GFO-23-312 Pre-Application Workshop

Community Energy Reliability and Resilience Investment (CERRI) Program
Round 1 Solicitation
Energy Research and Development Division, California Energy Commission
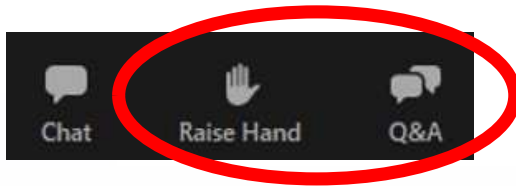Presenter: Abishay Kumar
Date: April 11, 2024

Housekeeping

- Zoom recording
- Muting on Zoom
- Comments/Questions

- Today's presentation slides and recording will be posted on the CEC webpage for this event:

  https://www.energy.ca.gov/event/funding-workshop/2024-04/pre-application-workshop-gfo-23-312-community-energy-reliability-and

Agenda

Agenda Item
Welcome and Introduction
CERRI Program Background
Solicitation Overview
Application Requirements
Additional Requirements
Application Organization & Submission
Evaluation & Award Process
Next Steps
Q&A
Adjourn

Commitment to Diversity

The Energy Commission adopted a resolution strengthening its commitment to diversity in our funding programs. The Energy Commission continues to encourage disadvantaged and underrepresented businesses and communities to engage in and benefit from our many programs.

To meet this commitment, Energy Commission staff conducts outreach efforts and activities to:

- Engage with disadvantaged and underrepresented groups throughout the state.
- Notify potential new applicants about the Energy Commission's funding opportunities.
- Assist applicants in understanding how to apply for funding from the Energy Commission's programs.
- Survey participants to measure progress in diversity outreach efforts.

We Want to Hear From You!

Participation Survey

Survey responses will be summarized anonymously to track attendance of underrepresented groups in our workshops for public reporting purposes.

- Online participants, please use this link:

https://forms.office.com/g/z0Pb64e5r7

Thanks!

Connect With Us
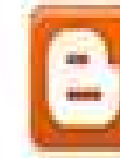
Find a Partner on EmpowerInnovation.net

Empower Innovation strives to accelerate your energy resilience and reliability journey with easy access to funding opportunities from the Energy Commission and other funding providers, curated resources and events, and connections to people and organizations.

FIND A PARTNER
Announce your interest in this funding opportunity and message other interested parties to find potential partners.

RESOURCES & TOOLS
Browse the collection of resources for clean tech innovators including Resource Libraries, Funding Sources, Tools, and Databases.

https://www.empowerinnovation.net/en/custom/funding/view/42624

EmpowerInnovation.net

Background

CERRI Program Background

- Funded by **Grid Resilience Formula Grants** (section 40101(d) of the IIJA), which funds projects that:
    - Improve resilience
    - Generate community benefit
    - Advance equity priorities
    - Invest in America's workforce
- CERRI Program expects to receive **~$170 million** in federal funding over 5 years.
- Received ~$67M for Year 1 & 2
    - $64M available in Round 1 Solicitation
- Round 2 is expected in 2025 or 2026

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act can be accessed here: https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/3684/text

Purpose of Solicitation

The CERRI Program will fund projects across California that align with its objectives:

Increase Energy Reliability & Resilience

Provide Community Benefits & Equity

**Advance State Energy and Climate Goals**

Create Quality Jobs

Competitive Grant Solicitation!

Important Changes from Draft GFO

- Added "reliability" to the program name.

- Eliminated Resilience Impact Calculator.

- Included language that more clearly values leveraging existing infrastructure and project readiness.

- Reduced minimum amount for Large Entities (Group 1) to $10M from $15M.

- Better defined subproject allowances and limitations.

- Replaced CalEnviroscreen with 'Priority Populations' map. Includes:
  - Disadvantaged Communities from CES 4
  - Low-income data
  - Splits out tribes from other DAC communities.

- Defined the term "application cycle" so applicants can more easily discern what is and isn't allowable.

- Please see the "CERRI Response to Draft Solicitation Feedback" document for further information.
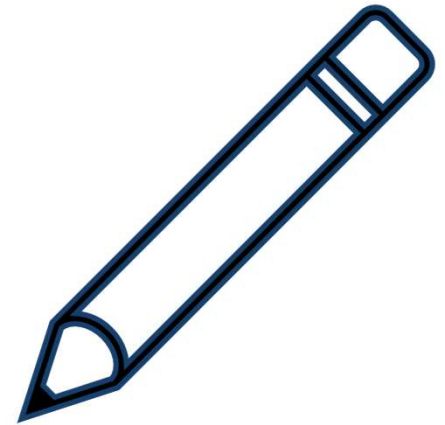
Project Groups, Funding, & Match

- IIJA requires a representative percentage of funds be set aside for entities that sell 4,000 GWh/year or less, which is ~20% in CA.

