



# SCEP

STATE & COMMUNITY ENERGY PROGRAMS

## Local Government Energy Program:

Communities Sparking  
Investment in  
Transformative Energy  
(C-SITE)  
Funding Opportunity

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Informational Webinars

March 7, 2024

March 21, 2024



# Welcome

- ✓ This webinar is being recorded and will be published on Infrastructure eXCHANGE and program websites.
- ✓ Please note that video and audio capability has been disabled for attendees.
- ✓ For questions during today's webinar, please use the Q&A feature or email [LGEP@hq.doe.gov](mailto:LGEP@hq.doe.gov) - all questions and answers will be posted to the Q&A Spreadsheet on the program website.
- ✓ A copy of today's slides will be posted on Infrastructure eXCHANGE within 2-3 business days of the webinar.



# Disclaimer

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- This presentation summarizes the contents of Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) [DE-FOA-0003229](#). No new information other than that provided in the FOA will be discussed in the webinar.
- If there are any inconsistencies between the FOA and this presentation, or statements from DOE personnel, the FOA is considered the controlling document. Applicants should rely on the FOA language and seek clarification by submitting a question to [LGEP@hq.doe.gov](mailto:LGEP@hq.doe.gov)

# What We'll Discuss Today

- ✓ Funding Opportunity Background
- ✓ Award Structure
- ✓ Eligibility
- ✓ Application Process, Materials, & Criteria
- ✓ Frequently Asked Questions
- ✓ Next Steps





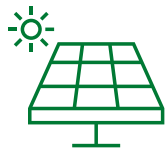
## Whole Greater than Sum of its Parts

SCEP's Mission is to partner with State, Local, and Tribal governments and community organizations to catalyze local economic development and job creation through equitable, clean energy solutions.

SCEP does this through the **management and oversight of \$16 billion** in formula grants, competitive grant awards, consumer rebate grants, and technical assistance.



Prioritize  
Justice40  
Initiative



Deploy clean  
energy  
technologies



Catalyze local  
economic  
development



Create  
jobs and  
increase hiring



Avoid pollution  
through place-based  
strategies



Reduce  
energy costs

# 28+ Programs Coming Out of SCEP

\$3.5B for  
Weatherization Assistance Program

\$260M for  
Building  
Efficiency  
Workforce  
Training

\$750M for  
State Energy  
Program &  
Revolving Loan  
Fund

\$500M for  
Energy Efficiency  
& Renewable  
Energy in Public  
Schools

\$100M for  
Energy  
Future  
Grants

\$50M for  
Energy  
Efficiency for  
Non-Profits

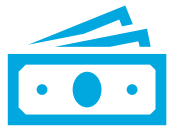
\$550M for  
Energy Efficiency  
& Conservation  
Block Grants  
Program

\$1B for  
Energy Codes  
Technical Assistance

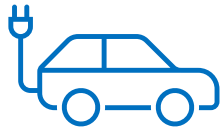
\$8.8B for Home Energy Rebates

# Local Government Energy Program (LGEP)

*Established in FY22 as a permanent annual program to support transformative clean energy programs in communities*



Provide **competitive awards**, **on-site capacity**, **peer exchanges**, and **technical assistance**



Advance **energy efficiency adoption**, **building and vehicle electrification**, **grid modernization**, **distributed electricity generation**, and **workforce development** at the local level

# Introducing C-SITE!



**SCEP**  
STATE & COMMUNITY ENERGY PROGRAMS

## Communities Sparking Investment in Transformative Energy (C-SITE) Funding Opportunity

**Powered by the Local Government Energy Program (LGEP)**

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**\$18 million** in funding for clean energy projects and programs



**Deliver Local Benefits**



**Advance Energy Priorities**



**Spark New Investments**

Tribes and Local Governments can  
apply through **May 31, 2024**

**Visit:** [energy.gov/scep/  
local-government-energy-program](https://energy.gov/scep/local-government-energy-program)

# C-SITE Award Structure Overview



## Eligible Entities

Tribes and Local Governments, representing:

- disadvantaged communities
- energy communities
- small to medium-sized jurisdictions



Up to 20 competitive awards of approx. **\$900,000 to \$3.6M** per award.

