Financial Assistance
Notice of Funding Opportunity
Part 1

U.S. DEPARTMENT *of* ENERGY

Department of Energy (DOE)
Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs
Unleashing Tribal Energy Development
Notice of Funding Opportunity Number: DE-FOA-0003548

Application due: July 24, 2026, 5 PM E.T.

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Before You Begin

Navigating the Notice of Funding Opportunity

DOE has separated the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) into two parts to reduce the burden on applicants in the NOFO process and limit the length of the NOFO information requests.

The NOFO Part 1 describes the specific DOE programmatic goals and evaluation criteria, eligibility, and other components that are specific to each funding opportunity. The NOFO Part 2 includes the fixed DOE requirements that generally do not change from NOFO to NOFO, including standard information for the application phase, expectations for award negotiations, and post-award requirements. Applicants must review both the NOFO Part 1 and the NOFO Part 2 prior to applying. To facilitate navigation, you will find references throughout this document to additional information found in Part 2.

There are several required one-time actions applicants must take before applying to this NOFO. Some of these actions may take several weeks, so it is vital applicants build in enough time for their completion. Failure to complete these actions could interfere with application or negotiation deadlines or the ability to receive an award if selected. If you have previously completed the necessary registrations, make sure your registration is active and up to date. All registrations are free. Please refer to NOFO Part 2, *Get Registered,* for additional information.

This announcement is published in conjunction with NOFO Part 2, Unleashing Tribal Energy Development.

I. Basic Information

A. Key Facts

Issuing Agency	Department of Energy, Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs
Funding Opportunity Title	Unleashing Tribal Energy Development
Announcement Type	Initial announcement
Funding Opportunity Number	DE-FOA-0003548
Funding Instrument	Grants and Cooperative Agreements
Expected Total Available Funding	$50 million
Assistance Listing Number and Name	81.087
Funding Opportunity Description	DOE's Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs is soliciting applications to advance affordable, reliable, and secure energy in Indian Country.
Program Goals & Objective(s)	This NOFO seeks applications to advance affordable, reliable, and secure energy development of Tribal energy resources for the benefit of Tribes and their members. The projects funded under the NOFO will lead to energy projects that are intended to lower or stabilize Tribal energy costs, expand energy access, and advance development of energy projects for Tribal economic development.
Topic Areas	• Topic Area 1: Tribal community energy deployment projects • Topic Area 2: Tribal community energy project planning, assessment, and feasibility • Topic Area 3: Large-scale planning, assessment, and feasibility for Tribal energy projects

KEY DATES
All deadlines are 5:00 p.m. ET unless indicated otherwise

Notice of Funding Opportunity Issue Date: March 25, 2026

Informational Webinar: April 9, 2026

Application Deadline: July 24, 2026

Anticipated Selection Notification Date: November 20, 2026

Anticipated Award Date: February 3, 2027

Estimated Period of Performance: 12–48 months

Eligible Applicants	• Indian Tribes (which include Alaska Native regional corporations and Village corporations), • Tribal and intertribal Organizations, • Tribal Energy Development Organizations, and • Tribal Colleges and Universities
IE-eXCHANGE URL and Helpdesk	https://ie-exchange.energy.gov ExchangeHelp@hq.doe.gov
NOFO URL and Email	https://ie-exchange.energy.gov TribalGrants@hq.doe.gov

1. Funding Details

Multiple Topic Areas
Approximate total available funding including all Topic Areas: $50,000,000

Topic Area 1: Tribal community energy deployment projects
- Dollar amount of individual awards: up to $7,500,000
- Minimum cost share required: 10% of total project costs
- Approximate award project period: 24–48 months

Topic Area 2: Tribal community energy projects planning, assessment, and feasibility
- Dollar amount of individual awards: up to $1,500,000
- Minimum cost share required: 0% of total project costs
- Approximate award project period: 12–48 months

Topic Area 3: Large-scale planning, assessment, and feasibility for Tribal energy projects
- Dollar amount of individual awards: up to $2,500,000
- Minimum cost share required: 0% of total project costs
- Approximate award project period: 12–48 months

2. Period of Performance

DOE anticipates making awards, comprised of single or multiple budget periods. If applicable, project continuation will be contingent upon DOE's Go/No-Go decision. For a complete list and more information on the Go/No-Go review, see the NOFO Part 2, *Award Administration Information*. Funding for all budget periods, including the initial budget period, is not guaranteed.

B. Executive Summary

Tribal Nations possess extensive energy resources and are poised to share in the prosperity of American energy dominance. At the same time, challenges of reliable and affordable energy and electricity access are acutely felt in Indian Country. In January 2025,

Executive Order 14154, *Unleashing American Energy*[1], addressed barriers to the development and use of abundant and natural resources in the United States. This NOFO advances the Department of Energy's goal to promote energy addition[2] and supports Indian Country to unleash its own energy resources to meet its own needs and to capture a greater share of the energy value chain.

This NOFO seeks applications to advance affordable, reliable, and secure energy through development of Tribal energy resources for the benefit of Tribes and their members. The projects funded under the NOFO will lead to energy projects that aim to lower or stabilize Tribal energy costs, expand electric and other energy access, and advance energy projects for Tribal economic development.

Projects funded under this NOFO are expected to advance Tribal sovereignty through Tribal energy development, efficiency, and use.

- Projects under Topic Area 1 are expected to serve the electric loads and support the energy needs of Tribes at the scale of a Tribal community or communities. These projects entail the construction of energy assets and projects.
- Projects under Topic Area 2 are expected to complete all pre-development activities necessary for the deployment of community scale energy projects.
- Projects under Topic Area 3 are expected to complete necessary pre-development activities for large scale commercial development of Tribal energy resources which lead to enhancement and strengthening of Tribal energy and economic infrastructure.

C. Agency Contact Information

Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

For questions relating to this specific NOFO, please send emails to TribalGrants@hq.doe.gov.

[1] See Executive Order "Unleashing American Energy" (January 20, 2025).
[2] See Secretarial Order "Unleash Golden Era of American Energy Dominance" (February 5, 2025).

II. Eligibility

To be considered for substantive evaluation, an applicant's submission must meet the criteria set forth below. If the application does not meet these eligibility requirements, it will be considered ineligible and removed from further evaluation and ineligible for any award. DOE will not make eligibility determinations for potential applicants prior to the date on which applications to this NOFO must be submitted. The decision whether to apply in response to this NOFO lies solely with the applicant. The information included here is specific to eligibility requirements for this NOFO. For eligibility requirements applicable to all NOFOs, please consult the NOFO Part 2, *Eligibility*.

A. Eligible Applicants

To be considered for substantive evaluation, an applicant's submission must meet the criteria set forth below. If the application does not meet these eligibility requirements, it will be considered ineligible and removed from further evaluation.

1. Restricted Eligibility

In accordance with Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAct 2005) authorities, including 25 U.S.C. § 3502(b)(2), and consistent with 2 C.F.R. 910.126, eligibility for this NOFO is restricted to:

- Indian Tribes (including Alaska Native regional corporations and Village corporations);
- Tribal and intertribal Organizations;
- Tribal Energy Development Organizations; and
- Tribal Colleges and Universities.

"Indian Tribe," for the purposes of this NOFO and as defined in in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. § 5304), means any Indian Tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community, including any Alaska Native Village or regional or Village corporation as defined in or established pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (85 Stat. 688) [43 U.S.C. § 1601, et seq.], which is recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States (U.S.) to Indians because of their status as Indians. See below for further definition.

For the purposes of this NOFO, an eligible Indian Tribe, band, nation or other organized group or community (including Alaska Native Villages), must be federally recognized as listed in *Indian Entities Recognized and Eligible to Receive Services from the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs*, published by the Department of Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs in the Federal Register on January 31, 2026, 91 F.R. 4102.

"Alaska Native regional corporation" for the purposes of this NOFO, means one of the 13 Alaska Native regional corporations, as defined in and established pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. § 1602(g)).

"Alaska Native Village corporation" or "Village corporation," for the purposes of this NOFO, means an Alaska Native Village corporation organized under the laws of the State of

Alaska as a business for profit or nonprofit corporation to hold, invest, manage and/or distribute lands, property, funds, and other rights and assets for and on behalf of a Native village, as defined in and established pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. § 1602(j)).

Applicants may also submit applications on behalf of Indian Tribe(s) by an authorized "Tribal Organization," provided the application includes evidence of that authority.

"Tribal Organization" has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. § 5304). Specifically, per 25 U.S.C. § 5304, "Tribal Organization" means the recognized governing body of any Indian Tribe; any legally established organization of Indians which is controlled, sanctioned, or chartered by such governing body or which is democratically elected by the adult members of the Indian community to be served by such organization and which includes the maximum participation of Indians in all phases of its activities: Provided that, in any case where a contract or a grant is awarded to an organization to perform services benefiting more than one Indian tribe, the approval of each such Indian Tribe shall be a required before the contract or grant is awarded.

"Intertribal Organization," as defined for the purposes of this NOFO, means any organization comprising two or more Indian Tribes, established under Congressional, State, or Tribal law to act on behalf of the participating Indian Tribes. "Intertribal Organizations" may include, but are not limited to, intertribal councils, regional tribal organizations or associations, Alaska regional development organizations, and tribal federations.

"Tribal Energy Development Organization," (TEDO) for the purposes of this NOFO, is defined as either of the following:

(a) any enterprise, partnership, consortium, corporation, or other type of business organization that is engaged in the development of energy resources and is wholly owned by an Indian tribe (including an organization incorporated pursuant to section 17 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (25 U.S.C. § 5124) (commonly known as the "Indian Reorganization Act") or section 3 of the Act of June 26, 1936 (49 Stat. 1967, chapter 831, 25 U.S.C. § 5201, et seq.) (commonly known as the 'Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act')); or

(b) any organization of two or more entities, at least one of which is an Indian tribe, that has the written consent of the governing bodies of all Indian tribes participating in the organization to apply for a grant, loan, or other assistance under 2602 of EPAct (25 U.S.C. § 3502) or to enter into a lease or business agreement with, or acquire a right-of-way from, an Indian tribe pursuant to subsection (a)(2)(A)(ii) or (b)(2)(B) of 2604 of EPAct (25 U.S.C. § 3504), where organization means a partnership, joint venture, Limited Liability Company (LLC) or other unincorporated association or entity that is established to develop Indian energy resources.

2. Foreign Entity Participation

In general, foreign entities are not eligible to apply as either a recipient or subrecipient. In limited circumstances, DOE may approve a waiver to allow a foreign entity to participate as

a subrecipient.

If the applicant seeks to include a foreign entity as a subrecipient, the applicant must submit a separate explicit written waiver request in the application for each proposed foreign subrecipient. Please see NOFO Part 2, *Application Content Requirements* for the requirements for submission of a foreign entity waiver request. The applicant does not have the right to appeal DOE's decision concerning a waiver request.

3. Performance of Work in the U.S.

All work for the awards under this NOFO must be performed in the U.S. To request a waiver of this requirement, the applicant must submit an explicit waiver request in the application. Absent an approved waiver, such costs will not be allowable under the award. The NOFO Part 2, *Application Content Requirements* lists the requirements for submission of a foreign work waiver request.

4. Ineligible Participants

The following entities are ineligible for participation in this NOFO as a recipient, subrecipient, or subcontractor.