Project Group	Available Funding[1]	Project Minimum	Project Maximum	Match Requirement	Anticipated # of Awards
Group 1: Large Entities (sells ≥4,000 GWh)	$51M	$10M	$25.5M	109%[2]	2-5
Group 2: Small Entities (sells <4,000 GWh)	$13M	$4M	$9.5M	33.33%	1-3

1. *Reflects years 1-2 of funding with program admin. costs deducted.*
2. *Year 2 State Match Requirement (15%) passed onto large LSEs.*

Solicitation Manual pp. 6, "Funding"

Eligible Entities

- Electric grid operators
- Electric storage operators
- Electricity generators
- Transmission owners or operators
- Distribution providers
- Fuel suppliers
- Other *(must receive prior approval from CEC & DOE before submitting an application)*

Solicitation Manual pp. 9, "Eligibility Requirements"

Eligible Activities

- weatherization technologies and equipment
- fire-resistant technologies and fire prevention systems
- monitoring and control technologies
- the undergrounding of electrical equipment
- utility pole management
- the relocation of power lines or the reconductoring of power lines with low-sag, advanced conductors
- vegetation and fuel-load management

- the use or construction of distributed energy resources for enhancing system adaptive capacity during disruptive events, including:
  - microgrids; and
  - battery-storage subcomponents
- adaptive protection technologies
- advanced modeling technologies
- hardening of power lines, facilities, substations, of other systems; and
- the replacement of old overhead conductors and underground cables.

Unallowable costs and prohibited activities include:
- Construction of a new electric generating facility
- Large-scale battery-storage facility that is not used for enhancing system adaptive capacity during disruptive events
- Cybersecurity

Solicitation Manual pp. 4, "Project Focus"

Application Limitations

- Eligible entities can submit **one** application per solicitation Round.

- An application may include **up to three** geographically distinct subprojects.

- Eligible entities are **not** allowed to submit same application for grants under IIJA section 40101(c) and section 40101(d) in the same application cycle.
  - The same application cannot be under active consideration for both programs at the same time.

Solicitation Manual pp. 10, "Eligibility Requirements"

Application Requirements

GFO-23-312

Project Requirements

- **Energy Reliability and Resilience:** Applications must describe the project need and how the project will support the reduction of frequency and duration of power outages for communities across California, strengthen communities' ability to function during power outages, or both.

- **Community Based Organizations (CBO) and/or Tribal Engagement:** Applications must include tasks to develop and execute a Community Engagement, Benefits, and Impacts Plan with the inclusion of at least one CBO and/or tribe to help ensure that the benefits of clean, safe, affordable, and reliable energy are shared by all.

- **Advancement of Energy and Climate Goals:** Applications must describe how the project will support California's energy modernization and climate goals.

- **Workforce Development:** Applications must describe how the project will create high-quality jobs with strong labor standards and protections that attract and train a skilled workforce for lasting careers in the clean energy industry. Recipients will be expected to report the number of employees working on a project; the number of trainees in project-specific programs; and workforce demographics, including gender, race, ethnicity, disability and veteran status.

Solicitation Manual pp. 11, "Project Requirements"

Application Attachments

Each applicant must complete and include the following:

1. Application Form (Attachment 01)	6. CEQA Compliance Form (Attachment 06)
2. Project Narrative (Attachment 02)	7. NEPA Environmental Questionnaire (Attachment 07)
3. Scope of Work Template (Attachment 03)	8. Commitment and Support Letter Form (Attachment 08)
4. Project Schedule (Attachment 04)	9. Project Metrics (Attachment 09)
5. Budget Forms (Attachment 05)	10. Applicant Declaration (Attachment 10)

Applicant Submittal Checklist (Attachment A) is an optional attachment and is __not__ required to be submitted.

Application Form (Attachment 01)

- This form requests basic information about the applicant and the project
- Include all requested information
- Review eligible entities and eligible activities list
- List priority community(ies) affected by proposed project

ATTACHMENT 01
CERRI Application Form

This form provides the California Energy Commission (CEC) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) with basic information about the applicant and the project. Each applicant must complete and submit as a .pdf. The CEC has attempted to streamline this solicitation package to reduce redundancy wherever possible, though there are areas where information may be asked for twice to satisfy requirements of both agencies.

Instructions and examples for completing this Attachment appear in blue. Read the instructions before completing each section. Delete the instructions and examples after completing each section.

Applicant Name
Insert name of applicant organization

Project Title
Insert project title

1. **Project Group**
   - ☐ Group 1: Large Entities (i.e., sells more than 4,000 GWh/year)
   - ☐ Group 2: Small Entities (i.e., sells 4,000 GWh/year or less)
2. **Number of customers (meters) served by the applicant:** _____
3. **Number of megawatt hours of electricity sold by applicant:** _____

Please consult the Utility Sales Reference Data table on the Community Energy Reliability and Resilience Investment (CERRI) webpage (https://www.energy.ca.gov/programs-and-topics/programs/community-energy-reliability-and-resilience-investment-cerri-program) for information (located under the "Resources" dropdown menu). If another data source is used, it must be public

Project Narrative Form (Attachment 02)

- The Project Narrative form follows the proposed Scoring Criteria defined in Section IV of the Solicitation Manual.

