



Funding Opportunity Announcement (“FOA”) FY26 SolarAPP+ Implementation Grant Program

The Brighter Tomorrow Act of 2024 requires local governments to automate the permit and plan review process for residential rooftop solar and home energy storage systems by August 2025. The Maryland Energy Administration notes that this deadline will pass during the application window for the Program and strongly encourages jurisdictions to apply to meet compliance requirements.

Program Description: The SolarAPP+ Implementation Grant Program (“the Program”) offers funding on a non-competitive, first-come, first-served basis to Maryland counties and municipalities to adopt the Department of Energy’s National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)’s SolarAPP+ automated residential solar permitting software.

Type of Grant Program: **Statewide Noncompetitive (First-Come, First-Served)**

Application Deadline: **3:00 P.M. ET, April, 30, 2026, or until funding is exhausted, whichever comes first.**

Anticipated Program Budget: **\$3.9 Million** is available from the **U.S. Department of Energy’s State Energy Program Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act grant award (Federal Funds)** for grants under this Program. The total amount awarded may be more or less, depending on the quantity and quality of applications received, and subject to funding availability. Successful applicants will be required to meet certain federal requirements as a condition of receiving federal funds.

Grant Amount: Grant awards will be calculated formulaically with a base incentive of \$10,000.00 and a scale factor of \$0.95 per household serviced by the applying jurisdiction. Individual

grants are not expected to exceed \$100,000.00. MEA may consider a higher individual grant, if an application demonstrates need with sufficient justification, and Program funding availability after all other eligible applications have been funded according to the award formula.

Eligible Applicants: Maryland counties and municipalities are the only eligible applicants under this Program.

Eligible Activities: Funding awarded under this Program may only be used for staff time related to training, development of procedures or integration with current processes, fee adjustments, and information technology (IT) resources specific to the implementation of the SolarAPP+ software.

Prohibited Activities: Funding awarded under this Program **cannot** be used for any staff time or other expenses unrelated to SolarAPP+ implementation.

Eligibility Requirements: Each of the following requirements must be met **in order for an application to be considered “complete” and considered for funding** under the Program.

1. **Be a Maryland County or Municipality:** Only Maryland counties or municipalities are eligible for the Program.
2. **Authority to Operate in Maryland:** 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 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.
3. **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.
4. **Good Standing with Maryland DAT:** Any contractor that the applicant will work with on the proposed project, must be in Good Standing with the Maryland

Department of Assessments and Taxation ("DAT")¹. The applicant, and any applicable contractor, must provide proof of Good Standing with the application. If a contractor is selected after a grant is awarded to the applicant (if the applicant is selected for a grant), that contractor must provide proof of Good Standing prior to starting any work on the project. Acceptable proof of Good Standing includes (1) a screenshot or PDF of the applicant or contractor's status in DAT's Business Entity Search² 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 website³.

5. **Prior Expenses Restrictions:** Program funds **cannot** be used for project costs that are incurred prior to the execution of a grant agreement with MEA.
6. **Prior Recipients Restrictions:** If an applicant has previously participated in the Program and received funding for the proposed project, the applicant cannot receive another Program grant for the same project. If there is uncertainty regarding the proposed project under this restriction, please contact the MEA Program Manager named at the end of this FOA.
7. **Ability to Enter into a Grant Agreement:** Each applicant awarded a grant under the Program must enter into a formal grant agreement with MEA, before receiving any grant funds.
8. **Completion Deadline:** Any project funded under the Program must complete the project, including all milestones and required reporting documents, by no later than **July 1, 2027**. This assumes a grant agreement execution deadline of no later than **July 1, 2026**.

¹ <https://dat.maryland.gov/pages/default.aspx>

² <https://egov.maryland.gov/businessexpress/entitysearch>

³ <https://dat.maryland.gov/businesses/Pages/Internet-Certificate-of-Status.aspx>

9. **Public Facilities:** When a Maryland County or Municipality, or State of Maryland agency, is applying to the Program, they will be required to attest to their 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 Maryland County, Municipality, or State of Maryland agency.

Missing Information Policy:

An application that is missing or incorrect information, or documentation, will be placed on standby. The applicant, and their authorized third-party agent (as applicable), will be notified and asked to provide the missing information or documentation. **The applicant, their authorized third-party agent (as applicable), or any contractor(s) that the applicant is working with on the proposed project in the application, must submit the missing or clarifying information or documentation within fourteen (14) calendar days after the date that they are notified of the missing information or documentation by MEA.** The application will be rejected by MEA if the requested information or documentation is not received within that time frame. An applicant whose application is canceled for this reason is free to reapply.

Evaluation Process:

Each **complete and eligible** application package will be evaluated noncompetitively by the MEA Program Manager.

An application that **passes** the evaluation will be recommended for funding and the applicant will be notified.

An application **that does not pass** the evaluation will be rejected and the applicant will be notified.

1. **Program Manager Eligibility Review:** The MEA Program Manager reviews the application for eligibility according to the Minimum Eligibility Requirements listed in this FOA. An application that does not meet the Minimum Eligibility Requirements will be rejected from grant consideration and the applicant will be notified.

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 will 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”) is available on MEA’s website [here](#)⁴. This document will be incorporated into all MEA grant agreements.

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

- MEA may obligate all or none of the Program budget, based on the quality and eligibility of applications submitted to MEA

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 is 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**

⁴ <https://energy.maryland.gov/SiteAssets/Pages/all-incentives/General%20Provisions%20v3%202.11.22.pdf>

be sent to MEA. It 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 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. 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.

Required Application Documents:

Each application to the Program must include the following:

1. **Application:** A complete, accurate, and signed application must be provided. The application must include all required information, and must be signed by the applicant's authorized representative.
2. **Overview of the Existing Residential Solar Permit Process:** Each applicant must provide an overview of their current solar PV energy generating system permitting requirements and procedures. The overview must explain:
 - a. The current permitting process for residential solar permitting, if any;
 - b. The steps necessary to successfully issue permit(s) required by the County or Municipality under the current process; and information for data collection including:
 - i. Permitting volume and residential solar adoption rates in the jurisdiction

- ii. Permitting timelines
 - iii. Staff Time and Resource Use
 - iv. Inspection Outcomes
3. **The Type of SolarAPP+ Integration Desired** (i.e., the “standalone” model or the “integrated” model)
4. **Resource Description**: Applicants must provide a description of the anticipated staff hours, broken out by staff category and all-in hourly rate, required to implement SolarAPP+. This should include staff hours in the following categories:
 - a. Anticipated staff time for training,
 - b. Anticipated staff time to develop new procedures and to integrate with existing systems
 - c. Anticipated staff time to account for potential fee adjustments, and
 - d. Anticipated staff time related to IT resources
5. **Cost Breakdown**: Applicants must provide a breakdown of staff costs necessary for successful integration of SolarAPP+ with each line item listed with its associated cost, for which MEA funding is requested.
6. **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](#)⁵. **NOTE**: Once a grant agreement is executed with a grantee, MEA **cannot change** the grantee’s EIN. No exceptions.
7. **Good Standing Documentation**: The applicant, and any contractor that the applicant will work with, must

⁵ <https://www.irs.gov/forms-pubs/about-form-w-9>

provide evidence of Good Standing with the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation (“DAT”). Please see the Minimum Eligibility Requirements section, subsection 3, “Good Standing with Maryland DAT” for information on acceptable forms of Good Standing documentation and how to obtain them.

