

Questions and Answers for Request for Applications #RFA-FY26-EIDD-891
Efficient Affordable Resilient Neighborhoods (EARN) Initiative

Q1: Is the funding going to be a contract or subrecipient agreement?

A1: Funding vehicle will be a grant agreement with DOEE

Q2: Curious if DOEE has a list of neighborhoods from the utilities that either have 1) identified natural gas lines that are up for maintenance, leak repair, or retirement and/or 2) identified for the electric grid, areas needing capacity upgrades for electrification?

A2: Applicants can use any information available to them publicly or via the RFA. Justify neighborhood selection based on the criteria in the RFA. If public natural gas/electricity data is insufficient for deployment plan, then applicant can suggest data collection, technical analyses and feasibility assessments required in their application

Q3: Can more than one application be selected?

A3: DOEE anticipates selecting one application for award.

Q4: I recently acquired a building that we are seeking to upgrade the electrical supply is there an application for building owners who are seeking to do this?

A4: This grant is not funding implementation work.

Q5: Is there any preference for the selected neighborhood(s) in this grant to be diversifying from the areas that have already received energy funding based on the maps and dashboard info in the RFA?

A5: DOEE does not have a neighborhood preference. The maps in the RFA are provided for informational purposes. Applicants should justify 1-2 neighborhood(s) selected.

Q6: Could you expand on what level of technical information is expected in the final plan deliverable?

A6: Technical information could include the following:

- Technical feasibility of individual technologies for neighborhood-scale electrification
- Modeling and technical analysis of pathways for meeting the neighborhood-wide electrification, efficiency, affordability, and resilience goals
- Evaluation of financial impacts of existing infrastructure replacement plans and proposed electrification actions
- A deployment plan detailing financing and procurement assessment for selected electrification technologies customized to the neighborhood(s).

Q7: How does DOEE expect applicants to balance strong technical expertise with deep community relationships? In other words, if a team has strong electrification and resilience planning capability

but partners with local community organizations for neighborhood engagement, is that viewed positively?

A7: It is up to applicant to decide on best arrangement. DOEE views applications that demonstrate a strong understanding of community within the proposed neighborhood(s). This can be accomplished through a partnership.

Q8: Can the funding be used for pre-development or readiness grants for community? How can the underserved communities prepare to accept these technologies (single-family, residential, commercial, community service buildings)?

A8: Funded activities need to be part of planning effort; this grant can't fund implementation or actual building upgrades. If pre-development includes educating residents on electrification, that could be part of a funded engagement plan.

Q9: It is my understanding that the winning company must submit invoices to be paid for services.

1. Is this correct? 2. When could we reasonably expect DOEE to pay invoices if everything is in order? Net 30 days?

A9: DOEE pays on a cost reimbursement basis. Once DOEE approves invoice, the maximum time to pay is 30 days.

Q10: Will the second meeting on this opportunity scheduled for May 7th be sharing the same information?

A10: Yes, May 7th meeting will feature similar presentation. Any Q&A information will be posted on RFA website.

Q11: Will the organization that develops the deployment plan under this grant be eligible to bid on the subsequent implementation phase?

A11: DOEE cannot guarantee funding availability for a future implementation phase. Selected grantee will not have restrictions on any future DOEE awards.

Q12: Regarding the fiscal budget and financial statements in Section 3.3(g) of the RFP, are there any alternatives here to providing the full budget and audited financial statements, such as sharing key metrics instead?

A12: In the past organizations submitted their most recent annual report or a link to their annual report in lieu of audited financial statements.

Q13: What are the actual funds available to subsidize the physical electrification work for this? And where are they coming from? I understand the planning and outreach is from this federal grant. But what funds the electrification?

A13: DOEE cannot guarantee funding for implementation. Applicants can describe how they would utilize existing programs listed in the RFA or alternative funding options.

Q14 - I am community-based group that is interested in this grant and would like to work with a technical partner. How do I go about doing that?"

A14 – There are at least two ways. (1) Look to see how others “partnered”. DOEE has a list of previous grants and grantees publicly available (see DC Council Performance Oversight [attachment Q27](#)). (2) Communicate with others who are interested in this project. Those who attend the RFA information sessions or wish to follow it for updates can identify themselves in this [Microsoft Form](#), which is posted on the [RFA website](#)

Q15 - I am a technical provider that is interested in this grant and would like to learn about potential community-based organizations that are interested. How do I go about identifying those organizations?

A15 - Please see the answer to the proceeding question #A14

Q16: Is DOEE changing the deadlines or making other schedule changes for the RFA?

A16: Yes. (1) DOEE has extended the application period. The new deadline for applications is 06/15/2026. (2) There are two informational sessions coming. Both are online. Attendance is not required. Please register through Webex [here](#) to receive the meeting invitation and link. The two sessions are: (a) May 7, 2026, online at 12 noon EDT (b) May 27, 2026, online at 12 noon EDT.