

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT**



**U.S. Department of Energy
Idaho Operations Office
Fiscal Year 2025 University Reactor Sharing
and Outreach**

Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA): DE-FOA-0003313

Announcement Type: Initial: August 15, 2024

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Issue Date: August 15, 2024

Informational Webinar: May 9, 2024

(video links and presentations will be available at www.NEUP.gov)

Application Due Date: October 16, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Registration Requirements

There are several one-time actions applicants must complete in order to submit an application in response to this Announcement (e.g., obtain Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number, register with the System for Award Management (SAM), and create an account on the NEUP.gov website at: www.NEUP.gov. Applicants who are not registered with SAM should allow up to five weeks to complete this requirement. It is suggested that the process be started as soon as possible.

The applicant must complete or have already completed the following actions:

1. Register with the SAM: <https://www.sam.gov/>. For more information about SAM registration for applicants please refer to: <https://www.sam.gov/content/entity-landing>
2. Obtain the Unique Entity Identifier (ID) generated number generated in SAM.gov.
3. Create an account on the NEUP.gov website at <https://www.neup.gov/> using the “Sign In” tab in the top right-hand corner. To create an account: 1) click “Create a new account”; 2) fill out the required information and click “Create User”; and 3) fill out the information in the “My Information” section.

Questions

Questions regarding the **content of this funding opportunity announcement (FOA)** must be submitted using the contact information found at Part VII, Section B, of this FOA. The Department of Energy (DOE) will try to respond to a question within three (3) business days unless a similar question and answer have already been posted on the website.

Application Preparation

Applicants must prepare the application package and application forms from the NEUP.gov website: <https://neup.inl.gov/SitePages/Home.aspx>.

Additional instructions are provided in Section IV of this FOA.

Application Submission

Instructions and a copy of the FOA can be found at www.NEUP.gov.

Electronic applications and instructions are available at the NEUP website. To access these materials:

(1) go to www.NEUP.gov; (2) select “Sign In” from the top right-hand corner of the screen; (3) enter your user credentials; (4) select “Applications” from the menu; and (5) click on “Create New Application” for the type of application you are creating. Apply at www.NEUP.gov. If you have any questions about your registration, contact the Innovative Nuclear Research (INR) Integration Office at neup@inl.gov.

CHECKLIST FOR AVOIDING COMMON ERRORS

Item	Issue
Page Limits	Strictly followed throughout application, including particular attention to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project Summary/Abstract File - Project Narrative File - Project Team Curriculum Vitae (CV)
Project Summary / Abstract	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 (i.e., benefits, outcomes), and major participants (for collaborative projects).
Budget	Use current negotiated indirect cost and fringe benefit rates.
Budget Justification (attached to budget)	Justify all requested costs.
Past, Current and Pending Support	Identify funding that is pending or has been awarded for similar activities related to reactor sharing initiatives within the last three years. Please identify by source and amount requested/awarded.
Certifications and Assurances	Ensure that signatures are completed for both sections of the certifications and assurances documentation (typically, three (3) signatures are required).
Font Size	Pay particular attention to required font format and sizes, typically, Times New Roman, 11 pt. font.
Forms	Use associated links for any/all forms.

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ACRONYMS

CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CINR	Consolidated Innovative Nuclear Research
COI	Conflict of Interest
CV	Curriculum Vitae
DE	Department of Energy (FOA Number)
DOE	Department of Energy
FC R&D	Fuel Cycle Research and Development
FFATA	Federal Funding and Transparency Act of 2006
FOA	Funding Opportunity Announcement
FSRS	FFATA Subaward Reporting System
FY	Fiscal Year
HBCU	Historically Black Colleges and Universities
HPC	High-Performance Computing
INL	Idaho National Laboratory
MSI	Minority-Serving Institution
NE	Office of Nuclear Energy
NEAMS	Nuclear Energy Advanced Modeling and Simulation
NEID	Nuclear Energy Infrastructure Database
NEUP	Nuclear Energy University Program
NS&E	Nuclear Science & Engineering
NSF	National Science Foundation
NSUF	Nuclear Science User Facilities
OIG	Office of Inspector General
OMI	Other Minority Institutions
PDF	Adobe Portable Document Format
PI	Principal Investigator
PL	Program Lead
QOZ	Qualified Opportunity Zone
RC RD&D	Reactor Concepts Research, Development and Demonstration
R&D	Research and Development
RS&O	Reactor Sharing and Outreach
SAM	System for Award Management
SF	Standard Form
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
UEI	Unique Entity Identifier
U.S.	United States

PART I - FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

A. STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES

The University Reactor Sharing and Outreach (RS&O) Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) will support universities and colleges with nuclear research reactors to share resources and capabilities with the community to increase nuclear science, engineering, and technology awareness. This may include educational institutions without research reactors-, such as United States (U.S.) colleges, universities, technical and vocational institutions, community colleges, K-12, and others.

The objectives of this RS&O FOA are to:

- (1) Strengthen nuclear science and engineering instruction in the curricula of colleges and universities that do not own research reactors (hereby referred to as “User Institutions”);
- (2) Increase opportunities for collaboration among faculty and students on nuclear science and engineering;
- (3) Improve community awareness and understanding of nuclear science, engineering, and technology through research reactor visits and other outreach opportunities; and
- (4) Engage with historically underrepresented communities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) to promote nuclear science, engineering, and technology to educate and recruit the next generation nuclear energy workforce.

Examples of activities of interest for this FOA could include nuclear science laboratories to enhance nuclear engineering, physics, or chemistry courses; providing reactor tours student groups; science educator workshops in nuclear science and community groups. The program will support public community engagements between university research reactor facilities and external participants working to increase opportunities for participants to advocate for nuclear science, engineering, and technology. University research reactors could also be used as versatile neutron sources and in specialized research projects. By increasing access to these facilities among colleges and universities, there is a potential for collaboration and crosscutting innovation in education and research opportunities for pre-college, undergraduate, and graduate students, as well as university faculty members.

During fiscal year (FY) 2025, the Department of Energy (DOE) anticipates that approximately \$1,000,000 will be available for this FOA. Universities and colleges with nuclear research reactor(s) are hereby referred to as “Host Institutions” in this FOA.

B. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

DOE is seeking applications under this RS&O FOA from Host Institutions that support at least one of the following goals:

- (1) Meaningful qualitative and quantitative educational and research engagement of faculty and students from User Institutions.
- (2) Evidence of engagements with other educational institutions (e.g., technical and vocational institutions, community colleges, K-12 schools, and historically underrepresented communities in STEM) to expand knowledge in nuclear science and engineering.

- (3) Establish pathways for future self-sustaining mutually beneficial partnerships with User Institutions or other educational institutions.

PART II - AWARD INFORMATION

A. TYPE OF AWARD INSTRUMENT

DOE anticipates awarding grants to Host Institutions (universities or colleges with a nuclear reactor).

B. ESTIMATED FUNDING

The estimated amounts identified for this FOA are contingent upon Congressional appropriations and are subject to change. DOE currently estimates that it will fund approximately \$1 million in awards.

C. MAXIMUM AND MINIMUM AWARD SIZE

The maximum and minimum amount of funding available for an individual award under this area is identified as the FOA ceiling and floor, respectively. The ceiling and floor are as follows:

- Federal Floor: None.
- Federal Ceiling: \$200,000 per institution.
- Anticipated Awards: Several smaller awards that are no more than \$200,000 each.
- Cost Share Requirement: None, cost-share is not required.

D. EXPECTED NUMBER OF AWARDS

The estimated amounts are contingent upon Congressional appropriations and are subject to change. However, DOE anticipates making approximately 5 awards, depending on the quality of the submissions and availability of funds. DOE reserves the right to make no awards under this announcement.

E. PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

DOE anticipates making awards with an estimated project period of up to two years, beginning August 1, 2025. Additional time, if needed, may be requested, and justified in the application.

F. TYPE OF APPLICATION

DOE will accept only new applications under this announcement.

