



GFO-23-312r2 Pre-Application Workshop

Community Energy Reliability and Resilience Investment (CERRI) Program

Round 2 Solicitation

Energy Research and Development Division, California Energy Commission

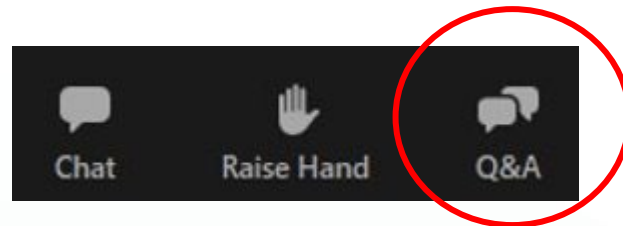
Presenter: Abigail Jacob

Date: May 21, 2025



Housekeeping

- This workshop will be recorded and posted to the Pre-Application workshop's [event page](#).
- Attendees will be muted during the presentation. Please chat your question using the Q&A window.



- Updates to solicitation documents will be posted at the Grant Funding Opportunity's [webpage](#).



Agenda

Time	Item
10:00 a.m.	Welcome and Introduction
10:05 a.m.	Background <ul style="list-style-type: none">• CERRI Program• Solicitation Overview• Available Funding
10:25 a.m.	Application Requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project Requirements• Attachments• Application Organization & Submission• Evaluation & Award Process
11:00 a.m.	Q&As
12:00 p.m.	Adjourn



Commitment to Diversity

The CEC adopted a resolution strengthening its commitment to diversity in our funding programs. The CEC continues to encourage disadvantaged and underrepresented businesses and communities to engage in and benefit from our many programs.

To meet this commitment, CEC staff conducts outreach efforts and activities to:

- Engage with disadvantaged and underrepresented groups throughout the state.
- Notify potential new applicants about the CEC's funding opportunities.
- Assist applicants in understanding how to apply for funding from the CEC's programs.
- Survey participants to measure progress in diversity outreach efforts.



We Want to Hear From You!

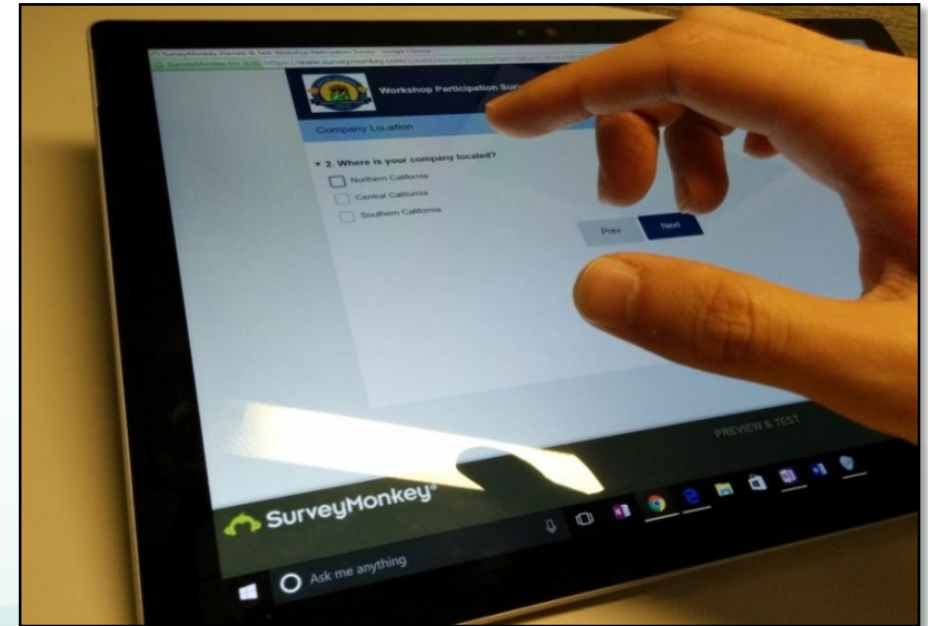
Diversity Survey

Survey responses will be summarized anonymously to track attendance of underrepresented groups in our workshops for public reporting purposes.

- Online participants, please use this link:

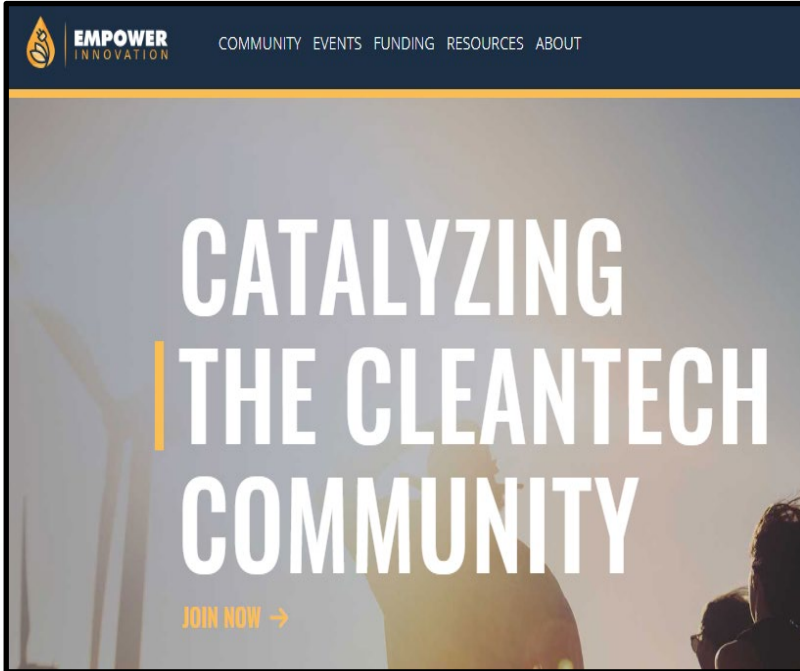
<https://forms.office.com/g/dh84ZgfHY6>

Thanks!





Connect With Us



[Instagram](#)



[Youtube](#)



[X \(Formerly Twitter\)](#)



[LinkedIn](#)



Find a Partner on EmpowerInnovation.net

Empower Innovation strives to accelerate your energy resilience and reliability journey with easy access to funding opportunities from the CEC and other funding providers, curated resources and events, and connections to people and organizations.

