Wes Moore, Governor
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor
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Funding Opportunity Announcement ("FOA")

FY24 Resilient Maryland Program

Area of Interest 3: Resiliency Hubs

Note: Updated November 15, 2023, to make several formatting corrections.

Note (Updated January 16, 2024): Deadline extended to 3:00 P.M. EDT, Thursday, March 14, 2024.

Area of Interest Description:

The Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) is pleased to announce funding under AOI 3: Resiliency Hubs ("AOI 3", "this AOI") to provide grant funds for the construction of Resiliency Hubs in Maryland communities that help increase community resilience to power outages and other emergency events affecting the availability of energy to residents. Grants offered under this AOI are to help cover the capital expenses for Resiliency Hub projects that have already been evaluated for feasibility, have been conceptualized, and are ready for or substantially through final engineering in preparation for installation. This competitive AOI will help offset the costs of equipment and installation of the distributed energy resources (DERs) and the associated wiring and communication infrastructure to enable the successful operation of the Resiliency Hub.

AOI 3 provides funds to incentivize the development of Resiliency Hubs that enhance the resilience of residential neighborhoods and their residents. To be considered for an award, a project must include at least a solar system as its primary source of energy, and an energy storage system that functions together with the solar system to both provide sufficient energy and power to required electrical loads for the required period of time. To be considered, a proposed Resiliency Hub **must** be able to demonstrate substantial pre-construction due diligence. For this reason, an **ideal project will be a proposed Resiliency Hub that successfully completed feasibility and planning Final Deliverables under previous rounds of MEA's Resilient Maryland planning grant program or can demonstrate equivalent planning documents**.

AOI Purpose:

This program provides funding for the final development and construction of solar plus energy storage systems to serve as "Resiliency Hubs." During periods of grid outage, the solar plus energy storage system (with or without emergency generator), will provide a no-cost resiliency center for the

surrounding community. As a minimum, a Resiliency Hub provides emergency heating and cooling; refrigeration of temperature sensitive medications; plug power for charging of cell phone and computer batteries; ventilation and emergency lighting. While a fossil fuel emergency generator may be included in the final system design, grant funding may not be used for the purchase, installation, or integration of a fossil fuel generator system. A Resiliency Hub that will be installed on an existing building, as well as a Resiliency Hub that will be installed at a new building, are eligible for funding consideration.

Type of Grant Program: **Competitive**

Application Deadline: **3:00 P.M. EDT, Thursday, March 14, 2024**[1]

Anticipated Funding: A total of **$2,200,000** is anticipated to be available, from the Strategic Energy Investment Fund ("SEIF"). The amount awarded may be more or less, depending on the quantity and quality of applications received. **Individual Awards are not expected to exceed $500,000 per project.**

Notice of geographical funding restrictions: This program is funded in whole or in part by alternative compliance payments made under Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard. Md. Code Ann., State Government § 9-20B-05(i) specifies the allowable uses for solar alternative compliance payments to loans and grants to support the creation of new solar energy sources that are owned by or directly benefit:

1. **Low-to-moderate communities located in a census tract with an average median income at or below 80% of the average median income for the state; or,**

2. **Overburdened or underserved communities, as defined in §1–701 of the Environmental Article.**

For fiscal year 2024, MEA is identifying low-to-moderate communities using 2021 median household income data published by the U.S. Census Bureau at the census tract level as part of the American Community Survey. For overburdened and underserved communities, MEA will use census tract data obtained through the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) Environmental Justice Screening Tool version 2.0 Beta[2].

[1] *Extended from February 15, 2024, to March 14, 2024, on January 16, 2024.*
[2] https://mdewin64.mde.state.md.us/EJ/

The list of census tracts eligible to own or directly benefit from grant funding originating from solar alternative compliance fees in fiscal year 2024 will be provided by MEA.

Award Formula: Grants will be based on the capacity of solar (kW) energy needed to provide the required Resiliency Hub loads for the required period of time. Funding will be provided at a rate of $3,000/kW for **new** solar installed in support of the Resiliency Hub. Additional solar and/or battery storage capacity may be added to the minimum capacity needed to power the required Resiliency Hub loads, but the amount of grant funds awarded will only help offset the cost of the additional solar capacity needed for the required Resiliency Hub loads. MEA will not provide funds for any existing solar capacity that has been previously installed at the project site.

