



Funding Opportunity Announcement (“FOA”) FY25 Resilient Maryland Program Area of Interest 1: Preconstruction Planning

****A glossary of defined terms used in this FOA can be found in Appendix 1.****

NOTE: FOA application deadline extended to December 2, 2024.

Area of Interest

Description:

The Maryland Energy Administration (“MEA”) Resilient Maryland Program (“the Program”), Area of Interest 1 (“AOI 1”): Preconstruction Planning provides funding to Maryland communities, businesses, critical infrastructure, and other organizations to help pay the costs of feasibility analysis and other preconstruction diligence activities for Microgrids, Resiliency Hubs, and Resilient Facility Power Systems. Specifically, grants under the Program’s AOI 1 are to help organizations further develop established resilient energy system design concepts into five (5) key planning deliverables that can better inform project stakeholders and potential construction capital providers. These deliverables are further explained in the “Eligible Activities” section of this FOA. AOI 1 grants **cannot be used for equipment and construction costs**. Construction grants are available to eligible projects under the Program’s Area of Interest 2: Capital Support, and Area of Interest 3: Resiliency Hubs, as applicable.

Type of Grant Program

AOI:

Statewide Competitive

Application Deadline:

UPDATE: 3:00 P.M. ET, Monday, December 2, 2024

~~3:00 P.M. ET, Monday, November 15, 2024~~

Anticipated AOI

Budget:

MEA anticipates an initial funding amount of **\$500,000** from the [Strategic Energy Investment Fund](#)¹ for grants

¹ [https://energy.maryland.gov/Pages/Strategic-Energy-Investment-Fund-\(SEIF\)-.aspx](https://energy.maryland.gov/Pages/Strategic-Energy-Investment-Fund-(SEIF)-.aspx)

under this AOI. The total amount awarded may be more or less, depending on the quantity and quality of applications received.

Award Amounts:

Individual grants will be up to **eighty percent (80%)** of the total cost to complete the Final Deliverables, **OR** the following maximum award amounts based on project type (as defined in Appendix 1 to this FOA), **whichever is less:**

- **Microgrid:** \$125,000
- **Resiliency Hub(s):** \$12,000 per hub, maximum ten (10) hubs in a project.
- **Resilient Facility Power System:** \$50,000²

Eligible Applicants:

Maryland communities, critical infrastructure, businesses, nonprofits, qualifying sole proprietorships*, and other organizations that are registered to do business in Maryland and are in good standing.

*For the purposes of the Resilient Maryland Program, a “qualifying sole proprietorship” means a sole proprietorship that is current in its filing of the IRS Form Schedule F and its Nutrient Management Plan with the Maryland Department of Agriculture. MEA may ask for copies of these documents for eligibility verification.

Note 1: Individual residents are not eligible for this Program.

Note 2: A project may be owned either by the project site owner, or a third party that installs and operates the project for the benefit of the project site owner (e.g., under a power purchase agreement, lease, etc.). Both the site owner and the system owner must be applicants and, if awarded a grant, sign the grant agreement. Except for government applicants, MEA will provide grant funding directly to the grantee that is identified to receive funding on the

² MEA increased the maximum possible individual award for a Resilient Facility Power System in FY25 to \$50,000, in response to detailed cost information regarding conducting preconstruction activities on this type of system from previously-awarded projects in prior fiscal year programs.

application form. If a grantee is a state agency or a unit of local government MEA will provide funding directly to the state agency or unit of local government.

Eligible Activities:

MEA provides funding to develop five (5) planning deliverables, as described below (“Final Deliverables”). All Final Deliverables must demonstrate sufficient diligence and detail so project stakeholders and potential capital providers may reasonably rely on them to inform their decisions on about the project. **Content expectations of the Final Deliverables can be found in Appendix 3: Preconstruction Planning Documents Content Expectations.**

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

Grant funds awarded under AOI 1 cannot be used to fund any activities outside of the five (5) Final Deliverables.

Minimum Eligibility Requirements:

Each of the following requirements must be met **in order for an application to be considered “complete” and evaluated** under AOI 1. Complete applications will be evaluated as set forth in the “Evaluation Criteria” section of this FOA.

