

IMPORTANT: READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICATION DETAILS.

The Nebraska Grid Resiliency Grant, created from *Preventing Outages and Enhancing the Resilience of the Electrical Grid/Hazard Hardening* dollars awarded to the state, is funded by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) through the Grid Deployment office and administered by the National Energy Technology Laboratory of the U. S. Department of Energy (DOE). Eligible applicants include electric grid operators, electric generation owners, electric distribution providers, electric transmission owners and operators, electric generators, electric storage operators, and fuel suppliers.

The Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE) will fund grid improvement projects that result in a more resilient electrical grid and promote a clean and equitable energy economy. Eligible projects will rebuild and restore energy infrastructure for transmission and distribution, protect existing equipment from weather-related events, support new adaptive protection technology, and provide recruitment and retention of energy technology workers. The primary objective for the grant is to enhance the resilience of the electric grid for the existing electric load. *Expanding a system to accommodate for future load growth is not the purpose of this funding.*

Priority will be given to projects determined to provide the greatest community benefit in reducing the likelihood and consequences of disruptive events. Applicants are limited to one application submission that focuses on funding for a single project. Recipients must allocate funding to new projects where no construction has started prior to the implementation of the Utility's grant award. All utilities are encouraged to apply for this competitive grant.

Applications will be subject to a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review to evaluate potential environmental impacts of a project. The NEPA review will also assess the environmental impact of projects in floodplains or wetlands. All applicants are required to complete the U.S. DOE Environmental Questionnaire as part of the application package.

Applicants are also required to submit a completed SF-424 Budget Justification Workbook and a Cost Match Commitment Letter. Applications must include itemized contractor/vendor bid estimates and a certification of Build America, Buy America (BABA) compliance or waiver request. Additional forms submitted with the application package are required if applicable to the project location or Utility. Applicants must certify and acknowledge the obligation to comply with the General Project Requirements listed in the application to be eligible for consideration.

Following the implementation of a grant award, recipients will have five years to complete the project. Submission of quarterly progress reports to NDEE are required throughout the project period to track the progression of the project and evaluate the impact of the completed project.

Applicant Information

Enter the **Utility Name**. Enter the **Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)**, a 12-character alphanumeric ID assigned to an entity by SAM.gov. Existing registered entities can find their UEI by following the steps [here](#). New entities can get their UEI at SAM.gov and, if required, complete an entity registration. For more information, visit [SAM.gov](#) or the Federal Service Desk, [FSD.gov](#). Subaward recipients are not required to obtain an active SAM registration, but must obtain and provide a UEI on the grant application.

Enter the **Mailing address** of the Utility. Enter the **Number of Customers (meters)** served by the Utility. Include the total of all classes of customers (e.g residential, commercial, industrial, irrigation).

Check the type of entity under which the utility is applying.

If the entity type is not listed, check the “Other” box and list the entity type.

Project Information

Enter the **Project Title** the applicant has chosen for the project. Enter the **Project’s Location of Activities** (i.e., address or map coordinates.) Enter the **County** of the physical location, or counties if the project spans multiple counties. Enter the name of the **Project Manager** and their contact information.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Provide a brief overview of the project scope and timeline and list primary technologies, hardware, and software tools that will be deployed.

Define the project’s objectives, deliverables, and work required to complete the project successfully. Provide the project’s planned chronological order of events from start to finish. List any primary technologies including weatherization, fire-resistance, and fire prevention systems; monitoring and control; adaptive protection; and advanced modeling technologies. Identify any hardware or software components that will be used to enhance operations or provide new configurations towards the resilience of the grid.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Provide an explanation of how the proposed resilience project would reduce the likelihood and consequences of disruptive grid events (i.e., events in which operations of the electric grid are disrupted, preventively shut off, or cannot operate safely due to extreme weather, wildfire, or a natural disaster). Describe past non-momentary outages the utility has experienced and explain how this project will improve the resilience of the electric system.

A non-momentary outage is defined as an electric system disruption lasting more than five minutes. Provide CAIFI (Customer Average Interruption Frequency Index), SAIDI (System Average Interruption Duration Index) or SAIFI (System Average Interruption Frequency Index) values if available. Explain how the completed project will either reduce the likelihood of power outages or recover more quickly from power outages.

PROJECT IMPACT ON RESILIENCE AND RELIABILITY

Describe how this project will contribute to a more resilient and reliable regional and statewide electric system.

