

Questions and Answers for Request for Applications # RFA-FY23-PCD-815
DC Hosting Capacity Study and Education Project

UPDATES:

- The deadline for application submissions has been changed from 8/7/2023 to 8/18/2023.
- DOEE will host a virtual pre-application information session on Webex on Tuesday, August 8, 2023, at 11am-12pm. See Webex access information on RFA webpage.

Q1. What is the deadline to submit questions?

A1. The deadline for submission of questions is Friday, August 11th, one week prior to the application submission deadline.

Q2. Is there a recording available of the July 11 pre-application webinar?

A2. We do not post recordings of webinars. However, all questions asked during a webinar are posted on this Q&A document.

Q3. Can a list be provided of the attendees to the pre-application webinar?

A3. No.

Q4. Does an applicant need to have a Basic Business License prior to submission for this grant or can we submit an application while the Basic Business License is still pending receipt?

A4. You may submit an application along with proof of pending status for the Basic Business License. Please note that applicants should be able to provide a Certificate of Good Standing and a valid Certificate of Clean Hands by the time an award is made. (See RFA Section 3.5 Required Documents).

Q5. Will the selection committee award the organization with the lowest bid, or the one with the most responsive application?

A5. The review panel will recommend the most responsive application for an award of the grant. (See RFA Section 4 Review Panel and Application Scoring).

Q6. We noticed the website has a new deadline of August 18th. Is that confirmed?

A6. Yes.

Q7. Is there a mailing list that we can be added to, to be notified of information related to this RFA?

A7. DOEE has an email list to send updates and information regarding the RFA. A person can be put on the email list by immediately emailing DCHostingCapacityStudy@dc.gov with the subject line "RE: RFA-FY23-PCD-815 – Add me to the email list."

Q8. Is an application with a recently incorporated prime applicant going to be acceptable if that prime applicant has no financials yet, except for a budget for its first year of operation?

A8. Yes.

- Q9.** Would it be helpful and/or relevant for a recently incorporated prime applicant to submit financials from its subgrantees, who have decades of experience managing all size of federal, state and local grants?
- A9** No.
- Q10.** Is there any requirement or scoring criteria that would advantage a District based CBE over a nonprofit?
- A10.** No.
- Q11.** If newly formed entity, with no reserves, was to apply and be awarded the grant, how would DOEE's reimbursement policy be implemented? Would DOEE be able to depart from that policy given these circumstances?
- A11.** Please see section 3.1. (b)(2).i of the RFA re "DOEE's standard policy on reimbursements vs. advances"
- Q12.** What is the turnaround time to receive answers once we submit questions?
- A12.** DOEE strives to answer all questions within a few business days. Please note, DOEE will publish updates and Questions and Answers (Q&A) regarding the RFA at doee.dc.gov.
- Q13.** Who is the final customer for the product performing this analysis? Households, Pepco, or DOEE?
- A13.** The public. This will be a public-facing analysis for ultimately the public's use. Pepco may request the redaction of certain information, but otherwise this is meant to be a public document.
- Q14.** In the event that Pepco were not forthcoming with the timely provision of the full extent of data needed for this study, what is DOEE's course of action to help the grant awardee obtain this data?
- A14.** DOEE is committed to working with the grantee to obtain from Pepco the data needed to timely undertake the hosting capacity study as described in the RFA, and DOEE may formally request Pepco for the data. If the awardee and DOEE are not able to obtain the needed data from Pepco, DOEE will discuss with the awardee the possibility of restructuring the RFA's first deliverable – 'Hosting Capacity Study' report – to reflect limited access to Pepco-provided data needed for the study.
- Q15.** How confident is DOEE about obtaining the data needed within an actionable timeframe?
- A15.** Pepco complied with a similar data request exercise for the development of DOEE's Strategic Electrification Roadmap. DOEE is not aware of any reason why Pepco would not be compliant in this case.
- Q16.** Would it be helpful for an applicant to propose an alternative pathway for a meaningful study and use of grant funds in the event the data were not forthcoming from Pepco?
- A16.** Yes, it is good to have options.

- Q17.** Does DOEE have data on rejection of solar interconnection applications due to hosting capacity constraints? Dates? Quantity? Geographic distribution?
- A17.** Yes, but the data that DOEE has is incomplete.
- Q18.** Does DOEE have data on number, dates, and amounts requested by Pepco for grid upgrades? Will it be provided to the winning applicant?
- A18.** Yes, and yes.
- Q19.** Is hosting capacity defined as uncoordinated or coordinated hosting capacity for this study?
- If an analysis for “coordinated hosting capacity” is expected, can it be assumed that the components required for coordinated control across the grid has been planned for OR,
 - should those components and methods be suggested as a part of the study?
- A19.** Components and methods should be suggested as part of the study.
- Q20.** What is the expected quality of data used in the study? Is a study conducted with publicly available data acceptable or is access to proprietary data a requirement?
- A20.** Please provide your own recommendation for data quality in your application.
- Q21.** If proprietary data is a requirement, what is the acceptable timeline to obtain that data in relation to the education project?
- A21.** Please provide your own recommendation for the relevant timeline in your application.
- Q22.** Do you expect the analysis tool to be updated periodically with accessible data or is this study a one-time prediction to coordinate and ramp up efforts across the district?
- A22.** Both.
- Q23.** Is the quality assurance plan reference on p 25 targeted towards the analysis tool?
- A23.** It is tied to any final work product produced as part of this grant.
- Q24.** Understanding that DERs are separate from EE, is education around reducing electrical panel upsizes aligned with locating DERs in the areas with better hosting capacity?
- A24.** Please propose what information you think should be included in your project proposal.
- Q25.** Does the education component end with the education and engagement plan or is the expectation that education and engagement happens over the course of the grant?
- A25.** Please propose how you think this should be done.
- Q26.** What role do you envision DOEE playing in the implementation of the education and guidance component? How will DOEE “enhance and amplify the project’s reach”?
- A26.** Please propose what you would recommend DOEE’s role to be in this regard.

Q27. Project Outputs on page 25 of the RFA states “At least 50 households seeking to obtain solar PV installation systems will receive education on District-wide “hosting capacity” and solar installation project processes.”

- How does DOEE envisage the applicant would select or contact these 50 households? For example, from a list of households working with specific installers, or from a list of households which have already submitted a solar permit application, or other?

A27. Please propose how you would like to fulfill this project output.

Q28. Given that educational deliverables are to be delivered to DOEE, is there guidance in terms of tools and/or applications that would be most useful for DOEE to implement?

A28. No. Please propose how you would like to do this.

Q29. Is there a character or word limit to the narrative that is to be submitted as part of the application?

A29. No