- In accordance with 2 C.F.R. 200.214, entities banned from doing business with the U.S. Government such as entities debarred, suspended, or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participating in federal programs.
- Entities identified on the Department of the Treasury Office of Foreign Assets Control Treasury's Sanctions Program Specially Designated Nationals list are prohibited from doing business with the U.S. Government and are not eligible. See (OFAC — Sanctions List Service [treas.gov]).
- Nonprofit organizations described in Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 that engaged in lobbying activities after December 31, 1995, are not eligible to apply for funding.

Entity of Concern Prohibition

Entities of Concern are prohibited from participating in projects selected under this NOFO (see NOFO Part 2, *Eligibility, Other Eligibility Information, Entity of Concern Prohibition* section for details and definitions).

B. Limitation on Number of Applications Eligible for Review

An eligible applicant, individually or as part of a consortium, may submit more than one application to this NOFO (including more than one application under a particular Topic Area), provided that each application describes a unique, distinct project. Each application must have a distinct title, unique Control Number as assigned by IE-eXCHANGE during the registration process, and be readily distinguishable. Each application must focus on a single project; unrelated projects cannot be consolidated in a single application. Applications can only be submitted under a single Topic Area.

C. Cost Sharing

Applicants are expected to follow through on estimated cost share commitments proposed in their applications if selected for award negotiations. Please refer to the NOFO Part 2, *Eligibility* for more information on Cost Sharing.

1. Cost Share Requirements

Cost share requirements differ by Topic Area as shown in the following table:

Topic Area	Minimum Cost Share
1: Tribal community energy deployment projects	10%
2: Tribal community energy project planning, assessment, and feasibility	Not Required
3: Large-scale planning, assessment, and feasibility for Tribal energy projects	Not Required

Applications that do not meet the minimum required cost share will be deemed ineligible during the initial compliance review and will not be further reviewed. The cost share must come from non-federal sources unless otherwise allowed by law.

The cost share percentage is calculated by dividing the cost share by the total allowable project costs for the award where the total allowable project costs include government share (including Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDC) costs if applicable) and cost share. To help applicants calculate proper cost share amounts, DOE has included a cost share information sheet and sample cost share calculation in the NOFO Part 2, *Eligibility—Cost Sharing, Cost Share Calculation Examples*.

D. FFRDC Eligibility Criteria

As long as they have no conflict, DOE and non-DOE FFRDCs may be proposed as a subrecipient on another entity's application subject to the following guidelines:

Authorization for non-DOE FFRDCs

The federal agency sponsoring the FFRDC must authorize in writing the use of the FFRDC on the proposed project and this authorization must be submitted with the application. The use of a FFRDC must be consistent with its authority under its award.

Authorization for DOE FFRDCs

The cognizant Contracting Officer for the FFRDC must authorize in writing the use of the FFRDC on the proposed project and this authorization must be submitted prior to any award. The use of a FFRDC must be consistent with the contractor's authority under its award.

Funding, Cost Share, and Subaward with FFRDCs

The recipient and FFRDC are responsible for entering into an appropriate subaward that will govern, among other things, the funding of the FFRDC portion of the work from the

recipient under its DOE award. Such an agreement must be fully executed prior to the FFRDC starting work directly allocable to the FA award. The DOE funding office will provide funding for the DOE FFRDC or non-DOE FFRDC, participating as a sub awardee under the DOE financial assistance award to the recipient.

The applicant should prepare the budgets using rates appropriate for funding the FFRDCs through subawards. The applicant's cost share requirement will be based on the total cost of the project, including the applicant's, all subrecipient's, and all FFRDC's portions of the project.

Responsibility

The recipient will be the responsible authority regarding the settlement and satisfaction of all contractual and administrative issues, including but not limited to disputes and claims arising out of any agreement between the recipient and the FFRDC.

III. Program Description

A. Program Purpose

This NOFO builds on efforts by the Office of Indian Energy and the authorities granted to the Office of Indian Energy under EPAct 2005, to accelerate the deployment of Tribal energy technology. The Office of Indian Energy is directed to:

1) promote Indian Tribal energy development, efficiency, and use;
2) reduce or stabilize energy costs;
3) enhance and strengthen Indian Tribal energy and economic infrastructure relating to natural resource development and electrification; and
4) bring electrical power and service to Indian land and the homes of tribal members located on Indian lands.

See the DOE's Office of Indian Energy website for a map and summaries of past competitively funded projects.

B. Program Goals and Objectives

The Office of Indian Energy issues this NOFO in accordance with Federal policies promoting Indian self-determination to maximize the deployment of affordable, reliable and secure energy solutions. In support of these objectives, the Office of Indian Energy seeks applications for the planning, assessment, development, and deployment of Tribal energy projects.

This NOFO advances the Department of Energy's goal to promote energy addition and unleash American energy[3,4] by capitalizing on the expansive energy resources of the U.S.; and further enables Tribal economic self-determination in line with longstanding Federal policies and the benefits of Federal recognition.[5]

This NOFO seeks applications to advance affordable, reliable, and secure energy through development of Tribal energy resources for the benefit of Tribes and their members. The projects funded under the NOFO will lead to energy projects that aim to lower or stabilize Tribal energy costs, expand electric and other energy access, and advance energy projects for Tribal economic development.

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[3] See Secretarial Order "Unleashing the Golden Era of American Energy Dominance" (February 5, 2025).

[4] See Executive Order (E.O.) 14154 Unleashing American Energy (January 20, 2025).

[5] Referenced as 25 U.S.C. § 450b in Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self Determination Act of 2005 (Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAct 2005), Title V, § 502, codified at 42 U.S.C. § 7144e and 25 U.S.C. § 3501, et seq.). Section 450b was editorially reclassified as section 5304. See 25 U.S. Code § 5304.

C. Expected Performance Goals

Projects funded under this NOFO are expected to advance Tribal sovereignty through Tribal energy development, efficiency, and use.

- Projects under Topic Area 1 are expected to serve the electric loads and support the energy needs of Tribes at the scale of a Tribal community or communities. These projects entail the construction of energy assets and projects.
- Projects under Topic Area 2 are expected to complete all pre-development activities necessary for the deployment of community scale energy projects as envisioned for Topic Area 1.
- Projects under Topic Area 3 are expected to complete necessary pre-development activities which lead to enhancement and strengthening of Tribal energy and economic infrastructure through development of Tribal energy resources.

D. Topic Areas

1. Topic Area 1: Tribal community energy deployment projects

Under Topic Area 1, the Office of Indian Energy seeks applications for the development of community-scale Tribal energy resources; deployment of community-scale energy generation, storage and/or delivery assets; energy efficiency measures; equipment to strengthen energy infrastructure and implement resiliency enhancements; improvements to lower or stabilize energy costs; and projects that expand electricity access through the upgrade or addition of energy infrastructure. Proposals can include one or a combination of the listed project types. Applications under Topic Area 1 are expected to be implementation ready, indicating that all necessary pre-development and planning activities have been previously finalized, and awarded DOE funds will enable the implementation of energy improvements in the Tribal community or communities.

To be eligible under Topic Area 1, applications must:

(1) use commercially proven and warrantied technology;
(2) be based on a comprehensive feasibility study that:
    a. clearly identifies the need;
    b. demonstrates the rationale for selecting the proposed project as opposed to other options;
    c. demonstrates the availability of the resource;
    d. demonstrates the technical and economic viability, including interconnection analyses (if applicable) and financial sustainability, of the proposed project. Energy efficiency projects should be based on energy audits or industrial energy assessments which demonstrate the feasibility of the project being proposed;
(3) be based on a completed design and engineering (except final design and engineering) that **may include, but is not limited to**, detailed engineering drawings, interconnection studies and/or agreements (if applicable), detailed materials and equipment list(s), hardware specifications, warranties, and any other design or engineering data to

supplement the Technical Volume. These design and engineering documents must be provided as part of the application in the Design and Engineering File;

(4) (for energy generation or energy efficiency projects) include an estimate of the energy generated or saved annually (amount, cost, and percentage) based on the actual energy used and projected savings for energy loads;

(5) (for enhancing energy resiliency projects, such as microgrids) demonstrate the ability of the system to function autonomously (e.g., independent of the traditional centralized electric power grid).

   a. The benefit of the proposed resiliency measures must estimate the number, frequency, and duration of the energy outages that the resiliency measures will mitigate; and

(6) (for projects proposing the upgrade or addition of energy infrastructure) demonstrate how the project will benefit the applicant and/or Tribal members.

   a. These projects can include, but are not limited to, bringing electrical infrastructure to Tribal loads not currently serviced by the centralized grid through islanded systems, or the extension of energy distribution systems to Tribal loads.

Below are hypothetical examples of projects that could be considered under Topic Area 1. **This list is not exhaustive and is only provided for illustrative purposes:**

- A project to increase the energy efficiency of a Tribal government campus with multiple buildings. The energy efficiency measures range from mechanical upgrades based on specific mechanical modeling studies, to energy efficiency and building weatherization measures found to be feasible through a level 3 ASHRAE (American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers) Audit. The energy savings from the measures will result in a simple payback period of 8 years.
- A project to build a combined heat and power (CHP) system at a Tribal university, casino or other type of facility to offset the electric power from the grid, as well as use the heat for loads at the facility. The project will reduce overall energy costs and add resiliency by enabling the facility to operate as a microgrid during power outages, ensuring no loss of revenue from this key Tribal economic center.
- A project to address reliability of residential electricity access. The project will upgrade outdated electrical panels and/or wiring of residences to be in compliance with existing building codes. The panel and wiring upgrades will provide reliable electric access to Tribal homes, and allow for increased energy usage, and result in less power outages.
- A project to implement a biomass boiler in a Tribal building or facility such as a school. The project will replace the existing oil furnace with biomass furnace, supplied with wood chips and cuttings from the Tribally owned and operated sawmill. The project will have the benefit of disposing of a byproduct of a Tribal business and increase the reliability of the heating source for a critical Tribal building. By controlling the fuel for the Tribal load, the Tribe will save money and no longer deal with fluctuating costs based on the cost of heating oil.
- A project deploying a combination of energy generation (e.g., diesel/gas, geothermal, hydrokinetic, or hybrid systems) and a battery energy storage system (BESS) for a remote Tribal Village that is not connected to the traditional power grid. The production from the generation asset(s) in combination with the BESS will be used to reduce diesel

consumption, the maintenance costs on the diesel generators, and the amount of bulk fuel storage required, and ensure a stable and reliable power supply throughout the year. Once implemented, the upgraded microgrid will diversify the energy generation portfolio of the Village, add resiliency, and reduce overall energy costs.