**Application
Submission
Instructions:**

Each applicant to the FY25 SolarAPP+ Implementation Grant Program **must use the online MEA SolarAPP+ Implementation Grant Program Application Portal**, which is accessible in the link below.

>>> [FY25 SolarAPP+ Implementation Grant Program Application Portal](#) <<<

APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY 3:00 P.M. ET, APRIL 30, 2026. If you do not believe that you will be able to use this portal, contact MEA by no later than April 1, 2026, by sending an email to the MEA SolarAPP+ Implementation Grant Program Manager at SolarAPP.MEA@Maryland.gov. MEA may grant an exception to using the portal on a case-by-case basis, only for special circumstances, as determined solely by MEA.

**Federal
Requirements:**

The FY26 SolarAPP+ Implementation Grant Program is federally-funded from the U.S. DOE State Energy Program. Participation in the SolarAPP+ Implementation Grant Program requires compliance with certain federal requirements. Each grantee that is awarded a grant by this Program will be required to comply with these requirements, which will be incorporated into and made part of the grant agreement. Information about these federal requirements is available in **Appendix 1** of this FOA.

Regulations:

MEA grant programs funded by the Strategic Energy Investment Fund (“SEIF”) are subject to the regulations* in COMAR 14.26.02. Applicants and associated projects funded through the SEIF must meet all applicable requirements in COMAR 14.26.02.

**To access these regulations, click [here](#)⁶ and use the sidebar "Regulations by Title" to navigate to: 14 - Independent Agencies → 26 - MARYLAND ENERGY ADMINISTRATION → 02 - Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Program.*

**MEA Program
Manager:**

The MEA Program Manager for this Program is:

Emma Stoney
emma.stoney@maryland.gov
(410) 382-1605

Questions:

Questions not answered by this FOA can be directed to the MEA Clean Energy & Resilience Team by sending an email to SolarAPP.MEA@Maryland.gov. You can also call MEA's main phone line at 410.537.4000.

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⁶ <https://dsd.maryland.gov/Pages/COMARSearch.aspx>



**FY26 SolarAPP+ Implementation Grant Program
Funding Opportunity Announcement**

**APPENDIX 1:
Federal Requirements for the MEA SolarAPP+ Implementation Grant Program**

**APPENDIX 1 IS PROVIDED ON THE FOLLOWING
PAGES.**

Table of Contents

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Subpart A. General Provisions | 1 |
| Term 1. Legal Authority and Effect | 1 |
| Term 2. Flow Down Requirement | 1 |
| Term 3. Compliance with Federal, State, and Municipal Law | 1 |
| Term 4. Inconsistency with Federal Law | 1 |
| Term 5. Federal Stewardship | 1 |
| Term 6. Federal Involvement | 2 |
| Term 7. NEPA Requirements | 3 |
| Term 8. Historic Preservation | 5 |
| Term 9. Performance of Work in United States | 6 |
| Term 10. Foreign National Involvement | 7 |
| Term 11. Reporting Requirements | 7 |
| Term 12. Lobbying | 7 |
| Term 13. Publications | 8 |
| Term 14. No-Cost Extension | 8 |
| Term 15. Property Standards | 8 |
| Term 16. Insurance Coverage | 9 |
| Term 17. Real Property | 9 |
| Term 18. Equipment | 9 |
| Term 19. Supplies | 10 |
| Term 20. Property Trust Relationship | 10 |
| Term 21. Record Retention | 10 |
| Term 22. Audits | 10 |
| Subpart B. Financial Provisions | 11 |
| Term 23. Maximum Obligation | 11 |
| Term 24. Continuation Application and Funding | 11 |
| Term 25. Refund Obligation | 12 |
| Term 26. Allowable Costs | 12 |
| Term 27. Indirect Costs | 12 |
| Term 28. Decontamination and/or Decommissioning (D&D) Costs | 14 |
| Term 29. Use of Program Income | 14 |
| Term 30. Payment Procedures | 14 |
| Term 31. Budget Changes | 16 |
| Term 32. Carryover of Unobligated Balances | 17 |
| Subpart C. Miscellaneous Provisions | 17 |
| Term 33. Reporting Subawards and Executive Compensation | 17 |
| Term 34. System for Award Management and Universal Identifier Requirements | 21 |
| Term 35. Nondisclosure and Confidentiality Agreements Assurances | 23 |
| Term 36. Conference Spending | 24 |
| Term 37. Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters | 24 |
| Term 38. Export Control | 26 |
| Term 39. Prohibition on Certain Telecommunications and Video Surveillance Services or Equipment | 27 |
| Term 40. Fraud, Waste and Abuse | 27 |
| Term 41. Interim Conflict of Interest Policy for Financial Assistance Policy | 28 |

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Subpart D. Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)-specific requirements | 29 |
| Term 42. Recipient Notification of prospective BIL- specific requirements | 29 |
| Term 43. Reporting Tracking and Segregation of Incurred Costs | 29 |
| Term 44. Buy American Requirements for Infrastructure Projects | 29 |
| Term 45. Davis Bacon Requirements | 32 |

Subpart A. General Provisions

Term 1. Legal Authority and Effect

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.

The Recipient may accept or reject the Award. A request to draw down DOE funds or acknowledgement of award documents by the Recipient's authorized representative through electronic systems used by DOE, specifically FedConnect, constitutes the Recipient's acceptance of the terms and conditions of this Award. Acknowledgement via FedConnect by the Recipient's authorized representative constitutes the Recipient's electronic signature.

Term 2. 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.

Term 3. Compliance with Federal, State, and Municipal Law

The Recipient is required to comply with applicable Federal, state, and local laws and regulations for all work performed under this Award. The Recipient is required to obtain all necessary Federal, state, and local permits, authorizations, and approvals for all work performed under this Award.

Term 4. Inconsistency with Federal Law

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.

Term 5. Federal Stewardship

EERE 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 address deficiencies that develop during the project; assuring compliance with terms and conditions; and reviewing technical performance after project completion to ensure that the project objectives have been accomplished.

Term 6. Federal Involvement

A. Review Meetings

The Recipient, including but not limited to, the principal investigator (or, if applicable, co-principal investigators), is required to participate in periodic review meetings with EERE. Review meetings enable EERE to assess the work performed under this Award and determine whether the Recipient has timely achieved the technical milestones and deliverables stated in Attachment 1 to this Award.

EERE shall determine the frequency of review meetings and select the day, time, and location of each review meeting and shall do so in a reasonable and good faith manner. EERE will provide the Recipient with reasonable notice of the review meetings.

