



2023 Idaho Energy Resiliency Grant Program

Request for Applications ~~November 2023~~ **January 2024**



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INTRODUCTION

The Idaho Governor's Office of Energy and Mineral Resources ("OEMR") is pleased to announce **re-open** the latest **first round of funding opportunity** under the Idaho Energy Resiliency Grant Program (the "ERGP"). OEMR's initial screening observed deficiencies in all applications received during the last round of Requests for Applications. OEMR re-opens the Requests for Applications to accept new applications and allow for applicants to revise deficient applications.

The ERGP fosters strategic investments that demonstrate measurable improvements to grid resiliency, deliver modernized grid infrastructure, and mitigate risks from increased electrification and disruptive events.¹ Funding for this round of the ERGP is available as a subaward pursuant to Section 40101(d) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law ("BIL") – Preventing Outages and Enhancing the Resilience of the Electric Grid Formula Grants to States and Indian Tribes. Through a combination of state and federal funds, OEMR will build upon the prior success of the ERGP and once again leverage public funds to spur investments for the benefit of your customers and Idaho's economy.

OEMR intends to subaward its Section 40101(d) grant in two phases. This funding opportunity is for phase one, which prioritizes investments in existing infrastructure that alleviate the risk of disruptive events and improve immediate resiliency needs. Phase two is anticipated to occur in subsequent years and will prioritize investments in modernizing existing infrastructure and improving grid operations.

The following information serves as OEMR's formal request for applications for phase one projects. Applicants shall refer to the [Administrative and Legal Requirements Document](#) for the Preventing Outages and Enhancing the Resilience of the Electric Grid Formula Grants to States and Indian Tribes (DE-FOA-0002736) for additional information and other ERGP requirements.

Applications for the ERGP are due to OEMR no later than ~~December 15, 2023 at 11:59 PM~~ February 12, 2024 at 5PM MST. All applications shall be emailed to Brenna Garro, at Brenna.Garro@oer.idaho.gov, with the subject line "Idaho Energy Resiliency Grant Program Application [Your Company Name]." OEMR will reject incomplete applications in their entirety.

AWARD INFORMATION

A. Authorizing Statutes

- i. Executive Order 2020-17, Order 6 states that OEMR's duties, powers and authorities shall include "assisting state agencies, local government, and stakeholders to secure funding where available for energy conservation projects and renewable energy resources

¹ Per BIL section 40101(a)(1),17, a "disruptive event" is an event in which the operations of the electric grid are disrupted, preventatively shut off, or cannot operate safely due to extreme weather, wildfire, or natural disaster.



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opportunities [and] administering energy loan programs and other forms of financial assistance for eligible projects,” (Little, Executive Order 2020-17).

- ii. In 2022, the Idaho Legislature appropriated funds to OEMR to establish and administer the Program. (S.B. 1396, 2022).²
- iii. Section 40101(d) of the BIL established the Preventing Outages and Enhancing the Resilience of the Electric Grid Formula Grants to States and Indian Tribes and provides instruction and guidance to the U.S. Department of Energy (“DOE”) on administration of the program. All subawards under this round of the ERGP shall comply with applicable law, including regulations contained in [2 CFR Part 200](#) as amended by [2 CFR Part 910](#).

B. Program Goals

OEMR’s program goals are located in the Program Narrative on the ERGP website under Helpful Documents. ERGP’s purpose is to produce measurable improvements in energy resiliency against disruptive events and grid modernization. This will ultimately enhance consumer access to low-cost and more reliable energy in Idaho. This is done through competitive subaward funding to eligible entities.

Program goals include:

- Strategically deploying resilience investments in a manner that demonstrates measurable improvements to grid resiliency, delivers modernized grid infrastructure, and accommodates increased electrification.
- Enabling greater consumer engagement, empowerment, and options for utilizing and providing energy services and consumer access to lower-cost energy.
- Encouraging strong labor standards and protections, such as through the use of project labor agreements or local hire agreements and using an appropriately credentialed workforce.
- Expanding access to energy efficiency and clean energy for Idaho families, communities, and businesses, and delivering reliable and affordable power across the state.

In addition, the ERGP shall align with the [Idaho Energy Security Plan](#) per Section 40108 of the BIL for an all-hazards approach to grid resilience. While grants under the ERGP cannot fund new cybersecurity investments, the ERGP shall align with cybersecurity standards and best practices, including the North American Electric Reliability Corporation Critical Infrastructure Protection (NERC CIP) standards and National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Cybersecurity Framework.

² S.B. 1396, 66th Legislature of the State of Idaho, 2022 Regular Session (Idaho 2022).



