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

**Round 2 Solicitation**

**GFO-23-312r2**

**Questions & Answers Set 01**

**June 20, 2025**

The most up-to-date solicitation documents (including the solicitation manual) are available at the solicitation webpage: <https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2025-05/gfo-23-312r2-round-2-community-energy-reliability-and-resilience-investment>.

On May 21, 2025, the California Energy Commission (CEC) held a Pre-Application Workshop for the CERRI Program Round 2 Solicitation. The workshop slides and recording can be found at: <https://www.energy.ca.gov/event/funding-workshop/2025-05/pre-application-workshop-gfo-23-312r2-round-2-community-energy>.

The following answers are based on CEC staff’s interpretation of the questions received. It is the Applicant’s responsibility to review the purpose of the solicitation and to determine whether or not its proposed project is eligible for funding by reviewing the Eligibility Requirements within the solicitation. The CEC cannot give advice as to whether a particular project is eligible for funding, because not all proposal details are known.

Unless indicated otherwise, all section numbers identified are from the solicitation manual (for example, “Section II.B” refers to Section II.B of the Solicitation Manual). The solicitation manual is Attachment 00 found on the webpage linked above. This document provides detailed responses to questions and comments submitted during the first Question and Answer period ending on June 6, 2025, and the Pre-Application Workshop for GFO-23-312r2 Round 2 Community Energy Reliability and Resilience Investment (CERRI) Program on May 21, 2025. The written responses included in this document supersede any verbal responses provided during the workshop. Please send any additional questions or clarifications to cerri@energy.ca.gov.

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# Eligibility

## Entities

## Who is the target audience for this solicitation? Is it targeting a specific region, type of project, or organization type?

CEC Response: The target audience for the second round of CERRI funding is eligible applicants and the Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) and tribes that would be partnering with the prime applicant. Below is a list of entities that are eligible to apply for funding from the CERRI Program (as determined by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Section 40101(d) bill language):

* + 1. Electric grid operators
		2. Electricity storage operators
		3. Electricity generators
		4. Transmission owners or operators
		5. Distribution providers
		6. Fuel suppliers

If an entity wants to apply for funding as a prime applicant but does not fit neatly into one of these categories, it may submit an [Eligibility Request Form](https://www.energy.ca.gov/media/9021) to CERRI@energy.ca.gov to request approval from both the CEC and the U.S. Secretary of Energy before the application deadline. More information on entity and project eligibility can be found in Section I.B of the Solicitation Manual.

Entities listed on the [U.S. Energy Information Administration’s EIA-861 Form (2023)](https://www.energy.ca.gov/media/9026) are automatically considered eligible entities. Entities that would like to apply for funding but are not listed in the EIA-861 form are strongly encouraged to submit an Eligibility Request Form.

Projects must be sited in California to be eligible for funding, but the CERRI Program scope is not limited to a specific region of the state.

## Are eligible applicants for this program still Native American tribes, tribal organizations, nonprofit organizations, community-based organizations (CBOs), governmental entities, academic institutions, national laboratories, and independent system operators?

CEC Response: Please see the response to Question 1. Each applicant must have a CBO or Native America tribe as project partner. The community or tribal partner must submit a commitment letter outlining its contribution and be properly compensated for its proposed work in an applicant’s budget form.

## In GFO-23-312r2, under Section B.1, “Eligible Applicant,” an electricity generator is listed as an eligible entity. Since Community Choice Aggregators (CCAs) are considered electricity generators, we would like to request clarification from the CEC on whether a CCA qualifies as an eligible applicant.

CEC Response: Yes, CCAs that are electricity generators are eligible entities. However, CCAs that do not fit into one of eligible entity categories must submit an [Eligibility Request Form](https://www.energy.ca.gov/media/9021) and documentation of actual electricity sales from the last 1-2 years that, at minimum, detail the megawatt hour (MWh) sales to request approval from both the CEC and the U.S. Secretary of Energy before the application deadline. For more information, please see the response to [Question 1](#_Who_is_the).

