

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI)

40101(d) Federal Formula Grant Funding: Preventing Outages and Enhancing the Resilience of the Electric Grid

for the

Louisiana Department of Natural Resources

RFI #: LADNR-40101d1

Response Due Date/Time: September 15, 2023, 5 PM CDT

Release Date: August 22, 2023

The LDNR invites public comment on this request for information (RFI) regarding Louisiana's administration of funding awarded to Louisiana under the 40101(d) Federal Formula Grant: Preventing Outages and Enhancing the Resilience of the Electric Grid.

THIS IS A REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ("RFI") ONLY: This RFI is issued solely for information and planning purposes; it does not constitute a Request for Proposal, application, or proposal abstract. This RFI does not commit the State to contract for any supplies or services or make a grant award. Further, the State is not seeking proposals through this RFI and will not accept unsolicited proposals. Respondents are advised that the State will not pay for any information or administrative costs incurred in response to this RFI. All costs associated with responding to this RFI will solely be at the interested party's expense.

Information obtained as a result of this RFI may be used by the State for program planning on a non-attribution basis. All submission materials become State property and will not be returned. The State will accept requests from any interested party to keep the information in its submission confidential and will agree to confidentiality, if appropriate, in accordance with State and federal law. Only information that is in the nature of legitimate trade secrets or non-published financial data may be deemed proprietary or confidential. Any material within a response to this RFI identified as such must be clearly marked and will be handled in accordance with the Louisiana Public Records Act, *i.e.*, La. R.S. 44:1-44 and applicable rules and regulations. Any response marked as confidential or proprietary in its entirety may be rejected without further consideration or recourse. In all other cases, the State may publicly post a summary of the comments received.

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1 GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1 BACKGROUND

Located along the coast of the Gulf of Mexico, Louisiana is susceptible to major hurricanes each season. Other forms of climate threats (e.g., flooding, winter storms, heat waves) have also negatively impacted Louisiana over the past decades. Since 2000, Louisiana has experienced 57 distinct billion-dollar disasters. Along with Texas and Florida, Louisiana is among the top three states in terms of climate risk. Beyond extreme weather events, vulnerabilities on the electric system impact residents and businesses in Louisiana on a regular basis. In 2018, the average Louisiana electric customer experienced 2.1 service interruptions that lasted an average of 4.6 hours.

The State of Louisiana has worked in recent years to establish a State Climate Action Plan and a Coastal Master Plan, which have identified opportunities for the state to plan for and invest in resilience alongside mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions. To prepare for new investments in resilience and reliability, the State of Louisiana established an Interagency Working Group and developed a stakeholder outreach process in Summer 2022. Through these outreach efforts, the State was able to begin developing a set of goals, objectives, strategies, priorities, and mechanisms for reducing the impact of outages on the state's residents and businesses, with a focus on addressing the needs of those most vulnerable to a changing climate and socio-economically disadvantaged residents.

In May 2023, Louisiana was one of first four states and two Tribal Nations to receive an award in the first award cycle of the [Grid Resilience State and Tribal Formula Grants Program](#) under the [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#). The U.S. Department of Energy awarded \$15,990,093 to the State of Louisiana for the first two years of the five-year program. The award is designed to strengthen and modernize Louisiana's power grid against wildfires, extreme weather, and other natural disasters and to provide a reliable power infrastructure to all communities to have access to affordable, reliable and clean electricity.

1.1.1 Funding Objectives

The funding will support projects, awarded through a competitive process, that support five core state objectives: **resilience, environment, equity, affordability, and safety**. The set of metrics and strategies described below will be used to effectively track whether investments achieve State goals.

The State will assess the effectiveness of its objectives after all Year 1 and Year 2 grants are selected, prior to soliciting any Year 3 grants. Specifically, the State will assess whether the objectives established under this program proposal have resulted in projects that generate the greatest community benefit in reducing the likelihood and consequences of disruptive events and will assess that such benefit is accurately reflected by collected metrics.

1.1.1.A. RESILIENCE

Objective: Modernize the power infrastructure system to withstand the stresses and shocks from extreme weather events and large-scale disruptions and move toward a secure, resilient, and affordable grid.

Intended Outcome: Reduce the frequency, duration, and impact of outages for Louisiana residents, businesses, and critical services.