For each review meeting, the Recipient is required to provide a comprehensive overview of the project, including:

- The Recipient's technical progress compared to the Milestone Summary Table stated in Attachment 1 to this Award.
- The Recipient's actual expenditures compared to the approved budget in Attachment 3 to this Award.
- Other subject matter specified by the DOE Technology Manager/Project Officer.

B. Project Meetings

The Recipient is required to notify EERE in advance of scheduled tests and internal project meetings that would entail discussion of topics that could result in major changes to the baseline project technical scope/approach, cost, or schedule. Upon request by EERE, the Recipient is required to provide EERE with reasonable access (by telephone, webinar, or otherwise) to the tests and project meetings. The Recipient is not expected to delay any work under this Award for the purpose of government insight.

C. Site Visits

EERE'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. The Recipient must provide, and must require 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.

D. EERE Access

The Recipient must provide any information, documents, site access, or other assistance requested by EERE for the purpose of its Federal stewardship or substantial involvement.

Term 7. NEPA Requirements

A. Authorization

DOE must comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) prior to authorizing the use of Federal funds.

For Recipients with a DOE executed Historic Preservation Programmatic Agreement (PA), DOE has determined that the "Bounded Categories" listed in the State Energy Program NEPA Determination (Attachment 6) are categorically excluded and require no further NEPA review, when the Recipient demonstrates the activities are compliant with the restrictions of the "Bounded Categories" and the NEPA logs are available to DOE upon request as well as submitted quarterly, per the Federal Assistance Reporting Checklist. The Recipient is thereby authorized to use Federal funds for the "Bounded Categories" listed in the SEP IIJA Provision 40109 Administrative and Legal Requirements Document (SEP-IIJAALRD-2022) NEPA Determination, subject to the Recipient's compliance with paragraphs B. "Conditions" and C. "Future Modifications," and the restrictions listed in Attachment 6.

B. Conditions

Activities/projects not listed under "Bounded Categories" are subject to additional NEPA review and approval by DOE. For activities/projects requiring additional NEPA review, Recipients must complete the environmental questionnaire(<https://www.eere-pmc.energy.gov/NEPA.aspx>) and receive notification from DOE that the NEPA review has been completed and approved by the Contracting Officer prior to initiating the project or activities.

1. This NEPA Determination only applies to activities funded by the SEP IIJA Provision 40109 Administrative and Legal Requirements Document.
2. All activities must be documented (e.g., a NEPA log) to ensure compliance with the restrictions of the Bounded Categories. The documentation must be available for DOE review upon request.

3. Activities not listed under "Bounded Categories" including ground disturbing activities

outside the boundaries of a facility (defined as an already disturbed area due to regular ground maintenance), structural improvements to facilities, and tree removal, are subject to additional NEPA review and approval by DOE. For activities requiring additional NEPA review, Recipients must complete the environmental questionnaire found at <https://www.eere-pmc.energy.gov/NEPA.aspx> and receive notification from DOE that the NEPA review has been completed and approved by the Contracting Officer prior to initiating the project or activities.

4. This authorization does not include activities where the following elements exist: extraordinary circumstances; cumulative impacts or connected actions that may lead to significant effects on the human environment; or any inconsistency with the "integral elements" (as contained in 10 CFR Part 1021, Appendix B) as they relate to a particular project.
5. The Recipient must identify and promptly notify DOE of extraordinary circumstances, cumulative impacts or connected actions that may lead to significant effects on the human environment, or any inconsistency with the "integral elements" (as contained in 10 CFR Part 1021, Appendix B) as they relate to project activities.
6. Recipients must have a DOE executed Historic Preservation Programmatic Agreement and adhere to the terms and restrictions of its DOE executed Historic Preservation Programmatic Agreement. DOE executed historic preservation programmatic agreements are available on the Weatherization and Intergovernmental Programs website: <https://www.energy.gov/eere/wipo/historic-preservation-executed-programmatic-agreements>.
7. Most activities listed under "Bounded Categories" are more restrictive than the Categorical Exclusion. The restrictions listed in the "Bounded Categories" must be followed.
8. Recipients are responsible for completing the online NEPA and Historic preservation training at <http://www.energy.gov/node/4816816> and contacting NEPA with any questions GONEPA@ee.doe.gov.
9. This authorization excludes any activities that are otherwise subject to a restriction set forth elsewhere in the Award.

C. Modifications and Activities not covered by the NEPA Determination

If the Recipient intends to undertake activities or projects that do not fall within the NEPA determination, those activities and projects are subject to additional NEPA review by DOE and are not authorized for Federal funding unless and until the Contracting Officer provides written authorization on those additions or modifications. Should the Recipient elect to undertake activities or projects prior to written authorization from the Contracting Officer, the Recipient does so at risk of not receiving Federal funding for those activities and projects, and such costs may not be recognized as allowable cost match.

Term 8. Historic Preservation

A. Authorization

DOE must comply with the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) prior to authorizing the use of Federal funds. Section 106 applies to historic properties that are listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Recipients with a DOE-executed Programmatic Agreement (PA) must comply with the requirements identified in paragraph B. Conditions below.

B. Conditions

Recipients with a DOE executed PA for Historic Preservation:

(AL, AK, AS, AZ, AR, CA, CO, CT, DE, DC, FL, GA, HI, ID, IL, IN, IA, KS, KY, LA, ME, MD, MA, MI, MN, MP, MS, MO, MT, NE, NV, NH, NJ, NM, NY, NC, ND, OH, OK, OR, PA, PR, RI, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, VT, VA, WA, WV, WI, WY, and VI.)

Recipients with a DOE executed historic preservation Programmatic Agreement (PA) must adhere to all the Stipulations of their PA. All DOE executed PAs are available on the Weatherization and Intergovernmental Programs website:

<https://www.energy.gov/eere/wipo/historic-preservation-executed-programmatic-agreements>.

In addition to the Stipulations in their PAs, Recipients must notify DOE via GONEPA@ee.doe.gov whenever:

- Either the Recipient or the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)/Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) believes that the Criteria of Adverse Effect pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.5, apply to the proposal under consideration by DOE;
- There is a disagreement between an Applicant, or its authorized representative, and the SHPO/THPO about the scope of the area of potential effects, identification and evaluation of historic properties and/or the assessment of effects;

- There is an objection from a consulting party or the public regarding their involvement in the review process established by 36 CFR Part 800, Section 106 findings and determinations, or implementation of agreed upon measures; or
- There is the potential for a foreclosure situation or anticipatory demolition as defined under 36 CFR §800.9 (b) and 36 CFR § 800.9 (c).

Term 9. Performance of Work in United States

A. Requirement

All work performed under this Award must be performed in the United States unless the Contracting Officer provides a waiver. This requirement does not apply to the purchase of supplies and equipment; however, the Recipient should make every effort to purchase supplies and equipment within the United States. The Recipient must flow down this requirement to its subrecipients.