Grant period: 12-36 months



**Customized technical assistance** from experts, including peer exchanges



**Community Energy Fellow**, optional on-site capacity to support program implementation for up to 18 months

# Program Goals

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**Deliver direct local community benefits** of clean energy, such as reduced energy costs and improved air quality, through implementation of community-led energy projects or programs



**Spark additional investments** in communities that create long-term local economic development opportunities and support community revitalization



**Advance community-identified energy priorities** and right to self-determination



**Build local capacity and partnerships** in local governments and Tribes

# High Impact Projects & Programs

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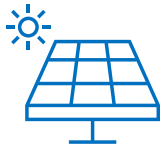
- ✓ Have **pre-existing community and decision-maker buy-in**, factoring in impacts and benefits for disadvantaged communities
- ✓ Demonstrate commitment to meaningful **community engagement**
- ✓ Build on existing priority **community assets**, or turn liabilities into assets
- ✓ **Attract additional investments** to complete, sustain, or scale implementation and impact
- ✓ Create **economic and community revitalization** opportunities, including job creation or retention, attraction of new businesses, neighborhood stabilization, or other benefits

# Possible Project Examples

Illustrations of potential projects funded through this award may include:



**Energy efficiency upgrades and on-site battery storage** for a **community resilience hub/s** located in a disadvantaged community.



**Tribal partner-owned solar plus storage** microgrid independent power project providing power to remote households.



Municipally-owned **utility-scale solar photovoltaic (PV) installation** on reclaimed industrial land accessing relevant tax credits.



**Downtown revitalization** led by **public/private partnership** creating energy efficient buildings primed for reuse for business or community use.



**Electric vehicle ride-sharing program** aimed at serving low-income residents to **increase mobility and access** to economic opportunities.

# Eligibility

Federally Recognized Indian Tribe and Local Governments representing any of the following



## Disadvantaged Communities (DACs)

- Community encompasses census tract/s that meet the thresholds for at least one of the categories of burden through [Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool \(CEJST\)](#), OR
- US territory or federally recognized Indian Tribe



## Energy Communities

- A “brownfield site”
- A “metropolitan statistical area (MSA)” or “non-MSA” with
  - 0.17% or greater direct employment or 25% or greater local tax revenues from the extraction, processing, transport, or storage of coal, oil, or natural gas; AND
  - an unemployment rate at or above the national average unemployment rate for the previous year
- A census tract containing a coal mine closed after 1999 or a coal-fired electricity generating unit retired after 2009



## Small and Medium-Sized Jurisdictions

- “Small” jurisdictions: under 100,000 people
- “Medium” jurisdictions: under 250,000 people

<sup>1</sup> [Climate & Economic Justice Screening Tool \(geoplatform.gov\)](#)

<sup>2</sup> [IRA Energy Community Tax Credit Bonus \(doe.gov\)](#);  
[Treasury Notice-2023-29 \(irs.gov\)](#)

