

0:04

Good afternoon, everyone, and welcome to the Rural Energy Pilot Program, R E P P, Grant Introductory Webinar.

0:12

Before we get started, I'd just like to go over a few items so we know how to participate in today's event.

0:17

This slide shows a screenshot of the goto Webinar Attendee Control Panel.

0:22

You should see something that looks like this on your own computer desktop in the upper right hand corner.

0:27

Right now, you're listening via your computer speakers by default.

0:30

However, if you prefer to listen over the phone, just collect a phone call, select a phone call, and underneath the audio pane, and the dialing information will be displayed for you.

0:40

You may submit questions and, or comments to today's panelists and presenters by typing in your comments into the questions and chat section on your control panel.

0:49

You may send in those comments at any time during the presentation.

0:52

We're going to collect those at the end and then, and address those at the end.

0:57

You can also speak to our panelists directly by raising your virtual hand.

1:02

The hand icon shown on your screen is located in your control panel.

1:06

Just click that hand icon, and then I'll ask you to unmute yourself, and then you can speak to our presenters directly when the time comes for question and answers.

1:15

Also, on your Control panel, you can find the PowerPoint Presentation for today, and located in the handout section.

1:22

Lastly, closed captioning is available. And, a link to that, to access those captions, has been sent via the chat box.

1:29

To access the captions, click on the link and the captions will launch in a separate browser.

1:34

So, thank you again for joining us and please utilize that chat box, and, or your virtual hand for your comments and questions throughout.

1:41

With that, I'd like to turn over the presentation over to Stephanie Bezruki, the Chief of Staff for Rural Business co-operative Service. Stephanie?

1:55

Hi, thank you so much, on behalf of Undersecretary for Rural Development to charge for a Small and our administrator, doctor Neal.

2:05

I'm proud to welcome everyone to this introductory webinar for Rural Energy Pilot Program.

2:11

As you know, last week, the department announced the Energy Pilot Program, up to \$10 million, is now available to assist rural communities, further develop renewable chain as authorized by the Consolidated Appropriations Act.

2:28

Under the leadership of President Biden, Vice President and Secretary Vilsack, USDA is providing this grant assistance to our particularly underserved Rural Communities to deploy new community scale investments in renewable energy.

2:44

This has truly been an exciting project.

2:48

It gave us the opportunity of Rural Development to really question, how can we better engage our communities in clean energy systems and solutions?

2:59

How can we really live up to the administration's commitment, tackling climate change?

3:03

Also, do you want a way that emphasizes not only economic opportunity, but also environmental justice and equity for these underserved communities?

3:15

To develop this pilot program, the public comments that we received last spring in response to our request for information are absolutely.

3:23

At our listening Session, April, first Halt, some of the ideas and stories are stakeholders from across the country.

3:32

Put forward the shape.

3:34

Why don't you?

3:37

The team at Rural Development and others from across the Federal family, including the Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Energy, who collaborated on this program, they then took this input and translated your experiences into appropriate design.

3:52

I hope will help us answer some of those big questions.

3:56

I'm so excited to see the projects that program and what we'll learn.

4:02

Thank you all for coming.

4:03

Thank you to the inter-agency team for program design, and most importantly, thank you to our stakeholders, members of the public who provided comments and joined our listening sessions really helped make this possible.

4:17

And with that, I'll turn it back to my colleague Tony crux again. Thank you.

4:27

Thank you, Stephanie.

4:29

So, let's just get right into it. We have a pretty full agenda today.

4:33

We intend to give you an overview of the program, talk about requirements and opportunities in the program, and we'll tell you how to apply.

4:45

Will give you, will present to you, then a A, the selection criteria that will help you, as you work your way through the application to write to this specific points of priority.

5:00

Then we'll take some questions at the end and wrap it up.

5:06

Let's get right into it.

5:12

We're here today largely because the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 Congress appropriated \$10 million for the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out a pilot program to provide financial assistance for rural communities to further develop renewable energy.

5:34

That \$10 million appropriated is as available until expanded.

5:40

That means in, in government pilots that it doesn't the money, the funds don't go away at the end of the year, just because they're not used.

5:51

This is a money is available until we use it, but other than that, there was little guidance beyond provide financial assistance for rural communities to further develop renewable energy.

6:04

So, as Stephanie alluded to, we requested information from the public and solicit their opinion on how we might administer such a program.

6:17

And we published a request for information in the Federal Register back in March of 2021.

6:25

Then April, we held the Listening Session, and received over 75 public comments, in response to specific questions that we asked about the program, in terms of its program, purposes and goals, eligible applicants, eligible technologies, and potential impacts of the pilot program, and renewable energy systems, environmental justice, racial equity, an economic opportunity.

6:54

Then in, in May, and June, we convened an inter-agency panel of subject matter experts, just as Stephanie alluded to, also, from the Department of Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency, of the National Labs, the Appalachian Regional Commission.

7:13

We had a few of our folks from USDA to the Forest Service, and with the rural business co-operative service and other USDA staff.

7:23

To assist with review about the public comments and remarks, and to provide recommendations for REPP guiding principles.

7:34

We determined that the goal of the REPP is to provide energy burden relief for priority communities.

7:42

Relief that will reduce climate pollution, increase resilience to climate change impacts, and advance environmental justice, racial equality, and economic opportunity.

7:54

We make, we're determined to make grant funds available, two, rural energy community partnerships, to establish and, or develop clean energy communities, Excuse me, through the deployment of community scale, distributed energy technologies.

8:11

The REPP grant will meet a recognized need for Federal inter-agency support of all rural communities or rural communities to further develop renewable energy.

8:21

And REPP funds will support the nation's critical energy needs and combat climate change while advancing environmental justice, racial equity, and economic opportunity.

8:33

So you might ask, what is a rural energy community partnership?

8:38

Well, it's a partnership established to provide assistance to an identified community for purposes as specified in the, the REPP notice of funding opportunity.

8:51

These purposes include, but are not limited to: community energy planning, capacity building, technical assistance, community efficiency and weatherization.

9:04

It's also for the deployment installation and equipping of.

9:10

Pardon me?

9:12

Immunity, scale, renewable energy technologies.

9:18

Our systems, the partnership need not be located in the identified community but must demonstrate that it is actively engaged and involved with community leadership, and must provide assistance specifically to the identified community.

9:38

There we go.

9:40

Eligible entities are rural energy community partnerships comprised, but not limited to key community and regional stakeholders, Private entities, state and local entities, tribal entities, and their municipalities and other public bodies.

10:00

The Rural Energy Community Partnership must include one or more of the following entities.

10:08

The private entities, state and local entities, Indian tribes, municipalities, and other public bodies.

10:16

It must also have a lead entity, which we would call the applicant, from one of the following: a district organization, such as an Economic Development Authority.

10:27

Well, that's defined in Title 13, CFR, Section 304 dot 2, Indian tribes, political subdivision of a Tribe, or a Consortium of Indian Tribes, state and local governments, or political subdivisions, or of public or private non-profit organizations.

10:48

So, to sum up, there must be at least two entities in the partnership: a lead applicant entity, the applicant, and a partner entity.

11:03

There can be more, of course, but there must at least be two.

11:15

A REPP partnership must serve a rural community as defined in the REPP Notice of Funding Opportunity published on January 19th, Partnership must demonstrate engagement with the identified community leadership and specifically assist the identified community.

11:33

The partnership may consist of industry entities and other partners outside of the targeted region.

11:40

Pass through entities are permitted.

11:43

Partner entities may be private contractors, and they may also orbit. They may also be vendors.

11:52

So what does it mean to further develop renewable energy?

