



Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA)

Inflation Reduction Act – Transmission Siting and Economic Development (TSED) Program

DE-FOA-0003101

Frequently Asked Questions

September 19, 2023

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Funding Opportunity Announcement Amendment Updates

Application Process and Requirements

1. Where do I apply for the FOA?
 - I. To access application forms and instructions, visit the Clean Energy Infrastructure Funding Opportunity eXCHANGE (<https://infrastructure-eXCHANGE.energy.gov>), and then select the appropriate funding opportunity number, DE-FOA-0003101.
 - II. Questions related to the FOA can be submitted to the FOA inbox at FOA3101@netl.doe.gov.
2. What's the timeline for the application and review period?
 - a. Concept Paper submissions are due no later than 5 PM ET on October 31, 2023.
 - b. Full Application submissions will be due no later than 5 PM ET on April 4, 2024.
3. What actions do I need to take before starting my application?
 - I. The registration requirements include several one-time actions that must be completed before applying to the FOA. It is vital that applicants address these items as soon as possible.
 - II. Register for free with System of Award Management (SAM) at <https://www.sam.gov>
 - III. Obtain a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI). If you don't have a UEI you will register for one in SAM (<https://www.sam.gov>). The UEI is available in the SAM entity registration record. Subawardees/subrecipients at all tiers must also obtain a UEI from the SAM and provide the UEI to the award Recipient before the subaward can be issued. If the applicant has already obtained a UEI for another Federal grant, they do not need to do this step again. That UEI may be used for this FOA. The UEI replaces the DUNS number that was previously required for Federal grants. It may take up to several weeks to receive a UEI. Otherwise qualified entities will not be able to submit applications unless they are fully registered in SAM.
 - IV. Register with Clean Energy Infrastructure Funding Opportunity Exchange (INFRASTRUCTURE eXCHANGE) at <https://infrastructure-eXCHANGE.energy.gov>, online application portal.
 - V. Applicants must register with FedConnect to receive an Award at www.fedconnect.net Register in Grants.gov (<http://www.grants.gov>) to receive automatic updates when Amendments to this FOA are posted. Please note that Full Applications will not be accepted through Grants.gov.
4. What are the required application documents?

The required content and format for the full application is listed in Section IV.E.i. of the FOA. Subsection E. provides detailed guidance on the content and form of each component of the application.



5. What should be included in the budget justification workbook?
 - I. Applicants must complete the Budget Justification Workbook, which is included as an attachment to the announcement for use and to describe the level of detail required in the budget justification. Although the data requested is mandatory, the use of the budget justification workbook is not. Applicants must provide the information requested in each tab of the Budget Justification Workbook for the project as a whole, including all work to be performed by the prime recipient and any subrecipients and contractors. Applicants should include costs associated with implementing the various requirements (e.g., Buy America Requirements for Infrastructure projects, Community Benefits Plan, reporting, oversight) and with required annual audits and incurred cost proposals in their proposed budget documents. Such costs may be reimbursed as a direct or indirect cost. The “Instructions and Summary” included with the Budget Justification Workbook will auto-populate as the applicant enters information into the Workbook. Applicants must carefully read the “Instructions and Summary” tab provided within the Budget Justification Workbook.
 - II. Save the Budget Justification Workbook in a single Microsoft Excel file using the following naming convention for the title “ControlNumber_LeadOrganization_Budget_Justification”.

6. In relation to resumes, it doesn’t specify the font type to be used; it only mentions that it shouldn't be smaller than 11-point font. Just to confirm, would the font type used not matter?

There is no mandatory font type however the font must be no smaller than 11-point font as indicated in the FOA.