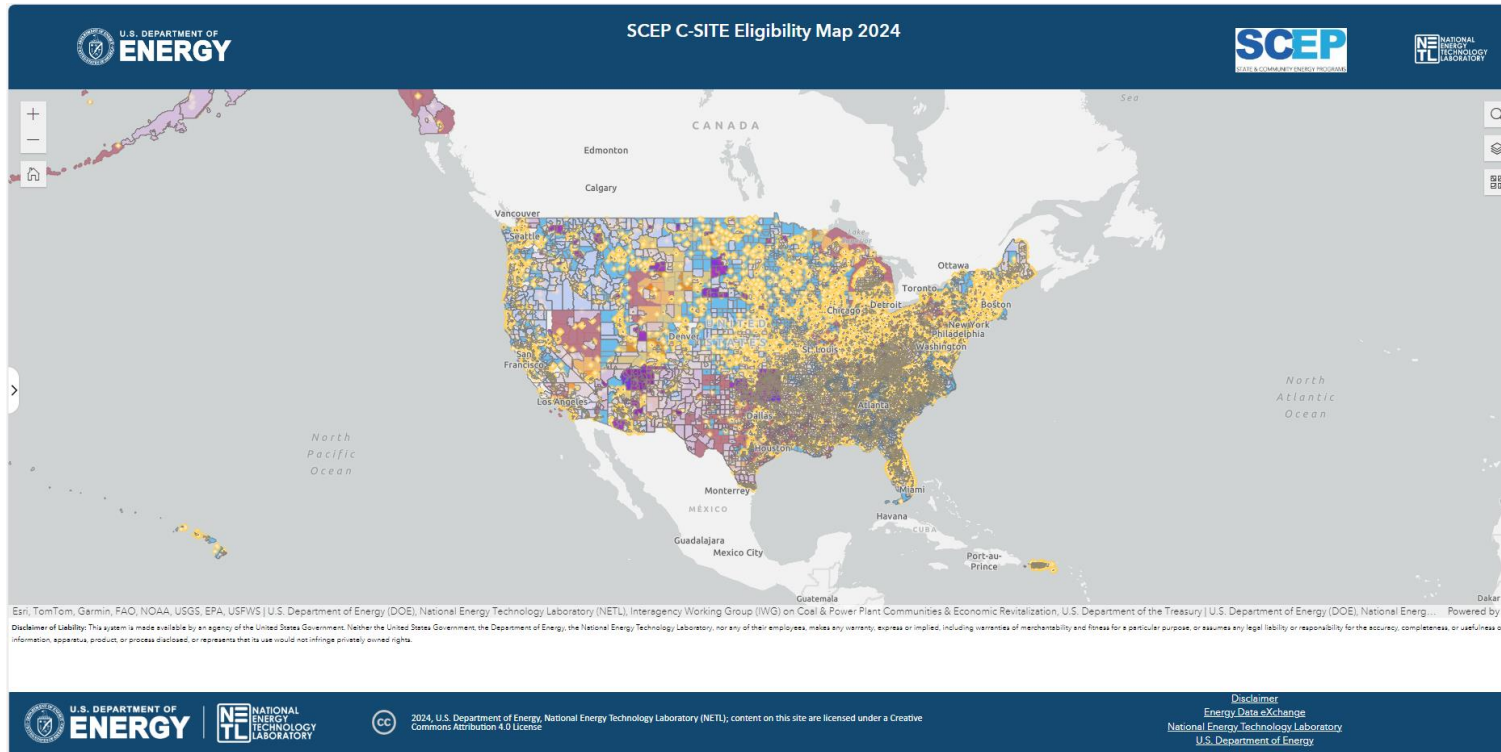
# How is “local government” defined in this FOA?

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**Local Government:** For the purposes of this FOA, ‘local governments’ are defined as jurisdictions that include, but are not limited to, ANY of the following:

- Cities, towns, and villages;
- Counties, including on behalf of unincorporated communities, as well as special districts and joint powers authorities;
- Municipally or Tribally-owned utilities;
- Metropolitan planning organizations, regional planning organizations; and
- Councils of governments.

# Eligibility Map



- This web map provides an **illustrative** view of communities eligible for the C-SITE FOA
- Eligible applicants include federally recognized Indian Tribes, disadvantaged communities, energy communities, and small- and medium-sized jurisdictions.

If your community is not adequately reflected in this map, please state why you are eligible for C-SITE funding in your application.

# Cost Share







**Cost share requirement for this FOA is reduced to 5%.**

- May be met through:
  - staff time,
  - municipal or Tribal budgets,
  - philanthropic funds, or
  - other contributions from a third-party entity to support project implementation or increase impact.
- Must come from non-federal sources, unless otherwise allowed by law
- May be met through the contribution of in-kind services that advance the proposed project.