2. Topic Area 2: Tribal community energy planning, assessment, and feasibility

Under Topic Area 2, the Office of Indian Energy seeks applications to conduct pre-development community-scale energy planning activities. This Topic Area allows for all pre-development activities required to identify opportunities and bring projects from concept to implementation ready. Projects under this Topic Area are intended to result in specific outcomes and outputs (measurable results or end products) for the completion of critical milestones in pre-development work that will lead to installed energy hardware, equipment or infrastructure in Tribal communities like the project examples under Topic Area 1 of this NOFO. Applicants who receive an award under Topic Area 2 and successfully complete project planning activities will be well positioned to apply for project deployment/installation under a future NOFO (pending availability of funds). Eligible planning activities under Topic Area 2 **may include, but are not limited to,** the following activities for Tribal community energy development**:**

(1) Tribal community energy planning
   a. Strategic energy planning;
   b. Energy resiliency planning;
   c. Conducting Energy Options Analyses;
   d. Conducting a comprehensive energy feasibility and viability assessment; and,
   e. Design and development of energy projects.
(2) Conducting energy audits to establish baseload energy use and energy efficiency options;
(3) Tribal energy capacity building
   a. Developing an energy organization or office;
   b. Establishing Tribal energy policy, regulations, or codes to reduce energy use or promote energy development; and
   c. Obtaining skills and training related to energy use, development, or management.

The listed planning activities are described in more detail in the following paragraphs. These descriptions are not exclusive and other activities not listed that are necessary for the development of a Tribal community-scale energy project may also be eligible under Topic Area 2.

1) Tribal community energy planning

   a. Strategic Energy Plan

A "Strategic Energy Plan," for purposes of this NOFO, refers to a long-term roadmap to focus and guide efforts and actions toward a defined energy vision. Strategic Energy Plans, customized for the Tribe(s) they support, typically catalog existing energy consumption, sources

and users; articulate goals and the strategies and actions to meet those goals; and identify resources needed to ensure effective completion of these strategies.

b. Energy resiliency planning

Energy Resiliency Planning activities enable applicants to assess the impacts of energy disruptions and identify and prioritize resilience gaps and solutions. Such activities **may include, but are not limited to:**

- Identifying energy resiliency opportunities:
  Including identification and assessment of opportunities to strengthen, modernize, and protect the electrical grid and energy access. Consider energy sector risk profiles, options to reduce the likelihood of power outages, and security of current energy access.
- Identifying impacts of energy outages on Tribal loads:
  Including an assessment of outage vulnerabilities to Tribal loads and infrastructure to help prioritize mitigation and adaptation strategies.
- Evaluating critical facilities:
  To include identifying critical facilities and address energy action planning to prepare those facilities for energy outages.
- Addressing energy issues related to past outage events:
  Including an assessment of energy-related issues caused by past outage events and the creation of an action plan for increased resilience in the future.

c. Conducting Energy Options Analysis

An "Energy Options Analysis," for purposes of this NOFO, refers to a systematic assessment and evaluation of possible alternative approaches available for achieving specific energy objectives and determining which of the options are the most effective and provides the best solution to achieve those objectives. This analysis aims to explore technically and economically feasible technology alternatives to meet an established objective, providing an analytically robust evidence basis for decision making among available options.

More specifically, an Energy Options Analysis should:

- Define broad overall energy objectives;
- Establish specific project goals;
- Identify energy resources, needs, and technology options;
- Define an approach to evaluating those energy options;
- Screen energy options;
- Conduct a pre-feasibility analysis; and
- Present energy option(s) that meet criteria established under the evaluation approach, with appropriate considerations and discussion of trade-offs.

The results of an Energy Options Analysis must provide sufficient detail to support a comprehensive feasibility and viability assessment of a preferred option(s).

d. Conducting a comprehensive energy feasibility and viability assessment of a proposed energy project

"Comprehensive energy feasibility and viability assessment," for purposes of this NOFO, refers to an assessment of the practicality and considerations of a proposed project plan. A Comprehensive Energy Feasibility and Viability Assessment should clearly identify the need, demonstrate the rationale for selecting the proposed energy technology as opposed to other options, demonstrate the availability of the resource, demonstrate the technical and economic viability, including an interconnection analysis (if applicable), financial sustainability of the proposed energy system(s), and/or other relevant analyses.

The proposed Comprehensive Energy Feasibility and Viability assessment should, at a minimum, use as a foundation a completed energy options analysis which: (1) identifies and quantifies the need, (2) establishes overall energy objectives, (3) defines specific project goals, (4) identifies and evaluates options, (5) screens options, and (6) selects a project concept for design and development based on a pre-feasibility assessment.

A comprehensive energy feasibility and viability assessment should result in a report that:

- Clearly identifies the need;
- Demonstrates the rationale for selecting the proposed energy technology as opposed to other options;
- Demonstrates the availability of the resource;
- Demonstrates the technical and economic viability, including interconnection analyses (if applicable) and financial sustainability, of the proposed energy technology project; and
- Defines a business plan, including a project business structure, financing plan and associated business agreements (e.g., power purchase agreements, transmission or interconnection agreements).

More specifically, the comprehensive energy feasibility and viability assessment should result in a comprehensive project plan sufficient for the design and development of an energy project.

The comprehensive assessment **may include one or multiple of the following:**

- Site-specific energy resource assessment(s);
- Load assessment(s);
- Energy audits or industrial energy assessments, documenting current energy consumption or heating and cooling loads;
- Transmission and interconnection evaluation, including net metering policies and ancillary interconnection infrastructure;
- Technology analysis;
- Economic analysis, including a pro forma income statement, pro forma cash flow analysis and its findings (e.g., Internal Rate of Return, Net Present Value), and payback period calculations;

- Preliminary environmental evaluation (i.e., benefits and impacts), including identifying permits, studies and approvals needed;
- Benefits assessment (e.g., employment, cultural and social);
- Permitting and approvals assessments, including if applicable, lease and rights-of-way agreements;
- Risk assessment, including identifying potential barriers and developing mitigations strategies;
- Training and other Tribal professional development planning;
- Long-term operating and maintenance planning;
- Business planning (i.e., project business structure, financing plan, and associated business agreements (e.g., power purchase agreements, transmission or interconnection agreements)) for implementing an energy project; and
- Other assessments required to make an informed decision on the feasibility of a particular energy project.

e. Design and development of energy projects

Design and development of energy projects for the purposes of this NOFO refer to activities conducted prior to hardware installation. These are the final studies conducted on given energy projects before the final decision to move forward with investing in their construction is made. These activities **may include, but are not limited to:**

- Design and engineering reports
- Economic analyses
- Environmental evaluations and studies
- Policy and regulatory assessments
- Market and interconnection studies
- Risk analysis and mitigation planning
- Operations and maintenance planning
- Organizational structure and financing planning
- Other project specific studies required

The end goal of completing the design and development projects listed above is for the applicant to have all necessary analysis and documentation to make an informed final investment decision in the energy project. The documents created from these activities can be used to populate the required documents for Topic Area 1 (Tribal Community Energy Development Projects) applications in future NOFOs, pending issuance and availability of funds.

2) Conducting energy audits to establish baseload energy use and energy efficiency options

Energy audits (otherwise known as energy assessments or energy studies) establish baseline energy use (for buildings/facilities, processes, and/or systems) for setting financial savings and energy efficiency improvement goals as well as providing a comparison point for evaluating future efforts. “Baselining” refers to the act of measuring energy use and energy

intensity at a determined level of detail for the purpose of establishing a benchmark for future comparison.

3) Tribal energy capacity building

a. Developing an energy organization or office

Energy organization or office development activities **may include, but are not limited to**, planning and/or establishment of an energy organization such as a Tribal utility, TEDO, energy office, Energy Service Company (ESCO), Tribal energy committee, Tribal energy commission, or other organizational unit, or the enhancement of an existing organizational unit.

This effort should respond to a specific need or goal of the applicant, serve energy development objectives as its primary function, have specific outcomes and outputs (measurable results or end-products), and have identified sources of funding or revenue to sustain the operation beyond DOE funding.

Activities **may include, but are not limited to**:

- Evaluation of organizational structures as they relate to the applicant's long-term strategic energy plan and implementation opportunities (i.e., utility, TEDO, energy office, ESCO, Tribal committee, or other organizational unit);
- Establishment of an energy organization or Tribal unit for managing Tribal energy resources or implementing the Tribal strategic energy plan;
- Enhancement of an existing Tribal energy organizational unit or function for managing Tribal energy resources or implementing the Tribal strategic energy plan; or
- Establishment of a regional or national intertribal energy consortium.

b. Establishing Tribal energy policy, regulations, or codes to reduce energy use or promote energy development

Tribal Energy Policy, Regulations or Code Development activities should address energy governance issues that **may include, but are not limited to:**

- Energy policy development
  Including crafting Tribal energy policy, such as building codes, or energy related by-laws to address energy issues or reach Tribal energy goals.
- Federal, state, and local laws, requirements, and incentives and regulatory assessments
  Including an assessment of federal, state, and local laws, requirements and incentives that impact Tribal energy development.

c. Obtaining skills and training related to energy use, development, or management

This subtopic supports activities that enhance the capabilities, skills, knowledge, or expertise of Tribal leaders, staff, or members in areas of energy use, efficiency, and development. Applications addressing this area should provide a correlation between the

proposed activities and the strategic goals or energy activities of the applicant(s). These activities should increase knowledge-based skills (gaining knowledge of specific subjects, procedures, and information necessary to perform particular tasks) of Tribal leaders, staff, or members and be relative to energy use and development.

This effort should respond to a specific need or goal of the applicant and be of limited duration with specific outcomes (measurable results or end products). Applications should demonstrate how the training goals and objectives align with the applicant's existing energy--focused programs or strategic plans. Referenced strategic energy planning documents should be submitted under the Studies and Analyses File. Where possible, applicants are encouraged to integrate training with existing workforce and training programs.

Skills and training activities **may include, but are not limited to:**

- Apprenticeship or mentorship (learning a job or skill by working for a fixed period of time for someone who is very good at that job or skill);
- Internships (student or trainee who works in an organization, in order to gain work experience);
- Training in trade professions necessary for a wide variety of energy-related projects (e.g., electricians, welding, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) certification);
- Workshops (short-term interactive training);
- Seminars (short-term lecture-oriented training); and
- Certification programs (e.g., energy auditor, energy efficiency practitioner, utility operator).

Skills and training activities proposed may include attending conferences to obtain general energy awareness, provided that attendance is justified and directly applicable to the stated goals of the applicant. Programs solely supporting the pursuit of academic degrees (e.g., high school diploma, GED, bachelor's, master's, or doctorate) through scholarships or other means are not eligible. However, applications that complement existing educational programs are welcome.

Below are hypothetical examples of projects that could be considered under Topic Area 2. **This list is not exhaustive and is only provided for illustrative purposes:**

- A specific area sees an increase in the number of blackouts and an inability to connect distributed generation assets due to incorrectly sized substation and distribution lines serving Tribal loads. A proposed study may identify system bottlenecks in the distribution system and help design an upgrade to the system that would minimize blackouts while allowing for future Tribal energy development in the affected area. An economic study may quantify the value of more reliable and secure energy access for the Tribe.
- A project where a Tribe studies the feasibility of developing a hydroelectric power plant on local rivers or streams. The Tribe will study the resource potential through monitoring the flow of the rivers and streams and evaluate the different development methods

(i.e., run-of-river vs. impoundment). They will also model the electric generation potential and the potential economic benefits of the project. The study will allow the Tribe to decide if it is technologically and economically feasible to pursue a hydroelectric project.