C. Award Overview

- i. Award type:
 - OEMR is requesting applications under the ERGP through an open competitive process. OEMR's review committee will evaluate each proposal based on the evaluation criteria discussed below on page 5.
 - 85% of the funds will be distributed as a reimbursement following approval of the Project Completion Report and a site visit from OEMR. The remaining 15% of the funds will be distributed as a reimbursement following approval of the One-Year Results Report.
 - To be eligible for financial reimbursement under the ERGP, Subawardees shall satisfy reporting requirements and other terms and conditions set forth in the Subaward Agreement. Please see Appendix A, Reporting Requirements, for more information.
- ii. Anticipated phase 1 funding: \$10,000,000.
- iii. Project location: Projects shall be located in the State of Idaho.
- iv. Project Duration: OEMR anticipates making initial subawards with a project duration of no more than three (3) years. Therefore, applicants should submit projects that they reasonably anticipate completing in three (3) years.

Funding requests shall not exceed \$2,000,000. Applicants shall not submit more than three (3) applications for separate and unique projects. The percentage made available to eligible entities that sell not more than 4,000,000 megawatt hours of electricity per year shall not be less than the percentage of all customers in the State of Idaho that are served by those eligible entities.

ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

The following entities are eligible for subawards under the ERGP for resilience projects that align with the Program goals:

- an electric grid operator;
- an electricity storage operator;
- an electricity generator;
- a transmission owner or operator;
- a distribution provider; and
- a fuel supplier.

NOTE: An eligible entity cannot submit the same application for a grant under BIL Section 40101(c) and this round of the ERGP in the same application cycle. Eligible entities can submit proposals to both Sections 40101(c) and this round of the ERGP in the same application cycle as long as they are separate scopes of work that address different resilience measures.



PRIORITY PROJECTS

A. Priority Projects

- i. **Project Eligibility:** Eligible entities may use subawards under the ERGP for activities, technologies, equipment, and hardening measures to reduce the likelihood and consequences of disruptive events, including:
 - Vegetation and fuel load management;
 - Replacing old overhead conductors and underground cables;
 - Fire-resistant technologies and fire prevention systems;
 - Weatherization technologies and equipment;
 - Monitoring and control technologies;
 - Undergrounding electrical equipment;
 - Utility pole management;
 - Reconductoring power lines with low-sag, advanced conductors; and
 - Hardening power lines, facilities, substations, or other systems.

- ii. **Project Evaluation Criteria:** OEMR will conduct an initial screening of the applications to ensure eligibility and completeness. Next, a review committee will use the following criteria to evaluate the applications with a weighted scoring system. Questions that correspond with the evaluation criteria are found in Section IV of the Application Form. For a complete list of the evaluation criteria please see [Appendix B](#).

Project Resiliency (70%)	Community Benefit (25%)	Administrative Compliance (5%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides a clear and cost-effective work plan for improving grid resiliency. • Demonstrates a strong need for alleviating probable risk. • Provides clear metrics for tracking measurable improvements to resiliency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generates community benefits. • Creates and maintains jobs. • Serves low-income Idaho residents to alleviate energy burden. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adheres to administrative requirements.

B. Funding Exclusions



- i. The ERGP is not available for the use of these projects:
 - Construction of a:
 - New electric generating facility, or
 - Large-scale battery-storage facility that is not used for enhancing system adaptive capacity during disruptive events.
 - Cybersecurity.
- ii. All expenditures shall be allowable, allocable, and reasonable in accordance with the applicable federal cost principles. Refer to the following applicable federal cost principles for more information:
 - [Federal Acquisition Regulation \(FAR\) Part 31 for For-Profit entities](#); and
 - [2 CFR Part 200 Subpart E - Cost Principles for all other non-federal entities](#).

COST MATCHING REQUIREMENTS

A. Cost Matching

Cost Match Requirements ³	
Subawardee *Selling more than 4M MWh per year	100% of Subaward Value
Subawardee *Selling 4M MWh or less per year	1/3 of Subaward Value

Examples of cost matching are:

- i. If OEMR provides a subaward of \$200,000 to an eligible entity that sells more than 4,000,000 MWh of electricity per year, the entity would be required to match an amount at least equal to \$200,000. In this case, the total project cost would be \$400,000.
- ii. If OEMR provides a subaward of \$150,000 to an eligible entity that sells less than 4,000,000 MWh of electricity per year, the entity would be required to match an amount at least equal to \$50,000. In this case, the total project cost would be \$200,000.

B. Cost Match Types and Allowability

- i. Allowable types of matches are cash cost share and in-kind cost share as set forth in the Budget Justification excel sheet located on the project website.
- ii. Applicants shall refer to [2 CFR 200.306](#) as amended by [2 CFR 910.130](#) for additional cost matching requirements.

REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

³ The Idaho Office of Energy and Mineral Resources will provide a 15% cost match of the federal allocation.



A. System for Award Management (SAM)

Important steps in SAM registration are (1) registering with the SAM at <https://www.sam.gov/> prior to submitting an application in response to this funding opportunity and (2) designating an Electronic Business Point of Contact (EBiz POC) and obtaining a special password called an MPIN. Applicants shall maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active award or an application under consideration. More information about SAM registration for applicants is available at: https://www.fsd.gov/gsafsd_sp?id=gsafsd_kb_articles&sys_id=650d493e1bab7c105465

B. Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)

Applicants shall obtain a UEI from the SAM to uniquely identify the entity. The UEI is available in the SAM entity registration record.