FIND A PARTNER

Announce your interest in this funding opportunity and message other interested parties to find potential partners.

RESOURCES & TOOLS

Browse the collection of resources for clean tech innovators including Resource Libraries, Funding Sources, Tools, and Databases.

<https://www.empowerinnovation.net/en/custom/funding/view/47088>



Background





Program Background



- Funded by **Grid Resilience Formula Grants** (section 40101(d) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act), which funds projects that:
 - Improve resilience
 - Generate community benefit
 - Advance community priorities
 - Invest in America's workforce



Purpose of Solicitation

The CERRI Program will fund projects across California that align with its objectives:



**Increase Energy Reliability
& Resilience**



**Provide Community
Benefits**



**Advance State Energy and
Resilience Goals**



Create Quality Jobs

**Competitive Grant Funding
Opportunity**



Round 2 Project Funding & Match Requirements

Project Group	Available Funding ¹	Project Minimum	Project Maximum	Match Requirement	Anticipated # of Awards
Group 1: Large Entities (sells ≥4,000 GWh)	\$41,493,611	\$13,831,203	\$20,746,805	115% ²	2-3
Group 2: Small Entities (sells <4,000 GWh)	\$10,373,402	\$5,186,701	\$10,373,402	33.33%	1-2

1. Reflects year 3 funding and remainder of year 1-2 funding after CERRI R1 with program admin. costs (5%) deducted.

2. Year 3 State Match Requirement (15%) passed onto large entities.

IIJA requires that a percentage of funds be set aside for entities that sell 4,000 GWh/year or less, which is ~20% in CA



Eligible Entities

- a) Electric grid operators
- b) Electric storage operators
- c) Electricity generators
- d) Transmission owners or operators
- e) Distribution providers
- f) Fuel suppliers
- g) Other (*must receive prior approval from CEC & DOE before applying*)





Eligibility Request Form

- Request approval by sending a completed [Eligibility Request Form](#) to cerri@energy.ca.gov.
- Entities seeking approval must submit documentation of actual electricity sales from the last 1-2 years that, at minimum, details the MWh sales.
- To qualify for funding, the CEC and the U.S. Secretary of Energy must approve the request before the application deadline.
- The CEC and DOE cannot specify a timeframe for eligibility approval, estimated approval timeframe: 30-65 days.
- Apply for eligibility as soon as possible if your entity does not clearly fit in one of the eligible entities (a-f).



Eligible Activities

- weatherization technologies and equipment (for grid hardening purposes)
- fire-resistant technologies and fire prevention systems
- monitoring and control technologies
- the undergrounding of electrical equipment
- utility pole management
- the relocation of power lines or the reconductoring of power lines with low-sag, advanced conductors
- vegetation and fuel-load management
- adaptive protection technologies
- advanced modeling technologies
- hardening of power lines, facilities, substations, of other systems
- the replacement of old overhead conductors and underground cables
- the use or construction of distributed energy resources for enhancing system adaptive capacity* during disruptive events, including:
 - Microgrid subcomponents
 - battery-storage
- Workforce development and engagement activities that are directly related to the eligible activities listed above

** The U.S. Department of Energy's Grid Deployment Office has defined system adaptive capacity for purposes of this program as "the ability of the electrical grid to continue to supply electricity where needed during disruptive events."*



Ineligible Activities

Ineligible activities include, but are not limited to 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
- Residential and/or commercial building electrification and weatherization
- Electric Vehicle (EV) chargers
- Light-Emitting Diode (LED) lighting or solar carport lighting
- Manufacturing
- Construction of new transmission lines
- Cybersecurity, and
- Acquisition of land or easements

** Ineligible activities may be included in the overall project; however, they cannot be funded through CERRI funding or counted as match funding.

**Ineligible activities within a broader project will be subject to DOE's Terms and Conditions, including compliance with Build America, Buy America (BABA), the Davis-Bacon Act, and the necessary reviews, such as National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).



Project Location

Projects must be located within California or within California Tribal Nations





Application Limitations

- Eligible entities can submit **one** application per solicitation Round.
- An application may include **up to three** geographically distinct subprojects.
- Eligible entities are **not** allowed to submit the same application for grants under IIJA section 40101(c) and section 40101(d) in the same application cycle.
- The same application cannot be under active consideration for both programs at the same time.





CBO and/or Tribal Partnership



- Applicants must partner with a Community-Based Organization (CBO) and/or tribe to be eligible for funding.
- The CBO or tribal partner must be clearly identified and compensated in the project's budget.
- The CBO or tribal partner must submit a commitment letter to work with the eligible entity during the project.



Shovel-Readiness



- Shovel-ready projects will be scored favorably.
- This includes, but is not limited to projects that:
 - Have initiated the permitting and environmental review process (including California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review).
 - Leverage stranded assets or existing infrastructure.
 - Include all required vendor (>\$250k) and equipment (>\$50k) quotes.
 - Include any needed BABA or Foreign Work waivers.



Application Requirements

GFO-23-312 Round 2



Project Requirements

Energy Reliability and Resilience:

- Describe the project need.
- Reduce the frequency and duration of power outages for CA communities.
- Strengthen communities' ability to function during power outages, or both.

Community Based Organizations (CBO) and/or Tribal Engagement:

- Include tasks to develop and execute a Community Engagement & Impact Plan
- Collaborate with at least one CBO and/or tribe to ensure benefits of energy are shared by all.

Advancement of Energy and Resilience Goals:

- Support California's energy modernization and resilience goals.

Workforce Development:

- Create high-quality jobs with strong labor standards and protections.
- Attract and train a skilled workforce for careers in the clean energy industry.



Application Attachments

Each applicant must complete and include the following:

1. Application Form (Attachment 01)	7. NEPA Environmental Questionnaire (Attachment 07)
2. Project Narrative (Attachment 02)	8. Commitment and Support Letter Form (Attachment 08)
3. Scope of Work Template (Attachment 03)	9. Project Metrics (Attachment 09)
4. Project Schedule (Attachment 04)	10. Applicant Declaration (Attachment 10)
5. Budget Forms (Attachment 05)	11. Foreign National Participation (Attachment 11)*
6. CEQA Compliance Form (Attachment 06)	12. Request for Unclassified Foreign National Access (Attachment 12)*

*Applicant Submittal Checklist (Attachment A) is an optional attachment and is **not** required to be submitted.*

**Must be completed for all foreign nationals (any person who is not a U.S. citizen by birth or naturalization) participating in the grant award.*



How-To Workshops

We will also be hosting a series of ‘how-to’ workshops in June designed to provide in-depth guidance on different parts of the application.