- A Tribe would like to expand electrical power to Tribal homes not currently connected to a traditional centralized grid. The Tribe proposes a study to assess energy generation and storage resources necessary to bring reliable, consistent power to the homes. Included in the study may be the cost and comparison of bringing electric distribution to each home, the operation and maintenance of a stand-alone system, and a resource assessment to determine the best resource for their area. This project could act as the first step to extending electric service, critical for powering modern life, to currently unserved Tribal members.
- A Tribe would like to expand natural gas distribution infrastructure to serve Tribal energy heating loads that are currently using electricity, wood, or propane. A study could examine the feasibility of the expansion as well as the benefits of the projects. Benefits may include more reliable heating during harsh winter conditions and cost savings to Tribal end users when compared to current heating methods.
- A Tribal Consortium has identified energy inefficient homes as a major issue for member Tribes and Tribal Organizations. The Consortium has a plan to retrofit and modernize Tribal housing stock but has identified gaps in skilled Tribal Members able to perform the work in accordance with the appropriate technical standards, work protocols and best practices. The project proposes training 40 Tribal Members from across the membership in energy auditing as well as energy efficiency retrofitting. This training will align with an ongoing Tribal initiative and allow for informed energy investments in the future.

Technical Assistance:
Separate to funding under this Topic Area, the Office of Indian Energy offers free technical assistance, which is designed to support Tribes and other eligible applicants evaluate and advance energy projects during early-stage project development. Some early-stage project activities deemed eligible activities under this NOFO may be completed through technical assistance.

3. Topic Area 3: Large-scale planning, assessment, and feasibility for Tribal energy projects

Under Topic Area 3, the Office of Indian Energy seeks applications to conduct pre-development large-scale energy project planning, assessment, and feasibility activities. These projects should allow for pre-development feasibility activities required to identify opportunities to de-risk and advance project development beyond concept toward being investment ready. Projects under this Topic Area should result in specific outcomes and outputs (measurable results or end-products). The projects under this Topic Area center around commercial development of Tribal energy resources, with the primary benefit of revenue generation and economic development or commercial development of Tribal energy resources. Eligible planning, feasibility, and assessment activities under Topic Area 3 **may include, but are not limited to**, similar subtopics as under Topic Area 2, however they do differ. While Topic

Area 2 supports community-scale projects and activities, Topic Area 3 supports large-scale (e.g., of regional scope or significance) and commercial activities.

Examples of potential deliverables under Topic Area 3 **include, but are not limited to,** the following:

A Resource Assessment prepared by an independent consultant / engineer / geologist that identifies, quantifies, and evaluates the energy resource under observation. The Resource Assessment serves as a key first step for energy development to determine if the energy resource exists in reasonable quality and quantity to justify further studies and analyses.

Offtake Agreements / Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) serve as a critical component of large-scale energy development to ensure a market exists for the energy resource. Researching and negotiating Offtake Agreements / PPAs helps assess the viability of large-scale energy development by providing more predictable future potential cash flows.

An Owner's Engineer Report prepared by an independent engineering firm, which ensures the owner's interests are protected throughout the project lifecycle. It provides a comprehensive and objective assessment of the proposed energy project and addresses areas such as technical due diligence, cost and schedule review, risk assessment, and contract review. The Owner's Engineer Report addresses all technical aspects of the project, ensuring project viability.

A Market Analysis prepared by an independent consultant for the proposed energy project, which provides a detailed assessment of the commercial viability and strategic positioning of the project within its market context and addresses supply and demand dynamics, profitability, offtake opportunities, regulatory and policy framework, competitive landscape, pricing analysis, risk identification and mitigation.

A Quantitative Financial Model and Analysis (e.g., constructed in spreadsheet format) of the proposed energy project to simulate the project's financial cash flows, evaluate the project's economic viability and financial performance, and provide a framework for decision-making, fundraising or financing, and financial risk assessment.

Below are hypothetical examples of projects that could be considered under Topic Area 3. **This list is not exhaustive and is only provided for illustrative purposes:**

- An energy-focused project that strengthens American leadership in AI by supporting the development of data centers. The project could include pre-feasibility studies for siting a data center, including considerations such as land, power availability, and water rights, or for developing power and/or transmission and distribution infrastructure to address increased power needs related to data centers.
- A project where an Alaska Native regional corporation studies their mineral estate for the feasibility of extracting critical minerals and materials. The study includes regional geological mapping, on-the-ground mapping and sampling, core sampling of selected sites, analysis of collected cores, and an economic viability assessment of discovered

deposits. The study plans on allowing the corporation to develop, jointly develop, or lease the resources discovered for the economic benefit of Tribal shareholders.

- A project that studies the feasibility of large-scale geothermal energy generation on Tribal Lands. The Tribe proposes detailed geological modeling, geophysical surveys, and geochemical sampling and testing. The exploration effort will also include the drilling of a well to collect cores, temperature gradient information, water samples, and conduct a flow test for reservoir modeling. The project will involve multiple Go/No-Go decision points throughout, only proceeding to more extensive and expensive exploration if the prior phase justifies the need.
- A project that seeks to advance the understanding and deployment of Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) on Tribal lands. Key project objectives include developing a comprehensive feasibility study addressing siting considerations such as land availability, power demand, water rights, and regulatory frameworks; infrastructure analysis and planning for seamless integration of SMR-generated power; and an economic viability assessment to quantify the project benefits like job creation and revenue for the Tribal community.

E. Applications Specifically Not of Interest

The following types of applications will be deemed non-responsive and will not be reviewed or considered (Please also refer to the Responsiveness Review section below):

- Applications that fall outside the Topic Areas section above.
- Applications that propose research and development.
- Applications for proposed technologies that are not based on sound scientific principles (e.g., violates the laws of thermodynamics).
- Project concepts or approaches not based on established scientific principles.
- Applications proposing the evaluation of product marketing opportunities, assessment of manufacturing opportunities, research, product development, or the construction of manufacturing facilities or buildings.
- Applications proposing the construction of a building(s) or structure(s) such as carports. Only the incremental costs associated with the installation of energy generating system(s), energy storage system(s), integrated energy system(s), or energy efficiency measures will be considered allocable to the proposed DOE funded project and not the cost of constructing the building(s) or structure(s), unless those structures are integral to the proposed project.
- Applications proposing the use of materials, supplies, or equipment which are not commercially-proven and warrantied except for Small Module Reactors as identified under Topic Area 3.

F. Statement of Substantial Involvement

DOE anticipates awarding grants and cooperative agreements under this NOFO. Cooperative Agreements include a statement of DOE's "substantial involvement" in the work performed under the resulting awards. For cooperative agreements, DOE does not limit its

involvement to the administrative requirements of the award. Instead, DOE has substantial involvement in the direction and redirection of the technical aspects of the project. DOE's substantial involvement in resulting awards may include the following:

A. DOE shares responsibility with the recipient for the management, control, direction, and performance of the project.
B. DOE may intervene in the conduct or performance of work under this award for programmatic reasons. Intervention includes the interruption or modification of the conduct or performance of project activities.
C. DOE may redirect or discontinue funding the project based on the outcome of DOE's evaluation of the project at the Go/No-Go decision point(s).
D. DOE participates in major project decision-making processes.

G. Coordination with other DOE Activities

The following applies to applications under Topic Area 3 that are conducting studies associated with energy project development that may need financing in later project phases.

DOE Office of Energy Dominance Financing (EDF): Tribal Energy Financing Program (TEFP) Direct Loans and Loan Guarantees

Projects awarded under this NOFO's Topic Area 3 may be interested in pursuing DOE's Tribal Energy Financing Program. EDF supports Tribal investment in energy-related projects by providing direct loans or partial loan guarantees to Federally Recognized Tribes, including Alaska Native Villages or regional or Village corporations; or a TEDOs. DOE can support a broad range of projects and activities for the development of energy resources, products, and services both on and off Tribal land that use commercial technology through direct loans or loan guarantees.

Potential applicants to the DOE Tribal Energy Financing Program are encouraged to engage directly with DOE's EDF for no-fee, no-commitment consultations to discuss their proposed project and learn about EDF's application process before formally applying to EDF. During the consultations, EDF will work with potential applicants to determine whether the project is eligible for a loan or loan guarantee. For more information, reach out to TEFP@hq.doe.gov.

Funding for Topic 3, specifically for 1) Owner Engineer's Report; 2) Market Analysis; and 3) Financial Model and Analysis, may reduce the burden of EDF's requirements on Tribes applying to the TEFP. The documents produced through this NOFO may aid potential TEFP applicants in achieving the requirements for the NOFO Part 1 and NOFO Part 2 Application submittal. The requirements of NOFO Part 2 allow EDF to determine the viability and the "reasonable prospect of repayment" and the level of due diligence required for a given proposed project.

The following applies to applications under Topic Area 3 that are conducting studies associated with critical minerals.

Critical Minerals Collaborative

To help ensure a secure domestic supply of critical minerals and materials (CMM), the DOE aims to accelerate production of CMMs from a diverse set of sources (e.g., secondary, unconventional, conventional), and collaborates with other government and private agencies as part of a government-wide CM strategy.

As part of this strategy, the DOE has established a Critical Materials Collaborative (CMC)—a centralized entity for multidisciplinary, collaborative, critical materials applied research, development, and demonstration (RD&D). The Collaborative will coordinate CMM innovation across the DOE, other government agencies, industry, and academia, as well as provide enabling technologies to reduce commercialization time and risk.

Applicable selected projects from this NOFO are invited to participate as a member of the CMC—a coalition of DOE offices, federal agencies, and federally funded Research and Development (R&D) programs to

- align the DOE research portfolio to achieve goals and crosscutting S&T (science and technology) objectives;
- advance crosscutting applied RD&D related to critical minerals and materials;
- accelerate the adoption and deployment of innovation;
- nurture and expand the innovation ecosystem; and
- facilitate scientific and technical exchange and discussion.

The Recipient's principal investigators or a member of their research team is invited to participate in coordination efforts including, but not limited to, an in-person annual symposium, virtual coordination meetings, and periodic presentations on research progress. Participating in CMC efforts does not require any membership fees.

Applicants to this NOFO should take into consideration possible collaboration with the programs supported by other DOE program offices. Projects funded as a result of this NOFO will be encouraged to explore opportunities to coordinate with projects funded by other DOE offices and federal agencies through the CMC in order to maximize the scientific and technological impact.

Recipients are invited to participate in the CMC through the course of their project and up to one year after grant closeout.

H. Statutory Authority

The programmatic authorizing statute is the Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self Determination Act of 2005, Title V of EPAct 2005, §§ 502 and 503, codified at 42 U.S.C. § 7144e and 25 U.S.C. § 3501, et seq.)

Awards made under this announcement are subject to the OMB Guidance for Federal Financial Assistance (e.g., 2 C.F.R. Part 200) as adopted and DOE's Financial Assistance Regulations, 2 C.F.R. Part 910.

IV. Application Content and Form

This section includes application information specific to this NOFO. The NOFO Part 2, *Application Content and Form* for standard information that applies to all DOE NOFOs such as formatting and content requirements, and funding restrictions.

A. Use and Disclosure of Application Information

Applicants should not include trade secrets or business-sensitive, proprietary, or otherwise confidential information in their application unless such information is necessary to convey an understanding of the proposed project or to comply with a requirement in the NOFO. Applicants are advised not to include any critically sensitive proprietary detail.

