



Funding Opportunity Announcement (“FOA”) FY25 Maryland RISE Program ***Federally-Funded Grant Program***

Program Description: The Maryland Energy Administration (“MEA”) Maryland Resilient Infrastructure for Sustainable Energy (“RISE”) Grant Program (“the Program”), is a **federally-funded** Maryland incentive program that offers grants to electric utility infrastructure owners and operators, electric utility-scale generators, transmission owners and operators, and other related stakeholders to make resilience and reliability-focused upgrades and improvements to Maryland’s power infrastructure. The upgrades funded through this program will help make the state’s utility grid stronger and more resilient to the impacts of climate change, growing threats, and accelerating demand for electrical power. This program is funded through proceeds from the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act¹ (“IIJA”, also known as the “Bipartisan Infrastructure Law”). Grantees will be expected to meet both federal and Maryland State requirements as conditions for receiving Maryland RISE Program funds.

Type of Grant Program: **Federally-Funded; Statewide Competitive**

Application Deadline: **3:00 P.M. ET, Tuesday, January 21, 2025**

Areas of Interest: Grants will be provided under two (2) Areas of Interest (“AOIs”), based on the volume of electricity sales of eligible applicants:

- **AOI 1 – Large Applicants:** Provides grants to

¹ Specifically, §40101(d) of the IIJA.

applicants that sell more than 4,000,000 megawatt-hours (MWh) of electricity to Maryland ratepayers annually.

- **AOI 2 – Small Applicants:** Provides grants to applicants that sell 4,000,000 or less MWh to Maryland ratepayers annually.

Anticipated Program Budget:

MEA anticipates an initial funding amount of **\$15,000,000** for projects under this Program. Approximately \$13,000,000 of this budget is funded by federal dollars from Section 40101(d) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA, also known as the “Bipartisan Infrastructure Law”). Grantees must meet certain federal funding reporting and funding requirements as a condition of receiving payment of Maryland RISE Program funds.

Grant Amounts:

Grant amounts are calculated based on AOI and are in accordance with the requirements of the IIJA.

- **AOI 1 - Large Applicants:** Individual grants are not expected to exceed \$3,000,000, with a mandatory cost-match of one hundred percent (100%). *Example: For a grant of \$2,500,000, the grantee would need to match \$2,500,000.*
- **AOI 2 - Small Applicants:** Individual grants are not expected to exceed \$3,000,000, with a mandatory cost-match of one-third ($\frac{1}{3}$). *Example: For a grant of \$2,500,000, the grantee would need to match \$833,333.33.*

Eligible Applicants:

Eligibility is restricted to the following applicants, in accordance with Section 40101(d) of the IIJA:

- An electric grid operator;
- An electricity storage operator;
- An electricity generator;
- A transmission owner or operator;
- A distribution provider;
- A fuel supplier; and
- Any other relevant entity, as determined by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Energy. **Note:**

This will entail a separate approval process administered by DOE. A copy of the DOE form that the applicant is required to fill out is available [here](#)².

Note: To be eligible, the applicant must be registered to operate in Maryland and must be in Good Standing with the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation.

Allowable Activities:

Grants awarded under the Maryland RISE Program are restricted by federal statute to fund the following activities:

- Weatherization technologies and equipment;
- Fire-resistant technologies and fire prevention systems;
- Monitoring and control technologies;
- The undergrounding of electrical equipment;
- Utility pole management;
- The relocation of power lines or other reconductoring of power lines with low-sag, advanced conductors;
- Vegetation and fuel-load management;
- The use or construction of **non-generation** distributed energy resources for enhancing system adaptive capacity during disruptive events, including:
 - Microgrids; and
 - Battery-Storage subcomponents;
- Adaptive protection technologies;
- Advanced modeling technologies;
- Hardening of power lines, facilities, substations, of other systems; and
- The replacement of old overhead conductors and underground cables.

Prohibited Activities:

Grants awarded under the Maryland RISE Program **shall not be used for** the following activities:

- Construction of a new electric generating facility;

² <https://netl.doe.gov/sites/default/files/2023-12/Secretarial%20Eligible%20Entity%20Designation%20Request.pdf>

- Construction of a large-scale battery-storage facility that is not used for enhancing system adaptive capacity during disruptive events; or
- Cybersecurity measures.

**Minimum
Requirements:**

The following requirements must be met **for your application to be evaluated** as set forth in the “Evaluation Criteria” section of this FOA. **Note: Meeting these requirements does not guarantee funding.**

1. **Authority to Operate in Maryland:** The applicant must be legally authorized to transact business in the State of Maryland and must have an established Employer Identification Number (EIN, sometimes referred to as a “taxpayer identification number,” or “TIN”) at the time they apply to the Maryland RISE Program. No exceptions.
2. **Location:** The project site(s) must be located within the State of Maryland.
3. **Ability to Meet Federal Requirements:** Each grantee under the Maryland RISE Program will be required to meet certain federal requirements, which can be found in **Appendix 3: Federal Requirements**. All applicable federal requirements will be incorporated into each Maryland RISE Program grant agreement.
4. **Cost Match:** Each applicant must contribute a cost-match based on the AOI under which they submit an application. For AOI 1 projects, the cost-match is 100% of the requested funding. For AOI 2 projects, the cost-match is one-third ($\frac{1}{3}$) of the requested funding. See the “Grant Amounts” section of this FOA for more information. **Note:** Cost-match contributions must meet federal requirements
5. **Project Planning Committee:** The proposed project must include a Project Planning Committee composed of community, governmental, utility, and other relevant stakeholders key to the project’s

success. The applicant must demonstrate that they attempted in good faith to engage the local electric utility, even if the electric utility declined to participate. The project planning committee must help guide the project's course, specifically providing oversight and management of project activities.

6. **Applicant Good Standing**: The applicant must be in Good Standing with the [Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation \(DAT\)](#)³. The applicant must provide proof of Good Standing with the application. Acceptable proof includes (1) a screenshot or PDF of the applicant's status in DAT's [Business Entity Search](#)⁴ that indicates a Good Standing status; OR (2) a copy of a Certificate of Good Standing from DAT. Instructions on how to obtain a Certificate of Good Standing are available on [DAT's website](#)⁵.
7. **Third Party Good Standing**: Any contractor, developer, vendor, or other third-party organization with which the applicant enters into a contract to complete work on the project must be in Good Standing with DAT. The applicant must provide written evidence of each contracted third party's Good Standing, in accordance with the acceptable documentation defined in item "5: Applicant Good Standing" in this section. **Note:** Selection of each applicable third party is not required at the time of application to the Maryland RISE Program. Only submit documentation of third-party Good Standing with the application if the contractor has already been formally selected and a contract is executed. Each grantee must submit documentation of third party Good Standing when a contract is executed with the third party.
8. **Prior Expenses Disallowed**: Maryland RISE Program funds cannot be used for project costs that

³ <https://dat.maryland.gov/pages/default.aspx>

⁴ <https://egov.maryland.gov/businessexpress/entitysearch>

⁵ <https://dat.maryland.gov/businesses/Pages/Internet-Certificate-of-Status.aspx>

are incurred by a grantee prior to the execution of a grant agreement with MEA.

9. **Prior Scope of Work Restriction:** A project that includes the same actions in the scope of work also covered under a previous or existing MEA grant will only be considered on a case-by-case basis, and with appropriate justification.
10. **Activities Restrictions:** Maryland RISE Program funds cannot be used for any activities that are not stated in the “Eligible Activities” section, per federal law. Further, Program funds cannot be used for any activities stated in the “Prohibited Activities” section of this FOA. No exceptions.
11. **NABCEP Certification Requirement:** At least one (1) North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners (NABCEP) PV Installation Professional or PV Design Specialist must be employed and involved in the electrical and mechanical design of the project, if solar PV or battery storage technologies will be considered in the project. **Note:** Maryland RISE funds **cannot** be used for solar PV or any other forms of generation.
12. **Ability to Enter into a Grant Agreement:** Each successful applicant must enter into a grant agreement with MEA prior to receiving any grant funds.
13. **Completion Deadline:** Any project funded under the FY25 Maryland RISE Program must complete the project no later than **June 30, 2028**. This assumes a grant agreement is executed by June 15, 2025.
14. **Public Facilities:** An applicant that a municipal, county or state entity will be required to attest to its compliance with §§14-416 and 17-303 of the State Finance and Procurement Article (as applicable). MEA will only provide grant funds directly to the government entity grantee and not to any other

grantee.

Historic Preservation: A Maryland Historic Trust review must be completed for a project before grant funds will be disbursed. If there is a finding of “adverse impact”, MEA will not disburse grant funds for the project unless, in consultation with MEA and MHT, the grantee is able to avoid or appropriately mitigate the project’s adverse impacts identified in the review.

Federal Requirements: Each successful applicant and successful project must meet certain federal requirements to receive Maryland RISE Program grant funds. **Please see Appendix 3: Federal Requirements** to review a copy of all federal terms and conditions. While all applicable federal requirements will be included in each grant agreement, MEA would like to call special attention to the following requirements.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA): Each project must undergo a NEPA review to assess environmental impacts and must receive a determination prior to the execution of a grant agreement with MEA.

Davis-Bacon Act of 1931: Each project must comply with all applicable requirements under the Davis-Bacon Act of 1931 (“Davis-Bacon”).

Build America, Buy America Act of 2021: Each project must comply with the requirements of the Build America, Buy America Act of 2021. Broadly, compliance includes ensuring that the components of the project are, to the best extent practicable, sourced from the United States of America. Certain waivers are possible for certain circumstances, and information about waivers can be found [here](#)⁶.

Evaluation Criteria: Each application **that has met the Minimum Eligibility Requirements of this FOA** will be competitively evaluated for funding consideration using the following criteria (“Evaluation Criteria”). Only the highest-scoring proposals

⁶ <https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.energy.gov/management/build-america-buy-america&sa=D&source=docs&ust=1730227936425498&usq=AOVvaw2XCVUc5PcxHEeXkLG7Bzef>

will be selected for a grant, subject to Maryland RISE Program funding availability. A total of twenty-seven (27) points are possible. **Note:** MEA does not anticipate providing a grant to a project that scores fewer than sixteen (16) points.

Evaluation Criterion	Description	Range of Possible Points
<p>Meeting Objectives</p>	<p>The Maryland RISE Program includes the following objectives that MEA established as a condition of receiving funding from the U.S. DOE. Ideal projects will endeavor to meet all three (3) objectives. Points will be based upon the number of objectives the project will address, and the quality of the description of how the applicant will pursue those objectives. A list of specific, objective-by-objective metrics that will be used to evaluate under this criterion is provided in Appendix 2 to this FOA. Note: One (1) point will be awarded for each objective included for a project, with a satisfactory description provided. A bonus point (for a potential total point value of '4') will be awarded to a project that includes all three (3) objectives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Objective 1 - Grid Resilience and Reliability: A successful project should improve the resilience and reliability of the power grid, critical infrastructure, and essential services, especially in disadvantaged and frontline communities⁷. These projects should not only bring the benefits of clean, reliable, and affordable power to</p> 	<p>0 – 4</p>

⁷ See Endnote 1.

	<p>Maryland communities, but also be sited such that they deliver the best technical, logistical, and cost-effective benefits to the electric grid (“locational value”).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Objective 2 - Enabling Virtual Power Plants: A successful project should make investments in electricity grid and supporting infrastructure that will enable the creation of virtual power plants (“VPPs”)⁸ through which Marylanders and Maryland organizations can participate and benefit, which also brings resilience and modernization benefits to grid infrastructure. This includes activities such as: increasing transmission and distribution system capacity for further DER penetration, especially on restricted and isolated circuits; installing new and modernizing existing telemetry systems necessary for optimal management of VPPs; among others.</p> <p>Objective 3 - Clean Energy Workforce Development: A successful project should invest in measures and infrastructure improvements that enhance clean energy workforce development, including the creation of good-paying, clean energy jobs for Marylanders that provide the free and fair choice to join a union; the growth of clean energy workforce education and training opportunities (e.g., apprenticeships, degrees, and certifications, etc.); foster mechanisms by which disadvantaged, frontline, and vulnerable communities</p> 	
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⁸ See Endnote 2.