## Are there restrictions or guidelines for the role that CBOs can play in projects?

CEC Response: CBOs are intended to serve as guiding partners for engaging with a project’s intended community. The CBO and/or tribe should be closely partnered with the prime applicant to ensure that the benefits of clean, safe, affordable, and reliable energy are shared by all in the impacted community. The CBO must have an official mission or vision statement that expressly identifies serving disadvantaged and/or low-income communities. Also, the CBO must have experience deploying projects and/or outreach efforts within the proposed community’s region (i.e., air basin or county).

## If a CBO does not contribute funding towards the project, does it still need to receive grant funding?

CEC Response: Yes, at least one CBO and/or tribal partner should be clearly identified and included as a compensated partner in the Budget Forms (Attachment 05) at the time of application. Also, an applicant must provide a commitment letter from a CBO and/or tribal partner outlining its contribution to developing and executing the project’s [Community Engagement Impact Plan](https://www.energy.ca.gov/media/10109) and ensuring that the benefits of clean, safe, affordable, and reliable energy are shared by all impacted communities.

Please note that the Community Engagement Impact Plan deliverable is not required with the CERRI Program application.

## Is a for-profit/small business battery developer an eligible “electricity storage operator” to apply for this solicitation?

CEC Response: An eligible electricity storage operator is an entity that manages and operates energy storage facilities to support the electric grid in California.

The CEC requires more information on what “battery developer” means in the context of this question to determine whether this entity would be eligible. If there is any doubt, please submit an eligibility request by filling out the [Eligibility Request Form](https://www.energy.ca.gov/media/9021) and emailing it with documentation of your MWh sales over the past 1-2 years to the CEC at cerri@energy.ca.gov prior to the application deadline. The CEC and U.S. Secretary of Energy will consider the request for approval.

## Is a startup company with no prior sales, or very limited prior sales, eligible to apply?

CEC Response: No, the Department of Energy (DOE) requires requests to include documentation of the entity’s actual MWh sales over the past 1-2 years to be approved as an eligible entity to apply for CERRI funding.

## If entities wish to partner in an application, what is the largest amount or percentage of an award that a lead entity may subcontract to another entity?

CEC Response: There is no maximum dollar amount or percentage of requested CERRI funds that may be subcontracted to another entity. However, applicants will be evaluated under Scoring Criterion #2, “Project Management,” and projects that demonstrate the applicant’s direct involvement in completing tasks outlined in the Scope of Work (Attachment 03)–beyond solely managing subcontractors—will receive a higher score in this area.

## Are entities that applied and were successful in Round 1 eligible to apply for Round 2?

CEC Response: Yes, entities that were successful in Round 1 are eligible to apply for Round 2. Entities are allowed to submit one application for each funding round.

## If an applicant’s entity has already received approval in a previous round, will they continue to be eligible entities, or will they need to resubmit an Eligibility form?

CEC Response: Approved entities do not need to resubmit an eligibility request to be awarded eligibility for Round 2. Entities will continue to maintain their eligibility for future funding rounds if they were already approved by the CEC and DOE. However, the DOE may request proposed awardees to submit additional documentation verifying MWh sales.

## Projects

## Will certain types of projects be more competitive than others (i.e., more grid hardening - new poles, undergrounding, substation improvements, etc. - vs. grid advancement - i.e., advanced technology, metering, remote monitoring, etc.)?

CEC Response: In accordance with the scoring criteria in Section VIII.F of the Solicitation Manual, all project types will be weighted based on how well the project addresses extreme weather risks to the community’s electric system and the extent to which the project advances California’s energy and resilience goals. There is no weighting preference that is solely based on one type of eligible activity versus another.

## If we are submitting with a technology solution that is still securing all certification requirements, and all certifications would be secured by the time of any award, are we still eligible to submit with this technology? Or must all certifications be secured by the time of application submission?