Explain how funding for this grant will contribute to providing a Nebraska electric grid that is more resilient and reliable. Describe how this project would impact the electric grid regionally or statewide. Indicate if this project will support distribution system planning, resource planning, or grid modernization goals.

Project Budget

Enter the amounts from the SF-424 Budget Justification Workbook.

The budgeted Federal Share amount may be less than the Maximum Grant Amount calculated from the Grid Cost Match Calculator spreadsheet. Enter the Cost Match the applicant is committing to the budget. The Cost Match may be more than the Total Recipient Cost calculated from the Grid Cost Match Calculator.

Applicant Eligibility

Is the application being submitted under IIJA Section 40101(c), FOA 2740 (GRIP)?

An application for a grant submitted under Section 40101(c) Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) Program would have been submitted by the applicant directly to the U.S. Department of Energy in a separate grant application process. Indicate if the utility has submitted an application for the project under the GRIP grant.

An eligible entity is not allowed to submit the same application for a grant under IIJA Section 40101(c) and Section 40101(d) in the same application cycle. DOE considers a "grant" to have a specific scope (i.e., a unique project). Accordingly, an eligible entity may not submit a grant application with the same scope under both Sections 40101(c) and 40101(d) in the same application cycle. Eligible entities can submit proposals to both Sections 40101(c) and 40101(d) in the same application cycle if they are separate scopes of work that address different resilience measures.

Check all applicable boxes for the applicant: grid operator, generation owner, transmission owner/operator, distribution provider, fuel supplier, or energy operator.

An entity that receives a subaward under this program is required to match the amount awarded according to the amount of electricity sold in a year. Does the eligible entity sell more than 4,000,000 megawatt hours of electricity per year?

Check the appropriate box to indicate the percentage of cost match required. Include wholesale MWh and Retail MWh transactions. Large utilities that sell more than 4,000,000 MWh a year are required to commit to a cost match 115% of the reward request. Smaller utilities that sell 4,000,000 MWh a year or less are required to commit to a cost match of 48.33% of the award request.

Utilize NDEE's Grid Cost Match Calculator Spreadsheet to determine the project's maximum award request and required cost match. The Grid Cost Match Calculator is available on [NDEE Grid Resiliency Program webpage](#).

Enter the number of megawatt hours (MWh) of electricity sold by the applicant in 2022.

Utilities that have only retail sales may use the information from the 2022 U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) attached table for retail sales. If the Utility is not listed or had sales that include wholesale electricity, utilize an alternative data source to provide the amount of electricity in MWh sold in 2022.

Has the applicant been debarred or suspended and ineligible for receiving awards or contracts from federal award funding?

Debarment is a legal term that refers to the suspension of an entity from receiving federal funding. The exclusion of an entity can be made for various causes including serious violations of terms of a public agreement, convictions of fraud, violations of the provisions of the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988, or civil judgements.

Confirmation that the Subaward/Subcontract recipient will pay all of the laborers and mechanics performing construction, alteration, or repair work in excess of \$2,000 on projects funded directly by or assisted in whole or in part by and through funding under the award, wages at rates not less than those prevailing on projects of a character similar in the locality as determined by subchapter IV of Chapter 1 of Title 40, United State Code commonly referred to as the "Davis-Bacon Act" (DBA).

Applicants must comply with the Davis-Bacon Act that requires recipients and any subcontractors to compensate workers as required by the Act. Grant recipients must also submit weekly payroll data to the Department of Energy for any federal funding used to pay construction and labor workers. Please review the Davis-Bacon and Related Acts Fact Sheet available on NDEE's Grid Resiliency Webpage for a summary of the federal requirement. More information on the Davis-Bacon Act can be found from the U.S. Department of Labor and accessed at this link: [Davis-Bacon and Related Acts | U.S. Department of Labor \(dol.gov\)](#).

Are there any known foreign nationals participating in the proposed project?

