



Department of
**Environment &
Conservation**

**Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act (IIJA) Section 40101(d)
Tennessee Grid Resilience Grant Program**

Application Workshop

Welcome

- Thank you for your interest in the Tennessee Grid Resilience Grant Program.
- This webinar is being recorded and will be posted to the [Grid Resilience Grant Program webpage](#).
- AI Notetakers will not be allowed in the meeting and will be removed.
- Please keep your microphone muted. Feel free to type questions into the chat at any time – we will address questions after the presentation.

Agenda

- Program Introduction
- Eligible Applicants, Activities, Cost Match, and Other Program Requirements
- Application Requirements / TDEC's Grants Management System
- Application Evaluation, Grant and Contract Considerations
- Q&A



Introduction

- The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) section 40101(d) Grid Resilience Formula Grant Program (Program) seeks to improve the resilience of the electric grid against disruptive events.
- IIJA section 40101(a)(1) defines a disruptive event as "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."
- The Program was designed by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to strengthen and modernize the power grid against extreme weather, wildfires, and other natural disasters.

Introduction (Cont.)

- Formula funds are disbursed to states over a 5-year period utilizing a formula based on factors including population size, land area, probability / severity of disruptive events, and historical expenditures on mitigation efforts.
- Funds provided to States and Tribes can be used to fund a variety of projects to improve grid resilience.
- The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's Office of Energy Programs (TDEC OEP) is the lead administrator of the Program in Tennessee.

Eligible Applicants

- TDEC OEP is requesting grant applications from electric distribution providers in Tennessee (i.e., municipal electric power providers, consumer-owned electric cooperatives, and investor-owned utilities) for eligible grid resilience projects.
- Applicants must have previously submitted a Concept Paper to TDEC OEP prior to September 24, 2025 to be eligible to submit a grant application.
- Eligible applicants may also partner as a consortium to submit a single application, covering projects across multiple distribution service territories, provided that a lead organization is designated and that lead organization agrees to serve as the prime subrecipient, if awarded.

Deadline to Submit

- This grant solicitation will make available an expected \$23 million in funding for eligible applicants, representing three years of federal funding from the five-year Program.
- Under this solicitation, TDEC OEP expects to award 10-25 projects, with projects ranging in size from approximately \$500,000-\$5,000,000 each.
- Applications and supporting documentation must be submitted electronically via the TDEC Grants Management System (GMS), which may be accessed here: <https://tdec.smartsimple.com/>.
- Applications must be received by **11:59 PM Central, January 21, 2026.**

Eligible Activities

- Eligible activities under the Grid Resilience Grant include:
 - Grid-related weatherization technologies and equipment (i.e., weatherization of grid components and systems, and not the weatherization of a facility or building);
 - Fire-resistant technologies and fire prevention systems;
 - Monitoring and control technologies;
 - Undergrounding of electrical equipment;
 - Utility pole management;
 - Relocation of power lines or reconductoring of power lines with low-sag, advanced conductors;
 - Vegetation and fuel-load management;
 - Adaptive protective technologies;



Eligible Activities (continued)

- Eligible activities under the Grid Resilience Formula Grant include:
 - Use or construction of distributed energy resources (DERs) for enhancing system adaptive capacity during disruptive events, including microgrids and battery-storage subcomponents;*
 - Advanced modeling technologies;
 - Hardening of power lines, facilities, substations, other systems;
 - Replacement of old overhead conductors and underground cables; and
 - In combination with any of the above activities, the training, recruitment, retention, and/or reskilling of skilled and properly credentialed workers to perform proposed work.

*New electric generating facilities (e.g., solar facilities, generators) are not allowable under the Program. Energy storage systems (e.g., batteries) are allowable if the system is used to improve grid resilience during disruptive events.

