**Community Energy Reliability and Resilience Investment (CERRI) Program**

**Round 1 Solicitation**

Disclaimer: The addendum includes the following revisions to the Solicitation Manual and Attachments. Added language appears in **bold underline**, and deleted language appears in [~~strikethrough~~] and within square brackets.

The purpose of this addendum is to notify potential applicants of changes that have been made to the GFO-23-312 Solicitation Manual (Attachment 00), the Application Submittal Checklist (Attachment A), and Budget Forms (Attachment 05).

The California Energy Commission (CEC) reviewed each application submitted for GFO-23-312, the Community Energy Reliability and Resilience Investment (CERRI) Program and determined that many submissions were not of sufficient quality or did not meet the eligibility requirements outlined in the solicitation manual. Previously submitted applications have not been scored. For this reason, the CEC is re-opening the solicitation for application resubmission. The deadline to resubmit applications is extended to **Friday, September 27, 2024, at 11:59 PM**. All applications received by the September 27, 2024, submission deadline will be evaluated and scored after the submission date. This solicitation is open to new and previous applicants (i.e., those that have already submitted applications). Previous applicants may either amend their previous applications **or** submit entirely new applications.

## **Attachment 00 GFO-23-312 Solicitation Manual**

1. Change to Cover Page: **Addendum 3** and **September** [~~March~~] 2024
2. Change to Solicitation Manual p.ii. Added two Attachments to the Attachments list:
   1. **Foreign National Participation (Attachment 11) (if applicable)**
   2. **Request for Unclassified Foreign National Access (Attachment 12) (if applicable)**
3. Change to Solicitation Manual page 2-3. Add to Section I.B.1 Eligible Activities:

Funding may [~~also~~] be used for the training, recruitment, retention, and reskilling of skilled and properly credentialled workers to perform the work required for the activities proposed by applicants. Funding for workforce development activities must be coupled with one of the eligible activities listed above. CERRI funds cannot exclusively be directed towards workforce development.**[[1]](#footnote-2)**

**Funding may also be used for community engagement activities. Community engagement activities must be directly related to the proposed project and to electric grid reliability/resilience (e.g., community input workshops and/or electric outage preparedness workshops).**

**If CERRI and match funds are used to award grants and scholarships, an application’s Project Narrative should provide details about relevant curricula and training objectives of the awarded grants and scholarships. The Project Narrative must demonstrate how the grants and scholarships align with the workforce development or community engagement activities that support the eligible activities proposed in the application’s Scope of Work. Any grants or scholarships must also be defined and included as “Tasks” in the Scope of Work (Attachment 03).**

**Proposed activities must strictly adhere to the eligible activities list and aim to improve the reliability and resilience of the electric grid against disruptive events.[[2]](#footnote-3)**

1. Change to Solicitation Manual page 3-4. Add to Section I.B.2 Prohibited Activities:

Activities that are not eligible under the CERRI Program include **all of the**  **following**:

* Construction of a new electric generating facility, including the purchase or installation of an emergency generator[~~;~~]
* **Solar photovoltaic (PV) generation and all other new energy generation**
* **Battery Energy Storage Systems for any use other than system adaptive capacity (e.g., such systems cannot be used for peak demand periods unless they are specifically designed to also handle system adaptive capacity)**
  + **According to the US Department of Energy, system adaptive capacity is the ability of the electrical grid to continue to supply electricity where needed during disruptive events[[3]](#footnote-4)**
* **Electrification and weatherization of residential and commercial buildings**
  + **Weatherization technologies and equipment must be directly related to grid hardening activities to be eligible costs**
* **Electric Vehicle (EV) chargers**
* **Light-Emitting Diode (LED) lighting or solar carport lighting**
* **Manufacturing**
* **Community engagement activities outside the scope of the CERRI Program, such as developing a broader regional community resilience plan**
* Construction of new transmission lines[~~;~~]**[[4]](#footnote-5)**
* Cybersecurity [~~; and ]~~
* Acquisition of land or easements
  + Improvements to real property for the purpose of grid hardening or resilience are not considered acquisition of real property for the purpose of this grant program and therefore may be permitted as eligible project costs.

1. Change to the Solicitation Manual page 5. Add to Section I.C.3 Funding:

Total funding requests must not exceed the maximum funding allotment listed for each group. Applications requesting more than the maximum agreement funding for their project group will fail the application screening and be disqualified.

| ACTIVITY | DATE | TIME[[5]](#footnote-6) |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Solicitation Release | March 28, 2024 |  |
| **Pre-Application Workshop** | **April 11, 2024** | **10:00 a.m.** |
| **Deadline for Written Questions[[6]](#footnote-7)** | **April 26, 2024** | **5:00 p.m.** |
| Anticipated Distribution of Questions and Answers | May 24, 2024 |  |
| **Support for Application Submission in ECAMS** | ~~June 28, 2024~~  **September 27, 2024** | **5:00 p.m.[[7]](#footnote-8)** |
| **Deadline to Submit Applications** | [~~July 12, 2024~~]  **September 27, 2024** | **11:59 p.m.** |
| CEC Recommends Awards to DOE for Approval[[8]](#footnote-9) | [~~September 6, 2024~~]  **November 1, 2024** |  |
| Anticipated Notice of Proposed Award Posting Date | **Q4, 2024** |  |
| Anticipated CEC Business Meeting Date | Q1, 2025 |  |
| Anticipated Agreement Start Date | Q1, 2025 |  |
| Anticipated Agreement End Date | April 30, 2028[[9]](#footnote-10) |  |

1. Change to Solicitation Manual page 6. Updated Section I.D Key Activities Schedule.
2. Change to the Solicitation Manual page 10-11. Add to Section II.B Project Requirements:

All applications must describe how the proposed project will meet the CERRI Program objectives outlined below. More specific requirements are listed in the Scoring Criteria section of this solicitation and are prompted for response in each attachment. All estimated benefits should be clear, plausible, and justifiable. Quantitative benefits are preferred when possible. *All attachments must be completed and submitted as part of the application to pass screening.*

• Energy Reliability and Resilience: Applications must describe the project need and how the project will support the reduction of frequency and duration of power outages for communities across California, strengthen communities’ ability to function during power outages, or both. Applications should include reliability and resilience data that accurately describes the current conditions and challenges faced by the community(ies) in the census tract area of the proposed project, and the anticipated outcomes and benefits of the proposed project in that area (e.g., before and after data regarding System Average Interruption Duration Index (SAIDI), System Average Interruption Frequency Index (SAIFI), Customer Average Interruption Duration Index (CAIDI), number of outages, etc.). The data will be used to evaluate how the project represents the optimal solution to the challenges outlined in the applications. Applications will be evaluated and scored based on the data provided by the application submission deadline. Applications that include all requested reliability and resilience data will be evaluated favorably based on Section IV.F Scoring Criteria 1, Technical Merit.