If the Recipient (including any of its subrecipients and contractors) anticipates involving foreign nationals in the performance of this award, NDEE may request the recipient to provide specific information about each foreign national to ensure compliance with the requirements for foreign national participation and access approvals. Complete the Foreign National Participation Document and the Request for Unclassified Foreign National Access Document available on the [NDEE Grid Resiliency Program webpage](#). The volume and type of information required may depend on various factors associated with the award. Approval for foreign nationals in Principal Investigator/Co-Principal Investigator roles, from countries of risk (i.e., China, Iran, North Korea, and Russia), and from countries identified on the U.S. Department of State's list of [State Sponsors of Terrorism - United States Department of State](#) must be obtained from DOE before they can participate in the performance of any work under this award. A "foreign national" is defined as any person

who is not a United States citizen by birth or naturalization. DOE may elect to deny a foreign national's participation in the award. Likewise, DOE may elect to deny a foreign national's access to a DOE sites, information, technologies, equipment, programs, or personnel.

Does the applicant agree to follow the Build America Buy America (BABA) Requirement as defined in the Terms and conditions of the Assistance Agreement?

For equipment and supplies purchased with federal funds, recipients must comply with BABA. All iron and steel used in any infrastructure project is produced in the United States—this means all manufacturing processes, from the initial melting stage through the application of coatings, occurred in the United States;

- All manufactured products used in the project are produced in the United States—this means the manufactured product was manufactured in the United States; and the cost of the components of the manufactured product that are mined, produced, or manufactured in the United States is greater than 55% of the total cost of all components of the manufactured product, unless another standard for determining the minimum amount of domestic content of the manufactured product has been established under applicable law or regulation. The costs of components of a manufactured product are determined in accordance with 2 CFR 184.5; and
- All construction materials are manufactured in the United States—this means that all manufacturing processes for the construction material occurred in the United States. See 2 CFR 184.6 for the meaning of “all manufacturing processes” for specific construction materials.

BABA only applies to articles, materials, and supplies that are consumed in, incorporated into, or permanently affixed to an infrastructure project. As such, it does not apply to tools, equipment, and supplies, such as temporary scaffolding, brought into the construction site and removed at or before the completion of the infrastructure project. Nor does a BABA apply to equipment and furnishings, such as movable chairs, desks, and portable computer equipment, that are used at or within the finished infrastructure project but are not an integral part of the structure or permanently affixed to the infrastructure project. The BABA requirement must flow down to all subawards, all contracts, subcontracts and purchase orders for work performed under the infrastructure project. The term “infrastructure” includes at a minimum, the structures, facilities, and equipment for, in the United States roads, highways and bridges; public transportation; dams, ports, harbors, and other maritime facilities; intercity passenger and freight railroads; freight and intermodal facilities; airports; water systems, including drinking water and wastewater systems; electrical transmission facilities and systems; utilities; broadband infrastructure; and buildings and real property. All applicants must submit either a certificate of compliance or a waiver request as follows.

CERTIFICATION OF BABA COMPLIANCE

The applicant is required to provide certifications or equivalent documentation for proof of compliance that those articles, materials, and supplies that are consumed in, incorporated into, affixed to, or otherwise used in the infrastructure project, not covered by a DOE waiver or exemption, are produced in the United States. The certification or proof of compliance must be provided by the suppliers or manufacturers of the iron, steel, manufactured products and construction materials and flow up from all sub-awardees, contractors, and vendors to NDEE.

BABA WAIVER REQUESTS

Applicants can submit a Waiver Request to NDEE if the applicant determines:

- Applying the domestic content procurement preference would be inconsistent with the public interest;
- The types of iron, steel, manufactured products, or construction materials are not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities or of a satisfactory quality; or
- The inclusion of iron, steel, manufactured products, or construction materials produced in the United States will increase the cost of the overall project by more than 25%.

Please complete the Waiver Request(s) using the information in *Guidance on Submission of Waiver for DOE Buy America Requirement* that can be accessed on NDEE's Grid Resiliency Program Webpage. The guidance details all the information that must be submitted. Applicants must submit any Waiver Request(s) to NDEE with the grant application package; NDEE will submit waiver requests to DOE. DOE may request, and the applicant must provide additional information for consideration of a submitted waiver. Waiver requests may take up to 90 days for DOE to process. DOE's final determination regarding approval or rejection of the waiver request may not be appealed.

Please review the Build America Buy America Fact Sheet available on NDEE's Grid Resiliency Program Webpage for a summary of the federal requirement. More rules on BABA can be found at the U.S. DOE website at this link: [Build America, Buy America | Department of Energy](#) and answers to frequently asked questions about BABA can be found at this link: [Frequently Asked Questions about the Buy American Provisions | Department of Energy](#).

Are the proposed subrecipient/subcontractor and second-tier subcontractors Domestic Entities?