PART III - ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

A. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Universities and Colleges. In accordance with 2 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 910.126(b), eligibility for award is restricted to U.S. universities and colleges with a nuclear research reactor, specifically designated as Host Institutions under this FOA. Other educational institutions and users may collaborate with a Host Institution in the development of an application.

The following Host Institutions are eligible to apply:

1	Idaho State University	13	The Ohio State University
2	Kansas State University	14	University of California, Davis
3	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	15	University of California, Irvine
4	Missouri University of Science & Technology	16	University of Florida
5	North Carolina State University	17	University of Maryland, College Park
6	Oregon State University	18	University of Massachusetts, Lowell
7	Pennsylvania State University	19	University of Missouri, Columbia
8	Purdue University	20	University of New Mexico
9	Reed College	21	University of Texas at Austin
10	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	22	University of Utah
11	Rhode Island Nuclear Science Center	23	University of Wisconsin, Madison
12	Texas A&M University	24	Washington State University

To support the goal of building a clean and equitable energy economy, the Office of Nuclear Energy (NE) strives to contribute to the President's goal that 40% of the overall benefits of certain Federal investments flow to Disadvantaged Communities (DACs) (the Justice40 Initiative). The goal is to spur economic development and job creation in DACs throughout the U.S., through effective teams and/or partnerships with institutions, located in a disadvantaged community that may receive funding support from the project.

In support of the Justice40 Initiative, the White House has developed the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST) tool to identify DACs. CEJST can be found at <https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/#3/33.47/-97.5>. Applicants are encouraged to use CEJST to illustrate how their project supports DACs.

NE also strives to advance energy equity through effective teams and/or partnerships with Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) and other Minority-Serving Institutions (MSI).

Information on MSIs can be found at <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/opec/dues/eligibility.html#tips>. This information predominately covers institutions that have been awarded grants through the Department of Education and does not include all institutions that may meet the definition of an MSI. The

Office of Science has compiled a similar list of institutions:

<https://science.osti.gov/grants/Applicant-and-Awardee-Resources/Institution-Designations>.

These lists are not an exhaustive list of MSIs but will be used as a starting point for self-identifying MSIs. If applicants believe that their institution qualifies as an MSI and is not listed, please contact neup@inl.gov with an explanation for how the university meets the conditions of being considered an MSI.

What is a Disadvantaged Community (DAC)?

According to Executive Order 14008, a disadvantaged community is one that has been historically marginalized and overburdened by pollution and underinvestment in housing, transportation, water and wastewater infrastructure, and health care. A community qualifies as “disadvantaged” if the census tract is above the threshold for one or more environmental or climate indicators and the tract is above the threshold for the socioeconomic indicators, or if they are on land within the boundaries of Federally Recognized Tribes.

as defined by the White House Climate Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST), <https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/>.

What is an underrepresented community?

According to the Equity Executive Orders: 13985, 14020, and EO 14091, an “underrepresented” community refers to populations sharing a particular characteristic, as well as geographic communities, that have been systematically denied a full opportunity to participate in aspects of economic, social, and civic life, such as Black, Latino, Indigenous and Native American, Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander persons and other persons of color; members of religious minorities; women and girls; LGBTQI+ persons; persons with disabilities; persons who live in rural areas; persons who live in United States Territories; persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality; and individuals who belong to multiple such communities. Further, according to the National Science Foundation's 2023, report titled, Diversity and STEM: Women, Minorities, and Persons with Disabilities, (<https://nces.nsf.gov/pubs/nsf23315/report>) the U.S. STEM workforce has gradually diversified between 2011 and 2021, with increased representation from these underrepresented communities. However, Hispanic workers represented 15% of the total STEM workforce in 2021, and Asian and Black workers were 10% and 9%, respectively. American Indians and Alaska Natives together made up less than 1% of the U.S. population and STEM workforce in 2021. DOE seeks to inspire underrepresented Americans to pursue careers in energy and support their advancement into leadership positions. (<https://www.energy.gov/articles/introducing-minorities-energy-initiative>).

B. COST SHARING

For Host Institution applicants, cost sharing is not required, but is encouraged.

C. OTHER ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Each Host Institution is limited to one (1) application under this RS&O FOA.

Each Host Institution may have only one (1) active RS&O award at a time.

NOTE: Any previous RS&O awards must be completed before another RS&O award can be placed.

Non-university collaborators, in total, can receive no more than 20% of the total funds provided by the Government.

PART IV - APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

A. ADDRESS TO REQUEST APPLICATION PACKAGE

Electronic applications and instructions are available at the NEUP.gov website. To access these materials: (1) go to www.NEUP.gov; (2) select “Sign In” from the top right-hand corner of the screen; (3) enter your user credentials; (4) select “Applications” from the menu; and (5) click on “Create New Application” for the type of application that you are creating. Apply at www.NEUP.gov.

B. DOCUMENT FORMAT REQUIREMENTS

All non-budget documentation (use templates where provided) is to be prepared using standard 8.5” × 11” paper with 1-inch margins (top, bottom, left, right), using a font size no smaller than Times New Roman 11 point. This is a requirement for all pages included in the document, (i.e., table of contents, references, etc.). The preferred file format is Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) for all documents except for spreadsheets. All spreadsheets are to be uploaded in Excel file format to the online application. Do NOT lock any cells in the spreadsheet.

Applicants must comply with all pertinent page limitations. Any text (including references and data tables) in a document that does not adhere to the requirements listed above (except graphics, graphs, charts, and equations) will be removed from the document and will not be reviewed. DOE reserves the right to dismiss applications that violate formatting requirements. Signature blocks must be signed by the designated official.

Documents should be saved using the document naming suggestion at the bottom of each document description. The tracking ID will automatically be generated by the application system and can be found at the top of the application form under “Tracking ID.”

DOE reserves the right to dismiss applications, which it deems, after initial review, to lack enough detail for reviewers to adequately judge technical merit. Applications submitted with corrupted, incomplete, or incorrect files may be dismissed without further review.

C. LETTER OF INTENT AND PRE-APPLICATION

C.1 Letter of Intent

Letters of Intent are not required.

C.2 Pre-applications

Pre-applications are not required.

D. CONTENT AND FORM OF APPLICATION

Applicants must complete the mandatory forms, and any applicable optional forms (e.g., Disclosure of Lobbying Activities) in accordance with the instructions on the forms and the additional instructions below. Files attached to the forms must be in Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) and merged into a single PDF file, unless otherwise specified in this announcement. The following table summarizes all the required forms and files. The following sub-sections (D.1 through D.14) describe the required and optional contents of each document or form.

Required Form/File	Format	File Name	Signature Required
Application for Federal Assistance – SF-424	Form	FY25 SF424 Fed Assist [TRACKING ID#].pdf	Yes
Project/Performance Site Location(s)	Form	FY25 Performance Site [TRACKING ID#].pdf	
Project Summary/Abstract File	PDF	FY25 Summary Abstract [TRACKING ID#].pdf	
Project Narrative File (limit of 8 pages)	PDF	FY25 Project Narrative [TRACKING ID#].pdf	
Project Team Curriculum Vitae (limit of 3 pages per CV)	PDF	FY25 CV [PI NAME] [TRACKING ID#].pdf	
SF424A Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs	Excel	FY25 Budget SF424A [TRACKING ID#].xls	
Budget Justification File	PDF	FY25 Budget Justification [TRACKING ID#].pdf	
Cost Sharing Commitment Letters (if applicable)	PDF	FY25 Commitment Letter [TRACKING ID#].pdf	
Current and Pending Support	PDF	FY25 Support [TRACKING ID#].pdf	
Potentially Duplicative Funding Notice (if applicable)	PDF	FY25 PDFN [TRACKING ID#].pdf	
Conflict of Interest Certification/ Conflict of Interest Disclosure (if applicable)	PDF	FY25 COI Disclosure [TRACKING ID#].pdf	
Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL)	Form	FY25 SF-LLL [TRACKING ID#].pdf	Yes
Certifications and Assurances	Form	FY25 Cert & Assurances [TRACKING ID#].pdf	Yes
Project Commitment to Energy Equity and Justice 40 Initiative	PDF	FY25 EEandJustice40 [TRACKING ID#].pdf	
Impacted Indian Tribes (if applicable)	PDF	FY25 ImpactedIndianTribes [TRACKING ID#].pdf	

D.1 SF-424 – Application for Federal Assistance

Complete all required fields in accordance with the pop-up instructions on the form. The correct form to use is the Application for Federal Assistance SF-424 (OMB 4040-0004), which is available at: www.NEUP.gov or through the link, [SF-424](#). The list of certifications and assurances referenced in Field 21 can be found on the DOE Financial Assistance page at: <https://www.energy.gov/management/articles/certifications-and-assurances-use-sf-424>

Save form as:

FY25 SF424 Fed Assist [TRACKING ID#].pdf

D.2 Project/Performance Site Location(s)

Insert the primary site where the work will be performed. If a portion of the project will be performed at any other site(s), identify the site location(s) in the blocks provided.

