

Office of Insular Affairs

**Notice of Funding Opportunity**

New FY 2025 Energizing Insular Communities Program

Funding Opportunity Number

OIA-EIC-2025-1

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## BASIC INFORMATION

**Announcement Type:** Initial

**Funding Opportunity Number:** OIA-EIC-2025-1

**Assistance Listing Number(s):** 15.875

**Estimated Total Program Funding:** \$15,250,000

**Expected Number of Awards:** 20

**Award Ceiling:** \$0

**Award Floor:** \$0

Award amounts will depend on number and type of applications received. As this funding opportunity is open to proposals that may or may not involve infrastructure or construction, OIA is not imposing an award floor/ceiling.

**Cost Sharing Required?**

No

**Closing Date Explanation**

Electronically submitted applications must be submitted no later than 11:59 p.m., ET, on the listed application due date.

**OMB Control Number:**

**Have Questions?**

For technical assistance with Grants.gov, please contact Krystina Alfano at [krystina\\_alfano@ios.doi.gov](mailto:krystina_alfano@ios.doi.gov).

**Executive Summary**

The Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) requests proposals for its Energizing Insular Communities (EIC) Program promoting domestically produced energy and protecting the United States' economic and national security interests and military preparedness by ensuring that an abundant supply of reliable energy is readily accessible in every State and territory of the Nation. The EIC program provides grant funding for energy strategies that reduce reliance on imported foreign fuels, reduce the cost of electricity to consumers, and improve the performance of energy infrastructure and overall energy efficiency in the territories.

## ELIGIBILITY

**Eligible Applicants**

Others (see text field entitled "Additional Information on Eligibility" for clarification)

**Additional Information on Eligibility**

Eligible applicants are local government entities, utilities, semi-autonomous agencies, and institutions of higher education located in the U.S. territories of Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, in accordance with Federal regulations contained in the Code of Federal Regulations Title 2, Part 200 "Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards" or 2 CFR 200.

## Cost Sharing Requirement

**Cost Sharing Required?**

No

## GET READY TO APPLY

## Required System Registrations

### Unique Entity Identifier and SAM.gov Registration

Before applying, all **applicants** except individuals applying as a natural person **must be registered in SAM.gov**. During the SAM.gov registration the entity will obtain their Unique Entity Identifier (UEI).

**The SAM.gov registration process can take several months. If your organization is not already registered in SAM.gov, begin the registration process as soon as possible.**

**To register in SAM.gov**, go to the [SAM.gov website](#) and use the available resources to complete registration.

- **Financial assistance registrants** must review and certify compliance with the SAM.gov “Financial Assistance General Representations and Certifications”.
- **Already registered?** You already have a Unique Entity ID. Before applying, check that your “Financial Assistance General Representations and Certifications” on SAM.gov is complete. Remember to renew your registration every year to keep it active while you have an award or application in progress. You can update your registration whenever you need, including during renewal.
- **Need help?** For additional information and contact information on the [SAM.gov Help page](#).

**Refer to Attachment – Submission Instructions & Tips.**

### GRANTS.GOV

This program accepts applications through [Grants.gov](#) so once you receive your UEI return to Grants.gov to [register](#) with Grants.gov. Please allow 30 days to register and set up a Workspace in Grants.gov. See [Submission Instructions](#) section below for additional details.

### GRANTSOLUTIONS

This program accepts applications through GrantSolutions.gov. You must register with GrantSolutions. See [Submission Instructions](#).

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

### Program Goals

- Support local priorities to reduce the cost and improve the reliability of electricity to consumers. Improve the performance of energy infrastructure and overall energy efficiency in the territories through projects tied to updated and in-use strategic energy plans, energy action plans, or integrated resource plans.

### Program Description

The Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) requests proposals for its Energizing Insular Communities (EIC) Program promoting domestically produced energy and protecting the United States’ economic and national security interests and military preparedness by ensuring an abundant supply of reliable energy is readily accessible in every State and territory of the Nation. The EIC program provides grant funding for energy strategies that reduce reliance on imported foreign

fuels, reduce the cost of electricity to consumers, and improve the performance of energy infrastructure and overall energy efficiency in the territories. All proposals must be tied to updated and in-use strategic energy plans, energy action plans, or integrated resource plans. OIA will evaluate proposals on whether the project is identified and supported in the strategic energy plan, energy action plan, or integrated resource plan, and the proposal's projected energy cost savings. Strong preference will be given to proposals that utilize domestically produced components and materials in alignment with the Administration's Energy Dominance policies.

[Unleashing American Energy – The White House](#)

[Declaring a National Energy Emergency – The White House](#)

[SO 3417 - Addressing the National Energy Emergency](#)

[SO 3418 - Unleashing American Energy](#)

EIC grant funds are not intended to supplant local funding for routine operating expenses of an insular government or organization. EIC grant funds are not intended to fund the salaries of local, existing employees though they may be utilized to provide temporary, short-term expertise from contractors or consultants to help carry out the project if approved in the proposed budget.