* **Community Based Organizations (CBO) and/or Tribal Engagement:** Applications must include tasks to develop and execute a Community Engagement, Benefits, and Impacts Plan with the inclusion of at least one CBO and/or tribe to help ensure that the benefits of clean, safe, affordable, and reliable energy are shared by all. **At least one CBO and/or tribal partner should be clearly identified at the time of application. Applicants may not include CBO and/or tribal partners after application submittal. Failure to include a CBO and/or tribal partner in the initial application may result in a deduction in scoring or an incomplete application.** For this solicitation, an entity may qualify as a CBO when the following criteria are met:
* Has an office in the region (e.g., air basin, city, county) and meets the demographic profile of the community it serves.
* Has deployed projects and/or outreach efforts within the proposed community's region (e.g., air basin or county).
* Has official mission and vision statements that expressly identify serving disadvantaged and/or low-income communities.
* Currently is a non-profit organization specializing in and dedicated to diversity, equity, or inclusion, or employs staff member(s) who specialize in and are dedicated to one or more of these areas.

For additional guidance, you may refer to the [CERRI Program Community Engagement, Benefits, and Impacts Plan Deliverable Template](https://www.energy.ca.gov/media/10109) available at: https://www.energy.ca.gov/media/10109. Please note that including a Community Engagement, Benefits, and Impacts Plan with your application is not required.

• Advancement of Energy and Climate Goals: Applications must describe how the project will support California’s energy modernization and climate goals. Applications are expected to provide details on how the project supports California’s energy and climate goals; relevant California energy policies are listed in the solicitation manual (Section V.B). Applications should consider direct and indirect emission reduction for the project.

• Workforce Development: Applications must describe how the project will create high-quality jobs with strong labor standards and protections that attract and train a skilled workforce for lasting careers in the clean energy industry (e.g., career fairs, training programs, outreach). Recipients will be expected to report the number of employees working on a project; the number of trainees in project-specific programs; and workforce demographics, including gender, race, ethnicity, disability and veteran status. For additional guidance, you may refer to the [CERRI Program Workforce Development Plan Deliverable Template](https://www.energy.ca.gov/media/10110) available at: https://www.energy.ca.gov/media/10110. Please note that including a Workforce Development Plan with your application is not required.

1. Change to the Solicitation Manual page 12. Add to Section II.C Match Funding Requirements:

* [~~Match funds must be spent only during the agreement term, either before or concurrently with CERRI funds. Match funds also must be reported in invoices submitted to the CEC.~~] **Match share expenditures for permitting and environmental review are allowable under an agreement only if they are incurred after CEC notifies the Applicant that its project has been proposed for an award through the release of a Notice of Proposed Award (NOPA). Match expenditures incurred after the release of a NOPA but prior to the execution of an agreement are made at the Applicant’s own risk and are only allowed for the category of permitting and environmental review. CEC is not liable for Applicant’s match share costs if the grant is not approved, if approval is delayed, or if the match share expenditure is not allowable under the terms and conditions of the grant or this solicitation. Please note that non-match expenditures incurred prior to agreement execution are not reimbursable from CERRI funds.**
* All applicants providing match funds must submit commitment letters, including prime and subcontractors, that: (1) identify the source(s) of the funds; (2) justify the dollar value claimed; (3) provide an unqualified (i.e., without reservation or limitation) commitment that guarantees the availability of the funds for the project; and (4) provide a strategy for replacing the funds if they are significantly reduced or lost. Please see Attachment 08, Commitment and Support Letter Form. Commitment and support letters must be submitted with the application to be considered.
* Any match pledged in an application must be consistent. For example, in the Budget Forms (Attachment 05), applicants will be asked to enter the project’s total match funding. The amounts listed in those places should be consistent with the amount or dollar value described in the commitment letter(s) (e.g., if $5,000 “cash in hand” funds are pledged in a commitment letter, the match amounts entered in the ECAMS system and in the Budget Forms (Attachment 05) must match this amount). Match funding amounts stated in the Commitment Letters (Attachment 08) must match the match funding amounts listed on the Budget Attachments (Attachment 05). If the amounts listed in an application are inconsistent, the total amount pledged in the signed commitment letter(s) will be considered for match funding points.

1. Change to the Solicitation Manual page 14-15. Add to Section III.A. Application Format (Maximum Page Limits):
   * **Foreign National Participation (Attachment 11)**
   * **Request for Unclassified Foreign National Access (Attachment 12)**
2. Change to the Solicitation Manual on page 15-16. Add to Section III.C. Application Content:

Applications must include all required documentation with relevant attachments (e.g., site and satellite maps, schematics, single line diagram). Applicants must ensure all required and relevant attachments are correctly referenced in the application proposal.

1. Change to the Solicitation Manual on page 16. Add to Section III.C.2 Application Content under Project Narrative Form (Attachment 2)

All proposed deliverables outlined in the Project Narrative must be listed in the Scope of Work (Attachment 03) and Project Schedule (Attachment 04).

1. Change to the Solicitation Manual on page 17. Add to Section III.C.5 Application Content under Budget Forms (Attachment 05)

Complete and submit information on **all** budget worksheets.**[[10]](#footnote-11)** **All expenses outlined in application attachments must be reflected in the Budget Forms. Budget worksheets must include an itemization of expenses**.**[[11]](#footnote-12)**

1. Change to the Solicitation Manual page 18-19. Add to Section III.C. Application Content:
2. **Applications must complete and include separate Budget Forms (Attachment 05) for all subcontractors or subrecipients receiving:**
   1. **$100,000 or more in CEC/CERRI funds, or**
   2. **25% or more of the total CEC/CERRI funds.**

**This requirement applies even to subcontractors that have not yet been identified or are listed as ”to be determined (TBD).”**

1. **Subcontractors and Vendors should be correctly categorized and listed on the ‘Subcontracts’ tab in the Budget Forms (Attachment 05).**

**Additional details on the definition and characteristics of subcontractors, subrecipients, and vendors can be found on CEC’s Sub-to-Vendor Verification Form here:** [**https://www.energy.ca.gov/media/5967**](https://www.energy.ca.gov/media/5967)**.**

1. **Build America, Buy America Act (BABA) Waivers**

**When necessary, recipients may apply for, and the Department of Energy (DOE) may grant, a waiver from the Buy America requirements.** **Applicants should include all anticipated Build America, Buy America Act (BABA) waiver requests in their initial submission. Applicants who do not submit BABA waivers with their initial applications must accept the risk that any BABA waivers submitted after being awarded may not receive DOE approval. DOE may grant a waiver if it determines that the request meets one of the following justifications:**

* 1. **Public Interest: Applying the Buy America Requirement would be inconsistent with the public interest.**
  2. **Non-Availability: The types of iron, steel, manufactured products, or construction materials are not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities or of a satisfactory quality.**
  3. **Unreasonable Cost: The inclusion of iron, steel, manufactured products, or construction materials produced in the United States will increase the cost of the overall project by more than 25 percent.**

**Anticipated waiver requests should be submitted in writing with the application package. Waiver requests are subject to review by DOE and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), as well as a public comment period of at least 15 calendar days. Recipient’s waiver requests will be made publicly available on DOE’s and OMB’s websites. Waiver requests may take up to 90 calendar days to process. DOE may reject or grant waivers in whole or in part depending on its review, analysis, and/or feedback from OMB or the public. DOE’s final determination regarding approval or rejection of the waiver request may not be appealed.**