7. What is the general review process for applications?

Concept Papers and Full Applications will be reviewed for compliance and responsiveness (refer to Section III.C. and III.D. of the FOA). Concept Papers that successfully pass the compliance/responsive review will be evaluated based on the concept paper technical review criteria contained in Section V.A.i. of the FOA. Based on the review, Applicants will then receive an Encourage/Discourage Notification for proceeding to the Full Application phase. Full Applications will be evaluated based on the technical review criteria set forth in Section V.A.ii. of the FOA. Based on the review, Applicants will receive either a successful or unsuccessful notification.

Eligibility

8. How will Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs) receive funding?

FFRDC’s will receive funding via sub-awards issued by the prime recipient. Please refer to FOA Section III.E.iii. for guidance with respect to this question.



9. Is DE-FOA-0003101 applicable for entities such as state Public Utility Commissions or a governor's Office of Economic Development?
- I. Area of Interest 1 pertains to siting and permitting activities, and eligible applicants are restricted to state, Tribal, or local siting authorities. A PUC that functions as a state siting authority is eligible to apply for funds to support siting and permitting activities under Area of Interest 1. However, a governor's office that does not function as a state siting authority is not an eligible applicant for a siting and permitting grant under Area of Interest 1.
 - II. Area of Interest 2 pertains to economic development activities in impacted communities, and eligible applicants include all non-federal government entities. Either a PUC or a governor's office is eligible to apply for funds to support economic development activities under Area of Interest 2.
 - III. Please refer to Section III.A. of the FOA.

Activities

10. What exactly is an Area of Interest (AOI)?

AOIs are distinct opportunities to apply for funding within this FOA. That is, this FOA has two interrelated AOIs but each one has distinct objectives, eligibility, and application criteria.

11. What types of activities are eligible for consideration under this FOA?

Information with respect to this question can be found in Section I.B. of the FOA.

12. Can I apply more than once or to more than one Area of Interest?

An eligible entity may submit more than one Concept Paper and Full Application in response to this FOA. DOE cannot accept a single application that proposes activities in more than one area of interest, but entities that are eligible for grants under both Area of Interest 1 (siting and permitting) and Area of Interest 2 (economic development) are welcome to submit separate applications for each area of interest. In addition, an applicant may propose more than one activity within a single area of interest within the same application (e.g., 2 siting and permitting activities or 3 economic development activities) or may choose to do so in separate applications.



Project Administration

13. What projects must follow the Build America Buy America Act (BABA)?

The DOE financial assistance agreement will require each recipient: (1) to fulfill the commitments made in its application regarding the procurement of U.S.-produced products and (2) to fulfill the commitments made in its application regarding the procurement of other key component metals and manufactured products domestically that are deemed available in sufficient and reasonably available quantities or of a satisfactory quality at the time of award negotiation. Applicants may seek waivers of these requirements in very limited circumstances and for good cause shown. Further details on requesting a waiver can be found in Appendix D and the terms and conditions of an award. Applicants are strongly encouraged to consult Appendix D for more information.

15. What activities are Categorically Excluded (CX) from the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review?

Applicants applying for support for siting and permitting activities under AOI 1 including support for studies, data analysis, computer and geospatial modeling, lab and bench-scale work in existing laboratories, coordination with local and state authorities are actions that generally do not present any extraordinary circumstances and would be covered by a CX outlined in Appendices A and B to the Subpart D of the DOE NEPA Implementing Procedures (10 CFR 1021).

Cost Match

Forms

16. The FOA states that “reporting requirements are identified on the Federal Assistance Reporting Checklist and Instructions, attached to the award agreement”. Can you provide a copy of the FARC showing said requirements?

Yes, an example of the Federal Assistance Reporting Checklist (FARC) can be accessed at: [DOE F4600.2, FA Reporting Checklist](#) (energy.gov).



Miscellaneous

17. The Transmission Siting and Economic Development Program (TSED) is \$760 million, but this Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) (DE-FOA-0003101) has a maximum award of \$300 million between both Areas of Interest. What is the plan for the rest of the funding?

The Department of Energy Grid Deployment Office plans to issue additional funding opportunity announcements pertaining to the TSED Program in the future.

Definitions