

0:04

Good afternoon, everyone, and welcome to the Rural Energy Pilot Program: REPP Required Letter of Intent focused Webinar.

0:12

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

0:17

This slide currently 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

You're listening right now using a computer systems.

0:30

By default, however, if you'd prefer to listen over the phone, just select a phone call underneath the audio pane and the dial in information will be displayed for you.

0:39

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

0:48

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

0:51

We're gonna collect those, and we'll address them at the end of section three, address questions at the end of session four, as well as at the end of the presentation.

1:00

You can also speak to are found directly by raising a virtual hand.

1:04

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

1:10

Lastly, live captioning is also available. And a link to these to access these captions has been sent via the chat box.

1:17

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

1:23

So, thank you again for joining us and please utilize that chat box to submit your questions and comments throughout.

1:28

With that, I'd like to turn the presentation over to Tony Crookes, Rural Energy Polly's Policy Specialist.

1:35

Thank you, Scott.

1:36

With me today is Deb Jochen, who's my co manager of this program, Chip. There will be, and I'll be working together on the Q&A sections.

1:46

And, like Scott said, we're going work our way through the letter of intent and the items involved with it. We'll take it, section by section and will break after each important section for a Q and A session.

2:03

So, first, we'll talk a little bit about the program, then we'll tell you how to apply --how to complete and sign the letter of intent.

2:19

Finally, we'll discuss important selection criteria. And we'll have a final session for questions at the end.

2:25

Today I also intend, to the extent that it's possible, take you through the Website and make use of the tools that we've provided there.

2:43

First, we note that the Letter of Intent is due to be submitted, on, or before April 19th, 2022, and then, this Must Sir submit the completed applications no later than 11 59 PM, Eastern Time, July 18th, 2022.

3:05

You'll notice also that we have in the on the webpage, a Fact Sheet, which we are working to complete. Its work in progress right now. We hope to after this today's webinar to have a completed fact sheet for you.

3:25

As I click on the links, I see that about both the Fact sheet and the Spanish version of the Fact sheet are available now.

3:32

There's also a link to the Federal Register Notice.

3:40

What does this program do?

3:42

The Rural Energy Pilot Program of grant offers financial assistance for rural communities to further develop renewable energy and who may apply to this program.

3:53

Eligible applicants to this program are Rural Energy Community Partnerships. As defined in the Notice of Funding Opportunity in the Federal Register Notice published on the 19th of January this year.

4:09

REPP partnerships may be comprised of, but are not limited to non-profit entities, state and local entities, tribal entities, municipalities, and other public bodies.

4:20

How may funds be used?

4:23

REPP grant funds can be used to support community energy planning, capacity building, and technical assistance, community efficiency and weatherization, and especially the installation and equipping of community scale, renewable energy technologies and systems.

4:41

What is an eligible area?

4:44

A rap partnership must serve a community as specified in the Notice.

4:50

Priority is given to distressed and high energy burden communities in which households spend a greater portion of their income on energy costs compared to the average US household.

5:01

What's the maximum amount of the grant?

5:05

Awards to successful applicants will be in the form of cost sharing grants for up to 80% of total eligible project costs, not to exceed two million.

5:16

What are the terms of the grant?

5:18

The grant term is three years.

5:21

How do I apply interested Applicants are encouraged to review the materials, including application deadlines found in the REPP Notice of Funding Opportunity and Application materials and instructions are available by clicking the To Apply tab of this website.

5:38

This program is governed by the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 which provides the Secretary of Agriculture \$10 million available until expended to carry out a pilot program to offer financial assistance for rural communities to develop renewable energy.

5:58

The REPP is governed by the Notice of Funding Opportunity, published in the Federal Register on, January 19, 2022. That's the 87th Federal Register, beginning on page, 2747.

6:11

Why does USDA Rural Development do this?

6:15

The REPP meets a recognized need for federal support to further develop renewable energy to meet our nation's energy needs and combat climate change while prioritizing environmental justice, racial equity, and economic opportunity.

6:31

Now, let's click the To Apply tab.

6:35

To apply for this program, you must first write a letter to inform the agency of your intentions as a Rural Energy Community Partnership to develop a clean energy community.

6:48

Here now, are the Required Letter Of Intent instructions.

6:51

The Required Letter Of Intent must be submitted electronically to a secure Cloud Vault link.

6:57

We, the Agency, will provide you that secure CV link upon your request. I'll tell you how to do that in just a few seconds.

7:06

The Required Letter Of Intent must be submitted on or before 11 59 Eastern Time on April 19th, 2022.

7:15

Here's how to request a secure CV link for submitting the Required Letter Of Intent,

First, download, the Required Letter Of Intent guide.

8:06

Fill out Section one, the Salutation and Applicant Information, which is on page 3 of the Guide.

8:14

Make sure to complete the Lead Applicant Entity information and make a double X at the appropriate entity type.

8:24

You'll see I've done that here.

8:26

Then send your Request for a secure Cloud Vault link with the page three PDF attached to [REPP@usda.gov](mailto:REPP@usda.gov).

Then on or after February 7th, that's next Monday, we'll start fulfilling your requests.

Please allow two business days to receive a link and user instructions for the Secure Cloud Vault link.

9:02

Tony this is Deb. I'll just jump in there.

Please provide your legal name on that letter. Also we'd appreciate it if you'll also include your e-mail address on the request that will help us to expedite your request. Thank you.

Thank you Deb. Appreciate that.

9:22

So, again, to request a secure CV link, send an e-mail with completed page three attached to [REPP@usda.gov](mailto:REPP@usda.gov). Then, after next week, you should receive from us an e-mail with the link and user instructions for the secure CV.

9:44

Then, work to complete and sign the Required Letter of Intent.

9:54

Now, let's go through the instructions for completing the Required Letter Of Intent using the guide that we've provided.

10:03

Rural Energy Pilot Program applicants must submit a Letter Of Intent before submitting a Completed Application.

10:09

You are encouraged, but not required to use this application guide. Whether you use the Guide or not, you must provide all the required information to be considered for funding.

10:20

Using this guide does not imply, nor does it ensure a favorable eligibility determination.

10:27

Your Letter Of Intent cannot exceed 15 standard 8.5 by 11-inch pages and must have one inch margins on all sides, including any charts, tables, diagrams, and illustrations.

10:41

Information included beyond the 15-page limitation will not be considered.

10:47

You must submit your completed and signed Letter Of Intent to a secure cloud vault link, which we've just discussed.

11:00

Your, your Letter of Intent must be received, on or before 11 59 PM Eastern Time, on April 19, 2022.

11:08

If you have questions, you can reach us by e-mailing [REPP@USDA.gov](mailto:REPP@USDA.gov). Which I see a good number of you have already made use of, and we're happy to receive those emails.

11:27

The Rural Energy Pilot Program grant helps eligible rural communities develop renewable energy, establish clean energy communities, and deploy community scale, distributed energy technologies, innovations and solutions.

11:42

The maximum grant award amount per applicant is \$2 million. The funds can be used to pay for up to 80% of total eligible project cost directly related to commercially available, community base and community scale, renewable energy systems.

12:00

And to use up to 20% of awarded funds for community energy planning, Capacity Building, Technical Assistance, Efficiency and Weatherization thou art. The purpose of this guide is to help you navigate rapp application requirements to submit a Letter of Intent.

12:20

You will find additional details in the Notice of Funding Opportunity, and you can access that from the from the webpage. It's available here at this link.

12:33

There are other submission requirements.

12:36

First, you will need a DUNS//Dun and Bradstreet number.

12:40

If you don't already have one, here is the link for requesting a DUNS number.

12:52

You will be required to have a System for Award Management (or SAM) Unique Entity Identifier. Click on this link, and it'll take you to SAM registration Website.

13:07

Now, let me just ask here if anyone intends to produce ethanol and use it to turn a generator.

13:25

Or is there anyone that intends to propose an alcohol related project?

