

Illinois Finance Authority/Climate Bank

RFI

(Request For Information Only)

40101(d) Federal Formula Grant Funding: Preventing Outages and Enhancing the Resilience of the Electric Grid

Issued: February 1, 2024

Responses Due by: February 16, 2024 by 5 PM CDT

Illinois Finance Authority (IFA), in its capacity as the Illinois Climate Bank (CB), invites public comment on this request for information (RFI) regarding Illinois' administration of funding awarded under the 40101(d) Federal Formula Grant: Preventing Outages and Enhancing the Resilience of the Electric Grid.

This RFI is issued solely **for information and planning purposes only** and **does not constitute a Request for Proposal**.

All costs associated with responding to this RFI are the responder's expense.

Submit your responses by email to the Illinois Finance Authority at federalfunding@il-fa.com by the indicated deadline, indicating "RFI 40101(d)" in the subject line of the email.

Any information obtained in response to this RFI may be used by the State for program planning on a non-attribution basis. The State may publicly post a summary of the comments received.

Table of Contents

I.	RFI PURPOSE	3
II.	RFI RESPONSE	4
A.	GENERAL REQUIREMENTS	4
B.	RFI QUESTIONS	4
III.	BACKGROUND	6
A.	FUNDING OBJECTIVES	6
1.	Illinois 40101(d) Overall Objectives	6
2.	Subaward Objectives	7
B.	ELIGIBILITY	11
1.	Priority Projects	11
2.	Project Location	11
3.	Eligible Entities	12
4.	Eligible Activities	13
C.	FUNDING	14
1.	Funding Distribution	14
2.	Project Selection Prioritization	14
3.	Cost Match	15
D.	PROPOSED APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS	15

I. RFI Purpose

RFI Purpose: Illinois Finance Authority (IFA), in its capacity as the Illinois Climate Bank (CB), invites public comment on this request for information (RFI) regarding Illinois' administration of funding awarded under the 40101(d) Federal Formula Grant: Preventing Outages and Enhancing the Resilience of the Electric Grid. With this RFI, IFA/CB intends to collect information and feedback from the entities who are interested in applying for funding under this program or in providing feedback on program administration and design.

This RFI is issued solely **for information and planning purposes only** and **does not constitute a Request for Proposal**. This RFI is not seeking proposals and IFA/CB will not accept unsolicited proposals. This RFI does not solicit and will not commit the State or IFA/CB to any contracts for any supplies or services or any grant or funding awards. All costs associated with responding to this RFI are at the responder's expense.

Submission instructions: Please submit your responses by email to the Illinois Finance Authority at federal_funding@il-fa.com by the indicated deadline. Please include "RFI 40101(d)" in the subject line of the email. The responses shall not exceed twenty (20) total pages in length in Microsoft Word (.docx) or PDF, as an attachment to the email. Email submission is the only acceptable method of delivery. Fax, mail, and courier delivery shall not be accepted. Responses misdirected or otherwise received late, or corrupted files, may not be reviewed.

Proprietary information: Any information obtained in response to this RFI may be used by the State for program planning on a non-attribution basis. All submission materials become State property and will not be returned. The State will accept requests from any interested party to keep the information in its submission confidential and will agree to confidentiality, if reasonable, in accordance with State and federal laws and regulations. Any material within a response to this RFI identified as confidential must be clearly marked and will be handled in accordance with applicable rules and regulations. Any response marked as confidential or proprietary in its entirety may be rejected without further consideration or recourse. The State may publicly post a summary of the comments received.

II. RFI Response

A. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Responders to this RFI should provide the following information:

- a) Responder's info:**
 - i) Responder's name, entity name and type, contact information (phone number, email address, contact person, if an entity).
 - ii) A brief description of the responder's background and any relevant experience, including with similar projects and/or working with other states awards.
- b) Potential projects:**
 - i) Responders that are interested in applying for funding under this Program under future RFPs, are invited to provide overview of their anticipated application and general approach/methodology to achieving indicated objectives, as well as their ability to track the indicated metrics.
- c) Response to RFI Questions:**
 - i) Responders are invited to provide their answers to the questions listed below.
- d) Feedback on Proposed RFP requirements:**
 - i) Responders are invited to provide their feedback on the proposed RFP application requirements listed in section **III.D** of this RFI.

