

Opportunity Announcement 24-001

Oregon Department of Energy

IIJA 40101d Grid Resilience Grant Program

This is an \$18.9 million funding opportunity for a Grid Resilience Grant Program to improve Oregon's electric grid infrastructure and provide community benefits. The opportunity is funded through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Section 40101(d).

Contact:

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Schedule:

The opportunity period begins on Friday, March 15, 2024

The full program schedule is on the program website: [Grid Resilience Grant Program](#)

Eligible Applicants:

Oregon electric utilities that are distribution providers, in two categories:

Small: Electric utilities that sell not more than 4 million megawatt hours of electricity per year.

Large: Electric utilities that sell more than 4 million megawatt hours of electricity per year.

Available Subgrant Funding Amount:

\$18,911,939 available for this opportunity:

- \$7,564,776 for small utilities
- \$11,347,163 for large utilities

Match Requirements:

Small utilities shall match at least one-third (1/3) of the federal funding amount.

Large utilities shall match at least 100 percent of the federal funding amount.

Federal Requirements:

Managed by the U.S. Department of Energy's Grid Deployment Office and supported by the [Infrastructure Investment Jobs Act](#), Grid Resilience Formula Grants provide funding to Oregon. Awardees of this opportunity will be subrecipients of funds awarded to ODOE and will be identified as subrecipients selected for a subaward. Performance Agreements between ODOE and subrecipients will include required federal terms and conditions, including the flow down requirement of terms and conditions to subrecipient contractors and subcontractors, as applicable. Complete requirements are in the application instructions and in Section 3, References and Resources.

Section 1: Purpose and General Information

1.1 Introduction

The purpose of this Grid Resilience Grant Program opportunity announcement is to solicit subgrant applications and outline the procedures for the selection of subrecipients through a competitive process following The Oregon Department of Energy’s (ODOE or The Department) program narrative, and the applicable laws and regulations under which the Grid Resilience Grant Program is administered. See Section 3, References and Resources.

1.2 Objectives

The following are the objectives for grid resilience projects under this opportunity:

1. Mitigate natural hazard risks and disruptive events to utility distribution systems by supporting grid infrastructure improvement projects.
2. Deliver benefits to disadvantaged communities and nine federally recognized Tribes in Oregon as defined by the Justice40 Initiative, and support Justice40 Initiative goals through grid infrastructure improvement projects.
3. Maximize community benefits that complement grid resilience projects. Benefits may include any item, action, or plan that brings value to a community. Examples include economic development, workforce development, utility operational improvements, environmental benefits, pollution reduction, community resilience, or any other services that bring value to an Oregon community.

1.3 Funding availability

The Department has made **\$18,911,939** available for subgrant awards for this opportunity.

1. A minimum \$7,564,776 (40 percent) is made available for projects by small electric utilities, defined as those that sell not more than 4 million megawatt hours of electricity per year. There is no maximum award for small utilities, however preference will be given to proposals that fall near or below \$800,000. If a small utility applies for a larger award, additional justification may be requested to demonstrate need, impact, and greatest community benefit.
2. ODOE has identified four electric utilities as Large Utilities, based on total sales of more than 4 million megawatt hours per year. A maximum award has been set under this opportunity, based on the percentage of total sales in Oregon by the four utilities. See Table 1 below.

Large Electric Utilities (total sales > 4M MWH)	2021 MWH Sales in Oregon	Percent of MWH sales (Large Utilities)	Approximate Maximum Award
Portland General Electric	18,296,054	48.95%	\$5,554,182
Pacific Power	13,510,324	36.14%	\$4,101,365
Idaho Power	685,578	1.83%	\$208,123
Umatilla Electric Cooperative	4,886,784	13.07%	\$1,483,494

Table 1 – Maximum Award for Large Utilities ODOE OA 24-001, Source: Oregon Public Utility Commission, *Oregon Utility Statistics 2021*

1.4 Match Requirement

Certification of the availability of required matching funds will be required with the application and must comply with requirements set forth in [2 CFR 200.306](#).

