

REQUEST FOR PROJECTS

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

for the

Louisiana Department of Energy and
Natural Resources, Office of Energy

Request for Projects #: LADENR-40101d2

Response Due Date/Time: January 7, 2025, 5 PM CDT

Release Date: October 30, 2024

The Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources (LDENR), Office of Energy invites interested entities to respond to this Request for Projects for funding under the State of Louisiana’s 40101(d) Federal Formula Grant: Preventing Outages and Enhancing the Resilience of the Electric Grid.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. GENERAL INFORMATION	3
1.1. Background	3
1.2. Federal Program Requirements	3
2. ELIGIBILITY	4
2.1. Eligible Projects	4
2.2. State Funding Objectives	4
2.3. Priority Projects	6
2.4. Eligible Entities	7
2.5. Cost Match	7
2.6. Eligible Activities	8
2.7. Non-Eligible Activities	9
3. AVAILABLE FUNDING	9
4. APPLICATION PROCESS	10
4.1. Pre-Application Content	10
4.2. Schedule of Events	14
4.3. Submission Instructions	15
4.4. Unique Entity Identifier and SAM.gov Registration	15
5. REVIEW AND EVALUATION	15
5.1 Minimum Requirements	15
5.2. Project Community Benefits Assessment	16
6. ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION	16
6.1 Addendum(s)/Cancellation	16
6.2. Ownership of Response	16
6.3. Cost of Preparation	16

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 weather 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 weather 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 identify 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.

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 (US DOE) 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.

In its application to the US DOE, LDENR committed to make 5-10 awards for Early-Stage Community Based Project Partnerships that provide seed funding for communities, small utilities, and local governments to do resilience planning and develop strong project plans for future 40101(d) proposals. In January 2023, LDENR issued the first Request for Projects and through spring and summer 2024 evaluated and pre-selected submitted applications. This Request for Projects launches the second round of project solicitations and focuses specifically on inviting proposals for the Early-Stage Community Based Project Partnerships projects as specified below.

1.2. Federal Program Requirements

Any grantee receiving funds under this program will be subject to the applicable requirements of the Administrative and Legal Requirements Document for DE-FOA-0002736 (DE-FOA/ALRD-0002736), as amended (ALRD), available [here](#), unless otherwise noted. The applicants must be able to provide information required under the ALRD and must comply with the applicable ALRD requirements.

2. ELIGIBILITY

2.1. Eligible Projects

This Request for Projects solicits proposal only for “**Community-Based Project Partnerships.**”

Community-Based Project Partnerships are collaborative planning efforts to develop grid and community resilience project plans that could be eligible and competitive for funding under future rounds of funding under this Grid Resilience State and Tribal Formula Grants Program under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. These planning efforts must support projects that can be completed within a 5-year time horizon but need near-term resources and technical assistance to develop a comprehensive and final approach.

With funding under years 3-5, the State will down-select project partnerships to identify projects that have completed Community-Based Project Partnerships for follow-on funding, based on both their likelihood to be completed and their demonstrated community benefits. All such project partnerships must be designed to substantially benefit disadvantaged communities.

Planning activities eligible under this Request for Projects must meet the following criteria:

- Are 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 in the planning process through meaningful engagement;
- Substantially and meaningfully provide benefit to disadvantaged communities;
- Do not include emitting energy sources.

The projects will be evaluated on their community engagement and planning strategy, and the ability of the ultimate project developed as part of the partnership effort to meet the state funding objectives indicated in Section 2.2.

2.2. State Funding Objectives

The funding under this program will support projects 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 these objectives.

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.

Metrics to measure effectiveness:

- **Improvement in Outage Duration.** Reduction in SAIDI (System Average Interruption Duration Index) for customers in targeted community areas.

- **Improvement in Outage Frequency.** Reduction in SAIFI (System Average Interruption Frequency Index) for customers in targeted community areas.
- **Reduction in Long-Duration Outages.** Reduction in CELID (Customers Experiencing Long Interruption Duration) for customers in targeted community areas.
- **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 areas.