11:58

For the purposes of the program, for rural communities to further develop renewable energy means, when we award your Rural Energy Community Partnership grant of up to \$2 million, we expect you to use it to deploy distributed, renewable energy technologies.

12:15

In other words, you must use at least 80% of the proceeds to install and equip a renewable energy system of up to two megawatts in scale, with commercially available technologies.

12:29

And if you so choose, you may also use up to 20% of the grant proceeds for community energy planning, capacity building, technical assistance, and community efficiency and weatherization.

12:45

There we go.

12:49

Community scale distributed energy systems no longer, larger than two megawatts in generation capacity.

12:57

Eligible technologies are commercially available Systems, wind, solar, geothermal, hydroelectric biomass or bioenergy.

13:06

May also, this may also include storage devices, soft, managing software, such as batteries, flywheels, and storage distributed resource schedulers.

13:23

What are distributed renewable energy resources? We these are small units of power generation that operate locally.

13:31

Energy is often consumed close to the source of degeneration.

13:36

It may be connected to a larger power grid or may operate independently off the grid.

13:43

How will rap advance environmental justice, racial equity, and economic opportunity?

13:52

So, for the purposes of the rap, we've identified six types of particularly underserved communities, that we want to reach with REPP funds in order to advance these priorities.

14:06

The REPP funding notice provides specific definitions for each of these communities, along with an interactive tool for applicants to determine whether their service area qualifies as one or more of these community types.

14:21

Ideally, the most successful app candidates to read can demonstrate a service area comprised of at least five of the six community types.

14:31

Our intention and the REPP is to award the most meritorious projects from among the most particularly underserved communities.

14:40

And when we get into the criteria, I'll tell you a little bit more about these communities.

14:49

These are the REPP Program thresholds. It's up to you. The maximum grant available is up to \$2 million.

14:57

The grant covers a maximum of 80% of eligible project costs. There is a three-year grant period of performance.

15:07

Let's talk about the approximate number of awards.

15:10

The number of awards will, of course, depend on the number of eligible participants and the total amount of requested funds.

15:19

If every successful applicant is awarded the maximum grant amount of two million, then we'll make five awards.

15:29

There is a matching funding requirement.

15:32

The applicant is responsible for securing matching funds for total eligible project costs, not covered by grant funds.

15:40

The non-Federal share of the total eligible project costs may be in the form of cash, third party equity contributions, including donations, in kind contributions, of fairly-valued goods and services, and this is a unique feature of this program, as allowed by law.

15:59

We will allow you to use other Federal Program funds to serve as matching fund requirements in this program.

16:10

And we are working directly with co-operative, our partners, in this, from the Department of Energy, in the Environmental Protection Agency, and AmeriCorps Energy Corps with the Weatherization Assistance Program. And the State Energy Program.

16:29

And the Energy Transitions Initiative Partnership Project Energy Corps, helping design a green collar workforce and the Environmental Justice Grants in the EPA to leverage REPP funds with their magic buttons.

16:46

And we will, as we get into the application process, and next week, we'll have a specific webinar for that.

16:53

We will talk about how you can go about applying to these programs, to use their funds as your matching fund requirement in the brand.

17:08

Matching funding requirements in general, or arrangements with private entities.

17:12

They can be with commercial vendors or technology providers, renewable energy promotional organizations, with state LEAP programs and other private sector actors.

17:25

All of these are sources of matching funds, but, in general, matching funds are what's required to receive the REPP grant.

17:34

You must, meet the matching fund requirements.

17:38

They are secured by you, the applicant, it's your responsibility to acquire them, line them all up, and make sure that day they meet the, the matching funding requirements in the, in the wrap.

17:52

They consist of cash or in-kind contribution, nope, but no, in kind contributions from the applicant entity are allowed, must have written commitments in the form of bank statements, or cash, or letters of commitment for enchain, And as allowed by law from, as we said earlier, from other federal grants.

18:13

Now, there will be a way for you to demonstrate that, that's going to be available in the, that their program funds are going to be available for you, and for as matching funds.

18:24

And we'll get into that in the application as we work through the application process.

18:29

Next week, passive tax equity contributions are also allowed.

18:39



Rip eligible costs Rip grant funds, may be used to pay for up to 80% of eligible project cost directly related to installation and equipping of commercially available community base, community scale renewable energy systems.

18:57

And also for up to 20% of the award for community energy planning.

19:02

Capacity building, technical assistance, efficiency, and weatherization.

19:12

Eligible costs are those costs incurred during the grant period?

19:17

What is the grant period?

19:19

The grant period begins when you sign your partnership's grant agreement with us, and it extends for the 36 months of the project period.

19:36

It's directly related to use and purposes of REPP.

19:40

Purchase installation, distributed renewable energy technologies, including any associated materials, machinery, or equipment.

19:50

But limited to two megawatts in capacity, generation capacity, excuse me, and for up to 20% of awarded funds for those activities.

20:01

Materials, machinery, and equipment associated with community energy planning, capacity building, technical assistance, efficiency, and weatherization.

20:11

may also be used for eligible costs also include construction retrofitting, replacement improvements, fees including construction permits and licenses and professional service fees.

20:28

Eligible costs do not include these are ineligible project costs, expenses incurred outside the grant period.

20:35

I told I told you what the grant period is: Used equipment, vehicles, Real Property, or lamp, Lease payments, including lease to own and capitalize leases.

20:47

Payment of any judgement or debt owed to the United States government, Any project expense that creates or appears to create a conflict of interest, Any expenses associated with applying for this program.

21:03

So let us sum up, REPP is about partnerships.

21:07

It's about distributed energy solutions, and it's about the goals of the program.

21:13

In partnerships, there are multiple entities, with the lead entity (Applicant) to administer up to \$2 million of the rip grant, 80% of which are may be used for total eligible project costs associated with the project.

21:27

And there is a 20% cost share match required.

21:32

At least 80% of grant funds may be used, must be used to install community-based, community-scale renewable energy systems.

21:43

And if you so choose, you may also use up to 20% of grant funds for community energy planning, technical assistance, efficiency, and weatherization.

21:55

The goal of the program is to relieve energy burdens for these priority communities, reduce climate pollution, increase resilience to climate change impacts, advancing environmental justice, racial equity, and economic opportunity.

22:17

The National office will serve for review of all the REPP applications when we'll have assistance from other national office staff and state office staff and our inter-agency review team.

22:33

Already, state offices will also assist is necessary for with the environmental reviews and award processing, servicing activities.

22:42

And, just as a reminder, there's a 36-month period of performance for the program.

22:50

So, I'm going to introduce my colleague and co-manager of the program, Deb Yokum, and she's going to take you through How to Apply.

23:01

All right, thanks, Tony.

23:04

So, application information can be found on the Rural Development website under the Rural Energy Pilot Program.

23:12

You want to advance the slide, Tony please?

23:14

Yes. Are. There you are.

23:17

We are accepting only electronic applications for the REPP program, and we'll be using Cloud Vault accounts to submit application information to the Agency.

23:27

To enhance the security of using the Cloud Vault accounts, the agency will provide you with the Cloud Vault, think, along with access instructions, when you show us that you are interested in making an application.

23:41

So to request the cloud Vault link for submission of a letter of intent, you must e-mail the agency using the program e-mail address, which is the REPP at USDA dot gov.

23:53

And no other form of application is going to be accepted for these applications.

23:59

Next slide.

24:03

All applicants must have a Dun and Bradstreet number and also must be registered as a registered entity in the System for Award Management, known as SAM, that's part of a complete application.

24:15

Once you have successful registration of your entity in SAM, you may get a unique entity identifier.

24:24

Um, and that number will be provided to the Agency, and this process can take some time, so applicants should act sooner rather than later if you do not have the SAM registration process completed.