Eligible technologies for energy supply and energy efficiency projects should incorporate commercially available technology. This may include but is not limited to energy from natural gas, coal, diesel, geothermal, geothermal heat pumps, solar, wind, hydropower, waste, and biogas. Projects for energy storage, transportation, and grid feasibility studies are also eligible.

### **Unleashing American Energy**

OIA will prioritize funding for project that align with the Administration's Energy Dominance policies under the Department of the Interior [Secretary's Order No. 3418, "Unleashing American Energy."](#) which implements [Executive Order 14154, "Unleashing American Energy."](#) OIA will not fund projects that are contrary to either order.

*Certified Local Governments are encouraged to prioritize projects in support of the celebration of America's 250th birthday (American250). This may include, but is not limited to, preservation planning, interpretation, public engagement, and rehabilitation projects that recognize and honor the nation's founding, history, and cultural heritage.*

### **Buy America Preferences for Infrastructure Projects**

This program has Federal funding for infrastructure projects. Buy America preferences apply to Federal awards for infrastructure projects in the United States. Reference [2 CFR Part 184 - Buy America Preferences for Infrastructure Project](#) for further guidance.

If your application contains components for which Build America, Buy America (BABA) may apply, please review and follow BABA regulations as applicable.

### **Legislative Authority**

48 U.S.C. 1492

### **Type of Award**

Projects will be funded through G (Grant).

## **PREPARE YOUR APPLICATION**

## Application Content and Format

### Application Documents

Applicants must submit the following forms with their application as specified below. Instructions for accessing and submitting application forms are provided in the [Submission Instructions](#) section of this document below. For instructions on completing form fields, see the form instructions on the [Grants.gov Forms Repository](#).

*Prior to applying, applicants should review presidential actions found at: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/> and DOI Secretary's Orders found at: <https://www.doi.gov/document-library/secretary-order>. By applying in response to this Notice of Funding Opportunity, the applicant certifies awareness and compliance with all currently effective and applicable executive orders and secretary's orders, including but not limited to the Executive Order titled Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing as well as the Executive Order and Secretary's order titled Restoring Truth and Sanity to American History. Applicants are responsible for ensuring their proposed activities are consistent with the intent and requirements of these directives.*

| Forms/Assurances/Certifications   | Submission Requirement  |
|---|---|
| SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance<br>Note: For applicants requesting more than \$100,000 in Federal funds, the Authorized Representative's signature (or electronic equivalent) on the Application for Federal Assistance form also represents their certification of the statements in <a href="#">Appendix A to 43 CFR 18-Certification Regarding Lobbying</a> | Required from all applicants  |
| SF-424A, Budget Information – Non-Construction Programs   | Required for non-construction projects  |
| SF-424C: Budget Information – Construction Programs   | Required for construction projects (this includes installation of solar photovoltaic systems, etc.)           |
| SF-424B, Assurances - Non-Construction Programs   | Required for non-construction projects  |
| SF-424D, Assurances - Construction Programs   | Required for construction projects (this includes installation of solar photovoltaic systems, etc.)           |
| SF-429 (Cover Page & Attachment B), Request to Acquire, Improve, or Furnish Real Property<br>Note: The SF-429 forms are only available in the <a href="#">Grants.gov Forms Repository</a> . Applicants must download the form and include the completed form as an application attachment.  | Required if requesting to acquire, improve, or furnish real property.   |
| SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities   | Required if requesting more than \$100,000 in Federal funds <u>and</u> the applicant has used or plans to use |

| Forms/Assurances/Certifications   | Submission Requirement  |
|---|---|
|   | funds other than Federal appropriated funds for lobbying related to the proposed project. |
| Project Abstract Summary (OMB 4040-0019). Must include, in plain language: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Award purpose,</li> <li>• Activities to be performed,</li> <li>• Expected deliverables or outcomes,</li> <li>• Intended beneficiaries, and</li> <li>• Subrecipient activities (if known or specified at time of award)</li> </ul> | Required from all applicants  |

### Project Narrative

The narrative portion of the application must:

- Describe the expected outputs and the potential outcomes to communities, the economy, and the environment.
- Describe how the project supports the Agency's priorities described in Section A2.
- Describe how progress toward achieving the expected outputs and social, economic, and environmental outcomes will be tracked and measured through performance measures

Please include the following in your project narrative:

1. **Detailed Project Description(s):** Describe the project(s) and activities being proposed, in as much detail as possible.
2. **Detailed Project Timeline(s):** Provide a detailed project timeline for completion of each proposed project with project milestones, inclusive of time estimated to complete all environmental documentation and any required permits to obtain National Environmental Policy (NEPA) clearance.
3. **Statement of Need:** Describe why this project is necessary (how would this project be funded if not by OIA) and include supporting information. Summarize previous or ongoing efforts relevant to the proposed work. Explain how this project is tied to/reference where it is in the territory's updated strategic energy plan, energy action plan, or integrated resource plan.
4. **Project Goals and Objectives:** State the long-term goals of what you want to achieve. Objectives are the specific steps you will take to reach your stated goals. State your objectives, which must be specific, measurable, and realistic (attainable within the project's period of performance). **All applications must include at least one performance measure (output & outcome) that corresponds to the proposed project objective.** If the grant is chosen for award, the applicant will need to report on the performance measure in narrative project reports that are submitted.

