Wes Moore, Governor
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor
Paul G. Pinsky, Director

Funding Opportunity Announcement ("FOA")

FY26 Resilient Maryland

Program Purpose:	The FY26 Resilient Maryland Program from the Maryland Energy Administration provides funding for organizations to develop and install microgrids, resiliency hubs, and other distributed energy resources (DERs) for critical and community uses. Funding is available for preconstruction planning and system installation, with a focus on Maryland communities, businesses, and critical infrastructure seeking reliable, clean, and affordable energy solutions. Eligible entities can use the funds to offset feasibility analysis, planning, equipment, and installation costs. DER systems funded through this program help reduce reliance on utility-supplied power, lower greenhouse gas emissions, and safeguard vital services against outages. These benefits bolster Maryland's critical infrastructure, support community lifelines, improve energy affordability for underserved populations, and advance the state's climate and economic goals.
Type of Grant Program:	**Statewide Competitive**
Application Deadline:	**3:00 P.M. ET, Friday, January 9, 2026**
Anticipated Program Budget:	**$13,000,000** is anticipated from the Strategic Energy Investment Fund ("SEIF"), for grants under this Program. The total amount awarded may be more or less, depending on the quantity and quality of applications received. Initial funding shall be $500,000 for AOI 1; $4,500,000 for AOI 2; and $8,000,000 for AOI 3.
Program Description	The Program is designed to enhance resilience and reliability for community members by funding the development and installation of resilient energy systems, specifically (1) Microgrids, (2) Resilient Facility Power Systems, and (3) Resiliency Hubs. Its purpose is to ensure that communities—especially low- and moderate-income and vulnerable populations—have reliable access to clean, affordable, and sustainable energy during extended power outages or emergencies. Under the Program Microgrids, Resiliency Hubs, and Resilient Facility Power Systems are defined as the following:

Microgrid: A group of interconnected loads and distributed energy resources (DERs) within clearly defined electrical boundaries that acts as a single controllable entity with respect to the grid. It can connect and disconnect from the main electric grid, enabling operation in both grid-connected and island (stand-alone) modes.

For the purpose of the Program, a microgrid serves two or more buildings, facilities, or sites, providing reliable electrical and/or thermal energy to these loads, sustaining critical functions during grid outages, and transitioning seamlessly between modes of operation.

Resilient Facility Power System: An interconnected system of distributed energy resources (DERs) that serves the loads within a single building, facility, or site. It is designed to provide reliable electrical and/or thermal energy, withstand and rapidly recover from utility outages, and sustain critical operations independently. While it shares many attributes with a microgrid—such as islanding capability and rapid resynchronization with the utility—it differs by operating entirely within the boundaries of one site, rather than multiple interconnected sites.

Resiliency Hub: Defined in Maryland Code Annotated, State Gov't Art. § 9-2014 (2022). As a location where solar photovoltaic and battery energy storage are designed to provide electricity to meet community needs during extended grid outages including providing (1) emergency heating and cooling, (2) refrigeration of temperature-sensitive medications (3) outlets or other plug power options for charging cell phone and computer batteries; and (4) ventilation and emergency lighting. Other requirements of a Resiliency Hub include being centrally located within a walkable, easily accessible community area approximately a half mile radius from the people it serves.

Areas of Interest:

The Program has 3 Areas of Interest (AOI). (1) Preconstruction and Planning (2) Microgrids and (3) Resiliency Hubs.

AOI 1 - Preconstruction and Planning

This AOI provides funding for Maryland communities, businesses, critical infrastructure, and organizations to support feasibility analyses and preconstruction due diligence for Microgrids, Resiliency Hubs, and Resilient Facility Power Systems.

Under this AOI Grant Recipients will develop 5 Final Deliverables that can be used for project implementation. These Final Deliverables are:

1. Feasibility Analysis: A comprehensive assessment of the technical and economic viability;
2. Preliminary Engineering Design and System Configuration;
3. Financial Proforma: A multi-year projection of the expected financial performance over a 20 year period modeling to project costs and savings;

4. An assessment of anticipated greenhouse gas impacts;
5. An implementation barriers and risk analysis to inform future project decisions.

