



North Carolina Department of
Environmental Quality

State Energy Office

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Preventing Outages and Enhancing the Resilience of the Electric Grid (POWER Up)

Resilience of the Electric Grid Formula Grants for States
and Tribes | RFP 100328-001

Funding Information

U.S. Department of Energy's Grid Deployment Office and
supported by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (IIJA), Section
40101d – Preventing Outages and Enhancing the Resilience of
the Electric Grid DE-FOA-002736

217 West Jones St.
Raleigh, NC 27603

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North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality
State Energy Office
5 Yr. Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)
Request for Proposal (RFP) 40101(d)

ALL Applicants:

The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality's State Energy Office is seeking proposals for Year 3 of a 5-Year award by the U.S. Department of Energy's Grid Deployment Office and supported by the [Bipartisan Infrastructure Act \(IIJA\)](#), Section 40101d – *Preventing Outages And Enhancing The Resilience Of The Electric Grid - Resilience Of The Electric Grid Formula Grants For States and Tribes*.

The enclosed packet contains a "REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL" for the 40101(d) Program.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS RFP #100328-001

TITLE: *Preventing Outages while Enhancing the Resilience of the Electric Grid (POWER Up)*

ISSUING AGENCY: North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NC DEQ), State Energy Office (NC SEO)

PROPOSAL OPENING DATE: May 13th, 2026

PROPOSAL CLOSING DATE: 12 NOON EST on Friday, June 26, 2026

SUBMISSION: Proposals must be submitted electronically via e-mail in response to this Request for Proposals to: SEO.team@deq.nc.gov. Direct all inquiries concerning this RFP to: SEO.team@deq.nc.gov

NCSEO 40101(D) PROGRAM MANAGER: Suzanne Morrison suzanne.morrison@deq.nc.gov (919) 745-9747.

NOTE: An Applicant Workshop will be held online on May 22th, 2026. Please submit a registration form for the workshop, found on the [NCSEO 40101\(d\) RFP webpage](#). A recording will be posted on this website following the workshop. Questions concerning the specifications in this Request for Proposals will be received from May 18th, 2026 until June 24th, 2026. Questions must be submitted in writing via email to: SEO.team@deq.nc.gov. NO QUESTIONS WILL BE ANSWERED BY PHONE. Questions and answers will be posted on a rolling basis on the [NCSEO 40101\(d\) RFP webpage](#), with final questions accepted on Wednesday June 24th 2026.



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I. General Information

A. Introduction

The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality’s (NCDEQ) [State Energy Office \(SEO\)](#), is requesting applications for grant funding of Year Three of *Preventing Outages while Enhancing the Resiliency of the Electric Grid (POWER Up)*. Funding for this program was awarded to NCSEO by the United States Department of Energy (US DOE) as part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 117-58) (IIJA), also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). NCSEO is dedicated to ensuring a reliable, affordable and sustainable energy future for the residents of North Carolina. Through this competitive process, funding will be distributed across NC to implement a range of measures to improve the resilience of the electric grid against disruptive events¹ and support NC’s energy goals

B. Background

The *IIJA* is a once-in-a-generation investment in infrastructure, which will grow a more sustainable and resilient economy through enhancing U.S. competitiveness, driving the creation of good-paying jobs, and ensuring better access to economic, environmental, and other benefits.² As part of and in addition to upgrading and modernizing infrastructure, *IIJA* investments will address the climate crisis and support efforts to build a clean and equitable energy economy that achieves zero carbon electricity by 2035 and puts the United States on a path to achieve net-zero emissions economy-wide by 2050 to benefit all Americans. NCSEO’s initial round of funding in 2023-2024 made approximately \$18.5 million available to seven grant Subrecipients across NC, leveraging approximately \$23.85 million in cost match dollars. The current award will provide approximately \$8.65 million for one to seven eligible projects, and will leverage, at a minimum, \$2.85 million in cost match funds.

C. Eligible Applicants

NCSEO will use grant funding to issue subawards to the following eligible entities:

- Electric grid operator;
- Electricity storage operator;

¹ Per IIJA section 40101(a)(1), a disruptive event is “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.”