	<p>can hold systems and organizations of governance and capital and asset control accountable (e.g., community benefit agreements, oversight councils, etc.); and growing clean energy manufacturing and end-of-useful-life recycling operations within the State. MEA encourages that the project includes forging relationships between key energy, workforce, and community stakeholders to market distributed energy resource solutions.</p>	
<p>Equitable Community Outcomes</p>	<p>The application proposal should clearly, explicitly, and with sufficient, defensible detail and justification, identify energy equity improvements that the surrounding community would realize as a result of successful project installation. Further, the proposal must explicitly identify the communities that will benefit from the project by census tract(s). Equitable outcomes should be direct, material to community members and measurable in terms of impact. Priority consideration will be given to projects that benefit Maryland’s low-to-moderate income, overburdened, and underserved⁹ (“LMIOU”) and federally-defined Justice40 communities. Examples of “direct” benefits include but are not limited to reduction in energy burden*; improved power quality in areas with higher-than-average outages, flicker, and other power disruptive events; siting measures on brownfield sites; improved local air quality; improved access to the benefits of renewable energy sources; etc.</p> <p><i>*Energy burden is the percentage of household income that is spent on energy</i></p>	<p>0 - 4</p>

⁹ “Overburdened” and “underserved” communities are defined as they appear in §1-701 of the Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland.

	<i>expenses.</i>	
Enhanced Grid Resilience and Reliability	A successful project must produce material, measurable enhancements to the resilience, reliability, and adaptive capacity of the electricity grid to reduce the likelihood and consequences of disruptive events. The application proposal must identify the grid infrastructure and operational deficiencies that the proposed project will help remedy, define the measurable metrics that will be used to evaluate the proposed project’s efficacy, and provide well-reasoned and diligenced justification for why the proposed measures were selected over alternative infrastructure or solution investments.	0 - 4
Greenhouse Gas Reduction Benefits	The proposed project must demonstrate that its installation will contribute directly to quantifiable and measurable Scope 1, Scope 2, and, if possible, Scope 3 greenhouse gas reduction benefits to the State of Maryland, especially for our LMIOU and Justice40 communities. MEA is particularly interested in projects that avoid the need to bring additional conventional generation capacity onto the grid or reduce the frequency of needed peaker plant generation, with special emphasis placed on reducing or eliminating the use of conventional peaker plants that are located in LMIOU and Justice40 communities.	0 - 4
Critical Infrastructure Supported	A successful project will help improve the power quality and reliability to Maryland’s critical infrastructure, including but not limited to wastewater treatment plants and potable water systems, hospitals and medical facilities, dense population centers, senior care facilities, and others. Specific critical infrastructure sites must be identified and information about those sites must be	0 - 3

	provided, including a description of and justification for their criticality. The application proposal should clearly explain, with sufficient detail, how the proposed project will deliver power quality and reliability improvements to the critical infrastructure site(s), with defined metrics to gauge efficacy of the project after it is installed.	
Efficiency of Capital Stacking	A successful project will optimize its “capital stack,” meaning the sources and uses of funds that will pay for the project. An ideal project will balance its beneficial outcomes with minimizing cost impact to ratepayers, and will take into account costs that have historically been externalized, such as the social cost of carbon ¹⁰ . A well-diligenced project will include a full project lifecycle financial proforma that clearly delineates capital funding sources; uses of those funds broken out by cost category and specific line items; and includes net present value (“NPV”) and internal rate of return (“IRR”) analysis. Further, the proforma should clearly define its variables and underlying assumptions, as well as its weighted average cost of capital (“WACC”).	0 - 3
Replicability and Scalability	The project should pursue replicable and scalable solutions and outcomes that build capacity for future similar projects and outcomes. Specifically, an ideal project should be able to serve as a commercial “proof of concept” that can be scaled and replicated across Maryland, and, ideally, nationwide. Note , the Maryland RISE	0 - 2

¹⁰ For the purposes of the Maryland RISE Program, MEA will consider the social cost of carbon to be equal to the most up-to-date estimation for social cost of carbon as published by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

	<p>Program is not a research and development (“R&D”) program. Projects should not include brand new or untested measures or solutions. A successful project under this criterion will include new measures or solution strategies that have been thoroughly researched and deployed outside of the R&D environment, and have demonstrated, vetted successes that hold high potential to scale in the built environment.</p>	
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Geographic Diversity: Please note that, in order to enhance geographic diversity, and to help meet federal Justice40 outcomes, MEA may consider a project’s geographic location within the State when considering a grant award.

Review Process: Each application package will be evaluated competitively by an Evaluation Team. The Evaluation Team will be made up of MEA and other Maryland State agency staff with relevant experience. The evaluation includes four (4) review steps that are detailed below.

1. Program Manager Eligibility Review: The MEA Program Manager reviews the application for eligibility according to the Minimum Eligibility Criteria. An application that does not meet the Minimum Eligibility Criteria will be rejected from funding consideration and the applicant will be notified.
2. Evaluation Team Member Individual Review: Each member of the Evaluation Team reviews and scores each application according to the Evaluation Criteria.
3. Evaluation Team Group Review and Award Recommendation: The Evaluation Team convenes for a group review of their findings and scores for

each eligible application. An Evaluation Team member is permitted to modify their score for an eligible application considering new information discovered during the Group Review discussion. The final score for an eligible application is determined by taking the average of the individual Evaluation Team member scores for that application. The Evaluation Team will finalize all scores and make an award recommendation to the MEA Director.

4. **DOE Clearance:** The U.S. Department of Energy will receive the signed recommendation from the MEA Director for review, as required by Section 40101(d) of the federal IIJA. **Please note, each project recommended for a Maryland RISE Program grant must be approved by the U.S. DOE prior to issuance of a grant. MEA will notify each applicant selected for a grant and will execute a grant agreement.** MEA will also inform applicants that were not selected for a grant.

Partial Grants:

Partial grants may be awarded under this Program, depending on the number of complete proposals received and associated total grant funds requested. Full grant amounts will be made for approved projects, based on rankings of applications, in descending order from highest to lowest, until grant funds are exhausted. If sufficient grant funds are not available to fully fund a project, the applicant will be given an option to accept partial funding. If the applicant declines, MEA will offer partial grant funding under this same structure to the next qualified applicant until all funding has been expended or all remaining projects have rejected the offer.

Program Provisions:

MEA grant programs are covered by general requirements that will be made part of the grant agreement between MEA and a grantee. A copy of these provisions (“General Provisions”) is available on MEA’s website [here](https://energy.maryland.gov/SiteAssets/Pages/all-incentives/General%20Provisions%20v3%202.11.22.pdf)¹¹; this document will be incorporated into all MEA FY25 grant agreements.

¹¹ <https://energy.maryland.gov/SiteAssets/Pages/all-incentives/General%20Provisions%20v3%202.11.22.pdf>

In addition to the General Provisions, the following funding qualifications apply to this Program:

- MEA may obligate all or none of the FY25 Maryland RISE Program budget, based on the quality and eligibility of applications submitted to MEA; and
- **All projects that receive financial support from MEA must adhere to its Fossil Fuel Policy, which is provided as Appendix 1 to this FOA.**

Regulations:

MEA grant programs are regulated by the Strategic Energy Investment Program regulations* (COMAR 14.26.02). All applicants and associated projects funded by MEA must meet all applicable regulations as defined by COMAR 14.26.02.

**To access these regulations, click [here](#)¹² and use the sidebar “Regulations by Title” to navigate to: 14 - Independent Agencies → 26 - MARYLAND ENERGY ADMINISTRATION → 02 - Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Program.*

Grant Funding and Payment:

The following requirements apply to each grantee’s request for reimbursement and payment of grant funds:

- **Electronic Payments:** Participation in MEA grant programs is voluntary. If selected for a grant and to ensure the secure transmission of grant funds, grantee recipients of MEA funding are generally 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 “ACH/Direct Deposit Authorization for Vendor Payments Form X-10” 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**. This

¹² <https://dsd.maryland.gov/Pages/COMARSearch.aspx>

must go to the appropriate location specified by the Comptroller's Office. Failure to submit ACH/Direct Deposit Authorization Form X-10 may result in grant reimbursement being delayed. If an applicant is unable to receive ACH/Direct Deposit payments, MEA may provide an exception to this requirement on a case-by-case basis, at the sole discretion of MEA.

- **Reporting:** If selected for an award, each grantee must ensure timely and current compliance with the Program's reporting requirements. Please note, each grantee will also need to comply with any applicable federal reporting requirements. **MEA will not authorize the reimbursement of any grant funds until the grantee is current and compliant with all federal and state reporting requirements.**
- **Encumbrance of Funds:** Upon receipt of a grant agreement signed by both the grantee and MEA, MEA will encumber the grant funds.
- **Prior Expenses Restriction:** No costs incurred by a grantee prior to execution of a commitment letter or grant agreement will be reimbursed by MEA for a project.

Required Application Documents:

All Maryland RISE Program applications across all AOs must be submitted electronically via email (see the "Submission Instructions" section of this FOA for more information). MEA will not accept emailed, mailed, or faxed applications except under very specific circumstances, as approved by MEA on a case-by-case basis. If you do not believe that you will be able to submit the application documents electronically, please reach out to the MEA Maryland RISE Program Team by sending an email to GridResilience.MEA@Maryland.gov by no later than **December 16, 2024**.

Each application to the FY25 Maryland RISE Program must include the following:

1. **Application Form:** Each applicant must complete and sign an FY25 Maryland RISE Program application form, and include complete, accurate, and up-to-date information asked by all applicable fields in the form. **Failure to provide required information will result in the rejection of the application from consideration.** An applicant whose application is rejected for this reason may reapply, if all other FOA requirements are met. See the “Submission Instructions” section of this FOA for information on how to download a copy of the application form.

2. **Project Proposal:** A complete and accurate project proposal in a desired, legible, and organized format **that meets the following required content and formatting restrictions:**
 - a. Must be **no more than ten (10) pages**;
 - b. Must include an executive summary (no more than one (1) page);
 - c. Must thoroughly explain the project and describe its components, objectives, and all other relevant information necessary for MEA to make a funding determination;
 - d. Must provide detailed explanations of how the project meets the Evaluation Criteria established in this FOA; and
 - e. Must include any additional relevant information that the applicant believes important for the Evaluation Team to know.

NOTE: The MEA Maryland RISE Program Manager, in their sole discretion, may disqualify an application from funding consideration if they determine that the content of the project proposal does not meet a minimum quality standard for evaluation. An applicant whose application is rejected for this

reason is free to revise their proposal and reapply, so long as they meet the eligibility requirements for the Program.

3. **Project Budget Workbook**: A complete and accurate FY25 Maryland RISE Program Project Budget Workbook. A copy of this workbook is available on the [Maryland RISE Program webpage](#)¹³ in the “Program Documents” section.
4. **IRS Form(s) W9**: The applicant **must** provide a complete, accurate, and signed IRS Form W9. **The IRS Form W9 organization name, 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. A blank copy of the most recent IRS Form W9 can be found on the [IRS Form W9 webpage](#)¹⁴. **NOTE**: Once a grant agreement is executed with a grantee, MEA **cannot change** the IRS Form W9 information. No exceptions.
5. **Good Standing Documentation**: Every applicant **must provide** evidence of Good Standing with the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation (“DAT”), unless they are a unit of local or State government, or a nonprofit organization. Further, any contractor working on the project must also demonstrate Good Standing with Maryland DAT. The applicant must include either (1) a screenshot or PDF of the applicant’s result from Maryland DAT’s [Business Entity Search](#)¹⁵ that indicates Good Standing; or (2) a copy of a [Certificate of Status](#)¹⁶ from Maryland DAT that indicates Good Standing. The applicant must include this documentation for itself, as well as its contractor(s) (if they are identified at the time of application). For (a)

¹³ *Ibid.*

¹⁴ <https://www.irs.gov/forms-pubs/about-form-w-9>

¹⁵ <https://egov.maryland.gov/businessexpress/entitysearch>

¹⁶ <https://dat.maryland.gov/businesses/Pages/Internet-Certificate-of-Status.aspx>

contractor(s) selected after a grant is awarded, evidence of Good Standing must be provided to MEA when a formal agreement is executed between the grantee and the contractor(s).