The goal of AOI 1 is to empower applicants to transform established resilient energy system concepts into investment-ready projects, providing stakeholders, decisionmakers, and potential capital providers with confidence in the scope, value, and viability of the planned system.

Funding is restricted to preconstruction planning deliverables. Expenses related to construction, equipment purchase, or site infrastructure upgrades are not eligible under AOI 1.

AOI 2 - Microgrids

This Area of Interest (AOI) offers capital expenditure grant support to Maryland communities, organizations, and critical infrastructure operators for the construction and commissioning of Microgrids, Resiliency Hubs, and Resilient Facility Power Systems.

Funding provided through AOI 2 is specifically designated for eligible costs related to the purchase and installation of system equipment, as well as system commissioning. Preconstruction planning, soft costs, and non-capital expenditures are not covered under this AOI.

Eligible Project Types:

A Microgrid

- A distributed energy resource (DER) system designed to serve two or more distinct buildings, facilities, or sites with interconnected loads and generation assets
- Microgrid grants support projects intended to provide community-scale resilience and may include solar PV, battery storage, advanced controls, and other eligible technologies.

A Resilient Power Facility:

- A DER system designed to support only one building, facility, or site.
- This category addresses projects where all resilience enhancements are site-specific.

A Resiliency Hub:

- *Applicants seeking funding for a Resiliency Hub are encouraged to apply to AOI 3 to secure maximum funding and impact. Resiliency Hub projects that are ineligible for AOI 3 may still be eligible for AOI 2 if the following*

requirements are met:

- To qualify as a Resiliency Hub under State Gov't Art. § 9-2014 (2022) the facility must remain open to members of the surrounding community during power outages, without discrimination or restriction and provide all of the following during power outages:
  - Emergency heating and cooling,
  - Refrigeration to store temperature-sensitive medications,
  - Outlets or alternative power sources for charging cell phones and computers,
  - Ventilation and emergency lighting.

AOI 3 - Resiliency Hubs

Applicants seeking funding for a Resiliency Hub are encouraged to apply under AOI3 to secure maximum funding and impact. Resiliency Hub projects that are ineligible for AOI 3 may still be eligible for AOI 2. Resiliency Hubs are eligible under AOI 3 if the following requirements are met:

This AOI provides funding strictly for combined solar photovoltaic (PV) and battery energy storage systems (BESS) projects sited in low-to-moderate income (LMI) or overburdened communities. A Resiliency Hub is a trusted community site, such as but not limited to, a community center, school, library, or house of worship, where residents can receive emergency backup power for cellphone charging, medical devices, and shelter during grid outages.

Project Requirements

- Project Siting: The facility must be located within a community classified as LMI or overburdened, as defined in State Government Article §9–20B–05(i)(1 and the majority of households served must be LMI as defined in State Gov't Art. § 9-2014 (2022).
  - The list of eligible census tracts is available on MEA's website here[1]. Projects outside these communities or with different technology combinations do not qualify for this AOI and should refer to AOI 2 guidance.
  - Applicants must affirm that more than 50 percent of residents within walkable distance to the Resiliency Hub meet the definitions of LMI of 80 percent of the statewide

[1] https://energy.maryland.gov/Pages/CensusTractsRPS.aspx

median income. To look up the income limits for 80% of statewide median income, see MD DHCD Income Limits chart here[2].

- Technology Requirements: Funding is strictly limited to projects deploying both solar PV and BESS. Hybrid systems that do not include both technologies are ineligible under this AOI, but may be eligible under AOI 2.
- Public Accessibility: The Resiliency Hub must remain open to members of the surrounding community during power outages, without discrimination or restriction **for a minimum of 5 years as described in Maryland Code Annotated, State Gov't Art. § 9-2014(f)(2).**
- Statutory Definition: Facilities must comply with all statutory requirements to qualify as a Resiliency Hub as defined in State Gov't Art. § 9-2014 (2022). This means ensuring access to:
  - Emergency heating and cooling;
  - Refrigeration for temperature-sensitive medications;
  - Outlets or alternative power sources for charging cell phones and computers;
  - Ventilation and emergency lighting.