1. Small utilities shall match at least one-third (1/3) of any award amount.
2. Large utilities shall match at least 100 percent of any award amount.

1.5 Eligibility

1. Eligible applicants for this opportunity are Oregon electric utilities that are distribution providers in two categories, small and large, based on *Oregon Utility Statistics 2021* from the Oregon Public Utility Commission, which aligns with the U.S. Energy Information Administration's (EIA) Form 861.
 - a. Small: Electric utilities that sell not more than 4 million megawatt hours of electricity per year.
 - b. Large: Electric utilities that sell more than 4 million megawatt hours of electricity per year.
2. Eligible measures of grid resilience projects include:
 - a. Weatherization technologies and equipment.
 - b. Fire-resistant technologies and fire prevention systems;
 - c. Monitoring and control technologies;
 - d. Undergrounding of electrical equipment;
 - e. Utility pole management;
 - f. Relocation of power lines or the reconductoring of power lines with low-sag, advanced conductors;
 - g. Vegetation and fuel-load management;
 - h. Use of construction of distributed energy resources (DERs) 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, or other systems; and
 - l. Replacement of old overhead conductors & underground cables;
3. Prohibited use of funds:
 - a. Cybersecurity; and
 - b. Construction of a new electric generating facility or large-scale battery-storage facility that is not used for enhancing system adaptive capacity during disruptive events.

Note Construction of new solar generation is not an allowable cost for grant funds. However, other costs outside of new generation associated with building out a microgrid may be allowable.

1.6 Requirements.

1. Applicants should be aware of the special terms and conditions that may apply to projects funded by this opportunity, relating to:
 - a. Reporting, tracking, and segregation of incurred costs, per 2 CFR 200 as amended by part 910;
 - b. Reporting on job creation and preservation;
 - c. Publication of information on the Internet;
 - d. Access to records by Inspectors General and the Government Accountability Office;
 - e. Requiring that all the iron, steel, manufactured goods, and construction materials used in infrastructure projects are produced in the United States, per Division G, Title IX of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, commonly referred to as “Build America, Buy America”;
 - f. Ensuring laborers and mechanics employed by contractors or subcontractors are paid wages equivalent to prevailing wages on similar projects in the area, as determined by subchapter IV of Chapter 1 of Title 40, United States Code commonly referred to as the “Davis-Bacon Act”;
 - g. Protecting whistleblowers and requiring prompt referral of evidence of a false claim to an appropriate inspector general;
 - h. Certification and registration;
 - i. Foreign national participation.
 - j. Subrecipients of funding under this opportunity must comply with requirements of all applicable Federal, State, and local laws, regulations, U.S. Department of Energy (U.S. DOE) policy and guidance, and instructions in the Administrative and Legal Requirements Document (ALRD) DE-FOA-0002736 (see Section 3.1.2 below).

Section 2: Application Requirements & Process

2.1 Submission of Applications

1. Only one application per utility may be submitted under this opportunity.
2. A partnership project by two or more utilities may be considered under one application, with one of the utilities designated as the subrecipient under a Performance Agreement with ODOE.
3. Applications must be completed and submitted digitally as described in the application instructions available on the [program website](#). Applications that are submitted improperly or are incomplete may be rejected. The Department must receive applications no later than the [due date and time listed at the beginning of this opportunity announcement](#).

2.2 Questions

Questions regarding the program and this opportunity announcement, including requests for explanations of the meaning or interpretation of provisions of this opportunity announcement and other program documents and resources should be submitted by email to grid.grants@energy.oregon.gov. Questions and answers may be edited for privacy and clarity and consolidated into an online frequently asked questions (FAQ) document.

Section 3: References and Resources

3.1 References

The Grid Resilience Grant Program is governed by the listed documents, in order of precedence.

1. Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA): This formula grant is from section 40101(d) [Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act](#)
2. The administrative requirements for U.S. DOE grants, including those that apply to subrecipients, are contained in [U.S. Code of Federal Regulations 2 CFR 200 as amended by part 910](#).
3. The Administrative and Legal Requirements Document (ALRD) DE-FOA-0002736 available at the link below provides the guidance to ODOE for a Grid Resilience Formula Grant. This document contains many of the terms, conditions, and other requirements that will apply to subrecipients under a performance agreement with ODOE.
[Section 40101\(d\) Formula Grants to States & Indian Tribes | netl.doe.gov](#)
4. ODOE's Grid Resilience Grant Program Narrative provides ODOE's strategic direction and plan for the Grid Resilience Grant Program. [Grid-Resilience-Program-Narrative.pdf](#)

3.2 Resources

1. This website contains information and links to information and other sites covering all aspects of this Grid Resilience Formula Grant Program: [Section 40101\(d\) Formula Grants to States & Indian Tribes | netl.doe.gov](#)
2. This opportunity is guided by the three main objectives in [ODOE's Program Narrative](#):

Objective 1: Mitigate natural hazard risks and disruptive events to utility distribution systems by supporting grid infrastructure improvement projects.

Objective 2: Deliver benefits to disadvantaged communities and nine federally recognized Tribes in Oregon as defined by the Justice40 Initiative, and support Justice40 Initiative goals through grid infrastructure improvement projects.

Objective 3: Maximize community benefits that complement grid resilience projects. Benefits may include any item, action, or plan that brings value to a community.

Applications will be competitively selected based on project metrics data demonstrating how the project will achieve the objectives. Applicants should follow the metrics guidance document linked below when providing project details, including baseline information, project actions to achieve the objectives, and estimated results.

[Guidance for Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Grid Resilience Formula Grant Metrics](#)

3. Applicants should also use the linked program documents below to help project development to support community benefit objectives, including support to Disadvantaged Communities defined and identified by the [Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool](#).
 - a. [Department of Energy, Office of Energy Justice and Equity](#)
 - b. [Department of Energy General Guidance for Justice40 Implementation](#)
4. Reporting Requirements. As mentioned in Section 1.6 above, subrecipient performance agreements will include extensive reporting requirements related to the project, utility property, infrastructure, statistics about utility service, customer information, and more. To see the details of the reporting information that may be required under a Performance Agreement, please review all instructions, reporting, and guidance documents posted on the site linked below:
[Project Management Reporting Documents](#)
See the “Project” tabs in the two Excel documents linked below for project information that ODOE will require from subrecipients for reporting to U.S. DOE.
[Quarterly Report](#)
[Annual Report](#)

Section 4: Review Process

4.1 Overview of Review Process

1. The Department will conduct a selection review of applications submitted by the deadline. Selections will be based on the selection criteria and program priorities. The Department Director shall make the final decision on projects to be forwarded to U.S. DOE for approval. U.S. DOE-approved applications may be offered a Performance Agreement.
2. The only information the Department will consider in the review process is that which is submitted by the applicant through the application process. Attempts to improperly influence the review process by submitting additional information or contacting the agency review team with additional information will result in application denial. All comments and questions should be submitted via email to grid.grants@energy.oregon.gov.

4.2 Eligibility

1. All applications submitted by the deadline will be reviewed on a pass/fail basis to determine if each application is eligible, meaning it includes all the minimum required elements described in the application, the application instructions, and the applicant demonstrated the ability to complete the project in accordance with the program requirements, based on project tasks, deliverables, schedule, and budget. An application may be determined ineligible if the applicant does not comply with the instructions or does not submit a complete application. ODOE may request additional information to clarify application eligibility.
2. All applicants that apply by the deadline will be notified of the receipt of their application and when there are changes to the application status.

4.3 Selection Review

The selection criteria in the table below will be used to review and rank the applications and their proposed grid resilience projects. Final selections will be determined by the Department and forwarded to U.S. DOE for approval. The Department may choose not to award a grant to an applicant for a project if it would not contribute to the program priorities and objectives in alignment with the program narrative. Applicants that are approved for subawards by U.S. DOE may be offered a Performance Agreement. The Department will notify applicants of the selections by email. Projects not selected may be eligible to apply again during a future opportunity announcement. The selection criteria are based on the program objectives and metrics described in detail above and in the application instructions.