**Submission
Instructions:**

Each applicant to the FY25 Maryland RISE Program **must complete an application form, available on the [Program webpage](#)¹⁷ in the “Program Documents” section, and attach all required supporting documents listed in the “Required Application Documents” section of this FOA.**

SUBMIT EACH COMPLETE AND SIGNED APPLICATION FORM, WITH ALL REQUIRED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, TO MEA VIA EMAIL AT:

GridResilience.MEA@Maryland.gov

APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY 3:00 P.M. ET, JANUARY 21, 2025.

If you do not believe that you will be able to submit the application via email, **contact MEA by no later than** December 16, 2024, by sending an email to the MEA Maryland RISE Program Manager at GridResilience.MEA@Maryland.gov. MEA may grant an exception to email submission on a case-by-case basis, only for special circumstances, as determined solely by MEA.

Questions:

Questions can be directed to the MEA Maryland RISE Program Team by sending an email to GridResilience.MEA@Maryland.gov. You can also call MEA’s main phone line at 410.537.4000.

¹⁷ <https://energy.maryland.gov/business/Pages/Maryland-RISE.aspx>

Endnotes

1. *These are communities as defined by the Biden Administration’s Justice40 initiative as well as Maryland state law, such as those defined in the enacted 2022 Climate Solutions Now Act ([Chapter 38, 2022 Acts of Maryland](#)). MEA may consult additional accredited resources to help identify communities that have disproportionately borne the negative effects of underinvestment, disinvestment, climate change, and other adverse socioeconomic and environmental impacts, as appropriate.*
2. *A virtual power plant, or “VPP”, is defined by the Rocky Mountain Institute (“RMI”) as, “a collection of small-scale energy resources that, aggregated together and coordinated with grid operations, can provide the same kind of reliability and economic value to the grid as traditional power plants[.]” and further states that, “a VPP is comprised of hundreds or thousands of households and businesses that offer the latent potential of their thermostats, electric vehicles (“EVs”), appliances, batteries, and solar arrays to support the grid. These devices can be flexibly charged, discharged, or managed to meet grid needs. When these devices are aggregated and coordinated, they can provide many of the same energy services (capacity, energy, ancillary services) as a traditional power plant. Read more here: <https://rmi.org/clean-energy-101-virtual-power-plants/>*

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FY25 Maryland RISE Program
Funding Opportunity Announcement
Appendix 1: MEA Fossil Fuel Policy

Each project that receives financial support from MEA must adhere to the MEA Fossil Fuel Policy:

- Projects that include fossil-fuel or other combustion technologies that produce greenhouse gas emissions are typically not eligible for funding.
- Specific examples of projects that would not be eligible for funding under the Program include:
 - Efforts that expand the use of fossil fuel or natural gas technologies, except where meeting one of the exemptions or those efforts are technically infeasible;
 - Expansion of infrastructure that results in an expansion of fossil fuel delivery volume;
 - New installations of fossil fuel or natural gas fired technologies;
 - Projects that result in significant life extension of fossil fuel fired systems, beyond basic health and safety repairs or efforts that enhance efficiency but do not extend the gas system/or fossil fueled fired equipment life.

Note: Limited exceptions may be considered where there is no other technically feasible technology or where a source can be demonstrated to be zero emission. Any applications for projects involving fossil fuel must provide evidence that a technical analysis of why electrified or other zero emission alternatives cannot be implemented, this analysis should not be on the basis of operating or capital costs alone.

- While MEA may accept projects that address basic health and safety repairs or efforts that enhance efficiency but do not extend the gas system/or fossil fueled fired equipment life, a project must be part of an overall project that includes other energy efficiency improvements, which reduce or eliminate fossil fuel use.

This situation is anticipated to primarily, but not exclusively, be seen in residential energy efficiency projects.

Exemptions:

All exemption requests must be in writing, provide a thorough technical analysis of why electrification and other zero emission technologies cannot be applied from a technical perspective, and consider each of the following:

- Currently available commercialized technologies,
- Ability of locationally specific existing utility infrastructure to support non-fossil fuel applications,
- Thorough evaluation of alternatives,
- Mitigation efforts to offset the greenhouse gas emissions of fossil fuel use,
- A description of any efforts to make infrastructure ready for future technologies, such as green hydrogen, or phase out fossil fueled technology in the future, and
- Statutorily directed activities.

Operating and capital costs alone will not be considered justification for any exemption and exemptions will not be approved solely on cost saving opportunities.

Version 1.0 Initial Version 10/16/2023

END OF APPENDIX 1.

**FY25 Maryland RISE Program
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Appendix 2: Meeting Objectives Evaluation Metrics**

The following metrics are what will be used to evaluate each application under the “Meeting Objectives” criterion in the “Evaluation Criteria” section of the FOA. Metrics are categorized based upon their associated Objective as defined in the FOA.

Objective 1: Grid Resilience and Reliability

- Frequency (number of occurrences per year) of electricity service disruptions of one (1) hour or more across the State of Maryland;
- Number of hours or days that critical facilities and services are closed or unavailable due to lack of electricity or heating fuel(s);
- Frequency (number of occurrences per year) of electricity service disruptions of one (1) hour or more to residents of low-to-moderate income, overburdened, and underserved (“LMIOU”) and federally-defined Justice40 communities;
- Number of components and systems replaced or given hardened resilience or reliability attributes, and the associated descriptions and gauged impact of those attributes;
- Identification of critical electricity “load pockets”¹⁸ that will benefit from installation of the project, and a description of how they will benefit with defined, measurable metrics to gauge efficacy;
- Added value to the electricity grid infrastructure with the addition of more modern and energy-efficient, environmentally-friendly materials;
- Average ages of items or materials currently used in operation of the electricity grid, broken out by type or application;

¹⁸ A “load pocket” is commonly referred to as one or more of the following: (1) a dense population center that is served by only one electric transmission line, (2) an area that includes one or more critical infrastructure facilities or infrastructure, (3) an area that includes a large regional employer, (4) an LMIOU or Justice40 community, etc.

- Locational value¹⁹ of siting non-generation distributed energy resources and other grid-hardening infrastructure; and
- Depreciation value of the items or materials currently used in operation of the electricity grid.

Objective 2: Enabling Virtual Power Plants

- Total kilovolt (“kV”) transmission and distribution line capacity added to the Maryland electricity grid;
- Projected amount of new distributed energy resource capacity (in kilowatts (“kW”)) enabled by transmission and distribution capacity improvements;
- Anticipated amount of additional energy (in kilowatt-hours (“kWh”)) that can be added to the Maryland electricity grid, based on the projected amount of new distributed energy resource capacity (the metric preceding this one);
- Anticipated ratepayer impact of grid infrastructure additions and improvements; and
- Line loss reductions that will be achieved by modernized line capacities (i.e., efficiency gains).

Objective 3: Clean Energy Workforce Development

- Number and type (permanent, temporary, contractual, full-time, part-time, etc.) of jobs created as a result of the project;
- Number and type (degree, certification, etc.) of training programs developed in the state to advance the workforce in clean energy and energy efficiency workforces;

¹⁹ “Locational value,” for the purposes of the Maryland RISE Program, means the technical, operational, and economic value gained to the electric utility grid and surrounding communities by siting the asset in a certain location. In this context, “locational value” goes beyond strictly economic considerations and weighs technical and operational considerations the same as economic ones.

- Development of apprenticeship programs in clean energy and energy efficiency workforces;
- Number of clean energy and energy efficiency businesses and organizations added to and grown within the state as a result of the project; and
- Dollar value of clean energy and energy efficiency output as a result of market growth, as a subset of state gross domestic product (“GDP”).

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END OF APPENDIX 2.**

**FY25 Maryland RISE Program
Funding Opportunity Announcement
Appendix 3: Federal Requirements**

**APPENDIX 3 IS PROVIDED ON THE FOLLOWING
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**SPECIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR USE IN FORMULA GRANTS ISSUED UNDER THE
GRID DEPLOYMENT OFFICE (GDO) ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL REQUIREMENTS
DOCUMENT (ALRD)**

LEGAL AUTHORITY AND EFFECT (JUNE 2015)

- (a) A DOE financial assistance award is valid only if it is in writing and is signed, either in writing or electronically, by a DOE Contracting Officer.
- (b) Recipients are free to accept or reject the award. A request to draw down DOE funds constitutes the Recipient's acceptance of the terms and conditions of this Award.

RESOLUTION OF CONFLICTING CONDITIONS

Any apparent inconsistency between Federal statutes and regulations and the terms and conditions contained in this award must be referred to the DOE Award Administrator for guidance.

AWARD AGREEMENT TERMS AND CONDITIONS (DECEMBER 2014) (NETL – APRIL 2024)

This assistance agreement consists of the Assistance Agreement Cover Page and Award Terms and Conditions, plus the following:

- a. Special terms and conditions.
- b. Attachments:

Attachment No.	Title
1	Intellectual Property Provisions
2	Statement of Project Objectives
3	Federal Assistance Reporting Checklist

- c. Applicable program regulations: NONE
- d. DOE Assistance Regulations, 2 CFR part 200 as amended by 2 CFR part 910 at <http://www.eCFR.gov>.
- e. Research Terms and Conditions and the DOE Agency Specific Requirements at <http://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/rte/index.jsp> (if the Award is for research and the Award is to a university or non-profit).
- f. Application/proposal as approved by DOE.
- g. National Policy Assurances to Be Incorporated as Award Terms in effect on date of award at <https://www.nsf.gov/awards/managing/rte.jsp>.
- h. Public Law 117-58, also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)

FLOW DOWN REQUIREMENT

The Recipient agrees to apply the terms and conditions of this Award, as applicable, including the Intellectual Property Provisions, to all subrecipients (and subcontractors, as appropriate), as required by 2 CFR 200.101, and to require their strict compliance therewith. Further, the Recipient must apply the Award terms as required by 2 CFR 200.327 to all subrecipients (and subcontractors, as appropriate), and to require their strict compliance therewith.

CONFERENCE SPENDING (FEBRUARY 2015)

The recipient shall not expend any funds on a conference not directly and programmatically related to the purpose for which the grant or cooperative agreement was awarded that would defray the cost to the United States Government of a conference held by any Executive branch department, agency, board, commission, or office for which the cost to the United States Government would otherwise exceed \$20,000, thereby circumventing the required notification by the head of any such Executive Branch department, agency, board, commission, or office to the Inspector General (or senior ethics official for any entity without an Inspector General), of the date, location, and number of employees attending such conference.

PAYMENT PROCEDURES - REIMBURSEMENT THROUGH THE AUTOMATED STANDARD APPLICATION FOR PAYMENTS (ASAP) SYSTEM

- a. Method of Payment. Payment will be made by reimbursement through the Department of Treasury's ASAP system.
- b. Requesting Reimbursement. Requests for reimbursements must be made through the ASAP system. Your requests for reimbursement should coincide with your normal billing pattern, but not more frequently than every two weeks. Each request must be limited to the amount of disbursements made for the federal share of direct project costs and the proportionate share of allowable indirect costs incurred during that billing period.
- c. Adjusting payment requests for available cash. You must disburse any funds that are available from repayments to and interest earned on a revolving fund, program income, rebates, refunds, contract settlements, audit recoveries, credits, discounts, and interest earned on any of those funds before requesting additional cash payments from DOE/NNSA.
- d. Payments. All payments are made by electronic funds transfer to the bank account identified on the ASAP Bank Information Form that you filed with the U.S. Department of Treasury.

