



# SCEP

STATE & COMMUNITY ENERGY PROGRAMS

DE-FOA-0003056:  
Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (IRA)  
Assistance For The Adoption Of The Latest  
And Zero Building Energy Codes

## Submitting your Full Application

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**March 28, 2024**

**IRA Section 50131**

**Adoption of the Latest and Zero Building Energy Codes**



# Agenda

1. FOA Overview
2. Detailed FOA Topic Area Descriptions
3. Infrastructure eXCHANGE
4. General Guidance for Submission Deadlines
5. DOE Concept Paper Feedback
6. Application and Submission Information
7. Full Application (common components)
8. Full Application (additional components if applicable)
9. Emails, *whom to email for help*
10. Open Q&A

Reference Slides: Criterion 1-4 for this FOA

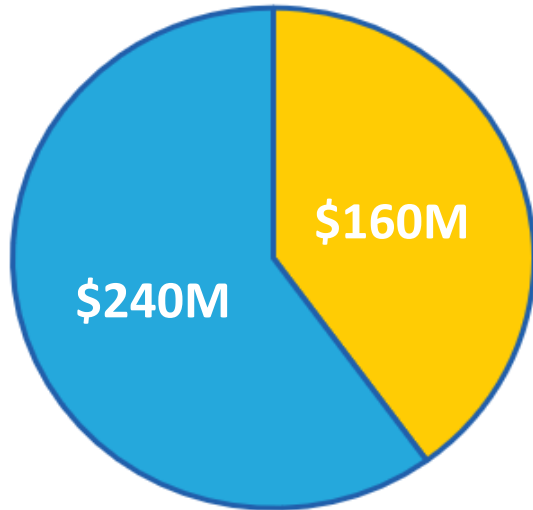


# Overview of Funding Breakdown by Mechanism / Timing

Reminder: Applicant must have code/standard adoption authority

## Formula – \$400M Total

**Eligible Entities:** States  
(and partnerships with States)  
**Released:** September 19, 2023

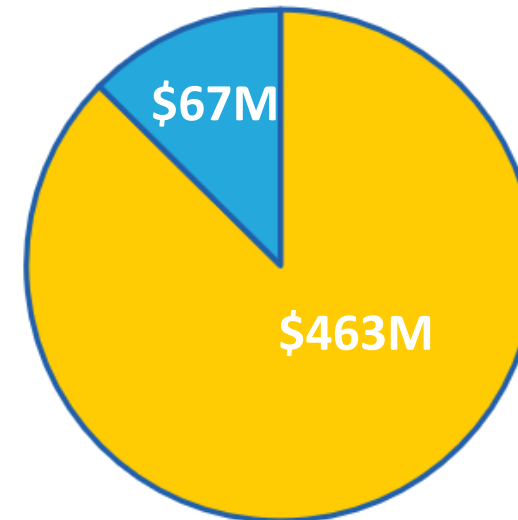


Streamlined process for motivated States

- Latest Model Energy Codes or Equivalent
- Zero Energy Codes or Equivalent

## Competitive FOA – \$530M Total

**Eligible Entities:** States, and localities with  
code adoption authority  
**Released:** December 18, 2023



Submission Deadline for First Round of Full  
Applications: April 30, 2024, 5:00 p.m. ET

Submission Deadline for Round 2 of Concept Papers: May 31, 2024,  
5:00 p.m. ET

Focus

# Detailed FOA Topic Area Descriptions

## **Topic Area 1: Adoption and Implementation of Qualifying Building Energy Codes by Certain Units of Local Government**

*Provides funding to units of local government that have authority to adopt building codes for the adoption and implementation of a qualifying building energy code.*

## **Topic Area 2: Adoption and Implementation of the Latest Model Energy Codes or Zero Energy Codes with Combinations of Strengthening and Weakening Amendments by States and Certain Units of Local Governments**

*Provides funding to States and units of local government that have authority to adopt building codes for the adoption and implementation of a building energy code with combinations of strengthening and weakening amendments that achieves equivalent or greater energy savings as compared to the relevant qualifying building energy code.*

## **Topic Area 3: Adoption and Implementation of Innovative Building Energy Code Approaches by States and Certain Units of Local Government**

*Provides funding to States and units of local government that have authority to adopt building codes for the adoption and implementation of certain innovative building codes, including certain building performance standards (BPS) for existing buildings or stretch codes for new and renovated buildings.*

# Infrastructure eXCHANGE

For this FOA, applicants must submit application materials through the Infrastructure eXCHANGE, SCEP's online application portal. DOE templates are there to help, including those from the Assistance for Latest and Zero Building Energy Code Adoption (ALRD).

