



Notice of Intent (NOI) No. DE-FOA-0002869

Notice of Intent to Issue Funding Opportunity Announcement No. DE-FOA-0002870

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of State and Community Energy Program (SCEP) intends to issue a competitive Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) entitled "Creating a Community-Led Energy Future."

DOE intends to issue a \$27 million competitive FOA in accordance with Congressional direction provided in the DOE Fiscal Year 2022 and 2023 budgets, which encourages the Department of Energy to provide financial and technical assistance to support innovative planning inclusive of states, U.S. territories, local governments, and tribes to benefit disadvantaged communities (DACs).¹

Funding Opportunity Overview

The Energy Future Grants (EFG) FOA will provide up to \$27 million in financial assistance to support teams that will advance:

- **Partnerships:** Create multi-jurisdictional partnerships between local, tribal, and/or state governments, with a goal of at least 3-4 partners per team.
- **Communities:** Develop deployment-focused clean energy plans in the transportation, building, and/or power sectors.
- **Innovation:** Prioritize innovative (novel or early action) approaches that maximize energy affordability and access across sectors, markets, and geographies.

EFG applications should describe how partners will use DOE technical assistance (described below) to create deployment-ready plans able to transform whole communities. Whole community transformation means increased access by DACs to the broad benefits of clean energy including jobs, economic development, affordable housing, and emissions reductions.

¹ Communities are defined as disadvantaged if they are in census tracts that meet the thresholds for at least one of the categories of burden (climate change, energy, workforce, water and wastewater, transportation, health, housing, legacy pollution) or are located on land belonging to Federally Recognized Tribes. See: [Methodology & data - Climate & Economic Justice Screening Tool \(geoplatform.gov\)](#)

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Energy Future Grants - Award Structure



Eligible Applicant Teams

Only local, tribal, and state governments are eligible for funding. Eligible entity details are:

- Local government partners include mayors and city managers, economic development and finance agencies, sustainability departments, transportation departments, and metropolitan planning organizations.²
- State government partners are governors' advisors, executive agencies (energy, environmental, transportation, commerce, economic development). Public utility commissions are also critical to successful efforts and are eligible.
- Tribes, including all 574 federally recognized tribal governments and tribal colleges.

EFG seeks multi-jurisdictional teams of 3-4 or more partners. Teams are strongly encouraged to formally partner with community-benefit organizations (CBOs) to enhance local knowledge and capacity to support innovative program design and adoption. CBOs can include nonprofit organizations and academic institutions (e.g., Historically Black Colleges and Universities, community colleges, and nonprofits) able to elevate clean energy benefits in DACs.

Other partners may include affordable housing advocates, utilities, local labor unions, workforce training providers, and for-profit organizations that have expertise in finance, engineering, and/or planning.

Community-Led Topic Areas

Topic areas for proposed planning initiatives include the following:

² A Local Government is defined as any unit of government within a state, including a County, Borough, Municipality, City, Town, Township, Parish, Local public authority, Special district, School district, Intrastate district, Council of government, or any other instrumentality of a multi-, regional, or intra-state or local government.

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Topic Area 1 - Transportation

Proposals in this area should include planning approaches for reducing the energy intensity or greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector, with a focus on efforts to advance projects that benefit infrastructure, mobility, and zero carbon fuels. Innovative ideas may include efforts to support on-and-off-road technology adoption and fuel use, including freight and aviation fleets. Teams should consider including US DOE Clean Cities Coalitions.³

Topic Area 2 - Power Sector

Proposals in this area should include scalable innovations in the power sector to support distributed energy delivery models that emphasize affordability including utility programs that enhance demand flexibility or other approaches (e.g., green tariffs). Projects can include adoption of net zero carbon fuels, electrification, or procurement strategies that support economic, health, and job benefits in DACs. Teams should consider utilities and regulatory agencies as partners.

Topic Area 3 - Buildings

Proposals in this area should include solutions for expansion of net-zero commercial and residential buildings, including efforts to increase affordable multifamily housing or bolster resilience in community facilities (e.g., libraries, community centers, etc.). Other ideas include the adoption of building engineering, construction, or retrofit programs that account for occupant behavior, technology, and procurement. Teams may wish to include experts in affordable housing, finance, or building performance standards.

Cross-Cutting Topics: Applicants are not bound to a single topic area above (transportation, power, buildings). Teams should feel free to propose plans that cover multiple sectors or joint topic areas (e.g., deployment of virtual power plants, distribution system upgrades to accommodate zero emission heavy duty electric vehicles, etc.).

FOA Application Guidance

The following table summarizes application types for consideration.

| Encouraged | Discouraged |
|---|--|
| Multi-sector or integrated solutions | Emerging technology (e.g., carbon capture) |
| Engages multiple partners | Technology validation or demonstration |
| Builds on existing community plan or goal | Better suited to another DOE program |

³ <https://cleancities.energy.gov/>

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Technical Assistance

To maximize the impact of DOE funding, multi-jurisdictional EFG teams will gain access to a network that will facilitate the delivery of technical assistance. Based on the needs of applicant teams, technical assistance will include peer groups and support to leverage existing federal or philanthropic funds that can help deploy the innovation. The term “technical assistance” refers to expertise and resources provided by DOE or on behalf of DOE to awardees.

