is subject to Executive Order 12372 (Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs) and the regulations at 10 CFR Part 1005.

One of the objectives of the Executive Order is to foster an intergovernmental partnership and a strengthened federalism. The Executive Order relies on processes developed by state and local governments for coordination and review of proposed federal financial assistance.

Applicants should contact the appropriate State Single Point of Contact (SPOC) to find out about, and comply with, the state's processes under Executive Order 12372. The deadline for Intergovernmental Review was February 15, 2023.

F. Funding Restrictions

i. Allowable Costs

All expenditures must be allowable, allocable, and reasonable in accordance with the applicable federal cost principles. Pursuant to 2 CFR 910.352, the cost principles in the Federal Acquisition Regulations (48 CFR 31.2) apply to for-profit entities. The cost principles contained in 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart E apply to all entities other than for-profits.

ii. Pre-Award Costs

Applicants selected for award negotiations (selectee) must request prior written approval to charge pre-award costs. Pre-award costs are those incurred prior to the effective date of the federal award directly pursuant to the negotiation and in anticipation of the federal award where such costs are necessary for efficient and timely performance of the scope of work. Such costs are allowable only to the extent that they would have been allowable if incurred after the date of the federal award and **only** with the written approval of the federal awarding agency, through the DOE Contracting Officer.

Pre-award costs cannot be incurred prior to the Selection Official signing the Selection Statement and Analysis.

Pre-award expenditures are made at the selectee's risk. DOE not obligated to reimburse costs: (1) in the absence of appropriations; (2) if an award is not made; or (3) if an award is made for a lesser amount than the selectee anticipated.

1. **National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Requirements Related to Pre-Award Costs**
   DOE's decision whether and how to distribute federal funds under this FOA is subject to NEPA. Applicants should carefully consider and should seek legal counsel or other expert advice before taking any action related to the proposed project that would have an adverse effect on the environment or limit the choice of reasonable alternatives prior to DOE completing the NEPA review process.

DOE does not guarantee or assume any obligation to reimburse pre-award costs incurred prior to receiving written authorization from the Contracting Officer. If the applicant elects to undertake activities that DOE determines may have an adverse effect on the environment or limit the choice of reasonable alternatives prior to receiving such written authorization from the Contracting Officer, the applicant is doing so at risk of not receiving federal funding for their project. Nothing contained in the pre-award cost reimbursement regulations or any pre-award costs approval letter from the Contracting Officer override the requirement to obtain the written authorization from the Contracting Officer prior to taking any action that may have an adverse effect on the environment or limit the choice of reasonable alternatives. Likewise, if an application is selected for negotiation of award, and the prime recipient elects to undertake activities that are not authorized for federal funding by the Contracting Officer in advance of DOE completing a NEPA review, the prime recipient is doing so at risk of not receiving federal funding.

iii. Performance of Work in the United States (Foreign Work Waiver)

a. **Requirement:** All work performed under awards issued under this FOA must be performed in the United States. The prime recipient must flow down this requirement to its subrecipients.

b. **Failure to Comply:** If the prime recipient fails to comply with the Performance of Work in the United States requirement, DOE may deny reimbursement for the work conducted outside the United States. The prime recipient is responsible should any work under this award be performed outside the United States, absent a waiver, regardless of whether the work is performed by the prime recipient, subrecipients, contractors or other project partners.

iv. Construction

Recipients are required to obtain written authorization from the Contracting Officer before incurring any major construction costs.

DOE strongly encourages the use of project labor agreements (PLAs) in connection with construction projects. A PLA is a pre-hire agreement between a private entity (or entities) and a labor organization (or organizations) representing individuals who will be working on the construction project. Applicants that commit to using best-practice project labor agreements will generally be likely to produce a construction workforce plan that meets the criteria in this FOA. By contrast, applicants that do not commit to using a PLA will be required to submit workforce continuity plans and show that they have taken other measures to reduce the risk of delays in project delivery.

For large construction projects, DOE may require a PLA. Assessment of applicability will be conducted on a case-by-case basis.

v. Foreign Travel

Foreign travel costs are not allowable under this FOA.

vi. Equipment and Supplies

Property disposition may be required at the end of a project if the current fair market value of property exceeds $5,000. For-profit entity disposition requirements are set forth at 2 CFR 910.360. Property disposition requirements for other non-federal entities are set forth in 2 CFR 200.310 – 200.316.

vii. Buy America Requirements for Infrastructure Projects

Federally assisted projects which involve infrastructure work, undertaken by applicable recipient types, require that:

- All iron, steel, and manufactured products used in the infrastructure work are produced in the United States; and
- All construction materials used in the infrastructure work are manufactured in the United States.

Whether a given project must apply this requirement is project-specific and dependent on several factors, such as the recipient's entity type, whether the work involves "infrastructure," as that term is defined in Section 70914 of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and whether the infrastructure in question is publicly owned or serves a public function.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to consult Appendix D of this FOA to determine whether their project may have to apply this requirement, both to make an early determination as to the need of a waiver, as well as to determine what impact, if any, this requirement may have on the proposed project's budget.

vii. Davis-Bacon Act Requirements

Projects awarded under this FOA will be funded under Division D of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Accordingly, per Section 41101 of that law, all laborers and mechanics employed by the recipient, subrecipients, contractors, or subcontractors in the performance of construction, alteration, or repair work funded in whole or in part under this FOA shall be paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing on similar projects in the locality, as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code commonly referred to as the "Davis-Bacon Act" (DBA).

Applicants shall provide written assurance acknowledging the DBA requirements above, and confirming that the laborers and mechanics performing construction, alteration, or repair work on projects funded in whole or in part by awards made as a result of this FOA are paid or will be paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing on projects of a character similar in the locality as determined by subchapter IV of Chapter 31 of Title 40, United States Code (Davis-Bacon Act).

Applicants acknowledge that they will comply with all of the Davis-Bacon Act requirements, including but not limited to:

(1) Ensuring that the wage determination(s) and appropriate Davis-Bacon clauses and requirements are flowed down to and incorporated into any applicable subcontracts or subrecipient awards.

(2) Ensuring that if wage determination(s) and appropriate Davis-Bacon clauses and requirements are improperly omitted from contracts and subrecipient awards, the applicable wage determination(s) and clauses are retroactively incorporated to the start of performance.

(3) Being responsible for compliance by any subcontractor or subrecipient with the Davis-Bacon labor standards.

(4) Receiving and reviewing certified weekly payrolls submitted by all subcontractors and subrecipients for accuracy and to identify potential compliance issues.

(5) Maintaining original certified weekly payrolls for 3 years after the completion of the project and must make those payrolls available to the DOE or the United States Department of Labor ("DOL") upon request, as required by 29 CFR 5.6(a)(2).

(6) Conducting payroll and job-site reviews for construction work, including interviews with employees, with such frequency as may be necessary to assure compliance by its subcontractors and subrecipients and as requested or directed by the DOE.

(7) Cooperating with any authorized representative of the DOL in their inspection of records, interviews with employees, and other actions undertaken as part of a DOL investigation.

(8) Posting in a prominent and accessible place the wage determination(s) and DOL Publication: WH-1321, Notice to Employees Working on Federal or Federally Assisted Construction Projects.