Grant Amount:

AOI 1 - Preconstruction and Planning

Minimum Grant Award per applicant: $50,000

Maximum Grant Award per applicant: Dependent on Project Type

Funding formula by Project and Applicant Type: Individual grants will be up to the maximum individual grant amount based on project and applicant type, whichever is less:

Applicant Type

- Government and Nonprofit: Individual grants will be up to the following maximum amounts, covering up to 100% of total project costs.
- For-Profit Entities: Individual grants will be up to the same maximum amounts, but capped at 50% of total project costs.

Project Type

- Microgrid: $125,000

[2] https://dhcd.maryland.gov/HousingDevelopment/Documents/prhp/2025-MD-Income-Limits.pdf

- Resiliency Hub(s): $15,000 per hub, maximum ten (10) hubs in a project.
- Resilient Facility Power System: $50,000

AOI 2 - Microgrids

Minimum Grant Award per applicant: $100,000

Maximum Grant Award per applicant: Dependent on Project Type

Funding formula by Project and Applicant Type: Individual grants will be up to the following maximum individual grant amounts, based on the applicant and project type

Applicant Type

- Government and Nonprofit: Individual grants will be up to the maximum amounts, covering up to 95% of total project costs.
- For-Profit Entities: Individual grants will be up to the same maximum amounts, but capped at 50% of total project costs.

Project Type

- Microgrid: $1,500,000
- Resilient Facility Power System: $1,000,000
- Resilient Combined Heat and Power: $300,000
- Resiliency Hub (AOI 2) $2,000 per kilowatt of direct current (“kWDC”) new solar PV capacity, and $2,000 per kilowatt hour (“kWh”) of battery energy storage

AOI 3 - Resiliency Hubs

Minimum Grant Award per applicant: $100,000

Maximum Grant Award per applicant: $2,000,000

Funding formula by Applicant Type: Individual grants will be up to $5,000 per kilowatt of direct current (“kWDC”) new solar PV capacity, plus a battery energy storage system, up to $2,000,000 based on the applicant type.

- Government and Nonprofit: Individual grants will be up to the maximum amounts, covering up to 95% of total project costs.
- For-Profit Entities: Individual grants will be up to the same maximum amounts, but capped at 50% of total project costs.

Award calculations are subject to the requirement that each grant amount will be based on the capacity of solar PV capacity, rated in terms kWDC that is necessary to provide the energy needed to satisfy the required resiliency hub loads for the required period of time.

- **Note:** Additional solar PV or BESS capacity may be added to the minimum capacity needed to power the required resiliency hub loads, but the grant amount will only help offset the cost of the new solar PV capacity needed for the required resiliency hub loads. MEA will not provide funds for any existing solar PV or BESS capacity that has been previously installed at the project site.

Eligible Applicants:

Eligible applicants include local governments, units of state government, nonprofit entities, and businesses that are legally authorized to operate in Maryland. The Program is not open to residential applicants.

Eligible Activities:

AOI 1: Preconstruction Planning

AOI 1 funds feasibility analysis and other preconstruction diligence activities for planning microgrids, resiliency hubs, and resilient facility power systems.

Eligible activities focus on developing five key planning deliverables:

1. Feasibility Analysis
2. Preliminary Engineering & Project Design
3. Project Financial Proforma
4. Greenhouse Gas Impact Analysis
5. Implementation Barriers Analysis

AOI 1 grants cannot be used for equipment or construction costs. It can only be used for these preconstruction deliverables.

AOI 2: Microgrids

AOI 2 provides capital support for equipment purchase and installation for the construction of microgrids and resilient facility power systems. Funds under this Program help offset costs related to equipment purchase and installation to build out DER (distributed energy resource) systems.

AOI 3: Resiliency Hubs

AOI 3 provides capital support for equipment and installation costs for solar photovoltaic (PV) systems paired with battery energy storage systems at facilities that serve as resiliency hubs. Funds under this AOI help offset costs related to equipment purchase and installation to build out a DER for a Resiliency Hub location.

Ineligible Activities:

The Resilient Maryland Program does not fund the following activities, which may be eligible for funding under other MEA or Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM) programs.

