



DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10
Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

September 6, 2022

Objective:

The New Hampshire Department of Energy (NHDOE) is requesting public input as to where and how to prioritize its efforts in allocating its share of Section 40101(d) funding – Preventing Outages and Enhancing the Resilience of the Electric Grid Formula Grants to States and Indian Tribes – from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). Feedback received will play an important role in helping NHDOE staff construct its competitive grant program and will help prioritize the opportunities and strategies to better help the residents, businesses, and institutions of our state.

Background:

The IIJA allocates \$459 million every year for five years to States and Indian Tribes through Section 40101(d) to prevent electrical outages and enhance the resilience of the electric grid. The State of New Hampshire is slated to receive \$3,316,726 in the first year of the program with similar amounts expected in following four years of the program. As part of the application process with the United States Department of Energy (USDOE), NHDOE must hold a public hearing on its Program Narrative. NHDOE is holding that public hearing on Thursday, September 15 at 1:00 p.m. in Hearing Room A at 21 S. Fruit St, Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire.

General Questions on Program Narrative:

NHDOE offers this list of questions to help stakeholders and the public offer constructive feedback to NHDOE's proposed Program Narrative.

1. Objectives and Metrics:
 - a. Are there other tools or metrics that NHDOE should consider in identifying “disadvantaged communities?”
 - b. What other pathways should NHDOE consider in its program to encourage applicants to use strong labor standards and protections – project labor agreements? Local hire agreements? Other efforts to attract, train, and retain an appropriately skilled workforce?
 - c. Are there any other broad objectives that NHDOE should consider?
2. Criteria:
 - a. How can NHDOE better encourage applicants to undertake efforts that go beyond current resilience planning?
 - b. While applicants are heavily encouraged to leverage workforce development /vocational programs to help train an active workforce, are there other factors that

NHDOE should consider in this scoring criteria to better encourage applicants to create good-paying jobs?

- c. Do those entities that fall under the Small Utilities Set Aside feel they have the capacity and expertise to implement and administer 40101(d) funding, if they should be awarded? If so, what might be offered to support their ability to use 40101(d) funding?
 - d. Are there other criteria that NHDOE should consider when evaluating applications for its 40101(d) competitive grant program?
3. Methods:
 - a. What ways could NHDOE and applicants better advertise project benefits, such as jobs created and local economic investment, to the public?
 - b. What is your preferred method of communication so that we may provide timely information on project progression to the public?
 4. Funding Distribution:
 - a. Is there merit to any other methods to distribute 40101(d) funding beyond a competitive grant program?
 - b. Should eligibility in NHDOE's 40101(d) program be expanded to include other eligible entities permitted under Section 40101(d)?
 5. Equity Approach:
 - a. NHDOE will prioritize funding to projects in or for the betterment of "disadvantaged communities" and the creation of an active and skilled workforce. Are there other approaches that NHDOE should consider in determining an equitable approach with 40101(d) funding?
 - b. What other methods or tools should NHDOE consider in fostering diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility in its 40101(d) funding program?
 6. Technical Assistance and Administration:
 - a. Do eligible entities anticipate a need for technical assistance for their proposed projects?
 - b. What ways could NHDOE better support eligible entities to apply for and use 40101(d) funding?