Core Strategies to achieve this objective:

1. Diversifying the existing energy resource mix and incorporating lower carbon-emitting resources.
2. Minimizing the vulnerability of existing infrastructure to natural hazards.
3. Expanding the use of distributed, decarbonized and emerging technologies.
4. Focusing on community resiliency through education and collaboration.

Metrics to measure effectiveness:

- **Improvement in Outage Duration.** Reduction in SAIDI (System Average Interruption Duration Index) for customers in targeted community area.
- **Improvement in Outage Frequency.** Reduction in SAIFI (System Average Interruption Frequency Index) for customers in targeted community area.
- **Reduction in Long-Duration Outages.** Reduction in CELID (Customers Experiencing Long Interruption Duration) for customers in targeted community area.
- **Increased DER Critical Capacity.** Increased power (MW) and energy (MWh) capability of installed distributed energy resources as a percentage of business-as-usual and critical power capacity needs for targeted community area.

1.1.1.B. ENVIRONMENT

Objective: Build the next-generation sustainable, customer-centric, carbon-free grid.

Intended outcome: Reduce greenhouse gas emissions, pollutants impacting public health, fuel costs, and energy burden in Louisiana (particularly in disadvantaged communities).

Core Strategies to achieve this objective:

1. Reducing environmental pollution and subsequent impacts of power generation and power infrastructure.
2. Strengthening and smartening the grid to support the deployment and integration of more low- and zero-emission vehicles.
3. Incorporating climate mitigation and adaptation as part of urban, natural and working lands, and wetlands planning.
4. Providing a grid that supports increased and decarbonized electrification of the industrial sector processes and building components.

Metrics to measure effectiveness:

- **Reduction in Surface Level Pollutants.** Reduction in NOx and PM in disadvantaged communities as a result of low- and zero-emission vehicle deployments.
- **Reduction in Fuel Costs.** Reduction in whole-wallet fuel costs due to electrification investments.

- **Reduction in Greenhouse-Gas emissions.** Reduction in site and source GHG emissions from targeted investments.

1.1.1.C. EQUITY

Objective: Advance more equitable, economically-sustainable, and resilient communities throughout Louisiana.

Intended Outcome: Create new careers, training, and apprenticeship opportunities for residents in disadvantaged communities/businesses and enable residents to have safe and efficient homes.

Core Strategies to achieve this objective:

1. Improving community resilience through ease of access to weatherization, energy efficiency, and distributed resources.
2. Reducing disproportionate impacts of power outages and ensuring a just energy transition for low-income residents.
3. Activating a knowledge hub around the energy transition that is accessible for all.
4. Enabling a next-generation workforce that represents the population of Louisiana.
5. Creating opportunities for new careers, business creation and wealth-building.

Metrics to Measure Effectiveness:

- **Residents in Weatherized Homes.** Number of residents, including residents from disadvantaged communities, in homes that have been weatherized to better withstand extreme heat and cold outage events, the peak reduction capacity (MW) of weatherized homes, and the hours of resiliency in those homes.
- **New careers.** Number of FTEs from disadvantaged communities on funded projects, out of the total number of FTEs on funded projects.
- **New trainees.** Number of residents of disadvantaged communities receiving training and participating in apprenticeship programs, as part of funded projects.
- **Disadvantaged Businesses.** Total % of project funding spent with Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs), and the total number of new DBEs created.

1.1.1.D. AFFORDABILITY

Objective: Reduce overall energy burden, particularly for disadvantaged communities, and ensure energy costs remain competitive.

Intended Outcome: Reduce energy bills and energy burden for disadvantaged communities, take advantage of new federal and private funding, and reduce the cost of long-duration outages for communities.

Core Strategies to achieve objective:

1. Expanding energy efficiency access to reduce energy bills for homes and businesses.
2. Reducing the cost of outages, resilience investments, and the energy transition.

3. Leveraging state investments to attract new federal and private investments.
4. Reducing the burden of high-cost low-frequency grid events.

Metrics to measure effectiveness:

- **Bill Savings.** Total energy cost savings (whole wallet) for customers in targeted communities, and average per customer energy cost savings for residents of disadvantaged communities.
- **Reduction in Energy Burden.** Reduction in energy costs, as a percentage of income, for residents of disadvantaged communities.
- **Residents Served by Community Resilience Centers.** Total person capacity of community resilience centers deployed to serve residents of disadvantaged communities, and the total resilience capability (in hours) of resilience centers.