B. RFI QUESTIONS

Future RFP Content:

- 1) What other information about a proposed project should be requested in the upcoming RFP in addition to the requirements listed in section **III.D** of this RFI? Is there anything missing that would help the most beneficial and aligned projects to get selected?
- 2) Please describe any best practices garnered from previous experience with a similar scope of work or funding programs.
- 3) Are there any other requirements that would enable achievement of the Funding Objectives that IFA/CB should consider?
- 4) What costs should be funded as part of the planning and design stage of a project?

Future RFP Evaluation:

- 5) The State will develop a scoring rubric for scoring project submissions. How should the agency consider and prioritize applications through the weighting of different categories?
- 6) Are there any other criteria that the State should consider?
- 7) What types of projects should be prioritized in this first round of funding?
- 8) How should the state track compliance of the projects that are awarded funding against the highlighted metrics and objectives.

Process:

- 9) Are there any barriers you or other entities may face to filing an application?
 - a. If Yes, are there ways for the State to help overcome those barriers?
 - b. Do you require any technical assistance, accommodation or education/training to file an application?

III. Background

A. FUNDING OBJECTIVES

1. Illinois 40101(d) Overall Objectives

In September 2023, Illinois was announced as one of the recipients of an award in the [Grid Resilience State and Tribal Formula Grants Program](#) under the [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#). The U.S. Department of Energy awarded \$16,063,450 to the State of Illinois for the first two years of the five-year program.

The award is designed to strengthen and modernize Illinois' power grid and to provide a reliable power infrastructure to all communities to have access to affordable, reliable, and clean electricity, focusing on the following:

- Reliability and resiliency improvements in Equity Investment Eligible Communities (EIECs)¹ and federally designated Justice40 Disadvantaged Communities (DACs) that align with potential climate change impacts.
- Grid investments that support environmental objectives such as reducing emissions and leveraging nature-based solutions.
- Cost-saving measures that prioritize low- and moderate-income residents to lower their energy burden.
- Supporting equity through building awareness in frontline communities, increasing access and opportunities for residents and businesses in EIECs and DACs, and supporting communities and small utilities in planning and investing in resiliency.
- Ensuring safe operations and supporting the preparation of the workforce for emerging technology opportunities.

State awards are based on a formula that includes factors such as population size, land area, probability and severity of disruptive events, and a locality's historical expenditures on mitigation efforts.

¹ CEJA's "Equity Investment Eligible Communities," include (i) R3 Areas, where residents have historically been excluded from economic opportunities, including opportunities in the energy sector; and (ii) environmental justice communities, as defined by the Illinois Power Agency Act (20 ILCS 3855), where residents have historically been subject to disproportionate burdens of pollution, including pollution from the energy sector. R3 grants fund programs in Illinois communities that have been harmed by violence, excessive incarceration, and economic disinvestment. The communities that are eligible for R3 funding were identified, in part, by their rates of gun injuries, child poverty, unemployment and incarceration. See [R3.illinois.gov](https://www.r3.illinois.gov).

2. Subaward Objectives

Under the administration of the Illinois Finance Authority/Climate Bank (IFA/CB), Illinois will hold a competitive selection process to identify projects for which the \$16 million in federal funding will be deployed to improve grid resiliency to disruptive events pursuant to Section 40101(d). The funding will support projects that support five core state objectives: **Resilience, Environment, Equity, Affordability, Safety** and **Workforce**. The set of metrics and strategies described below will be used to effectively track whether investments achieve State goals.

Illinois' investment decisions in selecting projects under this program are guided by the "Climate and Equitable Jobs Act" (CEJA) and the stakeholder input received in the process of developing application for this funding opportunity. CEJA establishes and addresses several Illinois energy policy goals and prioritizes investments for communities that closely align with the disadvantaged communities as set forth in the Federal Justice40 Initiative.

To determine the objectives and metrics, criteria, and methods for this Program, the IFA/CB gathered stakeholder feedback in Winter and Spring 2023 through a stakeholder engagement process that engaged more than 120 different entities, including community-based organizations, local governments, utilities, advocacy organizations, organized labor, consumer advocates, business groups, and minority contractors. The IFA/CB worked with stakeholders to first identify state resiliency, environmental, affordability, equity, safety, and workforce goals from CEJA and other state policies, then establish core objectives and metrics for near-term action. Based on the objectives identified, the IFA/CB worked with stakeholders to develop criteria for project selection to identify projects most likely to meet the objectives. These objectives were further developed in line with the Illinois State Energy Office's State Energy Security Plan ("SESP") that addresses potential hazards to each energy sector or system, including physical and cyber threats/vulnerabilities.