Workshop #	Topic	Date
1	Project & Applicant Eligibility, Project Narrative, Project Metrics	June 4, 2025
2	Budget Forms, Site and Match Commitment Letters, Vendor Quotes	June 11, 2025
3	CEQA & NEPA Forms	June 18, 2025

**Login instructions for the “How-to” workshops will be provided via Public Notice through the CERRI subscription list following the Pre-Application Workshop.



Application Form (Attachment 01)

- This form requests basic information about the applicant and the project
- Include all requested information
- Review eligible entities and eligible activities list
- List priority community(ies) affected by proposed project

ATTACHMENT 01 CERRI Application Form

This form provides the California Energy Commission (CEC) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) with basic information about the applicant and the project. Each applicant must complete and submit as a .pdf. The CEC has attempted to streamline this solicitation package to reduce redundancy wherever possible, though there are areas where information may be asked for twice to satisfy requirements of both agencies.

Instructions and examples for completing this Attachment appear in blue. Read the instructions before completing each section. Delete the instructions and examples after completing each section.

Applicant Name

Insert name of applicant organization

Project Title

Insert project title

1. Project Group

- ☐ Group 1: Large Entities (i.e., sells more than 4,000 GWh/year)
☐ Group 2: Small Entities (i.e., sells 4,000 GWh/year or less)

2. Number of customers (meters) served by the applicant: _____

3. Number of megawatt hours of electricity sold by applicant: _____

Please consult the [Utility Sales Reference Data](#) table on the [Community Energy Reliability and Resilience Investment \(CERRI\) webpage](#) (<https://www.energy.ca.gov/programs-and-topics/programs/community-energy-reliability-and-resilience-investment-cerri-program>) for information (located under the "Resources" dropdown menu). If another data source is used, it must be public



Project Narrative Form (Attachment 02)

ATTACHMENT 02 Project Narrative Form

Instructions: Respond to each prompt below in the designated text boxes. Please delete all blue text but leave the prompts in black text. Keep responses to each prompt concise.

1. Provide a detailed description of the technical aspects of the proposed project, including:

- **Planned Activities:** Outline the specific tasks or activities involved in the project. Be clear and detailed about what will be done, such as construction, equipment installation, testing, or other relevant steps.
- **Project Locations:** Specify the locations where these activities will take place. Include any relevant site details, such as size, zoning, or other characteristics that are critical to the project. If the project involves multiple locations, list each and describe its role in the overall plan.
- **Technical Components:** Highlight the key technical elements of the project, such as the technologies, systems, or materials that will be used. Explain how these components contribute to the project's goals and any innovative features they include.

Note: Ensure the proposed project and components meet the requirements listed in Section I.B.3 Eligible Activities and Section I.B.4 Ineligible Activities of the Solicitation Manual.

Enter Text (Suggested Max: 500 Words)

- New prompt & response format
- Follows the proposed Scoring Criteria in Section VIII of the Solicitation Manual.
- Provide detailed description of the proposed project(s)
- Provide the information requested in each prompt.
- Project Narrative product deliverables must be included in:
 - Scope of Work (Attachment 03) and
 - Project Schedule (Attachment 04)



Scope of Work (Attachment 03)

The **Scope of Work** includes the following:

- **Purpose of Agreement** – Justify the need for funding.
- **Problem/Solution Statement** – Describe the reliability and/or resiliency problem(s) that the project will address and the solution to resolve the problem(s).
- **Goals and Objective of the Agreement** – Outline the goals and objectives of the agreement and how they meet the objectives of the CERRI program.
- **Technical Tasks** – Address requirements in Section III.A. under Project Requirements.

Task requirements:

- Indicate tasks and actions to be performed and resulting products in the *“Recipient Shall”* section.
- “Products” are documents, plans, and reports. Tangible items that can be submitted to the CEC.
- “Products” are not equipment and other items that cannot be delivered and stored at the CEC.



Scope of Work (Attachment 03) cont.

ATTACHMENT 03
Scope of Work Template
Name of Applicant/Recipient

Instructions for completing this Scope of Work appear in blue. Carefully read the instructions before completing each section. Delete the instructions after completing each section. Insert the name of the applicant/recipient above in blue.

I. TASK ACRONYM/TERM LISTS

A. Task List

- Insert task numbers and names that match those listed in Part IV (Technical Tasks) of the Scope of Work. Tasks 1, TBD-1, and TBD-2 are **mandatory**.
- Do not include subtask numbers or names.

Task #	CPR ¹	Task Name
1		General Project Tasks
2		[TBD, add tasks as necessary]
[TBD-1]		Community Engagement and Impacts
[TBD-2]		Workforce Development
[TBD-3]		Evaluation Of Project Benefits

All the following Scope of Work tasks are mandatory for CERRI projects:

- Administrative – Do not revise description
 - **Task 1** – General Project Task
- Technical Tasks –
 - **Task 2** – Insert Technical Tasks needed to complete the project
 - **Task TBD-1** – Community Engagement and Impact
 - **Task TBD-2** – Workforce Development
 - **Task TBD-3** – Evaluation of Project Benefits



Project Schedule (Attachment 04)

- The Project Schedule includes a list of all products, meetings, milestones, and due dates.
- Applicants are responsible for filling out any tasks/products/dates indicated in blue text.
- Complete Project Milestones table.
- Product deliverables must match the Scope of Work (Attachment 03).
- All work must be scheduled for completion by the project end date (no later than April 30, 2032).





Budget Forms (Attachment 05)

- Identifies how CERRI funds and match funds will be spent.
- Must reflect estimates for actual costs to be incurred.
- Include insurance and permit costs (if required).
- The rates proposed, except for Direct Labor and Fringe Benefits, are considered capped and may not change during the agreement term.
- Fringe benefits are allowances and services provided by employers to their employees as compensation in addition to regular salaries and wages
- Specify indirect cost rate option:
 - Federally approved indirect rate or
 - De Minimis Rate: 15% of Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC)
- Federal rates must be confirmed with an approval letter from the DCAA or other federal agencies.



