Maryland Energy Administration

Wes Moore, Governor
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Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) FY27 Megawatts for Maryland

Type of Program:	Competitive Auction (closed)
Target Audience:	Developers of grid-scale renewable energy generation and energy storage projects
Program Webpage:	https://energy.maryland.gov/Pages/MegawattsForMaryland.aspx
Issue Date:	10/26/2026
Modification Date:	Not applicable
Application Deadline:	**Stage 1: 3:00 PM Eastern Time 11/30/2026** through the My MEA portal
	Stage 2: 3:00 PM Eastern Time 01/22/27 through the My MEA portal
Application Submission through My MEA:	MEA.maryland.gov
Anticipated Notification of Grant Award or Non-Award:	Spring 2027

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1. Program Purpose:

The Maryland Energy Administration ("MEA") Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) Megawatts for Maryland Program ("Program") offsets a portion of the project costs associated with the development and construction of grid-scale renewable energy generation and energy storage projects. Incentive levels will be determined through a closed bid auction; Grants will be awarded to eligible bidders requesting the lowest price from the auction. The program was established by the Utility RELIEF Act of 2026[1] and is codified in §9–20E–01 et seq. of the State Government Article, Annotated Code of Maryland.[2]

2. **Type of Grant Program**

This auction program is offered statewide on a competitive basis for eligible applications through a two-stage application process:

2.1. **Stage 1:** The Applicant submits a preliminary application and awaits feedback from MEA. MEA notifies the Applicant if they are eligible to proceed to Stage 2.

2.2. **Stage 2:** If the application is approved by MEA in Stage 1, the Applicant is eligible to submit a binding bid price and additional documentation in Stage 2.

3. Application Deadline:

3.1. **Stage 1**: 3:00 PM Eastern Time November 30, 2026

3.2. **Stage 2**: 3:00 PM Eastern Time January 22, 2027

4. Program Description:

The Program provides grant funding (Grants) using a 2-stage application process to offset development, construction, and interconnection costs for eligible grid-scale renewable energy generation and energy storage projects (Projects).

4.1. Grants are available on a competitive basis for eligible project types, as defined in Section 10 "Eligible Activities."

4.2. "State" means "The State of Maryland."

[1] https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/hb1532
[2] https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Laws/StatuteText?article=gsg&section=9-20E-01&enactments=true

4.3. The Applicant may submit one or more applications. Each application is for one Project only, and a Project may only be the subject of one application and one bid.

4.4. Incentive levels will be determined through a closed bid auction; grants will be awarded to eligible bidders requesting the lowest price from the auction, as described in Section 8 "Grant Amount."

4.5. **"Applicant"** means the entity that will execute the MEA grant agreement and be designated as the grant "**Funding Recipient.**" The Applicant may meet all of the minimum eligibility requirements on its own or may designate one or more "**Project Sponsor(s).**"

4.6. **"Project Sponsor(s)"** means any entity with direct or indirect equity ownership of the Project whose role in the Project is necessary to meet the minimum eligibility requirements (e.g. financial integrity, experience, and qualifications), as described in Section 12 "Minimum Eligibility Requirements."

4.7. **"Grantee"** means an Applicant who has executed a Grant Agreement with MEA.

4.8. "**Commercial Operation"** means the Project has started selling its output, having met all contractual and technical requirements for commercial operation.

4.9. **Grant Lifecycle**: A visual summary of the grant lifecycle (pre-award, award, and post-award) is provided as FOA Attachment H and is available to download from the Program portal webpage.[3]

4.10. **Application portal status terminology:** The following terminology will be used to describe the status of your application in the My MEA portal. The Step 1 language applies to applications in Stage 1 of the program. The Step 2 language applies to applications that have advanced to Stage 2 of the program.

4.10.1. **Stage 1 (Preliminary Application)**

4.10.1.1. **In Progress**: The Applicant has started a Stage 1 application, has saved the application for later, but has not

[3] https://mea.maryland.gov/mw4md-program-details

yet submitted the application to MEA;

4.10.1.2. **Step 1 Submitted**: The Applicant has submitted a Stage 1 application and is awaiting MEA review. The primary contact will receive an electronic confirmation of application submission;

4.10.1.3. **Step 1 In Review**: MEA is reviewing the Applicant's Stage 1 application;

4.10.1.4. **Step 1 Approved**: MEA has confirmed eligibility and approved the Applicant's Stage 1 application. After receiving notification of this status, Applicants must log back into their MyMEA account to submit their Stage 2 application documents;

4.10.1.5. **Missing Information**: MEA has electronically notified the primary contact that the Stage 1 application requires additional information, additional documentation, or documentation revisions. The Applicant must submit the information or documentation within **seven (7) calendar days** after the notification by MEA;

4.10.1.6. **Rejected**: MEA has notified the Applicant of grant non-award and non-award reason (ineligible application).

4.10.2. **Stage 2 (Bid Price and Additional Documentation)**

4.10.2.1. **Step 2 Submitted**: The Applicant has submitted their Stage 2 application documents, including their bid price to the auction. The primary contact will receive an electronic confirmation of Stage 2 application submission;

4.10.2.2. **Step 2 In Review**: MEA is reviewing the Applicant's Stage 2 application documents;

4.10.2.3. **Missing Information Step 2:** MEA has electronically notified the primary contact that the Stage 2 application requires additional information, additional documentation, or documentation revisions. The Applicant must submit the missing information or documentation within **seven (7) calendar days** after the notification by MEA;

4.10.2.4. **Step 2 Approved:** MEA has notified the Applicant of grant award and award amount.

4.10.2.5. **Rejected**: MEA has notified the Applicant of grant non-award and non-award reason (ineligible application or not competitively selected).

5. Program General Provisions:

5.1. MEA will enter a grant agreement with the Grantee that includes standard requirements referred to as "Program General Provisions." MEA provides a copy of these provisions ("General Provisions v.4 - Issued 9.24.26") on the program portal webpage[4], and as Attachment A to this FOA.

5.2. Notwithstanding Section 2C of the Grant Agreement General Provisions, certain expenses incurred prior to the Grant Agreement Effective Date will be reimbursable.

6. Law and Regulations:

MEA grant programs funded by the Strategic Energy Investment Fund (SEIF) are subject to section 9-20B-05 of the State Government article and the regulations found in the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 14.26.02. To access these regulations, click here[5] and use the sidebar "Regulations by Title" to navigate to: 14 - Independent Agencies → 26 - MARYLAND ENERGY ADMINISTRATION → 02 - Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Program.

This specific Program is subject to requirements established by the Utility RELIEF Act of 2026[6] and codified in §9–20E–01 et seq. of the State Government Article, Annotated Code of Maryland.

7. Anticipated Program Budget:

MEA anticipates that up to $100 million will be available from the Strategic Energy Investment Fund ("SEIF"), for grants awarded under this Program. The total amount awarded may be more or less.

See Section 10 "Eligible Activities" and Section 12 "Minimum Eligibility Requirements" below for the allowable uses of funding and restrictions on funding.

[4] https://mea.maryland.gov/mw4md-program-details
[5] https://regs.maryland.gov/us/md/exec/comar/14.26.02
[6] https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/hb1532

8. Grant Amount:

8.1. Each Applicant may submit one or more applications. Each application is for one Project only and no Project may be subject to more than one application or bid.

8.2. The Applicant must utilize **FOA Attachment D: Bid Calculator** to submit a bid price and calculate the total grant amount requested from the auction for the individual Project.

8.2.1. The Applicant must enter a bid as a **price per megawatt hour alternating current** ($ per MWh-ac) expected to be delivered to the grid over the commercial lifetime of the Project.