# Application Process

# Anticipated Schedule

Process Step		Timeframe
FOA Issue Date:		February 27, 2024
Informational Webinars		March 7, 2024; 2:00 PM ET March 21, 2024; 3:00 PM ET
Submission Deadline		May 31, 2024, 5:00 PM ET
Replies to Reviewer Comments Submission Deadline:		Early July 2024
Expected SCEP Selection Notification Date		August 2024
Expected Timeline for Award Negotiations:		September – December 2024

# Topline Information about C-SITE FOA Application

## 1. Applications now live!

- Application is available on [Infrastructure Exchange](#)
- A **How to Apply Guide** is available on [Infrastructure eXCHANGE: Manuals \(energy.gov\)](#)

## 2. Pre-Application Steps:

- a) **Register** in [Infrastructure eXCHANGE: Funding Opportunity \(energy.gov\)](#)
- b) **Register in the System for Award Management (SAM)** at <https://www.sam.gov/> and obtain Unique Entity ID (UEI) which is assigned by SAM **(May Take Several Weeks)**
- c) **Register in FedConnect**, which will allow eligible entities to receive and acknowledge their award, at <https://www.fedconnect.net/>
- d) **Register** in [Grants.gov](#) to receive automatic updates when Amendments are made to the FOA

## 3. Deadlines:

- Submit application to Infrastructure eXCHANGE by 5:00pm ET on **May 31, 2024**

# Application Materials

# Documents to Apply

## Application Materials

- Application for Federal Funding (SF-424)
- Summary Slide
- Project Narrative Template
- Budget Information (SF-424a)
  - Personnel, fringe benefits, travel, equipment, supplies, contractual, other direct costs, indirect costs
  - Indirect Rate Agreement or Rate Proposal (if applicable)
- Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SFLLL)
- Compliance and Assurances
- DOE Work Proposal for FFRDC (if applicable)
- Authorization from cognizant Contracting Officer for FFRDC (if applicable)

## Templates and Resources

- Visit Infrastructure Exchange for all application materials, including the following templates:
  - Project Narrative template
  - Budget Information template (SF-424a)
- Templates within the FOA Appendix (note these are optional templates):
  - Community Engagement Plan (Optional)
  - Community Benefit Plan (Optional)

[View Burden Statement](#)

OMB Number: 4040-0004

Expiration Date: 11/30/2025

**Application for Federal Assistance SF-424**

\* 1. Type of Submission:

- ☐ Preapplication
- ☐ Application
- ☐ Changed/Corrected Application

\* 2. Type of Application:

- ☐ New
- ☐ Continuation
- ☐ Revision

\* If Revision, select appropriate letter(s):

\* Other (Specify):

\* 3. Date Received:

4. Applicant Identifier:

5a. Federal Entity Identifier:

5b. Federal Award Identifier:

**State Use Only:**

6. Date Received by State:

7. State Application Identifier:

**8. APPLICANT INFORMATION:**

\* a. Legal Name:

# Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SFLLL)

## DISCLOSURE OF LOBBYING ACTIVITIES

Complete this form to disclose lobbying activities pursuant to 31 U.S.C.1352

OMB Number: 4040-0013  
Expiration Date: 02/28/2025

Review Public Burden Disclosure Statement

### 1. \* Type of Federal Action:

- ☐ a. contract
- ☒ b. grant
- ☐ c. cooperative agreement
- ☐ d. loan
- ☐ e. loan guarantee
- ☐ f. loan insurance

### 2. \* Status of Federal Action:

- ☐ a. bid/offer/application
- ☒ b. initial award
- ☐ c. post-award

### 3. \* Report Type:

- ☒ a. initial filing
- ☐ b. material change

#### For Material Change Only:

year

quarter

date of last report

### 4. Name and Address of Reporting Entity:

☒ Prime

☐ SubAwardee

Tier if known:

\* Name

\* Street 1

Street 2

\* City

State

Zip

Congressional District, if known:

### 5. If Reporting Entity in No.4 is Subawardee, Enter Name and Address of Prime:

# SF-424a Budget Information

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Applicant Name:		Control Number:				
2	<b>Budget Information</b>						
3	OMB Approval No. 0348-0044						
4	<b>Section A - Budget Summary</b>						
5	Grant Program Function or Activity	Assistance Listing Number	Estimated Unobligated Funds		New or Revised Budget		
6			Federal	Non-Federal	Federal	Non-Federal	Total
7	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)
8	1. Budget Period 1	81.086			\$0		\$0
9	2. Budget Period 2	81.086			\$0		\$0
10	3. Budget Period 3	81.086			\$0		\$0
11	4. Totals		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
12							
13	5. Object Class Categories		Grant Program, Function or Activity				Total
14			Budget Period 1	Budget Period 2	Budget Period 3		
15	a. Personnel						\$0
16	b. Fringe Benefits						\$0
17	c. Travel						\$0
18	d. Equipment						\$0
19	e. Supplies						\$0
20	f. Contractual						\$0
21	g. Construction						\$0
22	h. Other						\$0
23	i. Total Direct Charges (sum of 7a-7h)		\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0
24	j. Indirect Charges						\$0
25	k. Totals (sum of 7i-7j)		\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0
26							
27	8. Program Income						\$0
28							
29							
30	Previous Edition Usable						
31	Authorized for Local Reproduction						

SF-424A (Rev. 4-92)

Prescribed by OMB Circular A-102

# Summary Slide

## Name of Applicant

CONTROL NUMBER: XXXX-XXXX

**Project Title:**

**Area/Location:**

**Project Summary:**

*The Applicant should include a high-level summary of their proposal, including proposed program goals, energy improvements, intended achievements and how they plan to leverage the Federal investment to unlock additional investments, build capacity and self-sufficiency and provide direct community benefits.*

**Period of Performance:** XX Months

**Requested DOE funds and proposed applicant cost share**

*DOE Funds: \$*

*Cost Share: \$*

*Total Project Cost: \$*

**Benefits Metrics**

*This should include estimated projected numbers based on the portfolio proposed, including the expected energy savings, energy cost savings, emission reductions, and cost effectiveness.*

Insert Key Graphics (illustrations, charts, and/or tables)

# Project Narrative Template



## Communities Sparking Investment in Transformative Energy Project Narrative Template

*Template Instructions: Note, use of this template is optional. You may submit the data requested in whatever format you like. Please delete all instructional text found in blue italics. When complete, submit via Infrastructure Exchange: [infrastructure-exchange.energy.gov](https://infrastructure-exchange.energy.gov). Submission Deadline: May 31, 2024, by 5:00:00pm ET.*

*The Project Narrative is a required component of the Full Application for the C-SITE FOA. At minimum, all applicants must provide the information described in the Project Narrative Content Requirements table in the FOA. Applicants may complete this Project Narrative Template to meet this requirement.*

### **Cover Page(s)** *(estimated 1 page)*

*Note: Cover page(s) is counted towards the maximum number of Project Narrative pages (12 pages). Font size must be 12pt. Red and Blue text should be deleted in final submission.*

**FOA Title:** 2024 Funding Opportunity Announcement for Communities Sparking Investment in Transformative Energy (C-SITE)

**FOA Number:** DE-FOA-0003229

### **Control Number:**

### **Project Title:**

**Project Location(s):** Enter intended Location(s) of project and impacted community(s), including city/town and zip code(s)

**Name of Prime Applicant Organization:** Enter name of eligible local government or federally recognized Indian Tribe, serving as lead [organization](#)

*Select one of the following options:*

☐ Local Government

☐ Federally Recognized Indian Tribe

*Select one or more of the following options:*

☐ Disadvantaged Community

☐ Energy Community

☐ Small-sized jurisdiction

☐ Medium-sized jurisdiction

# Application Criteria

# Technical Review Criteria

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## Criterion 1: Community Need, Impact, and Replicability (30%)

- Extent to which proposed project:
  - addresses community-identified energy needs and priorities and delivers clean energy projects and programs.
  - can spur local economic development or community revitalization, utilize existing community assets or transform liabilities into assets, and spark additional investments.
  - demonstrates a new approach for a specific community and/or serves as a model approach for other communities to replicate.