- Provide a detailed description of the proposed project(s) and provide the information requested in each of the following areas:
  - **Project Merit, Need, & Goals**
  - **Project Management**
  - **Community Engagement & Benefits**
  - **Advancement of Energy and Climate Goals**
  - **Workforce Development**

The information in the Project Narrative will be used to score your proposal. Provide <u>enough detail</u> that reviewers can evaluate the proposal against each scoring criterion.

Scope of Work Template (Attachment 03)

- The **Scope of Work** includes the following:
  - **Purpose of Agreement** – Justify the need for funding.
  - **Problem/Solution Statement** – Describe the reliability and/or resiliency problem(s) that the project will address and the solution to resolve the problem(s).
  - **Goals and Objective of the Agreement** – Outline the goals of the agreement and how they meet or support the objectives of the CERRI program (reliability and resilience, community benefit, workforce development, and energy policies).
- The Scope of Work identifies the tasks required to complete to project. All the following tasks are mandatory:
  - Administrative – Do not revise description
    - **Task 1** – General Project Task
  - Technical Tasks – Provide information in the "Recipient Shall" section on how the applicant will implement the following and the resulting products:
    - **Task 2** – Insert Technical Tasks needed to complete the project
    - **Task 3** – Community Engagement, Benefits, and Impacts
    - **Task 4** – Workforce Development
    - **Task 5** – Evaluation of Project Benefits
  - Indicate additional tasks and actions to be performed and resulting products in the "*Recipient Shall*" section.
  - "Products" are major documents, plans, and reports. Tangible items that can be submitted to the CEC.
  - "Products" are not equipment and other items that cannot be delivered and stored at the CEC.

Project Schedule (Attachment 04)

- The Project Schedule includes a list of all products, meetings, milestones, and due dates. Applicants are responsible for filling out any tasks/products/dates indicated in blue text.

- Complete Project Milestones table.

- Deliverables must match the Scope of Work (Attachment 03).

- All work must be scheduled for completion by the project end date (no later than April 30, 2028).
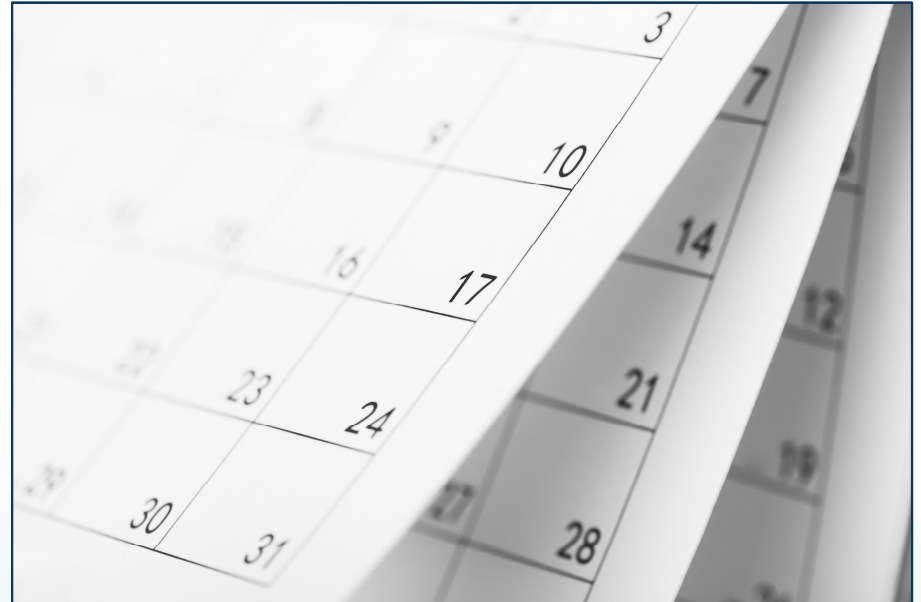
Budget Forms (Attachment 05)

- The budget identifies how CERRI funds and match funds will be spent.
- Include all project expenditures.
- Rate increases **must** be considered for the duration of the project.
- Budget must reflect estimates for actual costs to be incurred.
- The rates proposed, except for Direct Labor and Fringe Benefits, are considered capped and may not change during the agreement term.
- Budget must allow for the expenses of all meetings, tasks, and products described in the Scope of Work.
- Applicants must budget for permits and insurance.

Budget Forms (Attachment 05) cont.

- Budget must NOT identify that CERRI funds will be spent outside United States or for out-of-country travel. Only Match Funding can be used for these purposes.
- Public works projects:
    - Must pay prevailing wages.
    - Project budget for labor reflects prevailing wage requirements.
    - Project complies with all other requirements of prevailing wage law.
    - **OR** timely obtain a legally binding determination that the project is not a public works project.
- Only complete the white cells, and do not delete sheets or rows.
- Do **<u>not</u>** fill out the DOE budget forms (blue highlighted sheets).

CEQA Compliance Form (Attachment 06)

- Form will help applicants determine compliance obligations with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

- Form will also help identify which projects are exempt from CEQA

- CEQA form must be submitted for **each** geographically distinct subproject.