After all Year 1 and Year 2 grants are selected, IFA/CB will assess effectiveness of objectives highlighted here, prior to soliciting any Year 3 grants. Specifically, the State will assess whether the objectives established under this Program have resulted in projects that generate the greatest community benefit in reducing the likelihood and consequences of disruptive events and will assess that such benefit is accurately reflected by collected metrics.

RESILIENCE

Objective: improved reliability and resiliency in EIECs and DACs, and on improving community resilience for those least able to respond to disruptions.

Intended Outcomes: Reduced frequency, duration, and impact of outages for Illinois most vulnerable residents, businesses, and critical services:

1. Reduced frequency and duration of outages in EIECs and DACs.
2. Improved community resilience for those least able to respond to disruptions.
3. Aligned resilience planning with future climate risks.

Metrics: The IFA/CB will work with grant recipients and participating utilities to track resilience objectives through the following metrics, identifying impacts specifically for EIECs and DACs:

1. System Average Interruption Duration Index (“SAIDI”): during a calendar year for the census tracts impacted by the investment measured against a baseline SAIDI for the census tract, as well as the SAIDI for the utility service area as a whole.
2. System Average Interruption Frequency Index (“SAIFI”) during a calendar year for the census tracts impacted by the investment measured against a baseline SAIFI for the census tract, as well as the SAIFI for the utility service area as a whole.
3. Customers Experiencing Long Interruption Durations (CELID) during a calendar year for the census tracts impacted by the investment measured against a baseline average CELID for the census tract, as well as the CELID for the utility service area as a whole.
4. Customers Experiencing Multiple Interruptions (CEMI) during a calendar year for the census tracts impacted by the investment measured against a baseline average CEMI for the census tract, as well as the CEMI for the utility service area as a whole.

These metrics will be measured using the same measurement methodology as the utility performance metrics adopted by the Illinois Commerce Commission and authorized under CEJA. The IFA/CB will work with the Illinois utilities to obtain resiliency metric data at a census tract level, to identify the impact of the Program on Illinois’ EIECs and DACs. IFA/CB will work with smaller utilities to collect similar information if they lack the ability to collect the data at a census tract level.

ENVIRONMENT

Objective: Ensure grid resilience investments support and do not detract from CEJA’s environmental objectives and allow for the improved integration of distributed energy resources on the grid to provide additional resiliency benefits.

Intended Outcomes: Reduced greenhouse gas emissions, pollutants impacting public health, fuel costs, and energy burden in Illinois (particularly in disadvantaged communities):

1. Enhanced environmental quality and public health by reduced emissions of GhG, NOx, SOx, and PM.²
2. Increased rate of installation and integration of renewable energy resources.
3. Leveraged nature-based solutions and native tree planting.

Metrics: Benefits will be tracked, to the extent practicable, by census tract to allow for data aggregation by EIECs and DACs in the following categories:

- Metric tons of GHG emissions reduced by project investments.
- Metric tons of NOx, SOx, PM reduced by project investments.

² Greenhouse Gas (GhG), Nitric Oxide and Nitrogen Dioxide (NOx), Sulfure Oxide (SOx) and Particulate Matter (PM)

- Megawatts (“MW”) of renewable energy capacity added to the Illinois electric grid as a result of the project.
- Megawatts (“MW”) of energy storage capacity installed on the Illinois electric grid.
- Reduction in peak energy load periods in MW per calendar year for the applicable Regional Transmission Organization service areas due to demand side management actions undertaken from the project.

IFA/CB will work with funding recipients and participating utilities to track emissions reductions and renewable energy integration data for these metrics related to their projects.

EQUITY

Objective: bring the benefits of grid modernization and clean energy, including, deployment of distributed energy resources, to all retail customers, and support efforts to bring at least 40% of the benefits of those benefits to EIECs and DACs.

Intended Outcomes:

1. Increased access and opportunities for residents and businesses in EIECs and DACs.
2. Increased diverse contractor/subcontractor participation in professional services, subcontracting, and prime contracting opportunities.
3. Aligned demographics of contractors/subcontractors to the demographics of the state.
4. Increased awareness and trust in the energy system in frontline communities.
5. Support communities and small utilities that lack the capacity to plan for and invest in resiliency.