COST MATCH

- a. "Cost Matching" for the non-federal share is calculated as a percentage of the Federal funds only, rather than the Total Project Cost. The Total Project Cost is the sum of the Government share and Recipient match. The Recipient's cost match must come from non-Federal sources unless otherwise allowed by law.

Each Recipient is required to match 15 percent of their allocation. In addition, eligible entities performing resilience projects are required to provide a 100 percent cost match, unless the eligible entity sells not more than 4,000,000 megawatt hours of electricity per year, then the eligible entity is required to provide a one-third cost match.

By accepting federal funds under this award, the Recipient is liable for the cost match percentage of total expenditures incurred, even if the project is terminated early or is not funded to its completion.

- b. If the Recipient discovers that you may be unable to provide the required cost matching under this award, the Recipient should immediately provide written notification to the DOE Award Administrator indicating whether the Recipient will continue or phase out the project. If you plan to continue the project, the notification must describe how replacement cost matching will be secured.

c. The Recipient must maintain records of all project costs that you claim as cost match, including in-kind costs, as well as records of costs to be paid by DOE/NNSA. Such records are subject to audit.

d. Failure to provide the cost matching required by this term may result in the subsequent recovery by DOE of some or all the funds provided under the award.

REBUDGETING AND RECOVERY OF INDIRECT COSTS - REIMBURSABLE INDIRECT COSTS AND FRINGE BENEFITS

a. If actual allowable indirect costs are less than those budgeted and funded under the award, you may use the difference to pay additional allowable direct costs during the project period. If at the completion of the award the Government's share of total allowable costs (i.e., direct and indirect), is less than the total costs reimbursed, you must refund the difference.

b. Recipients are expected to manage their indirect costs. DOE will not amend an award solely to provide additional funds for changes in indirect cost rates. DOE recognizes that the inability to obtain full reimbursement for indirect costs means the recipient must absorb the underrecovery. Such underrecovery may be allocated as part of the organization's required cost sharing.

USE OF PROGRAM INCOME - ADDITION

If you earn program income during the project period as a result of this award, you may add the program income to the funds committed to the award and use it to further eligible project objectives.

ANNUAL ALLOCATION REQUEST

The Recipient shall submit their annual allocation request in accordance with the instructions provided in the Reporting Requirements Checklist attached to this award. The Annual Allocation Request must be submitted to the DOE Program Manager whose name is in Block 15 of the Award Agreement and the DOE Award Administrator whose name is identified on Page 2 of the Assistance Agreement cover page.

The Annual Allocation Request must include the following information:

- SF 424 reflecting the current year allocation and cost match amounts.
- Cost Match Information for current year allocation.
 - Cost Match Value
 - Identify the source/organization of the proposed cost match.
 - Type of Cost Match (cash or in-kind)
 - Provide a description of their proposed cost match.
- Program Narrative – copy of current Program Narrative if there are no changes or an updated Program Narrative to reflect any changes. If changes have occurred, a Public Notice and Hearing must be documented in the updated Program Narrative.

RESILIENCE PROJECT AND SUBAWARD/SUBCONTRACT NOTIFICATION

For all resilience project subawards and any other subaward over \$250,000, the Recipient must notify the DOE Contracting Officer and Project Officer in writing prior to the execution of new or modified subawards/subcontracts. This notification does not constitute a waiver of the prior approval requirements outlined in 2 CFR 200, nor does it relieve the Recipient from its obligation to comply with applicable Federal

statutes, regulations, and executive orders.

The Recipient is responsible for making a final determination to award or modify subawards/subcontracts under this agreement, but the Recipient may not proceed with the subaward/subcontract until the DOE determines, and provides the Recipient written notification, that the information provided is adequate.

In order to satisfy this notification requirement, Recipient documentation must, at a minimum, include the following:

- (a) Recipient confirms that the subawardee:
 - (i) is an eligible entity type identified in BIL section 40101(a)(2);
 - (ii) is a domestic entity; to qualify as a domestic entity, the entity must be organized, chartered or incorporated (or otherwise formed) under the laws of a particular state or territory of the United States; have majority domestic ownership and control; and have a physical place of business in the United States;
 - (iii) is not a debarred or a suspended entity; and
 - (iv) 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, United State Code commonly referred to as the “Davis-Bacon Act” (DBA).
- (b) Recipient confirms that:
 - (i) the process undertaken to solicit the subaward/subcontract complies with their written procurement procedures as outlined in 2 CFR 200.318;
 - (ii) the proposed work to be done is an eligible activity identified in BIL Section 40101(e)(1);
 - (iii) the proposed subaward effort is consistent with the Program Narrative being executed under the award;
 - (iv) 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;
 - (v) no planned, actual or apparent conflict of interest exists between the Recipient and the selected subawardee/subcontractor and that the Recipient’s written standards of conduct were followed;
 - (vi) as applicable, subaward/subcontracts address the Small Utilities Set Aside requirement set forth in BIL Section 40101(d)(6); and
 - (vii) all required award provisions will be flowed down in the resulting subaward/subcontract.
- (c) Recipient provides:
 - (i) SF-424A Budget Information form and Budget Justification form for all resilience project subawards; and any other subaward over \$250,000;
 - (ii) a completed Environmental Questionnaire covering the subaward activity;
 - (iii) cost match commitment letter from the eligible entity committing to meet the cost matching as required in BIL Section 40101(h);

- (iv) the proposed metrics that will be collected and reported in the Quarterly Progress Report to measure and demonstrate the beneficial impact of the resilience project on the resilience of the grid and to the community served;
- (v) listing of Foreign Nationals for subrecipients/eligible entities and technical assistance contractors in accordance with the Foreign National Participation – Approval term;
- (vi) Performance of Work in the United States waiver (if applicable);
- (vii) Buy America for Infrastructure Projects waiver (if applicable);
- (viii) Domestic entity waiver for subrecipients (if applicable); and
- (ix) a summary/brief description of any application, similar in nature, submitted by the proposed subawardee to the DOE under BIL Section 40101(c), DE-FOA-0002740, Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP).

If a State or Indian Tribe petitions the Secretary to be designated as an eligible entity for the purpose of executing a resilience project, it must provide both the 15% cost match for the entire allocation made by DOE to the State or Tribe (see BIL section 40101(d)(8)) and the project specific cost match requirement of 100% or 1/3 (see BIL section 40101(h)).

REPORTING

Reporting requirements are identified on the Federal Assistance Reporting Checklist and Instructions, DOE F 4600.2, attached to the award agreement. Additional reporting requirements apply to projects funded by BIL. As part of tracking progress toward key Departmental goals – ensuring justice and equity, creating jobs, boosting domestic manufacturing, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and advancing a pathway to private sector – DOE may require specific data collection. Examples of data that may be collected include:

- project locations,
- measurable improvements of resilience,
- transmission capacity upgraded, expanded, or built,
- electricity storage capacity installed,
- funding leveraged,
- stakeholders engaged,
- technical assistance provided, and
- value of contracts or agreements with minority owned business for supplies, services, or equipment.

Recipients must maintain sufficient records to substantiate this information upon request.

FOREIGN NATIONAL PARTICIPATION – APPROVAL REQUIRED (APRIL 2024)

If the Recipient (including any of its subrecipients and contractors) anticipates involving foreign nationals in the performance of this award, the Recipient must provide DOE with specific information about each foreign national to ensure compliance with the requirements for foreign national participation and access approvals. The volume and type of information required may depend on various factors associated with the award.

Approval for foreign nationals in Principal Investigator/Co-Principal Investigator roles, from countries of risk (i.e., China, Iran, North Korea, and Russia), and from countries identified on the U.S. Department of State's list

of State Sponsors of Terrorism (<https://www.state.gov/state-sponsors-of-terrorism/>) must be obtained from DOE before they can participate in the performance of any work under this award.

A “foreign national” is defined as a person without United States citizenship or nationality (may include a stateless person). DOE may elect to deny a foreign national’s participation in the award. Likewise, DOE may elect to deny a foreign national’s access to a DOE sites, information, technologies, equipment, programs, or personnel. DOE’s determination to deny participation or access is not appealable.

The Recipient must include this term in any subaward and in any applicable contractual agreement(s) associated with this award.

STATEMENT OF FEDERAL STEWARDSHIP

DOE/NNSA will exercise normal Federal stewardship in overseeing the project activities performed under this award. Stewardship activities include, but are not limited to, conducting site visits; reviewing performance and financial reports; providing technical assistance and/or temporary intervention in unusual circumstances to correct deficiencies which develop during the project; assuring compliance with terms and conditions; and reviewing technical performance after project completion to ensure that the award objectives have been accomplished.

SITE VISITS

DOE/NNSA's authorized representatives have the right to make site visits at reasonable times to review project accomplishments and management control systems and to provide technical assistance, if required. You must provide, and must require your subrecipients to provide, reasonable access to facilities, office space, resources, and assistance for the safety and convenience of the government representatives in the performance of their duties. All site visits and evaluations must be performed in a manner that does not unduly interfere with or delay the work.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX) – Initial Application

DOE must comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) prior to authorizing the use of federal funds. Based on the initial information provided by the Recipient, DOE has made a NEPA determination by issuing a CX, thereby **authorizing use of funds for technical assistance and administrative project activities only.**

NEPA review and approval of proposed resilience project activities are required as per the Resilience Project and Subaward/Subcontract Notification Term. If any of the proposed projects are likely to require an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), the DOE NEPA Compliance Officer will provide further guidance. Should the recipient elect to undertake activities prior to authorization from the DOE, the Recipient is doing so at risk and such costs may not be authorized and recognized as allowable cost.

FEDERAL, STATE, AND MUNICIPAL REQUIREMENTS

You must obtain any required permits and comply with applicable federal, state, and municipal laws, codes, and regulations for work performed under this award.

ELIGIBLE ENTITY PRIORITIZATION – 40101(d)(5)

In making subawards to eligible entities using funds made available under the program, the Recipient shall give priority to projects that, in the determination of the Recipient, will generate the greatest community benefit (whether rural or urban) in reducing the likelihood and consequences of disruptive events.

SMALL UTILITIES SET ASIDE – 40101(d)(6)

The Recipient shall ensure that, of the amounts made available to eligible entities, the percentage made available to eligible entities that sell not more than 4,000,000 megawatt hours of electricity per year is not less than the percentage of all customers in the Recipient State or Indian Tribe (as applicable) that are served by those eligible entities.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES – 40101(d)(7)

Of the amounts made available to the Recipient under the program each fiscal year, the Recipient may use not more than 5 percent for technical assistance (*see* BIL Section 40101(g)(1)(A)) and administrative expenses associated with the program.

NOTICE REGARDING THE PURCHASE OF AMERICAN-MADE EQUIPMENT AND PRODUCTS -- SENSE OF CONGRESS

It is the sense of the Congress that, to the greatest extent practicable, all equipment and products purchased with funds made available under this award should be American-made.

INSURANCE COVERAGE (DECEMBER 2014)

See 2 CFR 200.310 for insurance requirements for real property and equipment acquired or improved with Federal funds.

REAL PROPERTY – GRID RESILIENCE

Acquisition of land or easements is not permitted under this grant program. Improvements to real property for the purpose of grid hardening or resilience is not considered acquisition of real property for the purpose of this grant program, and therefore may be permitted.

EQUIPMENT (DECEMBER 2014) (NETL - MAY 2024)

Subject to the conditions provided in 2 CFR 200.313 and 2 CFR 910.360 (as applicable), title to equipment (property) acquired under a Federal award will vest conditionally with the non-Federal entity.

The non-Federal entity cannot encumber this property or permit encumbrance without prior written approval by the DOE Contracting Officer and must follow the requirements of 2 CFR 200.313 before disposing of the property.

States must use equipment acquired under a Federal award by the state in accordance with state laws and procedures.