B. Failure to Comply

If the Recipient fails to comply with the Performance of Work in the United States requirement, the Contracting Officer may deny reimbursement for the work conducted outside the United States and such costs may not be recognized as allowable Recipient cost share regardless if the work is performed by the Recipient, subrecipients, vendors or other project partners.

C. Waiver for Work Outside the U.S.

All work performed under this Award must be performed in the United States. However, the Contracting Officer may approve the Recipient to perform a portion of the work outside the United States under limited circumstances. The Recipient must obtain a waiver from the Contracting Officer prior to conducting any work outside the U.S. To request a waiver, the Recipient must submit a written waiver request to the Contracting Officer, which includes the following information:

- The rationale for performing the work outside the U.S.;
- A description of the work proposed to be performed outside the U.S.;
- Proposed budget of work to be performed; and
- The countries in which the work is proposed to be performed.

For the rationale, the Recipient must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Contracting Officer that the performance of work outside the United States would further the purposes of the FOA or Program that the Award was selected under and is in the economic interests of the United States. The Contracting Officer may require additional information before considering such request.

Term 10. Foreign National Involvement

The Recipient and project participants (including subrecipients and contractors) who anticipate involving foreign nationals in the performance of an award, may be required to provide DOE with specific information about each foreign national to satisfy requirements for foreign national participation. A foreign national is defined as any person who is not a U.S. citizen by birth or naturalization. The volume and type of information collected may depend on various factors associated with the award.

Term 11. Reporting Requirements

A. Requirements

The reporting requirements for this Award are identified on the Federal Assistance Reporting Checklist, attached to this Award. Failure to comply with these reporting requirements is considered a material noncompliance with the terms of the Award. Noncompliance may result in withholding of future payments, suspension, or termination of the current award, and withholding of future awards. A willful failure to perform, a history of failure to perform, or unsatisfactory performance of this and/or other financial assistance awards, may also result in a debarment action to preclude future awards by Federal agencies.

B. Dissemination of Scientific and Technical Information

Scientific and Technical Information (STI) generated under this Award will be submitted to DOE via the Office of Scientific and Technical Information's Energy Link ([E-Link](#)) system. STI submitted under this Award will be disseminated via DOE's [OSTI.gov](#) website subject to approved access limitations. Citations for journal articles produced under the Award will appear on the [DOE PAGES](#) website.

C. Restrictions

Scientific and Technical Information submitted to E-Link must not contain any Protected Personal Identifiable Information (PII), limited rights data (proprietary data), classified information, information subject to export control classification, or other information not subject to release.

Term 12. Lobbying

By accepting funds under this Award, the Recipient agrees 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.

Term 13. Publications

The Recipient is required to include the following acknowledgement in publications arising out of, or relating to, work performed under this Award, whether copyrighted or not:

- *Acknowledgment:* “This material is based upon work supported by the U.S. Department of Energy’s Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) under the State Energy Program Award Number DE-EE0010077.”
- *Full Legal Disclaimer:* “This report was prepared as an account of work sponsored by an agency of the United States Government. Neither the United States Government nor any agency thereof, nor any of their employees, makes any warranty, express or implied, or assumes any legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness of any information, apparatus, product, or process disclosed, or represents that its use would not infringe privately owned rights. Reference herein to any specific commercial product, process, or service by trade name, trademark, manufacturer, or otherwise does not necessarily constitute or imply its endorsement, recommendation, or favoring by the United States Government or any agency thereof. The views and opinions of authors expressed herein do not necessarily state or reflect those of the United States Government or any agency thereof.”

Abridged Legal Disclaimer: “The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of the U.S. Department of Energy or the United States Government.”

Recipients should make every effort to include the full Legal Disclaimer. However, in the event that recipients are constrained by formatting and/or page limitations set by the publisher, the abridged Legal Disclaimer is an acceptable alternative.

Term 14. No-Cost Extension

As provided in 2 CFR 200.308, the Recipient must provide the Contracting Officer with notice in advance if it intends to utilize a one-time, no-cost extension of this Award. The notification must include the supporting reasons and the revised period of performance. The Recipient must submit this notification in writing to the Contracting Officer and DOE Technology Manager/ Project Officer at least 30 days before the end of the current budget period.

Any no-cost extension will not alter the project scope, milestones, deliverables, or budget of this Award.

Term 15. Property Standards

The complete text of the Property Standards can be found at 2 CFR 200.310 through 200.316. Also see 2 CFR 910.360 for additional requirements for real property and equipment for For-Profit recipients.

Term 16. Insurance Coverage

See 2 CFR 200.310 for insurance requirements for real property and equipment acquired or improved with Federal funds. Also see 2 CFR 910.360(d) for additional requirements for real property and equipment for For-Profit recipients.

Term 17. Real Property

Subject to the conditions set forth in 2 CFR 200.311, title to real property acquired or improved under a Federal award will conditionally vest upon acquisition in the non-Federal entity. The non-Federal entity cannot encumber this property and must follow the requirements of 2 CFR 200.311 before disposing of the property.

Except as otherwise provided by Federal statutes or by the Federal awarding agency, real property will be used for the originally authorized purpose as long as needed for that purpose. When real property is no longer needed for the originally authorized purpose, the non-Federal entity must obtain disposition instructions from DOE or pass-through entity. The instructions must provide for one of the following alternatives: (1) retain title after compensating DOE as described in 2 CFR 200.311(c)(1); (2) Sell the property and compensate DOE as specified in 2 CFR 200.311(c)(2); or (3) transfer title to DOE or to a third party designated/approved by DOE as specified in 2 CFR 200.311(c)(3).

See 2 CFR 200.311 for additional requirements pertaining to real property acquired or improved under a Federal award. Also see 2 CFR 910.360 for additional requirements for real property for For-Profit recipients.

Term 18. Equipment

Subject to the conditions provided in 2 CFR 200.313, title to equipment (property) acquired under a Federal award will conditionally vest upon acquisition with the non-Federal entity. The non-Federal entity cannot encumber this property and must follow the requirements of 2 CFR 200.313 before disposing of the property.

A state 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 DOE 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 DOE or pass-through entity.

Disposition will be made as follows: (1) 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 DOE; (2) Non-Federal entity may retain title or sell the equipment after compensating DOE as described in 2 CFR 200.313(e)(2); or (3) transfer title to DOE 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 910.360 for additional requirements for equipment for For-Profit recipients. See also 2 CFR 200.439 Equipment and other capital expenditures.

Term 19. Supplies

See 2 CFR 200.314 for requirements pertaining to supplies acquired under a Federal award. See also 2 CFR 200.453 Materials and supplies costs, including costs of computing devices.

Term 20. Property Trust Relationship

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

Term 21. Record Retention

Consistent with 2 CFR 200.334 through 200.338, the Recipient is required to retain records relating to this Award.

Term 22. Audits

A. Government-Initiated Audits

The Recipient must provide any information, documents, site access, or other assistance requested by EERE, DOE or Federal auditing agencies (e.g., DOE Inspector General, Government Accountability Office) for the purpose of audits and investigations. Such assistance may include, but is not limited to, reasonable access to the Recipient's records relating to this Award.