Budget Forms (Attachment 05) cont.

- Include vendor quotes for work totaling more than \$250,000
- Include equipment quotes for values exceeding \$50,000
- Include a separate set of budget forms for Subcontractors requesting more than \$100,000 of CERRI funds
- Must NOT identify that CERRI funds will be spent outside United States or for out-of-country travel. Only Match Funding can be used for these purposes.
- Only complete the white cells, and do not delete sheets or rows.
- Do **not** fill out the DOE budget forms (blue highlighted sheets).
- Public works projects:
 - Must pay prevailing wages.
 - Project budget for labor reflects prevailing wage requirements.
 - Project complies with all other requirements of prevailing wage law.
 - **OR** timely obtains a legally binding determination that the project is not a public works project.



CEQA Compliance Form (Attachment 06)

ATTACHMENT 06 CEQA Compliance Form

All applicants must **complete** this form, regardless of whether the proposed activity is considered a “project” as defined below. Answer all questions as completely as possible. The Energy Commission may request additional information to clarify the responses provided on this form.

Applications with geographically distinct subprojects should complete and submit separate forms for each subproject.

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code §§ 21000 et seq.) requires public agencies to identify the significant environmental impacts of their actions and to avoid or mitigate them, if feasible.¹ Under CEQA, an activity that may cause either a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment is called a “**project**.”² An activity funded by a contract, grant, or loan is considered a “project” under CEQA if it will cause a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment. Agencies must comply with CEQA before they approve a “project.” This may require the preparation of one or more of the following CEQA documents:

- Form will help applicants determine compliance obligations with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
- Form will also help identify which projects are exempt from CEQA.
- CEQA form must be submitted for **each** geographically distinct subproject.
- **Important:** This form *must* be completed regardless of whether the proposed activities are considered a “project” under CEQA.



NEPA Environmental Questionnaire (Attachment 07)

- Determines either compliance obligations or exemption under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).
- Include comprehensive NEPA-related documentation (project descriptions, etc.).
- Include stakeholder support documentation (letters of agreement for projects in state parks, approvals from Tribal Historic Preservation Offices for projects in tribal territories, etc.).
- NEPA Questionnaire must be submitted for **each** geographically distinct subproject.
- **Important:** This questionnaire *must* be completed regardless of whether the proposed activities are exempt from NEPA.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY NATIONAL ENERGY TECHNOLOGY LABORATORY

NETL F 451.1-1-3 P.1
Revised: 08.27.2024
Reviewed: 08.27.2024
(previous editions obsolete)

ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONNAIRE

This Environmental Questionnaire is subject to public disclosure and review upon request. Proprietary or business-sensitive information should **NOT** be included in any response within this Environmental Questionnaire. The disclosure of proprietary or business-sensitive information should be discussed with the DOE Project Manager and the NEPA Compliance Officer.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONNAIRE

A. PROJECT SUMMARY

1. Solicitation Number: _____ Prime Recipient: _____
2. This Environmental Questionnaire pertains to a : ☐ Prime Recipient ☐ Subrecipient or Subcontractor
Name of Prime or Subrecipient: _____
3. Project Title: _____
4. Principal Investigator: _____ Telephone Number: _____
5. Expected Project Duration: _____
6. Location of Activities covered by this Environmental Questionnaire: (City/Township, County, State):

7. Provide a summary and full scope of activities planned only for the location that is the subject of this Environmental Questionnaire. Describe physical activities, not overall goals and objectives.



Commitment Letters (Attachment 08)

- Signed commitment letters are required for the Prime, entities or individuals that commit:
 - As a CBO, tribal project, and technical partner.
 - Match funding and testing/demonstration sites.
 - Contributions other than match funding and are not paid with CERRI funds.
- **Match funding** commitment letter(s) must include:
 - Source of funds
 - Justification of amount (in-kind)
 - Commitment to availability of funds
 - Strategy for replacing lost funds
- Project partners must submit commitment letters which describe their role & contribution.
- Limit to two pages per letter, excluding the cover page.
- If not submitted by the deadline, letters will not count towards scoring.



Support Letters (Attachment 08)

Support Letters are optional and may be used for scoring:

- A support letter details an entity or individual's support for the project.
- Letters that are not submitted by the application deadline will not be reviewed and counted towards meeting the requirement specified.

Applicants may include support letters from project stakeholders (i.e., an entity or individual that will benefit from or be involved in the project) that:

1. Describes the stakeholder's interest or involvement in the project;
2. Indicates the extent to which the project has the support of the relevant community; and
3. Describes any support it intends (but does not necessarily commit) to provide for the project.



Project Metrics (Attachment 09)

- Identifies performance metrics for the project
- Includes the following categories:
 - baseline (pre-project) outage metrics
 - projected outage metrics
 - project attributes (build metrics)
 - job creation and training metrics
 - planned community engagement activities and events
- Provides definitions for each of the metrics

Project Metrics (Attachment 09)			
Project Organization			
Project Title			
Project Performance Period Start Date (mm/dd/yyyy)			
Project Performance Period End Date (mm/dd/yyyy)			
Impact Metric (select from list)	Outage Type (select from list)	Does outage data include Major Event Days (MED)?	Coverage (select from list)



Applicant Declaration (Attachment 10)

- Applicants must declare **and sign** that they are:
 - Compliant with tax laws.
 - Not being sued by any public entity.
 - Compliant with any settlements with the CEC or other public agency.
 - Compliant with any legal judgement concerning the CEC or other public agency.
 - Compliant with any demand letters made by the CEC.
 - Not in active litigation with the CEC concerning a current or past contract, grant, or loan.
 - **If the applicant can't sign the declaration, use the form to explain why.**

ATTACHMENT 10 Applicant Declaration

As of the date of the application deadline for Energy Commission solicitation GFO-23-312 the entity submitting this application (Applicant):

- Authorizes the Energy Commission to make any inquiries necessary to verify the information presented in this application.
- Authorizes the Energy Commission to obtain business credit reports and make any inquiries necessary to verify and evaluate the financial condition of the Applicant.
- Certifies to the best of my knowledge and belief that I have read, understand, and do hereby accept the terms and conditions contained in this solicitation on behalf of the Applicant, including the provisions of the Agreement terms and conditions that apply to the Applicant. The Applicant is willing to enter into an agreement with the Commission to conduct the proposed project according to the terms and conditions without negotiation.