13:36

Scott, do you see any hands raised?

13:43

Let me also ask. Does anyone intend to use hemp in their project? If your REPP plans involve hemp production in any way or form, there are federal requirements associated with either one of those types of projects.

14:14

Tony, you have one hand raised.

14:16

Thanks Scott.

14:29

I'm going to go ahead and go to the to the hand raise right away and because it's this is a question here from Melissa and then speak on it.

14:38

Yeah, Melissa, you can now unmute yourself and ask your question.

14:43

Thank you. I'm wondering, is this, this, does this have to be broader community based?

14:48

So, for example, I work for a federally qualified health center, and we house, approximately 22 families that worked for the health center.

14:59

And we are seeking to do upgrades and provide more sustainable solutions for our energy usage. We're in rural Alaska, and obviously our energy costs are extraordinarily high. So, yes, ma'am.

15:13

If you don't mind do is this alcohol are hemp related? If not, would you mind if we table that question until we get to, further on down in the Letter Of Intent?

15:26

Absolutely. Thank you so much. Appreciate that.

15:31

All right. Thank you, Scott. Let's return to the LOI.

15:35

No problem. Yeah, that does it for the hand and raises we'll save that. That question. It's also in the in the written comments so we can pick it up at the appropriate time.

15:47

All right.

15:47

Here's my sample email request. As you can see, I've filled out Section 1 with my representative RECP, Midland County Rural Energy Community Partnership and provided the other details. I'll attach the completed page 3 to my email request and send it to [REPP@usda.gov](mailto:REPP@usda.gov)

16:02

Now let's move on to Section 2.

16:06

Section 2 is the opening paragraph and the Executive Summary. Your opening paragraph must include the following: The identification of the members, governance, or leadership board and the structure of the Rural Energy Community Partnership applying for the grant.

16:23

The date the partnership was formalized, the description of the partnership's objective, the depiction of each partner's ties to the region to be served, their roles in the execution of the REPP pilot, and any history of prior collaborations among the partners.

16:39

It also requires you to provide an executive summary, which must include a project action plan, scope of work, and must note whether the project is part of a larger project. If it is, you must also provide a brief summary of that larger project.

16:57

A detail of the partnership's -- strategy, activities, budget, goals, and objectives for the use of REPP funds.

17:04

Examples of Objectives include, among others: the ability to withstand and recover from disruptive events, economic and energy resilience, increased environmental justice, improved racial equity, expanded economic opportunity; stability, or the diversification of distributed energy resources.

It must also include the amount of grant funds being requested, the amount and sources of matching funds the partnership will provide, and finally an estimated timeline to complete the work for which funds are requested.

17:39

And we make this note.

17:41

That written, clearly, this executive summary, can stand on its own, allowing the the reviewers to determine what your partnership is asking for, and what it intends to accomplish, without having to refer to the other sections of the law.

17:59

Alright, let's move on to Section 3. The Statement of Need, the Project Why?

18:07

Section 3 requires you to explain the issue, the course of action you've chosen to address the issue and why you're doing so.

18:17

Describe the Geographic region to be served, including the state or states, counties, and all associated zip codes.

18:25

You must demonstrate that the geographic region to be served is a rural area, as defined in the Notice of Funding Opportunity, and I'm going to pick that up right now.

18:38

You'll see in the REPP funding notice (NOFO), I have highlighted it.

18:43

I'm not going to read it, but in the Definition section, which is section I. C., you'll see the definition of Rural or Rural Area. It's about a page and a half long. And it starts out an area of state, not in a city or town that has a population of more than 50,000 inhabitants which exclude certain populations, but pursuant.

19:28

This is Deb, I'll just jump in there. We do have a rural eligibility link on our Website. So, if you click the Business Programs link, you'll see an interactive map with a push pin indicator and a box to enter the address and zip code of the prospective project site that will indicate whether the site is in a rural area.

20:06

Thanks, Tony.

20:07

Thank you Deb.

20:08

I have a little demonstration setup here with a representative community that I've identified.

20:16

And I'm going to try to make the picture just slightly larger.

20:24

OK, not that large. My representative community is Danville, Virginia, at the bottom and middle of the State. Notice here that I've just taken the pushpin at the top, and clicked on it, and then



gone down to the community, and click on the community, and then it the green dialogue box identifies that that the community is indeed located in a rural area; in an eligible area.

21:02

Now that I've identified an eligible service.

21:07

We want to briefly describe the significance of the project, to the defined service area, and note who will benefit. We also want to emphasize the public good achieved.

21:19

Using the six indicators below provide, supporting documentation to describe how your partnership will serve Targeted assistance priority communities, addressing the economic distress and energy burdened circumstances of the geographic region to be served.

21:36

The first indicator is the Economic Innovation Group's Distressed Communities Index.

21:42

Click on the link, to take us to the interactive map.

21:52

Next click on the state that my service area is located and click on the Community.

22:02

Notice that I've done this already just to save a bit of time.

22:07

And again, here's Danville, Virginia zip code 24540. Notice that Danville has a distress rating of 90.3, which indicates that the community is very highly distressed, or as the map identifies "Distressed."

22:30

There are also associated supporting indicators in the dialogue box that pops up when you move the cursor over the highlighted area. Notice the percentages of no high school diploma, the poverty rate, adults not working, and you can see the list of additional supporting indicators.

22:45

You can also make a PDF of the page to document the relative distress of the service area to include if you choose, with the supporting narrative.

23:15

The second indicator is the Department of Energy's Low Income Energy Affordability Data, the LEAD tool.

23:23

We click on the 2d indicator link, and that provides us with the LEAD Tool, and it takes us to this page.

23:34

And you see, I've already done that work here, and identified where Danville is. Notice that it has an energy burden that is on average 9%, which is very high compared to surrounding communities. In fact, it's the highest energy burden in the State of Virginia.

23:56

And then as I choose to, I can also make download this chart and make use of the data that's used to support the indicator for use in the LOI narrative for why I'm choosing to the service area, around Danville, Virginia.

24:24

The third indicator is the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, the Social Vulnerability Index.

24:35

I click on that link, and it takes me to their Webpage.

24:40

I click on the interactive map, and it takes me to the SVI interactive map.

24:51

As before, I've already pulled, up Danville, Virginia. You see that on a scale, from 0 to 1, Danville has a vulnerability index of, 0.985, which is one of the highest vulnerability indices on record.

25:09

Also as before, if I want to, I can zoom to the supporting information for that, and, again, build that into my LOI narrative.

25:23

The fifth indicator requires us to indicate which, if any counties and zip codes in the geographic region to be served are primarily distressed communities with high concentrations of employment in the coal, oil, and gas industries, or have coal fired generation facilities transitioning away from fossil fuel energy production.

25:51

These are listed among distressed energy communities identified in this link.

25:57

I click on the link.

26:01

And it takes me to this page with the distressed energy communities identified in this green color.

26:19

Let me make it just a little bigger.

26:22

OK, if you'll notice here, Danville is adjacent to the distressed energy communities, but is not a distressed energy community itself.

26:35

So, the, I have a choice here to expand my service area, to include some of those and then get kind of a broad mix of distressed and non-distressed energy communities. Or I can choose not to redefine my project and just take what I get for a distressed energy community indicator score, which in this case would be a 1. And for just for illustrative purposes. I'm going to choose the latter choice, so I can explain to you how we how that would work in our selection criteria.

27:14

And number six, the final indicator is disadvantaged communities where you're required to provide a brief narrative with supporting information to demonstrate how the geographic region to be served is a disadvantaged community, as defined in Section I. C. of the REPP funding notice. You may also use the EPA Environmental Justice Screening and mapping tool to support this indicator.

27:41

Here, I'm pulling up my handy highlighted definitions in the REPP notice for Disadvantaged Communities to see that disadvantaged communities refers to the disadvantaged communities that have been historically marginalized and overburdened by pollution and underinvestment in housing, transportation, water, and wastewater infrastructure, and health care.

