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| Docket Number: | 22-RENEW-01 |
| Project Title: | Reliability Reserve Incentive Programs |
| TN #: | 270614 |
| Document Title: | DEBA Prop 4 GRIP Letter of Interest |
| Description: | The purpose of this announcement is to identify and seek letters of interest from United States Department of Energy (DOE) Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnership (GRIP) Awardees with “water utility projects” to express interest in receiving California Energy Commission (CEC) cost-share funding from the Distributed Electricity Backup Assets (DEBA) Program through a direct award process, as authorized by Senate Bill (SB) 105. |
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| Organization: | California Energy Commission |
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DISTRIBUTED ELECTRICITY BACKUP ASSETS PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

SUBJECT: Seeking Letters of Interest for Cost-Share Funding from United States Department of Energy Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnership (GRIP) Awardees Under Proposition 4 Distributed Electricity Backup Assets (DEBA) Program (Docket No. 22-RENEW-01)

DATE: June 16, 2026

The purpose of this announcement is to identify and seek letters of interest from United States Department of Energy (DOE) Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnership (GRIP) Awardees with “water utility projects” to express interest in receiving California Energy Commission (CEC) cost-share funding from the Distributed Electricity Backup Assets (DEBA) Program through a direct award process, as authorized by Senate Bill (SB) 105.

The DEBA Program incentivizes the construction of clean distributed energy assets that will serve as on-call emergency supply or load reduction for the state’s electrical grid during extreme events. Senate Bill 105 (Weiner, Ch. 104, Statutes of 2025) appropriated \$46.1 million in Proposition 4 (Prop 4) funding for the DEBA Program. Senate Bill 105 also provides that at least \$12.5 million of the \$46.1 million “shall provide state cost sharing for water utility projects that have received awards from the United States Department of Energy Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships program only if that federal funding is secure and in place,” and that the CEC “may award these funds expeditiously and non-competitively.”

CEC plans to set aside \$12.5M to \$23M of the funds allocated by Prop 4 to DEBA to prioritize qualifying direct awards. Depending on the number of qualified applicants and projects selected via the direct award process, any remaining funding appropriated by SB 105 from Prop 4 to the DEBA Program is being made available via a competitive solicitation process. The CEC launched the competitive solicitation process, in parallel to the direct award process, through the recently released draft competitive grant solicitation intended to support the deployment of new distributed energy resources (DERs) that can increase supply or reduce (or shift) load to improve the reliability of the state’s electrical grid during extreme events (the [Draft Prop 4 DEBA competitive grant solicitation](#) is available at <https://www.energy.ca.gov/programs-and-topics/programs/distributed-electricity-backup-assets-program>).

To be considered for CEC’s cost-share funding award under the DEBA program, prospective eligible parties (DOE GRIP Awardees with water utility projects) must indicate their interest and basis for eligibility in writing as described below.

If you would like to be considered for this funding, please provide a letter of interest, complete with the information described below, and email to DEBA@energy.ca.gov no later than July 6, 2026.

1. What is the legal name of your entity/organization?
2. What is the title of your project?
3. Has the above entity/organization received an award under the DOE GRIP program for the above specified project? (YES/NO)
 - a. If “YES”, please attach a copy of the Project Overview and Project Level Financial Plan submitted with your DOE GRIP program application, together with a copy of the letter or communication transmitted to your entity announcing the selection of the project.
 - b. If “NO”, please describe the basis for your eligibility for being considered for CEC cost-share funding under the DEBA program per SB 105.
4. Is the GRIP award agreement with the DOE executed? (YES/NO)
 - a. If “YES”, please attach a copy of the executed agreement.
 - b. If “NO”, please describe the status of the agreement execution process, including the anticipated timeline and any potential barriers to successful execution.
5. Is the GRIP award for a water utility project in California? (YES/NO)
 - a. If “YES”, provide a short statement about the water utility project, plus any additional information necessary beyond what is included in the Project Overview, to establish the project’s eligibility for CEC cost-share funding under the DEBA program per SB 105.
 - b. Please identify the local lead permitting agency, and succinctly describe all state and local permits, CEQA review, or other approvals for the project that you have obtained or plan on seeking.
 - c. *If “NO”, consider applying for the competitive funding solicitation that the DEBA Program is issuing concurrently with this cost-share solicitation.*
6. Please summarize your interest and financial need for the Prop 4 DEBA Program Cost-Share Funding.
7. The signatory of the Letter of Interest shall be either the Project Director identified on the DOE GRIP program application, or other individual with the authority to oversee the activities and expenditures for this project on behalf of the organization.

Following the receipt of timely letters of interest, CEC program staff may seek additional information from individual entities to verify eligibility and potentially move forward with the direct award process under the DEBA program per SB 105. More details on this process would be provided to the verified eligible parties.

At the conclusion of the direct award process, CEC staff will post a notice of proposed awards (NOPA) for the Proposition 4 Distributed Electricity Backup Assets (DEBA) Program Cost-Share Funding in [Docket No. 22-RENEW-01](https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=22-RENEW-01) (<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=22-RENEW-01>). Final approval of individual awards will be proposed for consideration by the CEC at a future Business Meeting.