Consistent with 2 CFR part 200 as amended by 2 CFR part 910, DOE may audit the Recipient's financial records or administrative records relating to this Award at any time. Government-initiated audits are generally paid for by DOE.

DOE may conduct a final audit at the end of the project period (or the termination of the Award, if applicable). Upon completion of the audit, the Recipient is required to refund to DOE any payments for costs that were determined to be unallowable. 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.

DOE will provide reasonable advance notice of audits and will minimize interference with ongoing work, to the maximum extent practicable.

B. Annual Independent Audits (Single Audit or Compliance Audit)

The Recipient must comply with the annual independent audit requirements in 2 CFR 200.500 through .521 for institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations, and state and local governments (Single audit), and 2 CFR 910.500 through .521 for for-profit entities (Compliance audit).

The annual independent audits are separate from Government-initiated audits discussed in part A. of this Term, and must be paid for by the Recipient. To minimize expense, the Recipient may have a Compliance audit in conjunction with its annual audit of financial statements. The financial statement audit is **not** a substitute for the Compliance audit. If the audit (Single audit or Compliance audit, depending on Recipient entity type) has not been performed or completed prior to the closeout of the award, DOE may impose one or more of the actions outlined in 2 CFR 200.338, Remedies for Noncompliance.

Subpart B. Financial Provisions

Term 23. Maximum Obligation

The maximum obligation of DOE for this Award is the total “Funds Obligated” stated in Block 13 of the Assistance Agreement to this Award.

Term 24. Continuation Application and Funding

A. Continuation Application

A continuation application is a non-competitive application for an additional budget period and extended project period. The continuation application shall be submitted to EERE in accordance with the annual Announcement/Grant Guidance that is issued.

B. Continuation Funding

Continuation funding is contingent on (1) the availability of funds appropriated by Congress for the purpose of this program; (2) the availability of future-year budget authority; (3) Recipient's satisfactory progress towards meeting the objectives of the State Energy Program; (4) Recipient's submittal of required reports; (5) Recipient's compliance with the terms and conditions of the Award; (6) the Recipient's submission of a continuation application; and (7) written approval of the continuation application by the Contracting Officer.

Term 25. Refund Obligation

The Recipient must refund any excess payments received from EERE, including any costs determined unallowable by the Contracting Officer. Upon the end of the project period (or the termination of the Award, if applicable), the Recipient must refund to EERE the difference between (1) the total payments received from EERE, and (2) the Federal share of the costs incurred. Refund obligations under this Term do not supersede the annual reconciliation or true up process if specified under the Indirect Cost Term.

Term 26. Allowable Costs

EERE determines the allowability of costs through reference to 2 CFR part 200 as amended by 2 CFR part 910. All project costs must be allowable, allocable, and reasonable. The Recipient must document and maintain records of all project costs, including, but not limited to, the costs paid by Federal funds, costs claimed by its subrecipients and project costs that the Recipient claims as cost sharing, including in-kind contributions. The Recipient is responsible for maintaining records adequate to demonstrate that costs claimed have been incurred, are reasonable, allowable and allocable, and comply with the cost principles. Upon request, the Recipient is required to provide such records to EERE. Such records are subject to audit. Failure to provide EERE adequate supporting documentation may result in a determination by the Contracting Officer that those costs are unallowable.

The Recipient is required to obtain the prior written approval of the Contracting Officer for any foreign travel costs.

Term 27. Indirect Costs

A. Indirect Cost Allocation:

The Recipient has a Federally approved provisional Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) with a current effective period identified for billing and estimation purposes and it applies uniformly across all Federal awards. These costs shall be reconciled or trued up (actual incurred costs) on an annual basis with the Recipient's cognizant agency. An updated rate proposal or NICRA is required if the Recipient requests to bill the DOE higher billing rates than those listed in the current NICRA.

B. Fringe Cost Allocation:

Fringe benefit costs have been allocated to this award under a segregated fringe billing rate. The fringe costs were found to be reasonable, allocable, and allowable as reflected in the budget. Fringe elements apply to both direct and indirect labor. Under a segregated cost pool, the fringe billing rate shall be treated as an indirect cost expenditure and must be reconciled annually.

C. Subrecipient Indirect Costs (If Applicable):

The Recipient must ensure its subrecipient's indirect costs are appropriately managed, have been found to be allowable, and comply with the requirements of this Award and 2 CFR Part 200 as amended by 2 CFR Part 910.

D. Indirect Cost Stipulations:

i. Modification to Indirect Cost Billing Rates

EERE will not modify this Award solely to provide additional funds to cover increases in the Recipient's indirect cost billing rate(s). Adjustments to the indirect cost billing rates must be approved by the Recipient's Cognizant Agency or Cognizant Federal Agency Official.

The Recipient must provide a copy of an updated NICRA or indirect rate proposal to the DOE Award Administrator in order to increase indirect cost billing rates. If the Contracting Officer provides prior written approval, the Recipient may incur an increase in the indirect cost billing rates.

Reimbursement will be limited by the budgeted dollar amount for indirect costs for each budget period as shown in Attachment 3 to this Award.

ii. Annual Cost Reconciliation

In accordance with Appendices III-VII of 2 CFR Part 200 or 48 CFR Part 42.7, governing for-profit organizations, the indirect cost billing rates shall be reconciled or trued up (actual incurred costs) on an annual basis via the annual incurred cost proposal within six months after the Recipient's fiscal year end.

iii. Adjustments to Indirect Cost Billing Rates

Following an official audit or adequacy review of the incurred cost proposal, one of the following shall apply:

1. If the Recipient's actual and final annual indirect cost billing rate(s) reflect that Recipient invoiced at higher billing rates than actually incurred, the Recipient must refund the Government the over-recovered amounts.

2. If the Recipient's actual and final annual indirect cost billing rate(s) reflect that the Recipient invoiced at lower billing rates than actually incurred, the Recipient may not be reimbursed for increases in its indirect cost rate, which resulted in an under-recovery. Increased indirect cost billing rates cannot be retroactively applied to the DOE award.

iv. **Award Closeout**

The closeout of the DOE award does not affect (1) the right of the DOE to disallow costs and recover funds on the basis of a later audit or other review; (2) the requirement for the Recipient to return any funds due as a result of later refunds, corrections or other transactions including final indirect cost billing rate adjustments; and (3) the ability of the DOE to make financial adjustments to a previously closed award resolving indirect cost payments and making final payments.

Term 28. Decontamination and/or Decommissioning (D&D) Costs

Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Award, the Government shall not be responsible for or have any obligation to the Recipient for (1) Decontamination and/or Decommissioning (D&D) of any of the Recipient's facilities, or (2) any costs which may be incurred by the Recipient in connection with the D&D of any of its facilities due to the performance of the work under this Award, whether said work was performed prior to or subsequent to the effective date of the Award.