B. Environment

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

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

Metrics to measure effectiveness:

- **Reduction in Surface Level Pollutants.** Reduction in NO_x 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 line workers, distributed energy installers, and community members trained on safety procedures during hazards and for distributed energy.

2.3. Priority Projects

In reviewing project proposals, the State will evaluate whether the proposed projects intend to focus their grid and community resilience planning efforts on investment in the below priority areas. 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 below 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.

2.4. Eligible Entities

“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 the US DOE.

“Other relevant entity.” LDENR is working with the US DOE 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.

“Small Utility” is an entity selling not more than 4,000,000 megawatt hours of electricity per year.

“Large Utility” is an entity selling more than 4,000,000 megawatt hours of electricity per year.

Prioritization: LDENR will prioritize project proposals submitted by the following entities: municipal utilities, rural electric cooperatives, local governments, regional planning agencies, non-profits or other utilities (in partnership with local governments).

2.5. Cost Match

Each proposed project must commit to providing a cost match as indicated below.

The eligible applicant that receives a sub-award and ***sells more than*** 4,000,000 megawatt hours (MWh) of electricity per year (Large Utility), is required to match ***100% of the amount of the subaward.***

The eligible applicant that receives a sub-award and ***sells not more than*** 4,000,000 megawatt hours (MWh) of electricity per year (Small Utility), is required to match ***one-third of the amount of the subaward.***

Grant funds distributed to eligible entities that ***do not have sales of electricity*** would qualify toward the overall required cost match of 100% of all federal funds received for the project.

Example: If you are requesting \$1.5 million in federal funding for your project, and

You are a Small Utility: You must provide a non-federal cost match of \$500,000 (one-third) for your project. In this case, the total sub-award value would be \$2,000,000.

You are a Large Utility or any other Eligible Entity that is not a Small Utility: You must provide a non-federal cost match of \$1,500,000 (100%). In this case, the total sub-award value would be \$3,000,000.

Only costs associated with the Eligible Activities indicated in this Request for Projects can be counted towards the sub-awardee cost match.

2.6. Eligible Activities

This Request for Projects is intended to fund efforts by local communities to identify, design, plan, coordinate, and commit to developing a grid resilience project (or set of projects) that make(s) a demonstrable impact on improving power resiliency and reliability, particularly for disadvantaged communities.

Eligible activities under this Request for Projects include:

- community energy and resilience planning,
- local outreach and coordination,
- data analysis, engineering, and design activities,
- financial analysis,
- modeling, and
- other activities as necessary to develop a grid resilience proposal.

The ultimate grid resilience proposals developed through the proposed Early-Stage Community-Based Project Partnership must aim at implementing activities defined as eligible under the ALDR: activities, technologies, equipment, and hardening measures to reduce the likelihood and consequences of disruptive events, including:

- A. weatherization technologies and equipment;
- B. fire-resistant technologies and fire prevention systems;
- C. monitoring and control technologies;

- D. the undergrounding of electrical equipment;
- E. utility pole management;
- F. the relocation of power lines or the reconductoring of power lines with low-sag, advanced conductors;
- G. vegetation and fuel-load management;
- H. the use or construction of distributed energy resources for enhancing system adaptive capacity during disruptive events, including:
 - a. microgrids; and
 - b. battery-storage subcomponents;
- I. adaptive protection technologies;
- J. advanced modeling technologies;
- K. hardening of power lines, facilities, substations, of other systems; and
- L. the replacement of old overhead conductors and underground cables; and
- M. other measures as determined or approved by US DOE.

2.7. Non-Eligible Activities

A subaward to an eligible entity under this grant Program **may not** be used for:

- A. construction of a
 - a. new electric generating facility; or
 - b. large-scale battery-storage facility that is not used for enhancing system adaptive capacity during disruptive events; or
- B. cybersecurity.

3. AVAILABLE FUNDING

The target funding distribution for this round of funding under the program is as follows:

Table 1. Funding Distribution: Early-Stage Community-Based Project Partnerships

	Benefitting Disadvantaged Communities	Other Location
Total funding available	\$3,432,566.00	0
Average awards	Up to \$350,000	0
Intended number of awards	5-9 awards	0

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 for entities selling not more than 4,000,000 megawatt hours of electricity per year (“Small Utilities”). 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.

4. APPLICATION PROCESS

This Request for Projects is a competitive process that is being used to solicit projects from interested entities to meet the funding objectives of this program. This Request for Projects is intended to solicit proposals from projects that comply with the eligibility requirements indicated above.

The application process has been designed to reduce the burden on entities seeking to apply for funding, ensure alignment on funding objectives with respondents, identify needs for technical assistance, and create a collaborative process for project design. The competitive process will be divided into stages:

1. **Pre-application.** The pre-application process will provide respondents with an accessible, easy-to-navigate method for outlining their proposed project to LDENR for selection. The pre-application process will provide the opportunity for entities with limited bandwidth to describe their project, demonstrate the ability of their project to meet program objectives, and receive rapid feedback on their project. LDENR will evaluate eligibility of the projects submitted under the pre-application process and their likelihood and ability to meet program objectives.
2. **Funding Candidate.** Based on a review of a pre-application, a project may be identified as a candidate for funding and would enter into negotiations with LDENR for further project development. During that stage, the selected applicant will be invited to submit a full application and additional required forms and materials required under the ALRD and Louisiana's laws and regulations. At that stage, the applicants will also be required to register with SAM.gov as noted in this Request for Projects.
3. **Competitive, Rolling applications.** After the initial pre-application deadline, the LDENR reserves the option to open a competitive, rolling application window for project selection. LDENR anticipates that if it opens a competitive rolling application process, based on the availability of program funds, applications will be accepted on a quarterly basis and evaluated competitively as a batch, based on the ability of a project to meet program objectives.

4.1. Pre-Application Content

The pre-application must contain the following information about the proposed project:

- A. Applicant's Information (up to 1 page, Word or a readable PDF file);
- B. Project Narrative (up to 5 pages, Word or a readable PDF file);
- C. Budget Narrative, Metrics and Timelines (Excel spreadsheet in Attachment A);
- D. Applicant's Certifications (Word or a readable PDF file).

A. Applicant's Information

Please describe the lead applicant and each entity involved in the proposed project. Describe how each entity meets the eligibility requirements and indicate if any entity falls into the following category: Small Utility, community or co-op utility, unit of local government, community-based non-profit, entity located in a disadvantaged community:

(1) Lead Applicant:

- i. Lead applicant's name, type, eligibility category, contact info and contact person (name, title, phone, email and address).
- ii. A brief description of the lead applicant's background and any relevant experience, including with similar projects and/or working with other federal and state awards.

(2) Other Entities:

- i. Describe each entity involved in the proposed project and provide the name and contact information for each entity's project lead. Identify each entity within the "eligible entity" category as defined in this Request for Projects. Indicate if any entity falls into the following categories: small utility, municipal utility, electric cooperative, investor-owned utility, entity located in or serving Disadvantaged Communities, as defined by the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CJEST), developed by the White House Council on Environmental Quality.

Note: For the lead applicant and all other entities involved in the project, please indicate the following:

1. If the entity has been debarred or is a suspended entity.
2. The number of megawatt hours of electricity sold, and number of customers served annually by each Eligible Entity that serves electric customers.
3. For each Small Utility, please describe why the entity qualifies as such.
4. For each entity that falls into "Other relevant entity" category, please describe why it is critical for the Secretary of Energy to approve this entity as an eligible recipient.

B. Project Narrative

Project Narrative must be in Microsoft Word or a readable PDF format, of up to 5 pages, in 11- or 12-point font. The Project Narrative must describe the proposed project in sufficient details, providing the following information:

1. **Project executive summary** (no more than 1/2 page).
 - a. Describe your planning project objectives, activities, and outcomes, indicating how your project fits within the eligibility requirements, funding objectives and prioritization described in this Request for Projects.