- Acquisition of land, buildings, or real property.
- Routine operation, maintenance, or repairs of existing infrastructure or equipment.
- Projects focused solely on renewable energy capacity expansion without resilience or critical load backup considerations. This can be funded through other MEA Programs such as the MEA Local Government Energy Modernization Program, MEA Commercial Solar Grant Program, or the MEA Community Solar Grant Program
- Energy storage systems for residential customers. This can be funded through the MEA Residential and Commercial Energy Storage Grant Program
- Low-Interest Loans available through Maryland Department of Emergency Management's Resilient MD Revolving Loan Fund
- Measures funded by other MEA grant programs: If applicants are applying for additional MEA grant programs, each application has to request funding for distinct measures or technologies to avoid duplicative funding
- MEA fossil fuel policy: Projects that include fossil-fuel or other combustion technologies that produce greenhouse gas emissions are typically not eligible for funding. This includes new installations, infrastructure expansion, or upgrades that extend the life of fossil fuel systems—except for basic health and safety repairs that do not prolong system use. Limited exemptions may be considered only with a thorough technical analysis demonstrating that zero-emission alternatives are not feasible for technical or safety reasons. Cost alone is not a valid justification. All exemption requests must include justification, consideration of alternative technologies, and a plan to reduce or phase out fossil fuel use in the future.

Minimum Eligibility Requirements:

Each application is screened for completeness and compliance with the following Minimum Eligibility Requirements. Applications that are incomplete or do not meet eligibility will be rejected, and applicants notified.Complete applications will be evaluated as set forth in the "Evaluation Criteria" section of this FOA.

1. **Complete Application Data Form:** Applicants must submit a completed application form using the online jotform portal. The Form must be completely and accurately filled in and signed by the Applicant.
2. **Good Standing and Authority to Do Business in Maryland:**

Applicants, and any contractor that the applicant will work with on the proposed project, must be legally authorized to do business in the State of Maryland and in Good Standing with the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation ("DAT"). Applicants must provide a Certificate of Status provided by the Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation. You obtain your Certificate of Status through the Maryland SDAT here.

3. **Employer Identification Number:** The applicant, and any contractor that the applicant will work with on the proposed project, 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 Program. Applicants must submit proof of this in the form of an IRS Form W-9.

4. **Project Location:** The project site(s) where the proposed project will be located, as well as the location(s) that will benefit from the project, must be located within the State of Maryland.

    a. **AOI3 Only**: The facility must be located within a community classified as LMI or overburdened, as defined in State Government Article §9–20B–05(i)(1 and the majority of households served must be LMI as defined in State Gov't Art. § 9-2014 (2022).

        i. The list of eligible census tracts is available on MEA's website here[3]. Projects outside these communities or with different technology combinations do not qualify for this AOI and should refer to AOI 2 guidance.

        ii. Applicant must affirm that more than 50 percent of residents within walkable distance to the Resiliency Hub meet the definitions of LMI of 80 percent of the statewide median income. To look up the income limits for 80% of statewide median income, see MD DHCD Income Limits chart here[4].

5. **Property Ownership:** The project must be on property either owned or leased by the Applicant. Applicants must provide documentation of ownership or lease.

    Applicants that rent or lease their facilities must include a letter of concurrence signed by the property owner stating that:
    a. The property owner permits the grantee to install the proposed upgrades

[3] https://energy.maryland.gov/Pages/CensusTractsRPS.aspx
[4] https://dhcd.maryland.gov/HousingDevelopment/Documents/prhp/2025-MD-Income-Limits.pdf

b. The property owner will ensure that these upgrades to the subject property remain in place and operational for the balance of the equipment's economic life, regardless of lessee turnover

6. **Ability to Enter into a Grant Agreement:** Applicants awarded a grant under the Program must enter into a formal grant agreement with MEA, before receiving any grant funds.

7. **Prior Expenses Restrictions:** Grant funds cannot be used for project expenses that are incurred prior to the execution of a grant agreement with MEA, unless MEA agrees otherwise in writing.

8. **Completion Deadline:** Any project funded under the Program must complete the project, including all milestones and required reporting documents, by no later than December 31, 2030. This assumes a grant agreement execution deadline of no later than July 1, 2026.