Term 29. Use of Program Income

If the Recipient earns program income during the project period as a result of this Award, the Recipient must add the program income to the funds committed to the Award and used to further eligible project objectives.

Term 30. Payment Procedures

A. Method of Payment

Payment will be made by advances through the Department of Treasury's ASAP system.

B. Requesting Advances

Requests for advances must be made through the ASAP system. The Recipient may submit requests as frequently as required to meet its needs to disburse funds for the Federal share of project costs. If feasible, the Recipient should time each request so that the Recipient receives payment on the same day that the Recipient disburses funds for direct project costs and the proportionate share of any allowable indirect

costs. If same-day transfers are not feasible, advance payments must be as close to actual disbursements as administratively feasible.

C. Adjusting Payment Requests for Available Cash

The Recipient 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 EERE.

D. Payments

All payments are made by electronic funds transfer to the bank account identified on the Bank Information Form that the Recipient filed with the U.S. Department of Treasury.

E. Unauthorized Drawdown of Federal Funds

For each budget period, the Recipient may not spend more than the Federal share authorized to that particular budget period, without specific written approval from the Contracting Officer. The Recipient must immediately refund EERE any amounts spent or drawn down in excess of the authorized amount for a budget period. The Recipient and subrecipients shall promptly, but at least quarterly, remit to DOE interest earned on advances drawn in excess of disbursement needs, and shall comply with the procedure for remitting interest earned to the Federal government per 2 CFR 200.305, as applicable.

F. Supporting Documents for Agency Approval of Payments

DOE may require Agency pre-approval of payments. If the Agency approval requirement is in effect for the Recipient's Award, the ASAP system will indicate that Agency approval is required when the Recipient submits a request for payment.

The Recipient must notify the DOE Technical Project Officer and DOE Award Administrator identified on the Assistance Agreement that a payment request has been submitted.

The following items are required to be submitted to the DOE Technical Project Officer and DOE Award Administrator identified on the Assistance Agreement:

- Summary cost data, for the billing period and cumulative cost data, showing all categories listed in the SF-424A and identifying Federal, non-Federal, and total amounts.
- SF-270.
- If there are unauthorized phases and/or tasks for the current budget period in the NEPA Requirements term in these Special Terms and Conditions, a statement

affirming that no invoiced costs are related to tasks or activities prohibited by the

NEPA Requirements term.

- *Applicable to for-profit recipients and subrecipients* UCC filing proof for all equipment acquired with project funds (i.e., Federal share or Recipient share) and equipment offered as cost share.

The DOE payment authorizing official may request additional information from the Recipient to support the payment requests prior to release of funds, as deemed necessary. The Recipient is required to comply with these requests. Supporting documents include invoices, copies of contracts, vendor quotes, and other expenditure explanations that justify the payment requests.

Term 31. Budget Changes

A. Budget Changes Generally

The Contracting Officer has reviewed and approved the SF-424A in Attachment 3 to this Award.

Any increase in the total project cost, whether DOE share or Cost Share, which is stated as "Total" in Block 12 to the Assistance Agreement of this Award, must be approved in advance and in writing by the Contracting Officer.

Any change that alters the project scope, milestones or deliverables requires prior written approval of the Contracting Officer. EERE may deny reimbursement for any failure to comply with the requirements in this term.

B. Transfers of Funds Among Direct Cost Categories

The Recipient is required to submit written notification via email (not in PAGE) to the Project Officer identified in the Assistance Agreement of any transfer of funds among direct cost categories where the cumulative amount of such transfers exceeds or is expected to exceed 10 percent of the total project cost, which is stated as "Total" in Block 12 to the Assistance Agreement of this Award.

Upon receipt of adequate notification documentation by the Project Officer, the recipient is hereby authorized to transfer funds among direct cost categories for program activities consistent with their approved State/Annual Plan, without prior approval by the awarding agency.

Limitations on supplies and equipment as detailed in the respective year's SEP Grant Guidance still apply and are not waived under this provision.

C. Transfer of Funds Between Direct and Indirect Cost Categories

The Recipient is required to obtain the prior written approval of the Contracting

Officer for any transfer of funds between direct and indirect cost categories. If the

Recipient's actual allowable indirect costs are less than those budgeted in Attachment 3 to this Award, the Recipient may use the difference to pay additional allowable direct costs during the project period so long as the total difference is less than 10% of total project costs and the difference is reflected in actual requests for reimbursement to DOE.

Term 32. Carryover of Unobligated Balances

The Recipient is hereby authorized to carry over unobligated balances of Federal and non-Federal funds from one budget period to a subsequent budget period, for program activities consistent with their approved State/Annual Plan, without prior approval by the Contracting Officer. Should the Recipient wish to use carryover funds for activities that are not consistent with the approved State/Annual Plan, a budget revision application must be submitted for approval by DOE.

For purposes of this Award, an unobligated balance is the portion of the funds authorized by DOE that have not been obligated by the Recipient at the end of a budget period. The Recipient is advised to carefully manage grant funds to minimize unobligated balances each year, but especially at the end of the grant project period.

Subpart C. Miscellaneous Provisions

Term 33. Reporting Subawards and Executive Compensation

A. Reporting of first-tier subawards

- i. *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 an entity (see definitions in paragraph E. of this award term).
- ii. *Where and when to report.*
 1. The Recipient must report each obligating action described in paragraph A.i. of this award term to <https://www.fsrs.gov>.
 2. 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 no later than December 31, 2010.)

iii. *What to report.* The Recipient must report the information about each

obligating action that the submission instructions posted at <https://www.fsr.gov> specify.

B. Reporting Total Compensation of Recipient Executives

- i. *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:
1. The total Federal funding authorized to date under this Award equals or exceeds \$30,000 as defined in 2 CFR 170.320;
 2. 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)
 3. 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 <http://www.sec.gov/answers/excomp.htm>).
- ii. *Where and when to report.* The Recipient must report executive total compensation described in paragraph B.i. of this award term:
1. As part of the Recipient's registration profile at <https://www.sam.gov>.
 2. 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

- i. *Applicability and what to report.* Unless the Recipient is exempt as provided in paragraph D. of this award term, for each first-tier 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:
 1. 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)
 2. 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 <http://www.sec.gov/answers/excomp.htm>).
- ii. *Where and when to report.* The Recipient must report subrecipient executive total compensation described in paragraph C.i. of this award term:
 1. To the recipient.
 2. 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:

- i. Entity means all of the following, as defined in 2 CFR Part 25:
 1. A Governmental organization, which is a State, local government, or Indian tribe.
 2. A foreign public entity.
 3. A domestic or foreign nonprofit organization.
 4. A domestic or foreign for-profit organization.
 5. A Federal agency, but only as a subrecipient under an award or subaward to a non-Federal entity.
- ii. Executive means officers, managing partners, or any other employees in management positions.
- iii. Subaward:
 1. 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.
 2. 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 200.501 Audit requirements, (f) *Subrecipients and Contractors* and/or 2 CFR 910.501 Audit requirements, (f) *Subrecipients and Contractors*).
 3. A subaward may be provided through any legal agreement, including an agreement that the Recipient or a subrecipient considers a

contract.