1. **Authority to Operate in Maryland:** The applicant must be legally authorized to do 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 Resilient Maryland Program.

2. **Location**: The project site(s) where the Microgrid, Resiliency Hub, or Resilient Facility Power System will be planned, as well as the location of the loads that the system will serve, must be located within the State of Maryland.
3. **Cost Match**: The applicant must contribute a cost match that is at least **twenty percent (20%)** of the total cost to produce the Final Deliverables. Acceptable forms of contribution include cash-in-kind, value of donated labor, third party financing, other grants or incentives, and other external funding sources. One or more of these sources may be combined to meet the cost match requirement.
4. **Project Planning Committee**: The Resilient Maryland, AOI 1 project must include the formulation of 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 to engage the local electric utility, even if the electric utility declined to participate. No exceptions.
5. **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.
6. **Third Party Good Standing**: Any contractor, developer, vendor, or other third-party organization that the applicant enters into a contract with to complete the Final Deliverables ("Contractor") must

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>

be in Good Standing with DAT. The applicant must provide evidence of each Contractor's Good Standing, in accordance with the acceptable documentation defined in item "5: Applicant Good Standing" in this section. **Note:** Selection of a Contractor is not required at the time of application. Please only submit documentation of third-party Good Standing with the application if the Contractor has already been formally selected and a contract has been executed. *For grantees only:* Each grantee awarded a grant must submit documentation of third-party Good Standing when a contract is executed with the Contractor.

7. **Prior Expenses Restrictions:** Resilient Maryland Program, AOI 1 funds **cannot** be used for project costs that are incurred prior to the execution of a grant agreement with MEA.
8. **Prior Recipients Restriction:** If an applicant has previously participated in the Resilient Maryland Program and received feasibility and planning funds for the project, the applicant cannot receive an FY25 Resilient Maryland Program, AOI 1 award for the same project.
9. **Technology Restrictions:** Resilient Maryland Program, AOI 1 funds cannot be used for analysis that considers fossil fuel technologies, unless all other clean energy alternatives have been deemed technically non-viable. Any fossil fuel technology analysis funded by a grant from the Resilient Maryland Program, AOI 1, must adhere to the requirements of Appendix 2: MEA Fossil Fuel Policy, of this FOA.
10. **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.

11. Ability to Enter into a Grant Agreement: Each applicant awarded a grant under the Resilient Maryland Program must enter into a formal grant agreement with MEA, before receiving any grant funds.

12. Completion Deadline: Any project funded under the FY25 Resilient Maryland Program, AOI 1 must complete the project, including the final versions of the Final Deliverables, by no later than **December 31, 2026**. This assumes a grant agreement execution date of no later than June 15, 2025.

13. Public Facilities: When a municipal or county government, or state agency, is applying to the Resilient Maryland Program, the government entity will be required to attest to its compliance with §§14-416 and 17-303 of the State Finance and Procurement Article (as applicable) and, if awarded a grant, MEA will only provide grant funds directly to the government entity.

Evaluation Criteria:

Each application **that has met the Minimum Eligibility Requirements of this FOA** will be competitively evaluated using the following criteria (“Evaluation Criteria”). Only the highest-scoring proposals will be selected for a grant, subject to Resilient Maryland Program, AOI 1 funding availability. Up to sixteen (16) total points are possible. Point ranges for each Evaluation Criterion are provided below. **Note:** To be considered for funding, an application must be complete and must achieve a minimum score of ‘10’

Evaluation Criterion	Description	Possible Points
Diligenced Concept	The application proposal makes a strong, detailed, and well-diligenced justification for	0 - 4

	<p>pursuing the microgrid, resiliency hub(s), or resilient facility power system. The proposal should clearly demonstrate that preliminary diligence on the project concept has been completed. A sufficiently-diligenced project concept must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Identify the project site(s) that the microgrid, resiliency hub(s), or resilient facility power system would serve; ● Clearly explain with sufficient detail the value proposition to the project site(s) for pursuing the microgrid, resiliency hub(s), or resilient facility power system; ● Identify the likely technologies that the microgrid, resiliency hub(s), or resilient facility power system would consider and would be researched under a Resilient Maryland AOI 1 grant, if awarded; ● Explain and, to the extent practicable at this stage, quantify the cost of “doing nothing,” that is, the opportunity cost of not pursuing the project; and ● Articulate specific, realizable benefits that the site(s) and surrounding community would potentially realize as a result of pursuing the project. 	
Energy Equity	<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. Equitable outcomes should be direct, material to community members and measurable in</p>	0 - 4