28:12

This is Executive Order 14008, "Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad," January 27, 2021.

28:34

Now let's make use of the Environmental Justice Screening tool. Click on the link and it takes us to their mapping tool.

28:48

In the upper left-hand corner, you'll see an index of indicators that I've clicked on.

28:59

It's going to be a little tricky for me to point to one indicator and then point to the next explanatory indicator that's down below, because of where they are located on the map.

I hope you can see that it says this is a P M of 2.5, which is fine particulate matter levels in the air.

29:26

As before, if I wave the cursor over the indicator, you'll see that it'll pop up on the, the map legend in the upper right-hand corner. And there we see which areas are in the 95 to 100% percentile of particulate matter.

29:52

And then we that relative percentiles are graduated on down, each associated with a respective color, starting at Brick Red and proceeding to very light gray or white, where data is not available.

30:03

And as you work your way through each one of these indexes, you'll see indicators that show, Danville, is located at the heart of some environmental issues and there are also some that are adjacent to the Danville community.

30:31

And again, as appropriate, you can use these to build a case of supporting information to demonstrate that this community, is a disadvantaged community.

30:50

Scott, if you don't mind, this seems a really good time to take questions on Section 3.

30:58

Sure, Tony, thank you.

31:00

I don't see any hand raises, so I'll take written questions now.

31:13

It looks like eligibility and screening criteria are based on zip codes for tribal communities that are not necessarily represented well by the zip codes.

31:24

They reside within that they're at Reside within. Are there any mechanisms to evaluate the tribe, based on the criteria of their specific community?

31:38

Deb, if you don't mind. I think you're going to have to help me with that one.

31:43

OK, so, I believe the question is with regard for Tribal nations, targeted, targeted links that we're looking at, I believe there's no way that you can go in there and just define the service area without putting a zip code in.

32:03

But you should be able to go in and define the service area and it should pull up that information without having to use a specific zip code.

32:12

Thanks Deb. So, and, in my demonstration, I just used the pushpin to move it around an area.

32:22

And as long as I get green dialogue box a green light for that area that indicates to me that the area is eligible for REPP funds, or in other words, the service area is in a rural area.

32:37

Thanks, Tammy. Thank you, Deb.

32:40

Next question. Is the SAM registration the same as a CAGE number?

32:46

I can address this one as well, Tony. So the CAGE number is something that is going away.

32:54

The applicant entity will still need to be registered in the System for Award Management, the SAM system as part of a complete application.

33:04

To do this you'll need to make sure that you are completing the certifications and representations as part of the SAM registration.

33:15

And then as part of that process, it's likely that you will not need to get a CAGE code because it's being phased out. Instead, you will receive what is called a Unique Entity Identifier or UEI.

33:28

Part of our eligibility review requires that we use your Tax Identification Number to ensure that you are sufficiently registered in the System for Award Management.

33:51

Thank you.

33:52

Thanks, Deb.

33:54

Next question. What suggestions do you have for a person or entity that has never applied for a grant in terms of getting third party help to assist, and grant writing?

34:08

Some states have a list of third-party partners. While they're not able to make recommendations, they may have a list of service providers such as grant writers or grant packagers, as we call them. I would contact your [State Rural Development Energy Coordinator](#).

34:56

Perhaps, they will be able to put you in touch with different resources for grant writing and assistance.

35:39

Are there other questions, Scott?

35:41

Yes, there are. Thanks Tony.

35:46

Are there any Section 17 corporation status required for tribes?

36:00

The best way I know how to answer that question is to say that we provide a specific definition in for Indian Tribes in the REPP funding notice.

36:33

Indian Tribe mean the term as defined in 25 USC, 5304, Part E.

36:52

So, if you go to the 25th the United States code, section 5304, it'll provide the definition of Indian Tribe. And to participate in REPP as an Indian Tribe you would to meet the requirements as specified.

37:12

As Tony and that, let me, let me just get clarification on that, since that's an important area.

37:20

That, particularly with respect to the service areas in REPP, that will make sure that if there are seven, Section 17 requirements, that will include that in our Q and A session.

37:33

Tony, I would just add that Federally recognized tribes are eligible and can also be a political subdivision, a special purpose unit, or a Consortium of tribes.

37:43

So, I think the, the best guidance is to provide that in your app or your letter of intent of how you would meet one of those different types of lead applicant entities.

37:57

Perfect, thank you.

38:02

Is there a way to do a county in the USDA?

38:11

I'm not sure I understand which map is being referenced.

38:16

Are you talking about the eligibility map?

38:31

You can span the Boundaries of your service area by testing, individualist addresses.

38:45

But I don't think there's county specific.

38:50

Thank you.

38:51

Another, another Ineligibility map, can we, first of all, they said that the map is a great tool, so thank you for the Tube, and then they asked, can we use any of these maps to determine eligible areas or only the USDA in that?

39:08

Yeah, yes, eligibility is specific to this tool, and two, the definition of rural area.

39:17

The map that Tony has up now is just to me whether or not the project will be benefiting rural areas.

39:29

Thanks, sir.

39:30

So, moving on here, is a consumer co-operative, an eligible lead applicant?

39:36

If not, is a consumer co-operative with a 501 C, 12 status eligible? Or a co-operative with a non-profit fiscal sponsor?

39:49

Lead entity (Applicants) can be public or private, non-profit organizations, they would then have to partner with other entities to perform services for the community.

40:06

Hopefully, that answers the question. If not, please ask another question.

40:16

Let me pull up the definition of rural energy Community Partnership, and the lead entity, the Applicant.

40:38

Rural Energy Community Partnership is a partnership established to provide assistance to an identified community for purposes as specified in this notice. Such purposes include, but are not limited to: community energy planning, capacity building, and technical assistance, community efficiency and weatherization, and the deployment installation or equipping of community scale renewable energy technologies or systems.

41:07

Partnership must be comprised of at least two entities: a). A partner entity that satisfies Section III. A., Private entities; State and local entities; Indian Tribes; Municipalities and other public bodies, and per Subpart B,

Must have a lead entity (Applicant) from one of the following: District organization (defined in Title 13 CFR Section 304.2); Indian tribes, political subdivision of a Tribe or a consortium of Indian tribes; State and local governments or political subdivisions; Public or private nonprofit organizations.

41:24

The Applicant and partner entities, as well as the partnership itself are permitted to be pass through entities. And so, must comply with 2 CFR 200.330-332.

41:44

A partner entity may be a contracting entity hired to perform services.

41:50

The partnership need not be located in the identified community but must demonstrate that it is actively engaged with members of the community and must provide assistance specifically to the identified community.

42:04

So, let's go right to Section three, Subpart or Part A.

42:16

Eligible Eligibility information eligible applicants must meet all the following eligibility requirements, applications, which fail to meet any of these requirements by the application.

42:31

Deadline will be deemed ineligible and will not be considered.

42:35

Eligible applicants to this program must be Rural Energy Community Partnership as defined in Section one C of this notice, which I just read, which may be comprised of, but are not limited to, private entities, state and local entities, Indian tribes, municipalities, and other public bodies bodies.

42:57

The Rural Energy Community Partnership must have a lead applicant who is responsible for the administration of grant proceeds and activities.

43:06

A lead applicant must be, one of the following entities: A district organization, an Indian tribe, or political subdivision of an Indian Tribe, including a special Purpose Unit, Urban Indian Tribe, or a Consortium of Indian Tribes.

43:21

State or political subdivision of a state, including a special purpose unit of a state or local government engaged in Economic Development activities, or a consortium of political subdivisions, or a public or private non-profit organization.

43:40

Then we have a series of things that the applicants must also, of other requirements pertaining to applicants, and I won't go into that today, but they're here, available for your read

43:58

Thank you, Tony.