Definitions: The following terms are referenced throughout this FOA, defined below.

- **Extended Grid Outage:** A planned or unplanned grid outage lasting more than four (4) hours.
- **Low Income:** A household whose annual adjusted gross income is at or below 175% of the federal poverty level.
- **Maryland Community Solar Pilot Program ("Community Solar"):** A virtual net energy metering pilot program authorized by Maryland statute (see Public Utilities Article, §§2-113, 2-121, 7-306, 7-306.1, and 7-306.2, Annotated Code of Maryland) and implemented by the Maryland Public Service Commission and its regulations (Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 20.62.01.01 et seq.).
- **Moderate Income:** A household whose annual adjusted gross income is at or below 80% of the local median income (as determined by the latest Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development ("DHCD") "Income Limits" document).
- **Overburdened Community:** A Maryland community that meets the requirements of the Maryland Environment Article, §1-701(a)(7), Annotated Code of Maryland.

Resiliency Hub: A nearby facility within Walking Distance that is publicly accessible by a local community, such as but not limited to a community center, athletic facility, school, library, faith-based institution, etc., that is powered by a Solar Plus Energy Storage System in both normal and grid-outage situations, to help meet important community needs during an extended electricity grid outage. **A Resiliency Hub must provide power for, at minimum,** (1) charging cell phones, laptops, and other important personal communications devices; (2) powering portable medical equipment, such as but not limited to dialysis machines, continuous positive airway pressure ("CPAP") machines, etc.; (3) space conditioning and ventilation to keep residents in safe and

healthy temperatures; (4) refrigeration for temperature-sensitive medications and other items; and (5) emergency lighting. A resiliency hub is **not** a replacement for an emergency shelter. It is a nearby, temporary mitigative location for residents to shelter-in-place until electricity grid power is restored, the emergency situation concludes, or more robust emergency response services become available. A Resiliency Hub **is not required to provide** shower facilities, sleeping facilities, or food service.

- **Solar Plus Energy Storage System:** A system consisting of a solar photovoltaic ("PV") array and an energy storage system that is configured so that the solar PV array can charge the energy storage system while the system is being used during an electricity grid outage.

- **Underserved Community:** A Maryland community that meets the requirements of the Maryland Environment Article, §1-701(a)(8), Annotated Code of Maryland.

- **Walking Distance:** A distance within one-half (½) mile along a public conveyance (e.g., a road, public transit, etc.) or along a well-established path from the community member's residence to the Resiliency Hub. Shorter distances may be proposed, when appropriate. A geographic barrier, such as a river, freeway, etc., should be considered a limiting barrier, as appropriate. This is not an absolute distance limit and may be modified on a case-by-case basis, at MEA's sole discretion, when provided with appropriate justification by the Applicant.

Eligible Applicants: Maryland businesses, non-profits, local governments, public universities, community colleges, and public schools within the State of Maryland. Eligible organizations must be registered to do business in, or have authority to operate within, the State of Maryland.

Individual Maryland residents are not eligible for Resilient Maryland grants, however qualifying sole proprietorship agricultural operations are eligible to apply. To be considered "qualifying," the sole proprietorship must be up-to-date filing its IRS Form Schedule F and filing its Nutrient Management Plan with the Maryland Department of Agriculture. MEA may ask for copies of one or both of these documents for eligibility verification.

A project may be owned by the project site owner, or the project may be owned by a third party that installs and operates the project at the project site and provides the benefit of the project to the project site owner (e.g., under a power purchase agreement, lease, etc.). In any case, both the site owner and the system owner must be applicants (i.e., sign the application) and, if awarded, a grantee (i.e., sign the grant agreement). Funding under an award will be provided directly to the applicant that has requested to receive the funds on the application form, with the exception of state agencies and units of local government, in which case funds will be awarded directly to the state agency or local government.