CEC Response: All technology solutions that fit within the eligible activities list will be considered eligible for funding. However, a project that includes a technology that does not have certifications secured by time of application submission would be considered as having a lower level of project readiness compared to a project with a commercially ready technology, and this may negatively impact Scoring Criteria #1 “Project Merit, Needs, and Goals” and/or #2 “Project Management.”

Applications proposing projects with shorter lead times or demonstrating good progress in their environmental review processes will earn points under Scoring Criterion #2 “Project Management.”

## Are any research and development expenses allowed in the project budget?

CEC Response: Research and development activities are not eligible activities under the CERRI program. They cannot be funded by the CERRI Program or used to satisfy the match requirement.

## Please expand on system adaptive capacity.

CEC Response: The Department of Energy’s Grid Deployment Office defines system adaptive capacity for this program as “the ability of the electrical grid to continue supplying electricity where needed during disruptive events.” Per Bipartisan Infrastructure Law section 40101(a)(1), 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.”

## Do eligible activities that enhance system adaptive capacity include software solutions that coordinate existing Distributed Energy Resources (DER) assets, or must projects include deployment of physical assets?

CEC Response: Proposed projects that include software solutions for coordinating existing DER assets do not need to involve the deployment of physical assets. Examples may include, but are not limited to, dispatchable load flexibility during constrained grid conditions, ability to provide frequency support during power disruptions, and ability to black start during power outages to reduce outage duration and restoration time. In addition to DERs providing system adaptive capacity, monitoring technologies and control technologies are eligible activities that may have a software-heavy focus. According to Section I.B.3 of the Solicitation Manual, under “Eligible Activities,” the use or construction of distributed energy resources (DERs to enhance system adaptive capacity during electrical system outages is considered an eligible activity.

## What is, and what is not, considered infrastructure and subject to Build America Buy America (BABA) requirements?

CEC Response: The Build America, Buy America Act, codified [under Code of Federal Regulations Title 2 Section 184.4 subsection (c),](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-I/part-184/section-184.4) states that “Infrastructure encompasses public infrastructure projects in the United States, which includes, at a minimum, the structures, facilities, and equipment for…

* electrical transmission facilities and systems;
* utilities;
* buildings and real property;
* and structures, facilities, and equipment that generate, transport, and distribute energy...”

The BABA Requirement only applies to articles, materials, and supplies that are consumed in, incorporated into, or permanently affixed to an infrastructure project. As such, it does not apply to tools, equipment, and supplies, such as temporary scaffolding, brought into the construction site and removed at or before the completion of the infrastructure project. Nor does a BABA Requirement apply to equipment and furnishings, such as movable chairs, desks, and portable computer equipment, that are used at or within the finished infrastructure project but are not an integral part of the structure or permanently affixed to the infrastructure project.

## I see that new solar photovoltaic generation is not eligible, but would battery installation with required utility upgrades for an existing solar microgrid (tribal lands) be eligible?

CEC Response: Yes. Upgrades to existing infrastructure, including solar microgrids, are eligible under the CERRI Program.

As per the Section I.B.3 of Solicitation Manual, “Eligible Activities,” the “Use or construction of distributed energy resources for enhancing system adaptive capacity during electrical system outages, including microgrids and battery storage subcomponents,” is an eligible activity. The CERRI Program is designed to enhance the energy reliability or resilience of grid-connected communities; therefore, microgrids must be interconnected to satisfy the requirement of enhancement of system adaptive capacity. The DOE’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.”

## Is establishing a microgrid an eligible activity for CERRI funding?

CEC Response: A microgrid project, including microgrid subcomponents such as battery storage, switchgear components, and inverters, is eligible for CERRI Program funding as long as the project budget excludes new generation (e.g., solar photovoltaics and diesel gensets). The microgrid may have existing generation, but any new generation must be funded independent of the CERRI project scope and cannot be attributed as match funds. The microgrid must be designed for system adaptive capacity (e.g., ability to function during outages and respond to grid needs during disruptions). Peak demand shaving cannot be its sole function, but load flexibility may be a secondary benefit to the primary function of system adaptive capacity. See response to [Question 17](#_I_see_that) for more information on the definition of system adaptive capacity.