If an application includes trade secrets or business-sensitive, proprietary, or otherwise confidential information, it is furnished to the federal government in confidence with the understanding that the information shall be used or disclosed only for evaluation purposes. For example, DOE may disclose such information to determine whether to select the project for funding under this NOFO or other government programs, or as otherwise authorized by law. This restriction does not limit the federal government's right to use the information if it is obtained from another source.

Applications and other submissions containing trade secrets or business-sensitive, proprietary, or otherwise confidential information must be marked as described below. Failure to comply with these marking requirements may result in the disclosure of the unmarked information under the Freedom of Information Act or otherwise. The federal government is not liable for the disclosure or use of unmarked information and may use or disclose such information for any purpose as authorized by law.

Notice of Restriction on Disclosure and Use of Information:

Pages [list applicable pages] of this document may contain trade secrets or business-sensitive, proprietary, or otherwise confidential information that is exempt from public disclosure. Such information shall be used or disclosed only for evaluation purposes with the restriction that the information be retained in confidence and not be further disclosed, or in accordance with a financial assistance agreement between the submitter and the government. The government may use or disclose any information that is not appropriately marked or otherwise restricted, regardless of source. [End of Notice]

In addition, (1) the header and footer of every page that contains trade secrets or business-sensitive, proprietary, or otherwise confidential information must be marked as follows: "CONTAINS TRADE SECRETS, BUSINESS-SENSITIVE, PROPRIETARY, OR OTHERWISE CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION EXEMPT FROM PUBLIC DISCLOSURE," and (2) every line or paragraph containing such information must be clearly marked with double brackets or highlighting.

Use of Application Information with Artificial Intelligence Technology

Notwithstanding the above, DOE may use, review and evaluate application information, including Proprietary Information, using artificial intelligence ("AI") technology, including for

training and developing AI tools. By submitting an application, the Applicant is providing express consent to DOE's use of application information with AI tools. DOE is not liable for the use and disclosure of unmarked application information and may use or disclose such information for any purpose.

All application information is subject to public release under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) except information that qualifies under a FOIA exemption. One of the exemptions is trade secrets or commercial or financial information that is confidential or privileged. The above markings are essential to assist DOE in identifying such information that is exempt from public disclosure. However, the existence of the above or other protective markings is not dispositive on whether information is exempt under FOIA, only DOE's designated FOIA Officer may determine if the information qualifies for a FOIA exemption. See 10 C.F.R. Part 1004 for more information on how DOE processes FOIA requests.

Notwithstanding the above, for compliance with IMPLEMENTATION OF PRESIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM SIMPLIFYING THE FUNDING OF ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE AND CRITICAL MINERAL AND MATERIAL PROJECTS, the Department of Energy may share and use within the Government any application information provided by or on behalf of the applicant. Accordingly, in accordance with applicable law and notwithstanding any other provisions herein, by submitting an application or agreeing to a financial assistance arrangement with the Department of Energy under this NOFO, the applicant is providing consent for any properly marked trade secret, confidential, proprietary, privileged or otherwise sensitive application information provided by or on behalf of the applicant to be disclosed to the Executive Office of the President and relevant Agencies offering loans, grants, equity, guarantees or other federal funding, for the purposes of the Presidential Memorandum on Simplifying the Funding of Energy Infrastructure and Critical Mineral and Material Project.

B. Summary

The application process includes a single submission application phase.

C. Application Content Requirements

Each application must focus on a single concept. Applications must conform to the following requirements and must not exceed the stated page limits. This section includes a complete list of application requirements under this NOFO. Detailed guidance on the content and form of NOFO-specific requirements is provided following the Summary of Application Requirements table below.

1. Covered Individual Definition, Designation, and Responsibility

Several of the Application Content Requirements listed below and in the NOFO Part 2 are required of Covered Individuals.

For the purposes of this NOFO, a Covered Individual means an individual who (a) contributes in a substantive, meaningful way to the development or execution of the scope of work of a project proposed for funding by DOE, and (b) is designated as a Covered Individual by

DOE. Often, these individuals have doctoral or other professional degrees, although individuals at the master's or PhD-candidate level may be considered Covered Individuals if their involvement meets this definition. Consultants, graduate students, and those with a postdoctoral role also may be considered Covered Individuals if they meet this definition.

DOE designates as Covered Individuals any principal investigator (PI); project director (PD); co-principal investigator (Co-PI); co-project director (Co-PD); project manager; and any individual regardless of title that is functionally performing as a PI, PD, Co-PI, Co-PD, or project manager.

The applicant is responsible for assessing the applicability of (a) above, against each person listed on the application. Further, the applicant is responsible for identifying any such individual to DOE for designation as a Covered Individual, if not already designated by DOE as described above.

The applicant's submission of a biosketch for a particular person serves as an acknowledgement that DOE designates that person as a Covered Individual.

DOE may further designate Covered Individuals during award negotiations or the award period of performance.

If selected, throughout the life of the award, the recipient has an ongoing responsibility to submit: 1) biosketches for any new Covered Individuals, and 2) updated biosketches previously submitted to DOE.

2. Summary of Application Requirements

Component	File Format	Page Limit	File Name
Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)	PDF	n/a	ControlNumber_LeadOrganization _424
Technical Volume*	PDF	15	ControlNumber_LeadOrganization _TechnicalVolume
Workplan*	MS Word	5, see below	ControlNumber_LeadOrganization _Workplan
Biosketch (for each Covered Individual)*	PDF	n/a	ControlNumber_LeadOrganization _Biosketch
Site and Resources Maps and Graphics*	PDF	n/a	ControlNumber_LeadOrganization _MapsResources
Design and Engineering File*	PDF	n/a	ControlNumber_LeadOrganization _Engineering
Economics File*	PDF	n/a	ControlNumber_LeadOrganization _Eonomics
Budget Justification Workbook	MS Excel	n/a	ControlNumber_LeadOrganization _Budget_Justification
Subrecipient Budget Justification	MS Excel	n/a	ControlNumber_LeadOrganization _Subrecipient_Budget_Justification
Eligibility Statements and Evidence File	PDF	n/a	ControlNumber_LeadOrganization _Eligibility
Applicants Tribal Council Resolution or Declaration of Commitment and Cost Sharing File	PDF	n/a	ControlNumber_LeadOrganization _Resolution_Declaration
Additional Impacted Indian Tribes Documentation	PDF	n/a	ControlNumber_LeadOrganization _ImpactedTribes
Participant Letters of Commitment and Cost Sharing File*	PDF	n/a	ControlNumber_LeadOrganization _Commitment_Letters
Studies and Analyses File*	PDF	n/a	ControlNumber_LeadOrganization _Studies_Analyses
Potentially Duplicative Funding Notice	PDF	n/a	ControlNumber_LeadOrganization _PDFN
Transparency of Foreign Connections	PDF	n/a	BusinessSensitive_ControlNumber _LeadOrganization_TFC
Disclosure of Lobbying Activities, if applicable (SF-LLL)	PDF	n/a	ControlNumber_LeadOrganization _SF-LLL
Certification Regarding Lobbying (OMB 4040-0013)	PDF	n/a	ControlNumber_LeadOrganization _Cert Lobbying
Waiver for Foreign Entity Participation	PDF	n/a	ControlNumber_LeadOrganization _FEW
Performance of Work in the U.S. (Foreign Work Waiver)	PDF	n/a	ControlNumber_LeadOrganization _FWW

*Documents that are used for the merit review process

3. Application Requirements by Topic Area

Component	Topic Area 1	Topic Area 2	Topic Area 3
Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)	Required	Required	Required
Technical Volume *	Required	Required	Required
Workplan*	Required	Required	Required
Biosketch (for each Covered Individual)*	Required	Required	Required
Site and Resources Maps and Graphics*	Required	Optional	Optional
Design and Engineering File*	Required	Optional	Optional
Economics File*	Required	Optional	Optional
Budget Justification Workbook	Required	Required	Required
Subrecipient Budget Justification	If Applicable	If Applicable	If Applicable
Eligibility Statements and Evidence File	Required	Required	Required
Applicant Tribal Council Resolution or Declaration of Commitment and Cost Sharing File	Required	Required	Required
Additional Impacted Indian Tribes Documentation	If Applicable	If Applicable	If Applicable
Participant Letters of Commitment and Cost Sharing File*	If Applicable	If Applicable	If Applicable
Studies and Analyses File*	Required	Optional	Optional
Potentially Duplicative Funding Notice	If Applicable	If Applicable	If Applicable
Transparency of Foreign Connections	If Applicable	If Applicable	If Applicable
Disclosure of Lobbying Activities, if applicable (SF-LLL)	If Applicable	If Applicable	If Applicable
Certification Regarding Lobbying (OMB 4040-0013)	If Applicable	If Applicable	If Applicable
Waiver for Foreign Entity Participation	If Applicable	If Applicable	If Applicable
Performance of Work in the U.S. (Foreign Work Waiver)	If Applicable	If Applicable	If Applicable

*Documents that are used for the merit review process

4. Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)

Applicants must complete the SF-424: Application for Federal Assistance, which is available in IE-eXCHANGE and on Financial Assistance Forms and Information For Applicants and Recipients. The list of certifications and assurances can also be found on the site noted above. Complete all required fields in accordance with the instructions on the form.

Please ensure that the dates (Block 17) and dollar amounts (Block 18) on the SF-424 are for the complete project period and not just the first project year, first phase, or another subset of the project period.

5. Technical Volume

The Technical Volume cannot exceed 15 pages. If the Technical Volume exceeds the maximum number of pages specified above, DOE will review only the authorized number of pages and disregard any additional pages.

The Technical Volume template is available under 'Application Forms and Templates' for this NOFO on IE-eXCHANGE at https://ie-exchange.energy.gov/. The use of the template is not required; however, the information included within the template is required. The Technical Volume must address the Technical Review Criteria included in NOFO Part 1, Application Review Information–Review Criteria. Applicants should consider the weight of each of the evaluation criteria when preparing the Technical Volume.

6. Workplan

The Workplan must not exceed 5 pages, excluding the milestone table. If the Workplan exceeds the maximum number of pages specified above, DOE will review only the authorized number of pages and disregard any additional pages.

The Workplan template is available under 'Application Forms and Templates' for this NOFO on IE-eXCHANGE at https://ie-exchange.energy.gov/. The use of the template is not required; however, the information included within the template is required. The Workplan must address the Technical Review Criteria included in NOFO Part 1, Application Review Information–Review Criteria. Applicants should consider the weight of each of the evaluation criteria when preparing the Workplan.

7. Biographical Sketch

As part of the application, each Covered Individual at the applicant and subrecipient level must submit a biographical sketch ("*Biosketch*"). Use SciENcv (Science Experts Network Curriculum Vitae) to produce a DOE compliant PDF version of the *Biosketch*. Note that there is no page limitation for the *Biosketch*, though some fields in SciENcv have character limitations for consistency.

Please note the following:

- With the exception of "Covered Individual", which is defined in the NOFO Part 1, *Application Content and Form—Application Content Requirements, Covered Individual Definition, Designation and Responsibility*, all other definitions of terms used in the *Biosketch* are available at: NSPM–33 Definitions.

- If there is any conflict between NSPM–33 Implementation Guidance Pre– and Post–award Disclosures Relating to the Biographical Sketch and Current and Pending (Other) Support and the **DOE NOFO-Specific Biosketch Instructions** below, follow the DOE NOFO-Specific Biosketch Instructions.