- iv. Subrecipient means an entity that:
 - 1. Receives a subaward from the Recipient under this award; and
 - 2. Is accountable to the Recipient for the use of the Federal funds provided by the subaward.
- v. 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)):
 - 1. Salary and bonus.
 - 2. Awards of stock, stock options, and stock appreciation rights. Use the dollar amount recognized for financial statement reporting purposes with respect to the fiscal year in accordance with the Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 123 (Revised 2004) (FAS 123R), Shared Based Payments.
 - 3. Earnings for services under non-equity incentive plans. This does not include group life, health, hospitalization or medical reimbursement plans that do not discriminate in favor of executives, and are available generally to all salaried employees.
 - 4. Change in pension value. This is the change in present value of defined benefit and actuarial pension plans.
 - 5. Above-market earnings on deferred compensation which is not tax-qualified.
 - 6. Other compensation, if the aggregate value of all such other compensation (*e.g.* severance, termination payments, value of life insurance paid on behalf of the employee, perquisites or property) for the executive exceeds \$10,000.

Term 34. System for Award Management and Universal Identifier Requirements

A. Requirement for Registration in the System for Award Management (SAM)

Unless the Recipient is exempted from this requirement under 2 CFR 25.110, the Recipient must maintain the currency of its information in SAM until the Recipient

submits the final financial report required under this Award or receive the final

payment, whichever is later. This requires that the Recipient reviews and updates the information at least annually after the initial registration, and more frequently if required by changes in its information or another award term.

B. Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)

SAM automatically assigns a UEI to all active SAM.gov registered entities. Entities no longer have to go to a third-party website to obtain their identifier. This information is displayed on SAM.gov.

If the Recipient is authorized to make subawards under this Award, the Recipient:

- i. Must notify potential subrecipients that no entity (see definition in paragraph C of this award term) may receive a subaward from the Recipient unless the entity has provided its UEI number to the Recipient.
- ii. May not make a subaward to an entity unless the entity has provided its UEI number to the Recipient.

C. Definitions

For purposes of this award term:

- i. System for Award Management (SAM) means the Federal repository into which an entity 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>).
- ii. Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) is the 12-character, alpha-numeric identifier that will be assigned by SAM.gov upon registration.
- iii. Entity, as it is used in this award term, means all of the following, as defined at 2 CFR Part 25, subpart C:
 1. A Governmental organization, which is a State, local government, or Indian Tribe.
 2. A foreign public entity.
 3. A domestic or foreign nonprofit organization.
 4. A domestic or foreign for-profit organization.
 5. A Federal agency, but only as a subrecipient under an award or subaward to a non-Federal entity.
- iv. Subaward:

1. 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.
 2. 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 200.501 Audit requirements, (f) *Subrecipients and Contractors* and/or 2 CFR 910.501 Audit requirements, (f) *Subrecipients and Contractors*).
 3. A subaward may be provided through any legal agreement, including an agreement that the Recipient considers a contract.
- v. Subrecipient means an entity that:
1. Receives a subaward from the Recipient under this Award; and
 2. Is accountable to the Recipient for the use of the Federal funds provided by the subaward.

Term 35. Nondisclosure and Confidentiality Agreements Assurances

- A. By entering into this agreement, the Recipient attests that it **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.
- B. The Recipient further attests that it **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:
 - i. *“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.”*

- ii. 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.
- iii. 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.

Term 36. Conference Spending

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.

Term 37. Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters

A. General Reporting Requirement

If the total value of the Recipient's currently active Financial Assistance awards, 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 term. 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:

- i. Is in connection with the award or performance of a Financial Assistance, cooperative agreement, or procurement contract from the Federal Government;
- ii. Reached its final disposition during the most recent five-year period; and
- iii. Is one of the following:
 1. A criminal proceeding that resulted in a conviction, as defined in paragraph E of this award term and condition;
 2. 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;
 3. An administrative proceeding, as defined in paragraph E of this term, 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
 4. Any other criminal, civil, or administrative proceeding if:
 - a. It could have led to an outcome described in paragraph B.iii.1, 2, or 3 of this term;
 - b. It had a different disposition arrived at by consent or compromise with an acknowledgment of fault on your part; and
 - c. The requirement in this term 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 B of this term. 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 A of this term, 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, Financial Assistance awards, (including 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 term:

- i. 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 Financial Assistance awards. It does not include audits, site visits, corrective plans, or inspection of deliverables.
- ii. Conviction 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*.
- iii. Total value of currently active Financial Assistance awards, cooperative agreements and procurement contracts includes—
 1. Only the Federal share of the funding under any Federal award with a recipient cost share or match; and
 2. The value of all expected funding increments under a Federal award and options, even if not yet exercised.

Term 38. Export Control

The U.S. 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.” To ensure compliance with Export Controls, it is the Recipient’s responsibility to determine when its project activities trigger Export Controls and to ensure compliance.

Certain information, technology or material under an award may be considered export-controlled items that cannot be released to any foreign entity (organization, company, or person) without a license. The Recipient, and any subrecipients, must take the appropriate steps to obtain any required licenses, monitor and control access to restricted information and material, and safeguard all controlled items to ensure compliance with Export Controls. Under no circumstances may any foreign entity (organizations, companies, or persons) receive access to an export-controlled item unless proper export procedures have been satisfied and such access is authorized pursuant to law or regulation.

The Recipient must immediately report to DOE any export control violations related to the

project funded under this Award, at the recipient or subrecipient level, and provide the corrective action(s) to prevent future violations.

Term 39. Prohibition on Certain Telecommunications and Video Surveillance Services or Equipment

As set forth in 2 CFR 200.116, recipients and subrecipients are prohibited from obligating or expending project funds (Federal funds and recipient cost share) to:

- (1) Procure or obtain;
- (2) Extend or renew a contract to procure or obtain; or
- (3) 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.

Term 40. Fraud, Waste and Abuse

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 to this part 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.) [85 FR 49539, Aug. 13, 2020]

Term 41. Interim Conflict of Interest Policy for Financial Assistance Policy

The DOE interim Conflict of Interest Policy for Financial Assistance (COI Policy) can be found at <https://www.energy.gov/management/pf-2022-17-department-energy-interim-conflict-interest-policy-requirements-financial>. 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 the DOE financial assistance award.

Recipients must flow down the requirements of the interim COI Policy to any subrecipient non-Federal entities.

It is understood that non-Federal entities and individuals receiving DOE financial assistance awards will need sufficient time to come into full compliance with DOE's interim COI Policy. To provide some flexibility, EERE allows for a staggered implementation. Specifically, prior to award, the Recipient must ensure all Investigators complete their significant financial disclosures; review the disclosures; determine whether a FCOI exists; develop and implement a management plan for FCOIs; and provide DOE with an initial FCOI report that includes any unmanaged/ unmanageable FCOIs.