1.1.1.E. SAFETY

Objective: Ensure the continued, safe operation of the energy system by instituting standard safety practices and planning new investments through a safety lens.

Intended Outcome: Reduce customer- and grid-side power quality and wires down instances while improving awareness of new safety considerations with distributed energy solutions.

Core Strategies to Achieve Objective:

1. Improving power quality to reduce disruptive events for commercial and industrial customers.
2. Expanding training safety procedures for utility workers and DER installers.
3. Creating new situational awareness tools for the utility to understand where lines may be energized in outages.
4. 4. Providing community education and outreach to improve safety during contingency events and for energy transition technology.

Metrics to Measure Effectiveness:

- **Improvement in Power Quality.** A reduction in the Momentary Average Interruption Frequency Index (MAIFI) for targeted customers.
- **Reduction in Wires Down Events.** A reduction in Wires Down incidents involving Overhead electric primary distribution circuits.
- **Safety Training.** Number of lineworkers, distributed energy installers, and community members trained on safety procedures during hazards and for distributed energy.

1.1.2. Priority Projects

Through the stakeholder process and public hearing, the State considered both (a) the amount of funds available under this program in comparison to typical project costs (i.e., what projects would be most cost effective) and (b) which targeted solutions could best meet the objectives and metrics of the program. Ultimately, the State finds projects that include one or more of the following project types to be most advantageous to meeting the program goals and will be prioritized for funding under this program:

- **Critical Facility Microgrids.** Grid-connected and behind-the-meter generation, storage, and controls for hospitals, emergency, water treatment and pumping, and other life-essential services. Projects should include the ability to island (standalone) from the main grid, ideally with black-start capability (ability to start up independently after an outage).
- **Community Microgrids.** Community-oriented local grid system with connected DER, storage, and controls for a defined set of residential and commercial buildings to enable communities to be resilient in place. Projects should include the ability to island (standalone) from the main grid, ideally with black-start capability (ability to start up independently after an outage).
- **Community resilience hubs.** Create local / community-based resilience hubs (e.g., cooling / heating centers, first responders, food and supplies, charging stations) to help a community ride out outage events in their own neighborhood. Projects could include microgrids.
- **Vehicle-to-Building and Vehicle-to-Grid.** Leveraging energy storage in vehicles to provide critical back-up and other services to improve resiliency in buildings or the local distribution grid.

1.1.3. Eligible Entities Definitions

“Eligible Entities” for subawards under this funding, pursuant to BIL Sec. 40101(d), include:

- An electric grid operator,
- An electricity storage operator,
- An electricity generator,
- A transmission owner or operator,
- A distribution provider,
- A fuel supplier, and
- Other relevant entity, as may be determined by the Secretary of DOE.

Louisiana DNR is working with the US Department of Energy to additionally qualify as eligible entities the following: units of local government, critical facilities, non-profit organizations, and co-ops whose organizational mission is to serve, and benefit disadvantaged communities throughout the State of Louisiana.

Eligible “Community-Based Project Partnerships,” as described in Section 1.1.4 (“Funding Distribution”) must meet the following criteria:

- Led by a community or co-op utility, unit of local government, community-based non-profit, company located in a disadvantaged community, or other state approved entity.
- Work with the local community through meaningful engagement.

- Substantially and meaningfully provide benefit to disadvantaged communities.
- Include carbon-free energy sources.

"Small utility set-aside," as described in Section 1.1.4 ("Funding Distribution") and 1.1.5 ("Matching Requirements") are defined by the US Department of Energy as entities selling not more than 4,000,000 megawatt hours of electricity per year.

1.1.4. Funding Distribution

The target funding distribution for the first two years of the program is as follows:

Table 1. Funding Distribution

	Benefitting Disadvantaged Communities	Any Location
Projects able to be completed < 24 months	\$4,603,207.50	\$4,603,207.50
Early-Stage Community-Based Project Partnerships	\$3,682,566.00	
All Other Timing	\$1,160,809.50	\$1,160,809.50

The ultimate allocations may differ from the target allocations in the table above, based on the finalized amounts of awarded projects.