9. **AOI 3 Only - Labor Requirements:** If awarded a grant, prior to invoicing, the applicant must acquire a written attestation that all installation contractors and subcontractors working on the project: (a) pay at least 150% of the State minimum wage; (b) afford employees the right to bargain collectively for wages and benefits; (c) provide paid leave; (d) are considered "covered employment" for purposes of unemployment insurance benefits in accordance with Title 8 of the Labor and Employment Article; (e) entitle the employees to workers' compensation benefits in accordance with Title 9 of the Labor and Employment Article; (f) have been in compliance with federal and State wage and hour laws for the longer of the immediately preceding 3 years or for the duration of the contractor's or subcontractor's business operation; and (g) offer employer–provided health insurance benefits with monthly premiums that do not exceed 8.5% of the employee's net monthly earnings

10. **AOI 2 and AOI 3 Resiliency Hub Projects Only:** Resiliency Hub applications must be able to demonstrate a 50 percent probability of being able to sustain critical loads for a 72 hour period, being operational for a minimum of a 14 hour period per day.

11. **Cost Match Ability:** Applicants under this Program are required to provide a cost match. Applicants must demonstrate the ability to provide the required cost match (See "Grant Amount" section for cost match requirements by AOI and project type).

12. **Local Electric Utility and Community Engagement:** All Projects must include the formation of a Project Planning Committee composed of community, governmental

representative, utility, and other relevant stakeholders key to the project's success. Strong committee engagement is critical and insufficient documentation may result in disqualification of funding. Applicants must demonstrate engagement with the local electric utility. In the event the electric utility declines to participate, applicants must provide evidence of attempted outreach. Applicants should include letters of support from stakeholder groups represented by the Project Planning Committee.

Evaluation Criteria:

Each application **that has met the Minimum Eligibility Requirements of this FOA** will be competitively evaluated using the following criteria ("Evaluation Criteria"). Grants are recommended from highest to lowest final score until funding is exhausted or all eligible grants are funded.

Evaluation Criterion	Description	Possible Points
Application Completeness and Compliance with Minimum Eligibility Requirements	Verifies that all required forms, signatures, and legal documents are submitted correctly and meet program requirements. Applications must pass this evaluation to be considered for competitive evaluation.	pass/fail
Organizational and Project Team Experience	Evaluates the applicant's relevant experience, qualifications, and the roles and responsibilities of key project team members and partners.	15
Project Justification and Community Benefits	Evaluates how well the proposal explains the need for the project, the consequences of not proceeding, and the specific benefits the project will provide to the community. Note: Microgrid projects will receive more points if the project is a) also a community solar energy generating system, as defined in § 7–306.2 of the Public Utilities Article; and b) provides more than 30% of the system's kilowatt output to low–income and moderate–income subscribers.	20
Project Scope and Resiliency Design	AOI 1 Evaluates if the size and complexity of the project, critical load estimates and resiliency requirements identified justifies further planning	20

	AOI 2 and 3 Evaluates the size and complexity of the project, technical design details, and evaluates how well it addresses critical load support and resiliency objectives.	
Financial Planning and Budget Detail	Examines the completeness and realism of the budget, including cost breakdowns, funding sources, and documented cost-sharing.	15
Planning Quality and Risk Mitigation	For AOI 1 Evaluates the thoroughness of the readiness, diligence, and risk awareness to proceed to the preconstruction planning phase. AOI 2 and 3 Evaluates the thoroughness of preconstruction planning documents such as feasibility studies, engineering designs, financial models, greenhouse gas analysis, and barriers assessment.	15
Stakeholder Engagement and Support	Considers the presence and strength of support letters from project partners and key community, government, and utility stakeholders.	15

Evaluation Process

Each application package will be evaluated competitively by an Evaluation Team. The Evaluation Team will be made up of MEA staff or other individuals with relevant experience. The evaluation includes four (4) steps that are described below.

1. Program Manager Eligibility Review:The MEA Program Team screens applications for completeness and compliance with the Minimum Eligibility Requirements in this FOA. Applications that are incomplete or do not meet eligibility will be rejected, and applicants notified.

2. Evaluation Team Member Individual Review: Each member of the Evaluation Team reviews and scores each application using rubrics developed in accordance with the Evaluation Criteria established in this FOA.