To further ease the administrative burden, EERE established a model conflict of interest policy that WIPO Recipients may adopt and implement. The Recipients has 180 days from the date of this Award to either adopt and implement the WIPO model conflict of interest policy or ensure its existing conflict of interest policy aligns with the requirements of the WIPO model COI policy. The WIPO model COI Policy is available upon request from the Contracting Officer.

Subpart D. Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)-specific requirements

Term 42. Recipient Notification of prospective BIL- specific requirements

The funding for this Award is made available under the BIL and is subject to the applicable requirements included in the BIL. Requirements for this Award are listed in the subsequent award terms, however the Recipient should be aware that additional terms and modifications may be included when the Award is modified with the incorporation of the Full Application. Additional terms that may be incorporated include, but are not limited to:

1. Publication of Information on the Internet
2. Certification and Registration
3. Whistleblowers and False Claims

Term 43. Reporting Tracking and Segregation of Incurred Costs

BIL funds may be used in conjunction with other funding, as necessary to complete projects, but tracking and reporting must be separate. The Recipient must keep separate records for BIL funds and must ensure those records comply with the requirements of the BIL.

Term 44. Buy American Requirements for Infrastructure Projects

A. Definitions

Infrastructure includes, at a minimum, the structures, facilities, and equipment for, in the United States:

- Roads, highways, and bridges;
- Public transportation;
- Dams, ports, harbors, and other maritime facilities;
- Intercity passenger and freight railroads;
- Freight and intermodal facilities;
- Airports;
- Water systems, including drinking water and wastewater systems;
- Electrical transmission facilities and systems;
- Utilities;
- Broadband infrastructure;
- Buildings and real property; and
- Facilities that generate, transport, and distribute energy.

Further, the “infrastructure” in question must either be publicly owned or serve a public function; privately owned infrastructure that is not open to the public, such as a personal residence, is not considered “infrastructure” for purposes of this requirement. In cases where the “public” nature of the infrastructure is unclear, the recipient is required to consult with the DOE Grants Officer who will render a determination.

Project means the construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of infrastructure in the United States.

Construction Materials includes an article, material, or supply—other than an item of primarily iron or steel; a manufactured product; cement and cementitious materials; aggregates such as stone, sand, or gravel; or aggregate binding agents or additives—that is, or consists primarily of:

- Non-ferrous metals;
- Plastic and polymer-based products (including polyvinylchloride, composite building materials, and polymers used in fiber optic cables);
- Glass (including optic glass);
- Lumber; or
- Drywall.

Domestic content procurement preference means and refers to the same thing as “Buy America Preference.”

B. Buy America Preference

None of the funds provided under this award may be used for a project for infrastructure unless:

1. All iron and steel used in the project are 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; 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.

The Buy America Preference only applies to articles, materials, and supplies that are consumed in, incorporated into, or affixed to an infrastructure 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 Preference 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.

C. Waivers

When necessary, recipients may apply for, and DOE may grant, a waiver from the Buy America Preference requirements. Requests to waive the application of the Buy America Preference must be in writing. Waiver requests are subject to public comment periods of no less than 15 days, as well as review by the Office of Management and Budget.

Waivers must be based on one of the following justifications:

1. Applying the Buy America Preference would be inconsistent with the public interest (Public Interest);
2. 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 (Nonavailability); or
3. 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 (Unreasonable Cost).

Requests to waive the Buy America Preference must include the following:

- Waiver type (Public Interest, Nonavailability, or Unreasonable Cost);
- Recipient name and Unique Entity Identifier (UEI);
- A detailed justification as to how the non-domestic item(s) is/are essential to 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;
- 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;
- A brief description of the project, its location, and the specific infrastructure involved;
- 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, country(ies) of origin, and relevant PSC and NAICS codes for each;
- A justification statement—based on one of the applicable justifications outlined above—as to why the items in question cannot be procured domestically, including the due diligence performed (e.g., market research, industry outreach) 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; and
- Anticipated impact to the project if no waiver is issued.

DOE may request, and the recipient must provide, additional information for

consideration of this waiver. The Agency's final determination regarding approval or rejection of the waiver request may not be appealed.

Term 45. Davis Bacon Requirements

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 \$2000 on an Award funded directly by or 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).

By accepting this Award, the Recipient acknowledges the DBA requirements for the Award and confirms that all of the laborers and mechanics performing construction, alteration, or repair work in excess of \$2000 on projects funded directly by or assisted in whole or in part by and through funding under the Award are paid or will be paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing on projects of a character similar in the locality as determined by Subchapter IV of Chapter 31 of Title 40, United States Code (Davis-Bacon Act).

The Recipient must comply with all of the Davis-Bacon Act requirements, including but not limited to:

- (1) ensuring that the wage determination(s) and appropriate Davis-Bacon clauses and requirements are flowed down to and incorporated into any applicable subcontracts or subrecipient awards.
- (2) being responsible for compliance by any subcontractor or subrecipient with the Davis-Bacon labor standards.
- (3) receiving and reviewing certified weekly payrolls submitted by all subcontractors and subrecipients for accuracy and to identify potential compliance issues.
- (4) maintaining original certified weekly payrolls for 3 years after the completion of the project and must make those payrolls available to the DOE or the Department of Labor upon request, as required by 29 CFR 5.6(a)(2).
- (5) conducting payroll and job-site reviews for construction work, including interviews with employees, with such frequency as may be necessary to assure compliance by its subcontractors and subrecipients and as requested or directed by the DOE.

(6) cooperating with any authorized representative of the Department of Labor in

their inspection of records, interviews with employees, and other actions undertaken as part of a Department of Labor investigation.

(7) posting in a prominent and accessible place the wage determination(s) and Department of Labor Publication: WH-1321, Notice to Employees Working on Federal or Federally Assisted Construction Projects.

(8) notifying the Contracting Officer of all labor standards issues, including all complaints regarding incorrect payment of prevailing wages and/or fringe benefits, received from the recipient, subrecipient, contractor, or subcontractor employees; significant labor standards violations, as defined in 29 CFR 5.7; disputes concerning labor standards pursuant to 29 CFR parts 4, 6, and 8 and as defined in FAR 52.222-14; disputed labor standards determinations; Department of Labor investigations; or legal or judicial proceedings related to the labor standards under this Contract, a subcontract, or subrecipient award.

(9) preparing and submitting to the Contracting Officer, the Office of Management and Budget Control Number 1910-5165, Davis Bacon Semi-Annual Labor Compliance Report, by April 21 and October 21 of each year. Form submittal will be administered through the iBenefits system (<https://doeibenefits2.energy.gov>) or its successor system.

The Recipient must undergo Davis-Bacon Act compliance training and must maintain competency in Davis-Bacon Act compliance. The Contracting Officer will notify the Recipient of any DOE sponsored Davis-Bacon Act compliance trainings. The U.S. Department of Labor (“DOL”) 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>.

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>.