Further, the State will provide a small utility set-aside of at least **24.72%** of its total budget amount to entities selling not more than 4,000,000 megawatt hours of electricity per year. This would set a maximum limit of grants to eligible entities that sell more than 4,000,000 megawatt hours of electricity per year at 75.28% of the total program budget. Nothing in this set-aside calculation is intended to represent that eligible entities that sell not more than 4,000,000 megawatt hours of electricity per year are limited to 24.72% of the overall budget.

As shown in the Table 1 above, the State intends to award more than 50% of funds to projects that are located in and/or can demonstrate benefits to Disadvantaged Communities.

1.1.5. Matching Requirements

Applicants that are small utilities (sell not more than 4,000,000 megawatt hours of electricity per year) must demonstrate a match of 33% of the grant amount.

All other applicants must demonstrate a match of 100% of the grant amount.

1.2 PURPOSE OF RFI

This RFI is being issued to collect information and feedback from the entities who are interested in applying for funding under this program or in providing feedback on program administration and design.

The purpose of this RFI is to: (a) generate community and stakeholder awareness of the upcoming funding opportunities; (b) identify existing projects that can be completed within a 24-month time period; (c) identify possible early-stage community-based project partnerships that would benefit from a longer planning horizon; and (d) see feedback on scoring criteria and parameters for early-stage community-based project planning.

1.3 INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED IN RFP

If an RFP is eventually issued, the grantees will be subject to the applicable requirements of Administrative and Legal Requirements Document (ALRD) for DE-FOA-0002736 (DE-FOA/ALRD-0002736), available [here](#), unless otherwise noted. The Applicants must be able to provide information required and comply with the requirements of the ALRD applicable to the recipients of the funding.

The State anticipates requiring entities that are interested in applying for funding to provide the following information about a potential project that they intend to submit. The State is requesting feedback only on these requirements at this time, and is inviting comment on the following proposed requirements for project description:

1. **Project executive summary** (no more than 2 pages).
2. **Project participants.** (no more than 2 pages) Please describe each entity involved in the proposed project within the categories of “eligible entity” as described above. Indicate if any entity falls into the following category: small utility, community or co-op utility, unit of local government, community- based non-profit, company located in a disadvantaged community.
3. **Project location and Community Benefit(s).** (up to 5 pages, excluding attachments) Indicate the location of the project including whether it is located in the Disadvantaged Communities as defined by the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool, developed by the White House Council on Environmental Quality, and what Community Benefit(s) are provided by the project and how, including any quantifiable results. Additionally, the applicant shall provide a description and quantitative data on the frequency and duration of current disruptive events, anticipated reduction in the frequency and duration of such events, number of customers currently affected by such disruptive events, anticipated number of customers benefiting from such reduction in the frequency and duration of such events, and anticipated number of customers in the same census tract as those customers benefiting. Describe in details which communities will located in and/or can demonstrate benefits to Disadvantaged Communities. Applicants are encouraged to share maps, spreadsheets, or other detailed data to support their narrative.
4. **Funding Objectives.** (up to 4 pages) Describe in detail how the proposed project meets any or all of the Objectives outlined above in Section 1.1.1, and the applicant’s ability to demonstrate compliance with the highlighted metrics and strategies as well as demonstrate benefits to the disadvantaged communities.