To qualify as a domestic entity, the entity must be organized, chartered, or incorporated (or otherwise formed) under the laws of a particular state or territory of the United States; have majority domestic ownership and control; and have a physical place of business in the United States. A utility may obtain a waiver if a subcontractor is identified as a foreign entity. Contact NDEE for details on how to submit waiver request to DOE.

ELIGIBLE PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Check all boxes to identify the project's eligible activity.

How many of the utility's customers (meters) will be impacted by this project and how many impacted customers are in a CEJST Disadvantaged Community?

Estimate the number of customers that will benefit from the completion of the project. Estimate the number of benefited customers within a CEJST Disadvantaged Community.

A CEJST Disadvantaged Community is identified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as disadvantaged if they are considered overburdened or underserved. The Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST) uses datasets to create an interactive map that indicates burdens in eight categories: climate change, energy, health, housing, legacy pollution, transportation, water and wastewater, and workforce development. The tool uses this information to identify communities that are experiencing these burdens. The CEJST mapping tool can be accessed at this link: screeningtool.geoplatform.gov. Use the search bar to identify if impacted area contains any tracts identified as Disadvantaged.

Does the applicant acknowledge that the primary purpose of the proposed project is not cybersecurity but that the implementation of the proposed project will adhere to any applicable cybersecurity requirements, and where possible, best practices in deploying technologies?

Cybersecurity may not be the primary purpose of the proposed project.

Is the project for a government building that is 45 years or older, identified as a National Historic Place or located within a National Historic District, or on Tribal Lands?

If the project is for a building that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places or is located within a National Historic District, a Section 106 Review through the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is required before any federal funding can be used for the project. If the project is for a building that is 45 years or older, a Section 106 Review will be required. All projects on Tribal Land require a SHPO and Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) review.

Applicants can access a copy of the SHPO form on [NDEE Grid Resiliency Program](#) webpage. Because SHPO Reviews may take up to 30 days for response, please send the completed form directly to SHPO. Please forward SHPO's response and a copy of the original Section 106 form to NDEE.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT & TRAINING

Will the proposed effort include a component for the training, recruitment, retention, and reskilling of skilled and properly credentialed workers?

Indicate if and how the project will use registered apprenticeships and training programs to recruit and retain qualified and or certified workers. Check the boxes next to the metrics the project will track and report. Other applicable metrics may be listed.

COMMUNITY BENEFIT

Explain how the project may provide economic benefits or contribute to the general welfare, health, and safety of the community, workers, and population.

Describe potential social and economic benefits that would result from the completed project. Explain how the completed project will reduce the utility's overall financial burden to recover from

system outages. List critical facilities, such as medical, emergency, and assisted living facilities in the utility's service area. List other customers that are highly affected by grid disruptions, susceptible populations and essential manufacturing and agricultural production facilities. Check the boxes next to the metrics the project will track and report. Other applicable metrics may be listed. See Table B for Metric Examples.

PROJECT CATEGORY AND METRICS FOR REPORTING

Check the box next to the category of the proposed project and check all the metrics the project will track and report.

Grant recipients are required to track and report metrics to NDEE on a quarterly basis through the five-year period of performance. Other applicable metrics may be listed. See Table B for Metric Examples.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND CERTIFICATIONS

By signing the application Acknowledgement and Certification sections, the local official acknowledges the understanding of proper use of federal funding under this grant, specific grant requirements, including compliance with federal rules and regulations for Grant and Subawards under the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations.

APPLICATION PROCESS & TIMELINE

Application documents are available on NDEE's Grid Resiliency webpage in a digitally fillable format. Please complete all required forms using a compatible computer software program; applications completed using the digital forms are preferred over handwritten applications. Before subaward agreements are issued, NDEE will review and score application packages and select proposed projects for DOE approval. NDEE may request additional information from the applicant during the review process. Awarded recipients must be enrolled with the State of Nebraska for Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). The ACH Enrollment Form for EFT is available on NDEE's Grid Resiliency Webpage.

To expedite the application review process, please send the complete application package to ndee.gridresiliency@nebraska.gov with "Grid Resiliency Application" in the subject line. If electronic submission is not possible, applications can be sent to Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy, Attn. Energy Section Grid Resiliency Grant, 245 Fallbrook Blvd, STE 100, Lincoln, NE 68521. Applications are due by 11:59 PM Central Time, Friday, June 21, 2024.