- b. Indicate if the same project is also submitted under the IJA Section 40101(c), FOA 2740 (GRIP) and describe the differences between your 40101(d) and 40101(c) applications.
- c. Indicate if the anticipated ultimate grid resilience project work to be done is an Eligible Activity:

Eligible Activity proposed under the project (check all that apply)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Weatherization technologies and equipment	<input type="checkbox"/> Vegetation and fuel-load management
<input type="checkbox"/> Fire-resistant technologies and fire prevention systems	<input type="checkbox"/> The use or construction of distributed energy resources for enhancing system adaptive capacity during disruptive events, including microgrids and battery-storage subcomponents
<input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring and control technologies	<input type="checkbox"/> Adaptive protection technologies
<input type="checkbox"/> The undergrounding of electrical equipment	<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced modeling technologies
<input type="checkbox"/> Utility pole management	<input type="checkbox"/> Hardening of power lines, facilities, substations, of other systems
<input type="checkbox"/> The relocation of power lines or the reconductoring of power lines with low-sag, advanced conductors	<input type="checkbox"/> The replacement of old overhead conductors and underground cables

2. **Project location.** Indicate the location of the project, including whether it is located in and/or benefiting disadvantaged communities, as defined by CJEST.

3. **Anticipated Community Benefits.** Describe anticipated community benefit(s) that will be provided by the project and how. Indicate which communities will benefit from the project (including census tracts) and provide an overview of any anticipated quantifiable goals and targets, including anticipated reductions in duration and frequency of outages and number of customers benefiting from these reductions. Provide an overview of whether and how the project can reach historically underserved populations, racial minorities, and women, and create the connectivity and conditions for growth where they may not exist, such as in rural and underserved communities.¹ Applicants are encouraged to share maps, spreadsheets, or other detailed data to support their narrative.

Note: Indicate if the proposed project includes a planning component for the training, recruitment, retention, and reskilling of skilled and properly credentialed workers and provide details.

4. **Funding Objectives.** Describe the proposed planning process that is seeking funding, including the activities to be completed, the partners identified, roles and responsibilities, analyses to be performed, and professional services needed. Please describe the expected

¹ ALRD, Amendment 7, pages 24-25.

outcome(s) / work product(s) of the planning and design process (e.g., project plans, engineering designs, cost proposals, community agreements, impacts analysis).

If possible or known, describe how the anticipated ultimate grid resilience project meets any or all of the State Funding Objectives outlined above in Section 2.2, 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.** Please provide a brief description of the project timeline for the planning activities, and the anticipated timeline of the ultimate grid resilience project.
6. **Requested funding.** Please provide a brief description of the requested funding for the planning effort, including the federal funds requested and proposed cost match.
7. **Workforce and Labor Standards:** Describe the proposed strategy to ensure strong labor standards and protections in your project implementation and how the project will drive creation of good-paying and safe jobs.

C. Budget Narrative, Metrics and Timelines

Please fill out the accompanying excel table in Attachment A to describe the following:

1. **Project costs breakdown.** Respondents should fill out the accompanying table in Attachment A (using the tab labeled "Part I – Cost").
2. **Performance measurement.** Respondents should fill out the metrics checklist in Attachment A (using the tab labeled "Part II – Metrics"), identifying which metrics the respondent believes apply to the project.
3. **Project timeline.** Respondents should fill out the project timeline in Attachment A (using the tab labeled "Part III – Timeline").

D. Applicant's Certifications of Funding Requirements Compliance

In responding to this Request for Projects, applicants must acknowledge compliance with the requirements related to this US DOE subaward by the following:

- a. **Workforce and Labor Standards.** Certify that the project will use strong labor standards and protections and drive creation of good-paying and safe jobs.²
- b. **Davis-Bacon Act compliance.** Certify 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

² ALRD, Amendment 7, pages 9, 22-24.