**Additional guidance on submission of a waiver request and the existing BABA waivers can be found** [**here**](https://www.energy.gov/management/doe-buy-america-requirement-waiver-requests)**:** [**https://www.energy.gov/management/doe-buy-america-requirement-waiver-requests**](https://www.energy.gov/management/doe-buy-america-requirement-waiver-requests)**.**

1. Change to the Solicitation Manual on page 20. Add to Section III.C.2 Application Content under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Compliance Form (Attachment 06)

**Failure to include sufficient and accurate documentation for the CEQA Compliance Form (Attachment 06) will result in delays in the award review process and may result in a reduction in scoring.** **Applicants must:**

1. **Ensure the CEQA Compliance Form is complete and presents accurate information at the time of application.**
2. **Identify the lead CEQA agency.**
3. **Include clear descriptions of the project scope and activities.**
4. **Identify and reference the appropriate sections of the CEQA Guidelines for categorical exemptions.**
5. **Provide detailed site layout maps that indicate specific locations for installations and modifications.**
6. **Include documentation from any prior Initial Studies, Environmental Assessments, Finding of No Significant Impact, or Mitigated Negative Declaration performed (if applicable).**
7. **Identify all necessary permits, particularly for construction and installation activities.**

**Applicants must ensure CEQA processes are completed in a timely manner after CEC NOPA.** Failure to complete the CEQA process in a timely manner after the CEC’s Notice of Proposed Award may result in the cancellation of a proposed award and allocation of funding elsewhere, such as to the next highest-scoring project.

**Applicants must confirm timelines and the completeness of the documents, including the CEQA forms, and Notice of Exemption (NOE) filing, if applicable. Also, Applicants must clarify responsibilities and deadlines for specific project permits and filings, particularly regarding the Lead Agency and timeline feasibility.**

1. Change to the Solicitation Manual on page 20-21. Add to Section III.C.7 Application Content under National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Environmental Questionnaire (Attachment 07)

**Failure to include sufficient and accurate documentation for the NEPA Questionnaire will result in delays in the award review process and may result in a reduction in scoring. Applicants must:**

1. **Complete all questionnaire sections and present accurate information at the time of application.**
2. **Include clear descriptions of the project scope and activities.**
3. **Provide detailed site layout maps that indicate specific locations for installations and modifications. Applicants should submit satellite maps showing the project locations.**
4. **Include documentation from any prior Initial Studies, Environmental Assessments, Finding of No Significant Impact, or Mitigated Negative Declaration performed (if applicable).**
5. **Identify all necessary permits, particularly for construction and installation activities.**
6. **Ensure all relevant environmental and cultural site impacts are addressed.**
7. **Coordinate with appropriate offices to determine impacts on historical and prehistoric resources before submitting NEPA documentation.**
8. **Include a comprehensive decommissioning plan outlining the process for equipment replacement and disposal at the end of its lifecycle.**
9. **Describe the scope of worker safety programs, including any lab safety training and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) compliance, and provide details on safety protocols and procedures to prevent injury and illness.**

**Applicants must ensure NEPA processes are completed in a timely manner after CEC NOPA.** Failure to complete the NEPA process in a timely manner after the CEC’s Notice of Proposed Award may result in the cancellation of a proposed award and allocation of funding elsewhere, such as to the next highest-scoring project.

**Applicants must confirm timelines and the completeness of the NEPA Environmental Questionnaire. Applicants must clearly define responsibilities and deadlines for specific project permits and filings, especially regarding the feasibility of the timeline.**

1. Change to Solicitation Manual on page 22-23. Add to Section III.C.11 Application Content under If Applicable: Foreign National Participation Document (Attachment 11)

**If the Recipient (including any of its subrecipients and contractors) anticipates involving foreign nationals in the performance of this award, the Recipient must provide DOE with specific information about each foreign national to ensure compliance with the requirements for foreign national participation and access approvals. The volume and type of information required may depend on various factors associated with the award. Approval for foreign nationals in Principal Investigator/Co-Principal Investigator roles from countries of risk (e.g., China, Iran, North Korea, and Russia) and from countries identified on the U.S. Department of State’s list of State Sponsors of Terrorism (https://www.state.gov/state-sponsors-of-terrorism/) must be obtained from DOE before they can participate in the performance of any work under this award. A “foreign national” is defined as any person who is not a United States citizen by birth or naturalization. DOE may elect to deny a foreign national’s participation in the award. Likewise, DOE may elect to deny a foreign national’s access to DOE sites, information, technologies, equipment, programs, or personnel. The Recipient must include this term in any subaward and in any applicable contractual agreement(s) associated with this award.**

***The applicant acknowledges and accepts full responsibility for any risks associated with the failure to include the Foreign National Participation Document in the application package. DOE may not approve the Foreign National Participation Document if it is not included in the initial application package during the review process.***

1. Change to Solicitation Manual on page 23. Add to Section III.C.12 Application Content under If Applicable: Request for Unclassified Foreign National Access (Attachment 12)

**This form is to be completed by a prospective foreign national visitor or assignee and is required for all access periods regardless of country of origin. Information on the completed form will be used during the National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) foreign national access request, review, and approval process.**

***The applicant acknowledges and accepts full responsibility for any risks associated with the failure to include Request for Unclassified Foreign National Access in the application package. DOE may not approve the Request for Unclassified Foreign National Access form if it is not included in the initial application package during the review process.***

1. Addition to the Solicitation Manual on page 23. Add to Section III.C.13 Application Content under Optional: Application Submittal Checklist (Attachment A)

13. Optional: Application Submittal Checklist (Attachment A)

This is an optional checklist to help applicants compile the application package. It is not required, nor does it need to be submitted.

1. Change to Solicitation Manual page 29. Add to Section IV.E Stage One: Application Screening:

| **Screening Criteria**  *The Application must pass ALL criteria to progress to Stage Two.* | **Pass/Fail** |
| --- | --- |
| 1. The application is received by the CEC by the due date and time specified in the “Key Activities Schedule” in Part I.D of this solicitation and is received in the required manner (e.g., no emails or faxes). | Pass  Fail |
| 1. The application addresses only one of the eligible project groups.  * Group 1: Large Entities that sell more than 4,000GWh/year * Group 2: Small Entities that sell 4,000GWh/year or less   **Total funding requests must not exceed the maximum funding allotment listed for each group. Applications requesting more than the maximum agreement funding for their project group will fail the application screening and be disqualified, see Section I.C.1 for more information.** | Pass  Fail |