Table A: EIA 2022 Utility Bundled Sales to Ultimate Customers

Entity	Ownership	Sales (Megawatt-hours)
Cedar-Knox Public Power Dist	Political Subdivision	293,983
City of Fremont - (NE)	Municipal	499,876
City of Grand Island - (NE)	Municipal	731,427
City of Hastings - (NE)	Municipal	434,573
City of Lexington - (NE)	Municipal	238,974
City of North Platte	Municipal	292,953
City of South Sioux City	Municipal	222,581
Cornhusker Public Power Dist	Political Subdivision	447,484
Dawson Power District	Political Subdivision	419,273
Elkhorn Rural Public Pwr Dist	Political Subdivision	350,771
High West Energy, Inc	Cooperative	511,338
Highline Electric Assn	Cooperative	494,776
Lincoln Electric System	Municipal	3,275,657
Loup River Public Power Dist	Political Subdivision	1,119,618
Midwest Electric Member Corp	Cooperative	323,903
Nebraska Public Power District	Political Subdivision	4,091,399
Norris Public Power District	Political Subdivision	1,072,815
Northeast Power	Political Subdivision	348,529
Omaha Public Power District	Political Subdivision	12,105,977
Perennial Public Power Dist	Political Subdivision	369,899
Southern Public Power District	Political Subdivision	1,096,544
Southwest Public Power Dist	Political Subdivision	248,073
WAPA-- Western Area Power Administration	Federal	950,984
Y-W Electric Assn Inc	Cooperative	405,861

Table B: Metric Examples

Miles of new distribution lines
Miles of distribution lines undergrounded
Miles of distribution lines of vegetation clearing
Miles of distribution lines reconducted
Miles of distribution lines with other upgrades
Number of distribution poles inspected
Number of distribution poles replaced
Number of distribution poles with other upgrades
Miles of new transmission lines
Miles of transmission lines undergrounded
Miles of transmission lines of vegetation clearing
Miles of transmission lines reconducted
Miles of transmission lines with other upgrades
Number of transmission structures inspected
Number of transmission structures replaced
Number of transmission structures with other upgrades
Number of substations relocated
Number of substations with added physical protection
Number of substations with added sensors/monitors
Number of substations with elevated equipment
Number of substations with upgraded equipment
Number of substations with other upgrades
Number of substations with redundant equipment
Number of fault location, Isolation, and service restoration (FLISR) devices installed
Number of other monitoring/metering devices installed
Number of other protection or control devices installed
Power Rating of battery system installed (MW)
Energy rating of battery installed (MWh)
Voltage rating of mobile substation (kV)
Voltage rating of mobile transformers (kV)
Capacity rating of hardened generation (MW) - photovoltaics
Capacity rating of hardened generation (MW) - wind
Capacity rating of hardened generation (MW) - diesel
Capacity rating of hardened generation (MW) - natural gas
Capacity rating of hardened generation (MW) - coal

Table B: Metric Examples Continued

Percent increased energy storage capacity in reserve fuel -diesel
Percent increased energy storage capacity in reserve fuel -propane
Percent increased energy storage capacity in reserve fuel -gasoline
Number of transportation assets purchased to assist with power restoration
Number of communications assets purchased to assist with power restoration
Number of other assets purchased to assist with power restoration
Percentage of system migrated into new software system
Percentage increase in pole inventory
Percentage increase in transformer inventory
Percentage increase in equipment inventory
Largest outage cause
Number of outages
Hours to repair outages
System Average Interruption Duration Index (SAIDI)
Customer Average Interruption Duration Index (CAIDI)
System Average Interruption Frequency Index (SAIFI)
Number of individual customers with more than 5 interruptions
Number of individual customer outages that extend beyond 24 hours
Number of critical services with outages that extend beyond 24 hours
Hours of unmet Load
Outage Recovery Cost (\$)
Hours line loading exceeded normal rating
Average hours to restore 50% of customers
Average hours to restore 90% of customers
Average hours to restore 100% of customers
Number of residential customers benefitted by project
Number of commercial customers benefitted by project
Number of industrial customers benefitted by project
Number of customers that provide community services/emergency centers benefitted by project
Number of customers that provide communication services benefitted by project
Number of customers that provide energy supply benefitted by project
Number of customers that provide transportation services benefitted by project
Number of customers that provide water services benefitted by project
Number of customers that provide food services benefitted by project