8.2.2. The Applicant must enter the expected energy delivered to the grid in the first year of operation (MWh-ac) (as supported by required documentation in Section 14.10 “Expected System Output”).

8.2.3. The Applicant must enter all other required calculator inputs on the Microsoft Excel tab titled “Bid Calculator”.

8.2.4. Standardized assumptions on technology lifetime and technology degradation are fixed and may not be changed by the Applicant.

8.2.5. The total Grant Amount requested from the auction is derived by a formula, based on the Applicant’s inputs and data assumptions.

8.2.6. The Applicant must enter other required calculator inputs on the Microsoft Excel tab titled “Reporting” for informational purposes only; these inputs will not factor into the bid price or total Grant Amount requested from the auction.

8.2.7. See the Microsoft Excel tab titled “Instructions” of FOA Attachment D for a guide on how to submit a bid, including a complete list of required inputs and their definitions.

8.2.8. See FOA Attachment G for an explanation of the bid calculator methodology.

8.3. The maximum bid price ($ per MWh-ac) is discussed in Table 1.

8.4. The minimum and maximum total grant amount ($) are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Grant Amount

Grant Amount Basis and Calculation	Maximum Bid Price ($ per MWh-ac)	Minimum Grant Amount ($)	Maximum Grant Amount ($)
The Applicant must utilize FOA Attachment D: Bid Calculator to submit a bid price and calculate the total requested grant amount from the auction.	A Bid Price exceeding an undisclosed maximum amount will not be eligible for grant funding from the auction.	$1 million	$80 million, unless the maximum is increased at MEA's discretion.

8.5. **Grant Disbursement Condition**: The Grant Amount will be disbursed upon the Project achieving commercial operations and fulfilling other conditions as stated in the Grant Agreement. See Section 12.7 for more information about the payment schedule.

9. Eligible Applicants:

9.1. To be eligible under this program, an applicant must meet the Minimum Eligibility Requirements described in Section 12, and qualify as one of the following entity types:

9.1.1. Businesses;

9.1.2. Electric companies, as defined in §1-101(i) of the Public Utilities Article, Annotated Code of Maryland.[7]

9.2. **The Applicant must be the entity that will execute the MEA grant agreement and be designated as the grant funding recipient.** The Applicant may meet all of the minimum eligibility requirements on its own or may designate one or more "**Project Sponsor(s).**"

9.3. **"The Project Sponsor(s)"** means any entity with direct or indirect equity ownership of the Project whose role in the Project is necessary to meet

[7] https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Laws/StatuteText?article=gpu&section=1-101&enactments=true

the minimum eligibility requirements (e.g. financial integrity, experience, and qualifications), as described in Section 12 “Minimum Eligibility Requirements.”

9.4. A parent company or Project Sponsor may assist with application materials and communicate with MEA but cannot sign and submit the application.

9.5. See Section 10 “Eligible Activities” and Section 12 “Minimum Eligibility Requirements” below for the allowable use of funds and restrictions on funding.

10. Eligible Activities:

10.1. Grant funds may be used for any costs related to the development, construction, or interconnection of an eligible project type.

10.2. Eligible Project types and technology size include:

10.2.1. A Project of **at least 5 MW-ac** Nameplate Capacity of a Tier 1 Renewable Energy source as defined in §7–701(s) of the Public Utilities Article, Annotated Code of Maryland[8]:

10.2.1.1. Solar energy, including energy from photovoltaic technologies and solar water heating systems;
10.2.1.2. Land based wind;
10.2.1.3. Qualifying biomass;
10.2.1.4. Methane from the anaerobic decomposition of organic materials in a landfill or wastewater treatment plant;
10.2.1.5. Geothermal, including energy generated through geothermal exchange from or thermal energy avoided by, groundwater or a shallow ground source;
10.2.1.6. Ocean, including energy from waves, tides, currents, and thermal differences;
10.2.1.7. A fuel cell that produces electricity from a Tier 1 renewable source under Section 10.2.1;

[8] https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/laws/StatuteText?article=gpu&section=7-701

10.2.1.8. A small hydroelectric power plant of less than 30 megawatts in capacity that is licensed or exempt from licensing by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission;

10.2.1.9. Poultry litter–to–energy;

10.2.1.10. Thermal energy from a thermal biomass system; and

10.2.1.11. Raw or treated wastewater used as a heat source or sink for a heating or cooling system.

10.2.2. Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) projects **with an energy capacity of at least 20 MWh-ac and a discharge duration of at least 4-hours**. Energy storage projects may be:

10.2.2.1. Stand-alone (not co-located with a Tier 1 renewable energy source).

10.2.2.2. Co-located with Tier 1 renewable energy sources that do not participate in net energy metering;

10.2.2.3. Co-located with Tier 1 renewable energy sources that participate in net energy metering;

10.2.3. A Hybrid Project requesting grant funds from the auction for both a Tier 1 renewable energy generation system described in Section 10.2.1 and a BESS described in Section 10.2.2 where each system independently satisfies the minimum size requirements.

10.3. Eligible Projects must be physically located within the state of Maryland and seeking interconnection to the PJM Transmission system or to a utility distribution system.

10.4. Eligible Projects must be under development as defined below:

10.4.1. The Project must have secured site control, as defined in Section 13.14 “Site Control.”

10.4.2. The Project must have initiated a regulatory process, as defined in Section 13.15 “Initiation of Regulatory Process.”

10.4.3. The Project must not have reached substantial completion, as defined in Section 14.6 “Stage 2 Implementation Timeline.”

11. Ineligible Applicants and Activities:

11.1. Ineligible Applicants and ineligible activities under this FOA may be eligible for other incentive programs instead. To learn more:

11.1.1. A copy of the General Notice of Intent for= FY27 Maryland Energy Administration Energy Programs[9] is available on MEA’s website.[10]

11.2. Ineligible Applicants under this FOA include but are not limited to:

11.2.1. Nonprofit organizations;
11.2.2. State government agencies;
11.2.3. County and municipal governments;
11.2.4. Units of federal or foreign governments;
11.2.5. Local Education Agencies;
11.2.6. Institutions of Higher Education.

11.3. Ineligible activities under this FOA include but are not limited to:

11.3.1. **Net Energy Metering:** Tier 1 renewable energy sources that will participate in net energy metering, including but not limited to:

11.3.1.1. Community solar projects participating in the Maryland Community Solar Program, administered by the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC).[11]

11.3.2. **Rate Basing:** Electric companies – as defined in §1-101(i) of the Public Utilities Article, Annotated Code of Maryland[12] – may not propose to recover or have been approved to recover, for battery storage projects, capacity costs associated with the proposed project in their rate base or other cost recovery mechanisms.

[9] Please note the General Notice of Programs is provided for planning purposes only. Each individual Program Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) will include specific program requirements. Program names and details may change based on the final program design and stakeholder feedback.
[10] https://energy.maryland.gov/SiteAssets/Pages/all-incentives/ACCESSIBLE%20FY27%20General%20Notice%20of%20Upcoming%20Programs.pdf
[11] https://psc.maryland.gov/regulated-utilities/electricity/renewable-energy/community-solar-program/
[12] https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Laws/StatuteText?article=gpu&section=1-101&enactments=true

11.3.3. **System Sizing below Program Minimums:**

11.3.3.1. Tier 1 renewable energy source that will have a system power capacity smaller than 5 MW-ac.

11.3.3.2. Energy storage that will have a system energy capacity smaller than 20 MWh-ac.

11.3.3.3. Energy storage that will have a discharge duration less than 4 hours.

11.3.4. **Stage of Development:**

11.3.4.1. Projects that have not yet secured site control, as defined in Section 13.14 “Site Control.”

11.3.4.2. Projects that have not yet initiated regulatory process, as defined in Section 13.15 “Initiation of Regulatory Process.”