	<p>terms of impact. Priority consideration will be given to projects that benefit Maryland’s low-to-moderate income, overburdened, and underserved⁶ (“LMIOU”) 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 clean energy technologies 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 expenses.</i></p>	
<p>Greenhouse Gas Reduction</p>	<p>The proposed project, if ultimately installed, will provide a meaningful and measurable reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (Scope 1, Scope 2, and Scope 3) to the State of Maryland. Preference will be given to a project that prioritizes the reduction of localized, point-source greenhouse gas emissions to improve local air quality. An example of such a project would be the replacement of one (1) or more fossil fuel combustion system(s) with a clean-powered, electrified system.</p>	<p>0 - 4</p>
<p>Resilience Capability</p>	<p>The application proposal should demonstrate that the project prioritizes maximizing the resilience capability of the microgrid, resiliency hub(s), or resilient facility power system; while balancing it with ensuring equitable outcomes, delivering substantial greenhouse gas reduction benefits, and keeping costs at controlled levels. Resilience</p>	<p>0 - 4</p>

⁶ “Overburdened” and “underserved” communities are defined as they appear in §1-701 of the Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland.

	<p>needs vary by organization type. A strong proposal will demonstrate that the value from the resilience capability that the microgrid, resiliency hub(s), or resilient facility power system will provide, if ultimately installed, exceeds the opportunity cost of not pursuing the project.</p>	
<p>Creative Solutions</p>	<p>MEA seeks projects that pursue new and promising technologies and configurations, ownership and financing models, innovative applications of technologies to use cases, or solution strategies. Ideal projects are also replicable, scalable, and marketable. Advanced microgrid controllers are not considered a Creative Solution for the purposes of the FY25 Resilient Maryland Program, unless they are demonstrably different from advanced models available today and are supported by vetted data and sources. Note: The Resilient Maryland Program is not a research and development (“R&D”) program. Program funds are not provided to complete R&D or other exploratory work on new concepts, technologies, or other solutions that have not yet been widely tested. Funding for certain R&D projects that meet certain requirements may be available through the MEA OPEN Energy Grant Program⁷.</p>	<p>0 - 1</p>

Geographic Diversity: Please note that, to enhance geographic diversity, MEA may consider a project’s location within the State when determining a grant decision.

⁷ <https://energy.maryland.gov/Pages/OpenEnergyGrantProgram.aspx>

Review Process:

Each application package will be evaluated competitively by an Evaluation Team. The Evaluation Team will be made up of MEA staff with relevant experience. The evaluation includes three (3) review steps that are detailed below.

1. Program Manager Eligibility Review: The MEA Resilient Maryland Program Manager reviews the application for eligibility according to the Minimum Eligibility Criteria listed in this FOA. 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 established in this FOA.
3. Evaluation Team Group Review and Award Recommendation: The Evaluation Team convenes for a group review of their findings and scores. 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 each complete 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 for each application that has scored at least “10” or higher. Grants will be recommended in order of highest final score to lowest eligible final score, until all available funding is exhausted, or all eligible grants are funded, whichever comes first.

Partial Grants:

Partial awards are possible under this AOI, depending on the number of complete proposals received and associated total 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 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 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”) is available on MEA’s website [here](#)⁸; this document will be incorporated into all MEA FY25 grant agreements.

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

- MEA may obligate all or none of the FY25 Resilient Maryland 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 2 to this FOA.**

Grant Funding and Payment:

The following requirements apply to each grantee:

- **Electronic Payments:** Participation in MEA grant programs is voluntary. To ensure the secure transmission of grant funds, each grantee receiving MEA grant 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 must go to the

⁸ <https://energy.maryland.gov/SiteAssets/Pages/all-incentives/General%20Provisions%20v3%202.11.22.pdf>

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 make an exception to this requirement on a case-by-case basis.