Infrastructure eXCHANGE for DE-FOA-0003056: <https://infrastructure-exchange.energy.gov/Default.aspx#Foalda25503b3-faa7-4a9e-8216-579246093ec7>

- FOA: <https://infrastructure-exchange.energy.gov/FileContent.aspx?FileID=225d3977-ee7c-488d-93c3-1b0e5b02c61f>
- Q&A Spreadsheet: <https://infrastructure-exchange.energy.gov/FileContent.aspx?FileID=feb97999-0112-4d1f-9485-e0b2571ec477>
- ALRD – Assistance for Latest and Zero Building Energy Code Adoption (Sec. 50131) for States and Territories, templates (center of webpage, click to expand):  
<https://www.energy.gov/scep/technical-assistance-adoption-building-energy-codes>

*Questions about the FOA? Email [IRACODES@hq.doe.gov](mailto:IRACODES@hq.doe.gov)*

# General Guidance for Submission Deadlines

## Submission Deadlines... *at least 48 hours*

**Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit their Concept Papers, Full Applications, and Replies to Reviewer Comments at least 48 hours in advance of the submission deadline. Under normal conditions (i.e., at least 48 hours before the submission deadline),** applicants should allow at least one hour to submit a Concept Paper, Full Application, or Reply to Reviewer Comments.

Once the Concept Paper, Full Application, or Reply to Reviewer Comments is submitted in Infrastructure eXCHANGE, applicants may revise or update that submission until the expiration of the applicable deadline. If changes are made to any of these documents, the applicant must resubmit, before the applicable deadline.



## Concept Paper: DOE Feedback

- Please address any feedback received from your Concept Paper in your full application.
- Those eligible applicant teams that require *a change in the prime recipient*, please email [InfrastructureEXCHANGESupport@hq.doe.gov](mailto:InfrastructureEXCHANGESupport@hq.doe.gov) with FOA name and number in subject line with this request.