Equipment must be used by the non-Federal entity in the program or project for which it was acquired as long as it is needed, whether or not the project or program continues to be supported by the Federal award. When no longer needed for the originally authorized purpose, the equipment may be used by programs supported by the Federal awarding agency in the priority order specified in 2 CFR 200.313(c)(1)(i) and (ii).

Management requirements, including inventory and control systems, for equipment are provided in 2 CFR 200.313(d).

When equipment acquired under a Federal award is no longer needed, the non-Federal entity must obtain disposition instructions from the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity. However, pursuant to the FY23 Consolidated Appropriations Act (Pub. L. No. 117-328), Division D, Title III, Section 309, the Secretary, or a designee of the Secretary may, at their discretion, vest unconditional title or other property interests acquired under this project regardless of the fair market value of the property at the end of the award period.

Subject to the vesting of any property pursuant to Section 309 of the FY23 Consolidated Appropriations Act (Pub. L. No. 117-328), Division D, Title III, disposition will be made as follows: (a) items of equipment with a current fair market value of \$5,000 or less may be retained, sold, or otherwise disposed of with no further obligation to the Federal awarding agency; (b) non-Federal entity may retain title or sell the equipment after compensating the Federal awarding agency as described in 2 CFR 200.313(e)(2); or (c) transfer title to the Federal awarding agency or to an eligible third Party as specified in 2 CFR 200.313(e)(3).

See 2 CFR 200.313 for additional requirements pertaining to equipment acquired under a Federal award. Also see 2 CFR 200.439 Equipment and other capital expenditures.

See 2 CFR 910.360 for supplemental requirements for Equipment for for-profit Recipients.

SUPPLIES (DECEMBER 2014)

See 2 CFR Part 200.314 for requirements pertaining to supplies acquired under a Federal award.

See also § 200.453 Materials and supplies costs, including costs of computing devices.

CONTINUED USE OF REAL PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT (OCTOBER 2022)

Real property and equipment purchased with project funds (federal share and recipient cost share) under this Award are subject to the requirements at 2 CFR 200.311, 200.313, and 200.316 (non-Federal entities, except for-profit entities) and 2 CFR 910.360 (for-profit entities). The Recipient may continue to use the real property and equipment after the conclusion of the award period of performance so long as the Recipient:

- a. Continues to use the property for the authorized project purposes;
- b. Complies with the applicable reporting requirements and regulatory property standards;
- c. As applicable to for-profit entities, UCC filing statements are maintained; and
- d. Submits a written Request for Continued Use for DOE authorization, which is approved by the DOE Contracting Officer.

The Recipient must request authorization from the Contracting Officer to continue to use the property for the authorized project purposes beyond the award period of performance (“Request for Continued Use”). The

Recipient's written Request for Continued Use must identify the property and include: a summary of how the property will be used (must align with the authorized project purposes); a proposed use period (e.g., perpetuity, until fully depreciated, or a calendar date where the Recipient expects to submit disposition instructions); acknowledgement that the recipient shall not sell or encumber the property or permit any encumbrance without prior written DOE approval; current fair market value of the property; and an Estimated Useful Life or depreciation schedule for equipment.

When the property is no longer needed for authorized project purposes, the Recipient must request disposition instructions from DOE. For-profit entity disposition requirements are set forth at 2 CFR 910.360. Property disposition requirements for other non-federal entities are set forth in 2 CFR 200.310-200.316.

PROPERTY TRUST RELATIONSHIP (DECEMBER 2014)

Real property, equipment, and intangible property, that are acquired or improved with a Federal award must be held in trust by the non-Federal entity as trustee for the beneficiaries of the project or program under which the property was acquired or improved.

See 2 CFR Part 200.316 for additional requirements pertaining to real property, equipment, and intangible property acquired or improved under a Federal award.

INSOLVENCY, BANKRUPTCY OR RECEIVERSHIP

The Recipient must include the insolvency, bankruptcy or receivership term in any for-profit/non-profit sub-award(s), at any tier.

a. You shall immediately notify the DOE of the occurrence of any of the following events: (i) you or your parent's filing of a voluntary case seeking liquidation or reorganization under the Bankruptcy Act; (ii) your consent to the institution of an involuntary case under the Bankruptcy Act against you or your parent; (iii) the filing of any similar proceeding for or against you or your parent, or its consent to, the dissolution, winding-up or readjustment of your debts, appointment of a receiver, conservator, trustee, or other officer with similar powers over you, under any other applicable state or federal law; or (iv) your insolvency due to your inability to pay your debts generally as they become due.

b. Such notification shall be in writing and shall: (i) specifically set out the details of the occurrence of an event referenced in paragraph a; (ii) provide the facts surrounding that event; and (iii) provide the impact such event will have on the project being funded by this award.

c. Upon the occurrence of any of the four events described in the first paragraph, DOE reserves the right to conduct a review of your award to determine your compliance with the required elements of the award (including such items as cost share, progress towards technical project objectives, and submission of required reports). If the DOE review determines that there are significant deficiencies or concerns with your performance under the award, DOE reserves the right to impose additional requirements, as needed, including (i) change your payment method; or (ii) institute payment controls.

d. Failure of the Recipient to comply with this term may be considered a material noncompliance of this financial assistance award by the Contracting Officer.

PERFORMANCE OF WORK IN UNITED STATES

The Recipient agrees that at least **100%** of the direct labor cost for the project (including subrecipient labor) shall be incurred in the United States, unless the Recipient can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the DOE that the United States economic interest will be better served through a greater percentage of the work being performed outside the United States.

REPORTING SUBAWARD AND EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION (SEPTEMBER 2023)

a. Reporting of first-tier subawards.

1. **Applicability.** Unless the Recipient is exempt as provided in paragraph d. of this award term, the Recipient must report each action that equals or exceeds \$30,000 in Federal funds for a subaward to a non-Federal entity or Federal agency (see definitions in paragraph e. of this award term).
2. **Where and when to report.**
 - i. The non-Federal entity or Federal agency must report each obligating action described in paragraph a.1. of this award term to <http://www.fsrs.gov>.
 - ii. For subaward information, report no later than the end of the month following the month in which the obligation was made. (For example, if the obligation was made on November 7, 2010, the obligation must be reported by no later than December 31, 2010.)
3. **What to report.** The Recipient must report the information about each obligating action that the submission instructions posted at <http://www.fsrs.gov> specify.

b. Reporting total compensation of recipient executives for non-Federal entities.

1. **Applicability and what to report.** The Recipient must report total compensation for each of its five most highly compensated executives for the preceding completed fiscal year, if
 - i. The total Federal funding authorized to date under this Federal award is \$30,000 or more as defined in 2 CFR 170.320;
 - ii. In the preceding fiscal year, the Recipient received:
 - a) 80 percent or more of the Recipient's annual gross revenues from Federal procurement contracts (and subcontracts) and Federal financial assistance subject to the Transparency Act, as defined at 2 CFR 170.320 (and subawards); and
 - b) \$25,000,000 or more in annual gross revenues from Federal procurement contracts (and subcontracts) and Federal financial assistance subject to the Transparency Act, as defined at 2 CFR 170.320 (and subawards); and
 - iii. The public does not have access to information about the compensation of the executives through periodic reports filed under section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m(a), 78o(d)) or section 6104 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. (To determine if the public has access to the compensation information, see the U.S. Security and Exchange Commission total compensation filings at <https://www.sec.gov/answers/execomp.htm>.)

2. Where and when to report. The Recipient must report executive total compensation described in paragraph b.1. of this award term:

- i. As part of the Recipients registration profile at <https://www.sam.gov>.
- ii. By the end of the month following the month in which this award is made, and annually thereafter.

c. Reporting of total compensation of subrecipient executives.

1. Applicability and what to report. Unless the Recipient is exempt as provided in paragraph d. of this award term, for each first-tier non-Federal entity subrecipient under this award, the Recipient shall report the names and total compensation of each of the subrecipient's five most highly compensated executives for the subrecipient's preceding completed fiscal year, if:

- i. In the subrecipient's preceding fiscal year, the subrecipient received;
 - a) 80 percent or more of its annual gross revenues from Federal procurement contracts (and subcontracts) and Federal financial assistance subject to the Transparency Act, as defined at 2 CFR 170.320 (and subawards); and
 - b) \$25,000,000 or more in annual gross revenues from Federal procurement contracts (and subcontracts), and Federal financial assistance subject to the Transparency Act (and subawards); and
- ii. The public does not have access to information about the compensation of the executives through periodic reports filed under section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m(a), 78o(d)) or section 6104 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. (To determine if the public has access to the compensation information, see the U.S. Security and Exchange Commission total compensation filings at <https://www.sec.gov/answers/excomp.htm>.)

2. Where and when to report. The Recipient must report subrecipient executive total compensation described in paragraph c.1. of this award term:

- i. To the recipient
- ii. By the end of the month following the month during which the Recipient makes the subaward. For example, if a subaward is obligated on any date during the month of October of a given year (i.e., between October 1 and 31), the Recipient must report any required compensation information of the subrecipient by November 30 of that year.

d. Exemptions

If, in the previous tax year, the Recipient had gross income, from all sources, under \$300,000, it is exempt from the requirements to report:

- i. Subawards, and
- ii. The total compensation of the five most highly compensated executives of any subrecipient.

e. Definitions. For purposes of this award term:

1. *Federal Agency* means a Federal agency as defined at 5 U.S.C. 551(1) and further clarified by 5 U.S.C. 552(f).
2. *Non-Federal entity* means all of the following, as defined in 2 CFR part 25:
 - i. A Governmental organization, which is a State, local government, or Indian tribe;
 - ii. A foreign public entity;
 - iii. A domestic or foreign nonprofit organization; and
 - iv. A domestic or foreign for-profit organization;
3. *Executive* means officers, managing partners, or any other employees in management positions.
4. *Subaward*:
 - i. This term means a legal instrument to provide support for the performance of any portion of the substantive project or program for which the Recipient received this award and that the recipient awards to an eligible subrecipient.
 - ii. The term does not include the Recipient's procurement of property and services needed to carry out the project or program (for further explanation, see 2 CFR 200.331).
 - iii. A subaward may be provided through any legal agreement, including an agreement that the Recipient or a subrecipient considers a contract.
5. *Subrecipient* means a non-Federal entity or Federal agency that:
 - i. Receives a subaward from the Recipient under this award; and
 - ii. Is accountable to the Recipient for the use of the Federal funds provided by the subaward.
6. *Total compensation* means the cash and noncash dollar value earned by the executive during the recipient's or subrecipient's preceding fiscal year and includes the following (for more information see 17 CFR 229.402(c)(2)).

SYSTEM FOR AWARD MANAGEMENT AND UNIVERSAL IDENTIFIER REQUIREMENTS

A. Requirement for System for Award Management (SAM) Unless exempted from this requirement under 2 CFR 25.110, the prime recipient must remain registered and maintain current information in SAM for the entire period of performance of the award. This includes providing information on the prime recipient's immediate and highest-level owner and subsidiaries, as well as on all of its predecessors that have been awarded a Federal contract or Federal financial assistance agreements within the last three years, if applicable, until the prime recipient submits the final financial report required under this award or receives the final payment, whichever is later. This requires the prime recipient to review its information in SAM at least annually after the initial registration, and to update its information as soon as there are changes. Reviews and updates may be required more frequently due to changes in recipient information or as required by another award term.

B. Requirement for Unique Entity Identifier

If authorized to make subawards under this award, the prime recipient:

1. Must notify potential subrecipients that no entity (see definition in paragraph C of this award term) may receive a subaward until the entity has provided its unique entity identifier to the prime recipient.

2. Must not make a subaward to an entity unless the entity has provided its unique entity identifier to the prime recipient. Subrecipients are not required to obtain an active SAM registration but must obtain a unique entity identifier.

C. Definitions

For purposes of this term:

1. System for Award Management (SAM) means the Federal repository into which a recipient must provide information required for the conduct of business as a recipient. Additional information about registration procedures may be found at the SAM internet site (currently at <https://www.sam.gov>).