1. Change to the Solicitation Manual page 31-37. Add to Section IV.F. Stage Two: Application Scoring:
2. **Project Merit, Need, & Goals**
   * Provides a clear and concise description of project including:
     + 1. the specific reliability or resilience problems being addressed within the community(ies). **Provides data that will be tracked to support the project (e.g., before and after data regarding SAIDI, SAIFI, CAIDI, number of outages)**;
       2. the need for funding **in depth**. **Details how the funds will be spent on the project** **(e.g., equipment, permitting, personnel); and**
       3. how the project represents the optimal solution for the problem(s) and promotes energy equity. **Provides data to demonstrate how the project will improve the problem(s).**
   * Provides a description of planned, current, and past measures to address reliability or resilience need(s). **Identifies key projects that have focused on addressing reliability or resilience issues, and details the outcomes achieved.**
   * Describes how the proposed project will meet the CERRI goals, which are to:
     + 1. reduce the frequency and duration of power outages for communities across California, **and implement effective strategies for monitoring and tracking the reduction in outages;**
       2. ensure that the benefits of clean, safe, affordable, and reliable energy are shared by all, particularly those communities with critical energy reliability and resilience needs. **Briefly highlights community engagement initiatives/activities and benefits for the community. Details how these initiatives/activities will be implemented and tracked**;
       3. advance clean energy policies through reliability and resilience solutions. **Explains how the project will contribute to or align with California energy policies (Section V.B);** and
       4. create high-quality jobs with strong labor standards and protections that attract and train a skilled workforce for durable careers in the growing clean energy industry. **Provides an estimate for the number of jobs expected to be created. Includes an overview of planned workforce development activities (e.g., career fairs, training programs, outreach).**

* Describes the major components of the project and includes appropriate schemas (e.g., single line drawing(s) and site maps). **Includes satellite maps showing the project locations. Elaborates on the technology that will be used and explains how it will improve the metrics provided in Project Metrics (Attachment 09).**
* Provides the best available data (quantitative, qualitative, narrative, and/or spatial) to support the energy reliability and/or resilience needs of the community and the need for the proposed project.

1. **Project Management**

Provides a thoughtful project management plan that aligns with the scope of work and other relevant attachments that:

* Summarizes the team structure, qualifications, experience, financial stability, and capabilities to complete the project **in detail.**
* Includes an organization chart. **The chart should highlight the prime recipient and project partner(s).**
* Describes the facilities, infrastructure, and resources available that support the project. **Explains how they will be used.**
* Explains key success and risk factors and outlines a risk management plan **(e.g., supply chain, environmental, construction, project cost, etc.). Highlights key successes from past or current projects.**
* Outlines the major project tasks and how they will be managed. **The project tasks must align with the tasks in the Scope of Work (Attachment 03).**
* Includes a realistic Project Schedule (Attachment 04) with milestones and a description of expected lead time for project to commence (e.g., expected environmental review period). **Project Schedule (Attachment 04) must be entirely filled in for a complete application. Tasks described in the Project Narrative (Attachment 02) and the Scope of Work (Attachment 03) must be listed in the Project Schedule.**

1. **Community Engagement & Benefits**

* Identifies CBO and/or tribal partner(s) that meets the criteria laid out in Section II.B of this manual. **Provides details about each organization and their role in the project.**
* Describes the planned community engagement initiatives/activities **(e.g., town hall, workshops, surveys)** and products, designates the CBO(s) and/or tribe(s) responsible for executing or assisting in the coordination of these activities, and **highlights their specific roles and responsibilities.** Specifies the allocated funding for the CBO(s) and/or tribe(s). **Ensures that the Budget Forms (Attachment 05) accurately reflect these funding amounts.**
* Describes expected energy reliability and/or resilience and community benefits and provides sound reasoning or basis for determining those benefits. **Uses graphs, charts, or tables to illustrate these benefits as appropriate.**
* Lists and describes the extent of planned engagement activities and products as reported in the Project Metrics (Attachment 09); Scope of Work (Attachment 03); and the Project Narrative Form (Attachment 02). **Proposed community engagement activities are directly related to the proposed project and to electric grid reliability and/or resilience.**

1. **Advancement of Energy and Climate Goals**

* Extent to which the project supports California’s energy and climate goals**. Relevant California energy policies are listed in Section V. B.**
* Provides reasoning or method for determining such support.
* Determines the impact and reasonableness of any estimated avoided greenhouse gas savings, or pollutants associated with fossil-fuel-based electricity generation (e.g., PM 2.5, PM 10, NOx, SOx, etc.). **Considers direct and indirect emission reduction for the project.**
* “Reasonableness” refers to the validity of estimates and method used in calculating these values.
* Impact Metrics (Baseline and Expected) as reported in Project Metrics, (Attachment 09).

1. **Workforce Development Score**

* Extent of workforce development **activities (e.g., career fairs, training programs, outreach, etc.)**.
  + **Proposed workforce development activities are directly related to the project’s proposed activities.**
* Strategy to attract, train, and retain a skilled workforceparticularly from priority communities as referenced in Section II.B (e.g., through registered apprenticeships; joint labor management training programs; **benefits**; **occupational safety**; or partnerships with training providers) for durable careers in the clean energy industry.
* Expected impacts as reported in the Project Metrics (Attachment 09).

1. **Budget and Cost-Effectiveness**

*Scoring for this criterion will be based on the Budget Form(s) (Attachment 05) and aligned with the descriptions in Project Narrative (Attachment 02) and Scope of Work (Attachment 03).*

* Budget forms are complete for the applicant and all subcontractors, as described in the Budget instructions. **Requested funding must be within the maximum amounts of the CERRI Program (See Section I.C.1).**
* Justifies the reasonableness of the requested funds relative to the project goals, objectives, and tasks.
* Justifies the reasonableness of direct costs (e.g., labor, fringe benefits, equipment, materials & misc. travel, and subcontractors).
* **Provide vendor quotes for all equipment items over $50,000. A quote must be provided from any vendor whose total project costs amount to $250,000 or more.**
* Justifies the reasonableness of indirect costs (e.g., overhead, facility charges (e.g., rent, utilities), burdens, subcontractor profit, and other like costs).
  + **Ensure all subcontractors receiving CERRI or match funding are included in the budget. Subcontractors receiving $100,000 or more in CEC funds or 25% or more of total requested CEC funds must have their own set of complete budget forms.**
* Leverages otherwise stranded assets, existing infrastructure, or other funding sources.

1. **Project Commitment & Support Letters**

*Scoring for this criterion will be based on Commitment & Support Letters (Attachment 08).*

* Includes required commitment letters that not only commit the project partner, but detail the reliability, resilience, community, or workforce benefits of the project. **Provides commitment letter(s) from all entities that will provide match funds, including from your own organization. These letters should be consistent with the match funding amount stated in the application and Budget Forms (Attachment 05).**
* Includes a required commitment letter from a partnered CBO(s) and/or tribe(s), signed by an authorized representative that outlines their planned contribution.
* Includes optional support letters from technology partners, community-based organizations, community leaders, tribes, workforce development stakeholders, environmental justice organizations, or other partners that demonstrate their belief that the proposed project will lead to increased equity or other benefits, and is both feasible, and viable in the identified project area.