***Project proposals for deployment of energy and power generation/transmission, thermal and/or energy storage systems, or studies to support the integration of those systems to the grid should include the following items to the extent applicable:***

1. Location of proposed system.

2. Estimated power/energy rating(s) of the proposed system (both DC and AC as appropriate).
3. Physical footprint of the proposed system.
4. Estimated energy production of the proposed system. (Annual, seasonal/monthly). For wind and solar projects, the estimated energy delivery shall be based on long-term climate data for the proposed project site.
5. Estimated reduction in fossil fuel usage for current generation or offsetting load increase (show calculations) (if applicable).
6. Description of the energy load to be served (annual consumption, seasonal/monthly/diurnal consumption [if important]).
7. Demonstration of site control
8. Demonstration that the project will be designed and constructed to withstand extreme, but reasonably likely weather events such as typhoons/hurricanes.
9. Demonstration that the chosen technology is commercially proven (tested and demonstrated, carries a warranty, has service and parts readily available), is ready for immediate deployment, and is financeable.
10. Demonstration that the proposed project, if interconnecting to the utility grid, is consistent with utility interconnection requirements. Include describing consultations with utility, design reviews, and participating in any needed interaction between utility and the proposed project. Describe plan of required steps to complete interconnection approval if project is approved.
11. Evidence/Affirmation that the system will be insured to the full cost for system damage and third-party liability. Per 2 CFR 200.447, insurance costs are eligible under this grant.
12. A description of the territory's procurement rules and regulations applicable to the proposed project.
13. Anticipated commissioning plan, which describes the commissioning process, sequence of operations, equipment run times and schedules, energy metering, and other requirements to ensure sustained energy performance.
14. Description of anticipated operation & maintenance (O&M) plan and how the project will be financially sustained after OIA funding. Description should designate the responsible party (i.e., who has the expertise and will perform the required maintenance) and estimated O&M costs. (Note: annual O&M costs over the life of the project are not allowable costs under the grant award and must be covered by the grantee)
15. Quantification of non-energy benefits, such as reduction in water consumption, avoided infrastructure improvements, jobs created, greenhouse gas and/or other emissions reductions, etc.
16. Address whether and how the project improves the territory's disaster resilience.
17. Estimated total price for proposed system. Show a breakout of estimated costs for significant project line items and major components.
18. Description of what entity is the offtaker/beneficiary of the system. Estimate of expected energy cost savings (show calculations).

***Project proposals for energy efficiency and conservation should incorporate the following items to the extent applicable:***

1. Project location(s).

2. Description of project scope including, for buildings: the number of buildings, square footage, and systems (HVAC, lighting, mechanical, building envelope, plug loads, water heating, etc.).
  3. Projected annual and lifetime reduction in energy consumption (for both electrical and thermal energy as appropriate) as demonstrated by proposed energy consumption of the project as compared to an energy baseline taken from energy bill data, and who will benefit from these savings.
  4. Energy conservation measures with a favorable payback period identified through an energy audit. Identify the level of audit already performed or to be performed: ASHRAE Level 1: walkthrough assessment, Level 2: energy survey and analysis, or Level 3: detailed analysis/modeling.
  5. Demonstrate that equipment/devices/processes/controls to be installed are commercially available, able to be installed within 36 months, with proven success in similar applications, warrantied, with readily available service and parts, and available training/support to ensure successful operation & maintenance.
  6. Demonstrate that an adequate level of energy metering/sub-metering will be installed to measure and verify ongoing project performance and energy savings.
  7. Quantification of impacts on the electricity grid, such as the extent of peak load reduction or system congestion relief.
  8. Description of anticipated commissioning plan, which describes the commissioning process, sequence of operations, equipment run times and schedules, energy metering, proposed set points, and other requirements to ensure energy efficient operations.
  9. Description of anticipated operation & maintenance (O&M) plan and how the project will be financially sustained after OIA funding. Description should designate the responsible party (i.e., who has the expertise and will perform the required maintenance) and estimated O&M costs. (Note: annual O&M costs over the life of the project are not allowable costs under the grant award and must be covered by the grantee.) Estimated total capital cost for the proposed system. Show a breakout of estimated costs for significant project line items and major components.
  10. Estimated annual and lifetime cost savings due to the project (Show calculations.)
- 5. Environmental Permitting:** All Federally-funded projects are required to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Please describe what will be required to comply with NEPA and how long it will take to acquire the necessary permits. Please refer to the included Environmental Review Instructions for guidance on what level of NEPA compliance potential projects may require.
- 6. Priority Listing for Multiple Projects:** If multiple projects are being proposed, please provide a listing of the proposed projects in order of priority. An example is provided below:

