



## Maryland Energy Administration Resilient Infrastructure for Sustainable Energy Program FY25 Notice of Intent

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The Maryland Energy administration has published this Notice of Intent (“NOI”) to inform Maryland’s electric utilities and other electricity grid stakeholders of its upcoming Resilient Infrastructure for Sustainable Energy Grant Program (“Maryland RISE Program”, “the Program”). **This Grant Program will be budgeted with federal funds that Maryland receives from the U.S. Department of Energy (“DOE”) Grid Deployment Office’s [Grid Resilience State and Tribal Formula Grant Program](#)<sup>1</sup>**, which was established by Section 40101(d) of President Biden’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (also known as the “Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act”).

### SCOPE

The Maryland RISE Program will provide grants to local governments, utilities, and other electricity grid stakeholders to help fund infrastructure replacement and improvement projects that will equitably and sustainably strengthen the integrity of Maryland’s electricity grid. Threats posed by climate change, severe weather, malicious cyber activity, physical attack, aging system components, and other threats continue to impact the safe and efficient delivery of electricity to Maryland’s communities and industries. Successful projects will improve access to and reliability and resilience of electricity supply to Maryland utility customers, with special emphasis on those who are members of overburdened, underserved<sup>2</sup>, or otherwise socioeconomically disadvantaged and underinvested communities. Successful projects will also tie resilience and reliability project outcomes to localized energy sector career development opportunities, capacity building, and the creation of well-paying, sustainable Maryland clean energy careers. Please note, Maryland RISE Program funds cannot be used to help pay for energy generation, except under very limited circumstances that support grid resilience and reliability.

These project outcomes can help underscore and advance several state and federal climate policies, including Governor Moore’s pledge to get Maryland to 100% clean

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<sup>1</sup> <https://netl.doe.gov/bilhub/grid-resilience/formula-grants>

<sup>2</sup> “Overburdened community” and “underserved community” are defined in §1-701 of the Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland.

energy by 2035, the State's climate requirements in the Climate Solutions Now Act ([Chapter 38, 2022 Acts of Maryland](#)<sup>3</sup>), and will help further President Biden's [Justice40 Initiative](#)<sup>4</sup>.

### ANTICIPATED FY25 BUDGET

Approximately **\$10 - \$11 million**, subject to funding availability. MEA anticipates that this Program will be **federally funded**. Applicants that are ultimately awarded funds **will be required to comply with federal requirements**, in addition to Maryland requirements.

### TYPE OF GRANT PROGRAM

The Maryland RISE Program will be a **competitive** grant program. MEA will evaluate each proposal received against the Maryland RISE Program Evaluation Criteria, which will be published in the Program's Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA). Only the highest-scoring proposals will be selected for an award.

**AVAILABILITY:** Program Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) expected in Early Fall FY25. **For updates, [sign up for email notifications](#) and follow us on social media: [Facebook](#) | [X](#) | [LinkedIn](#)**

### ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

The following Maryland organizations will be eligible to apply to the FY25 Maryland RISE Program:

- Electricity Grid Operators
- Electricity Storage Operators
- Electricity Generators
- Any other relevant entity, as determined by U.S. DOE.
- Transmission Owners or Operators
- Distribution Providers
- Fuel Suppliers

### ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

The following activities will be eligible for Maryland RISE Program funding consideration, per federal requirements:

- Utility pole management;

<sup>3</sup> <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgaweb/Legislation/Details/sb0528?ys=2022RS>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/environmentaljustice/justice40/>

- Hardening of power lines, facilities, substations, and other systems that help support that safe and efficient operation of the electricity grid;
- Undergrounding of electrical equipment;
- Replacement of old overhead conductors and underground cables;
- Relocation of power lines or reconductoring of power lines with low-sag, advanced conductors;
- Vegetation and fuel-load management;
- Weatherization technologies and equipment;
- Fire-resistant technologies and fire prevention systems;
- Monitoring and control technologies;
- Use or construction of distributed energy resources for enhancing system adaptive capacity during disruptive events, including microgrids, and battery storage subcomponents;
- Adaptive protection technologies;
- Advanced modeling technologies; and
- Limited clean energy generation technologies, under specific circumstances that directly enhance grid reliability and resilience. **Note:** These measures will require prior approval by MEA or the U.S. Department of Energy.

Please note that, per the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Grid Resilience State and Tribal Formula Grant funds **cannot be used for** the construction of a new electric generating facility or large-scale battery-storage facility that is not used for enhancing system adaptive capacity during disruptive events; **or** cybersecurity measures. If you are unsure whether your proposed project will or will not include these measures, please contact MEA at [GridResilience.MEA@Maryland.gov](mailto:GridResilience.MEA@Maryland.gov).

### **NEXT STEPS FOR POTENTIAL APPLICANTS**

MEA welcomes feedback about the Maryland RISE Program from energy industry stakeholders, communities, community advocacy groups, local governments, other State agencies, and other stakeholders who are critical to the clean, efficient, sustainable operation of Maryland's electricity grid. **Please submit comments or questions to MEA via email at [GridResilience.MEA@Maryland.gov](mailto:GridResilience.MEA@Maryland.gov).**

*Please note, this program is subject to change. This document is not a guarantee of fund availability, nor is it a complete and full Funding Opportunity Announcement ("FOA"). Final program parameters and application instructions will be included in the FOA when announced later in calendar year 2024.*