# Application and Submission Information



Concept Paper

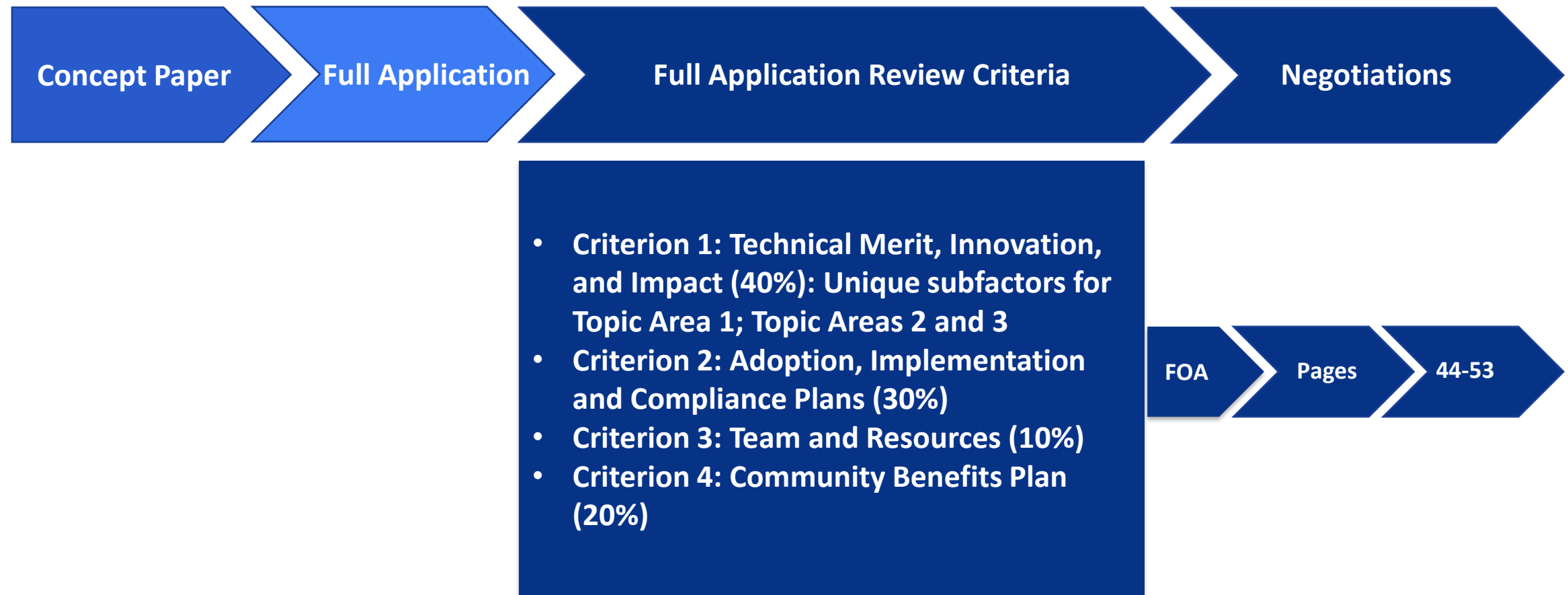
Full Application

The prime recipient under this FOA must be a State or unit of local government that has the authority to adopt building codes unless delegated as outlined in **Section III(A)(i)** of the FOA. *Per **Section III(A)(i)** of the FOA, Entities that are not agencies within the applicant jurisdiction (e.g.: non-governmental organizations (NGOs), industry associations, etc.) are not eligible to be delegated as the prime applicant.*



# Application and Submission Information

Applications will be evaluated against the technical review criteria\*. The material that you submit should support your application. Please use as many of DOE templates and resources on Infrastructure eXCHANGE as possible, there to help you.



\* See Reference Slides: Full Application Review Criteria

# Material... *supports your application (just a few)...*

- Equivalence calculation **with sufficient detail** for its implementation and review by DOE.
- **Sufficient details** regarding code adoption, compliance, and enforcement plans, as well as alignment with the FOA eligibility requirements.
- Account for the renewable energy attributes if present and ensure **that sufficient detail** is provided for equivalence to be determined.
- Includes quantifiable savings targets in the form of a long-term goal(s) for the innovative code and any interim goals or targets relevant to the innovative code proposed.
- Innovative code is still in development, still requires a determination of equivalence using the DOE methodology with quantifiable interim goals and/or targets, working towards to long-term end of project goals.
- Innovative code proposal must be measurable, verifiable, and enforceable.
- Activities funded by this Application are separate and distinct from other federal funding received, ensuring compliance with FOA Section IV(D)(xvii), which provides additional detail and guidance on this matter.
- **Sufficient details** around the compliance and enforcement plan, as well as the community benefits plan.
- Zero codes is met in accordance with the required equivalence methodology as described in Section IV(D)(vi) of the FOA and the corresponding equivalence methodology.

# Application and Submission Information

Full Application (common components)		FOA	Pages	21-22
Technical Volume/Project Narrative		Page Limit: 20		
Resumes		Page Limit: 1 each		
Letters of Commitment		Page Limit: 1 each		
Community Partnership Documentation		Page Limit: 5		
Equivalence Calculator*		Page Limit: n/a		Past Webinar
Equivalence Analysis*		Page Limit: 10		
SF-424: Application for Federal Assistance		Page Limit: n/a		
Summary/Abstract for Public Release		Page Limit: 1		
Budget Justification Workbook		Page Limit: n/a		
Summary Slide		Page Limit: 1		
SF-LLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities		Page Limit: n/a		
Current and Pending Support		Page Limit: n/a		
Community Benefits Plan: Job Quality and Equity		Page Limit: 5		

