

Federal Formula Grant Funding Section 40101(d) Preventing Outages and Enhancing the Resilience of the Electric Grid

Responses to Applicant Questions

Notice of Funding Opportunity

[IFA-GRID-03](#)

February 2, 2026 – February 6, 2026

Question: Where can I find more information?

Response: Further information on this grant opportunity can be found on the IFA/CB website at <https://illinoisclimatebank.com/financing-programs/municipal-cooperative-utilities/40101d-grid-resilience>.

For more information on the GATA Grantee Portal, how to register, and how to apply through the Portal, please go to <https://gata.illinois.gov/grantee/grantee-portal-faq.html>.

Question: Who should I contact if I have questions about this NOFO?

Response: Contact Claire Brinley, IFA/CB Project Manager

Phone: 312-651-1319

Email: climatebank@il-fa.com

Question: What Cost Match am I required to provide?

Response: If the applicant sells more than 4,000,000 megawatt-hours (“MWh”) per year (Large Utility), the applicant will have to commit to match 115% of all federal funds received for the project.

If the applicant sells not more than 4,000,000 MWh (Small Utility), the applicant will commit to match one-third + 15% of all federal funds received for the project.

Grant funds distributed to eligible entities that do not have sales of electricity would qualify toward the overall required cost match of 115% of all federal funds received for the project.

Example: if you are requesting \$1 million in federal funding for your project, and

You are a Small Utility: you must provide a non-federal cost match of \$150,000 (15%) plus \$333,333 (1/3) for your project, so your total cost match would be \$483,333. Your total project value would be \$1,483,333.

If you are a Large Utility or any other Eligible Entity that is not a Small Utility, you must provide a non-federal cost match of \$1,150,000 (115%). Your total project value would be \$2,150,000.

Only costs associated with your project’s Eligible Activities indicated in this NOFO can be counted towards the sub-awardee cost match.



Question: Can I apply if I am awarded under the IL40101(d) NOFO#1 or 2?

Response: Yes, but you need to clearly distinguish these two projects in terms of activities, cost and metrics allocations and tracking. You may not claim any activities or cost match, nor any metrics committed to the first project, to avoid duplication of funding.

Question: What is the SAM.gov and UEI registration process?

Response: SAM.gov is a two-step process. First, you sign up for the UEI and second, you register your entity. When you are registering in the GATA Grantee Portal, you will be asked to enter your UEI. Please enter the UEI that you have received for your entity. Once the registration in SAM.gov is active, the GATA system will update to reflect this that typically happens overnight.

Question: Can a non-profit that serves small utilities apply for the benefit of those small utilities and provide only the small utility match?

Response: Unless an entity sells electricity, it will not qualify as a small utility as per the US DOE requirements and will have to match 115% of the funding requested. If a small utility applies, it will only have to match 48% for every dollar requested. But since selling electricity is a key part of the requirement to qualify as a small utility under the DOE requirements, any entity that does not sell electricity cannot qualify as a small utility.

Under the DOE funding guidance, a non-profit does not qualify as an "Eligible Entity" (see the list of eligible entities in the NOFO) without a special decision of the DOE Secretary. The only way for a non-profit to be able to receive funding under this opportunity is if the Secretary of Energy grants determination that this entity qualifies as the "Other Relevant Entity" which is processed on a case-by-case basis with the review of the proposed project and entity's role in it. But to receive that determination, IFA will first have to file the request with the Secretary with all the details of a proposed project.

Therefore, any entity that does not fit within the "Eligible Entity" category but can potentially qualify as "Other Relevant Entity" can still file the pre-application as described in the NOFO and if the project is pre-selected by IFA, the next step of the application process will include IFA filing a request for the Secretary of Energy's determination for that specific entity in that specific project.

Thus, such entity shall indicate in their pre-application why it should qualify as the "Other Relevant Entity". After the pre-selection process, IFA will be working with the selected projects to go through the next steps of the process, including getting the US DOE Secretary determination and DOE pre-approval for each selected project.

Question: What reports will I need to submit and what metrics will I need to track?

Response: Awardees will be required to submit project management reports quarterly throughout the life of the project.

- Quarterly metrics: In their quarterly reports, applicants will report project costs against the approved budget and their "Build Metrics" against the goals proposed in their application in Attachment A. Please see the NOFO#IFA-GRID-03 Attachment A posted on IFA 40101(d) website for the selection of Build Metrics to choose from.
- Annual metrics: The awarded projects will also be required to report annually their "Impact Metrics" against the milestones set in Attachment A as well as other impact metrics, including trainings, customer outreach, workforce development, and demographics. Please see Attachment



A for the selection of Build Metrics to choose from. IFA/CB may post these reports on the IFA's public website. Please note that projects may be required to report annual metrics for 2 calendar years after project conclusion.

Question: Can you define what is a “Small Utility”?

Response: Under 40101(d) program, Small Utilities are the eligible entities that sell not more than 4,000,000 megawatt hours of electricity per year.

Eligible Entities are specified in the NOFO, and include:

- a) an electric grid operator;
- b) an electricity storage operator;
- c) an electricity generator;
- d) a transmission owner or operator;
- e) a distribution provider;
- f) a fuel supplier; and
- g) any other relevant entity, as determined by the Secretary (IFA will have to apply for DOE Secretary Designation for these entities to be considered “Eligible Entities”).

Question: What activities are eligible under this NOFO?

Response: As noted in the NOFO, eligible activities include monitoring and control technologies designed to enhance electric system visibility and operational control, enable real-time data collection, analysis, and decision-making to improve the reliability, efficiency, and responsiveness of electric utility operations in order to reduce the number of customers that experience interruptions during electric outage events or to reduce the time to restore power to affected customers. Please see NOFO for more details. Please see Monitoring and Control Investment Guide and Monitoring and Control State Resilience Research Two-Pager for examples of control and monitoring technologies.

Question: 10. [REDACTED] is a large utility in [REDACTED] state but only has a handful of customers in Illinois and would be below the energy threshold to qualify as a small utility. Because they are part of a larger utility, would their participation be disqualified since it might not follow the spirit of the “small utility” requirement?

Response: An investor-owned utility should be able to qualify as a small utility if they are listed in the 2024 EIA data (table 10 Utility Bundled Retail Sales) below 4,000,000 MWh/year in sales for Illinois.

Question: What are the eligibility requirements for a unit of local government?

Response: The unit of local government will be qualified as an eligible entity based on its role and services in electric grid operations (e.g. distribution provider, generation owner). For example, if a unit of local government owns a utility that sells electricity, they may qualify as a small utility if their sales are not more than 4,000,000 MWh/year. If a local government does not sell electricity and does not fit into any specific eligible entity category, it may still qualify as “other” eligible entity based on its role in the grid resilience project, with the Secretary of Energy approval. In that case, IFA will need to submit a request for eligibility to the U.S. Department of Energy, which will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. IFA encourages entities to apply if they believe their activities meet the requirements set forth in the NOFO, particularly if the project falls within one of the listed priority projects categories.



The last day to submit questions for IFA-GRID-03 is March 6th, 2026, at 5:00 PM CT.