Ineligible Activities

- Resilience activities that are INELGIBLE include:
 - Construction of a new electricity-generating facility;
 - Construction of a large battery storage facility that is not used for enhancing system adaptive capacity during disruptive events; and
 - Cybersecurity.
- In addition, guidance from the National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) has clarified that:
 - While the construction of new *distribution* lines below 69 kV that reduce the likelihood and consequence of a disruptive event is eligible, the construction of new *transmission* lines is not eligible for funding; and
 - Projects that focus on routine maintenance are discouraged, as recipients should be focused on prioritizing activities that would not be completed without grant funding.

Eligible Project Costs

- Eligible applicants may request grant funding to cover costs associated with the implementation of eligible activities.
- For consortium projects, the primary applicant may also request funding for administrative and/or technical assistance related costs, not to exceed 5 percent of the total grant request.



Grid Resilience Grant Stakeholder Working Group Meeting – January 2025

Required Applicant Cost Match

- IIJA Sections 40101(h)(1) and (h)(2) require that large utilities that sell more than 4 million megawatt hours per year must provide cost match at a minimum of 100% of the total subaward, and small utilities that sell 4 million megawatt hours or less per year must match no less than 1/3 of the total subaward.
- The small utility set-aside requires that States ensure the percentage of subawards made available to entities that sell less than 4 million megawatt hours of electricity per year is not less than the percentage of all customers in the State served by the entities.
- A calculation for the State of Tennessee has concluded that 56 percent of customers are serviced by small utilities. This means that 56 percent or more of the subawards must be made to small utilities.

How to Calculate Cost Match

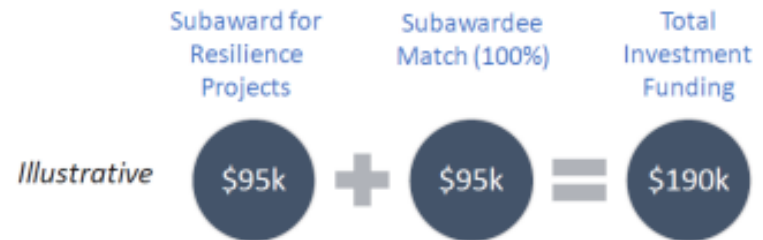


- The cost match for the non-federal share of the Grid Resilience Program funding is calculated as a percentage of the requested federal funds only, rather than a percentage of the total project cost.

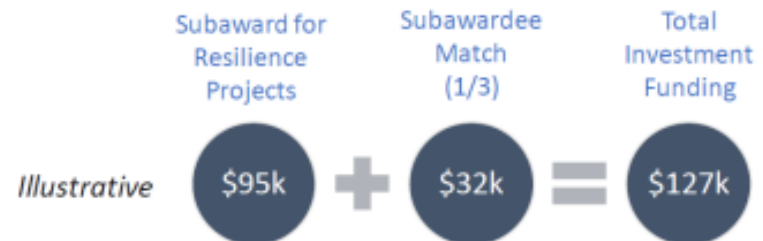
- The total of the federal funds requested and the cost matches provided by the applicant should equal the expected total project cost.

- See an illustrative example from NETL.

Eligible Entity >4,000,000 MWh of electricity per year:



Eligible Entity ≤4,000,000 MWh of electricity per year:



Required Applicant Cost Match

- For consortium projects, participating, eligible organizations in the consortium must commit to provide commensurate cost match for their portion of the project, based on the amount of annual electricity sold.
- If the applicant organization or any of its consortium partners are classified as “small utilities,” each applicable organization must upload proof of electricity sold via the Energy Information Administration (EIA) form 861 for the last reporting year.
- The applicant must also upload a letter of financial commitment from each expected non-federal cost match contributor. Each letter must state the amount and source of funds to be contributed to the project.

Other Program Requirements

- Please note that subawards funded under the Program will be subject to all applicable federal, State, and local statutes, rules, and regulations, including, but not limited to:
 - Build America Buy America (BABA) Act;
 - Davis Bacon and Related Acts (DBRA);
 - National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA);
 - National Historic Preservation Act;
 - Title VI; and
 - State and local construction and permitting requirements.