The State of Illinois will leverage the new designations of Equity Eligible Persons and Equity Eligible Contractors, as well as create linkages to persons that have participated or are participating in CEJA workforce and contractor programs.

Metrics: The IFA/CB will work with grant recipients and participating utilities to gain estimates and impacts on the extent to which the project is achieving its Justice40 goals through the following metrics:

1. Total project dollar value and percentage of grant funds spent to benefit EIECs and DACs.
2. Number, dollar value and percentage of total diversity-certified spending in a calendar year for the project.
3. Number, dollar value and percentage of total spending on Equity Eligible Contractors³ / Persons⁴ in a calendar year for the project.

³ “Equity Eligible Contractor” means a business that is majority-owned by Eligible Persons, or a nonprofit or cooperative that is majority-governed by Eligible Persons or is a natural person that is an Eligible Person offering personal services as an independent contractor.

⁴ “Eligible Persons” include: (i) persons who graduate from or are current or former participants in the Illinois Clean Jobs Workforce Network Program, the Illinois Clean Energy Contractor Incubator Program, the Illinois Climate Works Pre-apprenticeship Program, the Illinois Returning Residents Clean Jobs Training Program, or the

4. Number of new Equity Eligible Contractors < 1 yr old participating on a project.

AFFORDABILITY

Objective: Affordability of electric delivery services for all customers, including low-income customers and prioritize cost-savings measures for low- and moderate-income residents to help lower their energy burden.

Intended Outcomes: Reduced energy bills and energy burden for EIECs and DACs:

1. Reduced energy burden for low- and moderate-income residents.
2. Ensure low- and moderate-income and disadvantaged communities are not left behind in the clean energy transition.
3. Support communities in making long-term affordable energy decisions.
4. Reduced costs for public entities that pass-through costs to taxpayers & users.

Metrics: The IFA/CB will work with grant recipients and participating utilities to gain estimates and impacts on the affordability of the energy system through the following metrics:

1. Reduction in energy burden for participating or impacted customers, measured as a total energy cost as a percentage of income.
2. Reduction in long-term costs to electric utility or impacted customers over the life of the investments.
3. Reduction in public costs to utilities and public agencies for outage response and recovery, based on projections of outage operational and capital investment needs.

SAFETY AND WORKFORCE

Objective: Have a well-trained workforce to ensure safe operation of the energy stem; maintain and grow a diverse workforce, diverse supplier procurement base and diverse approved-vendor pools, including increased opportunities for minority-owned, female-owned, veteran-owned, and disability-owned business enterprises; consider health & safety challenges in existing buildings that impact the ability of residents of EIECs and DACs to both withstand the shocks and stresses of climate-related extreme weather events and to make the necessary investments to overcome them.

Intended Outcomes:

1. Ensure the safe operation of the energy system.

Illinois Clean Energy Primes Contractor Accelerator Program, and the solar training pipeline and multi-cultural jobs program created by Illinois Public Act 102-0662; (ii) persons who are graduates of or currently enrolled in the foster care system; (iii) persons who were formerly incarcerated; and (iv) persons whose primary residence is in an Equity Investment Eligible Community.

2. Prepare the workforce for emerging technology opportunities.
3. Address health & safety challenges in existing buildings that impact resilience.

Metrics: The IFA/CB will work with grant recipients and participating utilities to track workforce, training, and safety objectives through the following metrics:

1. Jobs created, based on a Full-time equivalent for the period of project performance.
2. Number of graduates of training programs participating in projects.
3. Number of homes and residents, supported through residential resiliency investments.
4. Reduction in # of wires down events, compared to a baseline, for an electric utility in the project area.

B. ELIGIBILITY

Per the US DOE minimum requirements, projects must meet the following requirements:

1. Priority Projects

Through the stakeholder process and the public hearing, the State considered both (a) the amount of funds available under this program in comparison to typical project costs, (b) what projects would be most cost effective, and (c) which targeted solutions could best meet the objectives and metrics of the program. Ultimately, the State finds projects that include one or more of the following project types to be most advantageous:

- a. **Community Resilience Hubs.** Resilience investments to support ensuring reliable power for community gathering places that can provide life-essential or other support services to communities during extreme weather and grid-related events.
- b. **Critical Facility Microgrids.** Resilience investments to support ensuring reliable power for essential public services that serve large populations that would pose risks to public health & safety if they lost power for extended durations.
- c. **Emergency Equipment Share.** Support for the efforts of small municipal and co-op utilities to prepare for and quickly recover from storms by creating a hub of easy-to-access essential equipment that otherwise has long lead times.
- d. **Community-Driven Initiatives.** Comprehensive efforts that address resilience needs of a community, that is driven by local community planning efforts. This could include seed funding for early-stage planning.
- e. **Replicable Innovative Pilots.** New technology or implementation approaches that address grid resilience needs in new ways that would benefit from the deployment of replicable pilot projects and knowledge-sharing.