- **Reporting**: Each grantee must ensure timely and current compliance with the Program's reporting requirements. Each Resilient Maryland, AOI 1 grantee will be required to submit **bimonthly progress reports ("BPRs")** throughout the life of the project. **MEA will not authorize the reimbursement of any grant funds until the grantee is current and compliant with all reporting requirements.**
- **Encumbrance of Funds**: Upon receipt of a commitment letter (if applicable) or a grant agreement or signed by both the grantee and MEA, MEA will encumber the grant funds.
- **Prior Expenses Restriction**: No costs for the project incurred prior to execution of a commitment letter (if relevant) or grant agreement will be reimbursed by MEA.

Required Application Documents:

Each application to the FY25 Resilient Maryland Program, AOI 1, must include the following:

1. **Application Data**: Complete, accurate, and up-to-date information asked by all applicable fields in the FY25 Resilient Maryland Application Portal. Failure to provide required information will result in the rejection of the application from consideration. An applicant whose application is rejected for this reason is free to reapply, so long as they meet the requirements of this FOA.

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2. **Project Proposal**: A complete and accurate project proposal **that meets the following required content and formatting restrictions**:
- a. **MUST USE** the MEA Resilient Maryland Project Proposal Form, which is available on the [Resilient Maryland webpage](#)⁹ in the “Program Documents” section, and provide all information it requests;
 - b. Must be **no more than five (5) pages**;
 - c. Must include an executive summary (no more than one (1) page);
 - d. Must provide detailed explanations of how the project meets the Evaluation Criteria established in this FOA; and
 - e. Must name each member of the Project Planning Committee, if currently known.

NOTE: The MEA Resilient Maryland Program Manager may disqualify an application from funding consideration if the content of the Project Proposal does not meet a minimum quality standard for evaluation. An eligible applicant whose application is rejected for this reason is free to revise their proposal and reapply.

3. **Project Budget Workbook**: A complete and accurate FY25 Resilient Maryland AOI 1 Project Budget Workbook. A copy of this workbook is available on the [Resilient Maryland webpage](#)¹⁰ 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”**,

⁹ <https://energy.maryland.gov/business/pages/ResilientMaryland.aspx>

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

sometimes referred to as a taxpayer identification number, or “TIN”) will be used to execute a grant agreement, if the project is selected for an award. A blank copy of the most recent IRS Form W9 can be found on the [IRS Form W9 webpage](#)¹¹. **NOTE:** Once a grant agreement is executed with a grantee, MEA **cannot change** the IRS Form W9 information. No exceptions.

- 5. Good Standing Documentation:** An applicant **must provide** evidence of Good Standing with the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation (“DAT”) unless it is a unit of local or State government or a nonprofit organization. Further, any contractor that the applicant works with 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](#)¹² that indicates Good Standing; or (2) a copy of a [Certificate of Status](#)¹³ 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) contractor(s) selected after a grant agreement has been executed, if the project 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:

NEW: Beginning in FY25, all Resilient Maryland applications across all AOIs must be submitted electronically using the FY25 Resilient Maryland Application Portal, which is available on the Program webpage or in the link below. 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

¹¹ <https://www.irs.gov/forms-pubs/about-form-w-9>

¹² <https://egov.maryland.gov/businessexpress/entitysearch>

¹³ <https://dat.maryland.gov/businesses/Pages/Internet-Certificate-of-Status.aspx>

reach out to the MEA Resilient Maryland Team by sending an email to RMP.MEA@Maryland.gov by no later than November 1, 2024 **November 15, 2024**.

[>>> CLICK TO ACCESS APPLICATION PORTAL <<<](#)¹⁴

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](#)¹⁵ and use the sidebar "Regulations by Title" to navigate to: 14 - Independent Agencies → 26 - MARYLAND ENERGY ADMINISTRATION → 02 - Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Program.*

Questions:

Questions can be directed to the MEA Resilient Maryland Team by sending an email to RMP.MEA@Maryland.gov. You can also call MEA's main phone line at 410.537.4000.