44:01

Now, I'm going to read another question. Does this grant and have to support the broader community, or can an organization that houses people that work for the benefit of their Community Health Center apply for this grant for their housing decisions?

44:20

I can take that one. Um, so the focus of the program is on community benefits, not necessarily a single entity.

44:28

So, the application should show the partnership and the benefits that are going to the community and the public benefit that's going to be achieved by the project.

44:42

Thank you, Deb.

44:54

So, this person thought that the lead applicants had to be the R E C P itself not one of the partners in our ECP. Can you clarify?

45:08

Well, let's, let's look at the definition of applicant, And I think that'll help.

45:27

Applicant, the lead applicant entity acting on behalf of a rural energy community partnership that is seeking a REPP grant.

45:35

The lead applicant will enter into a financial assistance agreement with the agency in order to receive the REPP grant funding and will be responsible to administer the REPP grant in accordance with said agreement.

45:49

All rights, responsibilities, and the disposition neira pertaining to ownership and control of any assets acquired by the partnership are presumed to reside with the applicant, unless otherwise specified in a fully executed partnership agreement.



46:09

Oh, to kind of maybe help explain this a little bit better, in order to be eligible, you have to have a rural energy community partnership.

46:19

There's going to be one entity. That's the lead entity that serves as the applicant.

46:26

And as noted in the definition, is going to have ownership and control of any assets that are purchased with the grant.

46:33

They are also going to have other members of the partnership that participate in the program. So breaking that down as the lead applicant, the partners which make up the whole RECP.

46:52

Thanks, Anna. Thank you, Deb.

46:54

Thank you, Tom, OK.

47:06

Are there any examples or templates of an ECP agreement?

47:12

Any anywhere?

47:16

Presently we don't have that.

47:20

We will accept Articles of Incorporation a formally Executed agreement between the partners, that defines that has recitations and defines the responsibilities and requirements. WE will also accept an executed Memorandum of Understanding among all the parties.

48:14

Thank you, Tony.

48:19

OK, moving along here, we do have a couple hand raises. I believe there is an interpreter in the audience, yes.

48:33

I'm going to just unmute Edgardo Rodriguez so that he interpret in case anyone needs to ask questions in Spanish.

48:49

So, this is Laura Peres', OK, so.

48:55

Let's see, Edgardo, if you want to unmute yourself. And then you can just start. And whenever there's a question in Spanish, you'll be able to translate. We really appreciate it.

49:36

I'm going to start off with Javier Malina there you can write your question or you can unmute yourself and ask a question. Spanish or English?

49:46

OK, Spanish, please.

49:53

Good and then Nadia you'll go next after Javier.

50:25

So Tony, basically how he's asking.

50:28

So for him when he, she may be here in Puerto Rico, which you say, well, wow, I know as a fund that is out, it is eligible based on their location.

50:39

But he's asking me what the brand will help to versus the solar panels for their intent.

50:51

But he's located in Cuba.

50:53

Knows. someone, he said, ...

50:58

Accounting.

51:01

Oh, OK, County and Puerto Rico? OK, Sir.

51:05

And then he's asking if the the grant can be used to install solar panels. Purchase and install solar panels. Yes. Yes, it can.

51:19

Yeah.

51:22

Jean ... Monaco said, I'm not comfortable.

51:34

Basically, Tony, we ask We answer his question, so it's good to do.

51:39

Well, good.

51:41

Tell them Thank you, first question. Thank you.

51:43

Thank you. Thank you.

51:45

OK, Major!

51:49

Thank you.

51:50

All right, and then, so I'll continue to go with the hands raised, Sharon Wilma.

51:55

You can now on mute yourself, man.

52:03

I apologize, now you can unmute yourself. Thank you. Can you hear me now? Yes. Yes. Very, Very good. I just had a really quick question about the sort of community based organizations that are eligible in terms of the registration process. So or if you could just elaborate a little bit more R L LLC's type of community based organization that would be eligible to participate? That's the sort of legal registration that you're looking for.

52:41

Where were you?

52:46

Go ahead, Deb. Come in and help me here.

52:50

I think I caught most of the question that you're asking what what a legal entity, it looks like. Is that correct? Yes, I'm looking, I'm trying to understand what, because there are so many different types of legal registrations that a community, a community based organization, or, or other organizations could use to apply for this program. I just wanted to know a bit more about the specific type of legal, registration, like you're looking for as a part of the grant application process.

53:22

Well, as long as you have a lead applicant.

53:26

From one of the four different types of entities that's listed in the notice: district organization, which could be like that, Economic Development authority, A federally recognized tribe, or a public or private non-profit, that's going to be your entity. That's going to register in Sam. And it's going to be responsible for owning any assets. That entity is going to be a member of the partnership, which then, has other entities also involved. Is a partnership that answer your question, it, so a 501 C 3 would be applicable, or in this case, then, like, in the end, it's the non-profit, under the 501 C 3 Tax code.

54:08

Yes, it would.

54:10

Perfect, thank you.

54:15

Thank you, Tim. So, let's say I'm gonna go back. I don't see.

54:21

Did you have something else? say your hand shot up again?

54:25

I don't think so, OK, cool.

54:27

Um, no.

54:33

It's in there.

54:36

one second, please, sir.

54:44

OK, can a State University apply for this program?

54:50

So we're not excluding institutions of higher education.

54:56

We have a preference that they be partner entities, as opposed to the lead entity.

55:02

That's the applicant.

55:05

We, we think that their strengths are in technical assistance in capacity building, activities are of that nature.

55:18

And so we would prefer that state universities, for example, be the, the partner entity in the Rural Energy Community Partnership.

55:33

Awesome, thank you.

55:36

And now, um, kenna weather we're a weatherization CAA.

55:44

Would that be a proper applicant?

55:48

I'm sorry, I don't see any ASAM for you guys. And Jeremiah wants to clarify the question of what a weatherization ....

56:01

Go ahead and type in the chat box and more circular on that.

56:08

OK?

56:11

Moving along here let's see?

56:17

Just to clarify community scale, RE technology, R E, Technology Systems refer to projects that, support the General Community, Not systems that allow residents to invest in a community scale project.

56:32

Like community scale, solar, That, Correct.

56:38

We do not have a restriction against the community investing in humanity scale, solar, or renewable energy systems.

56:50

Again, I say that our definition is broader than typically think of when we say community soul.

56:58

Exactly.

57:03

OK, thank you.

57:06

So, another eligibility question: can a for-profit renewable energy developer partner with a rural electric co-operative to apply?

57:21

Yes, they can be a partner entity, Indebt, yes.

57:25

It can be a service provider, a contractor, a vendor, for that matter.

57:31

But they have to buy aid by the the code that pertains to that. And I have that.

57:43

Um.

57:48

Let me just make sure.

57:52

Oh, it was, it was where.

57:59

It was in the rural energy community partnership, right.

58:05

Definition.

58:08

Yes.

58:10

Applicant and partner entities, as well as the partnership itself, or pin A permitted to be pass through entities. And so must comply with 2 CFR 200.330-332.

58:22

A partner entity may be considered a contracting entity hired to perform services.

58:27

The partnership need not be located in the identified community, but must demonstrate that is actively engaged with the members of the community, and must provide assistance specifically to the identified community.

58:40

All right, now, with respect specifically to the Europe proposed that partnership of a technology provider and a rural electric co-operative, our preference is that the co-operatives be A a partner entity in the partnership, and that this be a community based program, achim any each of the projects be community based.

59:17

The funding.

59:20

Was not provided to rural energy community, or, excuse me, rock electric co-operatives.

59:29

So, it's, quite frankly, it's not a rural electric co-operative program.

59:35

But if the co-operatives can demonstrate that this project is community based, we're not excluding them from participation in the program.

59:47

Say that is, frankly, as I can.

59:52

Deb, would you like to add anything to that?

59:56

No, I think you hit it on the head on.

59:59

Is that we would like the projects to be community driven, however, co-operatives are eligible.