# Technical Volume/Project Narrative

## Technical Volume/Project Narrative

FOA

Pages

23-28

- Clearly describe and expand upon information provided in the Concept Paper, with sufficient details.
- Background includes a clear articulation of the building energy code or equivalent currently in place, specifying the adoption and effective dates as well as current compliance rates.
- Project goals are explicitly identified the proposed code(s) or equivalent to be adopted as part of the project, including a summary of relevant amendments, long term targets, and key implementation and compliance activities.
- Applicants should specifically explain how DOE funding, relative to prior, current, or anticipated funding from other public and private sources, is necessary to achieve the project objectives.
- Technical Description should contain the following information: Relevance and Outcomes, Feasibility and Impacts.
- Workplan should include a summary of the Project Objectives, Technical Scope, Work Breakdown Structure (WBS), Milestones, Go/No-Go decision points, and Project Schedule. If selected, a detailed Statement Of Project Objectives (SOPO) will be requested.
- Milestone Summary should be included. Milestone may be either a progress measure (which can be activity based) or a Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Timely (SMART) technical milestone.

# SMART Milestones

## Specific

- Each milestone should be clear and unambiguous
- Each milestone should state exactly what is expected, why it is important, where it is going to happen, and which attributes are important

## Measurable

- Each milestone should include criteria for measuring progress toward attainment. If a goal is not measurable, it is not possible to know whether a project is progressing toward successful completion
- Milestones should not be aspirational, nor should they describe simple effort

## Achievable (is attainable)

- Milestones shouldn't be out of reach
- Milestones should be attainable given available time and resources (team, budget and equipment).

## Relevant

- Each milestone should drive the initiative/project forward and be in alignment with end of project objectives

## Timely (time-bound requirement)

- Milestones should have a timeframe and a target date for completion
- Each milestone should allow sufficient time to achieve the goal, but not so much time that achievement of the milestone is not a priority

# SMART Milestone example

**Bad Milestone:** Report to DOE on Innovative Codes.

**SMART Milestone:** Submit an innovative Building Performance Standard (BPS) that exceeds the energy savings standards of the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) by 5% using DOE's methodology for approval, October 1, 2024.

**Specific:** An innovative BPS that exceeds the energy savings standards of the 2021 IECC

**Measurable:** Exceeds the energy savings standards of the 2021 IECC by 5% using DOE's methodology

**Achievable:** Yes, 5% is realistic (not 500%), min was just meeting the 2021 IECC.

**Relevant:** In alignment with FOA objectives and moves code efforts forward.

**Timely:** Date is realistic and before code adoption, compliance, and enforcement efforts.

# Technical Volume/Project Narrative

## Technical Volume/Project Narrative

FOA

Pages

23-28

- SMART milestones must demonstrate an achievement rather than simply completing a task.
- Minimum requirement is that each project must have at least **one milestone per quarter** for the duration of the project with at least **one SMART technical milestone per year**. *The applicant's **Community Benefits Plan** must include at least **one SMART milestone per program year** to measure progress.*
- Include a summary of project-wide Go/No-Go decision points at appropriate points in the Workplan. At a minimum, each project must have at least one project-wide Go/No-Go decision point for each budget period of the project.
- Go/No-Go decision points are considered “SMART” and can fulfill the requirement for an annual SMART milestone. They must be SMART: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Timely.
- The applicant should discuss the team’s proposed management plan.
- Team’s Technical Qualifications and Resources is included.
- Consider the weighting of each of the technical review criteria when preparing and the work being proposed.
- Sufficient details are provided to support claims.



# Community Benefits Plan

Community Benefits Plan (5 pages)

FOA

Pages

34-38

To support the goal of building a clean and equitable energy economy, Grantees are expected to:

1. Support meaningful community, Tribal, and labor engagement;
2. Engage and support a skilled and qualified workforce;
3. Advance diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA); and
4. Contribute to the Justice40 Initiative with the goal that 40% of the overall benefits of certain federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities.