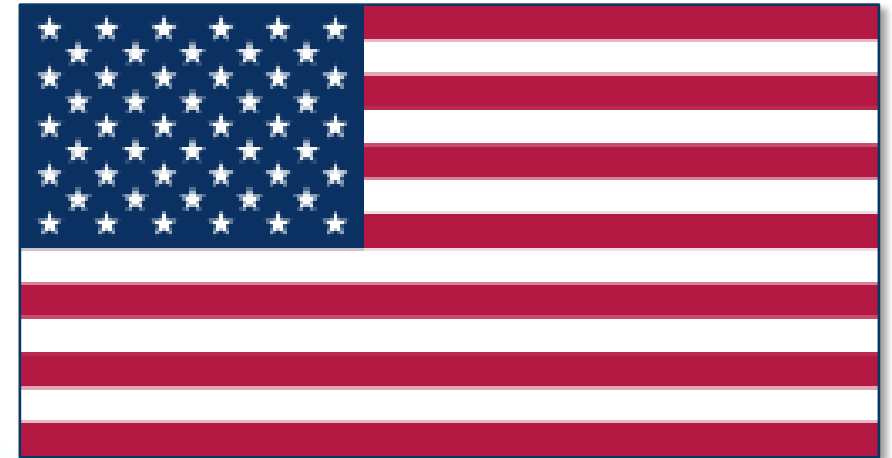


Additional Requirements



Build America Buy America (BABA)

- CERRI funds may be used for infrastructure **IF** all iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials are produced in the United States.
- Applicant may submit a waiver under the following circumstances:
 1. Buying domestically would be inconsistent with the public interest.
 2. The necessary materials are not produced in the United States in sufficient quantities or of a satisfactory quality.
 3. Materials produced in the United States will increase the cost of the overall project by more than 25%.
- Applicants are encouraged to submit all waivers with their application package. The CEC cannot guarantee approval of a waiver.
- Inclusion of a BABA waiver will not negatively impact an application's score.





Prevailing Wage/Davis-Bacon Act



- All laborers and mechanics employed by the recipient, subrecipients, contractors, or subcontractors and working on construction, alteration, or repair work worth more than \$1,000 must be paid the same wage & fringe benefits as other projects in the location.
- Davis-Bacon Act wage requirements must be incorporated into all subcontracts.
- Recipients must notify Commission Agreement Manager (CAM) of any labor issues.

For more information about DBA provisions and clauses, visit the Department of Labor website at:
<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/government-contracts/construction>, and
<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/government-contracts/protections-for-workers-in-construction>.



Application Organization & Submission



Application Organization and Submission

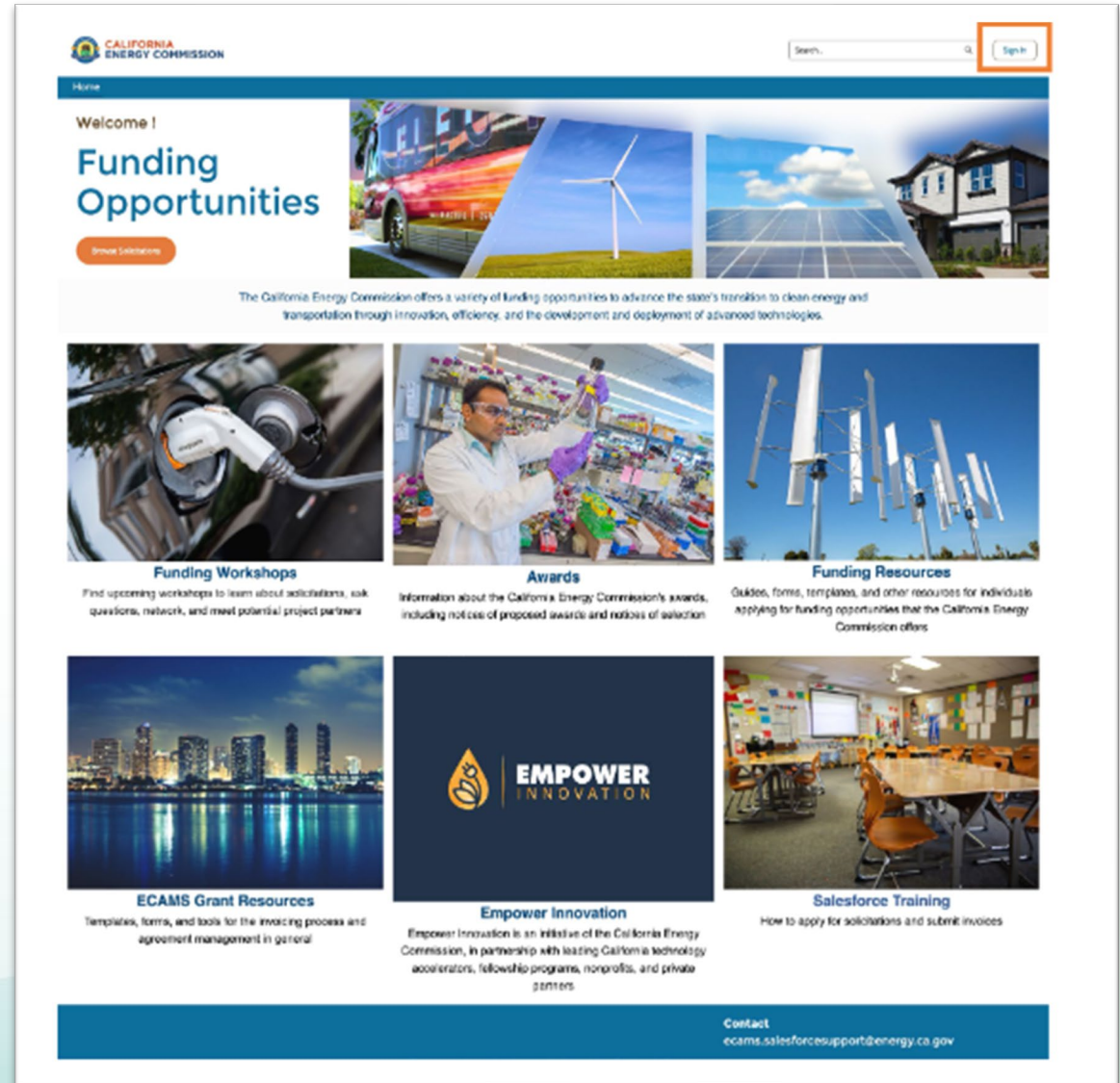
- **Formatting:** See the solicitation manual for information about the appropriate font, spacing, margin, and file format usage.
- **Page Limits:** Attachments 3, 4, and 8 have page limits.
- **Submission:** Applications must be submitted to the Energy Commission Agreement Management System (ECAMS). Please give yourself ample time to submit on ECAMS!