11.3.4.3. Projects that have reached substantial completion, as defined in Section 14.6 “Stage 2 Implementation Timeline.”

11.4. MEA programs will not award grants to Projects that violate or conflict with the Fossil Fuels Policy. For more information, please review the Fossil Fuel Policy provided as FOA Attachment B.

11.5. **Duplicate Funding Restrictions**: An Applicant cannot combine funding from the Program with funding from the following sources for the same project scope at the same location:

11.5.1. Energy Storage Capacity Credits issued by the Maryland Public Service Commission pursuant to the Next Generation Energy Act, as codified in §7-1224 through 7-1229 of the Public Utilities Article, Annotated Code of Maryland.[13]

11.5.2. Funding awarded by MEA from the Strategic Energy Investment Fund (SEIF) or any other MEA funding source.

11.5.3. Funding from the SEIF awarded by any other state agency or other MEA Grantee.

12. Minimum Eligibility Requirements:

To be considered a complete application and to be evaluated as set forth in

[13] https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Laws/StatuteText?article=gpu&section=7-1224&enactments=false

Section 15 “Competitive Evaluation Criterion: Stage 2”, the following requirements must be met:

12.1. **Ability to Comply with General Provisions**: The General Provisions are provided as FOA Attachment A.

12.2. **Ability to Comply with Fossil Fuel Policy, if applicable**: The Fossil Fuel Policy is provided as FOA Attachment B.

12.3. **Ability to Execute a Letter of Commitment**: Each Applicant awarded a grant under the Program must execute a Letter of Commitment with MEA within **21 days** of written notification of grant award, unless MEA agrees to extend the timeline in writing.

12.4. **Ability to Enter into a Grant Agreement**: Each Applicant awarded a grant under the Program must enter into a formal Grant Agreement with MEA within **3 months** of written notification of grant award, unless MEA agrees to extend the timeline in writing.

12.5. **Ability to Secure a Surety Bond or Alternative Guarantee, as a condition of Grant Execution:** After receiving notification of the grant award and before executing the Grant Agreement, the Applicant must obtain a surety bond or approved alternative financial guarantee in an amount equal to **10 percent** of the total grant award. Execution of the Grant Agreement is contingent upon MEA’s receipt and approval of the required guarantee. Acceptable forms of financial guarantee include:

12.5.1. **Surety Bond:** A third party agreement issued by a surety company, that guarantees the Grantee will fulfill the requirements of the Program Grant Agreement; OR

12.5.2. **Fully-Funded Escrow Account**: An account funded with a cash equivalent to the required financial assurance held by an independent escrow agent through an executed escrow agreement; OR

12.5.3. **Irrevocable Letter of Credit:** A written commitment issued by an FDIC insured lending institution that provides payment equivalent to the required financial assurance.

12.6. **Grant Implementation Period**: Any Project funded under the Program

must reach commercial operations, fulfill interim milestones, and provide required reporting documents within approximately **seven (7) years** of an executed Grant Agreement. MEA will issue extensions to the Grant Implementation Period for good cause shown. The surety discussed in Section 12.5 must be maintained for the Grant Implementation Period.

12.7. **Payment Schedule:** The Grant Amount will be fully disbursed upon evidence of the Project achieving its commercial operation date, as defined in Section 4.8.

12.8. **Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) Contribution:** All Renewable Energy Credit (RECs) or Solar Renewable Energy Credit (SRECs) issued for a Tier 1 renewable energy source that receives grant funds from the Program must ultimately be retired in a reserve subaccount accessible by the State of Maryland. For more information, consult the PJM EIS website.[14]

12.9. **Compliance with Relevant Certifications, Licenses, and Requirements**: A Grantee shall be responsible for compliance with the following:

12.9.1. **Authority to Operate in Maryland**: All work performed on behalf of the Grantee pursuant to a Grant Agreement shall be carried out by the Grantee's staff and contractors, who must hold all necessary Maryland certifications and licenses, as applicable. Any business or nonprofit organization operating in Maryland with which the Grantee contracts or partners to carry out the purposes of the Grant shall be registered and in good standing with the Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation[15], if applicable.

12.9.2. All work performed pursuant to a Grant Agreement shall comply with all applicable local, State, and federal building codes, electrical codes, and other applicable laws and regulations.

12.10. **Stage 1 Application**

12.10.1. The Applicant must submit a complete and accurate preliminary application in the My MEA online application portal.

12.10.2. **Self-Verification of Minimum Eligibility:** The Applicant must

[14] https://pjm.my.site.com/publicknowledge/s/article/GATS-Reference-Guide?language=en_US
[15] dat.maryland.gov/pages/default.aspx

upload the template self-verification of minimum eligibility, as described in Section 13 “Required Application Documents: Stage 1.” This form is provided as FOA Attachment C and is available to download from the Program portal webpage.[16]

12.10.3. **Organizational Chart**: The Applicant must upload an organizational chart, as described in Section 13 “Required Application Documents: Stage 1.”

12.10.4. **Stage 1 Project Narrative:** The Applicant must provide a brief narrative description of the Project, including all required components for Stage 1, as described in Section 13 “Required Application Documents: Stage 1.”

12.10.5. **Stage 1 Experience and Qualifications:** The Applicant must demonstrate experience and qualifications, including all required components for Stage 1, as described in Section 13 “Required Application Documents: Stage 1.”

12.10.6. **Stage 1 Financial Integrity:** The Applicant must demonstrate financial integrity, including all required components for Stage 1, as described in Section 13 “Required Application Documents: Stage 1.”

12.10.7. **Stage 1 Implementation Timeline:** The Applicant must upload an implementation timeline, including Project milestones completed to date, as described in Section 13 “Required Application Documents: Stage 1.”

12.10.8. **Google Earth Map or Equivalent:** The Applicant must upload a Google Earth map (or equivalent), as described in Section 13 “Required Application Documents: Stage 1.”

12.10.9. **Site Control:** The Applicant must upload documentation showing control of the property, as described in Section 13 “Required Application Documents: Stage 1.”

12.10.10. **Initiation of Regulatory Process:** The Applicant must upload documentation demonstrating initiation of regulatory process (with either PJM or the State of Maryland), as described in Section 13

[16] https://mea.maryland.gov/mw4md-program-details

"Required Application Documents: Stage 1."

12.11. Stage 2 Application

12.11.1. **Bid Calculator:** The Applicant must complete and upload the Bid Calculator provided by MEA, as described in Section 14 "Required Application Documents: Stage 2." The Bid Calculator is provided as FOA Attachment D and is available to download from the Program portal webpage.[17]

12.11.2. **Project Financial Model:** The Applicant must upload all required components as described in Section 14 "Required Application Documents: Stage 2." This includes completing and uploading the MEA Project Financial Model provided by MEA as FOA Attachment E that is available to download from the Program portal webpage.[18]

12.11.3. **Stage 2 Project Narrative:** The Applicant must provide a narrative description of the Project, including all required components for Stage 2, as described in Section 14 "Required Application Documents: Stage 2."

12.11.4. **Stage 2 Experience and Qualifications:** The Applicant must demonstrate experience and qualifications, including all required components for Stage 2, as described in Section 14 "Required Application Documents: Stage 2."

12.11.5. **Stage 2 Financial Integrity**: The Applicant must demonstrate financial integrity, including all required components for Stage 2, as described in Section 14 "Required Application Documents: Stage 2."

12.11.6. **Stage 2 Implementation Timeline**: The Applicant must upload an implementation timeline, including completed and future project milestones, as described in Section 14 "Required Application Documents: Stage 2."

12.11.7. **Certificate(s) of Good Standing:** The Applicant must upload certificate(s) of good standing, as described in Section 14 "Required Application Documents: Stage 2."