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¹⁴ <https://form.jotform.com/242606013935048>

¹⁵ <https://dsd.maryland.gov/Pages/COMARSearch.aspx>

FY25 Resilient Maryland Program, Area of Interest 1: Preconstruction Planning Funding Opportunity Announcement Appendix 1: Glossary of Terms

Applicant: An applicant to the FY25 Resilient Maryland Program that meets the definition of “applicant” in the Code of Maryland Regulations, Title 14, Subtitle 26, Chapter 02, Section 02. Definitions ([COMAR 14.26.02.02](#)¹⁶).

Maryland Energy Administration (MEA): An executive agency of the State of Maryland with a mission to promote clean, affordable, reliable energy and energy-related greenhouse gas emission reductions to benefit Marylanders in a just and equitable manner. MEA provides incentives to Maryland residents, businesses, and other Maryland organizations to help pay for clean, efficient, and resilient energy technologies and upgrades. MEA also advises the Governor and Maryland General Assembly on all energy matters. **MEA is not a private entity. MEA is an official State of Maryland government agency.**

Microgrid: An interconnected system of distributed energy resources (“DERs”) that function together to provide reliable electrical or thermal energy to connected loads in at least two (2) buildings, facilities, or other sites; and is able to rapidly or seamlessly resume operation following a utility power outage, sustain critical loads in the absence of utility power, and is able to rapidly or seamlessly transition back to paralleling with the electric utility following an outage event. For the purposes of the Resilient Maryland Program, a “Microgrid” differs from a “Resilient Facility Power System” by providing benefits to more than one (1) site.

Project: A project that is proposed by an applicant to the FY25 Resilient Maryland Program, in accordance with the “Eligible Activities” section of this FOA, and in accordance with [COMAR 14.26.02.02](#)¹⁷.

Resiliency Hub: A location within a community that is easily accessible and walkable—within a one-half (½) mile radius—that provides community members with: (1) plug power for personal electronic devices such as cell phones, smartphones, tablets, and laptop computers; (2) plug power for portable medical equipment such as

¹⁶ <https://dsd.maryland.gov/regulations/Pages/14.26.02.02.aspx>

¹⁷ *Ibid.*

dialysis and continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) machines; (3) refrigeration for temperature-sensitive items; (4) dedicated, safe, healthy conditioned space for community members to locate within; and (5) safe and adequate lighting. A resiliency hub is not a substitute for a full-scale emergency shelter. Rather, it is a nearby community location that residents can quickly and easily access until the emergency or grid outage situation concludes, or more robust emergency response services arrive.

Resilient Facility Power System (“RFPS”): An interconnected system of distributed energy resources (“DERs”) that function together to provide reliable electrical or thermal energy to connected loads in a single building, facility, or other site; and is able to rapidly or seamlessly resume operation following a utility power outage, sustain critical loads in the absence of utility power, and is able to rapidly or seamlessly transition back to paralleling with the electric utility following an outage event. For the purposes of the Resilient Maryland Program, a “Resilient Facility Power System” differs from a “Microgrid” by providing benefits to only one (1) site, instead of multiple sites.

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**FY25 Resilient Maryland Program, Area of Interest 1: Preconstruction Planning
Funding Opportunity Announcement
Appendix 2: 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 should 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 basic health and safety repairs or efforts that enhance efficiency but do not extend the gas system/or fossil fueled fired equipment life are allowable, projects must be part of a project that includes other energy efficiency improvements that 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 will be in writing and provide a thorough technical analysis of why electrification and other zero emission technologies cannot be applied from a technical perspective and consider 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 purely on cost saving opportunities alone.

Version 1.0 Initial Version 10/16/2023

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**FY25 Resilient Maryland Program, Area of Interest 1: Preconstruction Planning
Funding Opportunity Announcement
Appendix 3: Preconstruction Planning Documents Content Expectations**

The following content expectations are required for any FY25 Resilient Maryland, Area of Interest 1: Preconstruction Planning (“AOI 1”) project that is selected for a grant. These content requirements will be incorporated into all FY25 Resilient Maryland, AOI 1 grant agreements.