To ensure these goals are met, as part of their application for funding, applicants must create a Community Benefits Plan that describes how their codes program will incorporate the four objectives stated above.

The applicant's Community Benefits Plan must include *at least one SMART milestone per program year* to measure progress on each of the proposed actions. The applicant must make the Community Benefits Plan, the milestones, and progress toward them accessible on a public website. DOE will incorporate the Community Benefits Plan into the award and the recipient must implement its Community Benefits Plan when carrying out its project. **Reminder Criterion 4: Community Benefits Plan (20%)**

# Community Partnership Documentation\Resumes\Letters of Commitment

Community Partnership Documentation\Resumes\Letters of Commitment

FOA

Pages

28-29

- **Community Partnership Documentation (5 pages):** In support of the Community Benefits Plan, applicants may submit documentation to demonstrate existing or planned partnerships with community entities, such as organizations that work with local stakeholders most vulnerable to or affected by the project. Examples of such entities include organizations that carry out workforce development programs, labor unions, Tribal organizations, and community-based organizations that work with disadvantaged communities. Such letters must state the specific nature of the partnership and must not be general letters of support. *Reminder*  
***Criterion 4: Community Benefits Plan (20%)***
- **Resumes (1 page each):** Included for key project personnel to evaluate an individual's relevant skills and the experience.
- **Letters of Commitment (1 page each):** Section 50131 of the IRA establishes specific requirements for eligible entities under this FOA. The prime recipient must be a State or unit of local government that has the authority to adopt building codes. All project partners must submit a Letter of Commitment. Each partner's Letter of Commitment shall demonstrate their support for the overall project and specific role within the project team.

# Equivalence Calculator and Analysis

## Equivalence Calculator and Analysis

FOA

Pages

29-30

**Topic Area 1:** There is a checklist! No equivalence *calculation* required.

**Topic Area 2:** There is a calculator! Just provide the weighted site EUI of your proposed code (PCEP) or Section 4.2 in the methodology (<https://infrastructure-exchange.energy.gov/FileContent.aspx?FileID=0dcab580-0055-478d-aad2-d639f551a195>). **You could request support from DOE, just provide inputs** – provide inputs identified in the FOA along with your full application and DOE conducts the calculation for you.

**Topic Area 3:** If you are proposing a commercial or multifamily BPS, you must use the Topic Area 3 calculator provided with the FOA. For other innovative approaches, follow resources for Topic Area 2, including **how to request support from DOE**.

### ***Equivalence Methodology Webinar, Recording and Slides:***

<https://pnnl.zoomgov.com/rec/share/zq8n0RBkabq6Z6crkRB0zblb7jFGjfnco1xGwXCVj8ETEEzzYzdHIZ5LDUWF0HMOV.zNu0URILGRQufn52>, <https://infrastructure-exchange.energy.gov/FileContent.aspx?FileID=a0fee4bc-d179-4870-b4e9-6df1ec557693>

# SF-424\Summary/Abstract for Public Release\Budget Justification Workbook

- **SF-424:** Applicants must complete the SF-424: **Application for Federal Assistance**, which is available on Infrastructure eXCHANGE at <http://infrastructure-exchange.energy.gov> under the appropriate funding opportunity number. Note: The dates and dollar amounts on the SF-424 are for the complete project period and not just the first project year, first phase, or other subset of the project period.
- **Summary/Abstract for Public Release:** Applicants must submit a one-page summary of their project that is suitable for dissemination to the public. It should be a self-contained document that identifies the name of the applicant, the lead project manager, the project title, the objectives of the project, a description of the project, including methods to be employed, the potential impact of the project (e.g., benefits, outcomes), major participants (for collaborative projects), and the project's commitments and goals described in the Community Benefits Plan. This document ***must not include any proprietary or business-sensitive information***, as DOE may make it available to the public after selections are made.
- **Budget Justification Workbook:** Applicants selected for negotiation must complete the Budget Justification Workbook, available on Infrastructure eXCHANGE at <https://infrastructure-exchange.energy.gov> under the appropriate funding opportunity number. Applicants must complete each tab of the Budget Justification Workbook for the project, including all work to be performed by the prime recipient and its subrecipients and contractors. Applicants should include costs associated with required annual audits and incurred cost proposals in their proposed budget documents.