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.”³

- c. Cybersecurity.** Certify that the primary purpose of the proposed project is not cybersecurity but that the implementation of the proposed project will adhere to any applicable cybersecurity requirements, and where possible, best practices in deploying technologies under the subaward.⁴
- d. No Foreign Work and Materials.** Certify that no individuals participating in the project are participating in a Foreign Government-Sponsored Talent Recruitment Program of a Foreign Country of Risk⁵ as defined in the ALRD and 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 ALRD.⁸
- e. Telecommunications and Surveillance.** Certify that the requested funding will not be used to procure or obtain equipment, services, or systems that use covered telecommunications equipment or services as a substantial or essential component of any system, or as critical technology that is part of any system, as defined in the ALRD.⁹
- f. Other Ineligible Activities.** Certify that the requested funding will not be used to encourage or support political activities such as the collection and dissemination of information related to potential, planned, or pending legislation or directly or indirectly support or oppose union organizing.¹⁰
- g. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Compliance.** Certify that the project will comply with all applicable NEPA requirements (a successful applicant will be required to file an Environmental Questionnaire identifying locations of the project works and describing the activities anticipated at those locations and any potential environmental impacts).

4.2. Schedule of Events

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

ACTIVITY/EVENT

DATE

³ ALRD, Amendment 7, pages 37-39.

⁴ ALRD, Amendment 7, pages 11, 34.

⁵ ALRD, Amendment 7, pages 29-30.

⁶ ALRD, Amendment 7, pages 35-36.

⁷ ALRD, Amendment 7, pages 36-37, 61-64.

⁸ ALRD, Amendment 7, pages 36, 60-64.

⁹ ALRD, Amendment 7, page 47.

¹⁰ ALRD, Amendment 7, page 46.

Public Notice of Request for Projects:	October 30, 2024
Informational and Q&A Webinar #1:	November 13, 2024
Informational and Q&A Webinar #2:	December 11, 2024
Deadline for Receipt of Pre-Applications:	January 7, 2025, by 5pm CDT
Anticipated initial project selections:	January - February 2025

4.3. Submission Instructions

Pre-applications must be submitted by email only to **40101d@la.gov** on or before the date and time specified in the Schedule of Events. Please include “RFP 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 or a readable PDF attachment to the email.

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.

4.4. Unique Entity Identifier and SAM.gov Registration

Selected pre-applications invited to submit a full application must register with the federal SAM.gov portal and must have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) assigned in SAM.gov.

Applicants included in the SAM.gov Exclusion List will not be eligible for an award. Inclusion on the SAM.gov Exclusion List cannot be remediated.

5. REVIEW AND EVALUATION

5.1 Minimum Requirements

To be eligible for funding, the proposed project at a minimum must comply with the US DOE minimum requirements and must:

- a) Result in Community Benefits (as discussed further below);
- b) Be located in Louisiana; and
- c) Include required Cost Match.

Note: Eligible Entity/Cost Match uncertainty. *If an applicant does not qualify as an “Eligible Entity” but can fit into the “Other relevant entity” category, a Secretary of Energy pre-approval will be required before such applicant can be considered an Eligible Entity. But the project assessment may continue while that determination is pending. Project assessment may also continue for the projects that offer insufficient match, to evaluate if the project otherwise*

qualifies for funding. If the project does qualify for funding, the applicant may be invited to cure the match deficiency and submit an updated budget with the compliant cost match.

5.2. Project Community Benefits Assessment

A successful project must score at least 30 points out of maximum 50, with 10 maximum points in each of the five State Funding Objectives categories indicated in Section 2.2:

- 1) Resilience;
- 2) Environment;
- 3) Equity;
- 4) Affordability;
- 5) Safety.

Each category will be evaluated in the following three brackets: Poor (1-3 points), Fair (4-6 points), Strong (7-10 points), based on the description of the benefits in the project pre-application and the likelihood of the applicant's ability to achieve them as a direct (or substantial) consequence of the proposed project activities as well as to successfully measure these benefits.

6. ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

6.1 Addendum(s)/Cancellation

LDENR reserves the right to revise any part of this Request for Projects by issuing an addendum(s) to the Request for Projects at any time. Issuance of this Request for Projects, or subsequent addendum(s), if any, does not constitute a commitment by LDENR to fund any project. In addition, LDENR may cancel this Request for Projects at any time, without incurring any liability from responders or potential responders.

6.2. Ownership of Response

The materials submitted in response to this Request for Projects shall become the property of the State.

6.3. Cost of Preparation

LDENR 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 Request for Projects.