- **Important:** This form *must* be completed regardless of whether the proposed activities are considered a "project" under CEQA.

ATTACHMENT 06
CEQA Compliance Form

All applicants must <u>complete</u> this form, regardless of whether the proposed activity is considered a "project" as defined below. Answer all questions as completely as possible. The Energy Commission may request additional information to clarify the responses provided on this form.

Applications with geographically distinct subprojects should complete and submit separate forms for each subproject.

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code §§ 21000 et seq.) requires public agencies to identify the significant environmental impacts of their actions and to avoid or mitigate them, if feasible.[1] Under CEQA, an activity that may cause either a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment is called a **"project."**[2] An activity funded by a contract, grant, or loan is considered a "project" under CEQA if it will cause a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment. Agencies must comply with CEQA before they approve a "project." This may require the preparation of one or more of the following CEQA documents:

NEPA Environmental Questionnaire (Attachment 07)

- Questionnaire will help applicants determine either compliance obligations or exemption under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

- Include comprehensive NEPA-related documentation (project descriptions, etc.).

- Include stakeholder support documentation (letters of agreement for projects in state parks, approvals from Tribal Historic Preservation Offices for projects in tribal territories, etc.).

- NEPA Questionnaire must be submitted for **each** geographically distinct subproject.

- **Important:** This questionnaire *must* be completed regardless of whether the proposed activities are exempt from NEPA.

NETL F 451.1-1/3
Revised: 12/3/2014
Reviewed: 12/3/2014
(Previous Editions Obsolete)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONNAIRE

I. **INSTRUCTIONS**

The proposer shall prepare this Environmental Questionnaire (EQ) as accurately and completely as possible. Supporting information can be provided as attachments. The proposer must identify the location of the project and specifically describe the activities that would occur at that location. The proposer must provide specific information and quantities, regarding air emissions, wastewater discharges, solid wastes, etc., to facilitate the necessary review. In addition, the proposer must submit with this EQ a FINAL copy of the project's statement of work (SOW) or statement of project objective (SOPO) that will be used in the contract/agreement between the proposer and the U.S Department of Energy (DOE).

II. **QUESTIONNAIRE**

A. **PROJECT SUMMARY**

1. Solicitation/Project Number: _____ Proposer: _____
2. This Environmental Questionnaire pertains to a: ☐ Recipient or Prime Contractor ☐ Sub-recipient or Subcontractor
3. Principal Investigator: _____ Telephone Number: _____
4. Project Title: _____
5. Expected Project Duration: _____
6. Location of Activities covered by this Environmental Questionnaire: (City/Township, County, State):
   _____
7. List the full scope of activities planned (only for the location that is the subject of this Environmental Questionnaire).

Commitment Letters (Attachment 08)

- Signed commitment letters are required for applicants, partners, and third parties and will be used for application screening.

- Letters that are not submitted by the deadline will not be reviewed and counted towards meeting the specified requirement.

- Applicants: must submit a **match funding** commitment letter from each entity (**including the applicant**) that is committing to providing match funding that includes:
  - Source of funds
  - Justification of amount (in-kind)
  - Commitment to availability of funds
  - Strategy for replacing lost funds

Commitment Letters (Attachment 08) cont.

- Projects that involve equipment deployment or construction activities need a site commitment letter that identifies and commits the site for the project.

- Commitment letters are required for partners that are making contributions other than match funding and are not receiving CERRI funds.

- Partners must submit commitment letters that include:
  - Role in the project
  - Commitment to making the contribution

- Commitment letters are required for CBOs and/or tribes partnered with the project.

- Third Parties must submit commitment letter outlining their contribution.

Support Letters (Attachment 08)

Support Letters are optional and may be used for scoring:

- A support letter details an entity or individual's support for the project.
- Letters that are not submitted by the application deadline will not be reviewed and counted towards meeting the requirement specified.

Applicants may include support letters from project stakeholders (i.e., an entity or individual that will benefit from or be involved in the project) that:

1. Describes the stakeholder's interest or involvement in the project;
2. Indicates the extent to which the project has the support of the relevant community; and
3. Describes any support it intends (but does not necessarily commit) to provide for the project.

Project Metrics (Attachment 09)

- Identifies performance metrics for the project.
- Includes the following categories:
  - baseline (pre-project) outage metrics,
  - projected outage metrics,
  - project attributes (build metrics),
  - job creation and training metrics,
  - planned community engagement activities,
  - planned community engagement events
- Provides definitions for each of the metrics.

Project Metrics (Attachment 09)

Project Organization	
Project Title	
Project Performance Period Start Date (mm/dd/yyyy)	
Project Performance Period End Date (mm/dd/yyyy)	

Impact Metric (select from list)	Outage Type (select from list)	Does outage data include Major Event Days (MED)?	Coverage (select from list)

Applicant Declaration (Attachment 10)

- Applicants must declare **and sign** that they are:
  - Compliant with tax laws.
  - Not being sued by any public entity.
  - Complaint with any settlements with the CEC or other public agency.
  - Compliant with any legal judgement concerning the CEC or other public agency.
  - Compliant with any demand letters made by the CEC.
  - Not in active litigation with the CEC concerning a current or past contract, grant, or loan.
  - If the applicant can't sign the declaration, use the form to explain why.