Please note that new generation (i.e., solar photovoltaic panels) may be a part of a CERRI project but that it cannot be funded by the CERRI Program or used to satisfy the match requirement associated with the program. Ineligible activities included in a project may be included in application attachments such as the Scope of Work (Attachment 03) but cannot be included in an applicant’s Budget Forms (Attachment 05). Please note that any ineligible activities included in the project and listed on the Scope of Work (Attachment 03) will be subject to all federal funding requirements, including Build America, Buy America (BABA) Act, Davis-Bacon Act, and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance.

## Could you please confirm whether battery storage systems are eligible for funding under this program?

CEC Response: Battery storage can be funded under the CERRI Program if it enhances the electric system’s adaptive capacity during outages. Please see response to [Question 18](#_Is_establishing_a) for more information on system adaptive capacity and eligibility of microgrid components.

## Would Residential Battery Storage project be considered eligible?

CEC Response: Please see response to [Question 19](#_Could_you_please).

## I did not see any specific mention of developing Emergency Operations Plans (EOPs) or disaster preparedness planning. Given the critical nature of these plans in maintaining continuity of operations during emergencies, I wanted to inquire whether this grant would allow the use of funds to hire consulting services to develop a comprehensive EOP.

CEC Response: CERRI Program funds awarded through the GFO-23-312r2 may be used for EOPs or disaster preparedness planning. However, it is important to note that these tasks must be paired with one of the eligible activities specified in the solicitation manual for Round 2 and that funding cannot be solely dedicated to EOPs or disaster preparedness planning. Instead, these plans must be part of and inform a larger project and meet CERRI Program objectives to deploy grid-hardening and grid resilience projects that strengthen and modernize California’s power grid against wildfires, extreme weather, and other natural disasters.

## Can applicants submit a CERRI funding application for a project component that is part of an already awarded contract but not funded by that contract? The contract included a placeholder for the project component that we are considering submitting under this CERRI round. Our question concerns the timing of the contract award. Since the contract was awarded outside the grant's official period, would this affect the eligibility of the component we wish to submit? For context, the work on this component will be performed during the grant period.

CEC Response: If the proposed project component meets the eligibility criteria listed in Section I.B.3 of the solicitation manual ([GFO-23-312r2](https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2025-05/gfo-23-312r2-round-2-community-energy-reliability-and-resilience-investment)) and all related work and CERRI/match expenditures are completed during the agreement term, the timing of the previous contract award will not impact the component’s eligibility for CERRI funding.

If a pre-existing project can clearly demonstrate a need for funding, such as showing that its expansion would not be possible without securing CERRI grant funding or that the timeline for the project’s expansion will be delayed without this funding, it will earn points under Scoring Criterion #1 “Project Merit, Need, and Goals.”

Please note that all activities included within the broader project, including those not funded by the CERRI Program, must comply with the CEC and the DOE Terms and Conditions for the project to be approved by the DOE and awarded funding. This includes adhering to the BABA Act and the Davis-Bacon Act, as well as completing any necessary reviews under the NEPA.

For more information, the CERRI Program Terms and Conditions can be found on the [CERRI Program](https://www.energy.ca.gov/programs-and-topics/programs/community-energy-reliability-and-resilience-investment-cerri-program) webpage.

* [CERRI Federal Subaward Terms and Conditions](https://www.energy.ca.gov/media/9024)
* [CERRI CEC-Specific Subaward Terms and Conditions](https://www.energy.ca.gov/media/9025)
* [CERRI Special Terms and Conditions for Tribes](https://www.energy.ca.gov/media/9503)
* [CERRI Bankruptcy Terms and Conditions](https://www.energy.ca.gov/media/10963)
1. The CERRI solicitation manual states that funding is not available for “construction of new transmission lines,” but what if a substation is being built as a replacement to an existing facility that improves grid resiliency?

CEC Response: As determined by the IIJA Section 40101(d) bill language, the CERRI Program can fund the construction of replacement substations to improve grid resiliency. However, the CERRI Program cannot fund new infrastructure or expansions of the electric system.

1. Can an application include the cost of transformers in its budget?

CEC Response: Applicants may include transformers in their budgets to support eligible activities planned for their proposed projects. Transformers can be funded through this solicitation with CERRI funding or counted as match funds.

Please note that all purchases and activities included within the project must comply with the CEC and the DOE Terms and Conditions for the project to be approved by the DOE and awarded funding. This includes adhering to the eligible activities requirement, BABA Act, and Davis-Bacon Act, as well as completing any necessary reviews under the NEPA.

For more information on Terms and Conditions, please see the response to [Question 22](#_Can_applicants_submit).

# Funding

## Is the funding for the CERRI Program secured? Or can it be affected by the potential Federal and State budget cuts? Especially given the fact that the funds are coming from the IIJA.

CEC Response: Current guidance is that Years 1-3 funding, which has been awarded and has signed contracts in place, should be secure. The CEC intends to apply for Years 4 & 5 funding if it becomes available. The CEC does not have additional information beyond what has been publicly released at this time on the impact of funds coming from IIJA and the legislative budget under development. We will send email notices and updates on the program and status of funding once we receive further information.

*Funding for all proposed projects from this solicitation is contingent upon approval by the DOE, approval by the CEC during a publicly noticed CEC business meeting, and the execution of a grant agreement.*

## There is a requirement that sets a maximum spending limit to qualify for the grant. If our qualifying sub-project is part of a larger project that exceeds that limit, would we still be eligible? Or would we need to separate the sub-project to meet the criteria and apply?

CEC Response: The total cost of the larger project will not impact the eligibility of the sub-project for CERRI funding, provided that the applicant submits the sub-project separately. Only the eligible activities related to the sub-project should be clearly listed and defined in an application’s Scope of Work (Attachment 03) and Budget Forms (Attachment 05).

For clarification, the Maximum Award listed under “Funding,” Section I.C of the Solicitation Manual, is the maximum amount of CERRI funding an applicant can request for its project in a funding round. This corresponds to the Grand Total Energy Commission Reimbursable Share as listed in an application’s Budget Forms (Attachment 05).

## Are there restrictions on activities that can be considered as match?

CEC Response: CERRI and match funding may only be used for the eligible activities listed in Section I.B.3 of the Solicitation Manual. Activities outside of this list will not be eligible for CERRI or match funding.

## Can the match be from prior years ea. 2023/2024, or does it need to be for the term of the agreement?

CEC Response: No CERRI or match funds can be spent before the grant agreement, with a limited exception of the use of match funds for permitting and environmental review after the CEC posts the Notice of Letter of Intent to fund. Other sources of federal funding (e.g., Federal Emergency Management Agency funding) and state funding (e.g., Electric Program Investment Charge funding) cannot be used as match funding. The intent of this program is to fund projects that would not otherwise occur without grant funding.

## Are there any updates regarding the status of Round 2 of the CERRI Program, given the announcement of its delay. Additionally, the Round 1 awardees were announced - please confirm whether this award is secure or if there is any risk to its status?

CEC Response: The CEC temporarily paused its release of Round 2 funding while awaiting further guidance from the DOE. Communication with the DOE has since resumed, and the program remains operational. For more information, please see the response to [Question 25](#_Is_this_funding).

Based on the results of the CERRI Round 1 solicitation, which can be accessed [here](https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-03/gfo-23-312-community-energy-reliability-and-resilience-investment-cerri), four proposals were recommended for awards and received Letters of Intent from CEC to provide funding pending federal approval of the project. Two Round 1 applicants selected and recommended for funding by the CEC have since received project approval by DOE’s Grid Deployment Office for a federal award. The CERRI team is awaiting federal approval of two more projects. Once approved by the DOE, the projects then move on to the Notice of Proposed Award phase.

Funding of all proposed projects from this solicitation is contingent upon approval at a publicly noticed CEC business meeting and execution of a grant agreement. If the CEC is unable to timely negotiate and execute a funding agreement with an applicant, the CEC, at its sole discretion, reserves the right to cancel or modify the pending award and award the funds to another applicant.

# Application Requirements

## Will applicants be required to provide vendor quotes with their applications even if the project has not yet been bid out?

CEC Response: Vendor quotes are required for equipment purchases over $50,000 (and cumulative purchases exceeding that, even if the unit cost is lower) and project-related work with a total cost of $250,000 or more. This may include but is not limited to quotes for box connections, cable, conduit, fittings, protectors, transformers, and “various” budget items. The CEC requires these items with the initial application package for several reasons, including justification of costs and assurance that the project is largely shovel-ready and can be deployed within the required project and funding timeline. Vendor quotes are also required by the DOE for federal project review and approval.

Applicants are not required to use the vendors from which they solicited quotes for their applications. The applications must include quotes to justify budget expenses, but awardees may ultimately choose to use separate vendors or equipment suppliers after the project has been awarded. If an applicant cannot obtain current vendor quotes for the projects, they may submit historical vendor quotes, obtained within the past 3 years, for budget items as placeholders while waiting for updated quotes.

## Do Davis-Bacon requirements apply to workforce development trainees who may contribute labor to physical projects as part of their hands-on training?

CEC Response: Yes, Davis-Bacon Act requirements apply to workforce development trainees who contribute labor and perform construction, alteration, or repair on projects funded by the CERRI Program.

## Can you confirm how you are calculating match, specifically on large entity projects where it is 115%. Is that of total project costs?

CEC Response: To determine the match requirement for projects under Group 1: Large Entities, take the total amount of CERRI funds requested (listed as the Energy Commission Reimbursable Share in Budget Forms Attachment 05), and multiply it by the required match percentage of 1.15. For example, a Group 1 applicant requesting $20M in CERRI funding will need to provide $23M in match funding.

Conversely, to calculate the match share percentage an application is committing to a project, take the match share amount listed in the application’s Budget Forms (Attachment 05), and divide it by the total amount of CERRI funds requested. Then, multiply the result by 100 to obtain the final match percentage. For example, if a Group 1 applicant plans to provide $25M in match funding and is requesting $20M in CERRI funding, then the applicant is proposing 125% match.

Match can include cash or in-kind contributions provided by the applicant, subcontractor, or other entities contributing to the project. Applicants are required to list their match share in the Budget Forms (Attachment 05) and provide corresponding commitment letters with their applications. Even if match funding is provided by the applicant directly, it must be documented in a commitment letter and the proposed project budget. Match funding commitment letters must clearly outline the source of funds, provide a justification for the amount (including any in-kind contributions), assure the availability of these funds, and present a strategy for replacing any lost funds. Commitment letters submitted after the application deadline will not be considered during scoring.

# Other

## Where can we find the recording for the Pre-Application Workshop for the Round 2 grant funding opportunity (GFO-23-312r2) presentation?

CEC Response: The presentation recording and slides are posted on the event webpage (<https://www.energy.ca.gov/event/funding-workshop/2025-05/pre-application-workshop-gfo-23-312r2-round-2-community-energy>) and linked on the CERRI Program webpage (<https://www.energy.ca.gov/programs-and-topics/programs/community-energy-reliability-and-resilience-investment-cerri-program>). The slides were also posted to the CERRI Program docket (22-ERDD-01) here: <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=22-ERDD-01>.

## Can you send a list of participants in the recent workshop on the CERRI Program?

CEC Response: The CEC no longer posts attendee lists online. To request the attendee list, please submit a Public Records Act request. For more information, visit <https://www.energy.ca.gov/contact/public-records-act-requests>.