Eligible Activities: Conduct detailed design, installation, and operation of a Resiliency Hub for a period of at least five (5) years. **Specifically, grant funds can be used to help offset some of the costs of the solar energy generating system, the energy storage system, new switchboards, meters, microgrid and battery control equipment, as well as costs of rewiring the building to accommodate the Resiliency Hub system.** An Applicant must have completed a substantial amount of preconstruction activities to assure the proposed project's feasibility and constructability. To evidence that this due diligence has been completed for the proposed project, the application must include the budget, timeline, and design demonstrating readiness to work. If a proposed project is not eligible for AOI 3 because of insufficient pre-construction activities, it may be a good candidate for AOI 1: Feasibility and Planning of the FY24 Resilient Maryland Program

Minimum Eligibility Criteria: Each FY24 Resilient Maryland, AOI 3: Resiliency Hubs project **must meet the following eligibility criteria** to be considered for a grant award:

1. **Resiliency Hub Location**: The facility that will serve as the Resiliency Hub and receive power from the Solar Plus Energy Storage System, as well as the Solar Plus Energy Storage System itself, must be located within the State of Maryland.
2. **Public Facilities:** When a city, county or state government entity is a grantee (the site owner, site operator or system owner), the government entity will be required to attest to its compliance with Sections 14-416 and 17-303 of the State Finance and Procurement Article (as applicable) and MEA will only provide grant funds directly to the government entity and not to any other grantee.
3. **NABCEP Requirement:** At least one person certified as PV Installation Professional (PVIP) by the North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners ('NABCEP')[3] must be involved in the design and/or installation of the solar array. The applicant/installer will be required to provide the name and certification number of this individual(s).
4. **Reporting and Reimbursements:** Each grantee that receives funding will be responsible for submitting all reporting documents, including grant funds reimbursement requests, to MEA.
5. **Prior Awards:** Only one MEA grant may be awarded per project[4]. A project that has received a prior MEA Resiliency Hub Grant Program grant (FY22 and earlier), or an FY23 Resilient Maryland, AOI 3: Resiliency Hubs grant, is not

[3] https://www.nabcep.org/

[4] MEA encourages grantees to consider energy efficiency in combination with a PV project. A grantee may also apply for, and receive, an MEA Commercial, Industrial and Agricultural (CI&A) grant for energy efficiency or a Lawton Loan. Developers may use multiple energy efficiency or renewable energy grants from other State or Federal agencies to fund this project.

eligible to receive an FY24 Resilient Maryland, AOI 3: Resiliency Hubs grant.

6. **Project Timeline:** Each awarded FY24, Resilient Maryland, AOI 3 project will be given up to three (3) full State of Maryland fiscal years (July 1 – June 30) to be completed. MEA may grant an extension that is requested by a grantee when additional time is needed for circumstances outside the grantee's control, unanticipated challenges, or for good cause shown by the grantee. Any request for extension **must be made no later than two (2) months** prior to the expiration of the existing grant. MEA may, at its sole discretion, consider requests submitted after this extension request deadline, on a case-by-case basis. **No grant term extensions are guaranteed by MEA.**
7. **Minimum Time for Resiliency Hub Designation:** The property owner of the facility where the project will be located must agree to maintain the facility as a Resiliency Hub for at least five (5) years.
8. **Mutual Agreement by Parties:** MEA can only offer a Resiliency Hub grant under FY24 Resilient Maryland, AOI 3, when the site owner, the building owner (if different from the site owner), and the Solar Plus Energy Storage System owner (if different from the site owner or the building owner), all agree to the Resiliency Hub project, which must include the installation of the Solar Plus Energy Storage System **AND** the provision of power and services as described by the Resiliency Hub definition in this FOA.
9. **Provision of Free Energy to Site During Outages:** Energy generated and used at the Resiliency Hub during a grid outage shall be provided at no cost to the Resiliency Hub, although the Resiliency Hub operator may impose reasonable limits on energy use to ensure the system lasts the required period.
10. **Community Solar Coordination:** A project with a solar array supplying power as part of the Maryland Community Solar Pilot Program must be individually coordinated with MEA, which will consider the project as a whole.
11. **Fossil Fuel Technologies Restrictions:** No grant funding may be used to support the installation of a fossil fueled generator, with the exception of installing a single breaker in the applicable switchboard.
12. **Utility Ancillary Services:** The Solar Plus Energy Storage System may be used to provide solar energy to the facility, as well as peak shaving to reduce demand charges. Attempts to use the system for other purposes (such as frequency regulation) are not precluded by this grant if the system is operating under an authorized utility tariff. Regardless of the routine system use, the system operator shall ensure that the battery reaches and maintains at least a 90% charge prior to any known storm or weather condition that might be expected to cause a power outage (hurricane, ice storm, derechos, etc.). Normal operation may resume after the threat to the grid has passed.
13. **Necessary Appliances and Equipment:** Each grantee is responsible for identifying and purchasing heating, cooling, refrigeration, lighting, and plug

load charging equipment. This equipment must be installed (if not already installed) and made available on-site when the Solar Plus Energy Storage System is completed. A refrigerator of adequate size to meet the calculated need is required to be available and operating on-site. Resiliency Hub grant funding may **not** be used to pay for this equipment or its installation.

