

Questions and Answers

Question: Will eligible entities be allowed to submit more than one proposal?

Answer: Yes, an eligible entity will be able to submit more than one proposal. However keep in mind that this is a complete grant.

Question: Who is eligible to receive 40101d funds?

Answer: Large operators, defined as utilities selling more than 4 TWh of electricity annually, will be eligible for 50% of the available funds. Two investor-owned utilities fall into this group. For the years 2023 and 2024, their total is approximately \$8M.

Small operators, defined as utilities selling not more than 4 TWh of electricity per year, will be eligible for the remaining 50% of the funds, also approximately \$8M for two years. The remaining 56 utilities qualify to apply for those funds.

Other eligible parties, like transmission operators or fuel delivery companies, may join an RFP response led by an eligible party.

Question: Will there be a range on how many awards it will be granted?

Answer: There is not a range on how many awards will be granted because it is a competitive grant. It will depend on the number of applications we received and the funding requested.

Question: Will the proposals be posted on the Grid Resiliency website?

Answer: The proposals will not be publicly available through the Grid Resiliency website; however, they are subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Question: Will a PDF of the application questions be available?

Answer: Yes – A link to a PDF of the application questions has been included in the RFP.

Question: [Q&A](#) from the DOE. Can a recipient use BIL funds to perform an overhaul on existing diesel engine generators or replace existing distributed energy resources (DER) components such as wind turbine blades, solar farm inverter, etc.?

Answer: BIL Section 40101(e)(2)(A)(i) prohibits the use of grant funds for construction of a “new electric generating facility.” Modification of an existing generation facility may be an eligible use of funds, but the scope of the project would need to reduce the likelihood and consequences of disruptive events and meet one of the eligible uses of grant funds listed in BIL Section 40101(e), such as weatherization or hardening of facilities. Additionally, any work performed on an existing generating system cannot increase the maximum rated output of the original nameplate capacity. It is the responsibility of the recipient to ensure the work performed meets the intent of the BIL Section 40101(d).

Examples of allowable projects:

- Replacing old generation components with new components of the same type in order to ensure weatherization/resilience, such as wind turbine blade replacement or damaged solar cells within an existing solar farm.
- Overhauling a diesel engine including replacement of components and parts that are reducing the performance of the existing system.

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- Building inventories of parts and components needed for providing grid resilience benefits.
- Training and contracts for critical maintenance needs.
- Refurbishment of existing transformers.
- New fuel tanks, either to replace old or faulty tanks or to increase fuel storage capacity would be an allowable project under this program if it provides resilience benefits for the grid (see FAQ response below for additional guidance on fuel storage).

Examples of projects that are not allowable:

- Expansion of existing generation system such as expanding a solar generation facility.
- Replacing a diesel generation with clean generation system, such as a solar farm

Question: The RFP does not refer to the Program Narrative template (word doc). Shall the company assume that EGLE requires the template as prescribed to be filled out as part of submitting the RFP?

Answer: Program Narrative template is a part of the application. Program Narrative template is encouraged for a quicker review of the information, or the company must submit a document that addresses all of the questions in the program narrative template.

Question: The selection criteria for scoring the proposals (Part III-A) does not match the requested information in the Program Narrative template. If the Program Narrative template as prescribed is a required doc, will EGLE match the scoring on pg 9 -10 to the sections in the Program Narrative template?

Answer: The Program Narrative template does include all the selection criteria. However, these do not need to match – the narrative should be pertinent project information that we expect the applicant to provide but does not have to match the scoring criteria. There will be a lot of overlap but the reason we include the scoring information at all is so the applicant knows what we are considering and should therefore have an idea of what kind of information they should likely include in some part of their application.

Question: For Part I-B Program Priorities on page 2- the text for item 1. "hardening of power lines" is in conflict with the text for item 1. "hardening of power lines" in Eligible Projects on page 4. Which is the proper text?

Answer: Yes, Hardening of Power lines is a program priority as well as an eligible project.

Question: Is there a pdf/word version of the list of questions asked in the Application?

Answer: Yes, its included in the RFP. Here is a [link](#) for it as well.

Question: Is SIGMA Vendor Registration a requirement for submitting a proposal?

Answer: Yes, as it is required to enter a Grant Agreement.

Question: Provide clarity on the pre-reviewed projects. Which specific projects were submitted from our company?

Answer: The pre-reviewed projects are optional and include Dead and Dangerous Tree Removal, Right-of-Way Enhancement, Aging Infrastructure Replacement such as Poles and Conductors, Overcurrent

Protective such as Three-phase Reclosers and Fuses on tap Lines, Overvoltage Protection. More information on why these achieve the goals and merit of BIL 40101(d) are listed in Attachment 1.

No specific projects have been reviewed from any company.

Question: What is the format required for the Program Narrative (font size, type etc)? Proposed number of pages for each section?

Answer: The total number of pages is cap at 10. There isn't a required format but it's preferred to use a standard font type and size of 11 or 12.

Question: On page 5, Part I-E Ineligible projects bullet 9 - What does "Lacking significant increase" mean in this context?

Answer: It is up to the applicant to demonstrate the impact the project will have but that there is not specific definition as to what "significant" means in this situation. If the project doesn't meet the requirements of the program and doesn't support the objectives it will not be considered.

Question: For the Budget Application form (personnel section), if we don't have any in-kind matches, would we then fill out the Hours, Rate(\$/Hour), Grant (\$), Monetary and Total (\$) columns?

Answer: No, if there is a section that isn't applicable to your proposed project. For clarity sake please leave unused categories blank.

Question: Are there any more details to add for the Quality Jobs, Community Benefits, DEIA and Justice40 part of the template that could be provided? Any specific metrics that would be high recommended to be in the equity approach? Such as any metrics listed in the DOE Community Benefits plan template like DEIA and workforce commitments and the 8 Justice40 meaningful benefits to the community?

Answer: No, other than the information that is listed in the RFP. We acknowledge that different areas have different needs and encourage applicants to describe the impact the project will have on a specific metric and why improving in that area is important.

"Proposals will be evaluated on whether the applicants' past and future efforts to reach historically underserved populations, racial minorities, and women, including strategies to create connectivity and conditions for growth where they may not exist, such as in rural or underserved communities. It is expected that the eligible entity would engage impacted customers, such as the residents, workers, and community leaders, early and throughout the proposed grid investment process."

Question: The link from the RFP to the Certificate of Indirect costs is broken. Will EGLE provide a working link?

Answer: This has been updated and the correct link is in the RFP.

Question: Is there any way that we can send EGLE a spreadsheet with all the information and additional files to make it easier to upload?

Answer: No, we will need an application through survey monkey.

Question: For Joint Applications that are greater than 4, do I have to submit a several applications or is there another way to submit them?

Answer: Please attach the answers to question 1 – 9 for each utility remain utility. There is an attachment section for additional information at the end. Unfortunately, survey monkey doesn't allow

excel file uploads. If you want to use an excel file, please pdf it before attaching or upload a word document which ever is easiest for you.

Question: The RFP states that Applicant(s) must provide a complete Budget using the Approved Budget Form, is that needed in addition to the award budget listed in the application form?

Answer: Yes, because the budget form has more detailed and the information in the application is high level.

Question: What is the State of Michigan SIGMA Vendor Self Service ID #?

Answer: As stated in the RFP

SIGMA Vendor Registration: All selected applicants must be registered as a vendor of the State of Michigan on the SIGMA Vendor Self Services (VSS) before entering into a Grant Agreement. If you are an existing vendor and have an account in [Sigma VSS](#), please verify that all your account information is correct. If not, please use the [Sigma VSS](#) to register. This website is for the exclusive use of the vendors and individuals' intent on doing business with the State of Michigan and allows you to be paid in the event that you are awarded a contract. Your registration may take up to two weeks to be processed

Question: After the 4 submissions, question 41 asks: Is the applicant proposing to use a pre-reviewed project? Then Q42 & Q43 asks for project specifics, since I'm looking at submitting multiple participants in one submission, will I need to group my applicants so each submission has similar project categories?