# Summary Slide\SF-LLL: Disclosure of Lobbying Activities\Current and Pending Support

Summary Slide\SF-LLL: Disclosure of Lobbying Activities\Current and Pending Support

FOA

Pages

31-32

- **Summary Slide:** Applicants must provide a single slide summarizing the proposed project. The Summary Slide template is available on Infrastructure eXCHANGE at <https://infrastructureexchange.energy.gov> under the appropriate funding opportunity number.
- **SF-LLL: Disclosure of Lobbying Activities:** Recipients and subrecipients may not use any federal funds to influence or attempt to influence, directly or indirectly, congressional action on any legislative or appropriation matters. Recipients and subrecipients are required to complete and submit SF-LLL, “Disclosure of Lobbying Activities” (<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms/sf-424-individual-family.html>) to ensure that non-federal funds have not been paid and will not be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence any of the following in connection with the application.
- **Current and Pending Support:** 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 all senior/key personnel at the applicant and subrecipient 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 connections with foreign government-sponsored talent recruitment programs must be identified in current and pending support.

# Application and Submission Information, if applicable

Full Application (required, if applicable)		FOA	Pages	22-23
Delegation of Authority		Page Limit: 1		
Proposed Building Energy Code Language		Page Limit: n/a		
Foreign Entity Waiver Requests and Foreign Work Waiver Requests		Page Limit: n/a		
Potentially Duplicative Funding Notice		Page Limit: n/a		
Authorization from cognizant Contracting Officer for FFRDC		Page Limit: n/a		
DOE Work Proposal for FFRDC, if applicable (see DOE O 412.1A, Attachment 2)		Page Limit: n/a		
Open-source Software Distribution Plan		Page Limit: n/a		
<hr/>				
<i>If Selected for Negotiation</i>		FOA	Page	23
Statement Of Project Objectives (SOP0)		Page Limit: 10		
Subrecipient Budget Justification		Page Limit: n/a		
Community Benefits Plan Budget Justification		Page Limit: n/a		

# Emails

- **eXCHANGE:** If you have any technical problems with eXCHANGE, please send an email to [InfrastructureExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov](mailto:InfrastructureExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov) with the FOA name (*Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (IRA) Assistance For The Adoption Of The Latest And Zero Building Energy Codes*) and number (*DE-FOA-0003056*) in the subject line.
- **FOA:** Questions about the FOA? Email [IRACODES@hq.doe.gov](mailto:IRACODES@hq.doe.gov)



# Reference Slides: Full Application Review Criteria

# Criterion 1: Technical Merit, Innovation, and Impact (40%): Topic Area 1

## Impact of the Proposed Project

- Clear articulation of the proposed, or already adopted, qualified building energy code(s) including all relevant amendments and alterations, as defined in Appendix C, to be adopted and implemented;
- Extent to which the proposed project addresses the rapid adoption of a qualifying building energy code;
- Magnitude and persistence of energy and consumer bill savings to be delivered by the proposed project;
- Prospective compliance plan and ability to implement the plan;
- Long-term support for capacity building, workforce development and training efforts to establish place-based jobs and support community-level implementation;
- Extent to which the application specifically and appropriately demonstrates how the applicant will move from the current code(s) to the adoption, implementation and enforcement of the applicable qualifying building energy code;
- Extent to which project has documented buy-in from needed stakeholders to ensure success of adoption, implementation, compliance, and enforcement;
- Extent to which project has the potential to reduce emissions and provide clean energy acceleration benefits for a community or region; and sufficiency of existing capacity, or plans to achieve that capacity, to support adoption and implementation of proposed code;
- Extent to which project has sufficient existing capacity, or sufficient plans to achieve that capacity, to support adoption and implementation of proposed code;
- Extent to which the project supports the topic area objectives and target specifications and metrics;
- Extent to which adoption and implementation efforts are replicable and may lead to future code adoption efforts; and
- Extent to which the project facilitates stakeholder relationships across new or existing stakeholders to gain buy-in and increase potential for future adoption efforts.