2. Unique Entity Identifier means the identifier assigned by SAM to uniquely identify business entities.

3. Entity includes non-Federal entities as defined at 2 CFR 200.1 and also includes all of the following for purposes of this part:

- a. A foreign organization;
- b. A foreign public entity;
- c. A domestic for-profit organization; and
- d. A Federal agency.

4. Subaward has the meaning given in 2 CFR 200.1.

5. Subrecipient has the meaning given in 2 CFR 200.1.

FINAL INCURRED COST AUDIT (DECEMBER 2014)

In accordance with 2 CFR Part 200 as amended by 2 CFR Part 910, DOE reserves the right to initiate a final incurred cost audit on this award. If the audit has not been performed or completed prior to the closeout of the award, DOE retains the right to recover an appropriate amount after fully considering the recommendations on disallowed costs resulting from the final audit.

INDEMNITY

The Recipient must include the following indemnity provision in any sub-awards to eligible entities performing the resilience projects at any tier:

The Recipient shall indemnify the Government and its officers, agents, or employees for any and all liability, including litigation expenses and attorneys' fees, arising from suits, actions, or claims of any character for death, bodily injury, or loss of or damage to property or to the environment, resulting from the project, except to the extent that such liability results from the direct fault or negligence of Government officers, agents or employees, or to the extent such liability may be covered by applicable allowable costs provisions.

LOBBYING RESTRICTIONS (MARCH 2012)

By accepting funds under this award, you agree that none of the funds obligated on the award shall be expended, directly or indirectly, to influence congressional action on any legislation or appropriation matters pending before Congress, other than to communicate to Members of Congress as described in 18 U.S.C. 1913. This restriction is in addition to those prescribed elsewhere in statute and regulation.

CORPORATE FELONY CONVICTION AND FEDERAL TAX LIABILITY ASSURANCES (MARCH 2014)

By entering into this agreement, the undersigned attests that Maryland Energy Administration has not been convicted of a felony criminal violation under Federal law in the 24 months preceding the date of signature.

The undersigned further attests that Maryland Energy Administration does not have any unpaid Federal tax liability that has been assessed, for which all judicial and administrative remedies have been exhausted or have lapsed, and that is not being paid in a timely manner pursuant to an agreement with the authority responsible for collecting the tax liability.

For purposes of these assurances, the following definitions apply:

A Corporation includes any entity that has filed articles of incorporation in any of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, or the various territories of the United States [but not foreign corporations]. It includes both for-profit and non-profit organizations.

NONDISCLOSURE AND CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENTS ASSURANCES (JUNE 2015)

(1) By entering into this agreement, the undersigned attests that Maryland Energy Administration does not and will not require its employees or contractors to sign internal nondisclosure or confidentiality agreements or statements prohibiting or otherwise restricting its employees or contractors from lawfully reporting waste, fraud, or abuse to a designated investigative or law enforcement representative of a Federal department or agency authorized to receive such information.

(2) The undersigned further attests that does not and will not use any Federal funds to implement or enforce any nondisclosure and/or confidentiality policy, form, or agreement it uses unless it contains the following provisions:

a. “These provisions are consistent with and do not supersede, conflict with, or otherwise alter the employee obligations, rights, or liabilities created by existing statute or Executive order relating to (1) classified information, (2) communications to Congress, (3) the reporting to an Inspector General of a violation of any law, rule, or regulation, or mismanagement, a gross waste of funds, an abuse of authority, or a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety, or (4) any other whistleblower protection. The definitions, requirements, obligations, rights, sanctions, and liabilities created by controlling Executive orders and statutory provisions are incorporated into this agreement and are controlling.”

b. The limitation above shall not contravene requirements applicable to Standard Form 312, Form 4414, or any other form issued by a Federal department or agency governing the nondisclosure of classified information.

c. Notwithstanding provision listed in paragraph (a), a nondisclosure or confidentiality policy form or agreement that is to be executed by a person connected with the conduct of an intelligence or intelligence-related activity, other than an employee or officer of the United States Government, may contain provisions appropriate to the particular activity for which such document is to be used. Such form or agreement shall, at a minimum, require that the person will not disclose any classified information received in the course of such activity unless specifically authorized to do so by the United States Government. Such nondisclosure or confidentiality forms shall also make it clear that they do not bar disclosures to Congress, or to an authorized official of an executive agency or the Department of Justice, that are essential to reporting a substantial violation of law.

REPORTING OF MATTERS RELATED TO RECIPIENT INTEGRITY AND PERFORMANCE (DECEMBER 2015)

a. General Reporting Requirement

If the total value of your currently active grants, cooperative agreements, and procurement contracts from all Federal awarding agencies exceeds \$10,000,000 for any period of time during the period of performance of this Federal award, then you as the recipient during that period of time must maintain the currency of information reported to the System for Award Management (SAM) that is made available in the designated integrity and performance system (currently the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS)) about civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings described in paragraph 2 of this award term and condition. This is a statutory requirement under section 872 of Public Law 110-417, as amended (41 U.S.C. 2313). As required by section 3010 of Public Law 111-212, all information posted in the designated integrity and performance system on or after April 15, 2011, except past performance reviews required for Federal procurement contracts, will be publicly available.

b. Proceedings About Which You Must Report

Submit the information required about each proceeding that:

1. Is in connection with the award or performance of a grant, cooperative agreement, or procurement contract from the Federal Government;

2. Reached its final disposition during the most recent five-year period; and

3. Is one of the following:

(A) A criminal proceeding that resulted in a conviction, as defined in paragraph 5 of this award term and condition;

(B) A civil proceeding that resulted in a finding of fault and liability and payment of a monetary fine, penalty, reimbursement, restitution, or damages of \$5,000 or more;

(C) An administrative proceeding, as defined in paragraph 5. of this award term and condition, that resulted in a finding of fault and liability and your payment of either a monetary fine or penalty of \$5,000 or more or reimbursement, restitution, or damages in excess of \$100,000; or

(D) Any other criminal, civil, or administrative proceeding if:

(i) It could have led to an outcome described in paragraph 2.c.(1), (2), or (3) of this award term and condition;

(ii) It had a different disposition arrived at by consent or compromise with an acknowledgment of fault on your part; and

(iii) The requirement in this award term and condition to disclose information about the proceeding does not conflict with applicable laws and regulations.

c. Reporting Procedures

Enter in the SAM Entity Management area the information that SAM requires about each proceeding described in paragraph 2 of this award term and condition. You do not need to submit the information a second time under assistance awards that you received if you already provided the information through SAM because you were required to do so under Federal procurement contracts that you were awarded.

d. Reporting Frequency

During any period of time when you are subject to the requirement in paragraph 1 of this award term and condition, you must report proceedings information through SAM for the most recent five-year period, either to report new information about any proceeding(s) that you have not reported previously or affirm that there is no new information to report. Recipients that have Federal contract, grant, and cooperative agreement awards with a cumulative total value greater than \$10,000,000 must disclose semiannually any information about the criminal, civil, and administrative proceedings.

e. Definitions

For purposes of this award term and condition:

1. Administrative proceeding means a non-judicial process that is adjudicatory in nature in order to make a determination of fault or liability (e.g., Securities and Exchange Commission Administrative proceedings, Civilian Board of Contract Appeals proceedings, and Armed Services Board of Contract Appeals proceedings). This includes proceedings at the Federal and State level but only in connection with performance of a Federal contract or grant. It does not include audits, site visits, corrective plans, or A. Reporting of Matters Related to Recipient Integrity and Performance.

2. Conviction, for purposes of this award term and condition, means a judgment or conviction of a criminal offense by any court of competent jurisdiction, whether entered upon a verdict or a plea, and includes a conviction entered upon a plea of nolo contendere.

3. Total value of currently active grants, cooperative agreements, and procurement contracts includes—

(A) Only the Federal share of the funding under any Federal award with a recipient cost share or match; and

(B) The value of all expected funding increments under a Federal award and options, even if not yet

EXPORT CONTROL (JUNE 2024)

The United States government regulates the transfer of information, commodities, technology, and software considered to be strategically important to the U.S. to protect national security, foreign policy, and economic interests without imposing undue regulatory burdens on legitimate international trade. There is a network of Federal agencies and regulations that govern exports that are collectively referred to as “Export Controls.” The Recipient is responsible for ensuring compliance with all applicable United States Export Control laws and regulations relating to any work performed under the award.

The Recipient must immediately report to DOE any export control investigations, charges, convictions, and violations upon occurrence, at the recipient or subrecipient level, and for convictions/violations, provide the corrective action(s) to prevent future convictions/violations.

PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND VIDEO SURVEILLANCE SERVICES OR EQUIPMENT (APRIL 2024)

As set forth in 2 CFR 200.216, recipients and subrecipients are prohibited from obligating or expending project funds (Federal and non-Federal funds) to:

(1) Procure or obtain;

(2) Extend or renew a contract to procure or obtain;

(3) Exercise an option to procure; or

(4) Enter into a contract (or extend or renew a contract) to procure or obtain equipment, services, or systems that uses covered telecommunications equipment or services as a substantial or essential component of any system, or as critical technology as part of any system. As described in Public Law 115-232, section 889, covered telecommunications equipment is telecommunications equipment produced by Huawei Technologies Company or ZTE Corporation (or any subsidiary or affiliate of such entities).

(i) For the purpose of public safety, security of government facilities, physical security surveillance of critical infrastructure, and other national security purposes, video surveillance and telecommunications equipment produced by Hytera Communications Corporation, Hangzhou Hikvision Digital Technology Company, or Dahua Technology Company (or any subsidiary or affiliate of such entities).

(ii) Telecommunications or video surveillance services provided by such entities or using such equipment.

(iii) Telecommunications or video surveillance equipment or services produced or provided by an entity that the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Director of the National Intelligence or the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, reasonably believes to be an entity owned or controlled by, or otherwise connected to, the government of a covered foreign country.

See Public Law 115-232, section 889 for additional information.

PROHIBITION RELATED TO FOREIGN GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED TALENT RECRUITMENT PROGRAMS (MARCH 2023)

A. Prohibition

Persons participating in a *Foreign Government-Sponsored Talent Recruitment Program of a Foreign Country of Risk* are prohibited from participating in this Award. The Recipient must exercise ongoing due diligence to reasonably ensure that no individuals participating on the DOE-funded project are participating in a *Foreign Government-Sponsored Talent Recruitment Program of a Foreign Country of Risk*. Consequences for violations of this prohibition will be determined according to applicable law, regulations, and policy. Further, the Recipient must notify DOE within five (5) business days upon learning that an owner of the Recipient or subrecipient or individual on the project team is or is believed to be participating in a *Foreign Government-Sponsored Talent Recruitment Program of a Foreign Country of Risk*. DOE may modify and add requirements related to this prohibition to the extent required by law.

B. Definitions

1. **Foreign Government-Sponsored Talent Recruitment Program.** An effort directly or indirectly organized, managed, or funded by a foreign government, or a foreign government instrumentality or entity, to recruit science and technology professionals or students (regardless of citizenship or national origin, or whether having a full-time or part-time position). Some foreign government-sponsored talent recruitment programs operate with the intent to import or otherwise acquire from abroad, sometimes through illicit means, proprietary technology or software, unpublished data and methods, and intellectual property to further the military modernization goals and/or economic goals of a foreign government. Many, but not all, programs aim to incentivize the targeted individual to relocate physically to the foreign state for the above purpose. Some programs allow for or encourage continued employment at United States research facilities or receipt of federal research funds while concurrently working at and/or receiving compensation from a foreign institution, and some direct participants not to disclose their participation to U.S. entities. Compensation could take many forms including cash, research funding, complimentary foreign travel, honorific titles, career advancement opportunities, promised future compensation, or other types of remuneration or consideration, including in-kind compensation.
2. **Foreign Country of Risk.** DOE has designated the following countries as foreign countries of risk: Iran, North Korea, Russia, and China. This list is subject to change.