Answer: Joint applications should only include multiple utilities if they are proposing the same projects. As an example, if there are more than one utility picking the same pre-reviewed project they can all be included in the joint application. However if all 31 utilities are proposing different projects there will need to be 31 applications.

Question: For the program narrative that is required. Will I need to submit one narrative for each applicant? If so will I be able to submit 4 attachments to Q45? Or do I have to save all 4 in one pdf?

Answer: I think only one attachment can be submitted, we can always ungroup the pdfs on our end.

Question: For Q46, it looks like I'm able to submit one file with 4 tabs, but below you commented that "If you want to use an excel file, please pdf it before attaching" – With that being the case, I'll need to submit 4 separate budget files right?

Answer: I think only one attachment can be submitted, we can always ungroup the pdfs on our end. Yes – each project should have its own budget since each project will be reviewed separately.

Question: The same question applies to the org charts, NEPA, BABA, and other requirements..... Will I be able to submit 4 different attachments for each applicant?

Answer: I think only one attachment can be submitted, we can always ungroup the pdfs on our end.

Question: I'm concerned that some of the required forms will not be able to be completed by 11/17. If any forms are missing will the applications be rejected? My particular concern is with the material certifications and indirect cost, since the projects haven't started, there is a good chance that the suppliers haven't been selected yet, so I'm not sure how to completely fulfill the requirements.

Answer: We are going to amend the RFP and state everything needs to be submitted by November 17, 2023. We will review each application to make sure everything has been included and if we noticed

something is missing we will reach out to the applicant and provide them some additional time to provide the required information before we start the technical reviews.

Question To follow up my VM, is this what the MPSC was looking to offer at one time?

Answer: MPSC is on the joint evaluation committee however EGLE is the lead agency.

Question Also does it make more sense to focus on shovel ready projects listed below or focus on higher tech projects?

Answer: This is a competitive grant and therefore we cannot recommend any project types.

Question: In recent years, an increasing number of utilities, including utilities in Michigan, have started to use high resolution satellite imagery for vegetation management. Satellite imagery enables utilities to target their vegetation management efforts towards the highest risk areas with a more data driven approach. This has proven to lower outage risks and both reduces costs to consumers and emissions by avoiding truck rolls to low-risk areas. Can you please confirm that satellite imagery would be eligible for Grid Resilience Grant funding?

Answer: BIL 40101(d) lays out what can or can not be covered by this grant program:

(1) In general.--A grant awarded to an eligible entity under

the program may be used for activities, technologies, equipment,
and hardening measures to reduce the likelihood and consequences
of disruptive events, including--

(A) weatherization technologies and equipment;

(B) fire-resistant technologies and fire prevention
systems;

(C) monitoring and control technologies;

(D) the undergrounding of electrical equipment;

(E) utility pole management;

(F) the relocation of power lines or the
reconductoring of power lines with low-sag, advanced
conductors;

(G) vegetation and fuel-load management;

(H) the use or construction of distributed energy
resources for enhancing system adaptive capacity during
disruptive events, including--

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- (i) microgrids; and
- (ii) battery-storage subcomponents;
- (I) adaptive protection technologies;
- (J) advanced modeling technologies;
- (K) hardening of power lines, facilities, substations, of other systems; and
- (L) the replacement of old overhead conductors and underground cables.

(2) Prohibitions and limitations.--

(A) In general.--A grant awarded to an eligible entity under the program may not be used for--

- (i) construction of a new--
 - (I) electric generating facility; or
 - (II) large-scale battery-storage facility that is not used for enhancing system adaptive capacity during disruptive events; or
- (ii) cybersecurity.

(B) Certain investments eligible for recovery.--

(i) In general.--An eligible entity may not seek cost recovery for the portion of the cost of any system, technology, or equipment that is funded through a grant awarded under the program.

(ii) Savings provision.--Nothing in this subparagraph prohibits an eligible entity from recovering through traditional or incentive-based ratemaking any portion of an investment in a system, technology, or equipment that is not

funded by a grant awarded under the program.