² U.S. Department of Energy. November 2021. “DOE Fact Sheet: The Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal Will Deliver For American Workers, Families and Usher in the Clean Energy Future.” <https://www.energy.gov/articles/doc-fact-sheet-bipartisan-infrastructure-deal-will-deliver-americanworkers-families-and-0> IIJA Request for Proposal #100328-000 Page 5

- Electricity generator;
- Transmission owner or operator;
- Distribution provider;
- Fuel supplier and;
- Any other relevant entity, as determined by the Secretary of DOE.³

The NC SEO encourages all eligible entities to apply but will prioritize entities that directly provide resilient electricity to the public and offer the greatest community benefit.

D. Funding Amount

NCSEO will distribute approximately \$8,645,000 during this round of funding. One to seven projects will be funded under this announcement. One-half of the funding (50%) is set aside specifically for eligible entities that sell not more than 4,000,000 MWh of electricity per year (small utilities). This does not limit small utilities from potentially receiving more than half of the funding. Large utilities are limited to no more than half of the award. There are no restrictions on the amount of funding that can be requested. Funds will be awarded on a competitive basis and distributed in accordance with DOE's requirements outlined in the [Administrative and Legal Requirements Document \(ALRD\)](#).⁴

E. Program Description

This program is designed to address resilience of the electric grid and prevent outages against disruptive events, including mitigating climate-related risks, particularly in areas of North Carolina most vulnerable to natural disasters. All the while, this program will prioritize economic development. The three provisional objectives and metrics that North Carolina will use as guidance to fund DOE resiliency projects are below:

1. **Objective 1 – Grid Modernization.** The addition of grid technologies that strengthen resilience and increase the flexibility of the grid.
2. **Objective 2 – Access to Resilient and Reliable Energy.** Projects that improve energy reliability and resiliency in communities disproportionately impacted by – or at greater risk of being impacted by – outages and subject to higher energy burdens. Causes of

⁴ For specific details about DOE's Preventing Outages and Enhancing the Resilience of the Electric Grid Formula Grants to States and Indian Tribes (DE-FOA-0002736), click [here](#). The ALRD can be found [here](#).

outages and higher energy burdens may be due to (but are not limited to) extreme weather, wildfires, flooding and/or aging infrastructure.

- Objective 3 - Workforce Development.** Commitment to workforce development through projects that will attract, train and retain an appropriately skilled workforce.⁵

Projects should be informed by the [North Carolina Clean Energy Plan](#), the [North Carolina Energy Security Plan](#), and the [North Carolina Climate Risk Assessment and Resilience Plan](#). North Carolina is committed to ensuring that the benefits of the funding are shared equitably, advancing the State’s environmental and energy priorities, and supporting grid modernization investments in communities most vulnerable to disruptive events.

F. Eligible Activities

A wide range of resilience-based investments are permitted under the Section 40101(d) grant program. The list below identifies some, but not all, of the eligible activities. All projects must be approved by both the NCSEO and the US DOE.

Eligible activities include, but are not limited to:

- Weatherization technologies and equipment.
- Fire-resistant technologies and fire prevention systems.
- Monitoring and control technologies.
- The undergrounding of electrical equipment.
- Utility pole management.
- The relocation of power lines or the reconductoring of power lines with low-sag, advanced conductors.
- The use of construction or distributed energy resources for enhancing system adaptive capacity during disruptive events, including:
 - Microgrids (no new generation); and
 - Battery-storage subcomponents.
- Adaptive protection technologies.
- Advanced modeling technologies.
- Hardening or upgrading (i.e. reconductoring or installing grid enhancing technologies) of power lines, facilities, substations, of other systems.
- The replacement of old overhead conductors and underground cables.
- Vegetation and fuel-load management; and
- Other measures as determined or approved by DOE.

The following are also eligible when combined with eligible infrastructure activities:

⁵ All funding applications must include an infrastructure component to be considered an eligible activity under this RFP.

- On-the-job mentoring and training for jobs in grid modernization.
- Support for local workers to attend apprenticeships or training programs.
- Support services for training participants (e.g. child support, transportation).
- Ensuring that investments in grid resilience benefit communities through job creation.