IMPLEMENTATION OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 13798, PROMOTING FREE SPEECH AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY (NOVEMBER 2020)

States, local governments, or other public entities may not condition sub-awards in a manner that would discriminate, or disadvantage sub-recipients based on their religious character.

INTERIM CONFLICT OF INTEREST REQUIREMENTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (MARCH 2023)

The DOE interim Conflict of Interest Policy for Financial Assistance (COI Policy) can be found at <https://www.energy.gov/management/department-energy-interim-conflict-interest-policy-requirements-financial>

-assistance. This policy is applicable to all non-Federal entities applying for, or that receive, DOE funding by means of a financial assistance award (e.g., a grant, cooperative agreement, or technology investment agreement) and, through the implementation of this policy by the entity, to each Investigator who is planning to participate in, or is participating in, the project funded wholly or in part under this Award. The term “Investigator” means the PI and any other person, regardless of title or position, who is responsible for the purpose, design, conduct, or reporting of a project funded by DOE or proposed for funding by DOE. The Recipient must flow down the requirements of the interim COI Policy to any subrecipient non-Federal entities, with the exception of DOE National Laboratories. Further, the Recipient must identify all financial conflicts of interests (FCOI), i.e., managed and unmanaged/ unmanageable, in its initial and ongoing FCOI reports.

Prior to award, the Recipient was required to: 1) ensure all Investigators on this Award completed their significant financial disclosures; 2) review the disclosures; 3) determine whether a FCOI exists; 4) develop and implement a management plan for FCOIs; and 5) provide DOE with an initial FCOI report that includes all FCOIs (i.e., managed and unmanaged/unmanageable). Within 180 days of the date of the Award, the Recipient must be in full compliance with the other requirements set forth in DOE’s interim COI Policy.

ORGANIZATIONAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST (APRIL 2024)

Organizational conflicts of interest are those where, because of relationships with a parent company, affiliate, or subsidiary organization, the Recipient is unable or appears to be unable to be impartial in conducting procurement action involving a related organization (2 CFR 200.318(c)(2)).

The Recipient must disclose in writing any potential or actual organizational conflict of interest to the DOE Contracting Officer. The Recipient must provide the disclosure prior to engaging in a procurement or transaction using project funds with a parent, affiliate, or subsidiary organization that is not a state, local government, or Indian Tribe. For a list of the information that must be included the disclosure, see Section VI. of the DOE interim Conflict of Interest Policy for Financial Assistance at <https://www.energy.gov/management/department-energy-interim-conflict-interest-policy-requirements-financial-assistance>.

If the effects of the potential or actual organizational conflict of interest cannot be avoided, neutralized, or mitigated, the Recipient must procure goods and services from other sources when using project funds.

The Recipient must flow down the requirements of the interim COI Policy to any subrecipient non-Federal entities, with the exception of DOE National Laboratories. The Recipient is responsible for ensuring subrecipient compliance with this term.

If the Recipient has a parent, affiliate, or subsidiary organization that is not a state, local government, or Indian Tribe, the Recipient must maintain written standards of conduct covering organizational conflicts of interest.

FRAUD, WASTE AND ABUSE (MARCH 2023)

The mission of the DOE Office of Inspector General (OIG) is to strengthen the integrity, economy and efficiency of DOE’s programs and operations including deterring and detecting fraud, waste, abuse and mismanagement. The OIG accomplishes this mission primarily through investigations, audits, and inspections of Department of Energy activities to include grants, cooperative agreements, loans, and contracts. The OIG

maintains a Hotline for reporting allegations of fraud, waste, abuse, or mismanagement. To report such allegations, please visit <https://www.energy.gov/ig/ig-hotline>.

Additionally, the Recipient must be cognizant of the requirements of 2 CFR § 200.113 Mandatory disclosures, which states:

The non-Federal entity or applicant for a Federal award must disclose, in a timely manner, in writing to the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity all violations of Federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the Federal award. Non-Federal entities that have received a Federal award including the term and condition outlined in appendix XII of 2 CFR Part 200 are required to report certain civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings to SAM (currently FAPIIS). Failure to make required disclosures can result in any of the remedies described in § 200.339. (See also 2 CFR part 180, 31 U.S.C. 3321, and 41 U.S.C. 2313.)

TRANSPARENCY OF FOREIGN CONNECTIONS (APRIL 2024)

The Recipient must notify the DOE Contracting Officer within fifteen (15) business days of learning of the following circumstances in relation to the Recipient and subrecipients:

1. Any current or pending subsidiary, foreign business entity, or offshore entity that is based in or funded by any foreign country of risk or foreign entity based in a country of risk;
2. Any current or pending contractual or financial obligation or other agreement specific to a business arrangement, or joint venture-like arrangement with an entity owned by a country of risk or foreign entity based in a country of risk;
3. Any current or pending change in ownership structure of the Recipient or subrecipients that increases foreign ownership related to a country of risk. Each notification shall be accompanied by a complete and up-to-date capitalization table showing all equity interests held including limited liability company (LLC) and partnership interests, as well as derivative securities. Include both the number of shares issued to each equity holder, as well as the percentage of that series and of all equity on fully diluted basis. For each equity holder, provide the place of incorporation and the principal place of business, as applicable. If the equity holder is a natural person, identify the citizenship(s);
4. Any current or pending venture capital or institutional investment by an entity that has a general partner or individual holding a leadership role in such entity who has a foreign affiliation with any foreign country of risk;
5. Any current or pending technology licensing or intellectual property sales to a foreign country of risk; and
6. Any changes to the Recipient or the subrecipients' board of directors, including additions to the number of directors, the identity of new directors, as well as each new director's citizenship, shareholder affiliation (if applicable); each notification shall include a complete up-to-date list of all directors (and board observers), including their full name, citizenship and shareholder affiliation, date of appointment, duration of term, as well as a description of observer rights as applicable.
7. Any proposed changes to the equipment used on the project that would result in:

- a. Equipment originally made or manufactured in a foreign country of risk (including relabeled or rebranded equipment).
- b. Coded equipment where the source code is written in a foreign country of risk.
- c. Equipment from a foreign country of risk that will be connected to the internet or other remote communication system.
- d. Any companies from a foreign country of risk that will have physical or remote access to any part of the equipment used on the project after delivery.

Should DOE determine the connection poses a risk to economic or national security, DOE will require measures to mitigate or eliminate the risk.

DOE has designated the following countries as foreign countries of risk: Iran, North Korea, Russia, and China. This list is subject to change.

Recognizing the disclosures may contain business confidential information, subrecipients may submit their disclosures directly to DOE.

FOREIGN COLLABORATION CONSIDERATIONS (MARCH 2023)

- A. Consideration of new collaborations with foreign organizations and governments. The Recipient must provide DOE with advanced written notification of any potential collaboration with foreign entities, organizations or governments in connection with its DOE-funded award scope. The Recipient must await further guidance from DOE prior to contacting the proposed foreign entity, organization or government regarding the potential collaboration or negotiating the terms of any potential agreement.
- B. Existing collaborations with foreign entities, organizations and governments. The Recipient must provide DOE with a written list of all existing foreign collaborations in which has entered in connection with its DOE-funded award scope.
- C. Description of collaborations that should be reported: In general, a collaboration will involve some provision of a thing of value to, or from, the Recipient. A thing of value includes but may not be limited to all resources made available to, or from, the recipient in support of and/or related to the Award, regardless of whether or not they have monetary value. Things of value also may include in-kind contributions (such as office/laboratory space, data, equipment, supplies, employees, students). In-kind contributions not intended for direct use on the Award but resulting in provision of a thing of value from or to the Award must also be reported. Collaborations do not include routine workshops, conferences, use of the Recipient's services and facilities by foreign investigators resulting from its standard published process for evaluating requests for access, or the routine use of foreign facilities by awardee staff in accordance with the Recipient's standard policies and procedures.

BUY AMERICAN REQUIREMENT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS (MAY 2024)

A. *Definitions*

Components See 2 CFR 184.3 "Definitions."

Construction Materials See 2 CFR 184.3 “Definitions.”

Buy America Preference, Buy America Requirement, or domestic content procurement preference means a requirement that no amount of funds made available through a program for federal financial assistance may be obligated for an infrastructure project unless—

- (A) all iron and steel used in the project are produced in the United States;
- (B) the manufactured products used in the project are produced in the United States; or
- (C) the construction materials used in the project are produced in the United States.

Infrastructure See 2 CFR 184.4 (c) and (d).

Manufactured Products See 2 CFR 184.3 “Definitions.”

Predominantly of iron or steel See 2 CFR 184.3 “Definitions.”

Infrastructure Project- See 2 CFR 184.3 “Definitions.”

Public- The Buy America Requirement does not apply to non-public infrastructure. For purposes of this guidance, infrastructure should be considered “public” if it is: (1) publicly owned or (2) privately owned but utilized primarily for a public purpose. Infrastructure should be considered to be “utilized primarily for a public purpose” if it is privately operated on behalf of the public or is a place of public accommodation.

B. Buy America Requirement for Infrastructure Projects (Buy America Requirement)

None of the funds provided under this award (federal share or recipient cost-share) may be used for a project for infrastructure unless:

1. All iron and steel used in the project is produced in the United States—this means all manufacturing processes, from the initial melting stage through the application of coatings, occurred in the United States;
2. All manufactured products used in the project are produced in the United States—this means the manufactured product was manufactured in the United States; and the cost of the components of the manufactured product that are mined, produced, or manufactured in the United States is greater than 55 percent of the total cost of all components of the manufactured product, unless another standard for determining the minimum amount of domestic content of the manufactured product has been established under applicable law or regulation. See 2 CFR 184.5 for determining the cost of components for manufactured products; and
3. All construction materials are manufactured in the United States—this means that all manufacturing processes for the construction material occurred in the United States. See 2 CFR 184.6 for construction material standards.

The Buy America Requirement only applies to those articles, materials, and supplies that are consumed in, incorporated into, or permanently affixed to the infrastructure in the project. As such, it does not apply to tools, equipment, and supplies, such as temporary scaffolding, brought into the construction site and removed at or before the completion of the infrastructure project. Nor does a Buy America Requirement apply to equipment

and furnishings, such as movable chairs, desks, and portable computer equipment, that are used at or within the finished infrastructure project but are not an integral part of the structure or permanently affixed to the infrastructure project.

The Buy America Requirement only applies to an article, material, or supply classified into one of the following categories* based on its status at the time it is brought to the work site for incorporation into an infrastructure project:

- (i) Iron or steel products;
- (ii) Manufactured products; or
- (iii) Construction materials;

The Buy America Requirement only applies to the iron or steel products, manufactured products, and construction materials used for the construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of public infrastructure in the United States when those items are consumed in, incorporated into, or permanently affixed to the infrastructure. An article, material, or supply incorporated into an infrastructure project should not be considered to fall into multiple categories, but rather must meet the Buy America Preference Requirement for only the single category in which it is classified.

All iron and steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used in the infrastructure project must be produced in the United States.

* Section 70917(c) of the BABA states that “construction materials” do not include cement and cementitious materials; aggregates such as stone, sand, or gravel; or aggregate binding agents or additives. Section 70917(c) materials are excluded from Construction materials. Asphalt concrete pavement mixes are typically composed of asphalt cement (a binding agent) and aggregates such as stone, sand, and gravel. Accordingly, asphalt is also excluded from the definition of Construction materials.

Section 70917(c) materials, on their own, are not manufactured products. Further, Section 70917(c) materials should not be considered manufactured products when they are used at or combined proximate to the work site—such as is the case with wet concrete or hot mix asphalt brought to the work site for incorporation.

However, when certain Section 70917(c) materials (such as stone, sand, and gravel) are used to produce a manufactured product, such as is precast concrete processed into a specific shape or form, and is in such state when brought to the work site, then that product is subject to the BABA requirements.