ATTACHMENT 10
Applicant Declaration

As of the date of the application deadline for Energy Commission solicitation GFO-23-312 the entity submitting this application (Applicant):

- Authorizes the Energy Commission to make any inquiries necessary to verify the information presented in this application.

- Authorizes the Energy Commission to obtain business credit reports and make any inquiries necessary to verify and evaluate the financial condition of the Applicant.

- Certifies to the best of my knowledge and belief that I have read, understand, and do hereby accept the terms and conditions contained in this solicitation on behalf of the Applicant, including the provisions of the Agreement terms and conditions that apply to the Applicant. The Applicant is willing to enter into an agreement with the Commission to conduct the proposed project according to the terms and conditions without negotiation.

Additional Requirements

Build America Buy America (BABA)

- CERRI funds may be used for infrastructure **IF** all iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials are produced in the United States.

- Applicant may submit a waiver under the following circumstances:
    1. Buying domestically would be inconsistent with the public interest.
    2. The necessary materials are not produced in the United States in sufficient quantities or of a satisfactory quality.
    3. Materials produced in the United States will increase the cost of the overall project by more than 25%.

For more information about BABA compliance, visit the DOE website at:
https://www.energy.gov/management/build-america-buy-America

Davis-Bacon Act

- All laborers and mechanics employed by the recipient, subrecipients, contractors, or subcontractors in the performance of construction, alteration, or repair work worth more than $1,000 on a CERRI project must be paid the same wage & fringe benefits as other projects in the location.

- Davis-Bacon Act wage requirements must be incorporated into all subcontracts.

- Recipients must notify Commission Agreement Manager (CAM) of any labor issues.

For more information about DBA provisions and clauses, visit the Department of Labor website at: https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/government-contracts/construction, and https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/government-contracts/protections-for-workers-in-construction.

Application Organization & Submission

Application Organization and Submission

- **Formatting:** See the solicitation manual for information about the appropriate font, spacing, margin, and file format usage.

- **Page Limits:** Attachments 2, 3, 4, and 8 have page limits.

- **Submission:** Applications must be submitted to the Energy Commission Agreement Management System (ECAMS). Please give yourself ample time to submit on ECAMS!
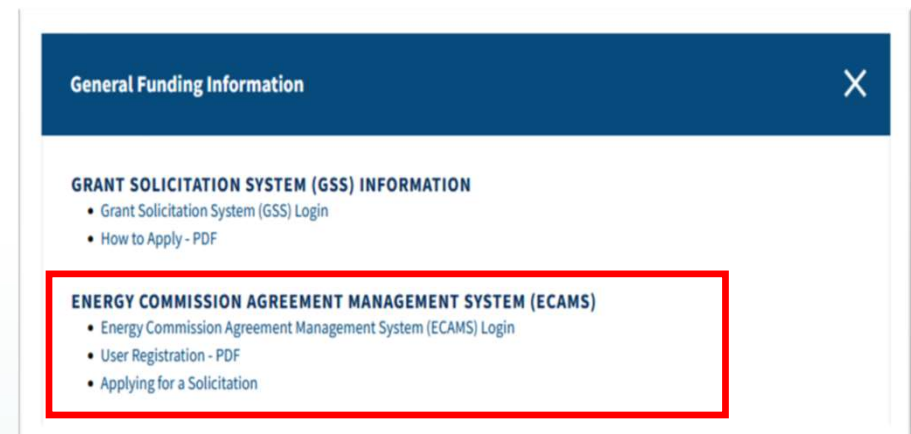

Solicitation Manual pp. 14, "Application Organization and Submission Instructions"

Application Submission Requirements

- Applicants **must** have or must create an ECAMS user account to submit a solicitation application.

- To create an account, please see the guidance **User Registration Instructions** at: https://www.energy.ca.gov/media/7893

  Note: One account manager per organization, but users can be added by account manager