[17] https://mea.maryland.gov/mw4md-program-details
[18] https://mea.maryland.gov/mw4md-program-details

12.11.8. **Community Engagement**: The Applicant must upload documentation of community engagement, as described in Section 14 “Required Application Documents: Stage 2.”

12.11.9. **Site Plan**: The Applicant must upload a diagram, as described in Section 14 “Required Application Documents: Stage 2.”

12.11.10. **Expected System Output**: The Applicant must upload documentation showing expected system output, as described in Section 14 “Required Application Documents: Stage 2.”

12.11.11. **Stage 2 Additional Documentation:** If there were any material changes to documentation submitted in Stage 1, the Applicant must revise Stage 1 documentation and re-submit in Stage 2.

12.12. If MEA determines that any activity undertaken violates or conflicts with the Grant Agreement, MEA may rescind the Grant or take any other appropriate action, as determined by MEA.

13. Required Application Documents: Stage 1

To be considered complete, an application must include the following documents. Failure to submit any of the required documents may result in the application being considered incomplete. MEA will not consider applications it deems incomplete. Each application to the Program must include the following in Stage 1:

13.1. **Application:** The Applicant must provide a complete and accurate preliminary application in the My MEA online application portal.

13.2. **Contact Information:** Directly in the online application, the Applicant must enter contact information for the primary contact, the secondary contact, and the authorized signatory.

13.3. **Applicant Organization Information:** Directly in the online application, the Applicant must enter information about the organization applying for grant funding.

13.4. **Funding Recipient Information:** Directly in the online application, the Applicant must enter its required information.

13.5. **Summary of Proposed Project**: Directly in the online application, the Applicant must enter the following information to summarize the proposed Project:

13.5.1. **Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project (Project Nickname):** Enter directly in the online application a clear, concise title that summarizes the Project. This is also referred to as the "Project Nickname." Be prepared to identify all application documents by this Project Nickname.

13.5.2. **Brief Summary of Project Purpose**: Enter directly in the online application a brief summary describing the purpose of the Project included in this application. This should be a high-level overview rather than a detailed funding narrative; program-specific details may be requested elsewhere in the application.

13.5.3. **Proposed Project Impact**: Enter directly in the online application a brief **qualitative** description of the benefits of the Project to Marylanders and the grid (Quantitative estimates are not required in Stage 1).

13.5.4. **Proposed Project Start Date**: Enter directly in the online application the date when the Project obtained site control, as defined in Section 13.14 "Site Control."

13.5.5. **Proposed Project End Date**: Enter directly in the online application the anticipated commercial operation date, as defined in Section 4.8.

13.5.6. **Primary Project Location**: Directly in the online application, select one or more Maryland counties where the Project will be constructed.

13.6. **IRS Form W-9**:

13.6.1. **If the Funding Recipient is a Federal Income Tax Paying Entity**: The Applicant must provide a complete, accurate, and signed IRS Form W-9 for the entity that will execute the grant. The IRS Form W-9 organization name, DBA name if applicable, address, and employer identification number ("EIN", sometimes referred to as a "Taxpayer Identification Number," or "TIN") will be used to execute a grant agreement, if the Project is selected for a grant. The

Applicant's name and address provided on the IRS Form W-9 and on the application must match, and the address must be the billing address (rather than the Project installation address or mailing address, if different).

13.6.2. **If the Funding Recipient is a Disregarded Entity for U.S. Income Tax Purposes:**

13.6.2.1. **IRS Form W-9:** The Applicant must provide a complete, accurate, and signed IRS Form W-9 with information for the disregarded entity and for its federal income tax-paying parent.

13.6.2.2. **Verification of Federal Income Tax Paying Entity Information**: In addition to the W-9, the Applicant must provide a 2nd document to verify the federal income tax-paying entity's organization name, address, and EIN. To satisfy this requirement, the Applicant may choose to upload one of the following document types: an invoice, a bill, or other credentialing documents.

13.6.2.3. MEA may request additional documentation for the disregarded entity.

13.6.3. A blank copy of the IRS Form W-9 and IRS Instructions can be found on the IRS Form W-9 webpage.[19] As the MEA is unable to give tax advice, any tax-related questions should be directed toward a qualified tax professional.

13.7. **Self-Verification of Minimum Eligibility**:

13.7.1. The Applicant's authorized representative must sign an attestation of the following, in the form provided as Attachment C of this FOA and available to download from the Program portal webpage[20]:

13.7.1.1. I have reviewed the General Provisions.
13.7.1.2. I have reviewed the Fossil Fuel Policy.
13.7.1.3. I have reviewed all requirements of this Program, as specified in this Funding Opportunity Announcement.
13.7.1.4. To the best of my knowledge, all information provided in this

[19] irs.gov/forms-pubs/about-form-w-9
[20] https://mea.maryland.gov/mw4md-program-details

application is complete, accurate, and true, and all work performed pursuant to a Grant will comply with the terms and conditions of the Program, the General Provisions, the Fossil Fuel Policy, and all applicable local, state, and federal laws, regulations, and building codes.

13.7.1.5. All information provided in the future in connection with this application will be complete, accurate, true and compliant with the terms and conditions of the Program. Information will be corrected and updated as necessary. This obligation is binding on all representatives of the Applicant.

13.7.2. MEA may request documentation confirming the authorized representative.

13.8. **Organizational Chart**: The Applicant must upload an organizational chart that includes all of the following:

13.8.1. The document must identify the Applicant and any Project Sponsors by their full legal name, DBA name (if applicable), employer identification number, mailing address, ownership relationships, other commercial relationships, and function.

13.8.2. The document must identify the Applicant, as defined in Section 9 “Eligible Applicants.”

13.8.3. The document must identify the Applicant or one of the Project Sponsors as the federal income tax paying entity.

13.8.4. The document must identify all direct or indirect owners of the Project including intermediaries, holding companies, or individuals, indicating percentage ownership in excess of 5%.

13.8.5. The document must explain the function of each entity (e.g. holding company, financial sponsor, technical sponsor).

13.9. **Stage 1 Project Narrative:** The Applicant must upload a narrative description (no more than 5 pages), including all of the following required components:

13.9.1. **Cover Page identifying the Project by its Project Nickname,** as entered by the Applicant directly in the online application portal under “Descriptive Title of Applicant’s Project.”

13.9.2. **Chart summarizing the following project details:**

13.9.2.1. Project type (see Section 10 “Eligible Activities” for the list of eligible project types e.g. list of Tier 1 renewable energy generation and battery energy storage project types).

13.9.2.2. **If the project type includes Tier 1 renewable energy generation:** provide the Nameplate Capacity (MW-ac)

13.9.2.3. **If the project type includes battery energy storage**: provide the Nameplate Capacity (MWh-ac) and duration (hours)

13.9.2.4. Location (address or longitude/latitude coordinates)

13.9.2.5. Interconnection type (specify if the Project will be transmission-connected or distribution-connected)

13.9.3. **Narrative Description of Organizational Chart:** This section of the narrative must explain and provide any pertinent additional detail about each entity identified on the Organizational Chart described in Section 13.8, including but not limited to their roles, relationships, strengths, and responsibilities.

13.9.4. **Narrative Description of Stage 1 Experience and Qualification:** This section of the narrative must describe one (1) completed project in the United States of comparable scope and size to the Project requesting grant funding from the auction:

13.9.4.1. “Completed” means a project has reached commercial operation and the commercial operation date was no greater than seven (7) years ago.

13.9.4.2. The Project must have been completed by the Applicant or a Project Sponsor depending on which entity had a necessary role in financing the Project. See Section 4 “Program Description” for the definitions of “the Applicant” and “the Project Sponsor(s).”