If you are looking to find a project partner, we encourage you to join Empower Innovation, an online platform created by the CEC for the cleantech community. This platform offers networking opportunities for individuals and organizations exploring funding options. The “Find a Partner” feature allows you to express your interest in specific funding opportunities and view other participants who are also looking for potential partners. The Empower Innovation webpage for the second round of CERRI Program grant funding is available here: <https://www.empowerinnovation.net/en/custom/funding/view/47088>.

## Where can we find projects that were funded in the previous wave/round? Are they good projects to look to for guidance?

CEC Response: The CERRI Program released its first funding round (Round 1) under the [solicitation GFO-23-312](https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-03/gfo-23-312-community-energy-reliability-and-resilience-investment-cerri) on March 28, 2024. On December 12, 2024, the CEC announced its intent to fund four projects under Round 1 in a Notice of Letters of Intent. A Notice of Proposed Awards for each DOE-approved project will be released on the CERRI Round 1 solicitation webpage with the final grant funding and match funding amounts. During the CEC business meeting, presentations will provide an overview of each Round 1 project proposed for an award. Project Scopes of Work will be included in the CEC Business Meeting materials. Once the grant awards are approved and executed at a CEC business meeting, the public will gain access to supporting documentation for each project, including the Budget and Project Schedule.

The projects selected in Round 1 were chosen because they met all program requirements and received the highest scores based on the established evaluation criteria. While these projects can serve as helpful examples for potential applicants, we strongly recommend reviewing the Application Manual and aligning proposals with the scoring criteria, as these remain the most reliable guides for developing a competitive application.

## For the eligibility request form, will any of the approvals be made public, or will they be handled privately with each entity?

CEC Response: CEC will notify entities about the status of their eligibility requests in private through email. However, this information is accessible to the public through a [Public Records Act Request](https://www.energy.ca.gov/contact/public-records-act-requests).

## Is the posted eligibility request form up to date? I ask because it appears to have last been updated in November 2023.

CEC Response: The Eligibility Request Form (<https://www.energy.ca.gov/media/9021>) has been updated. Any future changes or updates to the form will be uploaded to the linked website. Older versions of the form will also be accepted for review.

## What are the next steps to initiate an application?

CEC Response: Applicants can submit their applications for the solicitation, GFO-23-312r2, through the Energy Commission Agreement Management System (ECAMS) website at <https://ecams.energy.ca.gov>. For more information about application and project requirements, including formatting and page limit details, please review the solicitation manual, posted at <https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2025-05/gfo-23-312r2-round-2-community-energy-reliability-and-resilience-investment>.

For instructions on how to apply using the ECAMS system, please see the How to Apply document available on the CEC website at <https://www.energy.ca.gov/funding-opportunities/funding-resources>, under General Funding Information, Energy Commission Agreement Management System (ECAMS). First time users must register as a new user to access the system. There will be two types of user accounts to establish: 1) an organizational account for the entity applying to the solicitation; and 2) user accounts for individuals who will be submitting the application on behalf of the organization. For questions related to the submission of applications in the ECAMS system, please contact ECAMS.SalesforceSupport@energy.ca.gov.

Additionally, for the CERRI Program’s second round of funding, CEC staff will be providing ‘soft’ technical assistance to eligible entities with the following tasks:

* + Reviewing application attachments for completeness and compliance with DOE and CEC project requirements.
	+ Reviewing the eligibility of proposed project activities.
	+ Providing clarification on whether proposed costs can be funded by CERRI Program or match funds.
	+ Assisting applicants in identifying the necessary federal forms, waivers, and documents to submit with their applications for DOE review.

To request technical assistance during the application phase, please contact CERRI@energy.ca.gov with the name of a primary contact and a brief description of the specific assistance you need. Technical assistance requests will be answered based on a first-come, first-served basis. The due date for technical assistance requests is August 1, 2025. We encourage applicants to submit requests early to give us enough time to accommodate them. If CEC staff cannot provide the requested assistance, we will indicate this in an email response.