- Applications **must** be submitted through the Energy Commission Agreement Management System (ECAMS) at: https://ecams.energy.ca.gov/
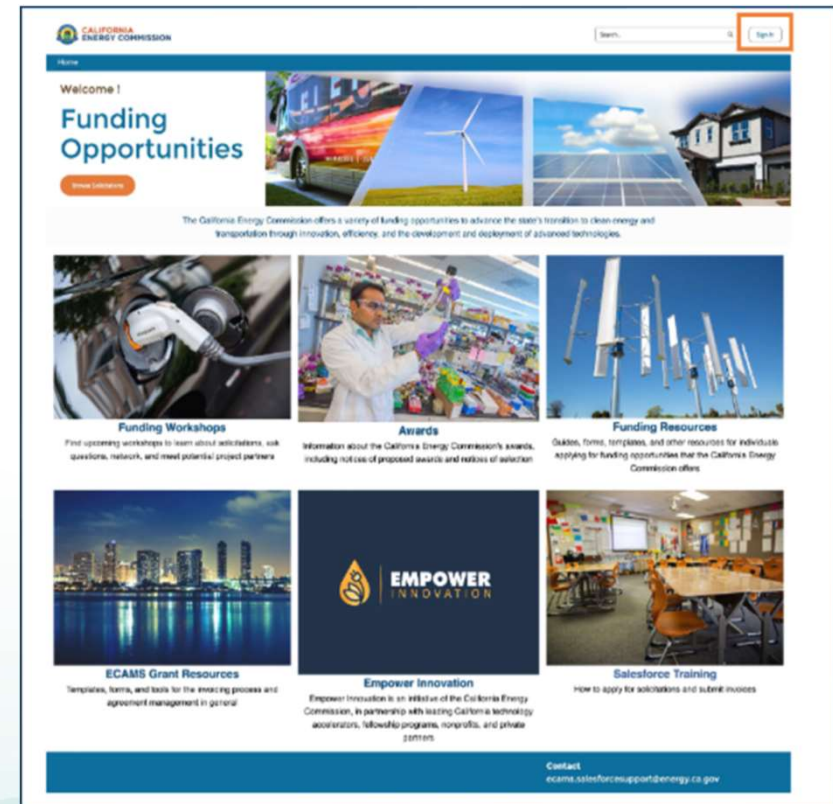
Application Submission Requirements cont.

- For detailed instructions on application submittal, please see the *Applying for a Solicitation* at: https://www.energy.ca.gov/media/7956.

- Referenced guidance documents are available at: https://www.energy.ca.gov/funding-opportunities/funding-resources under General Funding Information.

- Direct ECAMS system questions to: ECAMS.SalesforceSupport@Energy.ca.gov.

Application Submission Requirements cont.

- Electronic files, other than those requiring signatures, must be consistent with the specific file format provided in the solicitation.

- Application documents should meet formatting requirements, and page recommendations as specified in the solicitation manual.

- Attachments requiring signatures (Applicant Declaration and Support/Commitment Letters) may be signed, scanned, and submitted in PDF format.

Application Submission

- Register as a New User (if applicable)
- Log In
- 4-Step Application Submittal Process:
  1. Select Solicitation
  2. Enter Application Information
  3. Upload Files
     - Select documents for upload
     - Tag files with document type
  4. Review and Submit
- Confirmation from ECAMS system that submission was successful

  All steps must be complete BEFORE the submission deadline.

Submission Warning

START THE PROCESS EARLY!

- Applications must be fully submitted <u>BEFORE</u> the deadline listed in the solicitation manual.

- The ECAMS system will reject applications submitted after the deadline.

- Applications in the process of being submitted prior to the deadline will <u>NOT</u> be accepted after the deadline.

- ECAMS support is <u>ONLY</u> available from 8am – 5pm Monday-Friday.

Application Reminders

We recommend you carefully review your application before submission.

- ❑ Verify that all necessary documents have been uploaded.
- ❑ Verify that all documents uploaded are the accurate version you intend to submit as your final.
- ❑ Verify that your documents are not marked "confidential".
- ❑ Verify that your match commitment letters accurately reflect the match amounts included in your budgets, including the match provided by the prime applicant.
- ❑ Verify that commitment letters are included.

Applicant's Admonishment

- Applicants are responsible for:
  - Carefully reading the solicitation.
  - Asking appropriate questions in a timely manner.
  - Adhering to all Key Dates.
  - Making sure all solicitation requirements are met.
  - Submitting all required responses in a complete manner by the required date and time.
  - The cost of developing applications.

- Please pay close attention to, and reread the screening/scoring criteria & grounds for rejection.
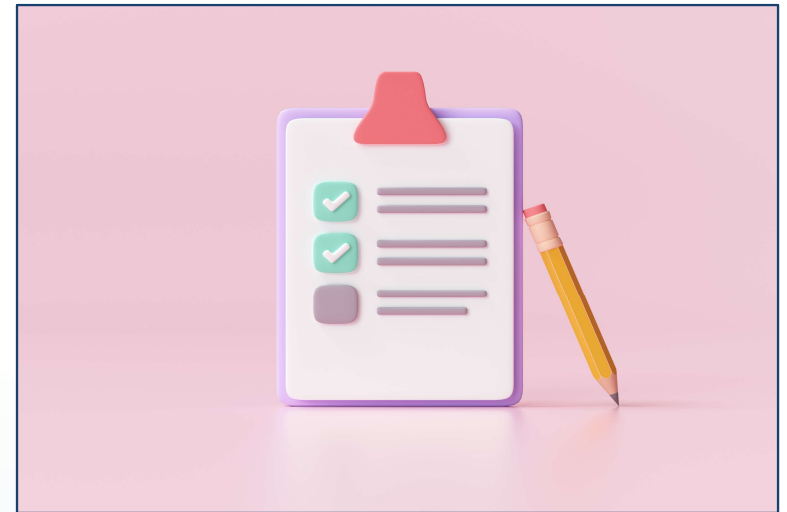
Evaluation & Award Process

How your Application will be Evaluated: Application Screening

Admin Screening Process

- Energy Commission staff screens applications per criteria in Section IV.E & F.