(9) Notifying the Contracting Officer of all labor standards issues, including all complaints regarding incorrect payment of prevailing wages and/or fringe benefits, received from the recipient, subrecipient, contractor, or subcontractor employees; significant labor standards violations, as defined in 29 CFR 5.7; disputes concerning labor standards pursuant to 29 CFR Parts 4, 6, and 8 and as defined in FAR 52.222-14; disputed labor standards determinations; DOL investigations; or legal or judicial proceedings related to the labor standards under this Contract, a subcontract, or subrecipient award.

(10) Preparing and submitting to the Contracting Officer, the Office of Management and Budget Control Number 1910-5165, Davis Bacon Semi-Annual Labor Compliance Report, by April 21 and October 21 of each year. Form submittal will be administered through the iBenefits system (https://doeibenefits2.energy.gov), its successor system, or other manner of compliance as directed by the Contracting Officer.

Recipients of funding under this FOA will also be required to undergo Davis-Bacon Act compliance training and to maintain competency in Davis-Bacon Act compliance. The Contracting Officer will notify the recipient of any DOE sponsored Davis-Bacon Act compliance trainings. The DOL offers free Prevailing Wage Seminars several times a year that meet this requirement, at https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/government-contracts/construction/seminars/events.

For additional guidance on how to comply with the Davis-Bacon provisions and clauses, see https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/government-contracts/construction and https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/government-contracts/protections-for-workers-in-construction.

viii. Lobbying

Recipients and subrecipients may not use any federal funds to influence or attempt to influence, directly or indirectly, congressional action on any legislative or appropriation matters.

Recipients and subrecipients are required to complete and submit SF-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities" (https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms/sf-424-individual-family.html) to ensure that non-federal funds have not been paid and will not be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence any of the following in connection with the application:

- An officer or employee of any federal agency;
- A Member of Congress;
- An officer or employee of Congress; or
- An employee of a Member of Congress.

ix. Risk Assessment

Pursuant to 2 CFR 200.206, DOE will conduct an additional review of the risk posed by applications submitted under this FOA. Such risk assessment will consider:

1. Financial stability;
2. Quality of management systems and ability to meet the management standards prescribed in 2 CFR 200 as amended and adopted by 2 CFR 910;
3. History of performance;
4. Audit reports and findings;
5. The applicant's ability to effectively understand the impact of statutory, regulatory, or other requirements imposed on non-federal entities; and
6. Possible threats to United States research, technology, and economic security from undue foreign government influence.

DOE may make use of other publicly available information and the history of an applicant's performance under DOE or other federal agency awards.

Depending on the severity of the findings and whether the findings were resolved, DOE may elect not to fund the applicant.

In addition to this review, DOE must comply with the guidelines on government-wide suspension and debarment in 2 CFR Part 180, and must require non-federal entities to comply with these provisions. These provisions restrict federal awards, subawards and contracts with certain parties that are debarred, suspended, or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation in federal programs or activities.

Further, as DOE funds critical and emerging technology areas, DOE also considers possible vectors of undue foreign influence in evaluating risk. If high risks are identified and cannot be sufficiently mitigated, DOE may elect to not fund the applicant.

x. Invoice Review and Approval

DOE employs a risk-based approach to determine the level of supporting documentation required for approving invoice payments. Recipients may be required to provide some or all of the following items with their requests for reimbursement:

- Summary of costs by cost categories;
- Timesheets or personnel hours report;
- Proof of compliance with Davis-Bacon and electronic submittals of certified payroll reports;
- Invoices/receipts for all travel, equipment, supplies, contractual, and other costs;
- UCC filing proof for equipment acquired with project funds by for-profit recipients and subrecipients;
- Analogous information for some subrecipients; and
- Other items as required by DOE, such as potential reporting on Justice40.

VI. Application Review Information

A. Technical Review Criteria

i. Full Applications

Applications will be evaluated against the technical review criteria shown below. All sub-criteria are of equal weight. Icons (images) align with the Project Narrative Table V.C.i.



Criterion 1: Opportunity for Innovation and Impact (40%)

This criterion involves consideration of the following factors:

Merit and Innovation

- Extent to which the application specifically and convincingly demonstrates how the applicant will move business-as-usual activities towards the proposed advancement of ambitious energy program design that benefits disadvantaged communities as outlined in Criterion 4 (Community Benefits Plan);
- Engagement efforts to benefit underutilized businesses, including small and disadvantaged businesses, women-owned small businesses, service-disabled veteran owned small businesses and others;
- Extent to which the project identifies key stakeholders in the marketplace (e.g., local governments, utilities, state regulatory agencies, and third party administrators;
- Extent to which project has buy-in from needed stakeholders to ensure success of the project solutions and goal, or if not, describes how partnerships will be successfully created or expanded through engagement in the project; and
- Addresses a legal, regulatory, or administrative barrier to energy affordability and access in the selected topic area which can include economic development, resilience, health, equity, or others aligned with community priorities.

Impact

- Extent the application describes how planning optimization will leverage DOE funds from existing programs including DOE, federal, public, philanthropic, and others;
- Extent the application demonstrates the ability to maximize energy affordability and the economic development, resilience, health, equity, and/or other benefits of clean energy;
- Extent the project integrates and coordinates with existing state or broader geographical regional planning efforts (e.g., Intermountain West) in the utility, environmental, reliability, resiliency, energy assurance, and economic development arenas; with the intention to build off those efforts, including incorporating lessons learned; and

- Showcases the ability to access and benefit from DOE technical assistance to help ensure the deployment plan is adopted by other local governments.

Criterion 2: Project Implementation and Workplan (10%)
This criterion involves consideration of the following factors:

Project Approach and Workplan

- Workplan contains clear, detailed, timely, and reasonable goals, metrics, task descriptions, implementation strategies, schedules, budgets, and deliverables.

Baseline, Metrics, and Deliverables

- Relative to a clearly defined project baseline, the strength of the quantifiable metrics, milestones, and a mid-point deliverable are defined in the application, such that meaningful interim progress will be made; and
- Adequacy of proposed project management systems including the ability to track scope, cost, and schedule progress and changes.

Criterion 3: Partner Team and Resources (20%)
This criterion involves consideration of the following factors:

- Political or institutional support the team lead has in place (innovation ecosystem) and how it will ensure follow through in the design and adoptions of the effort, including engagement with DOE and local or state elected officials;
- Clarity, adequacy, and completeness of roles and contributions of each team member in development of the project, and a brief description of their relevant expertise;
- A demonstrated understanding of project implementation through past development of previous projects similar in nature by the applicant and/or project partners; and
- The reasonableness of the budget and spend plan for the proposed project and objectives.

Criterion 4: Community Benefits Plan: Job Quality and Equity (30%)
This criterion involves consideration of the following factors:

Overall Approach

- The extent to which the applicant's Community Benefits Plan illustrates project viability and social risk mitigation through community and labor engagement; investment in the American workforce; diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility, and "Justice 40 Initiative" benefits to disadvantaged communities; and
- The extent the actions outlined in the Community Benefits Plan are supported by existing Workforce and Community Agreements (e.g., good neighbor agreements, workforce agreements, project labor agreements, collective bargaining agreements, and similar agreements).

Community and Labor Engagement

- Extent to which the applicant demonstrates community and labor engagement to date and/or a clear and appropriately robust plan to engage local stakeholders, including labor unions and community-based organizations that support or work with disadvantaged communities.