G. Ineligible Activities

Funding may not be used for:

- Construction of new electric generation facilities.
- Construction of new large scale battery storage not used to supply electricity where needed during disruptive periods,
- Cybersecurity measures.

H. Cost Match Requirements

Applicants are required to provide a cost match. Also known as “cost share” and “non-Federal share,” this is the portion of the costs of a Federally assisted project or program not borne by the Federal government. Cost-sharing may be accomplished in various forms or combinations. These include, but are not limited to: cash outlays, personnel costs (including fringe benefits), volunteer time (of non-salaried employees), donated existing equipment or supplies, and indirect costs or facilities and administrative costs. The cost match must be reasonable, allowable, allocable, and necessary for the performance of the project.

Applicants should refer to the [ALRD](#) for details on the cost match allowability.⁶

As all sources of cost share are considered part of the total project cost, the cost match will be scrutinized under the same Federal regulations as the project’s Federal dollars. Cost match contributions must be specified in the project budget, verifiable from the recipient’s records, and necessary for the accomplishment of the project. Applicants will be bound by the cost match proposed in their application and subrecipients will report monthly on their cost match (as well as Federal) expenditures. The cash value and calculations for all cost share amounts must be justified and explained in the cost share section of the project Budget and Justification, included as Attachment C.

Cost Match requirements are based on applicant electricity sales:

- Entities that sell >4,000,000 MWh of electricity per year **OR** who do not sell electricity must match at a minimum of 100% of the subaward value.
- Entities that sell ≤4,000,000 MWh of electricity per year must match at a minimum of one-third (1/3) of the subaward value.

⁶ ALRD, pages 19-21.

“Cost matching” is calculated as a percentage of the federal funds requested. Here are some examples:

- If SEO funds \$2,000,000 to an eligible entity that sells more than 4,000,000 megawatt hours of electricity per year, the entity would be required to “match” (with 100%) an amount of (at least) \$2,000,000. The total award value would be \$4,000,000.
- If SEO funds \$1,500,000 to an eligible entity that sells less than 4,000,000 megawatt hours of electricity per year, the entity would be required to “match” (at 33.33%) an amount of (at least) \$499,950. The total award value (Federal funding + cost match) would be \$1,999,950

A *Cost Match Commitment Letter* is required as part of the Application. Instructions to prepare this letter are provided in Section II.B.

I. Program Performance Period

It is anticipated that projects will begin within three months of a fully executed subaward and must conclude no later than April 30, 2032.

J. RFP Estimated Timeline

This RFP is open for applications from Wednesday May 13th 2026 to Friday June 26th, 2026. All grant application materials must be submitted via email to SEO.team@deq.nc.gov by the due date to be considered. See below for more detailed submission information.

The timeline below provides dates for key activities in the grant RFP process. This timeline will be posted on the [NCSEO 40101\(d\) funding opportunity web page](#) and is subject to change at NCSEO’s discretion. Applicants should check back routinely to determine if dates have been updated. Because some dates – such as Award Notification and the Award Kickoff Meeting – are contingent upon the review and approval process of DOE, estimated timeframes are provided. Significant changes to the timeline – such as an extension of the closing date – will be accompanied by an Addendum that will be posted on the NCSEO 40101(d) web page.

RFP Activity	Estimated Date
RFP POSTED	Wednesday May 13 th 2026
PRE-AWARD WORKSHOP FOR PROSPECTIVE APPLICANTS	Friday May 22 th , 2026
Q & A OPPORTUNITY OPENS	Wednesday May 13 th 2026
Q & A OPPORTUNITY CLOSES	Wednesday June 24, 2026

PROPOSALS DUE	Friday June 26, 2026 12 noon
NCSEO APPROVED PROJECTS SUBMITTED TO US DOE FOR FINAL REVIEW & APPROVAL	Friday July 10, 2026
AWARD NOTIFICATION * DEPENDENT ON DOE TIMELINE FOR REVIEW & APPROVAL	July 20, 2026 to August 30, 2026 (Tentative)
CONTRACTS COMPLETED/PROJECTS CAN COMMENCE * DEPENDENT ON DOE TIMELINE FOR REVIEW & APPROVAL	Tuesday September 1, 2026 (Tentative)
PROJECT ROLLOUT WORKSHOP * DEPENDENT ON DOE TIMELINE FOR REVIEW & APPROVAL	Friday September 11, 2026 (Tentative)