PROJECT REVIEW

Applications submitted under this round of the ERGP shall undergo various levels of review prior to awards being distributed. OEMR will reject incomplete applications in their entirety. Accompanying documents shall not be accepted unless otherwise requested in the application document.

A. OEMR Review

OEMR will conduct an initial review of the applications to ensure completeness and eligibility. OEMR will then refer eligible applications to a review committee. The review committee will evaluate projects based on evaluation criteria specific to Idaho, see [Appendix B](#). Successful applicants will receive a notice of selection to undergo further review. Applications will be submitted to DOE for review.

B. DOE Review

For all awards under this round of the ERGP, the State of Idaho shall notify the DOE Contracting Officer and Project Officer in writing prior to the execution of new or modified subawards. This notification does not constitute a waiver of the prior approval requirements outlined in [2 CFR 200](#), nor does it relieve the Subawardee from its obligation to comply with applicable Federal and State statutes, regulations, and executive orders. While OEMR determines whether to award or modify subawards, OEMR may not proceed with the subaward until the DOE determines and provides OEMR written notification that the information provided is adequate.

While selected applications are undergoing review, no project costs can be incurred. Any project costs incurred prior to execution of the Subaward Agreement shall be ineligible for reimbursement.



C. Funding Award Notification

OEMR shall issue a Funding Award Notification letter to successful applicants following DOE review and approval. Following this notification, OEMR shall execute a Subaward Agreement with the Subawardee. All Subawardees shall be subject to the terms and conditions of OEMR's Subaward Agreement. Terms will include, but not be limited to, various federal requirements outlined in the [Administrative and Legal Requirements Document](#) for the Preventing Outages and Enhancing the Resilience of the Electric Grid Formula Grants to States and Indian Tribes (DE-FOA-0002736) OEMR has included appendices that give a general overview, but not an exhaustive list, of federal requirements, see [Appendices C-G](#).

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Please see the [OEMR Website](#) for the following application forms. Applications are only accepted via email to Brenna Garro at Brenna.Garro@oer.idaho.gov no later than 11:59PM MST on ~~December 15, 2023~~ **5 PM MST on February 12, 2024**. Applications shall be submitted with the subject line "Idaho Energy Resiliency Grant Program Application [Your Company Name]."

Before application submittal, please use the following checklist to ensure the application is complete. OEMR will reject incomplete applications in their entirety. **Except as provided below (see Note), applications must be signed, respond to each question, and include all listed documents to be considered for award. An incomplete application is defined as missing one of the following forms that are not marked "if applicable" or missing an answer to a question on any of the following forms:**

- Application Form
- SF-424_A
- Budget Justification Worksheet
- Environmental Questionnaire*
- Cost Match Commitment Letter
- Certification of Requirements Letter
- Disclosure of Lobbying Activities
- Buy America for Infrastructure Projects Waiver (if applicable)
- Foreign Work Waiver (if applicable)
- Eligible Entity Notification Form (if applicable)

***Note: Question D6a on page 5 of the Environmental Questionnaire provides an incorrect link. Applicants are not required to answer this question at this time; however, pending further guidance from DOE, a response will be required prior to any award.**

Documents and information submitted to OEMR in an application are subject to the Idaho Public Records Act (Idaho Code §§ 74-101 to 74-127). Please avoid submitting information considered to be confidential, privileged, or a trade secret unless it is necessary to the application.



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If such information is necessary and an applicant submits that information as part of its application, an applicant must:

- (1) Submit a specific citation to the law authorizing all claimed exemptions from disclosure and explain how the information meets those standards.
- (2) Submit two copies of any document that contains information claimed as exempt from disclosure. One copy must be clearly marked "CONFIDENTIAL" on every page that contains information claimed as exempt from disclosure. Information claimed as exempt from disclosure must be highlighted on that copy. Applicants must also submit a second copy of the document marked "PUBLIC, REDACTED." That copy must have redactions of all information claimed as exempt from disclosure.

In the event that OEMR receives a public records request to which the document marked "CONFIDENTIAL" is responsive, OEMR will review the information's applicability to the law. OEMR will contact and notify an applicant of any public records request and the results of its review before releasing any document marked "CONFIDENTIAL" as a public record.

QUESTIONS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

OEMR staff are available to answer questions and provide technical assistance to eligible entities seeking support for completing their applications for the ERGP. Questions shall be submitted in writing via email with the subject line "Idaho Energy Resiliency Grant Program Question." OEMR will answer all questions within three business days via a public FAQ document that is linked to the project website. All applicants are responsible for checking OEMR's webpage on a regular basis for updates to the FAQ document and other pertinent updates. OEMR's technical assistance may consist of (1) application interpretation and clarification, (2) identification of all required documents, (3) budget justification clarification, and (4) reporting compliance. If you are interested, please email Brenna Garro using the following contact information:

Brenna Garro | Policy Analyst
Idaho Governor's Office of Energy and Mineral Resources
Brenna.Garro@oer.idaho.gov