Job Quality and Workforce Continuity

- Extent to which Community Benefits Plan demonstrates that the jobs supported by the proposed project will be quality jobs and provides a robust and credible plan to attract, train, and retain skilled workers. The bullets include examples of how this could be demonstrated via:
    - Collective bargaining agreement, project labor agreement, labor management partnership, labor peace or labor neutrality agreement, or similar agreement or commitment to workers' free and fair choice to join a union or labor organization of their choosing; and
    - A commitment to invest in workforce education and training for local workers, support workers' skill acquisition and opportunities for advancement, and utilize an appropriately credentialed workforce.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility

- Extent to which the Community Benefits Plan includes specific and high-quality actions to meet DEIA goals, which may include DEIA recruitment procedures; partnerships with workforce training or support organizations serving workers facing systematic barriers to employment; and other DEIA commitments; and
- Quality of any partnerships and agreements with apprenticeship readiness programs, or community-based workforce training and support organizations serving workers facing systematic barriers to employment to facilitate participation in the project's construction and operations.

Justice40 Initiative

- Extent to which the Community Benefits Plan identifies specific, measurable benefits for disadvantaged communities, how the benefits will flow to disadvantaged communities, and how negative environmental impacts affecting disadvantaged communities would be mitigated; and
- Extent to which the project would contribute to meeting the objective that 40% of the benefits of climate and clean energy investments will flow to disadvantaged communities.

ii. Criteria for Replies to Reviewer Comments

DOE may choose to request replies to review comments. DOE has not established separate criteria to evaluate Replies to Reviewer Comments. Instead, replies to Reviewer Comments will be evaluated as an extension of the Full Application.

B. Standards for Application Evaluation

Applications that are determined to be eligible will be evaluated in accordance with this FOA, by the standards set forth in EERE's Notice of Objective Merit Review Procedure (76 Fed. Reg. 17846, March 31, 2011) and the guidance provided in the "DOE Merit Review Guide for Financial Assistance," effective September 2020, which is available at: https://energy.gov/management/downloads/merit-review-guide-financial-assistance-and-unsolicited-proposals-current.

C. Other Selection Factors

i. Program Policy Factors

In addition to the above criteria, the Selection Official may consider the following program policy factors in determining which Full Applications to select for award negotiations:

- The number of jurisdictions teaming up, including state, local and or tribal governments and population(s) impacted.
- The degree to which the proposed project includes a range of partners, including community organizations, and collectively represents diverse types and sizes of applicant organizations.
- The degree to which the proposed project applies a new approach or tool (e.g., augmented reality, visualization) to address a market or administrative barrier.
- The demonstrated ability to accelerate and scale new policies.
- The degree to which the proposed project aligns with other federal, philanthropic or programs to achieve objectives.
- The degree to which the proposed project is using or interested in accessing federal programs that support planning and programmatic objectives.
- The degree to which the proposed project exhibits geographic diversity when compared to the existing DOE project portfolio and other projects selected from the subject FOA.
- The degree to which the proposed project, when compared to the existing DOE project portfolio and other projects to be selected from the subject FOA, contributes to the total portfolio meeting the goals reflected in the Community Benefits Plan criteria.
- The degree to which the proposed project incorporates applicant or team members from Minority Serving Institutions (e.g., Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)/Other Minority Serving Institutions); and partnerships with historically underutilized businesses, Minority Business Enterprises, Minority Owned Businesses, Woman Owned Businesses, Veteran Owned Businesses, community businesses, and/ or tribal nations.

- The degree to which the proposed project avoids duplication/overlap with other publicly or privately funded work.
- Extent to which the project discusses and demonstrates strong understanding of the key barriers or risks to achieving project goals and the strategies to overcome them.

D. Evaluation and Selection Process

i. Overview

The evaluation process consists of multiple phases; each includes an initial eligibility review and a thorough technical review. Rigorous technical reviews of eligible submissions are conducted by reviewers that are experts in the subject matter of the FOA. Ultimately, the Selection Official considers the recommendations of the reviewers, along with other considerations such as program policy factors, in determining which applications to select.

ii. Pre-Selection Interviews

As part of the evaluation and selection process, DOE may invite one or more applicants to participate in pre-selection interviews. Pre-selection interviews are distinct from and more formal than pre-selection clarifications (See Section V.D.iii. of the FOA). The invited applicant(s) will meet with DOE representatives to provide clarification on the contents of the Full Applications and to provide DOE an opportunity to ask questions regarding the proposed project. The information provided by applicants to DOE through pre-selection interviews contributes to DOE's selection decisions.

DOE will arrange to meet with the invited applicants in person at DOE's offices or a mutually agreed upon location. DOE may also arrange site visits at certain applicants' facilities. In the alternative, DOE may invite certain applicants to participate in a one-on-one conference with DOE via webinar, videoconference, or conference call.

DOE will not reimburse applicants for travel and other expenses relating to the pre-selection interviews, nor will these costs be eligible for reimbursement as pre-award costs.

Participation in pre-selection interviews with DOE does not signify that applicants have been selected for award negotiations.

iii. Pre-Selection Clarification

DOE may determine that pre-selection clarifications are necessary from one or more applicants. Pre-selection clarifications are distinct from and less formal than pre-selection interviews. These pre-selection clarifications will solely be for the purposes of clarifying the application. The pre-selection clarifications may occur before, during or after the merit review evaluation process. Information provided by an applicant that is not necessary to address the pre-selection clarification question will not be reviewed or considered. Typically, a pre-selection clarification will be carried out through either written responses to DOE's written clarification questions or video or conference calls with DOE representatives.

The information provided by applicants to DOE through pre-selection clarifications is incorporated in their applications and contributes to the merit review evaluation and DOE's selection decisions. If DOE contacts an applicant for pre-selection clarification purposes, it does not signify that the applicant has been selected for negotiation of award or that the applicant is among the top ranked applications.

DOE will not reimburse applicants for expenses relating to the pre-selection clarifications, nor will these costs be eligible for reimbursement as pre-award costs.

iv. Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters

DOE, prior to making a federal award with a total amount of federal share greater than the simplified acquisition threshold, is required to review and consider any information about the applicant that is in the designated integrity and performance system accessible through SAM (currently FAPIIS) (see 41 U.S.C. § 2313).

The applicant, at its option, may review information in the designated integrity and performance systems accessible through SAM and comment on any information about itself that a federal awarding agency previously entered and is currently in the designated integrity and performance system accessible through SAM.

DOE will consider any written comments by the applicant, in addition to the other information in the designated integrity and performance system, in making a judgment about the applicant's integrity, business ethics, and record of performance under federal awards when completing the review of risk posed by applicants as described in 2 CFR 200.206.

v. Selection

The Selection Official may consider the technical merit, the Federal Consensus Board's recommendations, program policy factors, and the amount of funds available in arriving at selections for this FOA.

E. Anticipated Notice of Selection and Award Negotiation Dates

SCEP anticipates notifying applicants selected for negotiation of award and negotiating awards by the dates provided on the cover page of this FOA.