24:38

There is no cost for getting a Dun and Bradstreet number or to register your entity and Sam.

24:45

Applicants will have to maintain their current registration in the sam system while they have an application on file, or while they have an active award.

24:55

Next slide.

25:03

The Agency has developed Tools to assist applicants with filing wrapped up REPP applications.

25:09

From the REPP Program page, you can select the To Apply tab to access these tools.

25:16

We currently have a letter of intent guded currently posted on the site, and a complete application guide will be posted to the same site on or after March first.

25:27

And as Tony alluded to, we'll be having a webinar next week, when we'll go over that Letter of Intent in greater detail.

25:35

Next slide.

25:38

So the REPP Program has a two-stage application.

25:43

The first stage is the submission of a required Letter of Intent.

25:48

The Letter of Intent is due to the agency on April 19th, and, as noted on the last slide, a Letter of Intent Guide, along with this submission instructions, again, are available if you go to our website, and you use the To Apply tab.

26:04

The agency will engage an inter-agency panel to review all letters of intent that we receive.

26:11

And we will provide a response to all applicants by May 19.

26:16

Next slide.

26:20

Applicants that receive a letter of encouragement from the Agency are invited to submit a complete REPP application.

26:29

Complete applications are due July 18.

26:32

Complete application tools, including a checklist, the application document, and submission instructions, again, will be available on our website.

26:42

Beginning March first.

26:45

Next slide.

26:48

So just to recap the REPP timeline, the notice was published on January 19th.

26:54

The letters of intent are due in 90 days or April 19th.

27:00

Responses to the letter of intent will be sent within 30 days of receipt or by May 19.

27:06

And complete applications are due 60 days later, on July 18.

27:13

Next slide.

27:16

And I will now turn it back over to Tony to discuss the selection criteria for the grant.

27:24

Thanks Jeff.

27:30

These are the REPP selection criteria.

27:33

There's 110 possible points.

27:37

10 of the 110 points are reserved for the Administrator's discretion based on the Administration's priorities.

27:52

The first criteria is, (a) further develop renewable energy. Application materials that demonstrate rural energy community partnership's, ability, and commitment to addressing targeted initiatives, as we specify in Section three C of the rep, publication of Funding Notice.

28:13

More points will be awarded for reasonable initiatives that can be delivered within the grant period 36 months.

28:21

More points awarded to partnerships and projects leveraging, they're federal, state, tribal, and local assistance resources, as we identified earlier, committed for community planning, human capacity building, technical assistance, efficiency, weatherization, and improvements, even in high-speed broadband service to the region.

28:45

There's points are awarded in this criteria on a scale of 0 to 25, with them a maximum of 25 points being awarded.

28:57

Criteria be community and regional impacts. The community objectives to be achieved through the Rural Energy Community Partnership efforts.

29:05

At the completion of REPP Assistance, these objectives will be identified by the community and can include the ability to withstand disruptive events, economic and energy resilience, increased environmental justice, improved racial equity, expanded economic opportunity, and the stability or diversification of distributed energy resources.

29:30

Points are awarded in this criteria on a scale of 0 to 25, with a maximum of 25 points being awarded.

29:39

Targeted Region application materials should describe the geographic region to be served, including county names, zip codes, and demonstrate that the geographic region served by the Rural Energy Community Partnership is a significant consequence to REPP priorities of advancing environmental justice, racial equity, and economic opportunity.

30:07

Now this is directly from Slide 17, which I showed earlier, so the for the purposes of the rep, we identified the six types of particularly underserved communities that we want to reach with REPP funds.

30:21

In order to advance these priorities, The Rip Funding Notice provides specific definitions for each of these communities, along with the Interactive Tool. Now, when you get this PowerPoint, you should be able to click on these links.

30:36

But these links are also available in the day required Letter of Intent Guide, which we'll go over next week.

30:46

So the Interactive Tool for Applicants to determine whether their service area qualifies is one or more of these community types.

30:53

And as I said earlier, ideally, the most successful candidates can demonstrate a service area comprised of at least five of the six community types that we have listed here.

31:06

Our intention under the REPP is to award the most meritorious projects from among the most particularly underserved communities.

31:17

Criteria: D, project and community support, Application materials document, and demonstrate strength of local support.

31:26

For the Rural energy Community partnership activities, projects, and entrepreneurial commitment.

31:32

Points will be awarded from the partnership's demonstration of its sources of funding, personnel, and technical resources committed to the project.

31:41

A focus on the inclusion of institutional partners, expanding access to capital, and willingness to potentially invest in projects emerging from the partnership points will also be awarded for demonstrated resources that sustain the project beyond the grant period.

32:00

Points are awarded in this criteria on a scale of 0 to 15, with a maximum of 15 points being awarded.

32:10

Our final one, demonstrated readiness and likelihood of success.

32:16

Application materials will demonstrate the partnership's readiness, in administering the REPP grants successfully and will show strong documentation indicating the likelihood of implementing plans developed through technical assistance, as indicated by the explanation of

previous ongoing or future efforts to implement energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in the community.

32:41

And, or a stakeholder engagement plan. The existence of an energy resilience goal and the availability and expectation of project finance.

32:53

Point suddenness criteria are awarded on a scale of 0 to 10 with a maximum of 10 points being awarded.

33:01

Now let me just say before I go to the Administrator points that when we get into the letter of Intent guide next week in depth you will see that we are much more transparent on how points are awarded in each of these criteria. So that you can write specifically to each of the phrases when we say more points provided for.

33:27

As I said earlier, the agency the Administrator retains discretion to afford priority to applications that will advance key Administration priorities. These are points reserved for the Administrator's discretion.

33:41

Those priorities being assist, number one, assist rural communities to recover economically from the impacts of ..., particularly disadvantaged communities, ensuring all residents have equitable access to already programs and benefits from our defunded projects, and reduce climate pollution, increasing resilience to the impacts of climate change through economic support to rural communities.

34:09

The agency also retains the discretion to afford priority to applications that achieve geographic distribution of rural rip grant awards across a maximum number of states and diversity of communities targeted.

34:25

Ideally, we will award a maximum grant of \$2 million to five projects, located in five different regions around the US and its territories.

34:40

Like I said, a maximum of 10 points will be awarded with justification at the discretion of the Administrator.

34:48

So, Scott, I'm going to turn it over to you and allow you to, to moderate our question session.

35:02

Thank you, Tony. And thanks for the presentation.

35:05

We'll start with the written questions. And then I'll go to the hand raise, is that OK?

35:11

Perfect.

35:16

First question. Does this replace the REAP program?

35:19

It does not.

35:21

It is separate from REAP entirely.

35:30

I apologize. What are these requirements types?

35:35

Excuse me.

35:36

These are the requirements for the types of partnerships between the partner entity and lead applicant.

35:42

Do they need to be formal or informal partnerships?

35:48

We'll talk about those requirements next week very specifically, but in general, yes, there needs to be some formal agreement between the two partners over two or more partners. Exactly.

36:03

Thanks, Tony, And the lead applicant, be a non-profit, rural, electric co-operative, or a public university.

36:12

Rural Electric Cooperatives and public universities are not excluded from participating in REPP. However, we prefer that these organizations serve as partner entities and not as lead entities in the RECP or as Applicants to the REPP.

36:31

We would prefer that the lead applicant be the development authority, the ones that I had listed up before.

36:43

Tony, I have that the lead applicant Entity should be a district organization, a federally recognized tribe subdivision of the tribe, or a consortium of tribes. A state or political subdivision of a state or consortium of state organizations, or a public or private non-profit organization that needs to be the lead entity.