- Criteria are evaluated on a pass/fail basis.

- Applicants must pass all screening criteria, or the application will be disqualified.

Some Reasons for Disqualification

- Application is not submitted by the specified due date and time.

- Application does not include one or more commitment letters.

- Application contains confidential material.

- Attachments are missing or incomplete.

How will my Application be Evaluated? Application Scoring

Evaluation Committee applies the scoring scale to the scoring criteria.

- Applications must obtain a minimum passing scoring of:
  - 73.5 for criteria 1-5, and
  - 91 for criteria 1-7
- Review Section IV of the manual and ensure the application provides a clear and complete response to each scoring criteria.

Scoring Criteria 1-7	Maximum Points
1. Project Merit, Need, & Goals	35
2. Project Management	20
3. Community Engagement and Benefits	20
4. Advancement of Energy and Climate Goals	10
5. Workforce Development Score	20
Total Possible Points for Criteria 1 − 5 (Min. Passing Score is 70% (73.5 points)	**105**
6. Budget and Cost-Effectiveness	20
7. Project Commitment & Support Letters	5
Total Possible Points for Criteria 1 - 7 (Min. Passing Score for is 70% (91 points)	**130**

Preference Points

Evaluation Committee applies the scoring scale to the scoring criteria.

- All passing applications will be considered for preference points. Criteria for preference points include:
  - Exceeding Match Funds
  - Priority Communities
- Applications must meet all minimum passing scores (Scoring Criteria 1-5, 1-7) to be eligible for the additional points.
- Review Section IV of the manual and ensure the application provides a clear and complete response to each scoring criteria.

Scoring Criteria 8-9 Preference Points	Maximum Points
8. Exceeding Match Funds	5
9. Priority Communities	15
Total Possible Points	150

Preference Points: Exceeding Match Funding (≤ 5 Points)

- Additional points will be awarded to applications that exceed the minimum match requirements based on the percentage amount above minimum using the Exceeds Minimum Match Scoring table.

Percentage above Minimum Match (cash and in-kind)	Score
>80%	5
60 to <80%	4
40 to <60%	3
20 to 40%	2
10 to <20%	1
0 to <10%	0

Preference Points: Priority Communities (≤ 15 Points)

Priority Community	Points Awarded
Disadvantaged Communities Tribal Lands	10
Disadvantaged Communities CES4 (Cal Enviroscreen 4.0)	5
Low Income Communities	5

- Includes communities where the project is located and communities who will benefit from the project.
- Points are additive for communities that fit two categories.
- Points will be averaged for projects that impact more than one community or census tract.
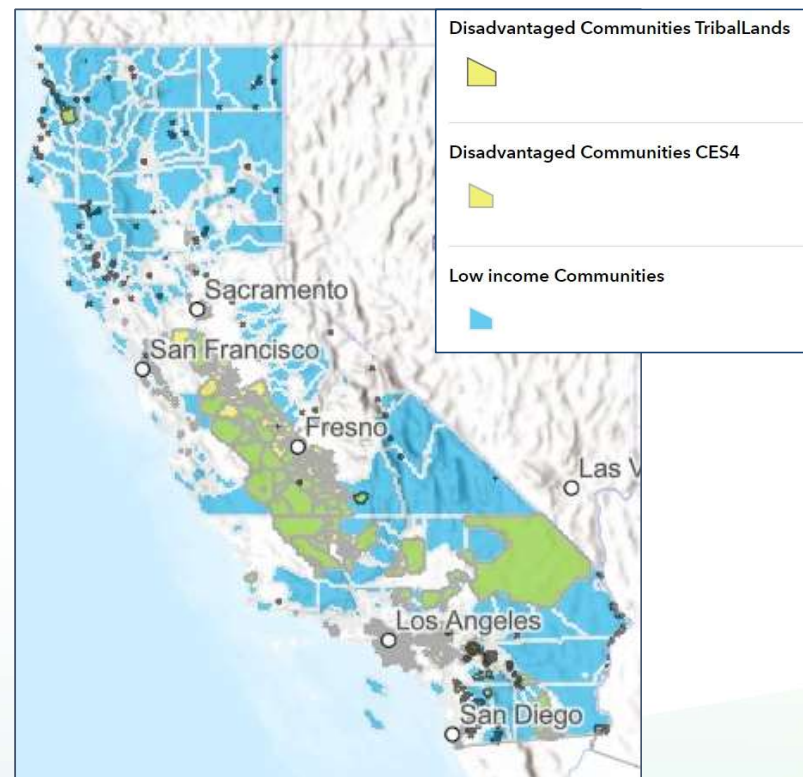
Disadvantaged Communities TribalLands

Disadvantaged Communities CES4

Low income Communities

Preference Points: Priority Communities (≤ 15 Points)

How to Identify Priority Populations:

1. Open the <u>California Climate Investments Priority Populations 2023 map</u> located at:
   https://gis.carb.arb.ca.gov/portal/apps/experiencebuilder/experience/?id=6b4b15f8c6514733972cabdda3108348

2. Click on "Map Layers" on the right side of the screen.

3. You will see an arrow, an eye icon, and text that says, "Priority Populations 2023 Update". Click the arrow to reveal all layers.