VII. Award Administration Information

A. Award Notices

i. Ineligible Submissions

Ineligible Full Applications will not be further reviewed or considered for award. The Contracting Officer will send a notification letter by email to the technical and administrative points of contact designated by the applicant in Clean Energy Infrastructure Funding Opportunity Exchange. The notification letter will state the basis upon which the Full Application is ineligible and not considered for further review.

ii. Full Application Notifications

DOE will notify applicants of its determination via a notification letter by email to the technical and administrative points of contact designated by the applicant in Clean Energy Infrastructure Funding Opportunity Exchange. The notification letter will inform the applicant whether its Full Application was selected for award negotiations. Alternatively, DOE may notify one or more applicants that a final selection determination on particular Full Applications will be made at a later date, subject to the availability of funds or other factors.

iii. Successful Applicants

Receipt of a notification letter selecting a Full Application for award negotiations does not authorize the applicant to commence performance of the project. If an application is selected for award negotiations, it is not a commitment by DOE to issue an award. Applicants do not receive an award until award negotiations are complete and the Contracting Officer executes the funding agreement, accessible by the prime recipient in FedConnect.

The award negotiation process will take approximately 60 days. Applicants must designate a primary and a backup point-of-contact in SCEP Exchange with whom DOE will communicate to conduct award negotiations. The applicant must be

responsive during award negotiations (i.e., provide requested documentation) and meet the negotiation deadlines. If the applicant fails to do so or if award negotiations are otherwise unsuccessful, DOE will cancel the award negotiations and rescind the Selection. DOE reserves the right to terminate award negotiations at any time for any reason.

Please refer to Section V.F.ii. of the FOA for guidance on pre-award costs.

iv. Alternate Selection Determinations

In some instances, an applicant may receive a notification that its application was not selected for award and DOE designated the application to be an alternate. As an alternate, DOE may consider the Full Application for federal funding in the future. A notification letter stating the Full Application is designated as an alternate does not authorize the applicant to commence performance of the project. DOE may ultimately determine to select or not select the Full Application for award negotiations.

v. Unsuccessful Applicants

DOE shall promptly notify in writing each applicant whose application has not been selected for award or whose application cannot be funded because of the unavailability of appropriated funds.

B. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

i. Registration Requirements

There are several one-time actions before submitting an application in response to this FOA, and it is vital that applicants address these items as soon as possible. Some may take several weeks, and failure to complete them could interfere with an applicant's ability to apply to this FOA, or to meet the negotiation deadlines and receive an award if the application is selected. These requirements are as follows:

1. **SCEP Exchange**
   Register and create an account in the Infrastructure Exchange at https://infrastructure-exchange.energy.gov/Login.aspx. This account will allow the user to apply to any open SCEP FOAs that are currently in the Infrastructure Exchange.

   It is recommended that each organization or business unit, whether acting as a team or a single entity, use only one account as the contact point for each submission. Applicants should also designate backup

points of contact so they may be easily contacted if deemed necessary. **This step is required to apply to this FOA.** The SCEP Exchange registration does not have a delay; however, **the remaining registration requirements below could take several weeks to process and are necessary for a potential applicant to receive an award under this FOA.**

2. **System for Award Management**
   Register with the SAM at https://www.sam.gov. Designating an Electronic Business Point of Contact (EBiz POC) and obtaining a special password called a Marketing Partner ID Number (MPIN) are important steps in SAM registration. Please update your SAM registration annually.

3. **FedConnect**
   Register in FedConnect at https://www.fedconnect.net. To create an organization account, your organization's SAM MPIN is required. For more information about the SAM MPIN or other registration requirements, review the FedConnect Ready, Set, Go! Guide at https://www.fedconnect.net/FedConnect/Marketing/Documents/FedConnect_Ready_Set_Go.pdf.

4. **Grants.gov**
   Register in Grants.gov (http://www.grants.gov) to receive automatic updates when Amendments to this FOA are posted. However, please note that Full Applications will not be accepted through Grants.gov.

5. **Electronic Authorization of Applications and Award Documents**
   Submission of an application and supplemental information under this FOA through electronic systems used by the DOE, including SCEP Exchange and FedConnect.net, constitutes the authorized representative's approval and electronic signature.

ii. Award Administrative Requirements

The administrative requirements for DOE grants and cooperative agreements are contained in 2 CFR Part 200 as amended by 2 CFR Part 910.

iii. Subaward and Executive Reporting

Additional administrative requirements necessary for DOE grants and cooperative agreements to comply with the Federal Funding and Transparency Act of 2006 (FFATA) are contained in 2 CFR Part 170. Prime recipients must register with the new FFATA Subaward Reporting System database and report the required data on

their first phase subrecipients. Prime recipients must report the executive compensation for their own executives as part of their registration profile in SAM.

iv. National Policy Requirements

The National Policy Assurances that are incorporated as a term and condition of award are located at: http://www.nsf.gov/awards/managing/rtc.jsp.

v. Environmental Review in Accordance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

DOE's decision whether and how to distribute federal funds under this FOA is subject to NEPA (42 U.S.C. § 4321, *et seq.*). NEPA requires federal agencies to integrate environmental values into their decision-making processes by considering the potential environmental impacts of their proposed actions. For additional background on NEPA, please see DOE's NEPA website, at https://www.energy.gov/nepa.

While NEPA compliance is a federal agency responsibility and the ultimate decisions remain with the federal agency, all recipients selected for an award will be required to assist in the timely and effective completion of the NEPA process in the manner most pertinent to their proposed project. If DOE determines certain records must be prepared to complete the NEPA review process (e.g., biological evaluations or environmental assessments), the recipient may be required to prepare the records and the costs to prepare the necessary records may be included as part of the project costs.

vi. Applicant Representations and Certifications

1. **Lobbying Restrictions**
   By accepting funds under this award, the prime recipient agrees that none of the funds obligated on the award shall be expended, directly or indirectly, to influence Congressional action on any legislation or appropriation matters pending before Congress, other than to communicate to Members of Congress as described in 18 U.S.C. § 1913. This restriction is in addition to those prescribed elsewhere in statute and regulation. [22]

2. **Corporate Felony Conviction and Federal Tax Liability Repr**esentations

[22] https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?req=granuleid:USC-prelim-title18-section1913&num=0&edition=prelim

In submitting an application in response to this FOA, the applicant represents that:

a. It is **not** a corporation that has been convicted of a felony criminal violation under any federal law within the preceding 24 months; and

b. It is **not** a corporation that has any unpaid federal tax liability that has been assessed, for which all judicial and administrative remedies have been exhausted or have lapsed, and that is not being paid in a timely manner pursuant to an agreement with the authority responsible for collecting the tax liability.

For purposes of these representations the following definitions apply:

A Corporation includes any entity that has filed articles of incorporation in any of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, or the various territories of the United States [but not foreign corporations]. It includes both for-profit and non-profit organizations.

3. Nondisclosure and Confidentiality Agreements Representations
In submitting an application in response to this FOA the applicant represents that:

a. It **does not and will not** require its employees or contractors to sign internal nondisclosure or confidentiality agreements or statements prohibiting or otherwise restricting its employees or contactors from lawfully reporting waste, fraud, or abuse to a designated investigative or law enforcement representative of a federal department or agency authorized to receive such information.

b. It **does not and will not** use any federal funds to implement or enforce any nondisclosure and/or confidentiality policy, form, or agreement it uses unless it contains the following provisions:

1) *"These provisions are consistent with and do not supersede, conflict with, or otherwise alter the employee obligations, rights, or liabilities created by existing statute or Executive Order relating to (1) classified information, (2) communications to Congress, (3) the reporting to an Inspector General of a violation of any law, rule, or regulation, or mismanagement, a gross waste of funds, an abuse of authority, or a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety, or (4) any other*

whistleblower protection. The definitions, requirements, obligations, rights, sanctions, and liabilities created by controlling Executive Orders and statutory provisions are incorporated into this agreement and are controlling.''