# Technical Review Criteria

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## Criterion 2: Community Support, Engagement, and Benefits (30%)

- Extent to which proposed project:
  - Has broad public support from communities most directly impacted by proposed project, demonstrated through meaningful community engagement (planned or already conducted), as well as support from relevant decision-makers.
  - will benefit local workers and provide tangible benefits to residents, as demonstrated through workforce agreements; workforce strategies, commitments, and protections; reduced energy costs; improved air quality; and improved quality of life.
  - demonstrates meaningful commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) objectives into the project; labor and stakeholder engagement; and delivery of benefits to disadvantaged communities, aligned with the Justice40 Initiative.

# Technical Review Criteria

## Criterion 3: Partnerships and Project Feasibility (40%)

- Extent to which proposed project:
  - the applicant (and proposed subrecipients and/or partners, if relevant) demonstrates relevant skills and ability to succeed, including grant management experience, project management experience, technical expertise, facilitation and convening experience, and community trust
  - provides an effective strategy to meet community-identified needs, address key challenges, and provide a strong plan to measure outcomes.
  - is technically feasible, inclusive of reasonable budget and spend plan within the established timeline.
  - will build organizational and/or staff capacity to support further advancement of clean energy opportunities, the community's participation in the clean energy economy, and/or right to self-determination

# Program Policy Factors

In addition to the **Application Criteria**, the Selection Official may consider **Program Policy Factors**:

- **Diversity of eligible communities** across the portfolio of projects selected for this FOA, including disadvantaged communities, energy communities, federally recognized Indian Tribes, and small and medium-sized jurisdictions.
- **Diversity of geographic distribution, approach, or technology** when compared to existing DOE portfolio and other projects selected from this FOA (e.g. rural, suburban, urban).
- The degree to which the proposal **serves high need communities**, including energy burdened-households, communities at risk for disconnections and shutoffs, communities heavily burdened as documented through CEJST, and/or Tribal communities
- A full list of the Program Policy Factors can be found in Section V.C.i. in the C-SITE FOA

# FAQs

## Does this FOA provide Technical Assistance (TA)?

**YES!**

- TA provided under this opportunity will focus on the development and implementation of clean energy projects or clean energy workforce development programs, and other benefits based on each community's unique combination of:
  - Energy-related resources, assets, or potential.
  - Social, institutional, and economic strengths and opportunities.
  - The specific clean energy approach the community hopes to implement.
- All financial awardees will have the opportunity to host a Community Energy Fellow (CEF) for up to 18 months.
  - Depending on availability, CEFs may work remotely or may be shared with another C-SITE awarded tribe or local government.

## Does DOE participate in BIA's 477 Program?

Yes!

- DOE is now an eligible agency for Bureau of Indian Affairs' (BIA) 477 Program: if awarded, a Tribe may apply to integrate funding into their 477 program or plan. 477 funds are legally non-federal funds and therefore can meet federal cost-share requirements.

## Does this FOA include a Cost Share Requirement?

Yes!

- DOE reduced the cost-share requirement for this funding announcement to **5%**, which **can include staff time and in-kind services** to advance the proposal or project. For more information on cost share, please reference **Appendix B in the FOA**.

## What if my Community is not included on the Eligibility Map or is not accurately categorized?

- If your community does not appear on the eligibility map provided or is not accurately categorized in your view, state in your application how and why you think your community should be eligible given the definitions provided within the C-SITE FOA.

# Next Steps

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- **Questions?**
  - Email [LGEP@hq.doe.gov](mailto:LGEP@hq.doe.gov)
  - Visit [energy.gov/scep/local-government-energy-program](https://energy.gov/scep/local-government-energy-program)
  - Read the **FOA**
- **Join an Informational Webinar:**
  - Click the “Join” link on the LGEP website to connect to the Microsoft Teams live presentation
  - March 21, 2024; 3:00-4:00 pm ET



Thank you!