37:09

And as I said, universities and rural electric co-operatives, we would encourage to be partner entities in an RECP.

37:26

All right, Scott.

37:28

Thank you, John. Thank you.



37:32

What solar: solar powered streetlights be included in the, in the, quote, unquote, community scale, renewable energy.

37:43

There could be a portion of that, but that would not good. We would have to talk, consider that in depth. Let's, let's talk about that next week, about the type of projects that we want to encourage in the REPP.

37:59

Sounds good.

38:02

My community is not one of the six coming types and they still apply.

38:08

We're not discouraging, they have an eligibility requirement that the service area be a rural area but yes, in general you can still apply.

38:23

Thanks Donna.

38:25

Another question here.

38:26

Then I'm going to take this question and then we'll do a few. Andres OK.

38:32

Perfect, So this will be the last one, Well, we'll continue, we're gonna hop back and forth.

38:37

So just to be clear, if total eligible project costs are \$500,000, we need to come up with 20% in matching funds or \$100,000? Is that correct?

38:48

Correct.

39:15

Thank you.

39:17

Alright, so we're gonna go to the phone lines.

39:18

I'm gonna go with Javier Malina, I see that your hand is raised, so you can go ahead and unmute yourselves.

39:34

Hello.

39:35

Hello, ..., Malina of ..., I understand the winner, they will be one floor area.

39:48

Hmm.

39:50

Then, find an area in the nation?

39:57

I'm not sure I understand your question. We haven't identified specific regions.

40:03

We're just trying to make sure that the awards are distributed across the country.

40:18

Well, that's not how we are.

40:20

Specifying. No, sir.

40:24

Say, well, let's wait and see what comes in.

40:27

As I said, it depends on the number of participants in the program and the amount of requested funds.

40:34

And there are a whole host of requirements to be met.

40:38

Would you mind sending me an e-mail, please, with the specific details for that question. I'll be happy to respond to that directly.

41:25

OK, included in the Q and A's, OK, for machine found, the money ...

41:33

don't justify for our works, the input to the employees, that's correct.

41:42

For mushroom farm, 20 to 20%, yes, what about it?

41:48

What about the matching fund requirement?

41:53

Well, then, you found, the do Not justify for youth are in pain for, for, will, our org, to employees.

42:09

So, the applicant cannot provide in kind match towards the grants.

42:14

So that's the question, if you can use the funds that you're paying employees, as in-kind match, the answer to that is no, Third party in kind contributions are allowed.

42:26

OK, I sent my e-mail 4123 questions.

42:36

More information, please.

42:39

UK TR gmail dot com.

42:44

Thank you very much OK.

42:47

Thank you.

42:50

Alright, and our next hand raising, just to remind folks that we try to keep the length of our questions, to a maximum of two minutes. Out of consideration for others that may also have questions. We're getting a few hand raises and we have some questions. Keep the questions coming in.

43:04

Really appreciate it.

43:05

So, I'm gonna go ahead and call on Carlos and then Natalie. Will be next.

43:11

OK, so Carlos, please go ahead, You can unmute yourself now.

43:24

Hello, Natalie, You can now.

43:30

Right.

43:33

All right.

43:37

OK, let's see here.

43:39

Natalie, Mass Colville.

43:43

Carlos, if you're listening, just go ahead and raise your hand, and we'll get you going.

43:48

OK, can you hear me?

43:50

Yes, very clearly. My question is, this data and the states where those priority areas, they're very hard to match up to, like in Wyoming towns that may be implementing renewable energy, because we have such small towns as, can I still have people applying that are interested, even though they might not be getting priority points? Or is it truly only those that are identified in those priority point maps. That can even apply.

44:26

I'm sorry, would you, would you mind repeating that?

44:29

OK? So, in the state of Wyoming, there are very few areas, very few, that would match up to the priority points map, that have been identified. So, I'm wondering if I can still even to encourage groups from areas that we have very many rural, small towns. Very many beneficial areas. Can. they still apply, and they just won't get as many points, or can they not even apply?

44:53

They're eligible to apply if they're located in a rural area.

44:55

OK, but it's just targeted towards the priority communities.

45:10

Yes that's correct.

45:12

Thank you, Natalie and time. I'll now call on Lee, Andrea, and then Erin ... if you want to go ahead and unmute yourself?

45:20

Now's the time.

45:26

You can ask me, type panels.

45:35

So Lee, we can't hear you, but if you want to go ahead and raise your hand, we'll come back to you. OK.

45:42

Right now we'll go with them, Erin course when I made public period.

45:50

Hi, I'm actually Erin Gars, what is a partner in the videos on initiative. My name is Jordan Sullivan. I'm the Chairman of the videos on Initiative. Thank you Tony and Deb for presenting this. So clearly, I do have a question though.

46:06

The videos on initiative look, looks like it would qualify only for the 20%, but not the 80% since the 80% looks like you want to focus on actual technologies, or companies, producing energy from biomass or soil or something in the communities.

46:26

Here's my question.

46:28

Our initiative really does speak to the social justice aspects and to the focus of this program on, on creating more projects that emerge from the initial grant, more clean energy projects, etcetera.

46:49

And so, we would like to potentially attach this project, two other applicants that are looking to fund actual plants Are technologies that, that, you know, will qualify for the 80%. So we want to attach us to the 80% and we can be, you know, maybe 10% of the 20%.

47:16

We think it can make those, those projects, um, those applications stronger and qualify better under the project, but we can't do it if you're not making the LOI, applicants, applicants who submit ... to the project's public, because we won't know who they are. So that's my question.

47:35

Will the names of the applicants be made public or not?

47:45

But, prior to the awards made, No, they will not.

47:55

All right, well, thank you for answering the question.

47:58

Yes, sir.

48:02

Thank you, so, thank you, Jess Innis, and then we'll Hersey, you're on that.

48:10

Just Banalities, so.

48:13

Yes, hello, can you hear me?

48:15

Yes, I can hear you clearly. Yes. Yes, thank you.

48:17

I was wondering if you might be able to describe some examples of ideal elements to a project, for example, who might be ideal partners, who might be the off takers of the energy?

48:38

Well, we're going leave that to you to determine what is ideal for your circumstances. That is the whole point of a pilot program.

48:45

So, let me just re-iterate what I said earlier.

48:49

We, we want to get funds, too, the underserved communities that we've identified, and that we've defined very specifically in the notice.

49:03

And we want to, we have these other things that we want to, too.

49:12

Demonstrate and develop in those communities, we want to install renewable energy system of 1 or 2, or even more renewable energy technologies, I'm, I think.

49:30

Immediately comes to mind is a solar application and a wind application working together, or perhaps a.

49:42

A biomass, boiler, combined heat, and power application.

49:48

And a wind or solar application going along with that, in those, in those specific communities, generating up to two megawatts of renewable energy, and heat and power, if that's what applies.

50:08

And also, generating income.

50:12

We, we use a portion, and we, with a matching funds, and also the, the required match that goes with the grant, um, two.

50:29

To do the capacity building, provide technical assistance as needed to do the weatherization and energy efficiencies.

50:38

Work that needs to be done in some of these communities in order for them to take advantage of the degenerated power and to save energy and all of this too in order to meet our climate change activity goals.

50:57

So, I'll just piggyback on that this is a pilot program, so we really do want to, as the community, to explain what the issue is that you're trying to resolve, and how the installation of this distributed energy resource is going to help you attain that goal.

51:20

So, so, might off takers of the electricity that's generated for the public entities.

51:28

Private entities, all of the above.

51:33

They could be, yes.

51:36

Yeah, there's no restrictions, in the notice, in regards to any off takers.

51:41

All right, thank you.

51:46

All right, thank you.