2) The limitation above shall not contravene requirements applicable to Standard Form 312 Classified Information Nondisclosure Agreement (https://fas.org/sgp/othergov/sf312.pdf), Form 4414 Sensitive Compartmented Information Disclosure Agreement (https://fas.org/sgp/othergov/intel/sf4414.pdf), or any other form issued by a federal department or agency governing the nondisclosure of classified information.

3) Notwithstanding the provision listed in paragraph (a), a nondisclosure or confidentiality policy form or agreement that is to be executed by a person connected with the conduct of an intelligence or intelligence-related activity, other than an employee or officer of the United States government, may contain provisions appropriate to the particular activity for which such document is to be used. Such form or agreement shall, at a minimum, require that the person will not disclose any classified information received in the course of such activity unless specifically authorized to do so by the United States government. Such nondisclosure or confidentiality forms shall also make it clear that they do not bar disclosures to Congress, or to an authorized official of an executive agency or the Department of Justice, that are essential to reporting a substantial violation of law.

vii. Statement of Federal Stewardship

DOE will exercise normal federal stewardship in overseeing the project activities performed under DOE awards. Stewardship Activities include, but are not limited to, conducting site visits; reviewing performance and financial reports; providing assistance and/or temporary intervention in unusual circumstances to correct deficiencies that develop during the project; assuring compliance with terms and conditions; and reviewing technical performance after project completion to ensure that the project objectives have been accomplished.

viii. Statement of Substantial Involvement

DOE has substantial involvement in work performed under awards made as a result of this FOA. DOE does not limit its involvement to the administrative requirements of the award. Instead, DOE has substantial involvement in the

direction and redirection of the technical aspects of the project as a whole. Substantial involvement includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. DOE shares responsibility with the recipient for the management, control, direction, and performance of the project.
2. DOE may intervene in the conduct or performance of work under this award for programmatic reasons. Intervention includes the interruption or modification of the conduct or performance of project activities.
3. DOE participates in major project decision-making processes.

ix. Intellectual Property Provisions

The standard DOE financial assistance intellectual property provisions applicable to the various types of recipients are located at http://energy.gov/gc/standard-intellectual-property-ip-provisions-financial-assistance-awards.

x. Reporting

Reporting requirements are identified on the Federal Assistance Reporting Checklist, attached to the award agreement.

Additional or revised reporting requirements apply to Energy Future Grants. As part of tracking progress toward key departmental goals – ensuring justice and equity, investing in the American workforce, boosting domestic manufacturing, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and advancing a pathway to private sector deployment – DOE may require specific data collection. Examples of data that may be collected include:

- Energy saved, infrastructure supported, reduction in building expenditures, criteria air pollutants avoided Equity and justice data, including:
  - Minority Business Enterprises, Minority Owned Businesses, Woman Owned Businesses and Veteran Owned Businesses acting as vendors and sub-contractors for bids on supplies, services, and equipment
  - Value, number, and type of partnerships with MSIs
  - Stakeholder engagement events, consent-based siting activities, geographic diversity
  - Other relevant indicators from the Community Benefits Plan
- Total direct jobs, number and types of training provided, trained workers placed in full-time jobs), location data
- Leveraged fund data including non-DOE investments and follow-on funding
- Number of trainings completed, trainees placed in full-time employment, or number of trainings with workforce partnerships involving employers, community-based organizations, or labor unions

xi. Conference Spending

The recipient shall not expend any funds on a conference not directly and programmatically related to the purpose for which the grant or cooperative agreement was awarded that would defray the cost to the United States government of a conference held by any Executive branch department, agency, board, commission, or office for which the cost to the United States government would otherwise exceed $20,000, thereby circumventing the required notification by the head of any such Executive Branch department, agency, board, commission, or office to the Inspector General (or senior ethics official for any entity without an Inspector General), of the date, location, and number of employees attending such conference.

xii. Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) Financing Statements

Per 2 CFR 910.360 (Real Property and Equipment) when a piece of equipment is purchased by a for-profit recipient or subrecipient with federal funds, and when the federal share of the financial assistance agreement is more than $1,000,000, the recipient or subrecipient must:

Properly record, and consent to the Department's ability to properly record if the recipient fails to do so, UCC financing statement(s) for all equipment in excess of $5,000 purchased with project funds. These financing statement(s) must be approved in writing by the Contracting Officer prior to the recording, and they shall provide notice that the recipient's title to all equipment (not real property) purchased with federal funds under the financial assistance agreement is conditional pursuant to the terms of this section, and that the government retains an undivided reversionary interest in the equipment. The UCC financing statement(s) must be filed before the Contracting Officer may reimburse the recipient for the federal share of the equipment unless otherwise provided for in the relevant financial assistance agreement. The recipient shall further make any amendments to the financing statements or additional recordings, including appropriate continuation statements, as necessary or as the Contracting Officer may direct.

xiii. Real Property and Equipment

Real property and equipment purchased with project funds (federal share and optional recipient cost share) are subject to the requirements at 2 CFR 200.310, 200.311, 200.313, and 200.316 (non-federal entities, except for-profit entities) and 2 CFR 910.360 (for-profit entities). For projects selected for awards under this FOA, the recipients may (1) take disposition action on the real property and equipment; or (2) continue to use the real property and equipment after the conclusion of the award period of performance with Contracting Officer approval.

The recipient's written request for Continued Use must identify the property and include: a summary of how the property will be used (must align with the authorized project purposes); a proposed use period, (e.g., perpetuity, until fully depreciated, or a calendar date when the recipient expects to submit disposition instructions); acknowledgement that the recipient shall not sell or encumber the property or permit any encumbrance without prior written DOE approval; current fair market value of the property; and an estimated useful life or depreciation schedule for equipment.

When the property is no longer needed for authorized project purposes, the recipient must request disposition instructions from DOE. For-profit entity disposition requirements are set forth in 2 CFR 910.360. Property disposition requirements for other non-federal entities are set forth in 2 CFR 200.310 – 200.316.

xiv. Implementation of Executive Order 13798, Promoting Free Speech and Religious Liberty

States, local governments, or other public entities may not condition sub-awards in a manner that would discriminate, or disadvantage sub-recipients based on their religious character.

xv. U.S. Manufacturing Commitments

A primary objective of DOE's multi-billion dollar research, development, and demonstration investments is to cultivate new research and development ecosystems, manufacturing capabilities, and supply chains for and by United States industry and labor. Therefore, in exchange for receiving taxpayer dollars to support an applicant's project, the applicant must agree to a U.S. Competitiveness provision requiring that any products embodying any subject invention or produced through the use of any subject invention will be manufactured substantially in the United States unless the Recipient can show to the satisfaction of DOE that it is not commercially feasible. Award terms, including the specific U.S. Competitiveness Provision applicable to the various types of Recipients and projects, are available at https://www.energy.gov/gc/standard-intellectual-property-ip-provisions-financial-assistance-awards.

Please note that a subject invention is any invention conceived or first actually reduced to practice in performance of work under an award. An invention is any invention or discovery which is or may be patentable. The recipient includes any awardee, recipient, sub-awardee, or sub-recipient.