1:00:10

All right, thanks, Scott.

1:00:12

No problem, thank you guys.

1:00:14

Moving along here.

1:00:19

OK, This is the total grant amount for the cycle 10 million.

1:00:25

Is there a possibility that an eligible applicant would be wait listed if the number of applications exceed that pool?

1:00:35

Well, we have no indication of any further future funding, so it's \$10 million, one time, as best, we can determine now.

1:00:47

Thanks. So, and we stayed explicit Lee.

1:00:54

Those that aren't funded in this round will not be considered for any further funding.

1:01:00

You would have to apply if there is any, again, in the future, if there is another program.

1:01:10

Thanks, Scott.

1:01:12

Thank you.

1:01:14

So regarding partnerships, a 501 C 3, and a 501 C 12 electricity co-operative have largely overlapping boards of directors.

1:01:25

Would those two organizations alone suffice to create the required partnership or would the overlapping boards disqualifies such a partnership?

1:01:41

That's a really good question, Tony, I'm thinking that we have some conflict of interests, requirements that need to be met.

1:01:50

We may have to come back to address this question.

1:01:57

We definitely want the, um, the scope of the project tend to have multiple entities, multiple partners, you don't want the same type of.

1:02:11

We don't want just one type of applicant entity.

1:02:18

Exactly.

1:02:22

So, write to me specifically.

1:02:25

If you would, please, in our REPP e-mail address.

1:02:31

And give me a specific example, and I will, we'll address that directly, If you would.

1:02:41

Thank you, John.

1:02:43

Thank you, Dan.

1:02:45

Alright, so I'm gonna go, I'm gonna go quickly, go back over to the phone lines, there we have a hand raised, and then I'll go back to the written that OK? It's on it.

1:02:52

So, if you don't mind, let's, um, I want to kind of move through the rest of the letter of intent requirements, but if we want to take this one hand raise, and then we can move on.

1:03:06

Other words, I never fails right, right when you said that there's two.

1:03:09

So maybe if I could ask these folks just really kind of quick on their on their answer, and it sounds great, then we'll catch you.

1:03:15

Thanks a lot. Robert, you can say you can unmute yourself and speak.

1:03:25

You may go ahead and speaks in your afternoon.

1:03:31

OK, yeah, there we go, Hello?

1:03:37

Yes, we can haigh, OK, what is, I have actually three questions, but I'll, since you're trying to be careful about your time budget, I, I'll just ask the last one, can a community college, as opposed to a higher ed institution, be a lead applicant?

1:04:04

Well, my first question is, why don't you consider a community college, a higher ed institution of higher education.

1:04:12

Well, because they're much more focused, community based, number one, And usually you think of the definition of higher education of being a four year college or university.

1:04:26

So, I'm making that distinction nicely.

1:04:29

And community colleges are much more focused in terms of workforce development and local, you know, job creation, for those that may not be able to compete for the higher education entry.

1:04:43

I see.

1:04:45

well, I appreciate that clarification.

1:04:47

In our mind, they are the same.

1:04:50



Community colleges are not excluded from participation.

1:04:54

We have a preference that they be partner entities, as opposed to the lead entity in the partnership.

1:05:03

Thank you!

1:05:05

And, Robert, if you want to get those two other questions, then go ahead and read them in the chat box, because we're gonna collect, I already put them in, Are you able to see them?

1:05:17

Yes, sir, That we're getting a lot of questions.

1:05:19

So we'll let me, I'm just going down the line, but what I want to make sure to address them OK, OK, thank you, Thank you.

1:05:26

Next up, Melissa, you may unmute yourself.

1:05:37

Oh, I am.

1:05:39

I'm sorry, OK, go ahead and listen.

1:05:41

Sorry, yeah, sorry, mine was a mistake. I don't have a question, thank you. OK, great, John, it You can. Go ahead, sir.

1:05:48

Thank you.

1:05:49

Appreciate it.

1:05:50

All right, let's get on to Section four, Project Activity, the what and How.

1:05:56

We require you to provide a project scope of work and an action plan.

1:06:00

Include a strategy, activity's, summary, budget, and goals and objectives for the use of REPP and matching funds.

1:06:07

There's specific critical action items.

1:06:10

Highlight why your approach is novel and deserving.

1:06:13

Indicate whether there will be collaborations with other organizations, and if so, what Their roles will be.

1:06:20

Be specific about who's responsible for what actions and activities.

1:06:26

Describe how REPP resources for community energy planning, human capacity, building, technical assistance, efficiency, and weatherization will be used by the Rural Energy Community Partnership to address the relative economic distress, and energy burden circumstances of the geographic region to be served.

1:06:46

Identify distributed renewable energy technologies, and activities that will be prioritized and executed by the partnership to address the relative economic distress and energy burden circumstances of the geographic region to be served.

1:07:02

Discuss specific plans, activities, and priorities for each renewable energy technology to be deployed.

1:07:10

Excuse me.

1:07:11

Such as: photo, solar, photo, voltaic, Wind, geothermal, biomass, bio gas, bioenergy, smaller hydroelectric, and so on.

1:07:21

Discuss specific plans, activities, and priorities for each distributed renewable energy resource. Examples include batteries, flywheels, smart grids, among others. You will find a full ...

1:07:33

definition in section one C of the REPP notice.

1:07:43

And include information on any electric utilities, firms, or industries involved, as well as existing interconnections and networks, or lack thereof in the geographic region to be served.

1:07:57

I'm ready now to take questions against Scott.

1:08:04

All right, there appears, so, I'm not sure what this family might, and we might need to ask for clarification, but, will the applicant entity slash project need to satisfy all six, or just adress indicators applicable?

1:08:20

I'm not sure where all six means, but I understand what else explains. And I'm gonna go over that, in particular, when we get to the selection criteria. But the quick answer to that question is just those that apply.

1:08:38

Thank you.

1:08:39

And what is the best model of partnerships to optimize grant approval?

1:08:46

Let's get right to the point here. This Letter of Intent is for you to tell us what you think the best model of partnership is.

1:09:00

Great, thanks. Program, again, I would re-iterate, it's a pilot.

1:09:05

So we are looking for you to tell us what your needs are and your community, how you will partner with others to meet those needs. And that's, Tony, instead, is truly what the letter of Intents on 10 is all about.

1:09:18

So we'll provide feedback to you on that letter of intent.

1:09:22

Perfect, thank you.

1:09:24

Um, then, And then well, I'm sure, well, can we, we're gonna put the, they're asking for a link to the eligibility map.

1:09:33

So I'm going to go ahead and ask that We put that into the chat, OK, It's also in the presentation, but we'll put it in the chat for folks OK, OK.

1:09:49

Now, just give me a second, here, and it's also in there the Letter of Intent Guide when they download that OK, great, thank you.

1:10:01

Let's see here.

1:10:04

Um, OK, it's OK. It's, I am.

1:10:09

Can I try? OK. I think OK.

1:10:14

That's telling me I'm going to ask a question. I think we're waiting on clarification. But we might know it with dev on. If not, we'll get back to this gentleman, but can a tribe be the lead applicant? And the school of that tribe, be a partner applicant?

1:10:29

They're both different legal entities.

1:10:35

So this, this is Deb.

1:10:37

In that case, we would have a partnership that would consist of a eligible lead applicant. And we would also have an eligible partner entity. So, that should be eligible. Again, it kind of goes back to making sure that we don't have a conflict of interest there of who's actually getting the benefits of the grant dollars.

1:10:58

But as far as legal entities and a range onset that appears to be illegal partnership.

1:11:06

Can you will make that clear in your, in your letter of intent?

1:11:12

Thank you.

1:11:19

OK, moving along here than just to clarify that the gentleman's answer earlier was less satisfied. But a CAA is a community action agency.

1:11:33

Hmm, hmm.

1:11:34

So a CA is an, is that an economic development authority or a community based organization?