13.9.4.3. “Comparable scope and size” means a completed project that is at least 50% of the installed capacity of the Project requesting grant funding from the auction.

13.9.4.4. The description of the completed project must include the following project details:

13.9.4.4.1. Project name;

13.9.4.4.2. Location of the project;

13.9.4.4.3. Project type (see Section 10 “Eligible Activities” for the list of eligible project types e.g. list of Tier 1 renewable energy generation and battery energy storage project types);

13.9.4.4.4. **If the project type includes Tier 1 renewable energy generation:** provide the Nameplate Capacity (MW-ac)

13.9.4.4.5. **If the project type includes battery energy storage**: provide the Nameplate Capacity (MWh-ac) and duration (hours)

13.9.4.4.6. Role of the Applicant or Project Sponsor in development;

13.9.4.4.7. Dates of financial closing, Notice to Proceed (NTP) and Commercial Operation Date (COD);

13.9.4.4.8. Key permitting requirements met;

13.9.4.4.9. Independent System Operator (ISO) / Regional Transmission Organization (RTO) market participation;

13.9.4.4.10. Revenue structure (e.g. firm offtake agreements, wholesale market participation);

13.9.4.4.11. Financing structure of the project at Notice to Proceed and after permanent financing following the Commercial Operation Date (COD);

13.9.4.4.12. Planned and unplanned for maintenance;

13.9.4.4.13. Annual plant availability factor, capacity factor and capacity degradation.

13.10. **Stage 1 Experience and Qualifications:** To verify completion of the project described in Section 13.9.4, the Applicant must upload **one (1)** of the following forms of verification:

13.10.1. **Notice of Commercial Operation / COD Certificate**: A formal written declaration or sign-off certificate issued by the project developer (or an independent engineer) stating that all contractual and technical criteria for commercial operation have been met.

13.10.2. **Utility Interconnection Agreement & Permission to Operate (PTO)**: Official authorization from the local electric utility or grid operator confirming that the facility is safely connected and authorized to inject power into the grid.

13.10.3. **Commissioning and Testing Reports**: Documentation from the

Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) contractor proving that the system has passed all performance, safety, and reliability tests.

13.10.4. **Stamped Single-Line Diagrams (SLD) or As-Built Specs**: Technical engineering drawings detailing the final constructed layout and electrical configuration of the facility.

13.10.5. **Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) or other Offtake Agreement:** A written acknowledgment from an offtaker verifying that the system is delivering commercial power under the terms of the PPA. Otherwise, other invoices demonstrating sale of energy.

13.11. **Stage 1 Financial Integrity:** The Applicant must upload the following to verify minimum financial integrity for Stage 1:

13.11.1. Most recent Dun & Bradstreet report(s) with the following information for the Applicant, and any Project Sponsor(s) whose role is necessary to finance the Project.[21] Entities that are scored as High Risk for any of the parameters listed in 13.11.1.3-13.11.1.5 are ineligible.

13.11.1.1. DUNS Number
13.11.1.2. D&B Rating
13.11.1.3. D&B PAYDEX Score
13.11.1.4. D&B Delinquency Score
13.11.1.5. D&B Failure Score

13.12. **Stage 1 Implementation Timeline (completed milestones only)**: The Applicant must upload a project implementation timeline that identifies only the Project milestones that are a) **completed to date** and b) **required for the project type and intended operation**. If any of the following milestones apply to the Project's stage of development, the Applicant must use MEA's terminology and definitions. If the Applicant includes additional milestones in their timeline, the Applicant must also provide a definition for each additional milestone. The Applicant is encouraged (but not required) to format the timeline as a Gantt chart.

13.12.1. **Site Control Secured**: Site control of the relevant property is secured, as described in Section 13.14 "Site Control."

[21] https://www.dnb.com/en-us/smb/business-credit/check-my-business-credit.html

13.12.2. **PJM Interconnection application submitted (if applicable)**: A New Service Request has been submitted to PJM and confirmation of submission or a PJM Project ID has been received.

13.12.3. **PJM Interconnection approved (if applicable)**: PJM has completed the interconnection study process and issued approval for a Generator Interconnection Agreement.

13.12.4. **Interconnection application submitted to utility (if applicable)**: An interconnection request to the applicable electric utility has been submitted and confirmation of submission has been received.

13.12.5. **Utility Interconnection Agreement executed (if applicable):** An Interconnection Agreement has been executed with the applicable electric utility.

13.12.6. **Maryland Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) application submitted (if applicable)**: A CPCN application has been submitted or otherwise formally initiated.

13.12.7. **Maryland CPCN approved or waived (if applicable)**: The Maryland PSC has issued a CPCN Final Order, CPCN exemption, or other formal PSC approval to proceed with project construction.

13.12.8. **Local Permitting applications submitted (if applicable)**: All permitting applications required by the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) have been submitted.

13.12.9. **Local Permitting approved or waived (if applicable)**: The AHJ has issued all final permits, exemptions, or other approval to proceed with project construction.

13.12.10. **Construction Financing Secured (if applicable)**: Sufficient financing to commission and construct the Project has been obtained.

13.12.11. **EPC contract executed (if applicable)**: An engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) contract with a qualified third party contractor as defined in Section 12.9 “Compliance with Relevant Certifications, Licenses, and Requirements” has been executed.

13.12.12. **Notice to Proceed (NTP) issued (if applicable)**: The EPC contractor has been formally authorized to begin construction on a specified start date.

13.12.13. **Construction Begins (if applicable)**: On-site construction of the Project has commenced.

13.13. **Google Earth map (or equivalent)**: The Applicant must upload an annotated geographic information system (GIS) map (e.g. Google Earth or

ESRI ArcGIS) showing the location of the system with respect to the surrounding roads and community. Ensure the picture includes the latitude and longitude of the site in decimal degrees (not degrees, minutes, seconds).

13.14. **Site Control**: The Applicant must upload the following documentation to demonstrate that either the Applicant or a Project Sponsor has site control of the relevant property.

13.14.1. **If the Applicant or Project Sponsor owns the property:** The Applicant must upload a printout from an online database, deed, property tax bill, or other comparable documentation to demonstrate current property ownership.

13.14.2. **If neither the Applicant nor Project Sponsor owns the property**, the Applicant must upload **both** of the following:

13.14.2.1. **Proof of current ownership:** A printout from an online Maryland SDAT database, deed, property tax bill, or other comparable documentation demonstrating the current owner of the parcel; AND

13.14.2.2. **Proof of future site control:** At least one of the following forms of documentation:

13.14.2.2.1. Executed Option-to-Purchase Contract: Granting the option to purchase on or before the planned construction start date.

13.14.2.2.2. Executed Option-to-Lease Agreement: Granting the option to lease on or before the planned construction start date, with a lease term of at least 20 years.

13.14.2.2.3. Executed Ground Lease Agreement: Providing a term of at least 20 years.

13.14.2.2.4. Easement Agreement: Granting rights to construct, operate, maintain and decommission the Project for a term of at least 20 years.

13.15. **Initiation of Regulatory Process:** The Applicant must upload the following documentation to demonstrate that an application to a regulatory

body was submitted, approved, or deemed exempt. Initiation with more than one regulatory body is not required.

13.15.1. **If the Project will be transmission-connected:** To demonstrate initiation of the PJM interconnection process, the Applicant must upload one (1) of the following:

13.15.1.1. Submission confirmation of a New Service Request (cycle or serial) from PJM's NextGen or Queue Point tool; OR

13.15.1.2. A printout from PJM's website or document with the Project ID.[22]

13.15.2. **If the Project will be distribution-connected:** To demonstrate initiation of the Maryland PSC Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN)[23] process, the Applicant must upload **one (1)** of the following:

13.15.2.1. Advance notice to the Maryland PSC and Power Plant Research Program (PPRP) required before completing a CPCN application; or

13.15.2.2. The Maryland PSC case number.

13.15.3. If the Project is exempt: The Applicant must submit documented evidence of exemption.

13.16. **Additional Documentation** (optional)**:** The Applicant may submit other documentation to support their Stage 1 application. Supplemental documentation does not replace required application materials or guarantee approval of Stage 1.