DOE/NNSA NOFO-Specific Biosketch Instructions	
Persistent Identifier (PID) of the Covered Individual	The PID field is required for all NOFOs and Awards that encompass R&D activities, or technical assistance to support R&D activities. For NOFOs and Awards that do not meet the criteria above, the PID field is optional.
Professional Preparation	In addition to the professional preparation listed on the Biosketch Common Form, Covered Individuals may use this section to list other types of training or programs, for example, a certification or credential from a Registered Apprenticeship or Labor Management Partnership.
Appointments and Positions Reporting Timeframe	Identify all domestic and foreign professional appointments and positions, both inside and outside the primary organization. Do not include any lapses in time over the past 10 years or since age 18, whichever period is shorter.
Products: Limitation on number provided	List up to 10 products or activities most closely related to the proposed project. Products may also include professional and scholarly activities related to the proposed effort (e.g., conference, committee participation, etc.).

8. Site and Resources Maps and Graphics

Include any graphics to supplement the Technical Volume including maps, photographs, or other visuals of the project location or building(s) affected by the proposed project. Any other relevant background or supplemental data may be included here, except studies and analyses, design and engineering, and economic analyses information.

9. Design and Engineering File

The Design and Engineering File consists of completed design and engineering (except final design and engineering) documents that may include, but are not limited to, detailed engineering drawings, interconnection studies and/or agreements (if applicable), detailed materials and equipment lists, hardware specifications, warranties, and any other design or engineering data to supplement the Technical Volume.

10. Economics Files

The Economics File should include, as a minimum, a (1) pro forma income statement, (2) pro forma cash flow analysis and its findings (e.g., Internal Rate of Return, Net Present Value), and (3) payback period calculations, in years, against both where benefits can be monetized (a) the total project investment (DOE share and recipient cost share) and (b) solely against the recipient cost share. Each input and all assumptions must be identified.

11. Budget Justification Workbook

Please refer to the Budget Justification Workbook template in IE-eXCHANGE. Applicants are strongly encouraged to use the suggested template. If applicants choose not to use the suggested template, an SF-424A Budget Information form (available on grants.gov) must also be submitted and include a breakdown of all costs by Budget Category as outlined in the SF-424A and the Budget Justification suggested template, including all work to be performed by the recipient and its subrecipients and contractors. Save SF-424A budget justification form as a PDF file using the following convention for the title, "Control Number_LeadOrganization_424A."

In addition to project-specific costs, applicants should include costs associated with the following activities, as applicable:

- Oversight;
- Required annual audits and incurred cost proposals (such costs may be reimbursed as a direct or indirect cost);
- Implementing award-specific requirements such as Buy America requirements; and
- Reporting.

The "Instructions and Summary" and "SF-424A" tabs included with the Budget Justification Workbook will auto-populate as the applicant enters information into the Workbook. Applicants must carefully read the "Instructions and Summary" tab provided within the Budget Justification Workbook.

12. Subrecipient Budget Justification Workbook

Applicants must provide a separate budget justification for each subrecipient expected to perform work estimated to be more than $500,000 of the total proposed budget. The budget justification must include the same justification information described in the *Budget Justification Workbook* section above.

13. Eligibility Statements and Evidence File

All Applicants are required to submit eligibility statements that document and provide evidence of the Applicant's eligibility to support DOE's eligibility determination. The template is available under 'Application Forms and Templates' for this NOFO on IE-eXCHANGE at https://ie-exchange.energy.gov. The use of the template is not required; however, the information included within the template is required.

The form must be signed by an authorized representative, either digitally or manually in ink and scanned. Typed signatures do not constitute a digital signature.

Save the completed Eligibility Statements and Evidence form and save any additional evidentiary information as a single or multiple PDF files (no more than 3 files including the form) and submit as part of your application.

14. Applicant Tribal Council Resolution or Declaration of Commitments and Cost Sharing File

All applicants are required to submit an executed Applicant Tribal Council Resolution or Declaration of Commitment and Cost Sharing File to include a statement of commitment and cost sharing by the applicant.

For Indian Tribes, the statement of commitment and cost sharing must be in the form of an executed Tribal Council Resolution, unless an Indian Tribe provides a commitment in another format along with evidence of the statutory or other legal authority authorizing that form of commitment. Such evidence must establish that the commitment submitted carries the same level of Tribal leadership commitment as a Tribal Council Resolution.

For Alaska Native regional corporations or Village corporations, Tribal and intertribal Organizations, Tribal Energy Development Organizations, and Tribal Colleges and Universities the statement of commitment and cost sharing may be in the form of a declaration or resolution signed by an authorized representative able to commit the entity.

All Tribal Council Resolution(s), declarations, or resolutions must:

1) Be executed;
2) Be specific to this NOFO (Title and Number as shown on the cover page);
3) Authorize the submittal of the application;
4) Commit to the proposed project;
5) Identify a representative of the applicant as the Business Contact and authorize that person to act on behalf of the applicant;
6) Identify a representative of the applicant as the Project Manager. It is strongly recommended that the Project Manager be a representative of the applicant; however, if the Project Manager is not a representative of the applicant, authorization must be provided that delegates that authority to the proposed Project Manager; such a non-applicant designee will be considered a Subrecipient and all the terms and conditions of the agreement, if an award is made, will flow to that designee and that designee will not be able to receive fee or profit for services rendered;
7) Commit to the total amount of cost share (specific dollar amount or up to a maximum amount and percentage of total proposed project costs), regardless of the source of that cost share as the applicant is ultimately and legally responsible for providing the entire amount of cost share required, if an award is made, even if the cost share is being provided by a Subrecipient(s);
8) Identify the type of cost share being committed (donated time, equipment use, unrecovered fringe benefit costs or unrecoverable indirect costs, and cash or in-kind provided by a third party);
9) Affirm that the project is under Tribal control; and
10) (If the project location is not owned or controlled by the applicant), submit a letter of commitment from the land or building holder as part of the application under the Participant Letter of Commitment and Cost Sharing File.

15. Additional Impacted Indian Tribes Documentation

For any application that potentially impacts Indian Tribes, other than the applicant, or is on Tribal land not under jurisdiction of the applicant, applicants are required to submit additional documentation demonstrating that an authorized representative of each potentially impacted Indian Tribe is, at a minimum, aware of the nature of the application and its potential impacts to the relevant Indian Tribes. The notified authorized representative must hold their position while the NOFO accepts applications, and documentation must demonstrate affirmative awareness of the application (e.g., a delivery record from certified mail, a reply by the authorized representative).

For any project intended to be sited on Tribal land(s) or intersecting with Tribal subsurface rights not under the jurisdiction of the applicant, applicants are required to submit documentation demonstrating support from the relevant Indian Tribes at the time of application.

16. Participant Letters of Commitments and Cost Sharing File

Submit letters of commitment from all subrecipients. In addition, submit letters of commitment from all third-party cost share providers. If applicable, the letter must state that the third party has committed to provide a specific minimum dollar amount or value of in-kind contributions allocated to cost sharing. Letters of support or endorsement for the project from entities that do not have a substantive role in the project will not be accepted. The following information for each third party contributing to cost sharing should be identified:

Letters of Commitment Content	
Organization Name	Phone, email, and address
Proposed Dollar Amount to be Provided	Value of the contribution
Cost Sharing Type	Cash or In-Kind contribution (or both)

Each letter must not exceed one page and must be signed by an authorized representative of the third-party entity.

17. Studies and Analysis File

The Studies and Analyses File is required for Topic Area 1, and optional for Topic Areas 2 and 3. When appropriate, applicants should submit a (1) comprehensive feasibility study and/or (2) energy audit(s) or industrial assessment(s), as specifically required. These submissions should consist of energy audit(s), energy assessment(s), and comprehensive feasibility study or studies. Other supporting studies or analyses should also be included as part of this file. Any other relevant background data may be included under the Site and Resource Map and Graphics File.

The Studies and Analyses File supplements the Technical Volume in addressing the Technical Review Criteria.

18. Potentially Duplicative Funding Notice

If the applicant or project team member has other active awards of federal funds, the applicant must determine whether the activities of those awards potentially overlap with the activities set forth in its application to this NOFO. If there is potential overlap, the applicant must notify DOE in writing of the potential overlap and state how it will ensure any project funds (i.e., recipient cost share and federal funds) will not be used for identical cost items under multiple awards.

19. Transparency of Foreign Connections

Applicants must provide a Transparency of Foreign Connections disclosure and certification as it relates to the proposed recipient and subrecipient(s). Include a separate disclosure for the applicant and each proposed subrecipient.

Disclosure Format: For the convenience of the entity providing the disclosure and certification, a template is available at Transparency of Foreign Connections, however, the entity is not required to use this specific format. If another format is used, the signatory must include the same substantive information, a signature, date, and the certification statement provided at Transparency of Foreign Connections.

Disclosure exceptions by entity type:

- U.S. National Laboratories and domestic government entities are not required to respond to the Transparency of Foreign Connections disclosure.
- Institutions of higher education are only required to respond to items with an asterisk symbol (*).
- The applicability of disclosure requirements is determined by the entity type. Regardless of whether the applicant is exempt, the subrecipient(s) must provide these disclosures unless the subrecipient is also exempt.

Applicants, regardless of entity type, must provide complete responses for project team members that are not U.S. National Laboratories, domestic government entities, or institutions of higher education.

Questions: Contact rtesinfo@hq.doe.gov

DOE reserves the right to request additional or clarifying information based on the information submitted.

20. Disclosure of Lobbying Connections

Recipients and subrecipients may not use any federal funds to influence or attempt to influence, directly or indirectly, congressional action on any legislative or appropriation matters. The following forms are not required for any eligible applicant but are applicable to subrecipients.

- **Proposed subrecipients that are not eligible applicants who have lobbying activities to disclose:**

Complete and submit the Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL) available at: https://apply07.grants.gov/apply/forms/sample/SFLLL_2_0–V2.0.pdf to ensure that non-federal funds have not been paid and will not be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence any of the following in connection with the application:

1. An officer or employee of any federal agency;
2. A Member of Congress;
3. An officer or employee of Congress; or
4. An employee of a Member of Congress.

- **Subrecipients that have no lobbying activities to disclose:**
  Complete and submit, Certification Regarding Lobbying form (OMB 4040-0013) available at: https://apply07.grants.gov/apply/forms/sample/GG_LobbyingForm–V1.1.pdf

21. Waiver for Foreign Entity Participation

To qualify as a domestic entity, the entity must be legally formed in the United States and have a physical location for business operations in the United States. If the prime applicant and/or subrecipient do not meet the qualifications for a domestic entity, then the applicant must submit an explicit waiver request in the application.

Waiver Criteria

Foreign entities seeking to participate in a project funded under this NOFO must demonstrate to the satisfaction of DOE that:

1. Its participation is in the best interest of the United States industry and United States economic development;
2. The project team has appropriate measures in place to control sensitive information and protect against unauthorized transfer of scientific and technical information;
3. Adequate protocols exist between the United States subsidiary and its foreign parent organization to comply with export control laws and any obligations to protect proprietary information from the foreign parent organization;
4. The work is conducted within the United States, and the entity acknowledges and demonstrates that it has the intent and ability to comply with the U.S. Competitiveness Provision (see *Post-Award Requirements--U.S. Manufacturing Commitments* below); and
5. The foreign entity will satisfy other conditions that DOE may deem necessary to protect U.S. Government interests.