5. **Project timeline.** (Up to 3 pages) Please provide a detailed timeline of the project and whether the project falls within one of the following categories:
 1. can be completed within a 24-month time period;
 2. is a community-based project partnership; or
 3. any other timing.
6. **Project costs breakdown.** (Up to 2 pages) Please provide a detailed cost breakdown of the project, including:
 1. Breakdown of the total funding requested of LDNR, and total matching funds brought by the applicant (indicate source and type of the matching funds, e.g. fees or rates charged to customers, shareholder funds, cash or in-kind contributions of any kind),
 2. Project cost breakdown by the following categories: design and engineering; land and land rights acquisition; equipment; interconnection; permitting; construction; financing; legal, consulting and insurance; ongoing operations and maintenance; measurement and verification; labor and employment; other costs. For each of the cost categories listed above, include the total cost for each category, how much is being requested of LDNR vs matching funds in each cost category.
 3. Please note that all expenditures must be allowable, allocable, and reasonable in accordance with the applicable federal cost principles.¹
7. **Cost/benefit analysis.** Provide project's cost-benefit analysis, describing the intended outcomes from each of the project cost categories and project key components/stages where the benefit is readily quantifiable (e.g., the number of local jobs created, added storage capacity, other direct grid benefits).
8. **Project ownership structure.** (Up to 1 page) Please describe the ownership structure of the proposed project, identify each entity involved in the project and their roles and ownership of the project elements, describe each entity's contribution to the project matching funds.
9. **Experience.** (Up to 3 pages) Please describe managerial, operational and financial experience of each entity involved in the project and their teams.
10. **Operations and maintenance.** (Up to 2 pages) Provide details of the operations and maintenance plans for the project, including the entity responsible for each element, the timeline of any stages or regular actions.
11. **Utility impact.** (Up to 1 page) Describe any potential or anticipated impact the proposal may have on utility operations or utility customers and describe current and anticipated discussions or partnership with the utility, including any access needed to utility data and utility equipment and property.
12. **Performance measurement.** (Up to 1 page) Describe how the proposed project outcome will be measured against the objectives and metrics indicated above, include detailed plan for measurement and verification of each stage and benefit of the project against the each of the

¹ Refer to the following applicable federal cost principles for more information: Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Part 31 for For-Profit entities; and 2 CFR Part 200 Subpart E - Cost Principles for all other non-federal entities. DE-FOA/ALRD-0002736 page 20.

stated objectives, including the frequency of measurement and verification and any third party to be contracted for the measurement and verification.

13. **Labor Standards and Workforce**². Describe proposed strategy to ensure the project will use strong labor standards and protections (including for direct employees, contractors, and sub-contractors), such as through the use of project labor agreements, local hire agreements, and outline of a plan to attract, train, and retain an appropriately skilled workforce (i.e., through registered apprenticeships and other joint labor- management training programs that serve all workers, particularly those underrepresented or historically excluded); plans to partner with a training provider (labor, community college, etc); and the use of an appropriately credentialed workforce (i.e., requirements for appropriate and relevant professional training, certification, and licensure).³
14. **Davis-Bacon Act compliance**. Provide a certification that the project will comply with the requirements of the “Davis-Bacon Act” and will pay all of the laborers and mechanics performing construction, alteration, or repair work in excess of \$2,000 on projects funded directly by or assisted in whole or in part by and through funding under the award, wages at rates not less than those prevailing on projects of a character similar in the locality as determined by subchapter IV of Chapter 1 of Title 40, United State Code commonly referred to as the “Davis-Bacon Act”.⁴
15. **Cybersecurity**: Certify that the primary purpose of the proposed project is not cyber security but that the implementation of the proposed project will adhere to any applicable cybersecurity requirements, and where possible, best practices in deploying technologies under their subaward.⁵
16. **No Foreign Work and Materials**. Certify that all work performed for the project will be performed in the United States and no foreign travel will be involved.⁶ Certify that all iron, steel, and manufactured products used in the infrastructure work are produced in the United States and all construction materials used in the infrastructure work are manufactured in the United States.⁷ Indicate if a waiver can be requested as specified in Appendix B and C of the DE-FOA/ALRD-0002736.⁸

² As part of the whole-of-government approach to advance equity and encourage worker organizing and collective bargaining and in alignment with BIL sections 40101(d), the ALRD and any related activities will seek to encourage meaningful engagement and participation of labor unions and underserved communities and underrepresented groups, including consultation with Tribal Nations. Consistent with Executive Order 14052, the ALRD is designed to ensure that 40% of the benefits of the overall investments provided through the ALRD will be delivered to disadvantaged communities in accordance with the Justice40 Initiative, and drive the creation of good-paying union jobs through a focus on high labor standards and the free and fair chance for workers to join a union. DE-FOA/ALRD-0002736 page 6.

³ DE-FOA/ALRD-0002736 page 15.

⁴ DE-FOA/ALRD-0002736 page 25, 27.

⁵ DE-FOA/ALRD-0002736 page 25.

⁶ DE-FOA/ALRD-0002736 page 25.

⁷ DE-FOA/ALRD-0002736 page 26.

⁸ DE-FOA/ALRD-0002736. See p.26-27.