Further clarification is provided in 2 CFR 184 on the circumstances under which a determination is made that Section 70917(c) materials should be treated as components of a manufactured product. That determination is based on consideration of: (i) the revised definition of the “manufactured products” at 2 CFR 184.3; (ii) a new definition of “section 70917(c) materials” at 2 CFR 184.3; (iii) new instructions at 2 CFR 184.4(e) on how and when to categorize articles, materials, and supplies; and (iv) new instructions at 2 CFR 184.4(f) on how to apply the Buy America preference by category.

Recipients are responsible for administering their award in accordance with the terms and conditions, including the Buy America Requirement. The recipient must ensure that the Buy America Requirement flows down to all subawards and that the subawardees and subrecipients comply with the Buy America Requirement. The Buy America Requirement term and condition must be included all sub-awards, contracts, subcontracts, and

purchase orders for work performed under the infrastructure project.

C. *Certification of Compliance*

Recipients must certify or provide equivalent documentation for proof of compliance that a good faith effort was made to solicit bids for domestic products used in the infrastructure project under this award.

Recipients must also maintain certifications or equivalent documentation for proof of compliance that those articles, materials, and supplies that are consumed in, incorporated into, affixed to, or otherwise used in the infrastructure project, not covered by a waiver or exemption provided in 2 CFR 184.8, are produced in the United States. The certification or proof of compliance must be provided by the suppliers or manufacturers of the iron, steel, manufactured products and construction materials and flow up from all subawardees, contractors and vendors to the recipient. Recipients must keep these certifications with the award/project files and be able to produce them upon request from DOE, auditors or Office of Inspector General.

D. *Waivers*

When necessary, recipients may apply for, and DOE may grant, a waiver from the Buy America Requirement. Waiver requests are subject to review by DOE and the Office of Management and Budget, as well as a public comment period of no less than 15 calendar days.

1. Waivers must be based on one of the following justifications:

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

2. Requests to waive the Buy America Requirement must include the following:

- Waiver type (Public Interest, Non-Availability, or Unreasonable Cost);
- Recipient name and Unique Entity Identifier (UEI);
- Award information (Federal Award Identification Number, Assistance Listing number);
- A brief description of the project, its location, and the specific infrastructure involved;
- Total estimated project cost, with estimated federal share and recipient cost share breakdowns;
- Total estimated infrastructure costs, with estimated federal share and recipient cost share breakdowns;
- List and description of iron or steel item(s), manufactured goods, and/or construction material(s) the recipient seeks to waive from the Buy America Preference, including name, cost, quantity(ies), country(ies) of origin, and relevant Product Service Codes (PSC) and North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes for each;
- A detailed justification as to how the non-domestic item(s) is/are essential the project;
- A certification that the recipient made a good faith effort to solicit bids for domestic products supported by terms included in requests for proposals, contracts, and non-proprietary communications with potential suppliers;
- A justification statement—based on one of the applicable justifications outlined above—as to why the listed items cannot be procured domestically, including the due diligence performed (e.g., market research, industry outreach, cost analysis, cost-benefit analysis) by the recipient to attempt to avoid

the need for a waiver. This justification may cite, if applicable, the absence of any Buy America-compliant bids received for domestic products in response to a solicitation;

- A description of the market research conducted that includes who conducted the market research, when it was conducted, sources that were used, and the methods used to conduct the research; and
- Anticipated impact to the project if no waiver is issued.

3. How to submit a waiver

Requests to waive the application of the Buy America Requirement must be submitted in writing to your cognizant Contracting Officer or Grants Officer.

DOE may request, and the recipient must provide, additional information for consideration of this waiver. DOE may reject or grant waivers in whole or in part depending on its review, analysis, and/or feedback from OMB or the public. DOE's final determination regarding approval or rejection of the waiver request may not be appealed. Waiver requests may take up to 90 calendar days to process.

REPORTING, TRACKING AND SEGREGATION OF INCURRED COSTS (MARCH 2023)

BIL funds can be used in conjunction with other funding, as necessary to complete projects, but tracking and reporting must be separate to meet the reporting requirements of the BIL and related Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Guidance. The Recipient must keep separate records for BIL funds and must ensure those records comply with the requirements of the BIL. Funding provided through the BIL that is supplemental to an existing grant or cooperative agreement is one-time funding.

DAVIS-BACON REQUIREMENTS (NETL – JUNE 2024)

This Award is funded under Division D of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). All laborers and mechanics employed by the recipient, subrecipients, contractors or subcontractors in the performance of construction, alteration, or repair work in excess of \$2,000 on a project assisted in whole or in part by funds made available under this Award shall be paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing on similar projects in the locality, as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with Subchapter IV of Chapter 31 of Title 40, United States Code commonly referred to as the "Davis-Bacon Act" (DBA) and its implementing regulations in 29 CFR parts 1, 3, and 5 (collectively the "Davis-Bacon Act Requirements").

Award recipients shall provide written acknowledgement and confirmation of compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act Requirements which include but are not limited to:

1. Ensuring that laborers and mechanics on BIL funded/assisted projects are paid at least the prevailing wage for their work classification on applicable projects.
2. Ensuring that laborers and mechanics on BIL funded/assisted projects are paid on a weekly basis.
3. Ensuring that the applicable wage determination(s) for construction work performed by laborers and mechanics employed by the recipient, subrecipients, contractors, or subcontractors are identified and obtained from the database at www.sam.gov, by 1) selecting "Wage Determinations," then, 2) selecting "Public Buildings and Public Works," then, 3) filtering search results by State (selecting the appropriate state from the drop-down menus), and by County or Independent City (selecting the appropriate County/Independent City from the drop-down menu) in which the work will take place, then, 4) selecting the appropriate construction type (e.g., Building, Residential, Heavy, or Highway). The

appropriate wage determination number hyperlink should be selected from the result. If the wage determination which opens lists a “Last Revised Date” after the date of the contract award/start of construction, then scroll to the bottom of the document, and under History, click on the wage determination with the date closest to, but still before the date of contract award/start of construction.

4. Ensuring that applicable wage determination(s) are uploaded to LCPtracker (see below section on LCPtracker).
5. Ensuring that the applicable wage determination(s) and the required contract provisions per 29 CFR 5.5 are flowed down to and incorporated into any applicable contracts/subcontracts or subrecipient awards.
6. Preserving a copy of the applicable wage determination(s) identified and obtained from www.sam.gov, for a period of 3 years after the construction, alteration or repair work herein is completed.
7. Maintaining responsibility for compliance by any lower-tier subcontractors or subrecipients subject to the Davis-Bacon Act Requirements.
8. Receiving and reviewing certified weekly payrolls submitted by all subcontractors and subrecipients for accuracy as needed and identifying potential compliance issues.
9. Maintaining original certified weekly payrolls for 3 years after the completion of the project and making those payrolls available to the Department of Energy or the Department of Labor upon request.
10. Conducting site-visit interviews with employees as needed to provide reasonable assurance of compliance with subcontractors and subrecipients.
11. Cooperating with authorized representatives of the Department of Energy or Department of Labor in the inspection of DBA-related records, on-site interviews of laborers and mechanics, and other reasonable requests related to a DBA investigation.
12. Posting in a prominent and accessible place the applicable wage determination(s) and Department of Labor Publication: WH-1321, Notice to Employees Working on Federal or Federally Assisted Construction Projects.
13. Notifying the Contracting Officer of Davis-Bacon Act Requirement issues, including complaints, violations (as defined in 29 CFR 5.7), disputes (pursuant to 29 CFR parts 4, 6, and 8 and as defined in FAR 52.222-14), disputed DBA-related determinations, Department of Labor investigations, or legal/judicial proceedings related to the Davis-Bacon Act Requirements under this contract, subcontract, or subrecipient award.
14. Preparing and submitting the Semi-Annual Labor Enforcement Report, by April 21 and October 21 of each year, in accordance with the reporting instructions in Attachment 2, Federal Assistance Reporting Checklist.
15. Maintain competency in complying with Davis-Bacon Act Requirements. The Contracting Officer will notify the recipient of any DOE-sponsored Davis-Bacon Act compliance trainings. The Department of Labor offers free Prevailing Wage Seminars several times a year that meet this requirement, at <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/government-contracts/construction/seminars/events>.

To avoid voluminous attachments under this award, all applicable wage determination(s) included in the www.sam.gov database and uploaded to LCPtracker are incorporated by reference herein as if set forth and attached in full. The applicable wage determination(s) are effective herein even if they have not been attached

to the contract/subcontract(s) or subrecipient awards thereunder or have not been correctly identified and obtained from www.sam.gov and/or uploaded to LCPtracker.

The Department of Energy has contracted with LCPtracker, a third-party DBA electronic payroll compliance software application. A waiver for the use of LCPtracker may be granted to a particular contractor or subcontractor if they are unable or limited in their ability to use or access the software.

Davis-Bacon Act Electronic Certified Payroll Submission Waiver

A waiver must be granted before the start of work subject to Davis-Bacon Act requirements (e.g., construction, alteration, or repair work). The recipient does not have the right to appeal DOE's decision concerning a waiver request.

For additional guidance on how to comply with the Davis-Bacon provisions and clauses, see <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/government-contracts/construction> and <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/government-contracts/protections-for-workers-in-construction>.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AND PAY TRANSPARENCY REQUIREMENTS (SEPTEMBER 2023)

All federally assisted construction contracts exceeding \$10,000 annually will be subject to the requirements of Executive Order 11246:

- (1) Recipients, subrecipients, and contractors are prohibited from discriminating in employment decisions on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or national origin.
- (2) Recipients and Contractors are required to take affirmative action to ensure that equal opportunity is provided in all aspects of their employment. This includes flowing down the appropriate language to all subrecipients, contractors and subcontractors.
- (3) Recipients, subrecipients, contractors and subcontractors are prohibited from taking adverse employment actions against applicants and employees for asking about, discussing, or sharing information about their pay or, under certain circumstances, the pay of their co-workers.

The Department of Labor's (DOL) Office of Federal Contractor Compliance Programs (OFCCP) uses a neutral process to schedule contractors for compliance evaluations. OFCCP's Technical Assistance Guide should be consulted to gain an understanding of the requirements and possible actions the recipients, subrecipients, contractors and subcontractors must take. See OFCCP's Technical Assistance Guide at: <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/ofccp/Construction/files/ConstructionTAG.pdf?msclkid=9e397d68c4b111ec9d8e6fecb6c710ec>.

Additionally, for construction projects valued at \$35 million or more and lasting more than one year, Recipients, subrecipients, contractors, or subcontractors may be selected by OFCCP to participate in the Mega Construction Project Program. DOE, under relevant legal authorities including Sections 205 and 303(a) of Executive Order 11246, will require participation as a condition of the award. This program offers extensive compliance assistance with EO 11246. For more information regarding this program, see <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ofccp/construction/mega-program>.

POTENTIALLY DUPLICATIVE FUNDING NOTICE (MARCH 2023)

If the Recipient or subrecipients have or receive any other award of federal funds for activities that potentially overlap with the activities funded under this Award, the Recipient must promptly notify DOE in writing of the potential overlap and state whether project funds (i.e., recipient cost share and federal funds) from any of those other federal awards have been, are being, or are to be used (in whole or in part) for one or more of the identical cost items under this Award. If there are identical cost items, the Recipient must promptly notify the DOE Contracting Officer in writing of the potential duplication and eliminate any inappropriate duplication of funding.

CONSTRUCTION SIGNAGE (MAY 2024)

The recipient is encouraged to display DOE Investing in America signage during and after construction. Guidance can be found at: (<https://www.energy.gov/design>). Proposed signage costs that meet these specifications are an allowable cost and may be included in the proposed project budget.

POST AWARD DUE DILIGENCE REVIEWS (APRIL 2024)

During the period of performance of the Award, DOE may conduct ongoing due diligence reviews, through Government resources, to identify potential risks of undue foreign influence. In the event a risk is identified, DOE may require risk mitigation measures, including but not limited to, requiring an individual or entity not participate in the Award. As part of the research, technology, and economic security risk review, DOE may contact the Recipient project team members for additional information to inform the review.