K. Project Billing and Invoicing

The award will be paid to Subrecipients as expenses are incurred. On a monthly basis, Subrecipients will report all expenses to be reimbursed through the Federal grant, as well as all matching costs. All expenses (Federal and cost match) must be supported by documentation, including (but not limited to) receipts, paid invoices or payroll reports. Subrecipients will receive guidance and training on the billing and invoicing process. Federal or cost match funds cannot be used to reimburse expenditures that took place before the executed grant agreement is in place. Subrecipients’ cost match must be spent in proportion to Federal award payments, and according to the Project Workplan and Budget. Releasing the funds is based on an evaluation of project performance, project schedule adherence, the extent milestone objectives are met, compliance with reporting requirements and overall contribution to the program goals and objectives.

L. Program Requirements

Applicants must comply with all applicable requirements outlined in the US DOE’s *Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) Preventing Outages and Enhancing the Resilience of the Electric Grid Formula Grants to States and Indian Tribes*. These are found in the [Administrative and Legal Rights Document \(ALRD\)](#) issued for this grant. They include, but are not limited to:

- **Reporting.** All selected entities must follow U.S. DOE’s and the NCSEO’s program and reporting requirements. This will include, but may not be limited to the following:
 - Subrecipients will report quarterly on project implementation and annually on project impacts. Reports include, but are not limited to the following:
 - *Quarterly Reporting.* Subrecipients will submit *Quarterly Progress Reports (QPR)* that capture data on the budget, costs incurred, milestone status, metrics on project

attributes, and risk management activities. See Attachment F for an example of the Quarterly Progress Report template.

- *Annual Reporting.* Subrecipients will submit an *Annual Metrics and Outcomes Report* that will track project outcomes and impact metrics. See Attachment G for an example of the Annual Metrics and Outcomes Report template.
- **Davis-Bacon Act Compliance.** Subrecipients must certify their project will comply with the requirements of the [“Davis-Bacon Act”](#)⁷ ensuring laborers and mechanics employed in the performance of construction, alteration or repair work funded under this project be paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing on similar projects in the locality.⁸ Award recipients will be required to undergo Davis-Bacon Act compliance training and submit weekly payrolls via LCPtracker. For additional information, review the compliance requirements on the [US DOE website](#) and the [US Department of Labor website](#).
- **Cybersecurity.** Subrecipients must certify the primary purpose of the project is not cybersecurity but that the project will adhere to applicable cybersecurity requirements, standards, and best practices in deploying technologies under the subaward.
- **No Foreign Work and Materials.** Subrecipients must certify that no individuals participating in the project are in a Foreign Government-Sponsored Talent Recruitment Program of a Foreign Country of Risk as defined in the ALRD and that all work performed for the project will be performed in the US, and no foreign travel will be involved.
- **Build America Buy America Act (BABA).** Awarded entities must comply with *Buy America Requirement* certifying that all the iron, steel, manufactured goods, and construction materials used in infrastructure projects are produced in the United States.⁹ Additional information about BABA can be found [here](#). When necessary, recipients may apply for, and US DOE may grant, a waiver from the BABA requirements. Additional information about the waiver request can be found on the US DOE webpage [DOE Buy America Requirement Waiver Requests](#).
- **Environmental Review.** In accordance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) NEPA, Federal agencies are required to integrate environmental values into their decision-making processes by considering the potential environmental impacts of their proposed actions. Funded projects will be required to submit an environmental questionnaire ([NETL Form 451.1-1/3](#)) for each work location proposed in the application. A NEPA representative will review these documents and any other pertinent information to determine the likely level of NEPA documentation required for qualified

⁷ Subchapter IV of Chapter 1 of Title 40, United States Code commonly referred to as the “Davis-Bacon Act.”

⁸ DOL has Prevailing wage resources and seminars [here](#).