1:11:48

I would say, yes, it could be, it could be a lead entity.

1:11:54

OK, I'm gonna.

1:11:58

There's some, there's some language here. So I'm going to, I'm going to just, I'll get back to them as time, allows.

1:12:03

No, OK, What are the disposition requirements for capital infrastructure installed under this program?

1:12:13

So, if a county or district organization serves as the applicant, would they be able to transfer ownership slash management to a rural electric co-op following the award performance period.

1:12:26

So the disposition requirements follow the 2 CFR 200.

1:12:32

And we can provide a link to that in the questions and answers.

1:12:36

Um, I'm not going to go through all those disposition requirements right now, but for the useful life of that asset, the applicant would need to have ownership and control.

1:12:47

If they were to sell it, then again, we would go back to the two CFR disposition requirements.

1:12:55

We can put 2 CFR 200.

1:12:57

We can make that available on the website, upon request, for sure.

1:13:06

Thanks, Sony, They step.

1:13:08

So, are there going to be, what are these questions going to be posted somewhere along with the questions that come into the USDA, and, if so, where will these questions and answers posted? So, isn't going to be like us some kind of document, question, and answer document.

1:13:25

Yes, we'll have a Q and A session, posted at the end of each webinar. We're making the one from last week, available, as quickly as we can.

1:13:35

We'll also have a frequently asked question posted at the front page of the website, And a Q and A session from this section or from this webinar will be posted as soon as we can make it publicly available.

1:13:52

So, that's three different outlets.

1:13:57

Perfect.

1:13:59

Does the does the recipient need to have a history, or can it be newly formed the ICP It can be newly formed for this purpose?

1:14:15

OK.

1:14:19

See Him.

1:14:23

Can an energy provider be involved on multiple projects?

1:14:31

Is a, if it's an, a tech technology provider, and that's what I'm going with.

1:14:39

So, the, the requirements of the notice, stay that, oh, you a, you may apply for one, and only one grant, You may submit one and only one application.

1:14:58

So, that applies to the lead entity, well, what, who we call the applicant.

1:15:05

However, the partner entity, if it's a technology provider, or vendor, or contractor, can serve more than one, uh, partnership.

1:15:19

But you'd have to clearly specify in your Letter of Intent, who you are also partnering with.

1:15:28

We want those declarations early on in the application process.

1:15:36

Thanks, Tony.

1:15:37

I'm gonna go ahead and switch back over to the way the virtual hand raised. Is that OK? We have this place.

1:15:45

So, I'm going to start with Wilma if you want to unmute yourself and ask questions.

1:15:51

Thank you. I have a really quick question just in terms of the maximum amount. I want it to clarify, 10 million is the maximum amount that any applicant or any consortium is allowed to request Correct?

1:16:07

That's incorrect.

1:16:07

Ma'am, the best Pell Grant available to any applicant is \$2 million estimate of funding available, is \$10 million. Perfect. Thank you.

1:16:21

Yes.

1:16:22

And I will just add the \$2 million grant request, 80% of that amount can be used for the installation of renewable energy systems. And the other 20 can be used for efficiency, technical assistance, et cetera.

1:16:42

Do you match?

1:16:45

But, I'm sorry. Could you repeat that? That 20% needs to be matched.

1:16:50

There's there's a 20% match, there's a 20% match, OK.

1:16:56

And let me, let me just clarify the restrictions.

1:17:01

At least 80% total eligible project costs must be met with for renewable energy systems.

1:17:12

Up to 20% may be used for those other activities.

1:17:18

So the appropriation from Congress was to further develop renewable energy.

1:17:24

Hmm, hmm, hmm, hmm.

1:17:25

We had a, as we worked through, in our, in our deliberative panel, we did we determined that these types of communities that we were trying to reach would require those kinds of activities in order to make them ready for a renewable energy system.

1:17:46

So we're allowing up to 20% of the proceeds to be used for those activities, and we require 80% of the proceeds that go towards the renewal renewable energy. And I'm biased, I'm assuming that the remaining 20% to get to 100 but need to be identified at the time of application.

1:18:08

Yes, ma'am. The required match, yes, you don't have to have it on hand at the time of application, but you definitely need to identify it and have letters of intent mm sources.

1:18:23

Great. Thank you.

1:18:28

Thank you for your question.

1:18:31

All right. Thank you. So now I'm gonna go to Melissa ... yourself.

1:18:38

I apologize for some reason, I keep getting that hand by mistake, I found it and want to use it, no problem.

1:18:51

I think with that, then, we will go to, back to the questions.

1:18:57

Um.

1:19:03

So, OK, so, can documented in kind of goods and services, as reported on the IRS Form 990, count towards the ground.

1:19:17

I can take this one here. In kind contributions.

1:19:23

From third parties, the applicant entity itself cannot use in kind match, and if you have a third party that is willing to donate in kind services, we would want them to list the type of service.

1:19:40

The wage rate, how many hours be specific of how you come up with the amount match.

1:19:48

OK, Thank you.

1:19:55

OK, so will you be allocating funds specifically to each state?

1:20:01

Not at all, Not at all.

1:20:05

Well, our intent is to bond the most meritorious projects from among the most distressed communities, but we only have \$10 million available in this program.

1:20:23

And so we will have we allow the administrator the discretion to add 10 points to any project that Mate's administration priorities.

1:20:36

And one of those priorities is to disburse the program funds as broadly as we can across the US and its territories.

1:20:48

But, no, there will be no state allocation.

1:20:53

Thanks, Jeff.

1:20:54

Moving along here.

1:20:56

So, we'll projects that asked for much less than two million, um, be favored in any way or unfavored.

1:21:06

So, now would be a good time for us to move on and let me go through the selection criteria and show you how we will identify the strength, the meritorious proposal's applications.

1:21:24

Perfect.

1:21:25

Sounds good.

1:21:29

Alright.

1:21:30

So let's just get through the rest of this, and then then I'll go right into Selection Criteria, and you'll see how these link up.

1:21:43

So we're at Section five Credentials.

1:21:46

two, we want you to demonstrate why your partnership, organization, or team is best equipped to carry out this activity.

1:21:55



To provide historic background, that you think is relevant to share our awards rankings, intangible measures that set you apart from your peers, so we, we expect you to, to brag and tell us how good you are.

1:22:11

Partnership is, but do it with substance.

1:22:16

Then, let's get to outcomes.

1:22:19

So, consider this section an opportunity to write your project's future success story.

1:22:25

Emphasizing Sections 3 and 4.

1:22:28

State the specific outcomes you hope to achieve, include proposals, performance measures, propose performance measures that express the challenges and successes of meeting the REPP goals, and objectives.

1:22:43

If you're successful, you will be required to report accomplishments twice yearly during the grant period and provide annual outcome reports for three years after project completion.

1:22:54

Examples of such performance measures include: Renewable energy generation and energy efficiency savings measured in kilowatt hours.

1:23:02

Project sustainability and resiliency.

1:23:05

Measured by a system's response to disruption, the inclusion of institutional partners in the continued commitment of project financing.

1:23:14

Community benefits measure in terms of power purchase agreements, or subscription income in dollars per kilowatt hour, reduce greenhouse gas and carbon dioxide emissions in metric tons of CO two equivalence reduced energy burdens in percentage of household incomes.

1:23:32

Priority matrix specified by Rural Development.

1:23:35

We want to partner with you on establishing these performance metrics for environmental justice, racial equity, and economic opportunity.

1:23:46

So in your outcomes section, we would appreciate it if you would propose to us how you intend to measure those things.

1:23:55

And we will work with you, too, in kind of a negotiation, if you're successful in a, in our agreements.

1:24:06

So we want you to tell us specifically, or specify how evaluation is part of your project. How will you know you've achieved your outcomes.

1:24:14

Describe the participation, and scale of any small or disadvantaged businesses involved. Describe the potential for regional economic growth, along with any other competitive advantages that might result from the partnership.