**SUMMARY PRIORITY PROJECTS**

| <i>Priority Project (list in priority order)</i> | <i>Requested Amount</i> |
|--|-------------------------|
| <i>Priority 1 - Project [Name]</i>               | <i>\$</i>               |
| <i>2. Priority 2 - Project [Name]</i>            | <i>\$</i>               |
| <i>3. Priority 3 - Project [Name]</i>            | <i>\$</i>               |
| <b><i>Total Request for Fiscal Year 2025</i></b> | <b><i>\$</i></b>        |

## Budget Narrative

Applicants must describe and justify items and costs listed in their budget. The budget narrative must identify the following cost items: total estimated costs, non-Federal cost share, third-party contributions, and any pre-award costs. Total project cost is the sum of all allowable costs, including required and voluntary cost share and third-party contributions.

Budget items must be:

- Reasonable, allowable, allocable, and necessary
- Compliant with [2 CFR §200 Subpart E](#) cost principles

Indirect Costs: Applicants must indicate in their budget narrative how they will charge indirect costs, including the rate to be applied:

- De Minimis Rate: If eligible, state if your organization is opting to use the de minimis rate of up to 15% of total modified direct costs. Entities that do not have a current Federal negotiated indirect cost rate (including provisional rate) may propose to use the de minimis rate. For more information, refer to [2 CFR 200.414\(f\)](#).
- Negotiated Rate: State if you will negotiate with your cognizant agency. If your organization has previously negotiated a rate, attach a copy of the most recently negotiated rate agreement (active or expired).

Please provide the following detailed budget information:

- A budget breakout chart, by category, is suggested.
- Explain categories that are not self-explanatory, such as “OTHER”, in full.
- Provide a description of external contracts that will be required to complete the project.
- State the basis for the budget cost estimates, whether it is based on research by government technical staff, a recently completed similar project, information provided by quotes or an outside source, etc.
- **If charging indirect costs, please include or attach a copy of the negotiated indirect cost rate document.** Please note that all activities and costs to be charged to the grant must be in full compliance with the applicable cost principle found in OMB Uniform Guidance for Federal Awards (2 CFR 200).

## Conflict of Interest and Unresolved Matters Disclosures:

If any actual or potential conflict of interest exists related to this project at the time of application, the applicant must provide sufficient information to support a program determination of significance per [2 CFR 1402.112](#). Refer to [2 CFR 200.112](#) Conflict of Interest and [2 CFR 200.113](#).

## Overlap or Duplication of Effort Statement:

Applicants must state in their application if the activities, costs, or time commitment of key personnel proposed in this application overlap with those in any other Federal proposal or award or not. If no overlap exists, include a statement to that effect. If any overlap exists, provide:

- Activities: Description any overlapping activities.
- Costs: Description of any overlapping costs.

- Time: Description of any overlapping key personnel time.
- A copy of any overlapping or duplicative proposal submitted to any other potential funding entity.
- Details on when any overlapping proposal was submitted, to whom, and the expected date of the funding decision.

### Other Required Information

1. **Cover Letter:** The cover letter should briefly summarize the application and be signed by an authorized representative of the applicant organization. Cover letters should be addressed to the Director of the Office of Insular Affairs:  
John Brewer  
Director, Office of Insular Affairs  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Mail Stop 3117  
Washington, D.C. 20240
2. **Grant Recipient:** Please provide the name, title, and address of person to whom the grant, if awarded, should be addressed. This is normally, the head of the local government or head of the entity applying for the project. Please ensure that the recipient organization matches the entity designated on the SF-424 forms.
3. **Recipient Grant Manager:** Please provide the name, title, and contact information for the person who will be the day-to-day grant manager if the proposal is funded. Contact information should include the mailing address, phone number, and email address.
4. **Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP) Identification Number:** Organizations already enrolled in ASAP under Agency Location Code 14010001 should list their ASAP identification number on their application.
5. **Letters of Support:** Letters of support should be transmitted electronically on Grants.gov/GrantSolutions.gov with the other proposal documents.

## SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES

### Address to Request Application Package

**All proposals must be submitted via Grants.gov or GrantSolutions.gov.** OIA will only allow for alternative submissions for extenuating circumstances, with **prior approval** from OIA. Individual extensions may also be approved for extenuating circumstances, with prior OIA approval.

PLEASE DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE DAY OF THE APPLICATION DEADLINE TO LOG IN TO GRANTS.GOV/GRANTSOLUTIONS.GOV. PLEASE BE SURE YOU CAN LOG IN AND HAVE ACCESS TO SUBMIT FOR YOUR ENTITY BEFORE THAT DATE. NOT BEING ABLE TO LOG IN TO GRANTS.GOV/GRANTSOLUTIONS.GOV OR REALIZING YOU DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT ACCESS FOR YOUR ENTITY ON THE DAY OF THE DEADLINE IS NOT AN EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCE. Give yourself plenty of time to upload your application.