## Project Management

- Adequacy of proposed project management systems including the ability to track scope, cost, and schedule progress and changes;
- Reasonableness of budget and spend plan as detailed in the budget justification workbook for proposed project and objectives;
- Adequacy of contingency funding based on quality of cost estimate and identified risks;
- Adequacy, reasonableness, and soundness of the project schedule, as well as annual, or more frequent Go/No-Go decisions, interim milestones, and metrics to track process;
- Adequacy of the identification of risks, including labor and community opposition or disputes, and timely and appropriate strategies for mitigation and resolution.

# Criterion 1: Technical Merit, Innovation, and Impact (40%): Topic Areas 2 and 3

## Impact of the Proposed Project

- Extent to which the proposed project addresses the rapid adoption of a qualifying building energy code;
- Extent to which the proposed project incorporates activities that will result in implementing a plan to achieve full compliance for a qualifying building energy code, or a building energy code that achieves equivalent energy savings;
- Magnitude and persistence of energy and utility bill savings to be delivered by the proposed project;
- **Clear articulation of the current and proposed, or already adopted, qualified building energy code(s) including all relevant amendments and alterations, to be adopted and implemented;**
- Prospective compliance plan and ability to implement the plan;
- Long-term support for capacity building, workforce development and training efforts to establish place-based jobs and support community-level implementation;
- **Degree to which the current code(s) and the proposed code(s) are clearly described, including key differences between the two and the impact of adopting the proposed code(s);**
- Extent to which the application specifically and appropriately demonstrates how the applicant will move from the current code(s) to the adoption, implementation and enforcement of the proposed building energy code;
- Sufficiency of technical detail in the application to assess whether the proposed work is meritorious, including relevant data, calculations, and discussion of prior work with analyses that support the viability of the proposed work;
- Extent to which project has buy-in from needed stakeholders to ensure success of adoption, implementation, compliance, and enforcement;
- Extent to which project has the potential to reduce emissions and provide clean energy acceleration benefits for a community or region; and sufficiency of existing capacity, or plans to achieve that capacity, to support adoption and implementation of proposed code;
- Ability of the project to advance industry adoption;
- Extent to which the project supports the topic area objectives and target specifications and metrics;
- Potential impact of the project on advancing the state of the art;
- Extent to which adoption and implementation efforts are replicable and may lead to future code adoption efforts; and
- Extent to which the project facilitates stakeholder relationships across new or existing stakeholders to gain technical buy-in and increase potential for future adoption efforts.

# Criterion 1: Technical Merit, Innovation, and Impact (40%): Topic Areas 2 and 3

## Project Management

- Adequacy of proposed project management systems including the ability to track scope, cost, and schedule progress and changes;
- Reasonableness of budget and spend plan as detailed in the budget justification workbook for proposed project and objectives;
- Adequacy of contingency funding based on quality of cost estimate and identified risks;
- Adequacy, reasonableness, and soundness of the project schedule, as well as annual, or more frequent, Go/No-Go decisions, interim milestones, and metrics to track process;
- Adequacy, reasonableness, and soundness of the project schedule, as well as annual Go/No-Go decisions, interim milestones, and metrics to track process;
- Adequacy of the identification of risks, including labor and community opposition or disputes, and timely and appropriate strategies for mitigation and resolution; and
- Soundness of a plan to expeditiously address environmental, siting, and other regulatory requirements for the project, including evaluation of resilience to climate change.

## Criterion 2: Adoption, Implementation and Compliance Plans (30%)

### Approach and Workplan

- Degree to which the approach and critical path have been clearly described and thoughtfully considered; and
- Degree to which the task descriptions are clear, detailed, timely, and reasonable, resulting in a high likelihood that the proposed Workplan will succeed in meeting the project goals.

### Identification of Risks

- Discussion and demonstrated understanding of the key risk areas involved in the proposed work and the quality of the mitigation strategies to address them.