⁹ For more information regarding the Buy America Requirement, including instructions for requesting a waiver, please visit the DOE Buy America landing page: <https://www.energy.gov/management/build-america-buy-america>.

projects. Due to evolving NEPA requirements, the NCSEO may require that projects be modified or cancelled if they cannot meet NEPA requirements. Costs to prepare the necessary records may be included as part of the project costs. For additional background on NEPA, see US DOE's [NEPA website](#).

- **System for Award Management (SAM.Gov) Registration.** Applicants must register with [SAM.gov](#), the official U.S. government web-based platform for entities to register to do business with the federal government. Awardees must obtain a Universal Entity Identifier (UEID) prior to receiving a grant award. A UEID is a unique twelve-character alphanumeric ID, generated by SAM, used to identify your organization.
- **2-CFR-Part 200.** [2 CFR Part 200](#) is the Uniform Guidance or Federal Code of Regulations, a set of rules that standardizes administrative requirements, cost principles, and audit requirements for federal financial assistance. It applies to all non-federal entities that receive federal awards like grants. The guidance is structured into various subparts. [Subpart E – Cost Principles](#) provides information for Applicants when preparing the budget.
- **40101(d) Special Terms & Conditions.** Subrecipients of the 40101(d) program will be subject to the same federal award terms and conditions as NC DEQ, with few exceptions. The Special Terms & Conditions will be provided to Subrecipients as part of their subaward agreement.
- **State Grant Requirements.** Funds awarded under the 40101(d) program are considered state funds, in addition to being federal funds. State grant requirements are contained in 09 NCAC 03M (Uniform Administration of State Awards of Grants) and NCGS 143C-6-23.
- **Other Requirements.** Other Federal requirements are associated with this award. For example, Applicants cannot use funds to encourage or support political activities, must be domestic entities¹⁰ and must not be debarred or suspended. All work must take place in North Carolina. Applicants should review the Federal Administrative and Legal Requirements Document for a complete list of requirements.

II. Application Guidance

A. Applicant Technical Assistance

The North Carolina State Energy Office (NCSEO) is offering two opportunities to learn more about these available funds and ensure that questions are answered.

¹⁰ To qualify as a domestic entity, the entity must be organized, chartered or incorporated (or otherwise formed) under the laws of a particular state or territory of the United States; have majority domestic ownership and control; and have a physical place of business in the US.

- **Applicant Workshop.** An online Applicant Workshop is tentatively scheduled for May 22, 2026. The date and time of the Applicant Workshop will be posted on the [NCSEO 40101\(d\) RFP webpage](#). The workshop will be hosted by NCSEO and will provide an overview of the funding program and project objectives, a review of the application, and details on the submission process. A link to register for an Applicant Workshop will be posted on the [NCSEO 40101\(d\) RFP webpage](#). The recording and slide deck for the Applicant Workshop will be posted on the NCSEO RFP website following the meeting.
- **Question and Answer Period.** The NCSEO will respond to written questions and answers from May 13th, 2026, to June 24, 2026. Please submit questions about this funding opportunity or the application to seo.team@deq.nc.gov. Responses to questions will be posted on a rolling basis on the [NCSEO 40101\(d\) RFP webpage](#). The NCSEO is unable to answer questions regarding this funding opportunity by any other means, including telephone calls or personal emails to NCSEO staff.

B. Preparing the Application Package

Following is a description of the complete application package. The Attachments noted in the subheadings are included in the Appendix and are downloadable from the [NCSEO 40101\(d\) RFP webpage](#):

- **Application Cover Sheet (Attachment A).** The application cover page includes entity information (entity type, size, contact information, etc.), an application completeness checklist, project type, executive summary, assurances, and more. It is signed by the organization's Authorized Representative.
- **Signature and Acceptance Form (Attachment B).** The Signature and Acceptance Form is signed by the Authorized Representative of the organization and submitted on agency letterhead.
- **Budget Justification Workbook (Attachment C).** The [SF-424A Budget Workbook](#) provides a detailed multi-year project budget and justification for the project. The budget must be allowable, allocable, reasonable and conform to [2 CFR 200 Subpart E](#) (Cost Principles). Generally, allowable costs include direct project expenses (personnel, equipment, materials, travel, etc.) and indirect costs (facilities, administrative salaries, rent). Please note, the maximum limit of funds to be paid or reimbursed to a new Award recipient as indirect costs will be calculated as a percentage of the total project award amount, minus any unallowable expenses. For nonprofit organization Awards, the maximum percentage is 15 percent (15%).
- **Project Narrative.** The Project Narrative is a complete summary of the project. Detailed guidelines for completing the Project Narrative are provided in Attachment D.
- **Cost Match Commitment Letter.** A Cost Match Commitment Letter is required from your organization, or any other organization that will provide all or part of the cost match requirement of this funding opportunity. It should be on entity letterhead and signed by the Authorized Representative. Letter(s) must include the following: 1) Cost match value

