



# BIL-40101(d) Grant Program: Strengthening the Reliability and Resiliency of Minnesota's Electrical Grid

August 8, 2024

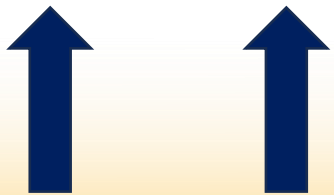
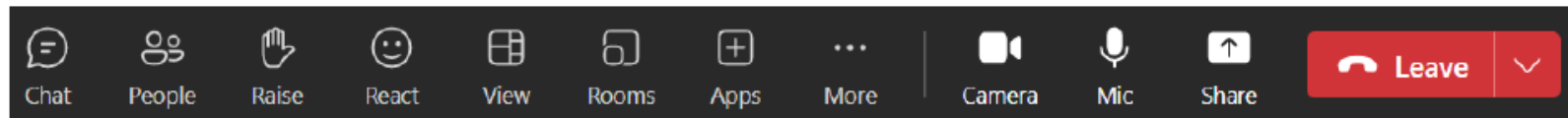
Kate Barry | Federal Utility Grants Program Administrator

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# Housekeeping

- Please ensure you are muted unless you are called on.
- Presentation will be about 30 minutes followed by a poll & discussion.
- This webinar is being recorded.
- Materials will be posted to the Commerce website after this meeting.
- Feel free to submit questions during the presentation using the chat feature or use the raise your hand function.





# Introductions



**Kate Barry**  
Federal Utility Grants Program  
Administrator



**Jay Berken**  
State Utility Grants Program  
Administrator



**Denise Lindom**  
Community Capacity Building  
Coordinator



**Jill García**  
Energy Contracts  
Coordinator/SCF Match



**Kari Moeller**  
State & Community Energy  
Program Director



# Agenda

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1. 40101(d) Program Overview & Purpose
2. Program Objectives
3. Eligibility, Program-Supported Activities, & Exclusions
4. Anticipated Timeline
5. Funding Availability & Cost Match
6. Priorities in Grantmaking, Application Questions, Evaluation & Scoring
7. Federal Requirements: NEPA, Davis Bacon Act, Build America, Buy America
8. Additional Resources
9. Questions



# 40101(d) Program Overview & Purpose

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## IIJA/BIL Section 40101(d): Preventing Outages and Enhancing the Resilience of the Electric Grid

- Formula funds to States and Tribes from the U.S. Department of Energy
- Purpose: to strengthen and modernize America's power grid against disruptive events
  - **Disruptive event:** An event in which operations of the electric grid are disrupted, preventively shut off, or cannot operate safely due to extreme weather, wildfire, or a natural disaster



# Program Objectives

Maintain or  
Improve Energy  
Reliability and/or  
Resilience

Generate the  
Greatest  
Community  
Benefit

Enhance  
Equity

Support Quality  
Jobs, DEI &  
Accessibility

Mitigate Natural  
Hazard Risk



## **Eligible entities: Utilities in Minnesota**

- Transmission Owner or Operator and/or Distribution provider
- Electric grid operator
- Electric storage operator
- Electricity generator
- Fuel supplier
- Any other relevant entity as determined by the DOE

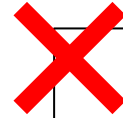


# Eligible Uses of Funds & Exclusions



## Eligible Project Examples:

- Grid hardening measures
- Undergrounding
- Weatherization technologies & equipment
- Use or construction of Distributed Energy Resources for enhancing system adaptive capacity during disruptive events