51:48

So, we're gonna go ahead and go with we'll Hersey, and then Leandre, and then we're gonna go, back to the written questions, keep raising your hands.

51:56

We'll come back to you, but right now, we have Will Hersey, and then Leandre, around it.

52:04

First of all, thanks for doing the webinar. Really informative, and, yeah, we appreciate it.

52:09

So, my question is, we're a startup company developing a wind turbine technology, and we have a few pilot projects that could qualify for this. And so, I was really looking at your definition of commercially available technology. And, it says that it has to have at least one year of operating history, and a number of other things.

52:28

So, when we apply, we will not necessarily have that one year of operating history, but over the course of the three-year grant period, and before installation of the project, we would, does that present any issues. Would we still be eligible on application.

52:47

So, let me just ask, do you see yourself as an applicant or as a technology provider, or service provider or vendor? You would be a vendor, correct?

53:05

53:25

Because we specify say in the notice that the technology used must be commercially available technology at the time the application is submitted.

53:36

OK, thanks. Appreciate it.

53:42

Thank you, Chairman. Thank you, Will. And then let's go with Leandre, You can now unmute yourself, sir, and asked the question.

54:00

OK, we seem to have some technical issues, Lee, I'm sorry.

54:05

I'll go ahead and put the phone number and pin number in the chat, maybe that might healthcare issues here, but with that, I'm going to go ahead and go back to the written questions, that OK, John?

54:15

Yes, sir, please.

54:21

Is staff time?

54:23

The staff time for the applicant and eligible costs, for work done on energy planning, technical assistance, et cetera.

54:32

Staff time for the Would that be the applicant?

54:40

Would that be the partnership? I'm guessing if it is, then no, that would be in-kind and not allowed for the applicant.

55:05

Now, can you define Community Solar in more detail?

55:10

Does the community solar needs to be filled 100% before award?

55:14

What happens if we build a community solar, but it takes several years to sell those blocks?

55:21

OK, we have a definition of community solar, and in the notice, and I'd, I'm sorry. I don't happen to have it on hand, Deb, can you help me with that?

55:33

Yeah.

55:34

So, while I'm looking that up, I would say that when we say community based renewable energy partnerships, we're not talking about community solar, where subscriptions are being sold per se, We're talking about communities that come together to develop renewable energy to meet their needs, I'm gonna be looking that definition up. And I'll get right back to you.

56:03

Thanks, Steph. Thanks Tony.

56:09

OK, can you, can you go into a little bit more detail about what's included under the definition of distributed energy solutions?

56:20

More than the definition that's provided in the notice.

56:31

Yeah.

56:39

So, and, as a reminder to the, in the handouts, today's presentation is located in the handouts, as well.

56:49

So, let me just say that we intend to cover that direct, specifically, when we go over the required letter of intent this time, next week, yeah, on Tuesday.

57:03

So, if I, if I may, I'm, I'm happy to answer your question in the Q and A session.

57:11

And we will address it, like I say, specifically, next week, if that's all right.

57:19

And tell me, this is Deb, I'll just circle back.

57:22

The definition, again, of Rural Energy Community Partnership is a partnership that's established to provide assistance to an identified community for purposes, such as installing the renewable Energy and doing capacity building.

57:37



So, we don't have community solar, if you will, as a definition. Take a look at the definition of Rural Energy Community Partnership in the notice.

57:48

Thank you, that was, that was more applicable, anyway. Thank you, Deb.

57:51

Sorry, for the Send you on the the false era and their problem.

58:01

All right. Scott, thanks. You will. Next question.

58:05

Sure.

58:06

There's preference for diversification, main project specific diversification, IE solar wind, hybrid projects, or regional asset diversification?

58:19

I'm not sure what's meant by regional asset diversification, um, the community part of the installation does not have to be in a single site.

58:31

It can be across several sites, um, if that's what's what you're talking about?

58:39

But diversification in terms of alternative technologies to solar photovoltaics is is encouraged.

58:57

That, Thank you.

59:04

So, OK.

59:12

Can we apply with a technology that hasn't reached one year of upgrading history, IE, definition of commercially available technology on the announcement?

59:21

But, we'll achieve this during the three year period for the installation of this set project.

59:29

Aye.

59:30

Um, I think I answered that question previously. The technology used must be commercially available technology at the time the application is submitted.

59:55

So, thank you.

59:58

Is the to mail it is the two million could be reversible Excuse me, Let me start over.

1:00:05

Can the two million be reimbursable for environmental planning permits slash surveys for our project, or just materials and construction costs?

1:00:20

I'll take this one, so, eligible costs cannot be pre award.

1:00:28

So, any cost related to the project after the date of our award, we can take a look at that. Anything prior to that. We would not be able to reimburse anything on that.

1:00:41

No, that was perfect. That was exactly what I had in mind when you started. You helped me think about it, right?

1:00:49

Just a quick follow-up to that. Will the projects requesting less than two million be less desirable for R D in this pilot program?

1:00:58

No. Well, well, no, Not necessarily We'll evaluate each project on its own merits.

1:01:05

Each application on its own merits, and in consideration of the criteria that we went over.

1:01:16

Got it, thanks, Tony.

1:01:17

Now, what determines if a rural community partnership, formerly Oregon, is formally organized, and what does that comprised of?

1:01:31

Well, the legal documents that they would go ahead and formal form to form the partnership.

1:01:41

Exactly, that's what I had in mind.

1:01:43

Letters of Incorporation would serve as that.

1:01:53

Got it, Thank you.

1:01:55

We'll do a couple more written, and then we're gonna go back to the hand questions, OK?

1:01:59

Yes, sir.

1:02:01

There's upgrading your system, I'm sorry, I beg your pardon? How are we doing for time?

1:02:10

We're doing OK. You know, I do.

1:02:12

I do want to ask that, we'll, we'll kinda pick it up a little bit on the, on the hand raise, is that, we have a just a few more to get to are about 6 or 7 of those, and then we can just keep pushing through. Doing OK, but, if you don't mind, I'll buddy from time to time, if we start getting closer.

1:02:28

Thank you.

1:02:31

Does upgrading Switchgear system to allow for future renewable energy development qualify a upgrading system, from single phase to three phase?

1:02:44

Deb, can you help me with that one?

1:02:49

That's a good question.

1:02:51

I think we would need to give that some thought, if that's part of the renewable energy system, to ensure that you have a distributed renewable energy system that the community can use.

1:03:02

I would think we'd be able to entertain that, but let's give that a little more thought and we'll address that in the letter of intent session that we have next week.

1:03:20

Thank you.

1:03:22

Can this be used for a group of projects, IE several dairy farms?

1:03:29

I didn't hear the last part of that, Scott. Several, but what?

1:03:34

Several can this be used for a group of projects, IE several dairy farms?

1:03:40

Several dairy farms?

1:03:49

If it's part of a community, if it serves the priority communities.

1:03:56

I am having trouble seeing why not not. Why not?

1:04:04

Deb, you want to add something to that?

1:04:08

I think that that's your ride on Tony.

1:04:11

We would need to tie it back to, how are the installations that those multiple dairies help provide energy burden relief for the community.

1:04:28

So, that, that would be our answer, provided, it meets all of the requirements that are, that we've identified in the notice: uh, why not?

1:04:45

Ask them, Thank you.

1:04:47

Will the entities that submit applications be made public? They will not.

1:04:55

But the awards will be made public.

1:05:04

Thank you.

1:05:06

Now, can we inquire our chances for filing an official letter of intent?

1:05:14

Can we inquire about your chances? Well, yes. So, let, let's, let's restate what we said earlier.

1:05:25

The amount of the award will depend on the number of participants and the amount of requested funds.