2. Project Location

The State of Illinois will prioritize projects that create a substantial benefit to EIECs and DACs within the state. In CEJA, the State of Illinois created a new designation of Equity Investment Eligible Communities (EIECs), defined at the census tract level, and which include the following:

- i. R3 Areas as established where residents have historically been excluded from economic opportunities and by their rates of child poverty, unemployment, gun injuries, and incarceration, among other factors; and
- ii. Environmental Justice communities, as defined by the Illinois Power Agency Act (20 ILCS 3855), where residents have historically been subject to disproportionate burdens of pollution, including pollution from the energy sector).

Further, the State is using the White House Council on Environmental Quality’s Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST) to identify and track DACs.

For the purposes of this program, the projects must demonstrate a benefit to either a state designated EIEC or a federally designated DAC, using CEJST. Both communities are designated at the census tract level and can be seen in Figure 1 below. While investments need not be located within a census tract(s) to create benefits for the identified census tract(s), projects claiming to benefit EIEC or DAC communities, as identified here, must demonstrate substantial and meaningful benefits to such communities.

Figure 1. Map of EIECs and DACs in Illinois



3. Eligible Entities

“Eligible Entities” for subawards under this funding, pursuant to BIL Sec. 40101(d), include:

- An electric grid operator,
- An electricity storage operator,
- An electricity generator,

- A transmission owner or operator,
- A distribution provider,
- A fuel supplier, and
- Other relevant entity, as may be determined by the Secretary of Energy.

State of Illinois has requested in its application and is working with the Secretary of Energy to approve the following additional eligible recipients:

- Non-profit organizations
- Units of local government
- Critical facilities

4. Eligible Activities

Eligible: Subawards to eligible entities under this award can be used for activities, technologies, equipment, and hardening measures to reduce the likelihood and consequences of disruptive events, including:

- A. weatherization technologies and equipment
- B. fire-resistant technologies and fire prevention systems
- C. monitoring and control technologies
- D. the undergrounding of electrical equipment
- E. utility pole management
- F. the relocation of power lines or the reconductoring of power lines with low-sag, advanced conductors
- G. vegetation and fuel-load management
- H. the use or construction of distributed energy resources for enhancing system adaptive capacity during disruptive events, including:
 - a. microgrids; and
 - b. battery-storage subcomponents
- I. adaptive protection technologies
- J. advanced modeling technologies
- K. hardening of power lines, facilities, substations, of other systems; and
- L. the replacement of old overhead conductors and underground cables, and
- M. other measures as determined or approved by DOE.

Non-eligible: A subaward to an eligible entity under this grant program **may not** be used for:

- A. construction of a
 - a. new electric generating facility or
 - b. large-scale battery-storage facility that is not used for enhancing system adaptive capacity during disruptive events, or
- B. cybersecurity.

C. FUNDING

1. Funding Distribution

The target funding distribution for the first two years of the program is as follows:

Table 1. Funding Distribution

	FY1	FY2
Federal Funding	\$8,048,285	\$8,015,165
State Match (to be provided by projects)	\$1,207,243	\$1,202,275
Total Budget	\$9,255,528	\$9,217,440
Minimum Set-Aside for Small Utilities (Federal Funding)	\$907,042	\$903,309

Per the requirements of the Program, 11.27% of the program budget will be set as the minimum available for small utilities. This would set a maximum limit of grants to eligible entities that sell more than 4,000,000 megawatt hours of electricity per year at 88.73% of the total program budget. Eligible entities that sell not more than 4,000,000 megawatt hours of electricity per year are not limited to 11.27% of the overall budget. Grant funds distributed to eligible entities that do not have sales of electricity would qualify toward the overall required set-aside. The ultimate allocations may differ from the target allocations in the table above, based on the finalized amounts of awarded projects.