1. **Exceeding Match Funding**

*Scoring for this criterion will be based on the Match Funding detailed in the Commitment Letters (Attachment 08) and the Budget Forms (Attachment 05).*  **Ensure any match funds pledged are consistent throughout the application. The amounts listed should be consistent with the amount or dollar value described in the commitment letter(s) (e.g., if $5,000 “cash in hand” funds are pledged in a commitment letter, the match amounts entered in the Budget Forms (Attachment 05) must match this amount). If the amounts listed in an application are inconsistent, the total amount pledged in the signed commitment letter(s) will be considered for match funding points.**

Additional points will be awarded to applications that exceed the minimum match requirements based on the percentage amount above minimum using the Exceeds Minimum Match Scoring table:

**Exceeds Minimum**   
**Match Scoring Table**

| Percentage above Minimum Match (cash and in-kind) | Score |
| --- | --- |
| 80% | 5 |
| 60 to <80% | 4 |
| 40 to <60% | 3 |
| 20 to <40% | 2 |
| 10 to <20% | 1 |
| 0 to <10% | 0 |

1. Change to the Solicitation Manual on page 43. Add to section V.B. Relevant Information:

**Relevant Information**

* **U.S. Department of Energy, Grid Deployment Office: Low-Cost Grid Resilience Projects**

**This resource provides an overview of 40101(d) allowable projects that are likely to cost under $500,000 and can be impactful against a range of outage threats, including both cost estimates and potential benefits for these projects. Additionally, the document includes suggestions for how to work with utilities to show the benefit of this opportunity and select mutually agreeable projects for proposal.**

**Link to Resource: https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2024-02/46060\_DOE\_GDO\_Low\_Cost\_Grid\_Resilience\_Projects\_RELEASE\_508.pdf**

* **U.S. Department of Energy: Innovative Grid Deployment Liftoff report**

**The Innovative Grid Deployment Liftoff report is focused on identifying pathways to accelerate deployment of key commercially available but underutilized advanced grid solutions on the existing transmission and distribution system to address near-term hotspots and modernize the grid to prepare for a wide range of energy futures.**

**Link to Resource:** [**https://liftoff.energy.gov/innovative-grid-deployment/**](https://liftoff.energy.gov/innovative-grid-deployment/)

1. Change to the Solicitation Manual on page 45-46. Add to Section V.D.3 Additional Requirements:

Waiver requests are subject to review by DOE and [~~the Office of Management and Budget (~~]OMB[~~)~~], as well as a public comment period of no less than 15 calendar days. **Applications should include all anticipated Build America, Buy America Act (BABA) waiver requests (Section III.C.5.8). Applicants that do not submit BABA waivers with their application must accept the risk that any BABA waivers submitted after being awarded may not receive DOE approval.** DOE may reject or grant waivers in whole or in part depending on its review, analysis, and/or feedback from OMB or the public.

DOE’s final determination regarding approval or rejection of the waiver request may not be appealed.

See the CERRI Federal Subaward Terms and Conditions for additional information related to Buy America compliance. The CERRI Federal Subaward Terms and Conditions can be accessed at https://www.energy.ca.gov/programs-and-topics/programs/community-energy-reliability-and-resilience-investment-cerri-program under the “Resources” dropdown menu.

***The applicant acknowledges and accepts full responsibility for any risks associated with the failure to submit BABA Waiver Requests in the application package. DOE may not approve BABA Waiver Requests if they are not included in the initial application package during the review process.***

## **Attachment A, Application Submittal Checklist**

1. Changed the footer to **September** [~~March~~] 2024
2. Page 2 of the Application Submittal Checklist, added “Attachment Number 11 Foreign National Participation Document (if applicable)” and “Attachment Number 12 Request for Unclassified Foreign National Access (if applicable)” as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **11** | **Foreign National Participation Document (if applicable):**  **Review Foreign National Participation Document for completeness.** |
| **12** | **Request for Unclassified Foreign National Access (if applicable):**  **Review Request for Unclassified Foreign National Access for completeness.** |