Application Submission

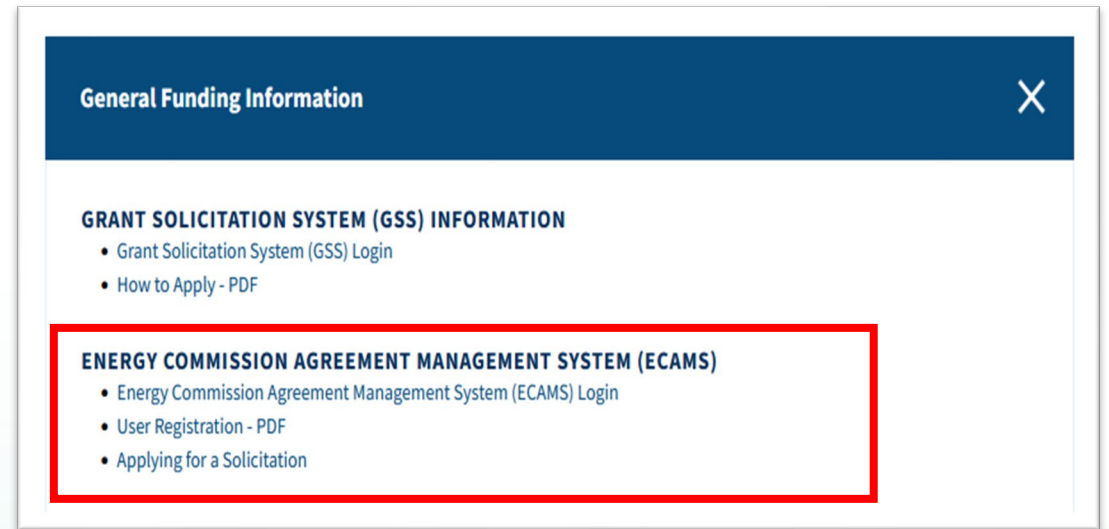
- Applicants must have or must create a user account to submit a solicitation application. To create an account, please see the guidance **User Registration Instructions** at:
<https://www.energy.ca.gov/media/7893>
 - Note: One account manager per organization, but users can be added by account manager
- Applications must be submitted through the **Energy Commission Agreement Management System (ECAMS)** at:
<https://ecams.energy.ca.gov/>





Application Submission Requirements

- For detailed instructions on application submittal, please see the *Applying for a Solicitation* at: <https://www.energy.ca.gov/media/7956>.
- Referenced guidance documents are available at: <https://www.energy.ca.gov/funding-opportunities/funding-resources> under General Funding Information.
- Questions with the ECAMS system should be directed to: ECAMS.SalesforceSupport@Energy.ca.gov.





Application Submission Requirements cont.

- Electronic files, other than those requiring signatures, must be consistent with the specific file format provided in the solicitation.
- Application documents should meet formatting requirements, and page recommendations as specified in the solicitation manual.
- Attachments requiring signatures (Applicant Declaration and Support/Commitment Letters) may be signed, scanned, and submitted in PDF format.



Application Submission Steps

- Register as a New User (if applicable)
- Log In
- 4-Step Application Submittal Process:
 1. Select Solicitation
 2. Enter Application Information
 3. Upload Files
 - Select documents for upload
 - Tag files with document type
 4. Review and Submit
- Confirmation from ECAMS system that submission was successful

All steps must be complete BEFORE the submission deadline



Submission Warning

START THE PROCESS EARLY!

- Applications must be fully submitted BEFORE the deadline listed in the solicitation manual.
- The ECAMS system will reject applications submitted after the deadline.
- Applications in the process of being submitted prior to the deadline will NOT be accepted after the deadline.
- ECAMS support is ONLY available from 8am – 5pm Monday-Friday.



Application Reminders

We recommend you carefully review your application before submission.

- ☐ Verify that all necessary documents have been uploaded.
- ☐ Verify that all documents uploaded are the accurate version you intend to submit as your final.
- ☐ Verify that your documents are not marked "confidential" unless the solicitation attachment is requesting confidential information.
- ☐ Verify that your match commitment letters accurately reflect the match amounts included in your budgets, including the match provided by the prime applicant.
- ☐ Verify that support and commitment letters are included, if required.
- ☐ Verify that amounts entered within the system's budget (if any) concur with information included on uploaded budget worksheets.



Applicant's Admonishment

- Applicants are responsible for:
 - Carefully reading the solicitation.
 - Asking appropriate questions in a timely manner.
 - Adhering to all Key Dates.
 - Making sure all solicitation requirements are met.
 - Submitting all required responses in a complete manner by the required date and time.
 - The cost of developing applications.
- Please pay close attention to, and reread the screening/scoring criteria & grounds for rejection.





5-minute Break



Evaluation & Award Process



Application Screening

Admin Screening Process

- Energy Commission staff screens applications per criteria in Section VIII.E & F.
- Criteria are evaluated on a pass/fail basis.
- Applicants must pass all screening criteria, or the application will be disqualified.

Some Reasons for Disqualification

- Application is not submitted by the specified due date and time.
- Submitting application for more than one funding group.
- Application contains confidential material, except for attachment that require confidential information.
- Attachments are missing or incomplete.



How will my Application be Evaluated?

Application Scoring

Evaluation Committee applies the scoring scale to the scoring criteria.