3. Evaluation Team Group Review and Grant Recommendations:

The Evaluation Team meets to discuss and review their scores. Final scores are the average of individual scores. For each AOI, grants are recommended from highest to lowest final score until funding is exhausted or all eligible grants are funded. Excess initial funding in one AOI may be reallocated to another AOI.

4. Grant Award Notification: After the Evaluation Team has finalized scores and made grant recommendations, grant awards are authorized. Applicants are then formally notified of award decisions, including any conditions or next steps.

Partial Grants

Partial grants are possible under this Program, depending on the number of complete and eligible applications received and associated grant funds requested. Full grants 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 may offer partial grant funding under this same structure to the next qualified applicant until all funding has been expended or all remaining eligible projects have rejected the offer.

Program General 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 v3 2.11.22") is available on MEA's website here[5]. The most recent version of this document will be incorporated into all MEA grant agreements.

Grant Funding and Payment:

The following requirements apply to each grantee:

- **Electronic Payments:** Participation in MEA grant programs is voluntary. To ensure secure and timely payment, grantees are generally required to receive electronic payments through the State of Maryland's Comptroller's Office by submitting the mandatory ACH/Direct Deposit Authorization Form X-10 directly to the Comptroller. Failure to submit this form may delay reimbursements. Exceptions to electronic payment requirements may be granted on a case-by-case basis.

- **Reporting:** Each grantee must ensure timely and current compliance with the Program's reporting requirements of quarterly progress report submissions. The Program reporting requirements will be specified in the grant agreement.

- **Encumbrance of Funds:** Upon receipt of a commitment letter (if applicable) or a grant agreement signed by both the grantee and MEA, MEA will encumber the grant funds.

Each application to the Program must include the following:

[5] https://energy.maryland.gov/SiteAssets/Pages/all-incentives/General%20Provisions%20v3%202.11.22.pdf

Required Application Documents:

1. **Application:** A complete, accurate, and signed online application must be provided using the link under "Application Submission Instructions". The application must include all required information, and must be signed by the applicant's authorized representative.

2. **Project Proposal:** A narrative limited to 10 pages with a 1-page executive summary, directly addressing:

    1. Description of the organization's relevant experience and past successes in projects of similar scope and complexity. Suggestions of information include examples of completed projects, expertise of staff/organization including certifications or qualifications, and testimonials from previous project clients or partners that validate performance records.

    2. Identification of the Project Planning Committee including the (1) Identities of the members of the Committee, (2) Qualifications of the members of the Committee, (3) Roles and Responsibilities of the Committee.

    3. Identification of core technologies selected for the project. For AOI 3 Applicants, only solar photovoltaic and battery storage configurations are eligible for funding.

    4. Value Proposition that provides both explanation and evidence of need, opportunity cost, community impact, and other measurable project impacts such as environmental and economic.

    5. Identification of the specific energy challenges faced by those served by the Project, such as frequent power outages, extreme weather impacts, energy affordability, or access to clean and reliable energy, and how the project addresses these energy concerns.

    6. Project Scope Statement, consisting of a (1) Project Goals (2) Project timeline and key milestones (3) Description of project scale, (4) Risk management plan, and (5) System design for critical load support.

    7. Greenhouse gas emission reduction and impact with an estimate of the emissions impact of the renewable energy & storage project compared to using traditional fuel sources for backup power.

    8. Description of project partners, and their roles and responsibilities for the project, including third party organizations who will assist in the development and/or implementation of the project.

3. **Budget Workbook:** A comprehensive and organized financial spreadsheet or document that captures the total anticipated costs for the development and implementation of the resilient energy project. The total anticipated project costs refers to all sources of capital, including cash contributions, in-kind value, third-party financing, other grants or incentives, and external funding.

   The budget workbook should include itemization for direct and indirect costs, fixed and variable costs, and documentation with proof of cost share ability.