14. **Maryland Historic Trust:** A Maryland Historical Trust review must be completed and must determine that there is not an adverse impact to the project site or historical district from installation of the Solar Plus Energy Storage System before grant funding may be paid.
15. **IEEE and NEC:** The solar system must meet minimum system requirements as specified in Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers ("IEEE") standard 1547 and the National Electric Code ("NEC").
16. **Local Codes:** An energy storage system must be installed in compliance with all local building, fire, and electrical codes.
17. **National Testing Laboratory:** For each solar and energy storage system, all components must be listed or labeled by a recognized national testing laboratory.
18. **Good Standing Requirements:** Non-governmental project developers, site owners, and system owners must be in Good Standing with the Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT)[5]. Applicants may supply evidence of Good Standing in one of two ways: (1) by supplying a screenshot or PDF of the organization's status as returned in SDAT's Business Entity Search[6], or by supplying its Certificate of Status, available from SDAT here[7].

Labor Requirements: Each grantee under the FY24 Resilient Maryland, AOI 3: Resiliency Hubs is required to provide a written attestation that all installation contractors and subcontractors working on the project meet the labor requirements listed below. This attestation is required to execute a grant agreement with MEA, if the project is selected for an award.

1. **Wages:** Pay at least 150% of the State minimum wage.
2. **Collective Bargaining:** Afford employees the right to bargain collectively for wages and benefits.
3. **Paid Leave:** Provide paid leave.
4. **Covered Employment:** Are considered "Covered Employment" for purposes of unemployment insurance benefits in accordance with Title 8 of the Labor and Employment Article.
5. **Workers' Compensation:** Entitle the employees to Workers' Compensation

[5] https://dat.maryland.gov/Pages/default.aspx
[6] https://egov.maryland.gov/businessexpress/entitysearch
[7] https://dat.maryland.gov/businesses/Pages/Internet-Certificate-of-Status.aspx

benefits in accordance with Title 9 of the Labor and Employment Article.

6. **Federal and State:** Have been in compliance with federal and state wage and hour laws for the longer of the immediately preceding 3 years or for the duration of the contractor's or subcontractor's business operation.
7. **Health Insurance:** Offer employer-provided health insurance benefits with monthly premiums that do not exceed 8.5% of the employee's net monthly earnings.

Evaluation Criteria: All projects must meet the Minimum Eligibility Criteria listed at the end of this FOA to be considered for an award. Upon meeting these criteria, each eligible project will be evaluated using the Evaluation Criteria **listed in Annex 1: FY24 Resilient Maryland Resiliency Hub Application Checklist, provided at the end of this FOA**. The highest-scoring applications will be awarded, subject to the program's funding availability.

Priority funding consideration will be given to a project that uses a community solar array to provide more than 30% of the system's energy output to support low-and-moderate income subscribers.

The primary Evaluation Criterion is the Site Justification, which is explained in Annex 1 to this FOA.

Additional points may be awarded for a project that accomplishes one or more of the following:

- Guaranties more than 14 hours of operation per day (1 point for 15-23 hours, 2 points for 24 hour-per-day operation);
- Provides new power where there was no backup power before (1 point for yes);
- Is expected to be completed in less than 18 months (1 point for yes);
- Provides a reasonable plan for the operation of the Resiliency Hub (1 point for yes); and
- Focuses on a property in a low-to-moderate, Overburdened, or Underserved community within walking distance (normally assumed to be ½ mile) (1 point for yes).

MEA may request additional information from an applicant after all applications have been submitted to facilitate the evaluation process.

Geographic Diversity: Please note that, in order to enhance geographic diversity, MEA reserves the right to consider a project's location within the State when determining an award decision.