NOTE: The Project/Performance Site Congressional District is entered in the format of the two-digit state code followed by a dash and a three-digit Congressional district code (i.e., VA-001). Hover over the field in the form for additional instructions.

Use the Next Site button to expand the form to add additional Project/Performance Site Locations.

Save form as:

FY25 Performance Site [TRACKING ID#].pdf

D.3 Project Summary/Abstract File

The one (1) page project summary/abstract must contain a summary of the proposed activity suitable for dissemination to the public. It should be a self-contained document that identifies the name of the applicant, the project director(s)/principal investigator(s) (PI)/program lead(s) (PL), the project title, the objectives of the project, a description of the project, including methods to be employed, the potential impact of the project (i.e., benefits, outcomes), and major participants (for collaborative projects). Do not include any proprietary or sensitive business information in this document, because, if an award is made, the Department may make it available to the public.

Page limit: 1-page. (Use provided [Template](#) on the application site)

Save in a file named:

FY25 Summary Abstract [TRACKING ID#].pdf

D.4 Project Narrative File

The narrative must not exceed 8 printed pages, including cover page, charts, graphs, maps, photographs, references, and other pictorial presentations while complying with the document format instructions in Part IV, Section B. Applicants must comply with all pertinent page limitations.

DOE reserves the right to dismiss applications that violate formatting requirements. Signature blocks must be signed by the designated official. EVALUATORS WILL REVIEW ONLY 8 PAGES, AS SPECIFIED ABOVE. Do not include any Internet addresses (URLs) that provide information necessary to review the application. See Part VIII, Section D, for instructions on how to mark proprietary application information.

Page limit: 8 pages.

Save in a single file named:
FY25 Project Narrative [TRACKING ID#].pdf

The project narrative must include the following:

- (1) Introduction. Including program or project title and names of key personnel involved with the effort.
- (2) Goals and Objectives. This section shall provide a clear and concise statement of the specific objectives and/or goals of the proposed effort. For this FOA, a “goal” is an outcome the proposed team would like to achieve while an objective is an action or outcome related to a metric. Including the following:
 - a. Overall goal(s) of the proposed effort with the team must incorporate two (2) of the FOA goals listed in Part I - B. The proposed goal(s) may include multiple components or aspects and may be linked to specific measurable objectives.
 - b. Primary objectives that will be achieved during the effort with quantifiable metrics. The following are examples of objectives in no priority. The type and quantity of objectives are established by the applicant.
 - i. Minimum number of hours collaborating with K-12 schools and organizations.
 - ii. Data produced from an experiment performed at the Host Institution in support of a User Institution student project.
 - iii. Minimum number of tours with active engagement over the award.
 - iv. Engagement with underrepresented communities.
 - c. Describe the Nuclear Science and Engineering (NS&E) program at the Host Institution, User Institution, and/or educational organization (where applicable). If there is no current program, briefly describe intentions or plans to establish a program or pathway to future collaboration.
- (3) Schedule and Description of Tasks. This section shall provide a breakdown of individual tasks related to the overall effort. Including the following:
 - a. An overall timeline of the proposed tasks throughout the effort (e.g., Gantt chart).
 - b. Key milestones linked to metrics.
 - c. The role of each task in achieving the goals and objectives.
- (4) Participant Roles. Describe the capabilities, expertise, and qualifications of the Program Lead(s) (PL) and senior/key personnel that would be essential to achieving the goals of the proposed effort. Reference should be specific to individuals where appropriate. The PL should state explicitly if there is any expertise that must be acquired to complete the effort and plans to incorporate additional personnel (e.g., new hires, consultants, etc.).
- (5) Facilities, Equipment, and Other Resources. Identify the facilities (e.g., office, laboratory, etc.), equipment (computers, oscilloscopes, etc.), and other resources (machine shops, electronics shops, etc.) to be used at Host Institution and/or User Institutions, if appropriate.

Include details regarding capacities, pertinent capabilities, relative proximity, and extent of availability to the effort. Describe the utilization of those resources that are directly applicable to the proposed work.

D.5 Project Team Curriculum Vitae (CV)

A CV provides information that can be used by reviewers to evaluate the individual's skills, experience, and potential for leadership within the scientific community. Applicants must submit a resume (limited to three pages) for each PL and Senior/Key Personnel that include the following:

1. Contact Information
2. Education and Training: Undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral training. Identify institution, major/area, degree, and year.
3. Research and Professional Experience: Beginning with the current position, list, in chronological order, professional/academic positions with a brief description. List all current academic, professional, or institutional appointments, foreign or domestic, at the applicant institution or elsewhere, whether or not remuneration is received, and, whether full-time, part-time, or voluntary.
4. Awards and honors
5. Publications: Provide a list of up to 10 publications most closely related to the proposed project. For each publication, identify the names of all authors (in the same sequence in which they appear in the publication), the article title, book or journal title, volume number, page numbers, year of publication, and website address if available electronically.
6. Patents, Copyrights, and Software Systems: developed may be provided in addition to or substituted for publications.
7. Synergistic Activities: List no more than 5 professional and/or scholarly activities related to the proposed effort.
8. There should be no lapses in time over the past ten years or since age 18, whichever time period is shorter.

Page limit: 3 pages

As an alternative to a resume, it is acceptable to use the biographical sketch format approved by the National Science Foundation (NSF). The biographical sketch format may be generated by the Science Experts Network Curriculum Vita (SciENcv), a cooperative venture maintained at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sciencv/>, and is also available at <https://new.nsf.gov/policies/pappg/24-1/ch-2-proposal-preparation#ch2D2hi>. The use of a format required by another agency is intended to reduce the administrative burden to researchers by promoting the use of common formats.

Save in a single file named:
FY25 CV [PI NAME] [TRACKING ID#].pdf

D.6 SF-424A Budget Information – Non-Construction Program File

Applicants must provide a separate budget for each year of support requested, and a cumulative budget for the total project period. Use the SF-424A Excel file, "Budget Information – Non-

Construction Programs" form on the DOE Financial Assistance Forms page at https://neup.inl.gov/SitePages/Related_Documents.aspx

Applicants may request funds under the appropriate Object Class Categories, as long as the item and amount are necessary to perform the proposed work, meet all the criteria for allowability under the applicable Federal cost principles, and are not prohibited by the funding restrictions in this announcement (see Part IV - H).

Save this information in a single file named:
FY25 Budget SF424A [TRACKING ID#].xlsx

D.7 Budget Justification File

Applicants (Host Institution) must justify the costs proposed in each Object Class Category/Cost Classification category.

The [Budget Justification Supporting Documentation](#) is available at NEUP.gov. Provide the required supporting information for all costs required to accomplish the project, including the following costs: labor, equipment, domestic and foreign travel, participant/trainees, material and supplies, publication, consultant services, automated data processing/computer services, subaward/consortium/contractual, equipment or facility rental/user fees, alterations and renovations, and indirect cost type. Provide any other information you wish to submit to justify the budget request.

A budget justification is required for the lead applicant and all sub-awardees. The justification can be combined into one document or submitted as separate files.

If cost sharing is proposed, please refer to Part IV - D.8. Additionally, the budget justification file must identify the following information for each third-party contributing cost sharing:

1. the name of the organization;
2. the proposed dollar amount to be provided;
3. the amount as a percentage of the total project cost; and
4. the proposed cost sharing – cash, services, or property.

The following are restrictions on the use of funds under this FOA:

1. Consumables, materials, and supplies are allowable for activities exclusively supporting reactor sharing, teaching, education, and outreach;
2. Equipment purchases greater than or equal to \$5,000 are not allowed;
3. Upgrades to increase operational profit or support directly for commercial activities are not allowed;
4. Foreign travel is not allowed; and
5. Non-university collaborators, in composite, can have no more than 20% of the total funds provided by the Government.

Save the budget justification information in a single file named:
“FY25 Budget Justification [TRACKING ID#].pdf”

D.8 Cost Sharing

If cost sharing is proposed, applicants must include a commitment letter from each third party contributing to the cost sharing (i.e., a party other than the organization submitting the application), stating that the third party is committed to providing a specific minimum dollar amount of cost sharing. The commitment letter must include the cost sharing items listed in Part IV - D.7.

Save commitment letter as:

FY25 Commitment Letter [TRACKING ID#].pdf

D.9 Current & Pending Support and Duplicative Funding

D.9.1 Current & Pending Support **(Required for All Applicants)**

Current and pending support is intended to allow the identification of potential duplication, overcommitment, potential conflicts of interest or commitment, and all other sources of support. As part of the application, the lead project manager and each senior/key person at the prime applicant and any proposed subaward level must provide a list of all sponsored activities, awards, and appointments, whether paid or unpaid; provided as a gift with terms or conditions or provided as a gift without terms or conditions; full-time, part-time, or voluntary; faculty, visiting, adjunct, or honorary; cash or in-kind; foreign or domestic; governmental or private-sector; directly supporting the individual's research or indirectly supporting the individual by supporting students, research staff, space, equipment, or other research expenses. All involvement in Foreign Government-Sponsored Talent Recruitment Programs (defined in Part IV - H.3) must be identified in current and pending support.

For every activity, list the following items:

- The sponsor of the activity or the source of funding.
- The award or other identifying number.
- The title of the award or activity. If the title of the award or activity is not descriptive, add a brief description of the research being performed that would identify any overlaps or synergies with the proposed research.
- The total cost or value of the award or activity, including direct and indirect costs and cost share. For pending proposals, provide the total amount of requested funding.
- The award period (start date – end date).
- The person-months of effort per year being dedicated to the award or activity.

If required to identify overlap, duplication of effort, or synergistic efforts, append a description of the other award or activity to the current and pending support.

Details of any obligations, contractual or otherwise, to any program, entity, or organization sponsored by a foreign government must be provided on request either the applicant institution or DOE. Supporting documents of any identified source of support must be provided to DOE on request, including certified translations of any document.

The information may be provided in the approved common disclosure format available at [Common Form for Current and Pending \(Other\) Support \(nsf.gov\)](#). Each current and pending support disclosure must be signed and dated and include the following certification statement. If

using the common disclosure format, the following signed and dated statement should be appended to the form:

I, [Full Name and Title], certify to the best of my knowledge and belief that the information contained in this Current and Pending Support Disclosure Statement is true, complete, and accurate. I understand that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent information, misrepresentations, half-truths, or omissions of any material fact, may subject me to criminal, civil or administrative penalties for fraud, false statements, false claims or otherwise. (18 U.S.C. §§ 1001 and 287, and 31 U.S.C. §§ 3729-3733 and 3801-3812). I further understand and agree that (1) the statements and representations made herein are material to DOE's funding decision, and (2) I have a responsibility to update the disclosures during the period of performance of the award should circumstances change which impact the responses provided above.

Save this information in a file named:
FY25 Support [TRACKING ID#].pdf

Definitions:

Current and pending support – (a) All resources made available, or expected to be made available, to an individual in support of the individual's RD&D efforts, regardless of (i) whether the source is foreign or domestic; (ii) whether the resource is made available through the entity applying for an award or directly to the individual; or (iii) whether the resource has monetary value; and (b) includes in-kind contributions requiring a commitment of time and directly supporting the individual's RD&D efforts, such as the provision of office or laboratory space, equipment, supplies, employees, or students. This term has the same meaning as the term Other Support as applied to researchers in NSPM-33: For researchers, Other Support includes all resources made available to a researcher in support of and/or related to all of their professional RD&D efforts, including resources provided directly to the individual or through the organization, and regardless of whether or not they have monetary value (e.g., even if the support received is only in-kind, such as office/laboratory space, equipment, supplies, or employees). This includes resource and/or financial support from all foreign and domestic entities, including but not limited to, gifts provided with terms or conditions, financial support for laboratory personnel, and participation of student and visiting researchers supported by other sources of funding.

Senior/key personnel – an individual who contributes in a substantive, meaningful way to the scientific development or execution of a research, development and demonstration (RD&D) project proposed to be carried out with DOE award.¹

¹ 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.

**D.9.2 Potentially Duplicative Funding Notice
(if applicable)**

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., recipient cost share and 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 this information in a single file named:
FY25 PDFN [TRACKING ID#].pdf

**D.10 Interim Conflict of Interest Policy
(Required for All Applicants)**

The DOE Interim Conflict of Interest Policy for Financial Assistance (COI Policy) can be found at [Financial Assistance Letter No. FAL 2022-02 | Department of Energy](#). This policy 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. DOE's interim COI Policy establishes standards that provide a reasonable expectation that the design, conduct, and reporting of projects funded wholly or in part under DOE financial assistance awards will be free from bias resulting from financial conflicts of interest or organizational conflicts of interest. The applicant is subject to the requirements of the interim COI Policy and within each application for financial assistance, the applicant must certify that it is, or will be by the time of receiving any financial assistance award, compliant with all requirements in the interim COI Policy. The applicant must flow down the requirements of the interim COI Policy to any subrecipient non-Federal entities.

The Recipient is required to disclose, manage, and report conflicts of interest as per the DOE interim COI Policy. Check the appropriate box on the application form certifying compliance with the COI Policy. If any disclosures need to be made, upload a COI document to the COI disclosure area of the application form.

Fully complete the COI application form and save in a single file named:
FY25 COI Disclosure [TRACKING ID#].pdf

**D.11 Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL)
(Required for All Applicants)**

Identify any funds, other than Federal appropriated funds, that have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a

Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the grant/cooperative agreement.

Save this form in a single file named:
FY25 SF-LLL [TRACKING ID#].pdf

D.12 Certifications and Assurances

Applicants must complete and attach the Certifications and Assurances form found on the DOE Financial Assistance Forms Page at: https://neup.inl.gov/SitePages/Related_Documents.aspx
<https://www.energy.gov/management/articles/certifications-and-assurances-use-sf-424>

Save this form in a single file named:
FY25 Cert & Assurances [TRACKING ID#].pdf

D.13 Project Commitment to Energy Equity and Justice40 Initiative (Required)

Applicants are encouraged to describe how their projects or project teams will: (1) contribute to the Justice40 Initiative (as described in Part III - A of this FOA); and/or (2) ensure energy justice through effective teams and/or partnerships with MSIs, including Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), or institutions located in a Disadvantaged Community (DAC).

Justice40 Initiative. Applicants may include information on how the projects supports the Justice40 Initiative, including for example:

- Extent to which the applicant identifies the following: specific and measurable benefits for Disadvantaged Communities (DACs); how the benefits will flow to DACs; and how negative environmental impacts affecting DACs would be mitigated. Benefits include (but are not limited to) measurable direct or indirect investments or positive project outcomes that achieve or contribute to the following in DACs: (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 high-quality 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.
- 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 DACs;
- The degree to which the proposed project provides funding to DACs or seeks to address communities with environmental justice concerns that experience disproportionate and adverse human health or environmental burdens in accordance with Executive Order 14096;
- Whether the entity is located in a DAC. The onus is on the applicant to self-identify whether it is located in a DAC or partners with an entity, located in a DAC;
- The degree to which the proposed project incorporates applicant or team members from DACs; and
- Whether the proposed project may directly or indirectly benefit DACs or has team member participants from DACs.

Advance Energy Equity. (NOTE: Energy equity centers the concerns of DACs and aims to make energy more accessible, affordable, clean, and democratically managed for all communities.) Applicants are also encouraged to describe how their projects or project teams contribute to energy equity. Applicants may include a section on how the projects advance energy equity, including for example: the degree to which the proposed project incorporates team member diversity with participants from MSIs, including HBCUs and TCUs; and/or partnerships with Minority Business Enterprises, Minority Owned Businesses, Woman Owned Businesses, Veteran Owned Businesses, or Tribal Nations.

Save this form in a single file named:

FY25 EEandJustice40 [TRACKING ID#].pdf

D.14 Impacted Indian Tribes Documentation (if Applicable)

This section requires applicants to ascertain potential impacts to Indian Tribes², including Alaska Native village or regional or village corporations, other than the applicant. For any application that potentially impacts Indian Tribes, including when the potentially impacted Indian Tribe is the applicant, this section specifies the documentation required at the time of application, during negotiation and prior to award.

For any project that potentially impacts Indian Tribes, applicants are required to submit documentation demonstrating that an authorized representative³ of each potentially impacted Indian Tribe is, at a minimum, aware of the nature of the application and its potential impacts to the relevant Indian Tribes. The notified authorized representative must be holding their position while the award is open for applications, and documentation must demonstrate affirmative awareness of the application (e.g. a delivery record from certified mail, a reply by the authorized representative).

For any project intended to be sited on Tribal land(s)⁴ [or intersecting with Tribal subsurface rights], applicants are required to submit documentation demonstrating support from the relevant Indian Tribes at the time of application. Documentation of support submitted at the time of application will be considered to also demonstrate awareness of an Indian Tribe (specified above). Documentation may include either:

- A letter of support from Tribal leadership. The letter must be signed by an authorized representative of the Indian Tribe. The signer(s) must be holding their position while the award is open for applications or negotiations.
- A Tribal Council Resolution, Board resolution (including the Board of Directors of an Alaska Native Corporation (ANC)), or similar act passed by the legislative body of the Tribal government or Board of Directors of an ANC, expressing support for the project.

² Indian Tribe is as defined in 25 U.S.C. § 5304 (e)).

³ An authorized representative must be an elected official or designated leader according to the traditions, constitution, or charter of the Indian Tribe, or someone with relevant delegated authority within the Tribal government. Examples include: Chief, Chairman, Chairwoman, Governor, Nation Representative, President, Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Speaker of the Council, Speaker of the Congress, Tribal administrator.

⁴ Tribal lands is as defined in 25 U.S.C. §§ 3501(2), (3), (4)(A) and (13).

Applicants are encouraged to reference or include any applicable community benefits agreements in the Tribal support documentation, and to integrate any Tribal support documentation in the community benefits plan as appropriate, see <https://www.energy.gov/infrastructure/about-community-benefits-plans> and <https://www.energy.gov/management/financial-assistance-letter-2024-02-use-community-benefits-plan-cbp-financial-assistance>. For projects not intended to be sited on Tribal land(s) [or intersecting with Tribal subsurface rights], but that may have other potential impacts on Tribal resources or reserved rights, letters of support or resolutions of support are strongly encouraged and, depending on the nature of the impact, may be required if selected for negotiation of an agreement. Applicants are encouraged to reach out to Indian Tribes as early as possible in the application process to give Indian Tribes ample time to evaluate and respond.

The following resources may be useful to help determine if a project may impact an Indian Tribe(s) resources or reserved rights and the appropriate contacts. These resources are not exhaustive, and many Indian Tribes have resources or reserved rights which extend beyond their Tribal reservation or land, or are covered within treaties, statutes, or case-law. Applicants are encouraged to do additional research:

- Map of Indian Lands: <https://bia-geospatial-internal.geoplatform.gov/indianlands/>
- Tribal Treaties Database: <https://treaties.okstate.edu/>
- Directory of federally recognized Tribes and Tribal leaders: <https://www.bia.gov/service/tribal-leaders-directory>
- Best Practices for Identifying and Protecting Tribal Treaty Rights, Reserved Rights, and other similar rights in federal regulatory actions: https://www.bia.gov/sites/default/files/dup/inline-files/best_practices_guide.pdf

To help determine if an Indian Tribe's resources or reserved rights may be impacted by the project, applicants must address the following elements. If the applicant is an Indian Tribe, these elements should be addressed to ascertain impacts to Indian Tribes other than the applicant. Applicants do not need to reveal specific details about sacred sites such as specific location or specific ceremonies:

- Identify any elements of the project that will occur on or near Indian land, Tribal historic sites, or sacred sites and describe its potential impacts to Indian Tribes. Identify the potentially impacted Indian Tribe(s).
- Identify any [other] proposed actions which may impact an Indian Tribe(s) resources or reserved rights. Tribal resources and reserved rights include, and are not limited to, an Indian Reservation or Land (as defined in 25 U.S.C. § 3501) or intersecting Tribal subsurface rights, historic homelands from which they were removed, cultural sites, sacred sites, water rights, mineral and other subsurface rights, fishing rights, and hunting rights. Identify the Tribe(s) potentially impacted and any sources of uncertainty or confidentiality.
- Explain any actions taken by the applicant to mitigate or address any potential impacts identified above, including engaging with the potentially impacted Indian Tribe(s), in the application.

Applicants are required to document any efforts taken to identify any potential impacts to Indian Tribes, Indian lands, Alaska Native regional and village land, traditional homelands, Tribal rights, or Tribal historic sites, or sacred sites. This includes any correspondence with Indian Tribes. These documents should be available on request to DOE.

An applicant's failure to submit documentation of an Indian Tribe's awareness, or a letter of support, when required as described above, may constitute grounds for determining an application ineligible, non-responsive to the FOA/OT solicitation, not subject to further review and/or not otherwise subject to selection or award.

Any application that may potentially impact Indian Tribe(s) may be shared with the potentially impacted Indian Tribe(s). Applicants should include a Notice of Restriction on Disclosure and Use of Data identifying any business sensitive, trade secrets, proprietary, or otherwise confidential information. Such information shall be used or disclosed only for evaluation of the application or to determine whether the proposed project affects an Indian Tribe(s).

If an applicant determines an Indian Tribe(s) will be impacted, the applicant must provide information on the project location, potential impacts and how the applicant will engage with Indian Tribe(s), during the period of performance of the agreement, and, if necessary, after the end of the agreement. Approval by DOE must be obtained before any activities take place that could impact Tribal resources or reserved rights, including but not limited to lands, cultural sites, sacred sites, water rights, mineral rights, fishing rights, and hunting rights. DOE will determine if formal government-to-government consultation is needed, and DOE will conduct that consultation accordingly, in addition to any engagement by applicant.

Save relevant documents in a single file named:

FY25 ImpactedIndianTribes [TRACKING ID#].pdf

E. SUBMISSION FROM SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

If selected for award negotiations, DOE reserves the right to request additional or clarifying information, for any reason deemed necessary, including, but not limited to:

- Indirect cost information;
- Environmental checklist;
- Other budget information;
- Name and phone number of the Designated Responsible Employee, for complying with national policies prohibiting discrimination (see 10 CFR 1040.5); and/or
- Representation of Limited Rights Data and Restricted Software, if applicable.

F. SUBMISSION DATES AND TIMES

F.1 Letter of Intent Due Date

Letters of Intent are not required.

F.2 Pre-Application Due Date

Pre-applications are not required.

F.3 Application Due Date

Applications must be received by October 16, 2024, no later than 5:00PM Eastern Time. Applicants are encouraged to transmit applications before the deadline. APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AFTER THE DEADLINE WILL NOT BE REVIEWED OR CONSIDERED FOR AWARD.

G. INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW

This program is not subject to Executive Order 12372 - Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs.

H. FUNDING RESTRICTIONS

Funding for all awards is contingent upon the availability of funds appropriated by Congress.

H.1 Cost Principles

Costs must be allowable, allocable, and reasonable, in accordance with the applicable Federal cost principles referenced in 2 CFR part 200.

H.2 Pre-award Costs

Recipients may charge to an award resulting from this announcement, pre-award costs incurred within the ninety (90) calendar day period immediately preceding the effective date of the award, provided the costs are allowable in accordance with the applicable Federal cost principles referenced in 2 CFR part 200. Recipients must obtain the prior written approval of the CO for any pre-award costs that are for periods greater than this 90-day calendar period.

Pre-award costs are incurred at the applicant's risk. DOE is under no obligation to reimburse such costs if, for any reason, the applicant does not receive an award, or the award is made for a lesser amount than the applicant expected.

H.3 Prohibition Related to Foreign Government-Sponsored Talent Recruitment Programs.

Prohibition

Persons participating in a Foreign Government-Sponsored Talent Recruitment Program of a Foreign Country of Risk are prohibited from participating in projects selected for federal funding under this FOA. Should an award result from this FOA, the recipient must exercise ongoing due diligence to reasonably ensure that no individuals participating on the DOE-funded project are participating in a Foreign Government-Sponsored Talent Recruitment Program of a Foreign Country of Risk. Consequences for violations of this prohibition will be determined according to applicable law, regulations, and policy. Further, the recipient must notify DOE within five (5) business days upon learning that an individual on the project team is or is believed to be participating in a foreign government talent recruitment program of a foreign country of risk. DOE may modify and add requirements related to this prohibition to the extent required by law.

Definitions:

1. **Foreign Government-Sponsored Talent Recruitment Program.** An effort directly or indirectly organized, managed, or funded by a foreign government to recruit science and technology professionals or students (regardless of citizenship or national origin, and 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 physically relocate to the foreign state for the above purpose. Some programs allow for or encourage continued employment at U.S. 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 U.S. 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.

2. **Foreign Country of Risk.** DOE has designated the following countries as foreign countries of risk: Iran, North Korea, Russia, and China. This list is subject to change.

H.4 Foreign Collaboration Considerations

- a. Consideration of new collaborations with foreign entities and governments. The recipient will be required to provide DOE with advanced written notification of any potential collaboration with foreign entities or governments in connection with its DOE-funded award scope. The recipient will then be required to await further guidance from DOE prior to contacting the proposed foreign entity or government regarding the potential collaboration or negotiating the terms of any potential agreement.
- b. Existing collaborations with foreign entities and governments. The recipient will be required to provide DOE with a written list of all existing foreign collaborations which it has entered in connection with its DOE-funded award scope.
- c. Description of collaborations that should be reported. In general, a collaboration will involve some provision of a thing of value to, or from, the recipient. A thing of value includes but may not be limited to all resources made available to, or from, the recipient in support of and/or related to the DOE award, regardless of whether or not they have monetary value. Things of value also may include in-kind contributions (such as office/laboratory space, data, equipment, supplies, employees, students). In-kind contributions not intended for direct use on the DOE award but resulting in provision of a thing of value from or to the DOE award must also be reported. Collaborations do not include routine workshops, conferences, use of the recipient's services and facilities by foreign investigators resulting from its standard published process for evaluating requests for access, or the routine use of foreign facilities by awardee staff in accordance with the recipient's standard policies and procedures.

I. OTHER SUBMISSION AND REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

I.1 Where to Submit

Applications must be submitted through www.NEUP.gov.

I.2 Application Validity Timeframe

By submitting an application in response to this FOA, applicants agree that their applications are valid for at least one year from the date set forth for receipt of applications to this FOA. DOE reserves the right (with the concurrence of the applicant) to use the submitted application(s) to

make additional awards during this one-year time frame, even after DOE's initial selection announcement has occurred.

PART V - APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

The following requirements apply to all FOA areas unless specific requirements are identified.

A. CRITERIA

A.1 Initial Review Criteria

Prior to a comprehensive merit evaluation, DOE will perform an initial review to determine that:

1. Applicant is eligible for an award;
2. Information and documents, as required by the FOA, have been submitted; and
3. Applications submitted do not exceed the number permitted per institution.

Applications that fail to pass the initial review may not be forwarded for merit review and may be eliminated from further consideration.

A.2 Relevancy Criteria

Following the initial review, programmatic experts will assess those applications that have met the initial review criteria for relevance to the NE mission. All applications that meet the objectives of the FOA will move forward to a full merit review.

A.3 Merit Review Criteria

The following evaluation criteria and weights will be used to evaluate applications submitted in response to this FOA.

Criterion 1: Impact on nuclear science and engineering education and outreach (50%):

DOE will evaluate the overall impact of the project on nuclear science and engineering education and outreach. DOE will assess the effective and/or innovative approach for:

- increasing utilization of the research reactor to educate students, including K-12, community college, vocational, or undergraduates, on nuclear energy related topics;
- engaging underrepresented communities;
- developing effective outreach strategies to the general public;
- improving public acceptance and building good-will towards nuclear energy technologies;
- stimulating undergraduate and graduate enrollment; and
- collaborating with other educational institutions by providing access to the research reactor capabilities.

Criterion 2: Logical Path to Completion (30%): DOE will evaluate the overall effectiveness of the proposed plan to integrate the research reactor into reactor sharing and outreach activities to create a cohesive outreach strategy in support of nuclear energy. DOE will evaluate the effectiveness of the goals and milestones; the design of the schedules and activities; timely project completion, appropriate budget, and feasibility; and whether the path to completion will reasonably accomplish the goals set out for the project.

Criterion 3: Team Capabilities, Experience, and Risk (20%): DOE will evaluate the extent to which the applicant team provides objective evidence that it has the resources and abilities to successfully complete the project. DOE will evaluate current activities of the host organization; relevance and depth of the host organization's experience and capabilities; past performance; experience and capabilities of the PI; and the adequacy of the requested resources, and their supporting justification as they relate to the likely successful completion of the objectives.

Diverse Team Review: A bonus of up to 3 points (constituting up to 3% of a maximum achievable technical rating based upon the merit ratings given) may be contributed to the average, overall technical rating during the merit review process based on the degree to which an application is led by or effectively partnered with MSIs. (Please visit:

<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oep/ides/eligibility.html#tips>. for more information)

NOTE: Diverse teams and partnerships are not required for projects to be evaluated as unquestionably relevant; however, diverse teams and partnerships may increase the average overall score by up to 3 points, based on the project meeting one of the following criteria: (1) the project has a substantive contribution by MSIs as lead or collaborator, (2) the project has a demonstrable contribution by MSIs, as lead or collaborator; or (3) the project has some relevant partnership with MSIs, as lead or collaborator.

A.4 Other Selection Factors

Program Policy Factor. The selection official (SO) may also consider the following program policy factors in the selection process under all FOA areas, as appropriate (not listed in order of importance):

- Other Cost/Budget considerations, including how well the proposed budget will achieve the proposed objectives, and availability of funding.
- Cost share, if any, proposed.
- Extent or degree to which application optimizes appropriate mix of projects to achieve DOE-NE education and public outreach goals.
- Extent or degree to which projects provide a balanced programmatic effort, a variety of research capabilities among various sizes and kinds of organizations, and their geographic distribution.
- The demonstrated ability of the applicant to complete projects in the specified timeframe. This includes prior year DOE applicant awards in progress or not yet completed, as well as any existing or pending no-cost extensions.
- Existing Nuclear Science and Engineering (NS&E) Program, or realistic plan to establish NS&E program.
- Projects that contribute to energy equity. Any applicants' submission of a Project Commitment to Energy Equity and Justice⁴⁰ Initiative (Part IV - D.13), will be included in the SO briefing for consideration. Applicants are encouraged to describe how their projects or project teams will contribute to energy equity. Applicants may include a section on how the projects advance energy equity, including for example: the degree to which the proposed project incorporates team member diversity with participants from MSIs; and/or partnerships with Minority Business Enterprises, Minority Owned Businesses, Woman Owned Businesses, Veteran Owned Businesses, or Tribal Nations.

- Projects that support the Justice40 Initiative. Any applicants' submission of a Project Commitment to Energy Equity and Justice40 Initiative (Part IV - D.13), will be included in the SO briefing for consideration. Examples for the applicants are provided in this FOA of how their projects could support the Justice40 Initiative, including:
 - 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 (DACs);
 - The degree to which the proposed project provides funding to DACs or seeks to address communities with environmental justice concerns that experience disproportionate and adverse human health or environmental burdens in accordance with Executive Order 14096;
 - Whether the entity is located in a DAC. The onus is on the applicant to self-identify whether it is located in a DAC or partners with an entity, located in a DAC;
 - The degree to which the proposed project incorporates applicant or team members from DACs; and
 - Whether the proposed project may directly or indirectly benefit DACs or has team member participants from DACs.

Extent to which the applicant identifies the following: specific and measurable benefits for DACs; how the benefits will flow to DACs; and how negative environmental impacts affecting DACs would be mitigated. Benefits include (but are not limited to) measurable direct or indirect investments or positive project outcomes that achieve or contribute to the following in DACs: (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 high-quality 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.

The above program policy factors may be used by the SO to assist in determining which application(s) shall receive DOE funding support. These factors, while not indicators of the application's technical excellence, applicant's ability, etc., are essential to the process of selecting the application that, individually or collectively, will best achieve the program objectives and maximize public benefits.

Applicants should recognize that some very good applications might not receive an award because of program policy factors and available funding. Therefore, the SO may use program policy factors to assist in determining which applications shall receive DOE funding support.

Research, Technology and Economic Security Risk Reviews. As DOE invests in critical infrastructure and 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. As part of the research, technology, and economic security risk review, DOE may contact the applicant and/or proposed project team members for additional information to inform the review.

B. REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS

B.1 Merit Review

Applications that pass the initial review will be subjected to a merit review in accordance with the guidance provided in DOE's *Merit Review Guide for Financial Assistance and Unsolicited Proposals*. This guide is available under Financial Assistance Policy and Guidance at: [Merit Review Guide for Financial Assistance and Unsolicited Proposals - Current Guides | Department of Energy](#)

B.2 Selection

The SO will consider the merit review recommendation, program policy factors, risk reviews, and the amount of funds available.

B.3 Discussions and Award

The Government may enter discussions with a selected applicant for any reason deemed necessary, including but not limited to:

1. the budget is not appropriate or reasonable for the requirements;
2. only a portion of the application is selected for award;
3. the Government needs additional information to determine whether the recipient can comply with the requirements in 2 CFR Part 200; and/or
4. special terms and conditions are required.

Failure to resolve satisfactorily the issues identified by the Government will preclude award to the applicant.

C. ANTICIPATED NOTICE OF SELECTION

DOE anticipates notifying applicants selected for award negotiations no later than March 31, 2025. DOE reserves the right to make additional award selections using applications submitted in response to this FOA. Award(s) for this project are subject to the availability of Federal funding.

PART VI - AWARD ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

A. AWARD NOTICES

A.1 Notice of Selection

DOE will notify applicants selected for award negotiations. This notice of selection is not an authorization to begin performance, nor is it a commitment by DOE to issue an award. (See Part IV - Section H, with respect to the allowability of pre-award costs.)

Organizations whose applications have not been selected will be advised as promptly as possible.

A.2 Notice of Award

An Assistance Agreement issued and signed by the CO is the authorizing award document. It normally includes either as an attachment or by reference the following:

- (1) Special Terms and Conditions;
- (2) Applicable program regulations, if any;
- (3) Application as approved by DOE;
- (4) DOE assistance regulations at 2 CFR part 200, as amended by 2 CFR part 910;
- (5) National Policy Assurances, to be incorporated as award terms;
- (6) Budget Summary; and
- (7) Federal Assistance Reporting Checklist, which identifies the reporting requirements.

B. ADMINISTRATIVE AND NATIONAL POLICY REQUIREMENTS

B.1 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 (see <https://www.ecfr.gov/>). Grants and cooperative agreements made to universities, non-profits, and other entities, subject to Title 2 CFR, are subject to the Research Terms and Conditions located on the National Science Foundation website at <https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/rte/index.jsp>.

B.2 System for Award Management and Unique Entity Identifier Requirements

Applicants that do not have an exemption under 2 CFR 25.110 must:

1. Be registered in the System for Award Management (SAM) at <https://www.sam.gov> prior to submitting an application or plan;
2. Provide its unique entity identifier in each application or plan it submits to DOE;
3. Maintain an active SAM registration with current information, including information on a its immediate and highest-level owner and subsidiaries, as well as on all predecessors that have been awarded a Federal contract or financial assistance award within the last three years, if applicable, at all times during which it has an active Federal award or an application or plan under consideration by a Federal awarding agency;
4. Remain registered in the SAM database after the initial registration;
5. Update its information in the SAM database as soon as it changes;

6. Review its information in the SAM database on an annual basis from the date of initial registration or subsequent updates to ensure it is current, accurate and complete; and
7. Not make a subaward to any entity unless the entity has provided its unique entity identifier. Subrecipients are not required to obtain an active SAM registration but must obtain a Unique Entity Identifier.
8. For purposes of this FOA provision:
 - a. SAM means the Federal repository into which an applicant must provide information required for the conduct of business as a recipient of Federal funds. Additional information about registration procedures may be found at the SAM internet site (currently at <https://www.sam.gov>).
 - b. Unique Entity Identifier means the identifier assigned by SAM to uniquely identify business entities.
 - c. Entity includes non-Federal entities as defined at 2 CFR 200.1 and includes all of the following for purposes of this part:
 - i. A foreign organization;
 - ii. A foreign public entity;
 - iii. A domestic for-profit organization; and
 - iv. A Federal agency.
 - d. Subaward has the meaning given in 2 CFR 200.1.
 - e. Subrecipient has the meaning given in 2 CFR 200.1.

B.3 Foreign National Participation

All applicants selected for an award under this FOA and project participants (including subrecipients and contractors) who anticipate involving foreign nationals in the performance of an award, may be required to provide DOE with specific information about each foreign national to satisfy requirements for foreign national participation. A “foreign national” is defined as any person who is not a United States citizen by birth or naturalization. The volume and type of information collected may depend on various factors associated with the award. DOE concurrence may be required before a foreign national can participate in the performance of any work under an award.

DOE may elect to deny foreign national’s participation in the award. Likewise, DOE may elect to deny a foreign national’s access to DOE sites, information, technologies, equipment, programs or personnel.

B.4 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 in 2 CFR part 170 (see [eCFR :: 2 CFR Part 170 -- Reporting Subaward and Executive Compensation Information](#)). Prime awardees must register with the new FFATA Subaward Reporting System (FSRS) database and report the required data on their first-tier sub-awardees. Prime awardees must report the executive compensation for their own executives as part of their registration profile in the SAM.

B.5 Special Terms and Conditions and National Policy Requirements

Special Terms and Conditions and National Policy Requirements. The DOE Special Terms and Conditions for Use in Most Grants and Cooperative Agreements are located at:

<https://energy.gov/management/downloads/special-terms-and-conditions-use-most-grants-and-cooperative-agreements>.

The National Policy Assurances to Be Incorporated as Award Terms are located at:

<https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/rtc/appc.pdf>.

Intellectual Property Provisions. The standard DOE financial assistance intellectual property provisions applicable to the various types of recipients are located at:

<https://energy.gov/gc/standard-intellectual-property-ip-provisions-financial-assistance-awards>.

Lobbying Restrictions. By accepting funds under this award, you agree 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.

B.6 Participants and Collaborating Organizations

If selected for award negotiations, the selected applicant must submit a list of personnel who are proposed to work on the project, both at the recipient and subrecipient level and a list of proposed collaborating organizations prior to award. Recipients will have an ongoing responsibility to notify DOE of changes to the personnel and collaborating organizations, and submit updated information during the life of the award.

B.7 Current and Pending Support

If selected for award negotiations, within 30 days of the selection notice, the selectee must submit 1) current and pending support disclosures and resumes for any new PIs/PLs or senior/key personnel, and 2) updated disclosures if there have been any changes to the current and pending support submitted with the application. Throughout the life of the award, the recipient has an ongoing responsibility to submit 1) current and pending support disclosure statements and resumes for any new PI(s)/PL(s) and senior/key personnel, and 2) updated disclosures if there are changes to the current and pending support previously submitted to DOE. Also see Part IV - D.9.

B.8 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.

B.9 Nondisclosure And Confidentiality Agreements Representations (JUNE 2015)

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

- (1) 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 contractors 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.
- (2) 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:
 - a. “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.”
 - b. The limitation above shall not contravene requirements applicable to Standard Form 312, Form 4414, or any other form issued by a Federal department or agency governing the nondisclosure of classified information.

Notwithstanding 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 U.S. 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.

C. NO-COST TIME EXTENSIONS

Unilateral no-cost time extensions will NOT be permitted to awards made under this FOA. All no-cost time extensions must be approved in writing by the CO and be based on adequate justification. No-cost time extensions should be requested as soon as the need is identified, and normally, no later than 3 months before the original project end date.

One no-cost time extension request may be granted for up to 12 months, pending review and approval. No-cost time extension information and form can be found at:

<https://neup.inl.gov/SitePages/Research%20and%20Development.aspx>

D. REPORTING

Reporting requirements are identified on the Federal Assistance Reporting Checklist, DOE F 4600.2, attached to the award agreement. A sample checklist is available under Award Form at:

<https://energy.gov/management/office-management/operational-management/financial-assistance/financial-assistance-forms>.

PART VII - QUESTIONS AND AGENCY CONTACTS

A. QUESTIONS

Questions regarding the content of the announcement must be submitted to the Agency Contact listed in Part VII, Section B of this Infrastructure FOA. Questions and comments concerning this FOA shall be submitted not later than ten (10) calendar days prior to the application due date. Questions submitted after that date may not allow the Government sufficient time to respond.

Questions pertaining to items such as application processes, eligibility, or application document requirements, as well as questions relating to the registration process, system requirements, the application form, or submittal process should be directed to NEUP@inl.gov.

B. AGENCY CONTACT

Name: Mr. Andrew Ford

Email: fordaj@id.doe.gov

Phone: 208-526-3059

C. INFORMATIONAL WEBINAR

DOE-NE holds a webinar each year to discuss changes to its FOAs and work scope areas for upcoming opportunities. Applicants can watch the live webinar and submit questions to be answered in real time. All webinar presentations are recorded and posted on www.NEUP.gov for review by all applicants. Webinar presentations from past years can also be found in the “Archive” section of the www.NEUP.gov website.

PART VIII - OTHER INFORMATION

A. AMENDMENTS

Notices of any amendments to this announcement will be posted on www.FedConnect.net and www.Grants.gov, and, as a courtesy, will also be posted on . It is recommended that applicants check the www.NEUP.gov site frequently to ensure they receive timely notice of any modifications or other announcements.

B. GOVERNMENT RIGHT TO REJECT OR NEGOTIATE

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

C. COMMITMENT OF PUBLIC FUNDS

The CO is the only individual who can make awards and commit the Government to the expenditure of public funds. A commitment by anyone other than the CO, either explicit or implied, is invalid.

D. PROPRIETARY APPLICATION INFORMATION

Patentable ideas, trade secrets, proprietary or confidential commercial or financial information, disclosure of which may harm the applicant, should be included in an application only when such information is necessary to convey an understanding of the proposed project. The use and disclosure of such data may be restricted, provided the applicant includes the following legend on the first page of the project narrative and specifies the pages of the application which are to be restricted:

“The data contained in pages [INSERT PAGES] of this application have been submitted in confidence and contain trade secrets or proprietary information, and such data shall be used or disclosed only for evaluation purposes, provided that if this applicant receives an award as a result of or in connection with the submission of this application, DOE shall have the right to use or disclose the data herein to the extent provided in the award. This restriction does not limit the government’s right to use or disclose data obtained without restriction from any source, including the applicant.”

To protect such data, each line or paragraph on the pages containing such data must be specifically marked with double brackets ([]) in the margins with the following statement in the header.

“The following contains proprietary information that (name of applicant) requests not be released to persons outside the Government, except for purposes of review and evaluation.”

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 independent reviews, as well as routine, nondiscretionary administrative activities. The applicant, by submitting its application, consents to the use of non-Federal reviewers/ administrators. Non-Federal reviewers must sign conflict of interest and non-disclosure

agreements prior to reviewing an application. Non-Federal personnel conducting administrative activities must sign a non-disclosure agreement.

F. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEVELOPED UNDER THIS PROGRAM

Patent Rights. Domestic small businesses and domestic nonprofit organizations will receive the patent rights clause at 37 CFR 401.14, i.e., the implementation of the Bayh-Dole Act. This clause permits domestic small business and domestic non-profit organizations to retain title to subject inventions.

Class Patent Waiver. For applicants that are not domestic small businesses or nonprofit organizations, the Office Nuclear Energy (NE) Class Patent Waiver W(C) 2020-002 may be applicable to an award made under this announcement. The class patent waiver will provide applicants, not subject to the Bayh-Dole Act, the option to retain title to their own inventions, subject to the same government retained rights identified in the Act above. To receive the class waiver, an applicant, must agree to provide statutory minimum cost share required under the award and agree to substantially manufacture technology created under the award in the U.S., or provide other economic benefits to the U.S. in accordance with the U.S. Competitiveness provision set forth in the above-referenced class patent waiver.

Rights in Technical Data. Normally, the Government has unlimited rights in technical data created under a DOE agreement. Delivery or third-party licensing of proprietary software or data developed solely at private expense will not normally be required, except as specifically negotiated in an agreement to satisfy DOE's own needs or to ensure the commercialization of technology developed under a DOE agreement.

Special Protected Data Statutes. This program is covered by a special protected data statute. These special protected data statutes apply to only those applicants who cost share. The provisions of the statute provide for the protection from public disclosure, for a period of up to five (5) years from the development of the information, of data that would be a trade secret, or commercial or financial information that is privileged or confidential, if the information had been obtained from a non-Federal party. Generally, the provision entitled, Rights in Data - Programs Covered Under Special Protected Data Statutes (Item 4 under 2 CFR 910, Appendix A to Subpart D), would apply to an award made under this announcement. This provision will identify data or categories of data first produced in the performance of the award that will be made available to the public, notwithstanding the statutory authority to withhold data from public dissemination and will also identify data that will be recognized by the parties as protected data.

G. NOTICE REGARDING ELIGIBLE/INELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

Eligible activities under this program 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.

H. CONFERENCE SPENDING

The recipient shall not expend funds for the purpose of defraying the cost to the United States Government of a conference that was more than \$20,000 [described in subsection (c) of the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act of 2013]; or 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 that is not directly and programmatically related to the purpose of the grant or cooperative agreement.

I. EXPORT CONTROL

The United States government regulates the transfer of information, commodities, technology, and software considered to be strategically important to the United States to protect national security, foreign policy, and economic interests without imposing undue regulatory burdens on legitimate international trade. There is a network of federal agencies and regulations that govern exports that are collectively referred to as “Export Controls.” All recipients and subrecipients are responsible for ensuring compliance with all applicable United States Export Control laws and regulations relating to any work performed under a resulting award.

The recipient must immediately report to DOE any export control violations related to the project funded under the DOE award, at the recipient or subrecipient level, and provide the corrective action(s) to prevent future violations.

J. 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 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 use 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.