### Baseline, Metrics, and Deliverables

- Level of clarity in the definition of the baseline, metrics, and milestones; and
- Relative to a clearly defined project baseline, the strength of the quantifiable metrics, milestones, and mid-point deliverables defined in the application, such that meaningful interim progress will be made.

### Adoption, Implementation and Compliance Plan

- Identification of known or perceived barriers to adoption, including mitigation plan; and
- Comprehensiveness of Adoption, Implementation and Compliance plan including but not limited to adoption, implementation, and compliance activities, supportive programs to ensure equitable outcomes, workforce development plans, community and stakeholder engagement plans, etc.

### Ongoing Adoption Plan

- Identification of the interest and extent of the applicant and related jurisdictions' plan to ensure ongoing code updates with the provision of sufficient capacity and workforce support.

## Criterion 3: Team and Resources (10%)

- Degree to which the proposed project team represents partnership comprised of key stakeholders as specified in the FOA;
- Demonstrated capacity to carry out the proposed project;
- The capability of the project team to address all aspects of the proposed work with a high probability of success. The qualifications, relevant expertise, and time commitment of the individuals on the team;
- Capability of the project team to influence the adoption and implementation of updated building energy codes in the target region, including the demonstration of strategic relationships and skills necessary to ensure the success of the project;
- The diversity of the proposed team and demonstrated success on the similar projects, particularly those that are critical to energy code updates and implementation;
- Degree to which the proposed consortia/team demonstrates the ability to facilitate and expedite further demonstration, development and commercial deployment of the proposed technologies;
- The degree to which the proposed team demonstrates the ability to facilitate and expedite further development of technical assistance in the implementation of the building energy codes;
- Level of participation by project participants as evidenced by letter(s) of commitment and how well they are integrated into the Workplan;
- The Reasonableness of the budget for the proposed project and objectives; and
- Need for federal assistance.

## Criterion 4: Community Benefits Plan (20%)

### Community and Labor Engagement

- Extent to which the applicant demonstrates community and labor engagement to date that results in support for the proposed project;
- Extent to which the applicant has a clear and appropriately robust plan to engage local stakeholders, labor unions, Tribal entities, and community-based organizations that support or work with disadvantaged communities.
- Extent to which the applicant has considered accountability to affected workers and community stakeholders, including those most vulnerable to project activities, with a plan to publicly share SMART Community Benefits Plan commitments; and
- Extent to which the applicant demonstrates that community and labor engagement will lead to the delivery of high-quality jobs, minimal environmental impact, and allocation of project benefits to disadvantaged communities.

### Job Quality and Workforce Continuity

- Extent to which the Community Benefits Plan demonstrates that the proposed project will create and/or retain high quality, good-paying jobs with employer-sponsored benefits for all classifications and phases of work;
- Extent to which the project provides employees with the ability to organize, bargain collectively, and participate, through labor organizations of their choosing, in decisions that affect them and that contribute to the effective conduct of business and facilitates amicable settlements of any potential disputes between employees and employers, providing assurances of project efficiency, continuity, and multiple public benefits; and
- Extent to which applicant demonstrates that they are a responsible employer, with ready access to a sufficient supply of appropriately skilled labor, and an effective plan to minimize the risk of labor disputes or disruptions.

### Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility

- Extent to which the Community Benefits Plan includes specific and high-quality actions to meet DEIA goals, which may include DEIA recruitment procedures, supplier diversity plans, and other DEIA initiatives; and
- Quality of any partnerships and agreements with apprenticeship readiness programs, or community-based workforce training and support organizations serving workers facing systematic barriers to employment to facilitate participation in the project's construction and operations.

### Justice40 Initiative

- Extent to which the Community Benefits Plan identifies specific, measurable benefits for disadvantaged communities that code can deliver, how the benefits will flow to the disadvantaged communities, and how a modernized code will reduce energy bills and improve the indoor air quality within the disadvantaged communities; and
- 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.





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STATE & COMMUNITY ENERGY PROGRAMS