Review Process: Each application package will be evaluated competitively by an Evaluation Team comprised of MEA staff with relevant experience. This evaluation includes three

(3) review steps that are detailed below.

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

2. Evaluation Team Member Individual Review: Each member of the Evaluation Team reviews and scores the application according to the Evaluation Criteria established in this FOA.

3. Evaluation Team Group Review and Award Recommendation: The Evaluation Team convenes for a group review of their findings and scores for each eligible application. An Evaluation Team member is permitted to modify their score for an eligible application considering new information discovered during the Group Review discussion. The final score for an eligible application is determined by taking the average of the individual Evaluation Team member scores for that application. The Evaluation Team will finalize all scores and make an award recommendation for each application that is being recommended to the MEA Director for an award. Awards will be recommended in order of highest final score to lowest eligible final score, until all available funding is exhausted, or all eligible awards are funded, whichever comes first.

Partial awards: Partial awards may be awarded under this AOI, depending on the number of complete proposals received and associated total grant funds requested. Full grant awards 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, based on the ability to complete the project with partial grant funding. If the Applicant declines, MEA will offer partial grant funding under this same structure to the next qualified Applicant until all funding has been expended or all remaining projects have rejected the offer.

Required Application Documents: To be considered **complete**, an application to AOI 3: Resiliency Hubs of the FY24 Resilient Maryland Program must include the following documents**.** Failure to submit any of the required documents will result in rejection of the application.

1. **Application Form:** Complete and signed FY24 Resilient Maryland AOI 3 Application Workbook[8]

2. **Cover Letter:** A cover letter signed by an authorized representative of the applicant with signatory authority, who will sign the Grant Agreement with MEA, if the application is selected for an award. **The cover letter must include the following:**

    a. Full name of the applicant as it appears on its most current IRS Form W9;

    b. Site name and street address(es) of the Resiliency Hub;

    c. Site name and street address(es) of any components of the Solar Plus Battery Storage System that are **not located** at the Resiliency Hub;

    d. Brief description of the Resiliency Hub, Solar Plus Energy Storage System

    e. Brief description of any existing or planned backup emergency generation, as applicable;

    f. Description of loads to be served beyond those required by the Minimum Eligibility Requirements section of this FOA (e.g., microwave, refrigerator specifically for food, etc.);

    g. Name and contact information for the project point of contact;

    h. Name(s) and contact information for the applicant's legal counsel; and

    i. Name, email address, phone number, and other relevant contact information for the applicant's authorized representative with signatory authority to sign a grant agreement with MEA, if the project is selected for an award.

3. **Resiliency Hub Sizing and Modeling:** One or more document(s) that contain the modeling computation or model printout of the Solar Plus Battery Storage System. **The modeling software on SolarResilient.org is preferred,** but other modeling software is acceptable so long as it is generally accepted and accurate.

4. **Application Narrative:** A narrative that discusses the site selection, building location, acceptance of the Resiliency Hub by the local jurisdiction (city, town, county, etc.), sizing information and other technical details and specifications, requested grant amount, system design, project timeline, total cost estimate, and hours of operation.

[8] *Available on the FY24 Resilient Maryland webpage: https://energy.maryland.gov/business/pages/ResilientMaryland.aspx.*

5. **Letter of Intent from Financial Sponsor:** A letter of intent or support from one or more financial sponsor(s).

6. **Letter of Interest from Site Owner:** A letter of interest from the owner of the Resiliency Hub site;

7. **Letter of Interest from the Site Operator:** A letter of interest from the site operator, **only if different from the site owner.** Disregard this document if the site operator and site owner are the same entity.

8. **Solar Output Estimate:** An estimation of the solar energy output of the Solar Plus Battery Storage system from a trusted, reliable output estimator (e.g., PVWatts, Helioscope, PVSYST, etc.).

9. **Applicant Good Standing Documentation:** Proof of Good Standing with Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation for applicant; and its contractor, developer, or vendor (if known at the time of application). Business Entity Search result or Certificate of Good Standing are acceptable.

10. **IRS Form W9:** A complete, accurate, current, and signed IRS Form W9 for the applicant.

11. **Site Ownership Documentation:** Evidence of the Site Owner's ownership, or control of the project site for at least twenty (20) years after project completion in the form of a recorded deed, or other appropriate documentation accepted by MEA. **NOTE:** The grant agreement allows for but provides conditions on the sale of the building/property during the 5-year guaranty period of the resiliency hub.