4. Turn **off** the following layers by clicking the "eye" icon next to them:

   • buffer low-income communities,

   • buffer low-income household eligible, and

   • low-income household eligible.

• The eligible layers (Disadvantaged Communities Tribal Lands; Disadvantaged Communities CES4; and Low-Income Communities) should now be displayed.

5. Use the search bar directly above the map to find the project census tract(s).

6. Click on each tract to identify which layers apply and list that information and associated score on the Application Form (Attachment 01).

Solicitation Manual pp. 16, "Application Content"

Next Steps

Key Dates

Activity	Date
Solicitation Release	March 28, 2024
Pre-Application Workshop	April 11, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. PDT
Deadline for Written Questions	**April 26, 2024 at 5:00 pm** PDT
Anticipated Distribution of Questions and Answers	Week of May 24, 2024
Deadline for ECAMS Submission Support	Ongoing until June 28, 2024 at 5:00 pm PDT
Deadline to Submit Applications	**July 12, 2024 at 11:59 pm** PDT
CEC Recommends Awards to DOE for Approval	**September 6, 2024**
Anticipated Notice of Proposed Award Posting	**Q4, 2024**
Anticipated Energy Commission Business Meeting	Q1, 2025
Anticipated Agreement Start Date	Q1, 2025
Anticipated Agreement End Date	April 30, 2028

Grant Award Process

Application scoring based on solicitation scoring criteria.

Highest scoring applications will be recommended to DOE for final approval.

DOE approval process may take 6 weeks to 6 months.

CEC & DOE issue Notice of Proposed Award (NOPA).

Next Steps After Grant Award

- **Agreement Development:** Proposal documents will be processed into a legal agreement.

- **Failure to Execute:** The CEC reserves the right to cancel the pending award if an agreement cannot be successfully executed with an applicant.

- **Project Start:** Recipients may begin work on the project **only** after the agreement is fully executed (approved by DOE, approved at a CEC Business Meeting, and signed by the Recipient and the CEC).

Stay Up to Date!

- Visit the CERRI Program webpage at: https://www.energy.ca.gov/programs-and-topics/programs/community-energy-reliability-and-resilience-investment-cerri-program

- Please subscribe to the "Community Energy Reliability and Resilience Investment (CERRI) Program" listserv to keep up to date!

- Important updates are distributed via email and posted to the CERRI Program docket (22-ERDD-01).

Community Energy Reliability and Resilience Investment (CERRI) Program

Community Energy Reliability and Resilience Investment (CERRI) program will fund projects across California that increase community energy resilience and reliability, advance state energy and climate goals, improve energy justice and equity, and create good-paying jobs.

CONTACT
Community Energy Reliability and Resilience Investment (CERRI) Program
CERRI@Energy.ca.gov

Question & Answers

Questions and Answers

- **Use the raise hand feature in Zoom:**
  - Zoom phone controls:
    - *6 – Toggle mute/unmute
    - *9 – Raise hand
  - Introduce yourself by stating your name and affiliation
  - Keep questions under 3 minutes to allow time for others
- **Type questions in the Q&A Box in Zoom:**
  - Please provide name and affiliation.
- Note that an official CEC response will be provided in writing and posted on the GFO webpage the week of May 24, 2024.

Additional Questions

Please send all questions related to GFO-23-312 to:

Laura Williams

Commission Agreement Officer

715 P St, MS-1

Sacramento, CA 95814

(916) 879-1383

laura.williams@energy.ca.gov

Deadline to submit questions:
Friday, April 26, 2024 5:00 PM PDT

Thank You!

Back Up Slides

DOE Microgrid Overview Guide

Eligible Uses of 40101(d) Grid Resilience Formula Grants for Microgrid Components

Section 40101(d)'s prohibition on the construction of a new electric generating facility limits the eligible uses of 40101(d) grid resilience formula grants for microgrid development. Nonetheless, costs associated with building a microgrid that do not involve new generation sources may be allowable. For example, 40101(d) grid resilience formula grants could be used to purchase and/or fund installation of:

- Batteries that will be used to supply electricity during disruptive events,[3]

- Equipment or management systems required to integrate existing generation sources and/or a battery into a microgrid, such as an inverter,

- Microgrid controller (includes the equipment required to balance the system and connect/disconnect from the main electric grid),

- Electric cables (to connect multiple buildings within the microgrid),

- Distribution equipment (protective devices, transformers, etc.) required to distribute power throughout the microgrid.

Grant recipients are encouraged to speak with their assigned Federal Project Officer about eligible uses of 40101(d) grid resilience formula grant funding.

More information can be found here:
Microgrid Overivew