1. Changes to Application submittal Checklist page 1-2:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Attachment Number** | **Detail** |
|  | The project prioritizes all CERRI Program goals. (See solicitation manual, Section I.B.3) |
| 01 | **Application Form**: Review the following for completeness.  Complete questions 1-15.  Review eligible entities list. The Prime Recipient of the grant funding is a listed eligible entity or has received eligibility approval from the CEC & DOE.  Identify all priority community census tracts that the project is located in or that will benefit from this project. ***(≤15 preference points)*** |
| 02 | **Project Narrative**: Review the following sections for completeness. This checklist is intended to ensure applicants provide the correct information needed for the scoring criteria.   1. Project Merit, Need, and Goals **(*35 points*)**   **Clearly describes the specific reliability or resilience problem being addressed within the community(ies). Provides data that will be tracked to support the project (e.g.,**  **before and after data regarding SAIDI, SAIFI, CAIDI, number of outages).**  **Describes the need for funding in depth. Details how the funds will be spent on the project (e.g., equipment, permitting, personnel).**  **Details how the project represents the optimal solution for the identified problem(s). Provides data to demonstrate how the project will improve the problem(s).**  **Describes how the project promotes energy equity.**  **Provides a description of planned, current, and past measures to address reliability or resilience issues. Identifies key projects that have focused on addressing reliability or resilience issues, and details the outcomes achieved.**  **Describes how this project will meet CERRI goals, which are to:**   1. **Energy Reliability and Resilience: Reduce the frequency and duration of power outages for communities across California, and implement effective strategies for monitoring and tracking the reduction in outages.** 2. **Community Engagement & Benefits: Ensure that the benefits of clean, safe, affordable, and reliable energy are shared by all, particularly priority communities and communities with critical energy reliability and resilience needs. Briefly highlights community engagement initiatives/activities and benefits for the community. Details how these initiatives/activities will be implemented and tracked.** 3. **Advancement of Energy and Climate Goals: Advance clean energy policies through reliability and resilience** **solutions. Explains how this project will contribute to or align with California energy policies. (See solicitation manual, Section V.B)** 4. **Workforce Development: Create high-quality jobs with strong labor standards and protections that attract and train a skilled workforce for durable careers in the growing clean energy industry. Provides an estimate for the number of jobs expected to be created. Includes an overview of planned workforce development activities (e.g., career fairs, training programs, outreach).**   **Clearly describes the major components of the project and includes appropriate schemas (e.g., single line drawing(s), diagrams and site maps). Elaborates on the technology that will be used and explains how it will improve the metrics provided in Project Metrics (Attachment 09).**  **Provides the best available data (quantitative, qualitative, narrative, and/or spatial) to support the energy reliability and/or resilience needs of the community and the need for the proposed project.**   1. Project Management Plan **(*20 points*)**   **Includes detailed summary of the team structure, qualifications, experience, financial stability, and capabilities to complete the project.**  **Includes an organization chart. The chart should highlight the prime recipient and project partner(s).**  **Describes the facilities, infrastructure, and resources available that support the project. Explains how it will be utilized.**  **Highlights key success from past or current projects.**  **Explains risk factors and outlines a risk management plan. (e.g., supply chain, environment, construction, project cost)**  **Outlines the major project tasks and how they will be managed. The project tasks must align with the tasks in the Scope of Work (Attachment 03).**  **Includes a realistic Project Schedule (Attachment 04) with milestones and a description of expected lead time for project to commence (e.g., expected environmental review period). Project Schedule (Attachment 04) must be entirely filled in for a complete application. Tasks described in the Project Narrative (Attachment 02) and the Scope of Work (Attachment 03) must be listed in the Project Schedule.**   1. Community Engagement and Benefits ***(20 points)***   **Identifies the CBO and/or tribal partner(s) that meet the criteria laid out in Section II. B of solicitation manual. Provides details about each organization and their role in the project.**  **Provides specific planned community engagement initiatives/activities and products (e.g., town hall, workshops, surveys).**  **Designates the CBO(s) and/or tribe(s) responsible for executing or assisting in the coordination of these initiatives/activities. Highlights their specific roles and responsibilities.**  **Specifies the allocated funding for the CBO(s) and/or tribes. Ensures that the Budget Forms (Attachment 05) accurately reflect this amount.**  **Describes the expected energy reliability and/or resilience and community benefits and provides sound reasoning or basis for determining those benefits. Utilizing graphs, charts, or tables may be helpful in illustrating these benefits.**  **Lists and describes the extent of planned engagement activities and products as reported in the Project Metrics (Attachment 09); Scope of Work (Attachment 03); and the Project Narrative form (Attachment 02).**  **Proposed community engagement activities are directly related to the proposed project and to electric grid reliability and/or resilience.**   1. Advancement of Energy and Climate Goals **(*10 points*)**   **Explains in detail how the project supports California energy and climate goals. Relevant California energy policies are listed in the solicitation manual. (See solicitation manual, Section V.B).**  **Provides reasoning or methods for determining such support.**  **Determines the impact and reasonableness of any estimated avoided greenhouse gas savings, or pollutants associated with fossil-fuel-based electricity generation (e.g., PM 2.5, PM 10, NOx, SOx). Considers direct and indirect emission reduction for the project.**  **Describes Impact Metrics as reported in Project Metrics (Attachment 09)**   * **Baseline metrics** * **Expected metrics**  1. Workforce Development **(*20 points*)**   **Describes in detail the workforce development activities (e.g., career fairs, training programs, outreach).**  **Proposed workforce development activities are directly related to the project’s proposed activities.**  **Outlines the strategy to attract, train, and retain a skilled workforce (e.g., benefits, trainings, safety, apprenticeship).**  **Details expected impacts as reported in the Project Metrics**  **(Attachment 09).** |
| 03 | **Scope of Work Template**: Review all sections indicated in blue.  Task 1 language is boilerplate and has not been changed.  Technical tasks specific to the project have been added.  **Ensures each task is numbered, titled, and includes the goals for that task.**  **Ensures “The Recipient Shall” sections are filled out to support the tasks.**  **Includes a list of products for each task (e.g., photos, surveys, plans, reports).**  **Scope of Work tasks align with the tasks stated in the Project Narrative (Attachment 02).** |
| 04 | **Project Schedule**:  Review the schedule based on the project term and ensure it is aligned with the deliverables from the **Scope of Work** (Attachment 03).  Complete Project Milestones table. |
| 05 | **Budget Forms:** ***(20 points)***  Requested funding is within the ~~minimum~~ ~~and~~ maximum amounts of the CERRI Program. (See solicitation manual, Section I.C.1)  Review the Project Budget for completeness. Only complete the non-greyed areas and do not modify preset formulas. The DOE forms (blue highlighted sheets) do not need to be filled out by applicant; they will be auto populated by the information provided by the applicant.  Category Budget – complete organization name and amount of funds to be spent in California, check totals.  Direct Labor – ensure all columns A-J are completed. Check totals. Ensure that all rates are projected caps for the duration of the project. See instructions on ‘Direct Labor’ tab for more information.  Fringe Benefits – ensure all columns A-P are completed. Check totals. Again, ensure that all rates are the projected caps for the duration of the project. Additional instructions can be found on the ‘Fringe Benefits’ tab.  Travel – ensure all columns A-J are completed. Check totals. Ensure that no out-of-state or international travel is listed under CEC Funds.  Equipment – ensure all columns A-J are completed. Check totals.  **Provide vendor quotes for all equipment items over $50,000.**  Supplies – ensure all columns A-J are completed. Check totals. **Supplies are generally defined as an item with an acquisition cost of $5,000 or less and useful life expectancy of less than one year. Multiple supply items valued at $5,000 or less used to assemble an equipment item with greater value than $5,000 with useful life of more than one year should be included on the equipment tab.**  Subcontracts – ensure all columns A-H are completed. Check totals***.*** **Ensure all subcontractors/subrecipients and vendors receiving or distributing CERRI or match funds are included in this section. Any construction work that is performed by a vendor or subcontractors/ subrecipient should be entered on this tab.**  **Ensure all** Subcontractors/subrecipient receiving CERRI or **match funding are included in the budget.** **Subcontractors receiving $100,000** or more of CEC funds or 25% or more of total requested CEC funds have their own set of complete budget forms, including a full set of worksheets.  **List and correctly categorize all vendors and subcontractors/subrecipients supplying commercial supplies or services for the project on the Subcontracts tab. A quote must be provided for any vendor whose total project costs amount to $250,000 or more.**  ~~Construction – ensure all columns A-J are completed. Include all types of work done on particular building, including erecting, altering, or remodeling. Check totals.~~  Other – ensure all columns A-J are completed. **Include any costs needed for the project that do not apply to other categories. For example, do not include Travel, Fringe Benefits, and Labor on the other tab as an expense. This tab is reserved for other direct cost items required for the project which do not fit clearly into other categories.** Check totals.  Indirect Costs & Profit – ensure all columns A-F are completed. Check totals. **Use “Additional Explanation” box to explain calculations.**  Match funding amount and sources are consistent with the signed Commitment Letters (Attachment 08).  **Any budget item not explicitly connected to the project is clearly justified in the “Additional Explanation” box at the bottom of the worksheet**.  **Justifies the reasonableness of all costs and requested funds relative to the project goals, objectives, and tasks.**  **Build America Buy America (BABA) Waiver Requests are submitted in writing with sufficient information (if applicable).**  ***The applicant acknowledges and accepts full responsibility for any risks associated with the failure to submit BABA Waiver Requests in the application package. DOE may not approve BABA Waiver Requests if they are not included in the initial application package during the review process.*** |
| 06 | **CEQA Compliance Form**:  Review CEQA Compliance Form for completeness. **The form must be completed even if the project is exempt**. A CEQA form must be filled out for **each** geographically distinct subproject.  **Identify the lead CEQA agency and include clear descriptions of the project scope and activities. Clearly outline project activities and provide detailed descriptions (as needed).**  If a CEQA determination has already been made, attach supporting documentation.  **Include documentation from any prior Initial Studies, Environmental Assessments, Finding of No Significant Impact, or Mitigated Negative Declaration performed (if applicable).**  **Include a decommissioning plan outlining the process for equipment replacement and disposal at the end of its life cycle.**  **Identify and reference the CEQA Guidelines for categorical exemptions. Ensure all exemption filings are completed and documented accordingly (if applicable).**  **Provide detailed site layouts, maps, and identify specific locations for installations and modifications.**  **Identify and anticipate all necessary permits for construction and installation activities.**  **Ensure thorough and accurate documentation with no missing or incorrect information.**  ***Failure to include sufficient and accurate documentation for the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Form will result in delays in the award review process and may result in a reduction in scoring.*** |
| 07 | **NEPA Environmental Questionnaire:**  Review the NEPA Compliance Form for completeness. The form must be completed to receive CERRI funding. A NEPA form must be filled out for **each** geographically distinct subproject.  Provide NEPA-related documentation. **Include detailed project description, detailed site layouts, satellite maps, and identify specific locations for installations and modifications.** **Applicants should submit satellite maps showing the project locations.**  **Include documentation from any prior Initial Studies, Environmental Assessments, Finding of No Significant Impact, or Mitigated Negative Declaration performed (if applicable).**  **Detail safety protocols and procedures to prevent injury and illness. Describe the scope of worker safety program, include any lab safety trainings and Occupational Safety and Health administration (OSHA) compliance.**  **Include a decommissioning plan outlining the process for equipment replacement and disposal at the end of its life cycle.**  **Coordinate with appropriate offices to determine impacts on historical and prehistoric resources before submitting NEPA documentation.**  **Clearly outline project activities and provide detailed descriptions (as needed).**  **Accurately complete all NEPA questionnaire sections, ensure environmental and cultural site impacts are addressed.**  **Identify and anticipate all necessary permits for construction and installation activities.**  **Ensure thorough and accurate documentation with no missing or incorrect information.**  Provide stakeholder support documentation (optional).  ***Failure to include sufficient and accurate documentation for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Questionnaire will result in delays in the award review process and may result in a reduction in scoring.*** |
| 08 | **Commitment and Support Letter(s):** *(5 points)*  Provides **commitment letter(s)** from all entities that will provide match funds, including from your own organization. These letters should be consistent with the match amount stated in the application and **Budget Forms** (Attachment 05).  **Ensure any match funds pledged are consistent throughout the application. The amounts listed should be consistent with the amount or dollar value described in the commitment letter(s) (e.g., if $5,000 “cash in hand” funds are pledged in a commitment letter, the match amounts entered in the Budget Forms (Attachment 05) must match this amount). If the amounts listed in an application are inconsistent, the total amount pledged in the signed commitment letter(s) will be considered for match funding points.**  **Includes a required commitment letter from a partnered CBO(s) and/or tribe(s), signed by an authorized representative that outlines their planned contribution.**  **Ensure all commitment letters are signed by an authorized representative of the entity or by the individual that is making the commitment.**  Provides **support letters** from project stakeholders (optional). |
| 09 | **Project Metrics:**  Review Project Metrics for completeness:  **Provides baseline impact metrics.**  **Provides expected project impact metrics.**  **Provides build metrics.**  **Provides job creation metrics.**  **Provides planned community engagement activities and events.**  **Review each table for accuracy and completeness.** |
| 10 | **Applicant Declaration:**  Sign the Applicant Declaration form **or**  Explain why the applicant is unable to sign. |
| 11 | **Foreign National Participation Document (If applicable):**  Review Foreign National Participation Document for completeness.  ***The applicant acknowledges and accepts full responsibility for any risks associated with the failure to include the Foreign National Participation Document in the application package. DOE may not approve the Foreign National Participation Document if it is not included in the initial application package during the review process.*** |
| 12 | **Request for Unclassified Foreign National Access (If applicable):**  Review Request for Unclassified Foreign National Access for completeness.  ***The applicant acknowledges and accepts full responsibility for any risks associated with the failure to include Request for Unclassified Foreign National Access in the application package. DOE may not approve the Request for Unclassified Foreign National Access form if it is not included in the initial application package during the review process.*** |

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| **Prohibited Activities: This list is provided for the applicant’s awareness of projects that cannot be funded through the CERRI Program.**  **CERRI funds and match funds must not be used for ineligible activities such as covering the costs of:**   * **Solar photovoltaic (PV) generation and other new energy generation** * **Battery Energy Storage Systems for any use other than system adaptive capacity (e.g., such systems cannot be used for peak demand periods unless they are specifically designed to also handle system adaptive capacity)**   + **According to the US Department of Energy, system adaptive capacity is the ability of the electrical grid to continue to supply electricity where needed during disruptive events.[[12]](#footnote-13)1** * **Electrification and weatherization of residential and commercial buildings**   + **Weatherization technologies and equipment must be directly related to grid hardening activities to be eligible costs.** * **Electric Vehicle (EV) chargers** * **Light-Emitting Diode (LED) lighting or solar carport lighting** * **Manufacturing** * **Workforce development activities that are not coupled with eligible activities.**   + **Workforce development activities must be paired with an eligible activity. For example, if an entity proposes a reconductoring project, workforce development may include the hiring, training, and/or development of line workers who will either perform the proposed work or maintain reconductored lines in the future. Workforce development activities must focus on relevant tasks and not include peripheral activities such as firefighter training.** * **Community engagement activities outside the scope of the CERRI Program, such as developing a regional community resilience plan.**   + **Community engagement activities must be directly related to the proposed project and to electric grid reliability/resilience (e.g., community input workshops and/or electric outage preparedness workshops).**   + **If CERRI and match funds are used to award grants and scholarships, an application’s Project Narrative should provide details about relevant curricula and training objectives of the awarded grants and scholarships. The Project Narrative must demonstrate how the grants and scholarships align with the community engagement or workforce development activities that support the eligible activities proposed in the application’s Scope of Work. Any grants or scholarships must also be defined and included as Tasks in the Scope of Work.** * **Proposed activities must strictly adhere to the eligible activities list and aim to improve the reliability and resilience of the electric grid against disruptive events.**   + **Per Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) section 40101(a)(1),17 a disruptive event is “an event in which operations of the electric grid are disrupted, preventively shut off, or cannot operate safely due to extreme weather, wildfire, or a natural disaster.” Disruptive events do not include threats from human causes (e.g., vehicle collisions, mylar balloons), nuisance pests (e.g., squirrels) or other non-environmental factors.** |

## **Attachment 5 Budget Forms**

1. Changed the footer to **September [**~~March~~]2024
2. Deleted **Construction Sheet** from Budget Form[[13]](#footnote-14)\*
3. **Instructions Sheet** under General Budget Worksheet Instructions

Updated Row 15 to include item 13 and state:

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| **13. Budget worksheets (Direct Labor, Fringe Benefits, Travel, Equipment, Supplies, Subcontracts, Other, Indirect Costs & Profit) must include an itemization of expenses. Please note that general categories such as ‘Community Benefits Plan’, ‘System Related Materials’, or ‘General Project Tasks’ are not acceptable budget items. Acceptable budget items must include a description of each component of the system or task with justification of need, basis of cost, and number of units. Applicants must ensure that any budget item not explicitly connected to the project is very clearly justified in the box at the bottom of the budget form.** |

1. **Subcontracts Sheet**

Added Column C (“Subcontractor or Vendor”) with instructions in Row 5 to select either “Vendor” or “Subcontractor” in the dropdown menu created for Rows 6-19.