13.17. **Confidential Information** (optional): To the extent permitted by law, personally identifiable information will not be disclosed. Directly in the online application, Applicants should clearly identify and describe any parts of their application that they consider to be confidential, proprietary information or trade secrets and provide any justification why such materials, upon request, should not be disclosed by the State under the Maryland Public Information Act (PIA).

[22] https://www.pjm.com/planning/service-requests/application-and-forms
[23] https://psc.maryland.gov/regulated-utilities/electricity/cpcn/

14. Required Application Documents: Stage 2

To be considered complete, an application must include the following documents. Failure to submit any of the required documents may result in the application being considered incomplete. MEA will not consider applications it deems incomplete. Each application to the Program must include the following in Stage 2:

14.1. **Bid Calculator**: The Applicant must complete and upload the Bid Calculator as described in Section 8 "Grant Amount." The Bid Calculator (including instructions) is provided as **FOA Attachment D** and is available to download from the program portal webpage.[24]

14.2. **Project Financial Model**: The Applicant must upload the following to demonstrate that grant funds from the auction are necessary for the Project to be constructed[25]:

14.2.1. **MEA Project Financial Model:** The Applicant must complete and upload the MEA Project Financial Model, provided as **FOA Attachment E** and available to download from the program portal webpage.[26]

14.2.1.1. The Applicant must enter all required model inputs. See FOA Attachment E Tab 2 "User Inputs" and Tab 1 "Instructions" for a complete list of required user inputs and their definitions.

14.2.1.2. The Project returns with and without a grant from the Program are derived by formula, based on (a) inputs entered by the Applicant and (b) standardized assumptions.

14.2.2. **Applicant Project Financial Projections:** The Applicant must upload their own financial projections in an **unlocked Microsoft Excel workbook**. These projections must use the same input assumptions as those entered into FOA Attachment E: MEA Project Financial Model. The projections must provide the level of detail set out in "Guidance for Creating Applicant's Project Financial Projections", which is provided as **FOA Attachment F** and is

[24] https://mea.maryland.gov/mw4md-program-details
[25] As required by the Utility RELIEF Act of 2026 and codified in 9–20E–02(c)(2)(v) of the State Government Article, Annotated Code of Maryland: https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Laws/StatuteText?article=gsg&section=9-20E-02&enactments=true
[26] https://mea.maryland.gov/mw4md-program-details

available to download from the program portal webpage.[27] **(FOA Attachment F is guidance only and is not a required application document.)** Projections must be expressed in **nominal US dollars** and must cover each year of the Project's lifetime with years 2025 and earlier reported as actuals, 2026 as an estimate, and subsequent years as projections. At a minimum, projections must include:

14.2.2.1.1. Assumptions;
14.2.2.1.2. Project capital costs and financing plans;
14.2.2.1.3. Integrated cashflow, balance sheet, and income statements;
14.2.2.1.4. Annual Debt Service Coverage Ratio (DSCR);
14.2.2.1.5. Annual Debt to Equity Ratio;
14.2.2.1.6. Unlevered Project internal rate of return (IRR);
14.2.2.1.7. Levered Equity IRR.

14.2.3. **Supporting Documentation for the MEA Project Financial Model and the Applicant Project Financial Projections:** Sufficient supporting documentation includes but is not limited to those related to:

14.2.3.1. **Project costs:** Itemized project budgets; EPC contractor proposals or quotes; breakdowns of separately modeled costs such as site preparation, interconnection, or permitting as applicable; and other documented capital cost estimates. Hybrid projects must identify generation and storage costs separately.

14.2.3.2. **Financing and equity:** Sources and uses tables identifying funding sources and project expenditures; financing plans; documentation of proposed equity contributions; lender term sheets or other financing documents identifying loan amounts, interest rates, loan terms, and repayment schedules. Funding sources must be identified separately including debt, equity, anticipated tax credits, grants, or other incentives, as applicable.

14.2.3.3. **Project revenues:** Executed or proposed power purchase agreements, Renewable Energy Credit (REC) sales agreements, market forecasts and any other analyses supporting projected energy, REC, capacity revenues, or

[27] https://mea.maryland.gov/mw4md-program-details

storage revenue assumptions (such as volatility expectations that support energy arbitrage revenue projections).

14.2.3.4. **Operating and Maintenance expenses:** Operating budgets, Operations and Maintenance (O&M) agreements or proposals, vendor quotes, land leases, or other documentation supporting fixed and variable operating expense estimates, including escalation assumptions, if applicable.

14.2.3.5. **Tax benefits and other incentives:** Incentive applications or award letters, anticipated Investment Tax Credits (ITC) or Production Tax Credits (PTC) including proof of eligibility, amounts, and expected receipt dates.

14.3. **Stage 2 Project Narrative:** The Applicant must upload a narrative description, including all of the following required components:

14.3.1. **Cover Page identifying the Project by the following:**

14.3.1.1. **Application ID** (e.g. IA-0000000001): The unique number assigned to the application by the My MEA online application portal.

14.3.1.2. **Project Nickname**, as previously entered by the Applicant in Stage 1 directly in the online application portal under "Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project."

14.3.2. **Narrative Description of MEA Project Financial Model and Applicant Project Financial Projections:** This section of the narrative must describe all of the following:

14.3.2.1. A clear description of the funding gap that program funds are necessary to fill, referencing the completed FOA Attachment E: MEA Project Financial Model.

14.3.2.2. The Applicant's strategy to raise and spend the required funds for the Project throughout the development process.

14.3.2.3. A description of the division between shareholder equity and debt from the time of application through the commercial operation date, and the operation of the Project, including details of planned equity ownership changes and changes in sources of debt finance. This section must also include a declaration of intent to use the PTC or ITC and any available adders made accessible to the Project as part of the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022. Applicants should explain their assumptions of the percentage of their energy production or

project costs that will be compensated under the PTC or ITC and provide a detailed description of how the Project will qualify for the PTC or ITC.

14.3.2.4. Explanation of all documentation provided to MEA and source materials used in the development of assumptions relied on in the MEA Project Financial Model and the Applicant Project Financial Projections.

14.3.3. **Narrative Description of Stage 2 Experience and Qualifications**: This section of the narrative must describe all of the following:

14.3.3.1. **Project development partners:** Describe the Applicant and Project Sponsor(s) relationships with Project partners including the engineering, procurement, and construction contractors, lenders and equity investors, anticipated operations and maintenance providers, and any other partners.

14.3.3.1.1. For each identified partner, describe their proposed responsibilities, scope of work, and relevant experience with projects of comparable scope and size to the Project requesting grant funding from the auction.

14.3.3.1.2. For partners not yet selected, describe the selection process, minimum qualifications, and anticipated selection date.

14.3.3.2. **Key personnel:** Identify the key personnel responsible for project management, permitting, interconnection, financing, construction, commissioning, operations, and project compliance. Describe their experience and qualifications relevant to their project role.

14.3.3.3. Disclosure of litigation or lien history (including Uniform Commercial Code filings against the assets of the Applicant or Project Sponsor(s)) pending or occurring within the 5 years preceding application submission.

14.3.4. **Narrative Description of Stage 2 Financial Integrity:** this section of the narrative must describe all of the following:

14.3.4.1. Details of any events of default or other credit, financial, or reputational issues associated with any projects in which the Applicant, the Project Sponsor(s), its parent company, its affiliates, other Project equity investors, or its directors, officers, and senior managers who have been involved over the past three (3) years.

14.3.5. **Narrative Description of Community Engagement:** This section of the narrative must describe the following:

14.3.5.1. The Project's benefits to the local community. This includes anticipated terms of a community benefits agreement (if applicable).

14.3.5.2. Completed actions to engage with county government, municipal government, local elected officials, community leaders, or community members.

14.3.5.3. Future activities planned to engage with county government, municipal government, local elected officials, community leaders, and community members throughout the development process.

14.3.6. **Narrative Description of Material Changes to Stage 1 preliminary application (if applicable)**

14.4. **Stage 2 Experience and Qualifications:** The Applicant must upload resumes or curriculum vitae (CVs) of key personnel (e.g. principal project manager, C-level executives of the Applicant and Project Sponsors) highlighting their relevant qualifications and ability to deliver the project.

14.5. **Stage 2 Financial Integrity**: The Applicant must upload the following to verify minimum financial integrity for Stage 2 of the Applicant, Project Sponsor(s), or both, depending on which entities have a necessary role in financing the Project.

14.5.1. The most recent three (3) years of audited financial statements and credit scores of the Applicant and Project Sponsor(s) with links to publicly available SEC filings (if available). If the Applicant or Project Sponsor(s) were created within the last three (3) years, the Applicant must submit financial statements for all available years.

14.5.2. References from lenders and EPC partners vouching for the financial integrity and creditworthiness of the Applicant and Project Sponsor(s) if applicable.

14.5.3. Forward looking debt service coverage ratios for the Applicant and any Project Sponsor(s) providing financial support to the Project.

14.6. **Stage 2 Implementation Timeline (completed and future milestones):** The Applicant must upload a project implementation timeline that identifies all **completed and future** project milestones that are **required for the project type and intended operation**. If any of the following milestones apply to the Project's stage of development, the Applicant must use MEA's terminology and definitions. If the Applicant includes additional milestones in their timeline, the Applicant must also provide a definition for each additional milestone. The Applicant is encouraged (but not required) to format the timeline as a Gantt chart.

14.6.1. **Site Control Secured**: Site control of the relevant property is secured, as described in Section 13.14 "Site Control."

14.6.2. **PJM Interconnection application submitted (if applicable)**: A New Service Request has been submitted to PJM and confirmation of submission or a PJM Project ID has been received.

14.6.3. **PJM Interconnection approved (if applicable)**: PJM has completed the interconnection study process and issued approval for a Generator Interconnection Agreement.

14.6.4. **Interconnection application submitted to utility (if applicable):** An interconnection request to the applicable electric utility has been submitted and confirmation of submission has been received.

14.6.5. **Utility Interconnection Agreement executed (if applicable):** An Interconnection Agreement has been executed with the applicable electric utility.

14.6.6. **Maryland CPCN application submitted (if applicable)**: A CPCN application has been submitted or otherwise formally initiated.

14.6.7. **Maryland CPCN approved or waived (if applicable)**: The Maryland PSC has issued a CPCN Final Order, CPCN exemption, or other formal PSC approval to proceed with project construction.

14.6.8. **Local Permitting applications submitted**: All permitting applications required by the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) have been submitted.

14.6.9. **Local Permitting approved**: The AHJ has issued all final permits, exemptions, or other approval to proceed with project construction.

14.6.10. **Construction Financing Secured**: Sufficient financing to commission and construct the Project has been obtained.
14.6.11. **EPC contract executed**: An engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) contract with a qualified third party contractor as defined in Section 12.9 “Compliance with Relevant Certifications, Licenses, and Requirements” has been executed.
14.6.12. **Notice to Proceed (NTP) issued**: The EPC contractor has been formally authorized to begin construction on a specified start date.
14.6.13. **Construction Begins**: On-site construction of the Project has commenced.
14.6.14. **Substantial Completion**: The Project is fully constructed, commissioned, and capable of commercial operation.
14.6.15. **Commercial Operation**: The Project has started Commercial Operation as defined in Section 4.8 “Commercial Operation.”

14.7. **Certificate(s) of Good Standing:** The Applicant must provide documentation demonstrating that any business or nonprofit organization identified at the time of the Stage 2 application operating in Maryland with which the Applicant will contract or partner to carry out the purposes of the Grant is registered and in good standing with the Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation[28] (SDAT), if applicable. Instructions on how to obtain a Certificate of Good Standing are available on SDAT's website. Entities identified at the time of the Stage 2 application subject to this requirement include:

14.7.1. The Applicant
14.7.2. The federal income tax paying entity (if different)
14.7.3. The Project Sponsor(s) (if different)

14.8. **Community Engagement**: The Applicant must upload evidence that the Applicant or Project Sponsor(s) notified (at a minimum) or engaged with the county government, municipal government, or local elected officials about the Project. The Applicant must upload one or more of the following forms of evidence:

14.8.1. A mailed or emailed letter from the Applicant or Project Sponsor(s) to the county government, municipal government, or local elected official.
14.8.2. A meeting agenda, meeting minutes, or meeting presentation

[28] dat.maryland.gov/pages/default.aspx

materials with evidence of dialogue about the Project, the meeting date, and the attendance of government representatives or elected officials.

14.9. **Site plan**: The Applicant must upload a site plan and diagram showing the Project layout on the site. The documentation must demonstrate the proposed system design and anticipated point of interconnection.

14.10. **Expected System Output**:

14.10.1. **If the project type includes a solar system:** The Applicant must upload documentation from a commercially-available modeling platform, such as PVWatts, PVSyst, Helioscope, or equivalent, demonstrating the Project's expected energy delivered to the grid in the first year of operation (MWh-ac)..

14.10.2. **If the project type includes a Non-Solar Tier 1 renewable energy generating systems:** The Applicant must upload documentation from a commercially-available modeling platform or independent modeling demonstrating the system's expected energy delivered to the grid in the first year of operation (MWh-ac).

14.10.3. **If the project type includes an energy storage system:** The Applicant must upload documentation to demonstrate the anticipated net energy delivered to the grid in the first year of operation (MWh-ac). The documentation must provide necessary information on specifications and operating assumptions including:

14.10.3.1. Name and version of modeling tool(s) used (e.g. System Advisor Model (SAM), Energy Storage Evaluation Tool (ESET), or XENDEE).

14.10.3.2. Nameplate and usable energy capacity

14.10.3.3. Project use cases (e.g. energy arbitrage, capacity market participation, ancillary services, peak shaving)

14.10.3.4. Projections must assume one (1) equivalent full cycle of usable capacity per day, 365 cycles per year.

14.10.3.5. AC-to-AC round trip efficiency (RTE), measured at the point of interconnection: the ratio of AC energy discharged to AC

energy used to charge the system over a full cycle, inclusive of power conversion, battery, transformer, and auxiliary load losses.

14.10.3.6. Depth of discharge (DOD), the energy discharged as a percentage of the rated energy capacity of the storage system.

14.11. **Additional Documentation:**

14.11.1. **If there were any material changes to documentation submitted in Stage 1**, the Applicant **must** upload revised Stage 1 documentation.

14.11.2. The Applicant may submit supporting documentation to support their Stage 2 application. Supplemental documentation does not replace required application materials or guarantee approval of Stage 2.

14.12. **Confidential Information** (optional): To the extent permitted by law, personally identifiable information will not be disclosed. Directly in the online application, Applicants should clearly identify and describe any parts of their application that they consider to be confidential, proprietary information or trade secrets and provide any justification why such materials, upon request, should not be disclosed by the State under the Maryland Public Information Act (PIA).