2 ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

2.1 RFI COORDINATOR

Requests for copies of the RFI and any questions must be directed to the RFI Coordinator listed below:

Edward O'Brien – 40101d@la.gov

This RFI has been posted to the DNR Website, which can be found at the following links:
https://www.dnr.louisiana.gov/assets/TAD/programs/40101d/RFI_LA_Grid_Resilience.pdf

2.2 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

LDNR reserves the right to deviate from this Schedule of Events at any time and without notice.

Activity/Event

Public Notice of RFI:	August 22, 2023
Deadline for Receipt of Written Inquiries:	September 1, 2023
Deadline for LDNR Response to Written Inquiries	September 8, 2023
Deadline for Final Response to RFI	September 15, 2023

2.3 RESPONSE CONTENT

2.3.1 Responder's Information

This section should serve to introduce the responding entity. At a minimum, it should include administrative information including the name of the responder's point of contact, phone number, email address, and any other pertinent contact information. Limit this section to no more than one page.

2.3.2 Background and Experience

Respondents should give a brief description of the company history and mission. Responders should also describe their experience with projects of this type and any experience gained from working with other states or governmental entities of comparable size and diversity, and especially highlight any prior experience working with other States. Respondents should describe any changes should be addressed in the project that would be most helpful to them. Limit this section to no more than one page.

2.3.3 Respondent Questions

Respondents that are interested in applying for funding are welcome to provide overview of their approach and methodology to achieve one or more of the indicated objectives and their ability to show their ability to meet the indicated metrics.

Respondents that are only providing feedback should provide their recommendations based on the following questions below:

RFP Content

- 1) What other information about a proposed project should be requested in the upcoming RFP? Is there anything missing that would help the most beneficial and aligned projects get selected?
- 2) Please describe any best practices garnered from previous experience with a similar scope of work or funding program.
- 3) Are there any other requirements that would enable achievement of the Objectives that the agency should consider?
- 4) What costs should be funded as part of the planning and design stage of a project?

RFP Evaluation

- 5) The State will develop a scoring rubric for scoring project submissions. How should the agency consider and prioritize applications through the weighting of the following categories?
- 6) Are there any other criteria that the State should consider?
- 7) What types of projects should be prioritized in this first round of funding?

- 8) What types of projects should be prioritized among the shovel-ready projects?
- 9) What types of projects should be prioritized among the longer term early-stage community-based project partnerships?
- 10) How should the state track compliance of the projects that are awarded funding against the highlighted metrics, strategies and outcomes.

Process

- 11) Are there any barriers you may face to filing an application?
- 12) If Yes, are there ways for the State to help overcome those barriers?
- 13) Do you require any technical assistance, accommodation or education/training to file an application?

2.4 RESPONSE INSTRUCTIONS

2.4.1 Response Submittal

Responders interested in providing information requested by this RFI must submit responses, not to exceed twenty-five (25) total pages in length, no later than the deadline for response to the RFI in the Schedule of Events.

The responses must be received by electronic copy only to 40101d@la.gov on or before the date and time specified in the Schedule of Events. Please include "RFI Preventing Outages and Enhancing the Resilience of the Electric Grid" in the subject line of the email.

Responses must be provided as a Microsoft Word (.docx) attachment to the email. If possible, copy and paste the RFI sections as a template for your responses.

Email submission is the only acceptable method of delivery. Fax, mail, and courier delivery shall not be accepted. Responses misdirected or otherwise received late, or corrupted files, may not be reviewed.

2.5 ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS AND NOTIFICATIONS TO RESPONDENTS

2.5.1 RFI Addendum(s)/Cancellation

LDNR reserves the right to revise any part of this RFI by issuing an addendum(s) to the RFI at any time. Issuance of this RFI, or subsequent addendum(s), if any, does not constitute a commitment by LDNR or the State to issue an RFP or any other process resulting in award of a contract of any type or form. In addition, LDNR may cancel this RFI at any time, without incurring any liability from responders or potential responders.

2.5.2 Ownership of Response

The materials submitted in response to this RFI shall become the property of the State.

2.5.3 Cost of Preparation

LDNR shall not be liable to any responders or potential responders for any costs incurred in developing a response, preparing for discussions (if any are held), or any other costs that may be incurred by a responder, or potential responder, responding to this RFI.