- Applications must obtain a minimum passing scoring of:
 - 73.5 for criteria 1-5, and
 - 91 for criteria 1-7
- Review Section VIII of the manual and ensure the application provides a clear and complete response to each scoring criteria

Scoring Criteria 1-7	Maximum Points
1. Project Merit, Need, & Goals	35
2. Project Management	20
3. Community Engagement and Benefits	20
4. Workforce Development Score	20
5. Advancement of Energy and Resilience Goals	10
Total Possible Points for Criteria 1 – 5 (Min. Passing Score is 70% (<u>73.5 points</u>))	105
6. Budget and Cost-Effectiveness	20
7. Project Commitment & Support Letters	5
Total Possible Points for Criteria 1 - 7 (Min. Passing Score for is 70% (<u>91 points</u>))	130



Preference Points

Evaluation Committee applies the scoring scale to the scoring criteria.

- All passing applications will be considered for preference points. Criteria for preference points include:
 - Exceeding Match Funds
 - Priority Communities
- Applications must meet all minimum passing scores (Scoring Criteria 1-5, 1-7) to be eligible for the additional points.
- Review Section VIII.F of the manual and ensure the application provides a clear and complete response to each scoring criteria.

Scoring Criteria 8-9 Preference Points	Maximum Points
8. Exceeding Match Funds	5
9. Priority Communities	15
Total Possible Points	150



Preference Points: Exceeding Match Funding (≤ 5 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.

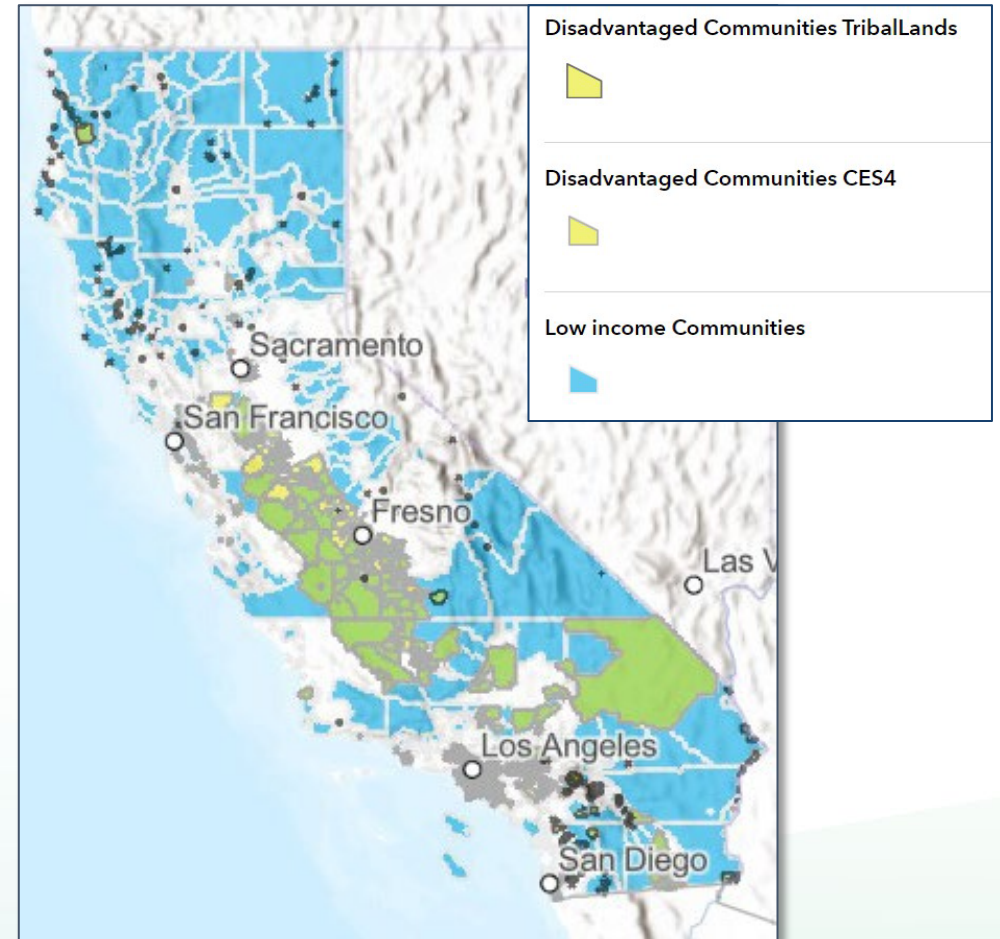
Percentage above Minimum Match (cash and in-kind)	Score
>80%	5
60 to <80%	4
40 to <60%	3
20 to 40%	2
10 to <20%	1
0 to <10%	0



Preference Points: Priority Communities (≤ 15 Points)

Priority Community	Points Awarded
Disadvantaged Communities Tribal Lands	10
Disadvantaged Communities CES4 (Cal Enviroscreen 4.0)	5
Low Income Communities	5

- Includes communities where the project is located and communities who will benefit from the project.
- Points are additive for communities that fit two categories.
- Points will be averaged for projects that impact more than one community or census tract.





Next Steps



Grant Award Process

Applications scored based on solicitation scoring criteria.

CEC issues a **Notice of Letter of Intent (NOLOI)** to fund.

Proposed awardees are recommended to DOE for final approval.

DOE approval process may take 6 weeks to 9 months.

CEC & DOE issue **Notice of Proposed Award (NOPA)**.



Next Steps After NOPA

- **DOE Submission:** CEC works with Proposed Awardees to finalize submission packages for DOE approval process.
- **Agreement Development:** After DOE approval is granted, the CEC will post a Notice of Proposed Award (NOPA), and proposal documents will be processed into a legal agreement.
- **Failure to Execute:** The CEC reserves the right to cancel the pending award if an agreement cannot be successfully executed with an applicant.
- **Review Terms & Conditions:** T&Cs posted on the CERRI webpage are non-negotiable and must be signed by the Recipient.
- **Project Start:** Recipients will **only** be reimbursed after the agreement is fully executed (approved by DOE, completed CEQA review, approved at a CEC Business Meeting, and signed by the Recipient and the CEC).