15. Competitive Evaluation Criterion: Stage 2

15.1. The Evaluation Team will competitively evaluate each application meeting the Minimum Eligibility Requirements of this FOA using the following criterion ("Competitive Evaluation Criterion"). MEA will base grant selections on the ranking of applications from highest score to lowest score and will award grants, subject to Program funding availability and the capacity target.[29]

Table 2: Competitive Evaluation Criterion

Evaluation	Description	Weight

[29] "Capacity target" is defined in §9–20E–01(e) of the State Government Article, Annotated Code of Maryland: https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Laws/StatuteText?article=gsg&section=9-20E-01&enactments=true

Criterion		
Bid Price	"Bid Price" means the grant amount requested from the auction per megawatt hour expected to be delivered to the grid over the commercial lifetime of the Project. Bids are expressed in dollars per megawatt hour alternating current ($/MWh-ac). The lowest bid price will receive the highest competitive score and the highest bid price will receive the lowest competitive score.	100%

16. Review Process:

16.1. MEA will evaluate each application package. The evaluation includes review steps described below.

16.1.1. **Program Staff Eligibility Review**: The MEA Program Staff reviews the application for eligibility according to Section 12 "Minimum Eligibility Requirements" listed in this FOA. MEA Program Staff may request additional information in Stage 1 or Stage 2.

16.1.1.1. **Stage 1:** An application that does not meet the Minimum Eligibility Requirements under preliminary review in Stage 1, after being given the opportunity to address Missing Information as described in Section 4.10.1.5, will be rejected from grant consideration and the Applicant will be notified. An application that meets the Minimum Eligibility Requirements under preliminary review in Stage 1 will be notified and eligible to proceed to Stage 2.

16.1.1.2. **Stage 2:** An application that does not meet all Minimum Eligibility Requirements, after being given the opportunity to address Missing Information as described in Section 4.10.2.3, will be rejected from grant consideration and the Applicant will be notified.

16.1.2. **Program Staff Competitive Review**: The MEA Program Staff or other individuals make grant recommendations based on the Competitive Evaluation Criterion established in Section 15

"Competitive Evaluation Criterion: Stage 2."

17. Full, Partial, and Augmented Grants:

17.1. A fully funded grant is a grant amount offered that is the amount calculated when the formula described in Section 8 "Grant Amount" is applied. The following stipulations apply to fully funded grants:

17.1.1. The funding formula must be applied correctly; if the Applicant applied it incorrectly, it will be adjusted.

17.2. A partially funded grant is a grant amount offered that is less than the amount calculated when the formula described in Section 8 "Grant Amount" is applied. Partial grants are possible under this Program. The following are possible reasons for giving partial grants:

17.2.1. If the program fund balance is insufficient to offer a fully funded grant, one grant may be offered equal to the remaining budget.

17.2.2. There may be additional reasons, at MEA's discretion.

17.3. An augmented grant is a grant amount offered that is greater than the amount calculated when the formula described in section 8 "Grant Amount" is applied. Augmented grants are not possible under this program.

18. Payment and Reporting:

The following requirements apply to each Grantee:

18.1. Electronic Payments: Participation in MEA grant programs is voluntary. To ensure the secure transmission of grant funds, each Grantee is required to receive electronic payments from the State of Maryland. Electronic payments are set up through the State of Maryland's Comptroller's Office. Each Grantee must fill out and submit the Electronic Funds Transfer/ACH for Vendors form[30] to the Comptroller's Office via the submission methods outlined in the X-10 form. ACH/Direct Deposit Authorization for Vendor Payment Form X-10 cannot be sent to MEA. Failure to submit ACH/Direct Deposit Authorization Form X-10 may result in payment being delayed. If an Applicant is unable to receive ACH/Direct Deposit payments, MEA may make an exception to this requirement on a case-by-case basis.

[30] https://www.marylandcomptroller.gov/state-agencies/accounting/eft-ach-for-vendors.html

18.2. Reporting and Invoicing: Each Grantee must ensure timely and current compliance with the Program's reporting and invoicing requirements. The Program reporting requirements will be specified in the grant agreement.

18.3. **1099-G Form**: Grants issued by the State of Maryland may be taxable and may result in the issuance of a 1099-G form to the grant recipient (if the grant recipient is a federal tax paying entity) or the tax paying entity listed on the application (if different from the grant recipient). As the MEA is unable to give tax advice, any tax-related questions should be directed toward a qualified tax professional.

19. Application Submission Instructions:

19.1. To apply using My MEA:

19.1.1. Navigate to the My MEA Portal [31] and select "Login" on the top right of the page.

19.1.2. For new users, create an account by clicking "Sign up" under "Create an account for your energy project."

19.1.2.1. Complete the questions using your organization's information.

19.1.2.2. You will need to verify your account via email.

19.1.3. For Existing User: Select the "Login" button and enter your existing username and password.

19.1.4. On the My MEA home page[32], click the FY27 Megawatts for Maryland Program.

19.1.5. Review the information on the page and select "Apply" when ready.

19.1.5.1. Complete the application with the required information. An application can be saved for later.

19.1.5.2. Upload all the required documents.

19.1.6. Applicants can track application status in the portal and may receive update emails as necessary.

19.2. To continue a Saved Application:

[31] Apply for a program at mea.maryland.gov
[32] Apply for a program at mea.maryland.gov

19.2.1. Navigate to the My MEA home page[33] and select “Login” on the top right of the page to log into your account.
19.2.2. Click the "My Applications" button from the main page.
19.2.3. Scroll down to “My Saved Applications” and click the linked application.

19.3. To submit missing information or documentation using My MEA:

19.3.1. Navigate to the My MEA home page[34] and select “Login” on the top right of the page to log into your account.
19.3.2. Click the ‘View More Details’ button from the main page to access the FY27 Megawatts for Maryland Program details page.
19.3.3. Click the “Manage Existing Application” button.
19.3.4. Under “Manage My Application,” Click “Continue.”
19.3.5. To submit Missing Information select ‘Provide Missing Information to my Submitted Application’, click next, and select your application.

19.4. To submit a Stage 2 Application:

19.4.1. Navigate to the My MEA home page and select “Login” on the top right of the page to log into your account.
19.4.2. Click "My Applications" from the main page.
19.4.3. Scroll down to “My Applications” and click the linked application with status of “Step 1 Approved” and “Step 2 Required Tasks” to begin your Stage 2 Application.

19.5. To find the Application ID:

19.5.1. A unique Application ID (e.g. IA-0000000001) is assigned after the Stage 1 application is submitted.
19.5.2. Navigate to the My MEA home page and select “Login” on the top right of the page.
19.5.3. Click "My Applications" from the main page.
19.5.4. Scroll down to “My Applications” to see your application(s) and associated status. Below is an example for illustrative purposes:

[33] Apply for a program at mea.maryland.gov
[34] Apply for a program at mea.maryland.gov

19.5.4.1. “Megawatts for Maryland: IA-0000000001 Step 2 Submitted”

20. Questions:

20.1. Applicants can direct questions not answered by this FOA to MEA by sending an email to grid.mea@maryland.gov.

21. Attachments:

21.1. Attachment A: MEA General Provisions

21.2. Attachment B: MEA’s Fossil Fuel Policy

21.3. Attachment C: Self-Verification of Minimum Eligibility

21.4. Attachment D: Bid Calculator - Issued 10.26.26

21.5. Attachment E: MEA Project Financial Model Template - Issued 10.26.26

21.6. Attachment F: Guidance for Creating Applicant Project Financial Projections - Issued 10.26.26

21.7. Attachment G: Methodology for the Bid Calculator and MEA Project Financial Model - Issued 10.26.26

21.8. Attachment H: Grant Lifecycle Diagram - Issued 10.26.26