12. **Electrical Schematic:** A basic electrical schematic of the facility's electrical system, such as a one-line diagram, that shows where and how the Solar Plus Battery Storage System will connect to it.

13. **Simple Payback: If the Solar Plus Battery Storage System is purchased (i.e., not third party-owned),** a calculation of the simple payback period. Work **must be shown. For a third party-owned system**, provide the expected cost savings to the site owner over a twenty (20) year period and show all calculation work. For the purposes of this program, "simple payback" is calculated by dividing the total installed cost of the resiliency hub energy system by the annual energy cost savings that will be generated by the system.

14. **LOCAL JURISDICTIONS (e.g., city, town, county, etc.) ONLY:** Provide evidence of the local government entity's commitment to the project in the form of a signed contract with an installer, or a letter of commitment signed by an authorized representative (e.g., a senior level official). When a letter of commitment is provided, include an overview of the local government's procurement process. Summarize steps, required approvals, and an approximate timeline for each step

of the process. Also, at a minimum, include the location and estimated capacity of the solar system being contemplated in the commitment letter. If a power purchase agreement is being considered by the local government entity that must still go through a procurement process, the government entity must state that their electricity price expectations should be available on the open market, and they must provide their basis for this expectation.

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 the General Provisions document is available on MEA's website[9]; this document will be incorporated into all MEA FY24 grant agreements.

In addition to the general provisions, the following funding qualification applies to this program:

- MEA reserves the right to obligate all or none of the FY24 Resilient Maryland program budget, based on the quality and eligibility of applications submitted to MEA**.**

- All projects that receive financial support from MEA must adhere to its Fossil Fuel Policy, **which is provided as Appendix 1 to this FOA.**

Grant Funding and Payment:

The following requirements apply to the request for reimbursement and payment of grant funds for each awardee that is selected for funding:

- **NEW REQUIREMENT: ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS**

  Participation in MEA grant programs is voluntary. If selected for award and to ensure the secure transmission of grant funds, grantee recipients of MEA funding are generally required to receive electronic payments from the State of Maryland. Electronic payments are set up through the State of Maryland's Comptroller's Office. Grantee must fill out and submit the "ACH/Direct Deposit Authorization for Vendor Payments Form X-10[10]" to the Comptroller's Office via the submission methods outlined on the X-10 form. ACH/Direct Deposit Authorization for Vendor Payment Form X-10 **should not be sent to MEA**. Failure to submit ACH/Direct Deposit Authorization Form X-10 may result in award reimbursement being delayed. If an applicant is unable to receive ACH/Direct Deposit payments, MEA may provide an exception to this requirement on a case-by-case basis, at the sole discretion of MEA.

[9] https://energy.maryland.gov/Pages/all-incentives.aspx

[10] https://www.marylandtaxes.gov/forms/state-accounting/static-files/GADX10Form.pdf

- Upon receipt of grant agreement signed by both the grantee and MEA, MEA will set aside funding for the proposed project specified in the agreement through an encumbrance of funds.
- Resilient Maryland funds cannot be used to offset costs that were incurred prior to the execution of a commitment letter or grant agreement.
- **Up to fifty-five percent (55%) of the total grant funding** may be invoiced at the time of ordering all required solar and battery materials. Remaining funds may be invoiced after the Solar Plus Energy Storage System is completed, commissioned, has received permission to operate, and has been placed into service.
- The grantee will inform MEA when the project is placed into service. This means that all zoning requirements are met, all permit inspections are passed and permits are closed, all commissioning tests are satisfactorily completed, and permission to operate has been received from the utility. MEA will either conduct a site visit to inspect the installation, or may waive the site visit at its discretion. Upon completion of the site visit, the grantee will submit a Final Invoice and Completion Report. Upon receipt of a complete and accurate Final Invoice and Completion Report, MEA will approve the grant for payment.
- For any project that is inspected by MEA, all major deficiencies, as specified by MEA, must be corrected before MEA will pay any grant funds. Minor deficiencies should be addressed or corrected.