As noted in the U.S. Competitiveness Provision, if an entity cannot meet the requirements of the U.S. Competitiveness Provision, the entity may request a modification or waiver of the U.S. Competitiveness Provision. For example, the entity may propose modifying the language of the U.S. Competitiveness Provision in order to change the scope of the requirements or to provide more specifics on the application of the requirements for a particular technology. As another example, the entity may request that the U.S. Competitiveness Provision be waived in lieu of a net benefits statement or United States manufacturing plan. The statement or plan would contain specific and enforceable commitments that would be beneficial to the United States economy and competitiveness. Examples of such commitments could include manufacturing specific products in the United States, making a specific investment in a new or existing United States manufacturing facility, keeping certain activities based in the United States or supporting a certain number of jobs in the United States related to the technology. DOE may, in its sole discretion, determine that the proposed modification or waiver promotes commercialization and provides substantial United States economic benefits, and grant the request. If granted, DOE will modify the award terms and conditions for the requesting entity accordingly.

More information and guidance on the waiver and modification request process can be found in the DOE Financial Assistance Letter on this topic, available at https://www.energy.gov/management/pf-2022-09-fal-2022-01-implementation-doe-determination-exceptional-circumstances-under. Additional information on DOE's Commitment to Domestic Manufacturing for DOE-funded R&D is available at https://www.energy.gov/gc/us-manufacturing.

The U.S. Competitiveness Provision is implemented by DOE pursuant to a Determination of Exceptional Circumstances (DEC) under the Bayh-Dole Act and DOE Patent Waivers. See Appendix A.D. Title to Subject Inventions of this FOA for more information on the DEC and DOE Patent Waivers.

xvi. Interim Conflict of Interest Policy for Financial Assistance

The DOE interim Conflict of Interest Policy for Financial Assistance (COI Policy)[23] is applicable to all non-Federal entities applying for, or that receive, DOE funding by means of a financial assistance award (e.g., a grant, cooperative agreement, or technology investment agreement) and, through the implementation of this policy by the entity, to each Investigator who is planning to participate in, or is participating in, the project funded wholly or in part under the DOE financial assistance award. The term "Investigator" means

[23] DOE's interim COI Policy can be found at PF 2022-17 FAL 2022-02 Department of Energy Interim Conflict of Interest Policy Requirements for Financial Assistance.

the PI and any other person, regardless of title or position, who is responsible for the purpose, design, conduct, or reporting of a project funded by DOE or proposed for funding by DOE. Recipients must flow down the requirements of the interim COI Policy to any subrecipient non-federal entities. Further, for DOE funded projects, the recipient must include all financial conflicts of interest (FCOI) (i.e., managed and unmanaged/unmanageable) in their initial and ongoing FCOI reports.

It is understood that non-federal entities and individuals receiving DOE financial assistance awards will need sufficient time to come into full compliance with DOE's interim COI Policy. To provide some flexibility, DOE allows for a staggered implementation. Specifically, prior to award, applicants selected for award negotiations must: ensure all Investigators complete their significant financial disclosures; review the disclosures; determine whether a FCOI exists; develop and implement a management plan for FCOIs; and provide DOE with an initial FCOI report that includes all FCOIs (i.e., managed and unmanaged/ unmanageable). Recipients will have 180 days from the date of the award to come into full compliance with the other requirements set forth in DOE's interim COI Policy. Prior to award, the applicant must certify that it is, or will be within 180 days of the award, compliant with all requirements in the COI Policy.

xvii. Fraud, Waste and Abuse

The mission of the DOE Office of Inspector General (OIG) is to strengthen the integrity, economy and efficiency of the Department's programs and operations including deterring and detecting fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement. The OIG accomplishes this mission primarily through investigations, audits, and inspections of DOE activities to include grants, cooperative agreements, loans, and contracts.

The OIG maintains a Hotline for reporting allegations of fraud, waste, abuse, or mismanagement. To report such allegations, please visit https://www.energy.gov/ig/ig-hotline.

Additionally, recipients of DOE awards must be cognizant of the requirements of 2 CFR 200.113 Mandatory disclosures, which states:

The non-Federal entity or applicant for a Federal award must disclose, in a timely manner, in writing to the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity all violations of Federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the Federal award. Non-Federal entities that have received a Federal award including the term and condition outlined in appendix XII of 2 CFR Part 200 are required to report certain civil, criminal, or

administrative proceedings to SAM (currently FAPIIS). Failure to make required disclosures can result in any of the remedies described in 2 CFR 200.339. (See also 2 CFR part 180, 31 U.S.C. § 3321, and 41 U.S.C. § 2313.) [85 FR 49539, Aug. 13, 2020]

Applicants and subrecipients (if applicable) are encouraged to allocate sufficient costs in the project budget to cover the costs associated for personnel and data infrastructure needs to support performance management and program evaluation needs including but not limited to independent program and project audits to mitigate risks for fraud, waste, and abuse.

C. Program Down-Select

SCEP intends to conduct a competitive project review (down-selection process) upon the last quarter of Phase 1 Period of Performance. Recipients will present their projects to DOE individually (not to other recipients). Subject matter experts from academia, national laboratories, NGOs, and industry may be used as reviewers, subject to conflict of interest and non-disclosure considerations.

Upon completion of the competitive project review (down-selection process), DOE will select which projects will receive federal funding beyond Phase 1. Due to the availability of funding and program considerations, only a portion of the recipients will be selected to receive funding for project continuation. As a result of this down-select process, certain projects will not receive federal funding beyond Phase 1 even if the project is meeting the pre-defined metrics.

VIII. Questions/Agency Contacts

Upon the issuance of a FOA, DOE personnel are prohibited from communicating (in writing or otherwise) with applicants regarding the FOA except through the established question and answer process as described below. Specifically, questions regarding this FOA must be submitted to: Energyfuturegrants@hq.doe.gov. Questions must be submitted not later than 3 business days prior to the application due date and time. Please note, feedback on individual concepts will not be provided through Q&A.

All questions and answers related to this FOA will be posted on SCEP Exchange at: https://infrastructure-exchange.energy.gov. **You must first select this specific FOA Number to view the questions and answers specific to this FOA**. SCEP will attempt to respond to a question within 3 business days, unless a similar question and answer has already been posted on the website.

Questions related to the registration process and use of the Infrastructure Exchange website should be submitted to: S3Exchangehelp@hq.doe.gov

IX. Other Information

A. FOA Modifications

Amendments to this FOA will be posted on the SCEP Exchange website and the Grants.gov system. However, you will only receive an email when an amendment or a FOA is posted on these sites if you register for email notifications for this FOA in Grants.gov. SCEP recommends that you register as soon after the release of the FOA as possible to ensure you receive timely notice of any amendments or other FOAs.

B. Government Right to Reject or Negotiate

DOE reserves the right, without qualification, to reject any or all applications received in response to this FOA and to select any application, in whole or in part, as a basis for negotiation and/or award.

C. Commitment of Public Funds

The Contracting Officer is the only individual who can make awards or commit the government to the expenditure of public funds. A commitment by anyone other than the Contracting Officer, either express or implied, is invalid.

D. Treatment of Application Information

Applicants should not include business sensitive (e.g., commercial or financial information that is privileged or confidential), trade secrets, proprietary, or otherwise confidential information in their application unless such information is necessary to convey an understanding of the proposed project or to comply with a requirement in the FOA. Applicants are advised to not include any critically sensitive proprietary detail.

If an application includes business sensitive, trade secrets, proprietary, or otherwise confidential information, it is furnished to the federal government (government) in confidence with the understanding that the information shall be used or disclosed only for evaluation of the application. Such information will be withheld from public disclosure to the extent permitted by law, including the Freedom of Information Act. Without assuming any liability for inadvertent disclosure, DOE will seek to limit disclosure of such information to its employees and to outside reviewers when necessary for merit review of the application or as otherwise authorized by law. This restriction does not limit the government's right to use the information if it is obtained from another source.

If an applicant chooses to submit business sensitive, trade secrets, proprietary, or otherwise confidential information, the applicant must provide **two copies** of Full Application.

- The first copy should be marked, "non-confidential" with the information believed to be confidential deleted.
- The second copy should be marked "confidential" and must clearly and conspicuously identify the business sensitive, trade secrets, proprietary, or otherwise confidential information and must be marked as described below.

Failure to comply with these marking requirements may result in the disclosure of the unmarked information under the Freedom of Information Act or otherwise. The government is not liable for the disclosure or use of unmarked information and may use or disclose such information for any purpose as authorized by law.

The cover sheet of the Full Application, and other applicant submission must be marked as follows and identify the specific pages business sensitive, trade secrets, proprietary, or otherwise confidential information:

> **Notice of Restriction on Disclosure and Use of Data:**
> Pages [list applicable pages] of this document may contain business sensitive, trade secrets, proprietary, or otherwise confidential information that is exempt from public disclosure. Such information shall be used or disclosed only for evaluation purposes or in accordance with a financial assistance between the submitter and the government. The government may use or disclose any information that is not appropriately marked or otherwise restricted, regardless of source. [End of Notice]

In addition, (1) the header and footer of every page that contains business sensitive, trade secrets, proprietary, or otherwise confidential information must be marked as follows: "Contains Business Sensitive, Trade Secrets, Proprietary, or Otherwise Confidential Information Exempt from Public Disclosure," and (2) every line or paragraph containing such information must be clearly marked with double brackets or highlighting. DOE will make its own determination about the confidential status of the information and treat it according to its determination.

E. Evaluation and Administration by Non-Federal Personnel

In conducting the merit review evaluation, the government may seek the advice of qualified non-federal personnel as reviewers. The government may also use non-federal personnel to conduct routine, nondiscretionary administrative activities, including DOE contractors. The applicant, by submitting its application, consents to the use of non-federal reviewers/administrators. Non-federal reviewers must sign conflict of interest

(COI) and non-disclosure acknowledgements (NDA) prior to reviewing an application. Non-federal personnel conducting administrative activities must sign an NDA.

F. Notice Regarding Eligible/Ineligible Activities

Eligible activities under this FOA include those which describe and promote the understanding of scientific and technical aspects of specific energy technologies, but not those which encourage or support political activities such as the collection and dissemination of information related to potential, planned, or pending legislation.

G. Notice of Right to Conduct a Review of Financial Capability

DOE reserves the right to conduct an independent third-party review of financial capability for applicants that are selected for negotiation of award (including personal credit information of principal(s) of a small business if there is insufficient information to determine financial capability of the organization).

H. Requirement for Full and Complete Disclosure

Applicants are required to make a full and complete disclosure of all information requested. Any failure to make a full and complete disclosure of the requested information may result in:

- The termination of award negotiations;
- The modification, suspension, and/or termination of a funding agreement;
- The initiation of debarment proceedings, debarment, and/or a declaration of ineligibility for receipt of federal contracts, subcontracts, and financial assistance and benefits; and
- Civil and/or criminal penalties.

I. Retention of Submissions

DOE expects to retain copies of all Full Applications and other submissions. No submissions will be returned. By applying to DOE for funding, applicants consent to DOE's retention of their submissions.

J. Rights in Technical Data

Data rights differ based on whether data is first produced under an award or instead was developed at private expense outside the award.

"Limited Rights Data": The United States government will not normally require delivery of confidential or trade secret-type technical data developed solely at private expense prior to issuance of an award, except as necessary to monitor technical progress and evaluate the potential of proposed technologies to reach specific technical and cost metrics.

Government Rights in Technical Data Produced Under Awards: The United States government normally retains unlimited rights in technical data produced under government financial assistance awards, including the right to distribute to the public. However, pursuant to special statutory authority, certain categories of data generated under DOE awards may be protected from public disclosure for up to five years after the data is generated ("Protected Data"). For awards permitting Protected Data, the protected data must be marked as set forth in the award's intellectual property terms and conditions and a listing of unlimited rights data (i.e., non-protected data) must be inserted into the data clause in the award. In addition, invention disclosures may be protected from public disclosure for a reasonable time in order to allow for filing a patent application.

K. Copyright

The prime recipient and subrecipients may assert copyright in copyrightable works, such as software, first produced under the award without DOE approval. When copyright is asserted, the government retains a paid-up nonexclusive, irrevocable worldwide license to reproduce, prepare derivative works, distribute copies to the public, and to perform publicly and display publicly the copyrighted work. This license extends to contractors and others doing work on behalf of the government.

L. Prohibition on Certain Telecommunications and Video Surveillance Services or Equipment

As set forth in 2 CFR 200.216, recipients and subrecipients are prohibited from obligating or expending project funds (federal funds and optional recipient cost share) to procure or obtain; extend or renew a contract to procure or obtain; or enter into a contract (or extend or renew a contract) to procure or obtain equipment, services, or systems that uses *covered telecommunications equipment or services* as a substantial or essential component of any system, or as critical technology as part of any system. As described in Section 889 of Public Law 115-232, *covered telecommunications equipment* is telecommunications equipment produced by Huawei Technologies Company or ZTE Corporation (or any subsidiary or affiliate of such entities).

See Public Law 115-232, Section 889, 2 CFR 200.216, and 2 CFR 200.471 for additional information.

M. Personally Identifiable Information (PII)

All information provided by the applicant must to the greatest extent possible exclude PII. The term "PII" refers to information which can be used to distinguish or trace an individual's identity, such as their name, social security number, biometric records, alone, or when combined with other personal or identifying information which is linked or linkable to a specific individual, such as date and place of birth, mother's maiden name. (See OMB Memorandum M-07-16 dated May 22, 2007, found at:

https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/whitehouse.gov/files/omb/memoranda/2007/m07-16.pdf

By way of example, applicants must screen resumes to ensure that they do not contain PII such as personal addresses, personal landline/cell phone numbers, and personal emails. **Under no circumstances should Social Security Numbers (SSNs) be included in the application**. Federal agencies are prohibited from the collecting, using, and displaying unnecessary SSNs. (See, the Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014 (Pub. L. No. 113-283, Dec 18, 2014; 44 U.S.C. § 3551).

N. Annual Independent Audits

If a state/local government is a prime recipient or subrecipient and has expended $750,000 or more of federal awards during the non-federal entity's fiscal year, then a Single or Program-Specific Audit is required. For additional information, please refer to 2 CFR 200.501 and Subpart F.

Applicants and subrecipients (if applicable) should propose sufficient costs in the project budget to cover the costs associated with the audit. These should be Direct Other Costs (if applicable) or incorporated into an Indirect Rate pool if the audit benefits more than one project.

O. Informational Webinars

DOE will conduct multiple informational webinars during the FOA process. It will be held after the initial FOA release but before the due date of the Application.

Attendance is not mandatory and will not positively or negatively impact the overall review of any applicant submissions. As the webinar will be open to all applicants who wish to participate, applicants should refrain from asking questions or communicating information that would reveal confidential and/or proprietary information specific to their project. Specific dates for the webinar can be found on the cover page of the FOA.

APPENDIX A – REQUIRED USE OF AMERICAN IRON, STEEL, MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS, AND CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS BUY AMERICA REQUIREMENTS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

A. Definitions
For purposes of the Buy America requirements, the following definitions apply:

Construction materials includes an article, material, or supply—other than an item of primarily iron or steel; a manufactured product; cement and cementitious materials; aggregates such as stone, sand, or gravel; or aggregate binding agents or additives[24] —that is or consists primarily of:

- non-ferrous metals;
- plastic and polymer-based products (including polyvinylchloride, composite building materials, and polymers used in fiber optic cables);
- glass (including optic glass);
- lumber; or
- drywall.

Infrastructure includes, at a minimum, the structures, facilities, and equipment for, in the United States, roads, highways, and bridges; public transportation; dams, ports, harbors, and other maritime facilities; intercity passenger and freight railroads; freight and intermodal facilities; airports; water systems, including drinking water and wastewater systems; electrical transmission facilities and systems; utilities; broadband infrastructure; and buildings and real property. Infrastructure includes facilities that generate, transport, and distribute energy.

In addition to the above, the infrastructure in question must be publicly-owned or must serve a public function; privately owned infrastructure that is solely utilized for private use is not considered "infrastructure" for purposes of Buy America applicability. The Agency, not the applicant, will have the final say as to whether a given project includes infrastructure, as defined herein. Accordingly, in cases where the "public" nature of the infrastructure is unclear, DOE strongly recommends that applicants complete their full application with the assumption that Buy America requirements will apply to the proposed project.

Project means the construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of infrastructure in the United States.

B. Buy America Requirements for Infrastructure Projects ("Buy America" requirements)
In accordance with Section 70914 of the BIL, none of the project funds (includes federal share) may be used for a project for infrastructure unless:

[24] BIL, § 70917(c)(1).

(1) all iron and steel used in the project are produced in the United States--this means all manufacturing processes, from the initial melting stage through the application of coatings, occurred in the United States;

(2) all manufactured products used in the project are produced in the United States—this means the manufactured product was manufactured in the United States; and the cost of the components of the manufactured product that are mined, produced, or manufactured in the United States is greater than 55 percent of the total cost of all components of the manufactured product, unless another standard for determining the minimum amount of domestic content of the manufactured product has been established under applicable law or regulation; and

(3) all construction materials[25] are manufactured in the United States—this means that all manufacturing processes for the construction material occurred in the United States. The Buy America requirements only applies to articles, materials, and supplies that are consumed in, incorporated into, or affixed to an infrastructure project. As such, it does not apply to tools, equipment, and supplies, such as temporary scaffolding, brought to the construction site and removed at or before the completion of the infrastructure project. Nor does a Buy America requirements apply to equipment and furnishings, such as movable chairs, desks, and portable computer equipment, that are used at or within the finished infrastructure project, but are not an integral part of the structure or permanently affixed to the infrastructure project.

The Buy America requirements only apply to articles, materials, and supplies that are consumed in, incorporated into, or affixed to an infrastructure project. As such, it does not apply to tools, equipment, and supplies, such as temporary scaffolding, brought to the construction site and removed at or before the completion of the infrastructure project. Nor does the Buy America requirements apply to equipment and furnishings, such as movable chairs, desks, and portable computer equipment, that are used at or within the finished infrastructure project, but are not an integral part of the structure or permanently affixed to the infrastructure project.

These requirements must flow down to all sub-awards, all contracts, subcontracts and purchase orders for work performed under the proposed project.

For additional information related to the application and implementation of these Buy America requirements, please see OMB Memorandum M-22-11, issued April 18, 2022: https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/M-22-11.pdf

[25] Excludes cement and cementitious materials, aggregates such as stone, sand, or gravel, or aggregate binding agents or additives.

C. DOE Submission Requirements for Full Application

Within the first two pages of the workplan, applicants must provide a short statement on whether the project will involve the construction, alteration, and/or repair of infrastructure in the United States. The ultimate determination about whether a project includes infrastructure remains with DOE, but the applicant's statement will assist project planning and integration of domestic preference requirements, which may impact the project's proposed budget.

D. Waivers

In limited circumstances, DOE may waive the application of the Buy America requirements where DOE determines that:

> (1) applying the Buy America requirements would be inconsistent with the public interest;
>
> (2) the types of iron, steel, manufactured products, or construction materials are not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities or of a satisfactory quality; or
>
> (3) the inclusion of iron, steel, manufactured products, or construction materials produced in the United States will increase the cost of the overall project by more than 25 percent.

If an applicant is seeking a waiver of the Buy America requirements, it must include a written waiver request with the Full Application. A waiver request must include:

- A detailed justification for the use of "non-domestic" iron, steel, manufactured products, or construction materials to include an explanation as to how the non-domestic item(s) is essential to the project;
- A certification that the applicant or recipient made a good faith effort to solicit bids for domestic products supported by terms included in requests for proposals, contracts, and nonproprietary communications with potential suppliers, including diverse suppliers;
- Applicant /Recipient name and Unique Entity Identifier (UEI);
- Total estimated project cost, DOE and cost-share amounts;
- Project description and location (to the extent known);
- List and description of iron or steel item(s), manufactured goods, and construction material(s) the applicant or recipient seeks to waive from Domestic Content Procurement Preference requirement, including name, cost, country(ies) of origin (if known), and relevant PSC and NAICS code for each;
- Waiver justification including due diligence performed (e.g., market research, industry outreach) by the applicant or recipient; and
- Anticipated impact if no waiver is issued.

DOE may require additional information before considering the waiver request.

Waiver requests are subject to public comment periods of no less than 15 days and must be reviewed by the Made in America Office. There may be instances where an award qualifies, in whole or in part, for an existing waiver described at [link to awarding agency web site with information on currently applicable general applicability waivers].

The applicant does not have the right to appeal DOE's decision concerning a waiver request.

APPENDIX B – LIST OF ACRONYMS

COI	Conflict of Interest
DEC	Determination of Exceptional Circumstances
DEI	Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
DMP	Data Management Plan
DOE	Department of Energy
DOI	Digital Object Identifier
EERE	Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
FAR	Federal Acquisition Regulation
FFATA	Federal Funding and Transparency Act of 2006
FFRDC	Federally Funded Research and Development Center
FOA	Funding Opportunity Announcement
FOIA	Freedom of Information Act
GAAP	Generally Accepted Accounting Principles
IPMP	Intellectual Property Management Plan
M&O	Management and Operating
MPIN	Marketing Partner ID Number
MSI	Minority-Serving institution
MYPP	Multi-Year Program Plan
NDA	Non-Disclosure Acknowledgement
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NNSA	National Nuclear Security Agency
OMB	Office of Management and Budget
OSTI	Office of Scientific and Technical Information
PII	Personal Identifiable Information
R&D	Research and Development
RFI	Request for Information
RFP	Request for Proposal
SAM	System for Award Management
SCEP	State and Community Energy Programs
SOPO	Statement of Project Objectives
SPOC	Single Point of Contact
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
TIA	Technology Investment Agreement
TRL	Technology Readiness Level
UCC	Uniform Commercial Code
UEI	Unique Entity Identifier
WBS	Work Breakdown Structure
WP	Work Proposal