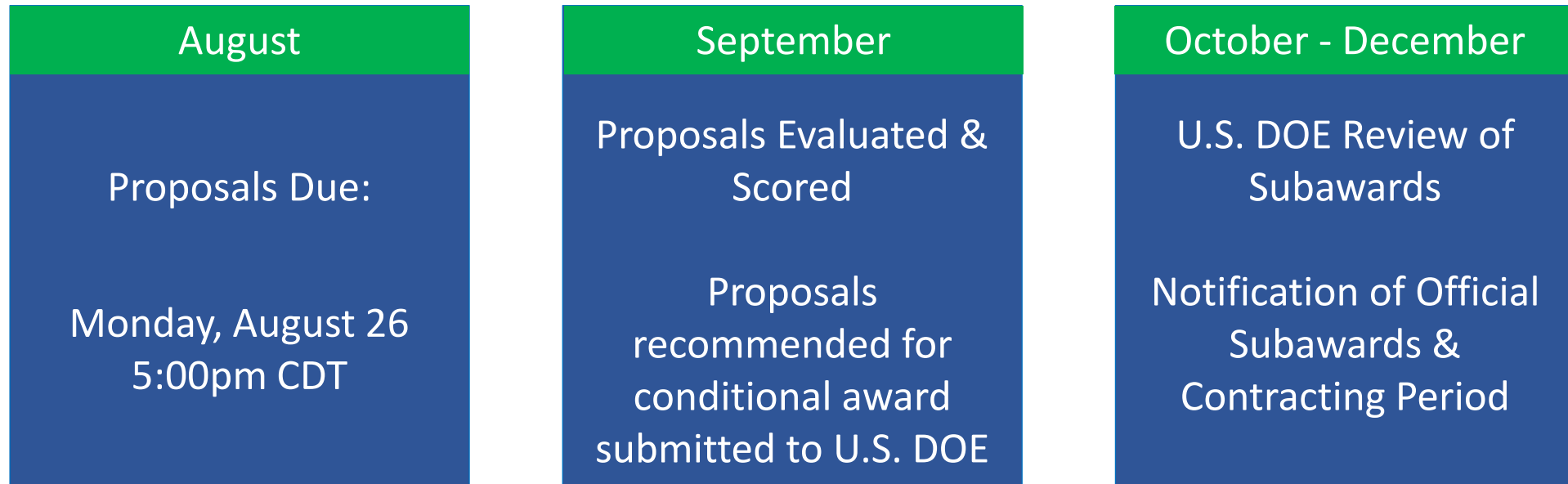
## Exclusions:

- New electric generating facility
- Large-scale battery storage facility not used for enhancing system adaptive capacity during disruptive events
- Cybersecurity





# Anticipated Timeline: Round 1 – 2024



- There will be at least 2 rounds of RFP/Proposal evaluation and awards



# Funding Availability & Cost Match

- Total funding available for round 1: \$11,987,794
- Up to \$2 million per award
- 1 proposal per eligible entity per round
- Cost Match requirement:
  - Small Eligible Entities: 1/3 of award amount
  - Large Eligible Entities: 100% of award amount
- State Competitiveness Fund Match program for Cost Match assistance



# Funding Availability & Cost Match

## State Competitiveness Fund Match Program (SCF Match)

- Proposals Due **Friday, September 6, 2024, 5:00pm**
- 40101(d) is an eligible federal funding opportunity for SCF Match Program
- SCF Match grant awards may cover the 40101(d) cost match requirement
- In 40101(d) submission, please note in “Applicant Comments” if you are applying to SCF Match program to fulfill the cost match requirement
- <https://mn.gov/commerce/business/rfp.jsp>



# Priorities in Grantmaking – Round 1

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**Goal: Award a greater number of smaller awards to reach across a wide range of eligible entities and projects**

- Projects that increase resiliency and generate the greatest community benefit, recognizing what that means varies across the state and across eligible entities
- Small eligible entities will be prioritized in the first round
- Projects which maximize the impact of 40101(d) funding by addressing multiple program objectives



# Application Questions

## **Summary of proposed project, approach, and workplan, including:**

- The current stage of project planning
- The proposed approach and locations
- Timeline and anticipated outcomes
- Financial need and how the funds will aid in the successful completion of the project within two years.
- The project design and justify any planning, design work and permitting needed, labor and equipment use and hours, and any known needs or issues which may impact the work.
- If applicable, the project's site plan and/or project design with scale and legend.