and percentage of the total award it represents; 2) Source (e.g. whether it is the Applicant or another organization providing match); 3) Type (cash or in-kind) of the proposed cost match; 4) A statement the entity commits to providing the cost share; and 5) A strategy for replacing the funds if they are significantly reduced or lost.

- **Optional Supporting Documents.** Applicants can submit up to three Supporting Documents that supplement the Project Narrative. Supporting Documents could be used to enhance, validate and provide deeper context for the proposed project, strengthen the Applicant’s credibility, or highlight the need or feasibility of a project. They cannot be used to introduce new topics, take the place of specific questions in the Project Narrative, or continue answers to specific questions in the Project Narrative. Examples of Supporting Documents include, but are not limited to:
 - A community development plan indicating the need and support for the project.
 - A feasibility study that supports the need for the project.
 - An evaluation report that highlights recent impacts to the community – such as frequent or long duration outages.
 - Relevant drawings, maps or images that illustrate the boundaries of a proposed project or existing problems that will be addressed by the project.
 - Concise reports from planning activities with community organizations completed in preparation of the application demonstrating community support.
 - Contractor quotes.
 - Equipment specification and estimates.

Optional Supporting Documents should include a clear reference in the Project Narrative to the document, and the reason or purpose that it was included in the application. Whenever possible, direct the reviewers to the page or paragraph in the Document that highlights the specific point that is being made. Label each supporting document numerically and provide a clear title at the top of each document. For example, ‘*Supporting Document 1: Grid Feasibility Study.*’

C. Attachments

The Appendix includes the following Attachments that must be completed and submitted as part of the Application (as noted above):

- Attachment A – Application Cover Sheet
- Attachment B – Signature and Acceptance Form
- Attachment C – SF-424 – Budget Justification Workbook

There are also several additional Attachments referenced throughout the application that are not submitted as part of the application. Instead, they provide information important to completing the application. They are:

- Attachment D – Project Narrative Guidelines
- Attachment E – Build and Impact Metrics Reference

- Attachment F – Annual Metrics and Outcomes Report Template
- Attachment G – Quarterly Progress Report Template
- Attachment H – Scoring Criteria

D. Submission Instructions

- **Submission Date and Time.** Applications will be accepted until 5:00 pm US Eastern Standard Time on **Wednesday July 1**. Only those applications from eligible entities that submit complete applications by the deadline will be reviewed. Applicants are encouraged to submit applications early to avoid missing the deadline due to incomplete or incorrect submissions, or technical problems that may occur during submission. Changes to this submission date will be posted on the [NCSEO 40101\(d\) RFP webpage](#)
- **Submission Format.** The submission will be via email, with individual attachments for each of the required documents. All the attachments should be in PDF format, except for the Budget and Justification, which will be an Excel file. Label the email as follows: ProjectName_ApplicantEntityName_POWERUpRound3. Here is an example of how to label the proposal, “*Project STEEL_Four County EMC_PowerUpRound3*.”
- **Application Components and File Requirements.** Following are the specific application components and file requirements to use in your application:

Component	File Requirements
Application Cover Sheet (Attachment A)	File Format: PDF File Name: [Entity Name]CoverSheet.pdf
Signature and Acceptance Form (Attachment B).	File Format: PDF File Name: [Entity Name]SignatureForm.pdf
Budget and Justification Workbook (Attachment C).	File Format: Excel Name: [Entity Name]Budget.Exl
Project Narrative Guidelines (Attachment D)	File Format: PDF File Name: [Entity Name]ProjectNarrative.pdf
Cost Match Commitment Letter	File Format: PDF File Name: [Entity Name]CostMatch.pdf
Supporting Document 1	File Format: PDF File Name: [Entity Name]SupportingDoc1.pdf
Supporting Document 2	File Format: PDF File Name: [Entity Name]SupportingDoc2.pdf
Supporting Document 3	File Format: PDF File Name: [Entity Name]SupportingDoc3.pdf

Submit the email, with the attachments, to seo.team@deq.nc.gov. Other forms of transmission – such as mail or courier – will not be accepted.

- **Emergency Extensions.** Under certain circumstances, NCSEO will allow an extension of the application deadlines for adversely affected applicants listed in Emergency Declarations and/or Major Disaster Declarations. This will be announced on the [NCSEO 40101\(d\) RFP webpage](#). Contact seo.team@deq.nc.gov if you have questions.

- **Contact Information for Submission.** Direct any questions about the submission of the RFP to seo.team@deq.nc.gov. If you should experience technical issues during the submission process, please contact Suzanne Morrison at (919)745-9747.

III. Application Review & Notification Process

It is anticipated that there could be a greater number of requests for funding than could be funded under this allocation. NCSEO will employ a multi-step review and notification process. This process is outlined below.

A. Eligibility and Completeness Checks

NCSEO will assess every application to make sure it meets basic requirements for eligibility and completeness. We will not consider an application that:

- Does not meet the eligibility criteria for the program.
- Does not conform to the application guidelines.
- Is missing required application components.
- Was submitted after the deadline (unless an emergency extension was granted).
- Requests funding outside of the acceptable range.
- Does not include the minimum cost share amount for the size of the entity.

B. Review and Selection Process

We use a review process to evaluate all complete applications from eligible entities. Applications are evaluated according to the review criteria listed in Attachment H. NCSEO's recommendations are sent to the US DOE for final approval. Applicants with proposals that progress to US DOE review will be notified, and additional application materials may be required. Review and approval by US DOE may take two to eight weeks.

C. Award Notification and Subaward Process

NCSEO will not publicly release information about the status of an application until the review process is complete, final projects have been selected, and NCSEO has received approval from the US DOE regarding the projects selected for funding. NCSEO staff expect to notify successful and unsuccessful applicants of final funding decisions by email no sooner than mid-August, 2026. As final award notifications are dependent upon the US DOE, this timeframe may be adjusted. The notification will be sent to the named Authorizing Representative.

Following notification of the award, the NCSEO will work with your organization to complete the subaward package. The signed subaward will include the approved proposal, as well as additional required attachments. Subrecipients will be contacted by NCSEO regarding which

attachments will be required for inclusion in the subaward agreement after grant award notification. **This complete, signed subaward package is the only document obligating funds and authorizing work to begin on the project.** Unless both NCSEO and your authorized representative have signed the subaward, any pre-award costs that are incurred cannot be paid using these Federal funds, or the project cost share. Applicants will have no more than one month starting from the date on which they receive their subaward package, to complete all tasks associated with finalizing their subaward. Funds that cannot be obligated in that timeframe may be forfeited.

D. Unsuccessful Applicants

If your application is rejected during the initial review for eligibility and completeness, we will notify you by email with the reason. Reasons for this are identified in Section III A. If you believe your application was rejected in error during the initial review and completeness check, you can appeal the decision in writing within ten business days of the date the rejection notice was sent. If your application is eligible and complete, yet, upon review it is not selected for funding, NCSEO will notify your Authorizing Representative via email. All funding decisions are final.

IV. Attachments

Required Attachments (include these attachments with the submission)

- Attachment A – Application Cover Sheet
- Attachment B – Signature and Acceptance form
- Attachment C – SF-424 – Budget Justification Workbook

Reference/Informational Attachments (do not include with the submission)

- Attachment D – Project Narrative Guidelines
- Attachment E – Build Metrics and Impact Metrics Reference
- Attachment F – Annual Metrics and Outcomes Report Template
- Attachment G – Quarterly Progress Report Template
- Attachment H – Evaluation Criteria