Reports: MEA will require each recipient of a grant award to complete and submit quarterly progress reports, for the period beginning at the execution of the grant agreement between the grantee and MEA, and ending when MEA receives the Final Invoice and Completion Report. Each progress report should be submitted by email no later than the 10th day of the months of January, April, July, and October (unless the 10th falls on a weekend or State Holiday, in which case the deadline will be the next business day). Each grantee may format their progress reports as desired, but each report must include, at minimum: design and construction progress, as well as any problems that would impede completion of the project. Also, please include the best estimate of the date of permission to operate in each report.

Within the first three years of operation, an additional report will be required describing the actual usage of the Solar Plus Energy Storage System both during grid operation and throughout each grid outage. "Lessons learned" and program recommendations are appropriate for this report.

Solar Renewable Energy Credits (SRECs): Projects must register for and receive Solar Renewable Energy Credits (SRECs). Each grantee will be required to verify the successful registration of

projects with the Maryland Public Service Commission and with PJM Interconnection. For information concerning SREC registration, consult the PJM EIS website at https://www.pjm-eis.com/.

Program Changes: Any update (e.g., extension of a deadline) or clarification about the Program and any corrections to inadvertent errors in the Program information will be available on the Resilient Maryland program webpage[11]. In addition, MEA will communicate clarifications and updates made after the application deadline directly to applicants or grantees, as applicable, by letter or email.

The final grant amount for each Grantee will be made after review of all proposals received and is subject to funding availability for the Program and any relevant statutory requirement applicable at that time.

Submission Instructions:

Once complete, Application packages should be submitted to MEA electronically via email to **RMP.MEA@Maryland.gov. All documents must be submitted no later than 3:00 P.M. EDT, Thursday, March 14, 2024[12].** MEA **will not accept** any application packages after this deadline under any circumstances, and all documents received by the deadline will constitute the entire submission. If electronic submission is not possible, an Applicant should contact MEA via email at RMP.MEA@Maryland.gov or by calling Program Manager David Comis at 443.908.1743 (cell phone) or 410.537.4064 (office desk line) **no fewer than fourteen (14) days** prior to the deadline to arrange an alternative method of submission.

Questions can be directed to David Comis, Senior Solar Program Manager, via email at David.Comis@Maryland.gov or via phone at 443.908.1743 (cell phone) or 410.537.4064 (office desk line).

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[11] https://energy.maryland.gov/business/pages/ResilientMaryland.aspx

[12] *Corrected – prior version erroneously listed January 18, 2024, as the deadline. It has been fixed to reflect the March 14, 2024, deadline extension.*

APPENDIX 1: FY24 RESILIENT MARYLAND PROGRAM
AREA OF INTEREST 1: PRECONSTRUCTION PLANNING

MEA Fossil Fuel Policy

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

- Projects that include fossil-fuel or other combustion technologies that produce greenhouse gas emissions are typically not eligible for funding.

- Specific examples of projects that would not be eligible for funding under the Program include:

    - Efforts that expand the use of fossil fuel or natural gas technologies, except where meeting one of the exemptions or those efforts are technically infeasible;
    - Expansion of infrastructure that results in an expansion of fossil fuel delivery volume;
    - New installations of fossil fuel or natural gas fired technologies;
    - Projects that result in significant life extension of fossil fuel fired systems, beyond basic health and safety repairs or efforts that enhance efficiency but do not extend the gas system/or fossil fueled fired equipment life. Note: Limited exceptions may be considered where there is no other technically feasible technology or where a source can be demonstrated to be zero emission. Any applications for projects involving fossil fuel should provide evidence that a technical analysis of why electrified or other zero emission alternatives cannot be implemented, this analysis should not be on the basis of operating or capital costs alone.

- While basic health and safety repairs or efforts that enhance efficiency but do not extend the gas system/or fossil fueled fired equipment life are allowable, projects must be part of a project that includes other energy efficiency improvements that reduce or eliminate fossil fuel use. This situation is anticipated to primarily, but not exclusively, be seen in residential energy efficiency projects.

Exemptions:

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

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

Continued on following page.

