

Energy Storage Roadmap RFP Questions and Answers

The RFP PDF has several items in blue text that should be “clickable” (e.g., grant agreement, budget form, etc). I have tried several browsers but am not able to click on any of the links. Could you please send a version of the RFP with live links?

This error has been corrected so if you return to the website and access the RFP those links are now active.

We would like to propose to work with [Partner organization] to do [parts of the project work]. What are the differences between having them be a sub-contractor to us versus a “partner organization”?

There is not much difference between the two; a partner would likely be involved in the entire project instead of fulfilling a specific task. As far as the grant agreement there wouldn't be any difference because one organization needs to be the “Prime Applicant” and to account for any partner or subcontractor costs in the “Contractual Services” budget section.

It is unclear if we need to submit a hardcopy of the application (two different sections of the RFP appear to indicate different things). If you do need a hardcopy, when does that need to be received?

No, due to the COVID-19 pandemic hardcopies will not be required for this project.

What scale is EGLE targeting for this program? Large versus small projects

EGLE intends to award one project for up to the total available funding in this program. The proposal should include analysis of the entire state of Michigan.

Can this funding be used for the purchase and/or installation of energy storage systems?

This funding is not intended to be used for the purchase and/or installation of energy storage systems. This funding is intended for planning and policy evaluation work that will provide information and guidance for energy storage development for the future of Michigan.

What counts as match funding? Other grants, out of pocket, loans, etc.?

There are no restrictions on where match funding comes from for our programs. Other grant programs (provided they are not also from EGLE), out of pocket, financing, and even in-kind (labor/staff time) are often accepted as eligible match for our programs.

For task 3 a) through f): Does EGLE plan to provide data sets to support modeling? If not, does EGLE have minimum requirements for the type of models they would like to use (capacity expansion, production cost modeling, power flow modeling) or the spatial and temporal resolutions of such models?

No, EGLE does not intend to provide data sets for the modeling work; data needed for modeling work will need to be gathered by the grantee. EGLE does not have minimum requirements for the type of model(s) that should be used. Grantee is encouraged to propose what type of model they feel is best for the project topic and include a description of why the proposed model is a good fit for the project work.

Is the study as exclusively focused on Michigan's lower peninsula? (Subtask 3a specifically states lower peninsula)).

No, the study is intended to cover the whole state of Michigan while also recognizing that there may be barriers and opportunities unique to both the Upper and Lower Peninsulas of Michigan.

For tasks 4 and 7, does EGLE plan to provide an initial list of contacts to facilitate the survey and stakeholder engagement?

No, the grantee will be expected to determine appropriate stakeholders, perform outreach, and engage these stakeholders throughout the project. EGLE does have some contacts that will be shared with the grantee as deemed applicable to the project work.

Are partner agencies allowed outside of Michigan?

Yes, partner organizations are allowed regardless of their location; applicants nor their partners need to be based in Michigan to be eligible. One organization will need to be designated as the "Primary Applicant" that will sign the grant agreement with EGLE. Applicants can have as many partner organizations or subcontractors as needed to complete the work described in the RFP.

Is EGLE open to suggestions to alter or add to Tasks 1 through 9 listed?

Yes, EGLE will consider alterations to the tasks listed in the RFP. If the applicant chooses to alter any tasks in their proposal the applicant should describe why the alterations were made and what benefit they provide to the outcomes of the project. Adding additional tasks is acceptable; grantee should explain what benefit the added task provides to the outcome of the project.

Can we estimate staff costs on a monthly consultant basis with fringe benefits included (not on an hourly basis with fringe benefits). This is more like a contractual consultant rate. Is it possible for us to put our staff time into the proposed budget in this manner as "Contractual Services" with an hourly rate?

Yes, the budget template provided is intended to be referenced as an example but can be modified as needed by the applicant. Applicants are encouraged to provide detail on how the funding will be distributed to allow EGLE staff to determine if funding is appropriate for the work proposed.