1. **Subcontracts Sheet** under Subcontracts Instructions

Updated Row 26 to include item 2 and state:

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| **2. Subcontractors and Vendors should be listed on the ‘Subcontracts’ worksheet.**  **A subcontractor/subrecipient is defined as an entity that receives grant funds directly from the Recipient and is entrusted by the Recipient to make decisions about how to conduct some of the grant’s activities. A Subrecipient’s role involves discretion over grant activities and is not merely just selling goods or services.**  **Characteristics which support the classification of the entity as a subcontractor/subrecipient include when the entity:**  **1.** **Has its performance measured in relation to whether objectives of the CERRI Program were met;**  **2.** **Has responsibility for programmatic decision-making;**  **3.** **Is responsible for adherence to applicable CERRI Program requirements specified in the CERRI award agreement;**  **4.** **In accordance with its agreement, uses CERRI funds to carry out a program for a public purpose specified in authorizing statute, as opposed to providing goods or services for the benefit of the recipient or sub-recipient; or**  **5.** **Provides match share funding contributions to the CERRI-funded project.**  **A sub-subrecipient has the same meaning as a subrecipient except that it receives grant funds from a subrecipient. There can also be further levels below of sub-subrecipients.**   **A vendor is defined as a person or entity that sells goods or services to the Recipient, Subrecipient, or any layer of Sub-Subrecipient, in exchange for some of the grant funds, and does not make decisions about how to perform the grant’s activities. The Vendor’s role is ministerial and does not involve discretion over grant activities. A vendor is an entity selected through a competitive process or is otherwise providing a product or service at a fair and reasonable price. Characteristics indicative of a procurement relationship between the recipient or subrecipient and a vendor are when the vendor:**  **1.** **Provides the goods and services within normal business operations;**  **2.** **Provides similar goods or services to many different purchasers;**  **3.** **Normally operates in a competitive environment;**  **4.** **Provides goods or services that are ancillary to the operation of the CERRI Program; and**  **5.** **May not be subject to compliance with all of the requirements of the CERRI Program as a result of the agreement, though similar requirements may apply for other reasons.**  **Additional details on the definition and characteristics of subcontractors, subrecipients, and vendors can be found on CEC’s Sub-to-Vendor Verification Form here: https://www.energy.ca.gov/media/5967.** |

1. **Construction Sheet**

**The DOE is no longer categorizing items under ‘Construction.’ Due to this change, applicants are requested to reallocate any items previously listed under the ‘Construction’ tab to their appropriate categories. For instance, if construction work involves employees, please include those costs in the ‘Direct Labor’ tab. If you are engaging a sub-recipient or hiring a vendor, those construction expenses should be reflected in the ‘Subcontracts’ tab.**

Laura Williams,

Commission Agreement Officer

1. **Workforce development activities must be paired with an eligible activity to be eligible project costs. For example, if an entity proposes a reconductoring project, workforce development may include the hiring, training, and/or development of line workers who will either perform the proposed work or will maintain the reconductored lines in the future. Workforce development activities must focus on relevant tasks and not include peripheral activities such as firefighter training.** [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. **Per** [**Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) section 40101(a)(1),17**](https://www.congress.gov/117/plaws/publ58/PLAW-117publ58.pdf#page=495) **a disruptive event is “an event in which operations of the electric grid are disrupted, preventively shut off, or cannot operate safely due to extreme weather, wildfire, or a natural disaster.” Disruptive events do not include threats from human causes (e.g., vehicle collisions, mylar balloons), nuisance pests (e.g., squirrels) or other non-environmental factors. The BIL is available at (https://www.congress.gov/117/plaws/publ58/PLAW-117publ58.pdf#page=495).** [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. **“Disruptive event” is further defined in footnote 2. For additional clarification, navigate to** [**40101(d) FAQs**](https://netl.doe.gov/bilhub/grid-resilience/formula-grants/post-award-documents) **located under “Other Grant Award Resources”, which is available at: https://netl.doe.gov/bilhub/grid-resilience/formula-grants/post-award-documents.** [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. **Section 40101(e)(2) states a grant under Section 40101 may be given to an eligible entity for “activities, technologies, equipment, and hardening measures to reduce the likelihood and consequences of disruptive events” and provides examples of permitted activities in section 40101(e)(1)(A)-(L). If it is determined that a new distribution power line, below 69kV, reduces the likelihood and consequence of disruptive events by providing redundancy or fail-over capability, then it is an eligible use of a Section 40101 grant. Section 40101 funds may not be used for new transmission lines. However, undergrounding of existing distribution and transmission lines is an eligible use of Section 40101 funds. See** [**40101d Frequently Asked Questions: Updated February 13, 2024**](https://netl.doe.gov/sites/default/files/2024-02/40101d%20Frequently%20Asked%20Questions%20Updated%20combined%2001-24-24_Final.pdf) **(page 17) for more information, which is available at: https://netl.doe.gov/sites/default/files/2024-02/40101d%20Frequently%20Asked%20Questions%20Updated%20combined%2001-24-24\_Final.pdf.** [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. Pacific Standard Time or Pacific Daylight Time, whichever is being observed. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. This deadline does not apply to non-technical questions (e.g., administrative questions concerning application format requirements or attachment instructions), including questions regarding application submission in the ECAMS system or to questions that address an ambiguity, conflict, discrepancy, omission, or other error in the solicitation. Such questions may be submitted to the CAO listed in Section E (to be provided in final solicitation manual) at any time prior to 5:00 p.m. of the application deadline date. Please see Section E (to be provided in the final solicitation manual) for additional information. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. Please see Section I.G Questions (to be provided in final solicitation manual) and Section III.B Method for Delivery for more information. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
8. DOE maintains final approval on all awarded projects. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
9. Extensions may be requested to DOE through CEC on a yearly basis. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
10. **The DOE is no longer categorizing items under ”Construction.” Due to this change, applicants are requested to reallocate any items previously listed under the ”Construction” tab to their appropriate categories. For instance, if construction work involves employees, please include those costs in the “Direct Labor” tab. If an applicant is engaging a sub-recipient or hiring a vendor, those construction expenses should be reflected in the ”Subcontracts” tab.** [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
11. **General categories such as “Community Benefits Plan,” ”System Related Materials,” or ”General Project Tasks” are not acceptable budget items. Acceptable budget items must include a description of each component of the system or task with justification of need, basis of cost, and number of units.** [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
12. 1 For additional details and clarification on system adaptive capacity, navigate to [40101(d) FAQs](https://netl.doe.gov/bilhub/grid-resilience/formula-grants/post-award-documents) located under “Other Grant Award Resources”. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
13. \* This note is additional guidance and is not included in the updated Budget Forms (Attachment 5). The DOE is no longer categorizing items under 'Construction.' Due to this change, applicants are requested to reallocate any items previously listed under the 'Construction' tab to their appropriate categories. For instance, if construction work involves employees, please include those costs in the 'Direct Labor' tab. If an applicant is engaging a sub-recipient or hiring a vendor, those construction expenses should be reflected in the 'Subcontracts' tab. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)