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

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Annex 1: Resiliency Hub Checklist

Maryland Energy Administration	FY24 Resiliency Hub Grant Program	
	APPLICATION	**REVIEW CHECK LIST (INTERNAL)**
A. Site Justification		
	Does the application/proposal: ● Provide the method used to identify the LMI population to be served (within walking distance)? ● Identify the method or provide base documents used? ● Describe the limits of the neighborhood expected to be served and an educated estimate of the LMI population to be served (moderate income, low income)? ● **Points = $400,000 divided by the median income of the census tract in which it is located.** (For resiliency hubs in high rise apartment buildings or multi-family apartment complexes, the median income of the building or complex may be used in place of the median income of the census tract.) ● **Points: Does the resiliency hub serve an overburdened or underserved community? (1 point if yes)**	**Points =** **Census Tract =** **Points =**
	● If the application does not identify the method, does it provide clear base documents to show a high density, Low-and-Moderate Income population within walking distance of the proposed site? ● **Points: Is the proposed Resiliency Hub on a property with an LMI community that is within walking distance (normally assumed to be ½ mile)? (1 point for yes).**	Yes/No: NOTE: **Points =**
B. System Location		
	Does the application/proposal: ● Identify the building / rooms to be used as a Resiliency Hub? Use a map as appropriate. ● Explain the rational for its selection? ● Provide documentation that the building owner is interested in a solar plus storage system for daily use and is willing to open the building as a Resiliency Hub when the grid is down?	Yes/No: NOTE:

	Documentation may be a contract, a letter of intent, a letter of interest, etc. ● If appropriate, is a map provided to show the location of the building?	
	Does the project bring new backup power where there was no backup power before? **One point if yes**	**Points =**
C. City/County Acceptance		
	Does the application/proposal: ● Provide documentation that the city/county (including their office of emergency planning) has been notified of the proposed location of the Resiliency Hub? If the city/county has been involved in site selection, does the proposal provide a brief paragraph to this effect. ● Provide documentation that the city/county is open to the concept of a Resiliency Hub, and that they do not reject the location out of hand? (Final approval is not required with the application but MEA will not fund a proposal rejected by the city/county).	Yes/No: NOTE:
D. System Sizing Information		
	Does the application/proposal: ● Provide a listing/table of the proposed loads to be provided during grid outage, to include kW, time, and duration per day, and estimated kWh/day? ● Describe the process used to size the solar system and the energy storage system? ● Provide the size of the solar system (kW) and the energy storage system (kW and kWh)? ● If a fossil fuel generator is included in the system design, does the application provide its maximum power output? its fuel supply (including estimated time of operation available at various power levels), and proposed mode/strategy of operation? ● Verify and document that sufficient roof/ground space is available for the solar system and energy storage system? ● Indicate what modeling tool was used and provide key system printouts that show loads, system and storage sizing? Tools such as SolarResilient, REopt or REopt Lite, and System Advisor Model (SAM) should be considered. Other	Yes/No: NOTE:

	established modeling tools may also be used but must be specified.	
E. Grant Amount Requested		
	Does the Application/Proposal ● Provide the grant amount requested?	Yes/No: NOTE:
F. System Design		
	Does the application/proposal: ● Provide a one-line design of the system showing major equipment, panels, breakers, etc.? ● If a backup or emergency fossil fueled generator will be included, does the application explain how it will be hooked into the system, to include a one-line diagram showing energy flow during generator operation?	Yes/No: NOTE:
G. Review Notice of Grant Availability		
	● Does the application/proposal provide a statement that the applicant has reviewed the Funding Opportunity Announcement and agrees to follow its requirements?	Yes/No: NOTE:
H. Timeline (Tentative at time of submittal)		
	Does the application/proposal: Provide information showing estimated project start, completion, commissioning, Interconnection and Permission to Operate? **One point if project is expected to be completed in less than 18 months**	**Points =**
I. Total Cost		
	Does the application/proposal? Provide estimated total project cost? Provide estimated cost of the minimum necessary equipment (solar modules, inverters, energy storage device, charge controller, system controller)?	Yes/No: NOTE:

J. Ongoing Operation (Tentative at time of submittal)		
	Does the application/proposal: • Provide a plan for the operation of the Resiliency Hub during an extended grid outage? • Address who will provide site manning and expected costs? Address who will provide maintenance and testing of the hub? **One point if a reasonable plan is provided.**	Yes/No: NOTE: **Points =**
K. **Operational Hours**		
	Will the resiliency hub be open for more than 14 hours per day? **1 point for 15-23 hours, 2 points for 24 hour/day operations**	Yes/No: NOTE: **Points =**
	Total Points Added	

Comments: