

Office of Insular Affairs

Notice of Funding Opportunity

FY 2026 Energizing Insular Communities Program

Funding Opportunity Number

OIA-EIC-2026

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BASIC INFORMATION

Announcement Type: Initial

Funding Opportunity Number: OIA-EIC-2026

Assistance Listing Number(s): 15.875

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

Expected Number of Awards: 10

Award Ceiling: \$15,000,000

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.

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, and improve the performance of energy infrastructure and overall energy efficiency and reliability 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.

Per 2 CFR 200.444, OIA cannot provide funding to the Judicial or Legislative branches of local governments.

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 and reliability 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 existing local 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, diesel, geothermal, geothermal heat pumps, waste to energy, and biogas. Energy storage and transmission and transportation projects will also be considered. Solar, wind, and pilot projects will **not** be considered.

Examples of projects that were awarded in previous years include integrated resource planning, energy efficiency improvements (lighting, air conditioning, cool rooftop, etc.), net metering policies, debit meters, backup battery systems, micro-grids, grid stability and integration studies.

Unleashing American Energy

OIA will prioritize funding for projects 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](#).

- SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance
 - *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 [Appendix A to 43 CFR 18-Certification Regarding Lobbying](#)
 - **The UEI on this application is the UEI that will receive the awards/funds**, i.e. if your office is part of a larger local government, and the funding flows through the Department of Treasury/Administration/Finance/etc., you must use that office's UEI, not your office's UEI.
- SF-424A Budget Information, Non-Construction Programs **OR** SF-424C: Budget Information – Construction Programs
 - **PLEASE FILL OUT ALL PAGES OF THE RELEVANT FORM.**
- SF-424B, Assurances - Non-Construction Programs **OR** SF-424D, Assurances - Construction Programs
- SF-429 (Cover Page & Attachment B), Request to Acquire, Improve, or Furnish Real Property (Required if requesting to acquire, improve, or furnish real property)
- Project Abstract Summary (OMB 4040-0019)
 - This should only be one page and should include the following information. If awarded, this information will be input into USA spending to inform the public.
 - Award Purpose
 - Activities to be performed
 - Expected deliverables or outcomes
 - Intended Beneficiaries
 - Subrecipient activities

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.

Project Narrative

Signed and Dated Cover Letter (should be included with Grants.gov or GrantSolutions.gov attachments, should not be mailed): 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:

John D. Brewer
Director
Office of Insular Affairs
1849 C Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Narrative Format: OIA does not require a standard narrative format; however, your proposal should include all the following elements to receive full consideration:

1. **Detailed Project Description(s) - Please refer to the "Merit Review" section for specific required criteria.**
 - All proposals should include the following information, which will also be used to help inform NEPA review and analysis as applicable:
 - Detailed description (who, what, where, why, when, how) for each activity. Include the entire project scope and all phases from beginning to end. If multiple types of activities are proposed, please explain each in detail. If a project is wholly administrative or a desktop exercise, please indicate.
 - Describe the project purpose and need (such as a required upgrade to replace an inadequate power system).
 - Project location and site conditions (such as address, location of facilities, staging areas, habitat, new features or construction).
 - Design plans, drawings, and construction specifications, if warranted (include diagrams, schematics, size and distance details, quantitative description of construction phases, etc.)
 - Describe any estimated digging, vegetation removal, or ground disturbance that might occur.
 - Map(s).
 - Photographs of project site(s) and important features.
 - Any existing federal, state, or local permits, including initial application (if already completed).
 - Any Best Management Practices (BMPs) or control procedures that may be enforced
 - Points of contact for more information (phone numbers and emails).

- Please identify external and internal factors that could affect achieving results and associated mitigation strategies. For example, if a proposal is to upgrade to more efficient diesel generators, an external factor may be supply chain availability and an internal factor may be ability to interconnect with current utility systems. **IF THERE ARE NO FACTORS, PLEASE INCLUDE IN YOUR PROPOSAL “THERE ARE NO EXTERNAL OR INTERNAL FACTORS THAT COULD AFFECT ACHIEVING RESULTS.”**

2. Detailed Project Timeline(s): Provide a detailed project timeline for completion of the 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. Please provide copies of the relevant plan and 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 achieve your stated goals. State your objectives, which must be specific, measurable, and realistic (attainable within the project’s period of performance).

Performance Goals

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.

Example

- Output: Number of youth enrolled in the afterschool STEM tutoring program.
- Outcome: Improvement in participating students math proficiency scores.

The narrative portion of the application must:

- Describe the expected outputs and the potential outcomes for communities, the economy, and the environment.
- Describe how the project supports the Agency’s priorities described in the Executive Summary section.
- Describe how progress toward achieving the expected outputs and social, economic, and environmental outcomes will be tracked and measured.

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.

5. Environmental and Regulatory Compliance: 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 local and federal 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>	<u>Requested Amount</u>
<i>Priority 1 - Project [Name]</i>	\$
<i>Priority 2 - Project [Name]</i>	\$
<i>Priority 3 - Project [Name]</i>	\$
Total Request for Fiscal Year 2026	\$

7. Grant Recipient: Please provide the name, title, and address of the person to whom the grant award, if made, should be addressed. This is normally the head of the local government or organization.

8. 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, fax number and email address (as applicable).

9. 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.

10. Copy of your entity's audit summary page with findings. See 2CFR200, § 200.501 for audit requirements

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).

OIA does not require a cost share. Please provide detailed budget information for the proposed project(s) and activities.

- A budget breakout chart, by category, is suggested.
- Please explain categories that are not self-explanatory, such as “OTHER”, in full.
- 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.
- Provide a description of external contracts that will be required to complete the project.
- **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).

Please note that all activities and costs to be charged to the grant must be in full compliance with the applicable cost principles within 2 CFR 200. As funds are limited, OIA reserves the right to partially fund projects.

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

If you would like a prior proposal to be considered for award, please submit an application. Past applications will not be considered unless submitted/re-submitted during this round of funding.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES

Address to Request Application Package

All proposals must be submitted via [Grants.gov](https://grants.gov) or [GrantSolutions.gov](https://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: 05/18/2026

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://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.

Apply Through GrantSolutions

To apply through [GrantSolutions](#), follow these steps:

- 1. Register your organization.** Send an e-mail to 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.

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.

Merit Review	
Merit Review Criteria (Power Generation, etc.)	Merit Review Criteria (Energy Efficiency & Conservation)
<p>Criterion 1: Goals and Objectives Weight: 25%</p> <p>Applies to all applications.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whether or not the proposed project is identified and supported in the territory’s Strategic Energy Plan and/or Energy Action Plan. • Extent to which the proposed project will reduce the cost and improve reliability of electricity to the consumer. • Clarity and completeness of the discussion of the project goals and objectives. • Extent to which the proposed project provides economic, environmental, cultural, or social benefits to the territory. • Potential for future replicability or expansion beyond the currently proposed project. • Soundness of the discussion that justifies the need for OIA funding. 	
<p>Criterion 2: Project Description and Implementation Plan Weight: 40%</p> <p><i>Grid/Feasibility Studies, Deployment of Energy and Power Generation/Transmission Projects, Thermal and Energy Storage Systems</i></p> <p>Applies only to related proposed projects.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Overall clarity and completeness of the discussion of the proposed project. 2. Location of proposed system. 	<p>Criterion 2: Project Description and Implementation Plan Weight: 40%</p> <p><i>Energy Efficiency and Conservation</i></p> <p>Applies only to related proposed projects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Overall clarity and completeness of the discussion of the proposed project. 2. Project location(s). 3. The criteria by which locations of energy efficiency and conservation projects are chosen. 4. Description of project scope including, for buildings: the number of buildings, square footage, and systems (HVAC, lighting,

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Estimated power/energy rating(s) of the proposed system (both DC and AC as appropriate). 4. Physical footprint of the proposed system. 5. Estimated energy production of the proposed system (annual, seasonal/monthly). 6. Estimated reduction in fuel usage for current generation or offsetting load increase (show calculations) (if applicable). 7. Description of the energy load to be served (annual consumption, seasonal/monthly/diurnal consumption [if important]). 8. Demonstration of site control/access 9. Demonstration that the project will be designed and constructed to withstand extreme, but reasonably likely weather events such as typhoons/hurricanes. 10. 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. 11. 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. Include the required process and steps required by the utility to complete interconnection approval if the project is approved, including the utility's interconnection agreement template and a Memorandum of Understanding from the utility that verifies they've reviewed your 	<p>mechanical, building envelope, plug loads, water heating, etc.).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. 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. 6. Energy conservation measures with a favorable payback period as 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. 7. 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. 8. Demonstrate that an adequate level of energy metering/sub-metering will be installed to measure and verify ongoing project performance and energy savings. 9. Quantification of impacts on the electricity grid, such as the extent of peak load reduction or system congestion relief. 10. 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. 11. Description of anticipated operation & maintenance (O&M) plan and explanation of 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
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<p>project, and outlines requirements, roles, and responsibilities for interconnecting.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12. 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. 13. A description of the territory's procurement rules and regulations applicable to the proposed project. 14. 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. 15. Description of anticipated operation & maintenance (O&M) plan and explanation of 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: maintenance costs for the period of performance of the project may be included in the proposed budget) 16. Quantification of non-energy benefits, such as reduction in water consumption, avoided infrastructure improvements, jobs created, etc. 17. Address whether and how the project improves the territory's disaster resilience. 18. Estimated total price for proposed system. Show a breakout of estimated costs for significant project line items and major components. 19. Description of what entity is the offtaker/beneficiary of the system. 20. A pro-forma showing the expected energy cost savings. If the utility is 	<p>required maintenance) and estimated O&M costs. (Note: maintenance costs for the period of performance the project may be budgeted within the cost of the project.)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12. Estimated total capital cost for the proposed system. Show a breakout of estimated costs for significant project line items and major components. 13. A pro-forma showing the estimated annual and lifetime cost savings due to the project.
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<p>the off-taker or installer of the system, provide estimated cost savings to the utility and show whether the project will lower energy costs for individuals and families, and if so, whether savings across all or specific classes of rate payers.</p>	
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Criterion 3: Environmental Considerations Weight: 15%

Applies to **all** applications.

- Quality of the description of land for deployment projects only and evidence of a commitment of the use of that land.
- 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.
- Likelihood of obtaining the required permits, approvals, **and any applicable NEPA compliance** 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.
- Clarity of the discussion of environmental analyses conducted and quality of the environmental analyses provided.
- 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.

Criterion 4: Roles, Responsibilities, Resources, and Capabilities Weight: 10%

Applies to **all** applications.

- Soundness of the project management concept with respect to proposed tasks and organizational structure to achieve project objectives.
- 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.
- 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.
- Reasonableness of the business agreements between each of the parties to implement the project, if any.

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.

Criterion 5: Project Support Weight: 10%

Applies to **all** applications.

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.

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 applicant will be assessed for their level of risk per [2 CFR 200.206](#). This assessment includes the applicant's financial management capabilities, project delivery experience, staffing resources, past award performance, administration and reporting compliance records, and overall project complexity and potential for challenges. If an award will be made, special conditions may be applied to the award corresponding to the assessed risk. For awards over the simplified acquisition threshold (currently \$350,000), a review of the applicant's eligibility and financial integrity information in the applicant's SAM.gov records will also be performed per [2 CFR 200.206](#).

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: 10/01/2026

Anticipated Project End Date: 09/30/2029

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) and 2 CFR 170 requires certain recipients to report information on executive compensation, and information on all sub-awards, subcontracts and consortiums equal to or over \$30,000 to SAM.gov.

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, and how benefits are distributed.
- 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