Content for Waiver Request

A Foreign Entity waiver request must include all the following:

1. Information about the entity(ies) involved in the proposed work to be conducted outside the United States (i.e., the entity seeking a waiver and the entity(ies) that will conduct the work): name, point of contact, and proposed type of involvement in the project;
2. Country of incorporation, the extent of the ownership/level control by foreign entities, whether the entity is state owned or controlled, a summary of the ownership breakdown of the foreign entity, and the percentage of ownership/control by foreign entities, foreign shareholders, foreign state, or foreign individuals;
3. The rationale for proposing a foreign entity participant (must address criteria above);

4. A description of the project's anticipated contributions to the United States economy;
    a. How the project will benefit United States R&D and manufacturing, including contributions to employment in the United States and growth in new markets and jobs in the United States;
    b. How the project will promote domestic American manufacturing of products and/or services;
5. A description of how the foreign entity's participation is essential to the project;
6. A description of the likelihood of IP being created from the work and the treatment of any such IP; and
7. Countries where the work will be performed. (Note: If any work is proposed to be conducted outside the United States, the applicant must also complete a separate request foreign work waiver.)

DOE may also require:

1. A risk assessment with respect to IP and data protection protocols that includes the export control risk based on the data protection protocols, the technology being developed, and the foreign entity and country. These submissions could be prepared by the project lead (if not the recipient), but the recipient must make a representation to DOE as to whether it believes the data protection protocols are adequate and make a representation of the risk assessment – high, medium, or low risk of data leakage to a foreign entity.
2. Additional language may be added to any agreement or subagreement to protect IP, mitigate risk, or other related purposes.

DOE may require additional information before considering the waiver request. DOE's decision concerning a waiver request is not appealable.

22. Performance of Work in the U.S. (Foreign Work Waiver)

Requirement:
All work for the projects selected under this NOFO must be performed in the United States, absent a written waiver approved by DOE and prior approval by the Grants Officer. To request a waiver of this requirement, the applicant must submit an explicit waiver request in the application. A separate waiver request must be submitted for each entity proposing performance of work outside of the United States.

Overall, a waiver request must demonstrate to the satisfaction of DOE that it would further the purposes of this NOFO, and is otherwise in the best interest of the DOE programmatic objectives, is in the economic and energy security interests of the United States, does not pose an undue RTES risk (see Due Diligence Review for Research Technology and Economic Security below) and is otherwise in the best interest of DOE program goals and agency priorities.
A request for a foreign work waiver must include the following:

1. The rationale for performing the work outside the United States ("foreign work");
2. A description of the work proposed to be performed outside the United States;
3. An explanation as to how the foreign work is essential to the project;
4. A description of the anticipated benefits to be realized by the proposed foreign work and the anticipated contributions to the U.S. economy;

5. The associated benefits to be realized and the contribution to the project from the foreign work;
6. How the foreign work will benefit the United States, including manufacturing, contributions to employment in the United States and growth in new markets and jobs in the United States;
7. How the foreign work will promote manufacturing of products and/or services in the United States;
8. A description of the likelihood of Intellectual Property (IP) being created from the foreign work and the treatment of any such IP;
9. The total estimated cost (DOE and recipient cost share) of the proposed foreign work;
10. The countries in which the foreign work is proposed to be performed; and
11. The name of the entity that would perform the foreign work.

DOE may require additional information before considering the waiver request. DOE's decision concerning a waiver request is not appealable.

D. Funding Restrictions

Program-specific funding restrictions applicable to awards funded under this NOFO are identified below. Standard funding restrictions are described in the NOFO Part 2, *Funding Restrictions* section.

Applicable Funding Restrictions		
Title	**Location**	**Additional Information**
Buy America Preference for Infrastructure Projects	NOFO Part 1	Applicable to awards made under this NOFO
Allowable Costs	NOFO Part 2	Applicable to awards made under this NOFO
Pre-Award Costs	NOFO Part 2	Applicable to awards made under this NOFO
Performance of Work in the U.S. (Foreign Work Waiver Requirement)	NOFO Part 2	Applicable to awards made under this NOFO
Foreign Travel	NOFO Part 2	Foreign Travel is not allowed for awards made under this NOFO
Lobbying	NOFO Part 2	Applicable to awards made under this NOFO
Equipment and Supplies	NOFO Part 2	Purchasing American-made equipment and supplies is applicable to this award.

1. Buy America Preference for Infrastructure Projects

Awards funded through this NOFO that are for, or contain, construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of public infrastructure in the U.S. undertaken by applicable recipient types, require that:

- All iron, steel, and manufactured products used in the infrastructure project are produced in the U.S.; and
- All construction materials used in the infrastructure project are manufactured in the U.S.

Please refer to the DOE's Standard Terms and Conditions and 2 C.F.R. Part 184 to determine whether the Buy America Preference applies and if they should consider the application of the Buy America Preference in the proposed project's budget and/or schedule. (Note that the Buy America Preference does not apply to prime recipients that are for-profit entities.)

V. Submission Requirements and Deadlines

There are several one-time actions applicants must take before applying to this NOFO. Some of these may take several weeks, so it is vital applicants build in enough time to complete them. Failure to complete these actions could interfere with application or negotiation deadlines or the ability to receive an award if selected. These requirements are outlined in detail in the NOFO Part 2, *Get Registered*.

A. Required Registrations

1. Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and System for Award Management (SAM)

You must have an active account with SAM.gov. This includes having a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI). SAM.gov registration can take several weeks. To register, go to SAM.gov Entity Registration and click Get Started. From the same page, you can also click on the Entity Registration Checklist for the information you will need to register.

Each applicant must:

1. Be registered in SAM.gov before submitting an application;
2. Provide a valid Unique Entity Identifier in the application; and
3. Continue to maintain an active registration in SAM.gov with current information at all times during which you have an active federal award or an application or plan under consideration by a federal agency.

DOE may not make a federal award to an applicant until the applicant has complied with all applicable UEI and SAM requirements and, if an applicant has not fully complied with the requirements by the time DOE will make a federal award, the DOE will determine that the applicant does not qualify to receive a federal award and use that determination as a basis for making a federal award to another applicant.

2. IE-eXCHANGE

Register and create an account in the IE-eXCHANGE site identified in the Key Facts section of the NOFO Part 1. This account can be used to apply to open NOFOs in IE-eXCHANGE. To view and submit applications to open opportunities under a specific DOE office(s), you must access the applicable instance of the system. You may need to be registered in more than one instance to submit applications for opportunities managed by different DOE offices.

Each organization or business unit, whether acting as a team or a single entity, should use only one account as the contact point for each submission. Applicants must also designate backup points of contact. **This step is required to apply to this NOFO.**

3. Grants.gov Registration

You must have an active Grants.gov registration to receive automatic updates when modifications to this NOFO are posted. Doing so requires a Login.gov registration as well. Step-by step instructions for applicants at How to Apply for Grants website.

B. Application Package

1. IE-eXCHANGE

The Application Content and Form section above outlines the application package requirements. Several templates for application requirements are included in IE-eXCHANGE. To access these materials, select the appropriate NOFO on the Funding Opportunity page of IE-eXCHANGE.

Note: The IE-eXCHANGE site allows users to upload files up to is 50MB in size. The site will not accept files larger than 50MB and hence these large files will not be reviewed. If a single file is larger than 50MB but still complies with the maximum page limit specified in the NOFO, it must be broken into parts and denoted to that effect. For example:

- TechnicalVolume_Part_1
- TechnicalVolume_Part_2

DOE will not accept late submissions that resulted from technical difficulties due to uploading files that exceed 50MB.

Electronic Authorization of Applications and Award Documents

Submission of an application and supplemental information under this NOFO through electronic systems used by the DOE, including IE-eXCHANGE, constitutes the authorized representative's approval and electronic signature.

C. Submission Date and Times

All required submissions must be submitted to the IE-eXCHANGE site identified in the Key Facts section of NOFO Part 1 no later than 5 p.m. ET on the dates provided on Key Facts section. There may be more than one deadline, depending on whether a letter of intent and a concept paper is required.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit all required application documents at least 48 hours in advance of the submission deadline. Under normal conditions (i.e., at least 48 hours before the submission deadline), applicants should allow at least one hour to submit application documents. Once the application documents are submitted in the IE-eXCHANGE site identified in the NOFO Part 1, applicants may revise or update that submission until the expiration of the applicable deadline. If changes are made to any of these documents, the applicant must resubmit them before the applicable deadline. DOE will not extend the submission deadline for applicants that fail to submit required information by the applicable deadline due to server/connection congestion.

D. Intergovernmental Review

This NOFO is not subject to Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs.

VI. Application Review Information

A. Standards for Application Evaluation

Applications that are determined to be eligible will be evaluated in accordance with this and the guidance provided in the "DOE Merit Review Guide for Financial Assistance," effective October 1, 2020, which is available at:
Department of Energy Merit Review Guide For Financial Assistance.

B. Responsiveness Review

The following applications will be deemed nonresponsive and will not be reviewed or considered:

- Project concepts or approaches identified specifically as NOT of interest (see the Applications Specifically Not of Interest section above).
- Applicant/Applications that do NOT meet the Eligibility Criteria in NOFO Parts 1 and 2.

C. Review Criteria

1. Compliance Criteria

All applicant submissions for applications must:

- Comply with the applicable content and form requirements listed in Application Content Requirements and Submission Requirements and Deadlines of the NOFO Part 1 and 2;
- Include all required documents;
- Be uploaded successfully in IE-eXCHANGE site indicated in the Key Facts section above including clicking the "Submit" button; and
- Comply with the submission deadline stated in Key Facts no later than 5 p.m. ET (see Submission Dates and Times).

DOE will not review or consider submissions submitted through means other than the IE-eXCHANGE site indicated in Key Facts, submissions submitted after the applicable due date and time, or incomplete submissions.

2. Technical Review Criteria

Applications

Applications will be evaluated against the technical review criteria shown below. All sub-criteria are of equal weight.

Review Criterion Overview	
Criterion	**Weight**
Needs, Goals, and Objectives	20%
Viability, Impacts, and Outcomes	50%
Roles, Responsibilities, Capabilities, and Commitment	20%
Workplan	10%

Criterion 1: Needs, Goals, and Objectives (20%)

This criterion involves consideration of the following factors:

- The extent to which the project directly addresses the identified energy needs of the applicant(s), is consistent with the applicant's stated energy goals, and enhances the applicant's capacity for self-determination and control over its energy resources.
- Strength of the discussion for why DOE funding is essential for the project to proceed and achieve its intended outcomes, including a clear articulation of the ramifications if not funded.

Criterion 2: Viability, Impacts and Outcomes (50%)

This criterion involves consideration of the following factors:

- The extent to which the project can contribute to increasing affordable, reliable, and secure energy.
- The extent to which potential project is technically viable, the barriers and risks (technical, financial, logistical, regulatory, other) are comprehensively identified and discussed, and the soundness of the proposed mitigation strategies and contingency plans to ensure project success.
- Strength and comprehensiveness of the discussion, in both quantitative and qualitative terms, of the proposed project's anticipated results.
- The ability of the proposed project to effectively deliver significant benefits to the applicant(s).

