

| Date Question Recieved | Question | NCSEO Response |
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| 5/1/2024 | Applicant submitted an application to DOE's GRIP program two weeks ago in April. Applicant's scope of work would be adjusted to meet NCDEQ's requirements, but I wanted to ask | DOEs FAQ for 40101d. 40101d Frequently Asked Questions.pdf (doe.gov) |
| 5/2/2024 | Is there a minimum and maximum funding award? | NCSEO expects to award three to ten projects in this round of funding, totaling \$18.4 million, with \$5.7 million set-aside for small utilities. |
| 5/2/2024 | Is it required for the project to be in a Capital Improvement Plan? | No, it is not a requirement. If it is it should be noted in the application. |
| 5/2/2024 | What do you anticipate the average funding award to be? | NCSEO expects to award three to ten projects in this round of funding, totalling in \$18.4 million, with \$5.7 million set-aside for small utilities. |
| 5/2/2024 | Is it required to verify the cost match for submission of the Full Application? Applicant is a local government governed by a City Council and Mayor set up. Can a resolution adopted by Applicant's City Council showing a cost match commitment for the project suffice? What other kind of verification can meet this requirement? | Applicants to this grant opportunity should supply a cost match commitment letter. What is described would meet that requirement. |
| 5/2/2024 | Do you expect future opportunities to apply for this type of funding? | Yes, there will be three more years of funding from DOE. NCSEO has yet to determine the method of award. |
| 5/5/2024 | Can you advise me, where I may direct QUESTIONS regarding the subject RFP? | Yes, questions should be directed to SEO.team@deq.nc.gov |
| 5/6/2024 | The application mentions "providing a detailed workforce development plan" I know under BIL and IJA there is a provision for this. Do you have specific requirements on what needs to be included in a workfroce development plan? In the past we have adopted a Section 3 Plan (Local Job Initiative for Local Economic Benefit for Low and Very Low-Income Persons). We have required the construction contractor to submit a plan also. | There are no specific requirements for what is included in the worforce development plan. |
| 5/6/2024 | It says provide a budget narrative and labeled budget using the provided budget table template. It mentions the SF-424A Budget Information form and Budget Justification Form? This is for Non-construction projects? Is this the form you want used...or can you provide the proper form required for the application? | A budget template is being added as an Addendum shortly. |
| 5/6/2024 | Also, is there so type of training webinar that helps applicants in guidance to fill out the application? | No, there is no training webinar available. |
| 5/6/2024 | Would a public hearing on the project be an acceptable form of outreach activity to be conducted for the project | Yes, Public Hearings are an acceptable form of outreach. |
| 5/7/2024 | On pages 8 and 11 of RFP #100328-000 (Preventing Outages while Enhancing the Resilience of the Electric Grid -- POWER Up) there are references to a required budget template. I have been unable to locate a budget template. | A budget template is being added as an Addendum shortly. |
| 5/9/2024 | Is there a limit to the number of projects a utility can apply for under the program? Applicant is considering a handful of projects to apply for grants, is it better to select the best fit project or to submit multiple projects to see what may be funded? | No, there is no limit to the number of projects an applicant can apply for. Choice of project submittal is at the descretion of the applicant. |
| 5/9/2024 | The primary project they are considering is the construction of a second transmission line to a critical substation on their system. This substation serves vital commercial and industrial loads, and the transmission line construction would provide a backup feed in a severe weather or emergency situation for this station and other nearby stations via backfeeding. We believe this project would qualify as a hardening project, and would certainly improve the resiliency and reliability of their electric grid. My question is: does this seem like the type of project that may be funded under this program? Many of the eligible activities involve upgrading or replacing old equipment, while this would be entirely new construction. If we are limited to one project, we want to make sure they submit the most appropriate one for the funding goals. | The described project would be eligible for funding under this grant. |
| 5/10/2024 | I am inquiring about RFP #100328-000, the POWER Up funding opportunity. The RFP states that applicants should "provide a complete and labeled budget using the provided budget table template." However, we are having trouble locating this table in the document or on your website. Can you please advise how we may access the table? | A budget template is being added as an Addendum shortly. |
| 5/13/2024 | Could you please clarify if equity listed on our balance sheet, which would enhance our access to capital, is considered an eligible form of match? Additionally, we are interested in knowing if in-kind contributions, specifically labor costs directly associated with the project, can be included as part of our match. | Awaiting response from DOE. |
| 5/13/2024 | I have scanned through the document and want to ensure that before I start typing away, that the document is properly formatted. I am thinking about going off of the <u>Evaluation Criteria and Scoring</u> block on page 11... are the answers expected to be given in bullet format instead of an essay (paragraph) based format? | Section XV Submission Details on pages 19 and 20 describe the proper format. |

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| 5/13/2024 | If we are to provide picture for means of substantiation, where would these go? Inside the contents of the document? At the end of the document, or as additional separate attachments? | Include pictures inside the contents of the document. |
| 5/14/2024 | Our utility is preparing a grant submission for the NC GRID grant, and the opportunity references a budget template. Could you direct me to where the budget template is? | A budget template is being added as an Addendum shortly. |
| 5/14/2024 | We are planning to submit for the upcoming Section 40101d grant as a small utility, and on page 8 we noticed it references the use of a budget table template. Is this referencing SF-424A or some other document? | A budget template is being added as an Addendum shortly. |
| 5/14/2024 | On page 20 it mentions that the RFP narrative should not be more than 18 pages. Does the 18 pages requirement include the appendix for things like supporting documentation? For example, if we were to include vendor supplied quotes for similar projects would that count towards our 18-page limit? | RFP narrative should not exceed 18-page limit, not including required forms |
| 5/15/2024 | How many projects an Applicant can apply for? | There is no limit to the number of projects an applicant can apply for. |
| 5/15/2024 | What is the maximum value of a project? | NCSEO expects to award three to ten projects in this round of funding, totaling \$18.4 million, with \$5.7 million set-aside for small utilities. |
| 5/15/2024 | What is the definition of a "Small Utility"? | The definition is found on Page 11 of Appendix A (Page 29 of the full document). Eligible Entities that sell not more than 4,000,000 megawatt hours of electricity per year. |
| 5/15/2024 | Is it possible to extended the deadline for submission of the proposal for 10 days? | We are reviewing the RFP's timeline and this will be addressed shortly. |
| 5/15/2024 | Would you prefer to see applications setup in exact order of the criteria outlined in Section VII? | Application sections can be in any order, but we encourage each section to be titled as they appear in Section VII. |
| 5/15/2024 | Where can we access the budget table template? | A budget template is being added as an Addendum shortly. |
| 5/15/2024 | As a qualifying small utility, do you require at this stage of the process a copy of our most recent USDOE Energy Information Administration Form EIA-861? If so, may we submit it as a separate PDF? (The form is 23 pages in length) | No, this is not a required document. |
| 5/15/2024 | We have letters of support for our project from local, state and federal entities. May we provide copies of those letters in their entirety as a PDF addendum or should we just reference them in our 18-page narrative? | RFP narrative should not exceed 18-page limit, not including required forms |
| 5/15/2024 | May we include visuals including engineered drawings of the infrastructure proposal as well as recent photos of the hazardous conditions that currently exist? If so, should that be included in the 18-page narrative or may we submit as a PDF addendum? | Visuals may be included, however the RFP narrative should not exceed 18-page limit, not including required forms. |