1:05:36

If every successful applicant requests \$2 million, then we will make five awards.

1:05:44

Now, we're kind of anticipating that there'll be 25 to 35 letters of intent submitted, and we will encourage all of those that are eligible to apply.

1:06:04

So, consider your chances if everybody ask for \$2 million.

1:06:11

Um, then, we will make five awards of 35, what's that, one chance and seven?

1:06:19

I would just add to that, that, you know, if you have specific questions or want to talk about specific criteria, please send an e-mail to REPP@USDA.gov.

1:06:30

We can definitely address those questions prior to completing the Letter of Intent, if that helps guide you in your decision.

1:06:43

Thank you.

1:06:47

So, along them, could a 20-unit net zero affordable housing project developed by Habitat for Humanity qualify?

1:06:57

If it's being designed for an on-site PV system, and we would wish to seek a grant for that system.

1:07:05

Excuse me.

1:07:07

A 20 unit on-site.

1:07:08

Oh, so that multi-family housing, is that what we're talking about here, does that, did I understand that correctly?

1:07:17

Yeah, I know it's an affordable housing project developed by Habitat for Humanity.

1:07:23

I said, it's designed for on-site PV system.

1:07:31

That would be like an eligible project.

1:07:34

Yeah, I would imagine that that that's going to be a relatively small project, with respect to the amount of generation capacity, But it could be, I don't see why it couldn't be included as a portion of it.

1:07:53

We have a project.

1:07:55

Do you need, Deb?

1:07:58

Know, I guess I was gonna go back to the conversation in regards to the dairy's.

1:08:03

You know, we'd have to seek out how the project meets the program goals and targets that we have.

1:08:11

And, again, once we get all the letters of intent, Dan, how does it match up to again other applications that come in, would be the question.

1:08:21

Absolutely.

1:08:26

Thanks for that question.

1:08:29

Yes, thank you.

1:08:31

With respect to the 20% match, can any dollars already expended toward the project, IE, feasibility studies, environmental permitting, et cetera?

1:08:40

Be considered as a match?

1:08:43

No, sir. No, ma'am.

1:08:46

That's great. But go ahead.

1:08:52

I was just gonna re-iterate that: Eligible project costs and matching funds to the project all have to be expended after the award. After you sign a grant agreement with us.

1:09:10

Thank you.

1:09:11

All right.

1:09:13

So, I think I'm just going to finish up the written questions, if you don't mind, and then we'll just keep, keep going, and then we'll go back to the hand raise, OK, That sounds great, or getting close.

1:09:22

All right.

1:09:23

A tribe can be a lead applicant.

1:09:25

Can a school that try and be a partner applicants?

1:09:34

That sounds like it could be, to me, Deb, do you have any reservations about that?

1:09:45

No?

1:09:47

I think that would be eligible.

1:09:56

But we'll ask the general counsel just to make sure if there is a difference, if they have a difference of opinion, We'll get back to you on that specifically.

1:10:05

But that's a very good question.

1:10:12

Who are the ultimate intended beneficiaries of the community project? For example, could utility customers get credits on their energy bills from a community solar project?

1:10:29

I think that's allowable.

1:10:32

Go ahead.

1:10:33

Gets very vague, because it is a pilot program. Again, going back to the question we had earlier on, end users and ultimate beneficiaries.

1:10:43

Um, now, tell us what the concern is in your community, and how this distributed energy system is going to resolve that.

1:10:52

You know, if you have lines that, at the very end of the line, you have, um, entities that are not being served, and that's part of building the capacity within your community, I don't see why that wouldn't be eligible.

1:11:10

OK, thank you.

1:11:12

Is population size of the community a key factor for consideration?

1:11:16

Is there a minimum population that would be considered?

1:11:26

Is there a minimum? This one area requirement, which is 50,000 population or less.

1:11:33

So, we would have to be within, a project would have to serve, communities of 50,000 or less population.

1:11:47

So, I guess the answer to that is the maximum is specified, identified clearly, but we have not identified a minimum.

1:11:58

I've never considered that as a question.

1:12:04

It would be kind of hard to justify a \$2 million grant to an individual though in a partnership of, of two individuals.

1:12:17

Thank you.

1:12:19

Um, so can soil and water conservation districts apply? can a drainage district or soil and water conservation district be an applicant?

1:12:32

I think they could be a lead applicant entity, Yes, they could.

1:12:38

And in partnership, with another entity, yes.

1:12:45

Thank you, provided the material.

1:12:49

Sorry.

1:12:51

No, no, as far as perfect thank you.

1:12:53

And they can A small city of black.

1:12:56

Yes, a rural area, a city in a rural area, or as dead, as Deb said earlier, a population of 50,000 or less.

1:13:07

That would be a small city.

1:13:17

OK, this one is A Let's see.

1:13:23

Just bear with me telling you it's a long question, but I think we can get there, first of all, she says thank you.

1:13:30

So then so much of Wyoming is extremely rural.

1:13:33

So, here's the question. I solar company serves all of Wyoming and many projects come to mind Can our labor as a company be donated as part of the matching funds?

1:13:42

Will smaller projects be awarded of plants?

1:13:47

Can grants other than federal be used in matching funds?

1:13:52

I can break that down again.

1:13:54

OK?

1:13:58

So can I So our solar company serves all of Wyoming and many products supplements. So, Can I labor as a company be donated as part of matching funds?

1:14:10

So, if I don't see your solar company as the lead entity, so you would be a partner entity?

1:14:19

And, in that case, yes, your labor could be considered matching funds toward the project, provided that you're in partnership with an eligible entity, the applicant, as we identified earlier.



1:14:39

Does that sound right to you, Deb?

1:14:43

Yes, I would agree. And what we would want to see is a demonstration of a reasonable number of hours requested at what would be considered a reasonable wage rate for those hours. So that we assured that the reimbursement request is not overstated for the type of work that's performed.

1:14:59

Perfect.

1:15:01

Will smaller projects be awarded if plants are met?

1:15:09

All applications received will be evaluated the same way, according to the criteria that was published in the funding opportunity notice.

1:15:28

So, they would equal, they would receive equal consideration of every other applicant, is the way to say that, and fair consideration.

1:16:00

OK?

1:16:07

Hello, I apologize, I was talking. I mean. Sorry about that.

1:16:15

And so you mentioned, you mentioned two MW. I'm guessing that's megawatts. Does that mean that the output needs to be power?

1:16:25

Can it be syn gas or bio gas?

1:16:33

Well, we're talking about really relieving energy burdens. So yes, we're talking about generation.

1:16:44

If that same gas turns a generator, now we're talking.

1:16:48

But as Search, I don't they syn gas is A.

1:16:56

Is going to meet the purposes of the program as an outcome.

1:17:03

Would you agree with that, Deb?

1:17:06

Yeah, that's a really good question.

1:17:08

I think we'd have to dig into the notice a little, um, to see how we would look at that.

1:17:21

Thank you.

1:17:23

The same day while we're, while we're here, Scott, let me just state here, this goes for biofuel production that biofuel production is not an outcome that meets the purposes of the program, but if that biofuel is used to turn a generator, now, we're talking about something else entirely.

1:17:50

About it, OK, thank you.

1:17:54

There's a couple more questions, but those folks also have their hand raised, so we're just going to get right into it.

1:17:59

OK.

1:17:59

So for folks that you have your hand raised, I'm going to start with Tom Mills and then the Olivia .... You'll be next, OK. So timing, go ahead and unmute yourself, and go and speak.

1:18:10

Yes, thank you, and thanks for presenting this information. My question is regarding that 28% matching fund.

1:18:18

If the state, this project is in has state funds or funds that are available from the state utility company, will they qualify?