   Applicants should submit budget estimates for the costs associated with the following:

   <u>AOI 1 Applicants</u>

   a. Feasibility Analysis costs
   b. Preliminary Engineering and Project Design costs
   c. Project Financial Proforma costs
   d. Greenhouse Gas Impact Analysis costs
   e. Implementation Barriers Analysis costs

   <u>AOI 2 and 3 Applicants</u>

   a. Final engineering and design costs
   b. Equipment and materials costs
   c. Labor and installation expenses
   d. Permitting and inspection fees
   e. Utility interconnection fees
   f. Site preparation costs
   g. Final commissioning costs

4. **(AOI 2 & 3 Only) Preconstruction & Planning Deliverables** Upload all required planning documents prepared to date, including:

   1. **Feasibility Analysis:** A comprehensive assessment inclusive of (1) Project Site Facility with both the loads and critical loads to be served, (2) Baseline utility consumption, (3) Energy Efficiency Opportunities, (4) System Configurations, (5) Performance Projections, (6) Cost Information, (7) Potential Funding Sources, (8) Primary Implementation Barriers; and (9) A Proposed Timeline

   2. **Preliminary Engineering & Project Design:** A technical assessment including (1) Technical data for each system component, (2) Generation asset nameplate capacities, (3) Control and management system data and configurations; and (4) overall project design drawings. The design must also note any

required ancillary equipment, facility upgrades and site specific installation considerations.

3. **Financial Proforma:** A detailed, multi-year projection of the expected financial performance over a 20 year period including: (1) Specifications of all capital sources funding the project, (2) Clear and justified model assumptions for systems operation,(3) Projected lifespan, (4) Cost escalation and performance, (5) Projected cash flows and revenues, (6) Year by year calculations of simple discounted payback, (7) Net present value (NPV) and internal rate of return (IRR); and (8) A summary of financial risks and sensitivities.

4. **Greenhouse Gas Impact Analysis:** A Qualitative and Quantitative Assessment of a project's expected effect of greenhouse gas emissions including (1) Calculations estimating emissions reductions as compared to a baseline scenario of traditional fossil fuel backup systems, documenting project specific energy profiles; and (2) Modeling their direct emissions impacts.

5. **Implementation Barriers Analysis:** A comprehensive assessment identifying and evaluating the economic, institutional, technical, regulatory, and social changes that could impede the successful development and deployment of the DER system.

5. **Ownership Documentation:** Applicants must demonstrate property ownership for the site physically connected to the Microgrid, Resilient Power Facility, or Resiliency Hub.

   Applicants that rent or lease their facilities must include a letter of concurrence signed by the property owner stating that:
   a. The property owner permits the grantee to install the proposed upgrades

   b. The property owner will ensure that these upgrades to the subject property remain in place and operational for the balance of the equipment's economic life, regardless of lessee turnover

6. **(AOI 3 Only) - Self-Affidavits:** Applicants must submit self-affidavits affirming full compliance with the labor requirements as outlined in Maryland Code Annotated, State Gov't Art. § 9-2014 (2022. Additionally, applicants must attest that at least 50% of the individuals served by the resiliency hub reside within the designated census tract as specified by the program guidelines.

7. **Letters of Support:** The Project Planning Committee may consist of community representatives, local government officials, community based organizations, local utilities, or environmental

groups. It **must include** at least one (1) community representative, one (1) local government representative, and one (1) utility representative. A letter of support is required from each of these 3 required representatives. Additional letters of support are encouraged and contribute towards the score under the evaluation criterion "stakeholder engagement and support." In the event the local electric utility declines participation, evidence of outreach and justification of who will substitute for the utility representative is required.

8. **IRS Form 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[6]. **NOTE:** Once a grant agreement is executed with a grantee, MEA **cannot change** the grantee's EIN. No exceptions.

9. **Certificate of Status:** The applicant, and any contractor that the applicant will work with, must provide evidence of Good Standing with the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation ("DAT") in the form of a Certificate of Status. Please see the Minimum Eligibility Requirements section, subsection 3, "Authority to do Business in Maryland" for information on acceptable forms of Good Standing documentation and how to obtain them.

Application Submission Instructions

Applications for the Program should be submitted online at the jotform portal. The portal can be accessed via the link in this FOA and the Program web page.

>>>>> APPLICATION SUBMISSION JOTFORM PORTAL <<<<<<

Questions:

Questions not answered by this FOA can be directed to the MEA Clean Energy & Resilience Team by sending an email to rmp.mea@maryland.gov. You can also call MEA Energy Program Manager, Emma Stoney at (410) 382-1605.

[6] https://www.irs.gov/forms-pubs/about-form-w-9