

Local Government Energy Program: Communities Sparking Investment in Transformative Energy (C-SITE)

PCFO IGAP Grant Snapshot

March 13, 2024

<u>Agency:</u> US Department of Energy	<u>Bureau:</u> Office of State and Community Energy Programs
<u>Application Deadline:</u> May 31, 2024	<u>Max Award:</u> \$3.6 million

Description

C-SITE seeks to support the implementation of high-impact municipally- or Tribal-led projects in disadvantaged or energy communities and small- to medium-sized jurisdictions. C-SITE aims to fund projects that deliver direct benefits to workers and residents, such as workforce agreements, reduced energy costs, improved air quality, and improved quality of life.

Eligible Recipients

Local governments or Tribal governments representing one or more of the following communities:

- Disadvantaged communities: As defined by the [Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool](#)
- Energy communities: As defined by DOE's [IRA Energy Community Tax Credit Bonus Mapping Tool](#)
- Small- and medium-sized jurisdictions: Population under 250,000 people

Eligible Projects

C-SITE will support local governments and Tribes to implement projects that provide direct community benefits, spark additional investments, meet community-identified priorities, and build local capacity. Projects may span a range of geographic scopes and a wide variety of technology areas, including, but not limited to, building efficiency and/or electrification, clean transportation, energy infrastructure upgrades, microgrid development and deployment, renewable energy, and workforce development.

Potential projects may include, but are not limited to:

- Energy efficiency upgrades and on-site battery storage for a community resilience hub/s located in a disadvantaged community
- Tribal partner-owned solar plus storage microgrid independent power project providing power to remote households
- Municipally-owned utility-scale solar photovoltaic (PV) installation on reclaimed industrial land accessing relevant tax credits

- Downtown revitalization led by public/private partnership creating energy efficient buildings primed for reuse for business or community use
- Electric vehicle ride-sharing program aimed at serving low-income residents to increase mobility and access to economic opportunities

Additional example projects can be found in Appendix C of the FOA.

Matching Grant Requirements

5% matching requirement. May be met through staff time, municipal or Tribal budgets, philanthropic funds, or other contributions from a third-party entity to support project implementation or increase impact. The cost share must come from non-federal sources may also be met through the contribution of in-kind services that advance the proposed project.

New or Existing Program

New

Tips for Being Competitive

There are three technical review criteria that will be utilized in scoring applications:

- Criterion 1: Community Need, Impact, and Replicability (30%)
- Criterion 2: Community Support, Engagement, and Benefits (30%)
- Criterion 3: Partnerships and Project Feasibility (40%)

Potential applicants should review the technical review criteria during program design and application development to ensure that they maximize the number of sub-criteria addressed. Competitive applications will demonstrate support from local community partners and will demonstrate significant benefits to workers and local residents, and the ability to spur local economic development or community revitalization, utilize existing community assets or transform liabilities into assets, and spark additional investments.

Labor Requirements

Under the Community Opportunity section of the Project Narrative, applicants are expected to address Worker & Community Benefits: “Summarize specific strategies, commitments, and protections this project will provide workers, as through workforce and community agreements, community benefits agreements, project labor agreements, and/or collective bargaining or other workforce strategies, commitments and protections; include documentation or plan. Describe specific tangible benefits proposed anticipated for local residents, including reduced energy costs, improved air quality, and improved quality of life. Describe in quantitative and qualitative terms, with metrics.”

Partnership Requirements

While partnerships are not required, DOE will prioritize projects with clear, demonstrated support from local community partners and relevant decision-makers.

Agency Contact

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Upcoming Events

Webinar on March 21, 2024 from 3-4pm ET: [Attendee Link](#)

Total Allocation

\$18 million

Anticipated Award Date

August 2024

Resources

- [Grant Opportunity - DOE Infrastructure eXCHANGE](#)