1:24:28

Provide information on the sustainability of your partnership at the conclusion of the REPP grant period.

1:24:36

And finally, the letter of intent must be signed by the senior executive from the lead applicant entity who will be responsible for the administration of rep, grant proceeds, and activities.

1:24:49

All right, now, straight onto.

1:24:57

The selection criteria.

1:25:01

As we discussed last week, there's 110 possible points, Janet, 10, of which are reserved by the administrator for her discretion.

1:25:11

Um, they're comprised of further develop renewable energy, community and regional impacts, targeted region, project and community support, and demonstrated readiness and likelihood of success.

1:25:27

Under further develop renewable energy, application materials must demonstrate the rule, the partnerships, ability, and commitment to address targeted initiatives as specified in Section three C of the Navajo.

1:25:44

one point will be awarded for each of the six priority considerations Being proposed to to be served by the project is outlined in Section three, C sub.

1:25:55

Part A Maximum of six points will be provided, or allowed for that, are awarded for that. Pardon me.

1:26:03

Up to six points will be awarded for projects that plan, execute, or deploy renewable energy generation technologies, other than solar PV of at least 40% of total generation capacity.

1:26:16

And that's measured by megawatts of alternative energy generation capacity divided by megawatts of total generation capacity.

1:26:25

As per three section, Roman numeral three C, Subpart B, there's a maximum of six points, I said.

1:26:34

And up to six points will be awarded. Oh, pardon me.

1:26:38

Reasonable initiatives that can be delivered within 36 months of the grant award?

1:26:43

If you can do it in the grant term, you get in state so and demonstrate that you can, six points will be awarded to that.

1:26:53

Up to seven points will be awarded to projects leveraging federal, state, tribal, and local assistance resources for those other activities, community planning, human capacity building, technical assistance, efficiency, weatherization, and improvements in high speed broadband service to the region.

1:27:13

So a total of 25 points under the criteria or criterion A.

1:27:22

Pardon me.

1:27:23

Criterion B, Community objectives to be.

1:27:28

Achieved through the Rural Energy Community Partnership efforts 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 our energy resilience increased environmental justice improved racial equity, expanded economic opportunity, and the stability or diversification of distributed energy resources.

1:27:55

Up to 25 points are awarded in this criterion.

1:27:59

Points are awarded on a scale of 0 to 25.

1:28:07

Criterion C, the Targeted region.

1:28:10

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

1:28:30

And so, we went through each one of these six indicators, and I showed you how to make use of the tool that's associated with them.

1:28:39

And how you can build your narrative using that tool for the indicator that. And then build a narrative that supports their service areas.

1:28:50

Addressing these priorities, are your communities work in that service area, addressing the priorities.

1:28:59

You'll notice there are six indicators, and that each of them allows up to a max of five points.

1:29:12

But we are only allowing a maximum of 25 points in this criteria.

1:29:18

So there are six chances to make 25.

1:29:23

It's the way we're saying that.

1:29:25

Now, if, if you recall, when I went through my representative community, there were, are distressed communities and the lead tool, and the socially vulnerable, I got BACS points, but there was no opportunity zone for that community, for Danville.

1:29:51

And it was not located in a distressed energy community.

1:29:57

On the other hand, I had a good number of disadvantage, community indicators that would provide a strong narrative in support of the max points for that.

1:30:09

So in total, I could get 20 points for my service area, in Danville, Virginia.

1:30:20

As I said, oh, and there's one other thing with respect to the disadvantaged communities, um, there was A.

1:30:33

The disadvantaged communities is built around the environmental justice narrative of the Executive order that was signed back in January of last year.

1:30:46

And that Executive Order charge is the economic or the environmental what was kibar? Nevermind.

1:30:58

It charges someone ripped the I can't remember the name any way.

1:31:04

It charges them to develop a tool, an indicator tool, to, in support of environmental justice priorities, a mapper.

1:31:14

So, the one that we used today that, when it's available is not that tool that that was that was required to be baled. It's still under development.

1:31:24

So we're using the EPA Mapper it as a proxy, but that, but the truth is, in our in rural development, we're using the distressed energy community's listing That that indicator tool, as a proxy for the Environmental Justice Mapper.

1:31:51

So you, if you qualify, if your service areas, sir, is in a distressed energy community, you not only get Macs Maximum of five points.

1:32:05

For number five, you get also the maxima of five points in number six.

1:32:12

Now, in my case, I didn't, the Danville does not, is not a distressed energy community, not located there.

1:32:21

So I went back, I was able to build a case that it is a disadvantaged community use, an EJ Mapper.

1:32:28

Now, I expect to take a few questions about that, but the, but the long and short of it is, if you, if you are a distress in a distressed energy community with your partnership, you're serving that service area, then you get the max five for number five, and you get the max five for number six, also.

1:32:49

But if you're not in a distressed energy community, you have a chance to get five points by showing demonstrating that you're in a disadvantaged community.

1:33:05

No, sub criterion D, project and community support. Application materials demonstrate strength of local support for the rural energy community partnership.

1:33:16

Activities, projects, and entrepreneurial commitment.

1:33:20

Points will be awarded for the partnerships demonstration of its sources of funding, personnel, technical resources committed to the project, but focus on the inclusion of institutional partners, expanding access to capital and willingness to potentially invest in projects emerging from the partnership.

1:33:37

Here's a maximum of 10 points available for that.

1:33:41

Points shall also be awarded for demonstrated resources that sustain the project beyond the term of the grant period, up to five points are allowed for that, are awarded for that.

1:33:53

So the total awarded available under Subpart or D criteria, pardon me, criterion D, there's 15.

1:34:05

And finally, demonstrated readiness and likelihood of success, application materials, demonstrate the Rural Energy Community Partnerships, Readiness, and administering the REPP grant successfully with strong documentation to indicate the likelihood of implementing technical assistance, weatherization, energy, efficiency, and renewable energy projects in the community. Maximum of three points are available for that.

1:34:30

The stakeholder engagement plan, two points for that.

1:34:34

They, the existence of an energy, resilience go three points for that, and the availability, or expectation of project finance, two points for that.

1:34:44

So a total of 10 points are available under this criterion.

1:34:51

And finally, the administrator retains, the agency retains the discretion to afford priority two applications that will advance key administration, priorities, assist rural communities to recover economically from the impacts of cope with ...

1:35:06

pandemic, particularly disadvantaged communities.

1:35:10

Ensuring all rural residents have equitable access to RD programs and benefits from RD funded projects, reduce climate pollution, and increasing resilience to the impacts of climate change through economic support to rural communities.

1:35:25

See, also Retains the discretion to afford priority applications that achieve geographic distribution of REPP grant awards across a maximum number of states and diversity of communities targeted.

1:35:36

So the HA reserves that up to 10 points with justification at the discretion of the administrator.

1:35:46

All right, That's the end of my presentation, except for the wrap up. That we'll do that a little bit later.

1:35:53

We're ready to take some questions now, Scott. And this can be all of them.

1:35:59

Great. Thank you, Tony.

1:36:00

I'm going to start off with the hand raises only a couple and then move into the written.

1:36:07

So I'm going to go willingly do you want to unmute yourself, Sir, now is the time you can talk to Tony in depth.

1:36:19

William has had to unmute yourself, and then you can speak.

1:36:27

OK, um, all right, well, we're good.

1:36:32

And this, and then we have, we have, OK, so we have Melissa again, Melissa?

1:36:40

Your hand over, again?

1:36:47

Oh, now let me give you, let me unmute you, just wanna give you opportunity.

1:36:55

All right, we're gonna go ahead and go to the hand questions outside the written questions, John ..., Will you only consider that register with high values of distress slash vulnerable?

1:37:12

Um, it's a competitive program and I just went through the selection criteria.

1:37:20

So we will award, in general, the most meritorious projects from among the most distressed communities.