Criterion 3: Roles, Responsibilities, Capabilities, and Commitment (20%)

This criterion involves consideration of the following factors:

- The capabilities of the applicant team with appropriate expertise and experience assigned to each role, as evidenced by the resumes, to comprehensively address all aspects of the proposed project, including the reasonableness of any plan to obtain qualified vendors or contractors.
- The demonstrated level of commitment of the applicant and each participating organization as evidenced by Letters of Commitment.

Criterion 4: Workplan (10%)

This criterion involves consideration of the following factors:

- The extent to which the project tasks are clearly defined, complete, and presented through a logical task structure, and interdependencies between tasks and phases are clearly articulated.
- The extent to which the proposed timeline for project completion is realistic given the scope, resources, and potential complexities.
- The extent to which specific milestones are identified at appropriate intervals, key dates are clearly indicated, and tasks are associated with easily understandable deliverables.
- The extent to which the necessary human, financial, and material resources are identified and allocated effectively to support the proposed workplan.

D. Other Selection Factors

In addition to the above criteria, the Selection Official may consider the following program policy factors to determine which applications to select for award negotiations:

1. The degree to which the proposed project will support the supply of firm, reliable power;
2. The degree to which the proposed project, or group of projects, represent a desired geographic distribution;
3. The degree to which the proposed project, or group of projects, represent a desired technology diversity;
4. The degree to which the proposed project optimizes the use of available DOE funding to achieve programmatic objectives;
5. The degree to which the proposed project serves Tribal communities with high energy costs;
6. The degree to which the proposed project serves an Indian Tribe(s) with inadequate electric service;
7. Applicants who have not previously received financial assistance from the Office of Indian Energy; and
8. The degree to which the applicant contributes to a broad range of recipients likely to produce immediately demonstrable results and recipients with the potential for potentially longer-term, breakthrough results, consistent with the objectives of the NOFO.

VII. Selection and Award Notices

Please see the NOFO Part 2, *Selection and Award Notices* for information on Applications, Award Negotiations, and Post-Selection Information Requests.

VIII. Award Administration Information

A. Post-Award Requirements and Administration

DOE requires all award recipients to follow and accept requirements governed by laws and policies — both federal government-wide and DOE or program specific. These post-award requirements include all National and Administrative Policy Requirements; financial assistance general Certifications and Representations; Build America, Buy America requirements; Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act-Specific Requirements; Fraud, Waste and Abuse requirements; Safety, Security, and Regulatory requirements; and Environmental Review in Accordance with National Environmental Policy Act requirements.

Post-Award requirements and administration applicable to awards funded under this NOFO are identified below. Detailed descriptions of standard funding restrictions are provided in the NOFO Part 2, *Post-Award Requirements and Administration* section. Detailed descriptions of program specific funding restrictions are provided below the table.

Applicable Post-Award Requirements and Administration	
Title	**Location**
Real Property and Equipment	NOFO Part 1
Go/No-Go Review	NOFO Part 1
Rights in Technical Data	NOFO Part 1
Invoice Review and Approval	NOFO Part 1
Cost Share Payment	NOFO Part 1
U.S. Manufacturing Commitments	NOFO Part 2

1. Real Property and Equipment

Real property and equipment purchased with project funds (federal share and recipient cost share) are subject to the requirements at 2 C.F.R. 200.310, 200.311, 200.313, and 200.316 (non-federal entities, except for-profit entities) and 2 C.F.R. 910.360 (for-profit entities).

For resulting awards under this NOFO, the recipients may (1) take disposition action on the real property and equipment; or (2) continue to use the real property and equipment after the conclusion of the award period of performance with Grants Officer approval. The recipient's written request for Continued Use must identify the property and include: a summary of how the property will be used (must align with the authorized project purposes); a proposed use period, (e.g., perpetuity, until fully depreciated, or a calendar date when the recipient expects to submit disposition instructions); acknowledgement that the recipient shall not sell or encumber the property or permit any encumbrance without prior written DOE approval; current fair market value of the property; and an estimated useful life or depreciation schedule for equipment.

When the property is no longer needed for authorized project purposes, the recipient must request disposition instructions from DOE. For-profit entity disposition requirements are set

forth in 2 C.F.R. 910.360. Property disposition requirements for other non-federal entities are set forth in 2 C.F.R. 200.310 – 200.316. In addition, pursuant to the FY23 Consolidated Appropriations Act (Pub. L. No. 117–328), Division D, Title III, Section 309, at the end of the award period the Secretary or a designee of the Secretary, at their discretion, may vest unconditional title or other property interests acquired under this project regardless of the fair market value of the property.

2. Go/No-Go Review

If selected, projects may be subject to a periodic project evaluation referred to as a Go/No-Go Review.

A Go/No-Go Review serves as a risk management tool and a project management best practice to ensure that, for the current phase or period of performance, technical success is definitively achieved and potential for success in future phases or periods of performance is evaluated, prior to beginning the execution of future phases. At the Go/No-Go decision points, DOE will evaluate project performance, project schedule adherence, the extent milestone objectives are met, compliance with reporting requirements, and overall contribution to the program goals and objectives. Federal funding beyond the Go/No-Go decision point (continuation funding) is contingent upon (1) availability of federal funds appropriated by Congress for the purpose of this program; (2) the availability of future-year budget authority; (3) recipient's technical progress compared to the Milestone Summary Table stated in Attachment 1 of the award; (4) recipient's submittal of required reports; (5) recipient's compliance with the terms and conditions of the award; (6) DOE's assessment of potential research, technology, and economic security (RTES) risks; (7) DOE's Go/No-Go decision; (8) the recipient's submission of a continuation application[6]; and (9) written approval of the continuation application by the Grants Officer.

As a result of the Go/No-Go Review, DOE may, at its discretion, authorize the following actions: (1) continue to fund the project, contingent upon the availability of funds appropriated by Congress for the purpose of this program and the availability of future-year budget authority; (2) recommend redirection of work under the project; (3) place a hold on federal funding for the project, pending further supporting data or funding; or (4) discontinue funding the project because of insufficient progress, change in strategic direction, or lack of funding.

The Go/No-Go decision is distinct from a non-compliance determination. In the event a recipient fails to comply with the requirements of an award, DOE may take appropriate action, including but not limited to, redirecting, suspending, or terminating the award.

3. Rights in Technical Data

Data rights differ based on whether data is first produced under an award or instead was developed at private expense outside the award.

[6] A continuation application is a non-competitive application for an additional budget period within a previously approved project period. At least ninety (90) days before the end of each budget period, the recipient must submit its continuation application per the instructions in the award terms and conditions.

"Limited Rights Data": The U.S. Government will not normally require delivery of confidential or trade-secret-type technical data developed solely at private expense prior to issuance of an award, except as necessary to monitor technical progress and evaluate the potential of proposed technologies to reach specific technical and cost metrics.

Government Rights in Technical Data Produced Under Awards: The U.S. Government retains unlimited rights in technical data produced under government financial assistance awards, including the right to distribute to the public. One exception to the foregoing is that invention disclosures may be protected from public disclosure for a reasonable time to allow for filing a patent application.

4. Invoice Review and Approval

DOE employs a risk-based approach to determine the level of supporting documentation required for approving invoice payments. Recipients may be required to provide some or all of the following items with their requests for reimbursement:

- Summary of costs by cost categories;
- Timesheets or personnel hours report;
- If applicable, proof of compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act and electronic submittals of certified payroll reports;
- Invoices/receipts for all travel, equipment, supplies, contractual, and other costs;
- UCC filing proof for equipment acquired with project funds by for-profit recipients and subrecipients;
- Explanation of cost share for invoicing period;
- Analogous information for some subrecipients; and
- Other items as required by DOE.

5. Cost Share Payment

DOE requires recipients to contribute the cost share amount incrementally over the life of the award. The terms and conditions of the award will specify the recipient's cost share interval, such as by **invoice period** or on a budget period basis. The recipient's cost share for each interval must always reflect the overall cost share ratio negotiated by the parties (e.g., the total amount of cost sharing on each invoice when considered cumulatively with previous invoices must reflect, at a minimum, the cost sharing percentage negotiated). When FFRDC funding is provided directly to the FFRDC(s) by DOE, recipients will be required to provide project cost share at a percentage commensurate with the FFRDC costs, on a budget period basis, resulting in a higher interim invoicing cost share ratio than the total award ratio.

In limited circumstances, and where it is in the government's interest, the DOE Grants Officer may approve a request by the recipient to meet its cost share requirements on a less frequent basis than required by the terms and conditions of the award. Regardless of the interval requested, the recipient must be up to date on cost share at each interval. Such requests must be sent to the Grants Officer during award negotiations and include the following information: (1) a detailed justification for the request; (2) a proposed schedule of payments, including amounts and dates; (3) a written commitment to meet that schedule; and (4) such evidence as necessary to

demonstrate that the recipient has complied with its cost share obligations to date. The Grants Officer must approve all such requests before they go into effect.

B. Questions and Support

1. Questions

Upon the issuance of a NOFO, DOE personnel are prohibited from communicating (in writing or otherwise) with applicants regarding the NOFO except through the established question and answer process described below. Questions regarding this NOFO must be submitted to TribalGrants@hq.doe.gov no later than three (3) business days prior to the application due date and time. Please note, feedback on individual concepts will not be provided through Q&A.

All questions and answers related to this NOFO will be posted on the IE-eXCHANGE site listed in the Key Facts section above. **You must first select the NOFO Number to view the questions and answers specific to this NOFO**. DOE will attempt to respond to a question within three (3) business days unless a similar question and answer has already been posted on the website.

Questions related to the registration process and use of the IE-eXCHANGE site listed in the Key Facts should be submitted to ExchangeHelp@hq.doe.gov.

2. Support

Grants.gov

Grants.gov provides 24/7 support. You can call 1-800-518-4726 or email support@grants.gov. Retain your ticket number.

SAM.gov

If you need help, you can call 866-606-8220 or live chat with the Federal Service Desk.

IX. Other Information

Please see the NOFO Part 2, *Other Information* for additional information and requirements that apply to all DOE NOFOs.

A. Acronyms

Acronym	Spelled Out	Acronym	Spelled Out
ASHRAE	American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers	**OMB**	Office of Management and Budget
BESS	Battery Energy Storage System	**OSHA**	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
C.F.R	Code of Federal Regulations	**PD**	Project Director
CHP	Combined Heat and Power	**PI**	Principal Investigator
CMC	Critical Materials Collaborative	**PID**	Persistent Identifier
CMM	Critical Minerals and Materials	**PPA**	Power Purchase Agreement
DOE	U.S. Department of Energy	**R&D**	Research and Development
EDF	Energy Dominance Financing	**RD&D**	Research, Development, and Demonstration
ESCO	Energy Service Company	**S&T**	Science and Technology
FFRDC	Federally Funded Research and Development Centers	**SAM**	System for Award Management
FOIA	Freedom of Information Act	**SMR**	Small Modular Reactor
LLC	Limited Liability Company	**TEDO**	Tribal Energy Development Organization
NOFO	Notice of Funding Opportunity	**TEFP**	Tribal Energy Financing Program
NSPM	National Security Policy Memorandum	**UEI**	Unique Entity Identifier