1:18:29

Yes, sir.

1:18:31

Alright.

1:18:31

Thank you, candidates, if they're a partner, not the lead applicant.

1:18:36

Correct, but yes, absolutely.

1:18:39

All right, Thanks.

1:18:47

..., if you'd like to unmute yourself, now's the time.

1:18:51

Douglas Smith founder.

1:18:53

Hi, thank you for this webinar.

1:18:56

And, I have a two part question, I guess, so, the first part is, if a rural electric co-operative partners with a tribe, then in that case, the tribe would be the lead applicant.

1:19:11

Correct, even though the Rural Electric co-operative is a non-profit organization, understood.

1:19:20

The des, so, your answer me is that, would that be an eligible partnership?

1:19:26

Yes, absolutely, but, the electric co-operative itself would not be, that could not be the lead applicant, even though it's a non-profit.

1:19:38

Oh, I see, I see what you're doing, so, if the electric co-operative meets all of the other criteria, um.

1:19:52

So, um, I, yes, I am, I believe so, and if I get a difference of opinion from leadership, then I will, I will communicate.

1:20:10

But I, as I imagine it, we've stated along that we would prefer the, the rural electric co-operatives to be the partner entity as opposed to the lead applicant or the lead entity, the applicant.

1:20:26

Um, but they are non-profit. And we've specified that as an eligible entity to be the lead entity.

1:20:37

So, can you help me? Is there a reason to exclude them?

1:20:46

No.

1:20:47

I think, I mean, we'd obviously you can run that past LGC, Tony, about we.

1:20:53

do have public and private non-profit organizations listed Yes, lead entities.

1:21:00

So thank you for that question that's forced us to think about things a little more carefully.

1:21:05

Thank you actually have as a second question then about kind of the lead entity. Does the lead entity need to be the owner of the?

1:21:16

You know, if the project is for on the power generation facility, then if that's owned by the electric co-operative, do they need to be the lead entity? Or?

1:21:27

Like a partnership with the tribe, even though they don't own the specific, you know, technology or pieces there does not matter.

1:21:37

Well, Cindy, the lead entity is responsible for the administration of the grant.

1:21:47

And, has and takes ownership, as we, as we specified in the notice itself, are the responsibilities and requirements of the lead entity.

1:22:01

So, unless the partnership, it's in the agreement that the partnership is good, it has control of the assets, or that that goes to the partnering entity, uh, that's the lead entity that that would be assumed to have ownership of that.

1:22:21

And I would have you look at the definition of applicants in the, notice, that's where it talks about the rights and responsibilities and the disposition.

1:22:31

Um, that go along with any of the assets do reside with a lead applicant.

1:22:45

Hey, thank you.

1:22:47

Oh, let me say something.

1:22:53

I'm good.

1:22:53

Just just thank you, OK.

1:22:59

Alright, so that, mister Smith. And then we'll have John Fox Rubin, on deck.

1:23:05

Douglas, you can go ahead and yourself. So you already answered my question. That was spoken at a municipality, a small city canal for 5000 people.

1:23:16

And now we're looking at a solar farm then in conjunction with a power purchase agreement and I'm just wondering if the the PPA can be considered as the matching.

1:23:29

Reduce the PPA portion.

1:23:36

That's worthy of consideration. Absolutely.

1:23:40

OK, thank you.

1:23:45

All right, thank you. So, now we have John Fox Truman, and then Aaron and Aaron ..., and then we're almost where revenues are almost thank. You, I'm the one that asked the question about a Habitat for Humanity community.

1:24:05

And we are in a distressed energy community area, and what we're thinking is, it's a neighborhood of 20 housing units that would be sold as deed restricted houses to low income and moderate income families.

1:24:21

And we've designed it to have PV on the generation side about 100 kilowatts, and then, we would like to also add battery storage and E V capabilities for all. I think 18 of the units have garages so that EVs can be inside and then two would be carports outside.

1:24:43

So, the overall system, total size, is more like 20 kilo watts. Is that too small?

1:24:51

I heard the question about you've got a maximum around two megawatts, but is 200, too small to be of interest?

1:25:02

Well, let's consider it!

1:25:03

We, we might could talk about that in, in the context of a larger project to be included as a among it, that you can serve a wider service area.

1:25:19

Got it.

1:25:21

So, maybe part of something, or the other entity. Yeah. Yeah. So, something of that nature is worthy of consideration.

1:25:29

But we would like to do, we would like to be a larger scale, this is what I'm trying to say, so that we can demonstrate the impact that this program is having. so that Congress says, Oh, you know what? That was a good idea. We had.

1:25:46

Let's pick that up on a continuous basis, OK.

1:25:52

Kind of happened, But that's we would like to have projects of impact.

1:25:57

Yeah, what what? What would you say would be that hitting that threshold?

1:26:02

Do you think one megawatt would do it, because we looked at a model where we would have pretty extensive energy storage that would be supplied, both by our PV on the roof?

1:26:13

Because in that region, sustainability, we have a lot of forest fires and we've had a lot of outages.

1:26:20

And so, really, the battery capacity might be the, even though it's not generation, coupled with with a fair amount of PV and eubank it and store it, It can bring a lot, a lot of resiliency.

1:26:35

So, if you said, Hey, one megawatt is kind of our threshold, We would then look at, you know, let's design a one megawatt system and see if it makes sense to run through your, your proposal process.

1:26:47

Or, if you said it's 500 kilowatts.

1:26:52

Well, we haven't set a minimum threshold, so, but you do, you should remember that, you have to compete with every other applicant.

1:27:01

Yeah. Got it. The performance metrics are going to be.

1:27:08

significant input in consideration.

1:27:12

Got it. I mean, then, I guess I'll dig into the details but there's the the intermittent peak capacity versus your your standard capacity for a system.

1:27:24

So, if this were in an area where those peak shaving could play a big role.

1:27:32

Hopefully your process can give that benefit as well or you know give it credit for that.

1:27:41

I understand that. Yes. OK.

1:27:43

Again, thanks, it takes for meritorious consideration.

1:27:46

Yep, OK and make sure that you address that in your narrative if you've got you know, intermittent peak.

1:27:55

concerns that you're trying to address with the projects OK, thank you.

1:28:06

Thank you, John. Thank you, Tony and depth.

1:28:08

So we have Eric Arslan, you can unmute yourself and then Paul De Yolanda.

1:28:23

Energy, there, you are off, goodness week.

1:28:30

I will come back to Erin, and then we're gonna go with Paul D, If you listen, either you can unmute yourself.

1:28:42

Hello, this is Paul Hernandez with East Bay Community Energy Authority. Can you hear me?

1:28:47

Yes, sir, and I intermittent, but yes, I can hear you.

1:28:50

OK, great, and you may hear my my son trying to get my attention back as well, so thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today and this awesome presentation.

1:28:59

one of the things that I wanted to touch base with you on was regarding the targeted region.

1:29:07

Earlier, it was stated that the, that five of those six targets should be achieved. What if a group specifically only has 3 or 4 of those identifiers?

1:29:17

In other words, is the Threshold five. And anything below that, is going to be not considered.

1:29:25

And then, secondly, if there's anything that you could add around identifying an area of rural nature, it sounds like, from the solicitation that that is going to be the, under consideration, as well.

1:29:39

In our territory, for example, we do have rural areas. But they're not falling in the identifiers that you have there. So, trying to get a little bit more feedback.

1:29:51

So, if, Deb, if you don't mind, I'm going to let you talk about the tool we have for rural eligibility meeting the rural eligibility requirement.

1:30:04

Sure, so, um, on our website, there's a link that you can pull up areas by their dress to see if they meet the 50,000 or less population.