1:37:30

There are particularly underserved communities that will embrace all of the communities we talked about.

1:37:36

Thank you.

1:37:39

Then, I believe you answered this before, but it's written is a little. Definitely. Must a project satisfy at least one of the six indicators, or most, or all of the six indicators that the project will serve, priority Communities.

1:37:54

This, I just answered this previously, but I'll go back to that.

1:37:59

The project must be located in a rural area in a rural community.

1:38:08

Right, so I'll add to that. Those may be eligible, there may be eligible to apply, as long as you are located in a rural community.

1:38:15

But again, since the program's goal is to prioritize environmental, justice, racial, and economic opportunity, those projects located in those areas, I've got to score out much better.

1:38:28

Yes, thank you. Sorry, Tony, then made a button.

1:38:30

No, no, that's good.

1:38:34

Thank you. Yeah. Thank you, Tony. Is this breakdown of selection criteria written somewhere that we can reference later?

1:38:42

It's in the notice.

1:38:45

Awesome. Would you like for me to show you where?

1:38:47

I can do that right now? Yeah. Good to show that.

1:38:56

Priority considerations.

1:38:58

Then we go down to Section four, Application and Submission that those are the application requirements and here, application review information, Roman numeral five, Subpart A Scoring Criteria.

1:39:20

And you'll see here right here.

1:39:24

Further, pardon me, didn't mean to do that, further develop renewable energy, that's Part A Then we go down through here.

1:39:36

Community and regional impacts.

1:39:41

Targeted Region application materials, then here's each one of the indicators with the maximum number of points associated down through six disadvantaged communities.

1:39:58

Then here's D, Project Community Support.

1:40:05

And finally, demonstrated readiness and likelihood of success.

1:40:13

Then under Subpart B, the administrator points, we explain or we write those out just specifically as I showed them to you in that slide.

1:40:26

And then we show you the review and selection process.

1:40:31

So, essentially this says we will for each complete an eligible application, We will, we will total up all of the points according to each of the criteria.



1:40:46

Then we will add up all the points for each one, each application, and we will compete them according to Right.

1:40:55

And then we will award, or we make selections according to the top move and down, until there's no more money.

1:41:09

Thanks, Scott, OK, Thank you.

1:41:12

Um.

1:41:17

OK, so.

1:41:24

Does the lead applicant have to be the recipient itself, or it can one of the partners?

1:41:32

Let me, let me, let me read the question, so, I thought the lead applicant had to be the recipient itself, not one of the partners in the list of the, in the recipient.

1:41:45

Can you clarify that?

1:41:46

That's a mistake. Yes, sir.

1:41:52

The lead applicant is responsible for administering the grant and the activities, making sure that all the activities that they're telling us there, they're doing R R Execute.

1:42:07

That's if they tell us they're going to build a solar PV unit.

1:42:13

They're installed that.

1:42:14

Then they make sure that that gets done with the proceeds of the grant.

1:42:20

And if there are any other activities associated with that, and there are any partners that are identified, ARR do what they're supposed to do, That's what the lead applicant there, the applicant is suppose is responsible to do.

1:42:38

Perfect, Thank you for that clarification.

1:42:41

Oh!

1:42:49

Oh, OK. So there's a few questions.

1:42:53

So there's a few questions that are very long and kind of in the weeds, I said, OK, if I refer them to your cheek.

1:43:03

What's the best? What's the best way to contact you for those types of questions? We do want to address them, but you definitely want to get you the some personalized effort on that really in the weeds. So, what's a good website for them? You can write to my to the REPP e-mail ...

1:43:20

at USDA dot gov OK, Great, thank you.

1:43:25

and as we see, as we consider them, we, we may choose to put them in the Q and A session if it's significant to everyone else.

1:43:39

Yeah. Thank you.

1:43:42

Is there a link? Is there a size limit inelegant projects, EG, and like in megawatts?

1:43:48

The capacity is two megawatts, DC.

1:43:59

So, just for clarification, it is an 80, 20 match, but 20% of the 80 can be used for technical, legal, and other expenses. Is that correct?

1:44:10

Yes, that's right.

1:44:13

Great, thank you.

1:44:17

OK, I believe that that's all the questions we have here. It's on.

1:44:24

That's wonderful. We did that in and good time, too.

1:44:28

Yes.

1:44:29

All right. I have them. Do not know? OK. Well, yeah, we got, I'm gonna go, but I'm gonna go to the phone lines here.

1:44:42

And this is Scott. You can go ahead and say Hey, thank you. Sorry. Sorry about that, I know you were just about to wrap that, the size cap was two megawatts DC.

1:44:56

Let's do direct current.

1:44:58

Yeah. Some technologies don't use DC.

1:45:02

Your level lies between zero. Yes, Of course.

1:45:09

Well, that's just like, tell us what you want to do, and then a letter of intent, OK, fair enough, thank you.

1:45:19

Thank you.

1:45:20

Ah.

1:45:23

All right, awesome.

1:45:25

Yeah, that should do its own.

1:45:26

OK, I'll wrap it.

1:45:28

Sounds good.

1:45:32

So, just by way of reminder, we published a notice on the 19th of January. The required letter of intent is due April 19th.

1:45:42

We will respond to your letters by the 19th of May.

1:45:49

We will provide, at that time, the length to, sir, the cloud vault for you to submit the completed application, which is due on July 18th.

1:46:06

So, just to be clear, applicants receiving a letter of encouragement, and then also the link to the cloud vault, are invited to submit a complete application, and which must be submitted on the 18th of July on or before the 18th of July 11, 59 P PM. Eastern Time.

1:46:30

We will have the Application Guide and Checklist Submission instructions available on the web, the REPP website, beginning the first of March.

1:46:42

So, what's next?

1:46:45

The training webinars, we had one today.

1:46:48

We just completed that, we have, we'll have another one on the 24th of May on submitting a REPP completed application.

1:46:56

Then we intend to have a question and answer hour in June.

1:47:00

Um, and we will post these things on the Events tab on the website.

1:47:06

And here's a reminder of the deadlines.

1:47:10

We accept required letters of intent until 11 59 eastern time, April 19th.

1:47:16

We will send Response letters on or before the 19th of May.

1:47:20

And the completed applications from invited applicants will, must be submitted prior to 11 59 PM, Eastern Time, July 18th, 2022.

1:47:35

That's when the application window closes and you can no longer submit, or, if you do try to submit something, it will not be considered.

1:47:46

Then, what's after that? We expect to review the applications submitted for Completeness ineligibility and then have our panel evaluation and competition in August and September.

1:47:59

We expect to make selections in late October, early November, and we will write. We'll provide written communication to all participants.

1:48:12

We'll have a public announcement of awards, an obligation.

1:48:16

We will have some, excuse me, we will execute financial assistance agreements, and then you can start executing your projects in beginning in mid to late November, early December.

1:48:36

Here's our website.

1:48:38

Again, if you haven't found it already.

1:48:44

Here's the link to our State Energy co-ordinators, who may have other information, or can assist you in certain elements, or they'll probably refer you to us.

1:48:54

In any event, you can always contact Deb and I through the Rural Energy Pilot web e-mail.

1:49:02

And I have, this is my telephone number. You can call me directly.

1:49:07

I may not always answer, sometimes I get tired of the spam, but I will get back to you if you leave me a message.

1:49:17

Thank you very much.

1:49:21

Deb, you have anything you want to add to this?

1:49:26

The only thing I'll add is, again, we're trying our best to get questions and answer documents posted to our website as soon as we can.

1:49:33

It does take a little while for us to get the recording back from these sessions to make sure that we understand correctly all of the questions, and we'll try to post those as soon as we possibly can. And, again, if you have any questions, please use that REPP at USDA dot gov website to send them in. Thank you.

1:49:56

Scott, as always, thanks for your help.

1:49:58

No problem. Thanks, guys.

1:50:00

They can't get it.

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