Application Technical Assistance

‘Soft’ Technical Assistance (TA): Review of proposed project activities, application submission completeness and quality, and opportunities to ask questions on a first-come, first-served basis.

Support Provided:

- Review application for completeness and compliance with project requirements.
- Review eligibility of proposed project activities.
- Provide clarification on whether proposed project costs can be funded by CERRI or match funds.
- Assisting applicants in identifying the necessary federal forms, waivers, and documents to submit.

Fair and Equitable Process:

- TA staff will not communicate with the scoring team about submitted applications.
- TA Staff will not participate in application review or evaluation for approval or denial of applications.
- TA questions and responses will be included in FAQ section on the grant funding webpage.

How to Request Assistance:

- Contact CERRI@energy.ca.gov during application period.
- Include the name of a primary contact and a brief description of the assistance required.



Administrative Support

Please send all questions related to administrative support to:

Laura Williams

Commission Agreement Officer

715 P St, MS-18

Sacramento, CA 95814

(916) 879-1383

laura.williams@energy.ca.gov

Deadline to submit questions:

August 29, 2025 5:00 p.m. P.T



Key Dates

Activity	Date **
Start of Grant Funding Opportunity Application Period	May 8, 2025
Pre-Application Workshop	May 21, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.
Deadline for ECAMS Submission & Administrative Support	Ongoing until August 29, 2025 5:00 p.m.
Deadline to Submit Applications	August 29, 2025 <u>11:59 p.m.</u>
Anticipate Notice of Letter of Intent (NOLOI) to Fund Posting	Week of September 29, 2025
CEC Recommends Awards to DOE for Approval	Week of October 27, 2025
Anticipated Notice of Proposed Award Posting	Q1, 2026
Anticipated Energy Commission Business Meeting	Q1, 2026
Anticipated Agreement Start Date	Q1, 2026
Anticipated Agreement End Date	April 30, 2032

** Pacific Standard Time or Pacific Daylight Time, whichever is being observed.



Key Dates for Application Support

Activity	Date **
Start of 1 st Q&A Period	May 8, 2025
Deadline to Submit Questions for 1st Q&A Period <u>and</u> Start of Q&A 2nd Period	June 6, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.
"How-to" Workshop 1: Project & Applicant Eligibility, Project Narrative, Project Metrics	June 4, 2025
"How-to" Workshop 2: Budget Forms, Site and Match Commitment Letters, Vendor Quotes	June 11, 2025
"How-to" Workshop 3: CEQA & NEPA Forms	June 18, 2025
Anticipated Distribution of Q&A Set 1	Week of June 16, 2025
Deadline to Submit Questions for 2nd Q&A Period	July 18, 2025
Anticipated Distribution of Q&A Set 2	Week of July 28, 2025
Deadline for Technical Assistance Requests	August 1, 2025 5:00 p.m.
Deadlines for Administrative Support & ECAMS Support Requests	August 29, 2025 5:00 p.m.
Deadline to Submit Applications	August 29, 2025 11:59 p.m.

** Pacific Standard Time or Pacific Daylight Time, whichever is being observed.



Stay Up to Date!

- Visit the CERRI Program website at: <https://www.energy.ca.gov/programs-and-topics/programs/community-energy-reliability-and-resilience-investment-cerri-program>
- Please subscribe to the “Community Energy Reliability and Resilience Investment (CERRI) Program” listserv to keep up to date!
- Important updates are distributed via email and posted to the CERRI Program docket (22-ERDD-01).

Community Energy Reliability and Resilience Investment (CERRI) Program

Community Energy Reliability and Resilience Investment (CERRI) program will fund projects across California that increase community energy resilience and reliability, advance state energy and climate goals, improve energy justice and equity, and create good-paying jobs.

CONTACT

Community Energy Reliability and Resilience Investment (CERRI) Program
CERRI@Energy.ca.gov

3/20/24, 4:19 PM

California Natural Resources Agency



California Energy Commission

Subscribe to receive updates and information on news, programs, and events from the California Energy Commission.

Research and Development Topics

Email

Check the topics you are interested in, then click submit button on the bottom of the page.

- ☐ California Tribal Energy Resiliency Alliance (C-TERA)
- ☐ Carbon Removal Innovation Support Program (CRISP)
- ☐ Clean Hydrogen Program
- ☐ Climate Innovation Program
- ☒ Community Energy Reliability and Resilience Investment (CERRI) Program
- ☐ Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIIC) Program
- ☐ Energy Research and Development
- ☐ Food Production Investment Program
- ☐ Industrial Decarbonization and Improvement of Grid Operations (INDIGO)
- ☐ Long Duration Energy Storage (LDES)
- ☐ PIER Pgm. - Residential and Commercial Bldgs. Program Area

☐ By checking this box, you consent to our [data privacy policy](#).



Question & Answers



Questions and Answers

- **Use the raise hand feature in Zoom:**

- Zoom phone controls:

- *6 – Toggle mute/unmute
 - *9 – Raise hand



- Introduce yourself by stating your name and affiliation

- Keep questions under 3 minutes to allow time for others

- **Type questions in the Q&A Box in Zoom:**

- Please provide name and affiliation

- Note that an official CEC response will be provided in writing and posted on the [GFO webpage](#) the week of June 6, 2025



Thank You!



Back Up Slides



DOE Microgrid Overview Guide

Eligible Uses of 40101(d) Grid Resilience Formula Grants for Microgrid Components

Section 40101(d)'s prohibition on the construction of a new electric generating facility limits the eligible uses of 40101(d) grid resilience formula grants for microgrid development. Nonetheless, costs associated with building a microgrid that do not involve new generation sources may be allowable. For example, 40101(d) grid resilience formula grants could be used to purchase and/or fund installation of:

- Batteries that will be used to supply electricity during disruptive events,³
- Equipment or management systems required to integrate existing generation sources and/or a battery into a microgrid, such as an inverter,
- Microgrid controller (includes the equipment required to balance the system and connect/disconnect from the main electric grid),
- Electric cables (to connect multiple buildings within the microgrid),
- Distribution equipment (protective devices, transformers, etc.) required to distribute power throughout the microgrid.

Grant recipients are encouraged to speak with their assigned Federal Project Officer about eligible uses of 40101(d) grid resilience formula grant funding.

More information can be found here:

[Microgrid Overview](#)