1:30:17

If I understand you correctly, you're saying that a lot of the areas of emphasis for our targets, where there's maybe high energy burdens, Low income, et cetera, don't meet the 50,000 or less population.

1:30:35

We would need to have the project be located in those areas that are 50,000 or less population in order to be eligible for the program.

1:30:44

And I believe the second.

1:30:47

a question that you had was in regards to the criteria having sixth available, if you only hit 2 or 3 of those. And, again, that goes back to what Tony was saying, that all the projects will be evaluated based on their merit. So you may just not score as well as another one that would hit up to the five out of the six criteria.

1:31:12

OK, great, thank you so much for those applications.

1:31:23

Yeah.

1:31:24

All right, thank you.

1:31:26

Last two hands raise myself and get them online. Here, I'm gonna start with Erin ... and then we're gonna go Leandre, you'll be up next.

1:31:39

Erin?

1:31:44

OK, All right, yeah, and if you want to maybe just type in your question, what will I think we have time to get to where we're good on time. So go ahead and type that question because we cannot hear you.

1:31:55

I'm gonna go ahead and move on to leandre When I started, I think we had the same issue, but Legal ahead.

1:32:07

All right.

1:32:08

I think that does the same thing when you go ahead and type in your question, and we'll make sure to address it now.

1:32:16

That does it for the hand raises. We do have a couple more, Tony, in the chat, and I'm going to go ahead with those off now.

1:32:24

OK, All right. What a project at a non-profit university in an underserved community be eligible? IE, Can the non-profit University be the lead applicant?

1:32:39

Um, the non-profit university, we would prefer the applicant.

1:32:46

Yeah. We would prefer the university to be the partner entity and not the lead applicant, not the lead entity or the applicant.

1:33:00

Got it. Thank you.

1:33:04

OK, and Could a PPA be used as a partner for a city, as matching funds?

1:33:15

Partner for Citi is matching funds.

1:33:19

I think we can consider that. We'd have to see it in context of the entire app.



1:33:28

OK.

1:33:32

All right.

1:33:35

OK, I believe you've answered this, but I'm just going to add we're good on time. So, just to clarify, does the partnership have to be a formal legal partnership? Or can it be formalized by other means, such as, such as through a memorandum of understanding?

1:33:54

I think we had what we need something more. We do need something more formal than our memorandum for understanding letters of incorporation.

1:34:02

A simple.

1:34:08

I think I'm going to takes take the time to clarify what we require in terms of the declarations that are needed.

1:34:17

two for a partnership.

1:34:21

If you're in, I'll try to have that available for the Letter of Intent training next week.

1:34:27

If you'll bear with me.

1:34:31

Thanks, Tony.

1:34:33

Couple of questions here.

1:34:35

Is there a megawatt or max size?

1:34:40

They're looking at a 2.6 megawatt system.

1:34:46

For for our community?

1:34:48

That sounds that sounds reasonable, which we've talked about an absolute.

1:34:55

If you can do it for the \$2 million, and the matching fund, 400,000 to go along with that, more power to you, let's it's worthy of consideration.

1:35:07

But, what were you can you repeat that? Was that two megawatts dollars 1.6 megawatts?

1:35:15

Yes.

1:35:17

Are mega watt Kappas is two million, right Tony are two megawatts mm meter.

1:35:28

Well, the interests we have is that it's community scale, energy, serve in the community, the priority communities, um.

1:35:45

I can see we're already come up against that threshold.

1:35:49

Again, that's, we all need to discuss that and get a clarifying note to you on that.

1:36:05

Thank you.

1:36:08

Is the two megawatt mack's on the DC or AC side?

1:36:13

Yeah.

1:36:15

Told me with the. I think we were taught. We're still talking about DC, right?

1:36:23

Yeah, generation. Yeah.

1:36:29

Yeah.

1:36:31

All right, this is the last question I'm going in there, Q here.

1:36:38

So I think we have about 20 minutes left. So if you want to have those last-minute questions, now's the time, folks.

1:36:44

I'm gonna go ahead and go along.

1:36:45

So as we serve, multiple communities that are less than 50,000, but some together are over 50,000, are we eligible to apply for all those communities, or do we need to pick a specific community that is less than population?

1:37:02

I'll let you take that, Deb, if you don't mind.

1:37:05

Well, I believe I've heard you say, do you need to aggregate the sum of the entire area?

1:37:11

And that would not, that's not how we would look at it, will then look to ensure that each of the communities are 50,000 or less, we wouldn't aggregate those community population.

1:37:28

Ask them.

1:37:31

OK.

1:37:34

You get a couple of notes, a couple of thank you notes, Tony, in them, I said, it's making this up. Thank you so much for making this opportunity possible. Very much appreciate it.

1:37:44

Against a few thank you's.

1:37:45

I do want to plug in the whether in our next next week as well um, and then I don't see any hand raises so or questions in the chat so Tony, if you want to wrap up there hmm, hmm, hmm, hmm. Now, now, it's fine.

1:38:03

OK, A few slides, Tony, if you want to go to the next slide, we can go over those questions as well.

1:38:09

OK, All right. Thanks, Tony.

1:38:13

So, as we mentioned several times, we are going to have another webinar next Tuesday, February first.

1:38:19

And in that webinar, we will further discuss in detail what's required in that letter of intent.

1:38:26

We also have some follow-up questions that we will get back to you from this webinar.

1:38:32

You can visit our website. It has the details. It has the details about the webinar for next week and how to register for that webinar.

1:38:41

The April 19th Letter of Intent filing date will be after that, and then we'll have another webinar scheduled for May 24th where we will discuss submitting a complete REPP application.

1:38:56

And then we'll have a final hour long open Q&A session on June 28th, which is prior to the July 18th complete application deadline.

1:39:07

So, that's what we have set right now for training.

1:39:09

Next slide.

1:39:14

Once I get, There we go.

1:39:19

All right.

1:39:21

So just mark your calendars again with these significant REPP Program deadlines, again, April 19th for the Letter of Intent and July 18th, with a complete REPP Application filing deadline.

1:39:34

Next slide.

1:39:38

After complete applications have been filed to the agency, we will review them for completeness and eligibility.

1:39:46

We will then have a panel evaluate and compete all of the complete ineligible applications.

1:39:53

And those reviews and evaluations are slated to occur in the August September timeframe.

1:39:59

By October and November of 2022, we intend to have REPP selections made.

1:40:06

And we will notify all participants of the sending status, will get awards obligated and we will publicly announce those that are boarded.

1:40:17

If you were successful with an award, you would then execute the financial assistance agreement with the agency.

1:40:26

And after that, your REPP project may start incurring concurrent costs.

1:40:33

Next slide.

1:40:37

So, again, the Rural Energy Pilot Program page on the website is your one stop shop for program information so, you may want to bookmark this page for reference.

1:40:49

Next slide.

1:40:53

Questions on the REPP program can be set to myself or Tony Crookes via the program e-mail address, which is Rural Energy Pilot Program at USDA dot gov or, for short R E P P at USDA dot gov.

1:41:11

Each state also has a state energy co-ordinator that you can contact with questions.

1:41:19

Scott, are there any other last-minute questions that we have not addressed?

1:41:26

No, no, not at this time.

1:41:30

Well, I think that's all we have then for everyone, we would like to thank you for joining us today, as we launch this exciting pilot program.

1:41:39

And we hope that you will be able to join us for upcoming training webinars, and we look forward to working with your Rural Energy Community Partnership.

1:41:48

So, have a great rest of the day.

1:41:52

Thanks, Scott. Appreciate your help with this.

1:41:55

Thanks, Deb. Thank you, guys.

1:41:58

Thanks.

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