Additional Information

This NOI is issued so that interested parties are aware of the SCEP’s intention to issue this FOA in the near term. All information contained in this NOI is subject to change. SCEP will not respond to questions concerning this NOI. Once the FOA has been released, SCEP will provide an avenue for potential applicants to submit questions.

SCEP envisions awarding two tiers of financial assistance awards in the form of cooperative agreements. The estimated period of performance for the initial award will be 12-18 months in duration.

Additional information and resources related to this new opportunity is available at the following web page: [Energy Future Grants | Department of Energy \(doe.gov\)](#).

Teaming List

SCEP is compiling a “teaming” partner list to facilitate widespread participation in this initiative. This list allows organizations with expertise in these topics to express their interest to potential applicants and to explore potential partnerships.

The Teaming Partner List will be made available on the SCEP [Clean Energy Infrastructure Funding Opportunity Exchange](#) under this NOI (DE-FOA-0002869) until a potential FOA is posted. Any organization that would like to be included on this list should submit the following information to the Teaming List email box Energyfuturegrants@hq.doe.gov with the subject line “*Creating a Community-Led Energy Future*”:

- Organization name, generic organization contact email, generic contact phone, organization type, geographical area of interest, area of technical expertise (bulleted list less than 25 words), and brief description of capabilities (less than 100 words).

By submitting a request to be included on the Teaming Partner List, the requesting organization consents to the publication of the above-referenced information. Each organization should provide a generic point of contact e-mail address to receive queries. Direct personal e-mail addresses will not be posted.

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By facilitating this Teaming Partner List, SCEP does not endorse or otherwise evaluate the qualifications of the entities that self-identify themselves for placement on the Teaming List.

Competition in Contracting

If an eligible entity receiving a cooperative agreement under this section uses funds to issue a subcontract, the eligible entity shall be required to ensure that the contract process—

- (1) through full and open competition, ensures the maximum practicable number of qualified bidders, including small, minority, and women-owned businesses; and
- (2) gives priority to an organization or businesses located in, or resources common to, the State or geographical area under the contract will be carried out.

Recommendations

SCEP plans to issue the FOA in June 2023 via the [Clean Energy Infrastructure Funding Opportunity Exchange](#) website. If Applicants wish to receive official notifications and information from SCEP regarding this FOA, they should register in the Infrastructure Exchange. When the FOA is released, applications will be accepted only through Infrastructure Exchange.

In anticipation of the FOA being released, applicants are advised to complete the following steps, which are **required** for application submission:

- Register and create an account in the Clean Energy Infrastructure Exchange at <https://infrastructure-exchange.energy.gov/Login.aspx>. This account will allow the user to apply to any open SCEP FOAs that are currently in the Infrastructure Exchange.

Potential applicants will be required to have a Login.gov account to access Infrastructure Exchange. As part of the registration process, new users will be directed to create an account in [Login.gov](https://login.gov). Please note that the email address associated with Login.gov must match the email address associated with the Infrastructure Exchange account. For more information, refer to the Log-in Guide in the [Manuals section](#) of the Infrastructure Exchange.

It is recommended that each organization or business unit, whether acting as a team or a single entity, use only one account as the contact point for each submission. Questions related to the registration process and use of the Infrastructure Exchange website should be submitted to: S3Exchangehelp@hq.doe.gov

- Register with the System for Award Management (SAM) at <https://www.sam.gov>. Designating an Electronic Business Point of Contact (EBiz POC) and obtaining a special password called an MPIN are important steps in SAM registration. Please update your SAM registration annually. Upon registration, SAM will automatically assign a Unique Entity ID (UEI).

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- Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and System for Award Management (SAM) - Each applicant (unless the applicant is excepted from those requirements under 2 CFR 25.110) is required to: (1) Be registered in the SAM at <https://www.sam.gov> before submitting its application, (2) provide a valid UEI number in its application; and (3) continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active federal award or an application or plan under consideration by a federal awarding agency. DOE may not make a federal award to an applicant until the applicant has complied with all applicable UEI and SAM requirements and, if an applicant has not fully complied with the requirements by the time DOE is ready to make a federal award, the DOE will determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive a federal award and use that determination as a basis for making a federal award to another applicant.

NOTE: Due to the high demand of UEI requests and SAM registrations, entity legal business name and address validations are taking longer than expected to process. Entities should start the UEI and SAM registration process as soon as possible. If entities have technical difficulties with the UEI validation or SAM registration process, they should utilize the HELP feature on SAM.gov. SAM.gov will work entity service tickets in the order in which they are received and asks that entities not create multiple service tickets for the same request or technical issue. Additional entity validation resources can be found here: [GSAFSD Tier 0 Knowledge Base - Validating your Entity](#).

- Register in FedConnect at <https://www.fedconnect.net/>. To create an organization account, your organization's SAM MPIN is required. For more information about the SAM MPIN or other registration requirements, review the FedConnect Ready, Set, Go! Guide at https://www.fedconnect.net/FedConnect/Marketing/Documents/FedConnect_Ready_Set_Go.pdf
- Register in Grants.gov to receive automatic updates when Amendments to a FOA are posted. However, please note that applications will not be accepted through Grants.gov. <http://www.grants.gov/>. All applications must be submitted through Infrastructure Exchange.

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