# Application Questions

## Alignment with Program Objectives

Series of Narrative (3000 characters) and Select from List questions related to the five Program Objectives:

- Energy Reliability/Resilience, Generate Community Benefit, Enhance Equity, Support Quality Jobs, Mitigate Natural Hazard Risk
- Include how metrics will be used to demonstrate how the proposed work addresses program objectives
  - Metrics Guidance Resource: <https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2023-08/Guidance-for-Bipartisan-Infrastructure-Law-Grid-Resilience-Formula-Grant-Metrics-Tracking.pdf>



# Application Questions

## Partnerships and Letters of Support

Attach any letters of support from partner entities, including but not limited to:

- Organizations that work with local communities, disadvantaged communities, and stakeholders that are most vulnerable to or affected by the project
- Organizations that carry out workforce development programs



## Budget, Justification, and Cost Match

- Budget template form
  - All fields in the template will not apply for all projects. Use the “Other” category for costs not captured in the template
- Include justification for costs
- Demonstrate a clear and strong relationship between stated objectives, goals, activities, and costs
- Budget should be detailed, reasonable, adequate, cost efficient, and aligned with the proposed project plan
- Complete and upload the Cost Match Calculator – Attachment #2





# Evaluation & Scoring

Scoring Criteria		Points Available
Criteria 1: General Information, Eligibility, and Completeness	Pass/Fail	
Criteria 1a: Cost Match	Large Utility	Small Utility
	100% match of grant amount	1/3 match of grant amount
Criteria 2: Summary of Proposed Project - Technical Merit, Feasibility, and Budget	25	
Criteria 3: Project Summary and Alignment with Program Objectives	Objective #1: Maintain or Improve Energy Reliability and/or Resilience	15
	Objective #2: Generate the Greatest Community Benefit	15
	Objective #3: Enhance Equity	10
	Objective #4: Support Quality Jobs, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, and Accessibility	10
	Objective #5: Mitigate Natural Hazard Risk	10
Criteria 4: Partnerships, Letters of Support, Approval from Applicant authority	5	
Small Utility Priority points	10	
Total Points	100	



# Federal Reporting Requirements

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## National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

- Each conditional subaward recipient must submit an Environmental Questionnaire for review by the U.S. DOE.
- If any projects require an environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS), the DOE NEPA representative will provide guidance.
- Link to Environmental Questionnaire:

<https://netl.doe.gov/sites/default/files/2023-09/Environmental%20Questionnaire.pdf>



# Federal Reporting Requirements

## Davis-Bacon Act (DBA)

- Mandates the payment of local prevailing wages on federally funded public works projects of \$2,000 or more, including construction, alteration, and repair work under DOE BIL-funded projects.
- DOE anticipates rolling out an electronic payroll compliance software to assist with DBA compliance
- For additional guidance on the Davis-Bacon provisions and clauses, see:

<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/government-contracts/construction>

<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/government-contracts/protections-for-workers-in-construction>



# Federal Reporting Requirements

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## **Build America, Buy America Act (BABA)**

- Requires that federally assisted projects that involve infrastructure work require that all iron, steel, and manufactured products are produced in the United States, and all construction materials are manufactured in the United States.
- Learn more: <https://www.energy.gov/management/build-america-buy-america>



## Local Grant Development Assistance Program

Provides funding to organizations offering grant development assistance to those seeking federal funds

Grant-seeking support services:

- technical and grant writing assistance
- soliciting or leveraging third party grant-writing
- addressing challenges and disparities in the seeking of federal funds
- assistance with financial analysis or project planning support

<https://mn.gov/commerce/energy/consumer/energy-programs/localgrantdevelop.jsp>



# State Electric Grid Resilience Grants

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## **Webinar on August 16th, 2024, 9:00am**

- Eligible applicants include municipal and cooperative utilities only, per the enacting legislation (Chapter 60--HF No. 2310, Sec. 72)
- Eligible projects are for the utility's electric grid to prepare for, adapt to, or minimize the consequences of extreme weather or malicious physical or cyber-attacks.



Thank you!



Questions?

[grid.resilience.COMM@state.mn.us](mailto:grid.resilience.COMM@state.mn.us)

Subject line: 40101(d)

<https://mn.gov/commerce/energy/consumer/energy-programs/electric-grid-resilience.jsp>

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