2. Project Selection Prioritization

To ensure that funding is allocated in accordance with the stated objectives, IFA/CB will follow the following matrix in selecting projects:

1. First, IFA/CB will select projects from Small Utilities that invest in EIECs and DACs;
2. Then IFA/CB will select projects from other Small Utilities.
3. Next, IFA/CB will select projects from eligible entities that invest in EIECs and DACs.
4. Finally, IFA/CB will evaluate projects that are not specifically designed to benefit EIECs and DACs.

If the Small Utility portion of funding is exhausted and there are additional qualified projects proposed by Small Utilities, Illinois will consider funding projects from such applicants along with the remaining funding allocated to Large Providers. This approach will provide the greatest likelihood that the percentage of Illinois funding made available to eligible entities who sell not more than 4,000,000 MWh of electricity per year will not be less than the percentage of all customers in the State that are served by those same eligible entities.

Should the initial process fail to result in awards of all funds from the small provider portion, Illinois may conduct one or more subsequent competitive bids with the aim of providing a percentage of funding to Small Providers that is not less than the percentage of all customers in the State or Indian Tribes that are served by those eligible entities.

3. Cost Match

If the applicant sells more than 4,000,000 megawatt-hours (“MWh”) per year, the applicant will have to commit to match 115% of all Federal funds received for the project.

If the applicant sells not more than 4,000,000 MWh, the applicant will commit to match one-third + 15% of all Federal funds received for the project.

D. PROPOSED APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Successful applicants eventually selected for funding under this Program will be subject to the applicable requirements of Administrative and Legal Requirements Document (ALRD) for DE-FOA-0002736 (DE-FOA/ALRD-0002736), available [here](#), unless otherwise noted. When applying for subawards under this Program, applicants must be able to provide information required in the ALRD as applicable to the recipients of the funding.

If an application process is opened, the State anticipates requiring entities that are interested in applying for funding to provide the following information about a potential project that they intend to submit.

Proposed future application requirements for projects:

1. **Project executive summary** (no more than 1 page).
2. **Project participants** (no more than 1 page): Please describe each entity involved in the proposed project within the categories of “eligible entity” as described above. Indicate if any entity falls into the following categories: small utility, entity located in or serving EIEC or DAC, Eligible Person, Equity Eligible Contractor.
3. **Project location and Community Benefit(s)** (up to 2 pages, excluding attachments): Indicate the location of the project, including whether it is in the EIEC or DAC, and what communities benefit from the project and how, including any quantifiable results based on the metrics listed above. Additionally, the applicant shall provide a description and quantitative data on the frequency and duration of current disruptive events, anticipated reduction in the frequency and duration of such events, number of customers currently affected by such disruptive events, anticipated number of customers benefiting from such reduction in the frequency and duration of such events, and anticipated number of customers in the same census tract as those customers benefiting. Applicants are encouraged to share maps, spreadsheets, or other detailed data to support their narrative.
4. **Funding Objectives** (up to 1 page): Describe in detail how the proposed project meets any or all of the Objectives outlined above, and the applicant’s ability to demonstrate compliance with the highlighted metrics as well as demonstrate benefits to the EIEC and DAC communities.
5. **Project timeline** (Up to 1/2 page): Provide a detailed timeline of the project.
6. **Project costs breakdown** (complete a template): Applicants will be requested to provide a cost breakdown of the project, including:
 1. Breakdown of the total funding requested of IFA/CB, and total matching funds brought by the applicant (indicate source and type of the matching funds, e.g. fees or rates

- charged to customers, shareholder funds, cash or in-kind contributions of any kind, etc.);
2. Project cost breakdown by the following categories: design and engineering; land and land rights acquisition; equipment; interconnection; permitting; construction; financing; legal, consulting and insurance; ongoing operations and maintenance; measurement and verification; labor and employment; other costs. For each of the cost categories listed above, include the total cost for each category, how much is being requested of IFA/CB vs matching funds in each cost category; and
 3. Please note that all expenditures must be allowable, allocatable, and reasonable in accordance with the applicable federal cost principles.⁵
7. **Cost/benefit analysis** (Up to 1 page): Provide project's cost-benefit analysis, describing the intended outcomes from each of the project cost categories and project key components/stages where the benefit is readily quantifiable (e.g., the number of local jobs created, added storage capacity, other direct grid benefits).
 8. **Project ownership structure** (Up to 1 page): Describe the ownership structure of the proposed project, identify each entity involved in the project and their roles and ownership of the project elements, describe each entity's contribution to the project matching funds. Explain how the operations and maintenance of the project will be supported after the funding cycle ends, who will be responsible for it and how it will be funded.
 9. **Experience** (Up to 1 page): Please describe managerial, operational and financial experience of each entity involved in the project and describe qualifications of their teams.
 10. **Performance measurement** (Up to 1 page): Applicants will be requested to complete an attachment identifying which metrics (as described in the project overview) the applicant believes apply to the project.
 11. **Funding Compliance Requirements.** In responding to the request for projects, applicants will be requested to acknowledge that they are aware of the following compliance requirements related to this US Department of Energy subaward:
 1. **Labor Standards and Workforce**⁶. The project will use strong labor standards and protections (including for direct employees, contractors, and sub-contractors), such as through the use of project labor agreements, local hire agreements, and outline a plan to attract, train, and retain an appropriately skilled workforce (i.e., through registered