ODOE 40101(d) Grid Resilience Selection Criteria	
A	Project Outcomes: Project will improve the resilience of the electrical grid by mitigating natural hazard risks and disruptive events. Score based on estimated impact of measures of project from baseline values, including frequency and duration of disruptions and the numbers of customers affected.
B	Disadvantaged Community Served: Score based on the estimated percentage of customers who are members of disadvantaged communities as defined and identified by the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool using the estimated project results compared to baseline values, including frequency and duration of disruptions, and the numbers of customers affected.
C	Public Body Engagement: Score based on estimated results for program objectives and metrics of the past and planned coordination with county, municipal, or other public bodies with overlapping jurisdiction and interests associated with proposed infrastructure improvement projects.
D	Community Engagement: Score based on the estimated results for program objectives and metrics of past and planned collaboration with stakeholders representing local community interests.
E	Utility and Service Provider Coordination: Score based on the estimated results for program objectives and metrics of past and planned coordination with communications, broadband, water, sewer, or any other community service provider that may be able to reduce costs or improve service by coordinating upgrades with proposed projects.
F	Labor Standards: Score based on the estimated percentage of the total project workforce of workers employed in positions that qualify for prevailing wages under the Davis Bacon Act.
G	Workforce Development and Investment: Score based on details of workforce development efforts described. This will consider the level of workforce development and the degree to which the utility demonstrates a commitment to diversifying the workforce, either by leveraging minority, women, or disabled veteran owned businesses, utilizing emerging small businesses, or demonstrating commitment to diverse and inclusive hiring and promotion policies.
H	Pollution Reduction: Score based on estimated hours of reduced runtime of diesel or other fossil fuel generators.
I	Community Preparedness: Score based on project support to community emergency preparedness and disaster relief efforts. This will consider whether the proposed project will increase the community energy resilience of structures or facilities that are essential to public welfare, and whether the proposed project would increase the resilience to more than one hazard.
J	Diversity: Funding this project will increase the diversity of the overall program, either through utility type (COU, Muni, PUD, IOU, etc.), geographic diversity, or addressing a unique need.

4.4 Post Award Information and Offer of Performance Agreement

Selected projects may be offered a Performance Agreement that contains the terms associated with the subgrant and subrecipient requirements for disbursement of funds. The Department will communicate to the applicant the conditions surrounding the offer of a Performance Agreement. Applicants will have 30 calendar days to respond in writing to the offer, after which the Department may revoke the offer.

Section 5: Additional Information

5.1 Public Information, Confidentiality

1. The State of Oregon's Public Records Law (ORS 192.311 through 192.478) applies to filings and applications submitted to the Department. The law states every person has a right to inspect any public record of a public body, subject to certain exceptions. Applications are public records, and the Department may be required by law to disclose information in the application to the public on request. An applicant may request confidentiality of certain information in its application by marking the information confidential. Marking information does not guarantee that it will be kept confidential, however, and the Department will make any decisions regarding public disclosure of information contained in this application in accordance with Oregon Public Records Law.
2. Grant funding from the State of Oregon may be reported on [Oregon Transparency](#), a state agency tool available for Oregonians to learn about how state government works, taxes are used, and more. The data and information on this website are provided to users for general knowledge and information. It excludes data and information that is confidential, protected, or private under state and federal laws, and is unaudited.
3. The Department may publicly announce awarded grantees under this program. The public announcement may include but is not limited to: the system owner's name, partner's names, type of project and/or description, location of project, size of the project, total cost of the project, and the awarded grant amount.

5.2 Reservation of Department Rights

The Department reserves all rights regarding this opportunity announcement, including, without limitation, the right to:

1. Amend, delay, or cancel the opportunity announcement without liability if the Department finds it is in the best interest of the State of Oregon to do so;
2. Not consider any or all applications received upon finding that it is in the best interest of the State of Oregon to do so;
3. Deem incomplete any application that fails to comply with all prescribed opportunity announcement procedures and requirements; and
4. Allocate a grant amount less than the amount requested by applicant, at its discretion.

5.3 No Obligation

The Department is not obligated as a result of the submission or acceptance of an application to award a grant to an applicant.