## Submission Dates and Times

**Closing Date for Applications:** 08/15/2025

### Closing Date Explanation

Electronically submitted applications must be submitted no later than 11:59 p.m., ET, on the listed application due date.

## Submission Instructions

### Apply Through Grants.gov

To apply through [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov), please follow the instructions in the [Quick Start Guide for Applicants](#). Before applying, ensure that at least one person at your organization is registered and has the Authorized Organization Representative (AOR). Only the AOR can submit the application. If you need more users, they must create their own Grants.gov account. Follow these steps below to apply:

- *Create a Workspace:* Creating a workspace allows you to complete it online and route it through your organization for review before submitting.
- *Complete a Workspace:* Invite participants to the workspace so you can collaborate on the application. Required applications forms are included in the Grants.gov Funding Opportunity Package and can be completed in the Workspace, unless noted otherwise in the Required Forms table above. Check for errors before submission.
- *Submit a Workspace:* An application may be submitted through workspace by clicking the Sign and Submit button on the Manage Workspace page, under the Forms tab
- *Track a Workspace Submission:* After successfully submitting a workspace application, a Grants.gov Tracking Number (GRANTXXXXXXXX) is automatically assigned to the application.

The system generates a date and time stamp and sends it to the applicant's AOR via email as proof of submission. Make sure your application passes the Grants.gov validation checks. Do not encrypt, zip, or password-protect any files. Only registered individuals in SAM as both a user and an AOR can submit applications. Please allow 30 days to register in Grants.gov.

**Application System Technical Support:** For Grants.gov technical registration and submission, downloading forms, and application packages, contact Grants.gov Customer Support at 1-800-518-4726 or by email at [Support@grants.gov](mailto:Support@grants.gov).

### Apply Through GrantSolutions

To apply through [GrantSolutions](https://www.grantsolutions.gov), follow these steps:

1. **Register your organization.** Send an e-mail to [help@grantsolutions.gov](mailto:help@grantsolutions.gov) with:
  - Subject: New Organization Request
  - Entity name (organization or individual applying as a natural person)
  - Entity type
  - SAM.gov Unique Entity Identifier (not required for individuals)
  - Employer Identification Number (individuals, do not include your SSN)
  - Address

- Contact details (First and last name, e-mail, phone)  
This information should be the same as entered on the entity's SAM.gov profile.
- 2. **Assign system user roles.** Follow the [GrantSolutions "Recipient user" registration instructions](#). Submit a separate Recipient User Account Request form for each official to be assigned a system role. At minimum, the Authorizing Official (ADO) and Principal Investigator/Program Director (PI/PD) must be assigned.
- 3. **Log in.** GrantSolutions requires users to log in through Login.gov. Each user must create a [Login.gov](#) account. For instructions, see the [GrantSolutions Training Resources web page](#).
- 4. **Find and apply to this Funding Opportunity.** After logging in, click on either the "Begin an application" link (first time applicants) or the "Funding Opportunity" link to go to the "Competing Announcements-Application Kits" list screen. Search the list for this Funding Opportunity's title and number. Click on the associated "Apply" link. Follow the prompts from there. Required applications forms are provided with the Funding Opportunity in GrantSolutions unless otherwise indicated on the Required Forms table above.
- 5. For detailed instructions, see the [GrantSolutions Training Resources web page](#).
- 6. **Need help?** Find help topics and contact information on the [GrantSolutions Contact Us page](#).

## APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

### Eligibility Review

During the eligibility review, the application is checked for timely submission, completed packages (see [Application Documents](#) above) and alignment with the requirements of this announcement. The Federal agency may remove an application if it does not pass the eligibility review.

During the eligibility review, the application is checked for timely submission, completed packages (see Application Documents above) and alignment with the requirements of this announcement. The Federal agency may remove an application if it does not pass the eligibility review.

Eligible applicants are local government entities, utilities, semi-autonomous agencies, and institutions of higher education located in the U.S. territories of Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

If an applicant selected for funding hasn't finished their SAM.gov registration (see [2 CFR 25.200](#) and [2 CFR 25.110](#)) when the federal agency is ready to make an award, we may decide that the applicant is ineligible for the award and choose to grant it to someone else. Please refer [2 CFR 25.205](#) for more information.

Prior to making an award, the DOI checks the anticipated recipient and their key project personnel against the current list of prohibited or restricted persons or entities in the System for Award Management (SAM.gov) Exclusions database. We are prohibited from making an award if a recipient or any key personnel are found ineligible, prohibited, restricted, or otherwise excluded from receiving or participating in an award, as their ineligibility condition applies to this program.

If removed from consideration for ineligibility, the Federal agency will notify the applicant in writing.

| <b>Merit Review</b>  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Merit Review Criteria (Power Generation, etc.)</b>  | <b>Merit Review Criteria (Energy Efficiency &amp; Conservation)</b>   |
| <p><b>Criterion 1: Goals and Objectives      Weight: 25%</b><br/> Applies to <u>all</u> applications.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whether or not the proposed project is identified and supported in the territory's Strategic Energy Plan and/or Energy Action Plan.</li> <li>• Extent to which the proposed project will reduce the cost and improve reliability of electricity to the consumer.</li> <li>• Clarity and completeness of the discussion of the project goals and objectives.</li> <li>• Extent to which the proposed project provides economic, environmental, cultural, or social benefits to the territory.</li> <li>• Potential for future replicability or expansion beyond the currently proposed project.</li> <li>• Soundness of the discussion that justifies the need for OIA funding.</li> </ul> |   |
| <p><b>Criterion 2: Project Description and Implementation Plan Weight: 40%</b><br/> <i>Topic Area 1: Grid/Feasibility Studies, Deployment of Energy and Power Generation/Transmission Projects, Thermal and Energy Storage Systems</i><br/> Applies <u>only</u> to related proposed projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overall clarity and completeness of the discussion of the proposed project.</li> <li>• Location of the proposed system.</li> <li>• Estimated power/energy rating(s) of the proposed system.</li> <li>• Physical footprint of the proposed system</li> <li>• Estimated energy production of the proposed system. (Annual, seasonal/monthly). For wind and solar projects, the estimated energy delivery shall be based on supply reliability for the proposed project site.</li> </ul>             | <p><b>Criterion 2: Project Description and Implementation Plan Weight: 40%</b><br/> <i>Topic Area 2: Energy Efficiency and Conservation</i><br/> Applies <u>only</u> to related proposed projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overall clarity and completeness of the discussion of the proposed project.</li> <li>• Location(s) of the proposed project.</li> <li>• Description of project scope including, for buildings: the number of buildings, square footage, and systems (HVAC, lighting, mechanical, building envelope, plug loads, water heating, etc.).</li> <li>• Projected annual and lifetime reduction in energy consumption (for both electrical and thermal energy as appropriate) as demonstrated by proposed energy consumption of the project as compared to an energy baseline taken from energy bill data. Anticipated annual energy savings must be at least 15% for the project to be considered. Supporting calculations should be provided.</li> <li>• Energy conservation measures with a favorable payback period identified</li> </ul> |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Description of the energy load to be served (annual consumption, seasonal/monthly/diurnal consumption [if important]).</li> <li>• Demonstration of site control</li> <li>• Evidence that the project will be designed and constructed to withstand extreme but reasonably likely weather events such as typhoons/hurricanes.</li> <li>• Demonstrate that the chosen technology is commercially proven (tested and demonstrated, carries a warranty, has service and parts readily available), is ready for immediate deployment, and has financing available from private sector organizations.</li> <li>• Demonstrate that the project complies with utility interconnection policies and will be able to interconnect to the grid. This includes providing a summary of applicable interconnection policies and summaries of meetings with utility representatives, design reviews, and any other interactions with the utility regarding the proposed project.</li> <li>• Evidence/affirmation that the applicant will procure insurance that includes coverage for system damage and third-party liability</li> <li>• A description of the territory's procurement rules and regulations applicable to the proposed project is provided</li> <li>• Credibility and clarity of the anticipated operation &amp; maintenance (O&amp;M) plan and how the project will be</li> </ul> | <p>through an energy audit. Identify the level of audit already performed or to be performed: ASHRAE Level 1: walkthrough assessment, Level 2: energy survey and analysis, or Level 3: detailed analysis/modeling.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstration that equipment/devices/processes/controls to be installed are commercially available, able to be installed within 24 months, with proven success in similar applications, warrantied, with readily available service and parts, and available training/support to ensure successful operation &amp; maintenance.</li> <li>• An adequate level of energy metering/sub-metering to measure and verify ongoing project performance and energy savings.</li> <li>• Quantification of impacts on the electricity grid, such as the extent of peak load reduction or system congestion relief.</li> <li>• Anticipated commissioning plan, which describes the commissioning process, sequence of operations, equipment run times and schedules, energy metering, proposed set points, and other requirements to ensure energy efficient operations.</li> <li>• Credibility and clarity of the anticipated operation &amp; maintenance (O&amp;M) plan and how the project will be financially sustained after OIA funding. Description should designate the Annual system operations and maintenance (O&amp;M) cost and responsible party (i.e., who has the expertise and will perform the required maintenance) and estimated O&amp;M costs. (Note: annual O&amp;M costs over the life of the project are not allowable costs under the grant award and must be covered by the grantee).</li> <li>• Estimated total capital cost for the proposed system. Show a breakout of</li> </ul> |
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| <p>financially sustained after OIA funding. Description should designate the Annual system operations and maintenance (O&amp;M) cost and responsible party (i.e., who has the expertise and will perform the required maintenance) and estimated O&amp;M costs. (Note: annual O&amp;M costs over the life of the project are not allowable costs under the grant award and must be covered by the grantee).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quantification of non-energy benefits, such as reduction in water consumption, avoided infrastructure improvements, jobs created, etc.</li> <li>• Extent to which the project improves the territory's disaster resilience.</li> <li>• Estimated total capital cost for the proposed system. Show a breakout of estimated costs for significant project line items and major components.</li> <li>• Estimated annual and lifetime cost savings due to the project (Show calculations.)</li> </ul>  | <p>estimated costs for significant project line items and major components.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Estimated annual and lifetime cost savings due to the project (Show calculations).</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Criterion 3: Environmental Considerations Weight: 15%</b></p> <p>Applies to <b>all</b> applications.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality of the description of land for deployment projects only and evidence of a commitment of the use of that land.</li> <li>• Thoroughness of the discussion of Federal, State, or local permitting, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), or other approvals as required for the proposed project.</li> <li>• Likelihood of obtaining the required permits, approvals, <b><u>and any applicable NEPA compliance</u></b> within the 1–3-year timeframe allotted. Please refer to the included NEPA Screening Template for guidance on what level of NEPA compliance potential projects may require. As a reminder, all Federally funded projects are required to comply with NEPA, regardless of the project involving infrastructure or not.</li> <li>• Clarity of the discussion of environmental analyses conducted and quality of the environmental analyses provided.</li> </ul> |  |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If applicable, the soundness of the plan to dispose of any sanitary or hazardous waste (e.g., construction and demolition debris, old light bulbs, lead ballasts, piping, roofing material, discarded equipment, debris, and asbestos) generated because of the proposed project.</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>Criterion 4: Roles, Responsibilities, Resources, and Capabilities Weight: 10%</b><br/>Applies to <b>all</b> applications.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soundness of the project management concept with respect to proposed tasks and organizational structure to achieve project objectives.</li> <li>• Capabilities of the applicant and participants to comprehensively address all aspects of the proposed project or reasonableness of the plan to obtain qualified suppliers, subcontractors, or consultants.</li> <li>• Level of commitment of the applicant and each participating organization as evidenced by level of involvement, contributions, and cost sharing (if any) identified in declarations and letters of commitment.</li> <li>• Reasonableness of the business agreements between each of the parties to implement the project, if any.</li> <li>• Soundness of the project co-financing and evidence of the capability of the applicant and participating organizations to meet cost sharing requirements (if any) of the proposed project.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Criterion 5: Project Support Weight: 10%</b><br/>Applies to <b>all</b> applications.<br/>Level of support from stakeholders, the public, Congress, and local government, as evidenced by letters of support, historical support by Congress/the Administration, or signature on grant documents by the Governor of the insular area.</p>  |

## Review and Selection Process

This program reviews proposed budgets to ensure:

- figures are correct
- estimated costs are necessary and reasonable and clearly linked to project narratives
- avoid obviously unallowable costs
- identify costs requiring prior approval
- ensure indirect cost rates are applied correctly
- confirm cost sharing requirements are reflected in the budget.

This program reviews applications for potential overlap or duplication between the proposed project and any other funded or proposed project. Depending on the circumstances, DOI may choose to not make an award.

Prior to a comprehensive merit evaluation, OIA will perform an initial review to determine that (1) the applicant is eligible for an award; (2) the information required by the announcement has been submitted; (3) all mandatory requirements are satisfied; (4) the proposed project is responsive to the objectives of the funding opportunity announcement; and (5) the proposed project is in compliance with all applicable executive and secretary orders, including the

President's executive order on Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing as well as the executive order and Secretary order on Restoring Truth and Sanity to American History. If an application fails to meet the requirements or objectives of the NOFO, or does not provide sufficient information for review, the applicant will be considered nonresponsive and eliminated from further review. The review committee will review and evaluate all eligible applications, then provide recommendations to the Assistant Secretary and/or designated official. The Assistant Secretary and/or designated official will consider the merit review, as well as the amount of funds available and geographic distribution of funding when making recommendations for funding. The Assistant Secretary and/or designated official will select the successful proposals.

## **Risk Review**

Prior to making an award, the program assesses the risk posed by the applicant per [2 CFR 200.206](#). If an award will be made, the program may apply special conditions corresponding to the risk assessed. For awards over the simplified acquisition threshold (currently \$250,000), the program reviews eligibility and financial integrity information in the applicant's SAM.gov records per [2 CFR 200.206\(a\)](#). The program also assesses financial management capabilities, project delivery experience, staffing resources, past performance, administration and reporting compliance records, and overall project complexity and potential challenges.

## **AWARD NOTICES**

Notices of Federal Award are sent electronically via GrantSolutions or e-mail. These notices outline the terms, conditions, and payment instructions per [2 CFR 200.211](#). The Notice of Federal Award signed by an authorized Grants Officer is the legal instrument obligating financial assistance to a recipient. Any other prior notice is not an authorization to begin work. If the program allows pre-award costs per [2 CFR 200.458](#), beginning performance before receiving a Notice of Federal Award is at the applicant's own risk.

**Anticipated Project Start Date:** 10/01/2025

**Anticipated Project End Date:** 09/30/2028

### **Award Instrument Information**

- Projects will be funded, subject to availability of funds, by issuance of a grant agreement.
- Agreements will include a cover letter signed by an Office of Insular Affairs Official and a grant award document issued by the grant manager.
- The recipient shall obtain prior approval for any budget or program revisions.

### **Funding Restrictions**

- All funding is contingent upon the availability and appropriation of funds by the United States Congress.
- Costs must be allowable in accordance with the applicable Federal cost principles referenced in 2 CFR 200, Subpart E – Cost Principles.
- All projects must receive an Authorization to Proceed (ATP) before beginning any work except work related to compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

### **Submission from Successful Applicants**

- If selected for possible award, the Office of Insular Affairs reserves the right to request additional or clarifying information for any reason deemed necessary.
- OIA will notify the applicant if only a portion of the application is selected for funding and if any special terms and conditions are required for their grant.

### **Award Notices**

- After an applicant's proposal is selected for award, the applicant will receive a letter from the Office of Insular Affairs.
- The Office of Insular Affairs anticipates that the grant recipients and projects will be chosen during the summer.

### **Administration and National Policy Requirements**

- Code of Federal Regulations – By accepting financial assistance, your organization agrees to abide by the applicable Federal regulations in the expenditure of Federal funds and performance under this program: 2 CFR Part 200 – Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards.

## **POST AWARD REQUIREMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION**

### **Administration and National Policy Requirements**

For award administration and national policy requirements, see the [DOI General Terms and Conditions](#). Infrastructure projects require the use of American iron, steel, manufacture products, and construction materials per [2 CFR 184](#).

### **Geospatial Data**

If you receive financial assistance from the Department of the Interior (DOI), recipient must follow these rules for geospatial data:

**Follow Federal Standards:** All geospatial data you collect or create must meet the standards set by the Federal Geospatial Data Committee (FGDC) or the Department of the Interior. This is required by the Geospatial Data Act of 2018, which is part of Public Law 115-254, specifically in Subtitle F (Geospatial Data), sections 751-759C (codified at [43 U.S.C. §§ 2801–2811](#)).

**Include Metadata:** Your Geographic Information Systems (GIS) files must include complete metadata. Metadata is information that describes the data, such as where it came from, how accurate it is, and how it should be used. This is to ensure that anyone using the data understands its context and quality.

**Check for Existing Data:** Before you start collecting new geospatial data, you need to check GeoPlatform.gov. This is to see if there is already existing geospatial data from federal, state, local, or private sources that can meet your needs and is available for free. If such data is available, you should use it instead of gathering new data.

These rules help ensure that geospatial data is reliable, high-quality, and that resources are used efficiently.

## Reporting

The recipient's Notice of Award will detail all reporting requirements, including frequency, due dates, and instructions for requesting extensions. In general, but not limited to, recipients must:

- Submit Federal Financial reports and Program Performance reports.
- Use the [Federal Financial Report \(SF-425\) form](#) for financial reporting,
- Monitor award activities and report on program performance per [2 CFR 200.329](#),
- Promptly notify the awarding program in writing of any issues, delays, or conditions impairing award objectives per [2 CFR 200.329\(e\)](#),
- Disclose any conflicts of interest related to their award that arise during the award period per [2 CFR 1402.112](#),
- Report on the status of real property acquired under the award in which the Federal government retains an interest per [2 CFR 200.330](#), and
- Report all violations of Federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the Federal award per [2 CFR 200.113](#).
- Report any matters related to recipient integrity and performance to SAM.gov per [Appendix XII to 2 CFR 200](#).
- If the Federal share of the award is more than \$100,000 and the recipient makes or agrees to make any payment using non-appropriated funds for lobbying in connection to the award, disclose those activities using the Disclosure of Lobbying (SF-LLL) form per [43 CFR 18.100](#).
- Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (FFATA) requires certain recipients to report information on executive compensation through SAM.gov and information on all sub-awards, subcontracts, and consortiums over \$30,000 to the [FFATA Subaward Reporting System \(FSRS\)](#).

**The standard grant reporting requirements are listed below:**

- A narrative and financial project status report will be due semi-annually for the periods beginning January 1 and ending June 30 and beginning July 1 and ending December 31.
- Reports are due within 30 days of the end of the period (i.e. January 30 and July 30). Final reports are due 120 days after the expiration or termination of the award.
- Reports should be submitted via GrantSolutions.gov within the required time frames, to be considered accepted.
- If applicable to the project scope, Performance Progress Reports should reflect all impacts upon fuel/electricity bills and pricing.
- Please note that the performance measures need to be reported on in every Performance Progress Report submitted. If performance goals are not being met, a detailed explanation of why they are not being met should be included in the report.
- Even if no progress has been made during a report period, a Performance Progress Report must still be submitted.

## Other Information