⁵ Refer to the following applicable federal cost principles for more information: Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Part 31 for For-Profit entities; and 2 CFR Part 200 Subpart E - Cost Principles for all other non-federal entities. DE-FOA/ALRD-0002736 at 20.

⁶ As part of the whole-of-government approach to advance equity and encourage worker organizing and collective bargaining and in alignment with BIL sections 40101(d), the ALRD and any related activities will seek to encourage meaningful engagement and participation of labor unions and underserved communities and underrepresented groups, including consultation with Tribal Nations. Consistent with Executive Order 14052, the ALRD is designed to ensure that 40% of the benefits of the overall investments provided through the ALRD will be delivered to disadvantaged communities in accordance with the Justice40 Initiative and drive the creation of good-paying union jobs through a focus on high labor standards and the free and fair chance for workers to join a union. DE-FOA/ALRD-0002736 at 6.

apprenticeships and other joint labor- management training programs that serve all workers, particularly those underrepresented or historically excluded); outline any plans to partner with a training provider (labor union, community college, etc.); and the use of an appropriately credentialed workforce (i.e., requirements for appropriate and relevant professional training, certification, and licensure).⁷

2. **Davis-Bacon Act compliance.** Provide a certification that the project will comply with the requirements of the “Davis-Bacon Act” and will pay all of the laborers and mechanics performing construction, alteration, or repair work in excess of \$2,000 on projects funded directly by or assisted in whole or in part by and through funding under the award, wages at rates not less than those prevailing on projects of a character similar in the locality as determined by subchapter IV of Chapter 1 of Title 40 of the United State Code, commonly referred to as the “Davis-Bacon Act.”⁸
3. **Cybersecurity:** Certify that the primary purpose of the proposed project is not cyber security but that the implementation of the proposed project will adhere to any applicable cybersecurity requirements, and where possible, best practices in deploying technologies under their subaward.⁹
4. **No Foreign Work and Materials.** Certify that no individuals participating in the project are participating in a Foreign Government-Sponsored Talent Recruitment Program of a Foreign Country of Risk¹⁰ as defined in the ALRD and that all work performed for the project will be performed in the United States and no foreign travel will be involved.¹¹ Certify that all iron, steel, and manufactured products used in the infrastructure work are produced in the United States and all construction materials used in the infrastructure work are manufactured in the United States.¹² Indicate if a waiver can be requested as specified in Appendix B and C of the ALRD.
5. **Telecommunications and Surveillance.** Certify that the requested funding will not be used to procure or obtain equipment, services, or systems that use covered telecommunications equipment or services as a substantial or essential component of any system, or as critical technology as part of any system as defined in the ALRD.¹³
6. **Other Ineligible Activities.** Certify that the requested funding will not be used for any lobbying activities, or to encourage or support political activities such as the collection

⁷ DE-FOA/ALRD-0002736 at 15.

⁸ DE-FOA/ALRD-0002736, Amend. 8, at 43-44.

⁹ DE-FOA/ALRD-0002736, Amend. 8, at 39.

¹⁰ DE-FOA/ALRD-0002736, Amend. 8, at 34-35.

¹¹ DE-FOA/ALRD-0002736, Amend. 8, at 40-41.

¹² DE-FOA/ALRD-0002736, Amend. 8, at 42.

¹³ DE-FOA/ALRD-0002736, Amend. 8, at 53.

and dissemination of information related to potential, planned, or pending legislation or directly or indirectly support or oppose union organizing.¹⁴

¹⁴ DE-FOA/ALRD-0002736, Amend. 8, at 46, 52.