1. **Feasibility Study**: The Feasibility Study shall include, at minimum, the following information:
 - a. **Project Site Facility and Infrastructure Description(s)**: A description of each facility or infrastructure that will benefit from the project;
 - b. **Baseline Utility Consumption**: Quantitative historical data for at least twelve (12) consecutive months of electricity usage, and, if applicable, thermal energy usage (e.g., natural gas, fuel oil, etc.) as well as the associated costs incurred by facility owners, for each facility or infrastructure that will benefit from the project;
 - c. **Energy Efficiency**: A description of each energy efficiency upgrade or retrofit opportunity that could be taken, and a description of each energy efficiency upgrade or retrofit that has been completed within five (5) years of the Effective Date of the Grant Agreement;
 - d. **System Configuration(s)**: A detailed description of the final recommended project configuration that is recommended for installation. This should include, at minimum: each system component and its nameplate rated capacity, as applicable; required wiring, communication, and other ancillary equipment; necessary electrical or other facility upgrades (e.g., switchgear, feeder, electrical panel, etc.); and the proposed physical location of each project component;
 - e. **Performance Projections**: As applicable, projected annual, month-by-month performance projections for the project. This includes,

differentiated by source: energy production, energy consumption (utility and onsite consumption of energy produced by the project;

- f. **Cost Information**: The proposed total cost for full project implementation with budgetary breakdown by at minimum: final engineering and design costs, equipment costs, labor costs, permitting and inspection fees, utility interconnection fees, site preparation costs, installation costs, and final commissioning costs;
 - g. **Potential Funding Sources**: A description of each secured or potential source of capital to fund the project, such as cash-in-kind, third-party financing and other funds, incentives from MEA, incentives from the utility, federal funding sources, and others that can be used to fund the capital cost of the project;
 - h. **Primary Implementation Barriers**: A brief summary of the anticipated regulatory, legal, and strategic barriers that must be mitigated in order to achieve successful implementation of the project; and
 - i. **Proposed Timeline**: A proposed timeline for complete project installation and commencement of project operation, if successfully installed.
2. **Preliminary Engineering Data and Project Design(s)**: Preliminary engineering data and design(s) or diagram(s) for at least one (1) project configuration to serve the facilities included in the Property. This deliverable shall include, at minimum: proposed physical location(s) of the project system components, system component specifications and related technical data, generation asset nameplate capacities and parasitic loads, control/management system(s) technical data and configuration(s), one-line diagram(s), and project design drawings. Any additional information which is required to vet the technical and engineering accuracy and integrity of the project shall be included in this deliverable.
3. **Pro Forma Financial Model**: Twenty (20) year pro forma financial model of the project. The pro forma shall specify the sources of capital and projected costs and revenues associated with the operation of the project. Model assumptions shall be clearly documented and justified with

accredited sources of data where applicable. The model shall provide metrics that gauge financial viability, which may include but are not limited to net present value (NPV) analysis, internal rate of return (IRR) analysis, and simple payback analysis. The model shall specify the weighted average cost of capital (WACC) as well as each of the annual percentage rates (APRs) on debt capital, as applicable.

4. **Greenhouse Gas Impact Report:** A report that quantitatively projects the amount of greenhouse gas emissions that will be avoided as a result from successful implementation of the project over a twenty (20) year period commencing from the projected date of project implementation. This report shall include, at minimum: annual avoided tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂), nitrous oxides (NO_x), sulfur oxides (SO_x), and volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Grantee may report greenhouse gas impact in terms of greenhouse gas equivalent but must still provide the gas-by-gas metrics. If producing multiple project configurations, Grantee shall produce a single Greenhouse Gas Impact Report for each configuration.
5. **Implementation Barriers Report:** A report that discusses the identified statutory, regulatory, legal, and other strategic barriers which must be analyzed and mitigated to achieve successful installation of the project (known as “implementation barriers”). This report shall explain each identified implementation barrier and how it impacts installation of the project, and shall discuss possible pathways to resolve those barriers. All questions and comments from Project Planning Committee members regarding the implementation barriers shall be listed and described in the report.

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