Project/Reimbursement Timeline

- Selected Grantees will have three years from the effective date of the grant contract to complete the project. No-cost extensions will be evaluated on case-by-case basis.
- Payment of project expenses will take place on a reimbursement basis. Reimbursement will be made following project completion, commissioning, submission of supporting documentation of costs incurred, and other required invoice documentation.
- TDEC will not reimburse expenses that are incurred prior to the start date of the grant contract. The Grantee may proceed with its project after it is notified by TDEC that its grant contract has been fully approved and executed.

TDEC Grants Management System



TDEC Online Grants System

Welcome to the new TDEC Online Grants System! We are excited to offer a more streamlined and easier way to submit applications and grants management for funded projects.

How to Use the System

The first step is to register as an individual and affiliate with an organization by clicking the button below labeled: Register Here. Once you have registered, you can log on anytime to apply for funding opportunities, review active grants, view past submissions, and submit reimbursements and reports for funded projects.

New to the system?

[Register here](#)

Login

Email:

Password:

[Login](#)

[Forgot Password?](#)

To learn more about us [click here](#)

TDEC GMS – Online Resources

Grants

About the Grants Management System

How to Register Online

How to Affiliate with an Organization

How to Change Your Password

How to Create a Reimbursement

How to Submit Activities

TDEC Grant Management System FAQs

About the Grants Management System

Grants Management System (GMS)

The TDEC Grants Management System is available for all TDEC grant programs. Applicants can register, find funding opportunities, and apply completely online.

- [Access the Grants Management System.](#)



<https://www.tn.gov/environment/about-tdec/grants/grants-system.html>

Title VI Requirements

Applicants must certify within the application that:

- The applicant understands that the elements of Title VI compliance correspond to requirements for Title VI as provided for in 42 U.S.C. § 2000(d) and applicable guidance from the Tennessee Department of Human Resources; that the applicant has either adopted and implemented these elements of compliance or has agreed to adopt and implement TDEC's compliance resources as its own; and that the applicant understands that the applicant's eligibility for funding is contingent upon its satisfaction of and adherence to the requirements of Title VI, as well as any contractor or subcontractor associated with the project as required by law;
- The applicant has successfully submitted and received notification of completion for its **annual Title VI Compliance application**;
- The applicant understands that if the applicant is awarded a grant by TDEC, **the applicant will need to show evidence of completion of Title VI training** when requested by TDEC.

TDEC Grants Management System Contact

For questions regarding the annual Title VI Compliance application or to check on the status of an application, please contact TDEC.Grants@tn.gov. For questions specific to Title VI requirements, please contact TDEC.TitleVI@tn.gov.

For questions specific to the TDEC Grants Management System, please email TDEC.Grants@tn.gov or call 615-532-0341.

Application Requirements

- Applicant / Partner Information:
 - Organization Name / Contact Information;
 - Organization Type (e.g., Consumer-Owned Electric Cooperative, Investor-Owned Utility, Municipal Electric Power Provider);
 - Number of Meters Served (Inclusive of all Customer Types);
 - Approximate Service Size (Square Miles);
 - Electricity Sold in Calendar Year 2024 (in Megawatt Hours); and
 - (This will be used to confirm whether the entity is a “large” or “small” utility for purposes of cost match requirements)
 - Name and contact information for Project Manager / Administrator.

Project Information



Vegetation management along a utility right-of-way

Proposed Activities:

- Project Location, and
- Project Type (from list of eligible resilience measures).

Build metrics (the project's proposed infrastructure improvements):

- Distribution, transmission, or substation modifications;
- Monitoring and Control devices;
- Batteries or mobile units;
- Hardened generation, fuel supply, inventory;
- Restoration equipment; and
- Operating systems.

Project Narrative (10 page limit)

Proposed Activities

Anticipated Resilience Benefits

- Describe anticipated reduction in outages and/or costs, including information regarding anticipated benefits to critical infrastructure.

Demonstration of Need

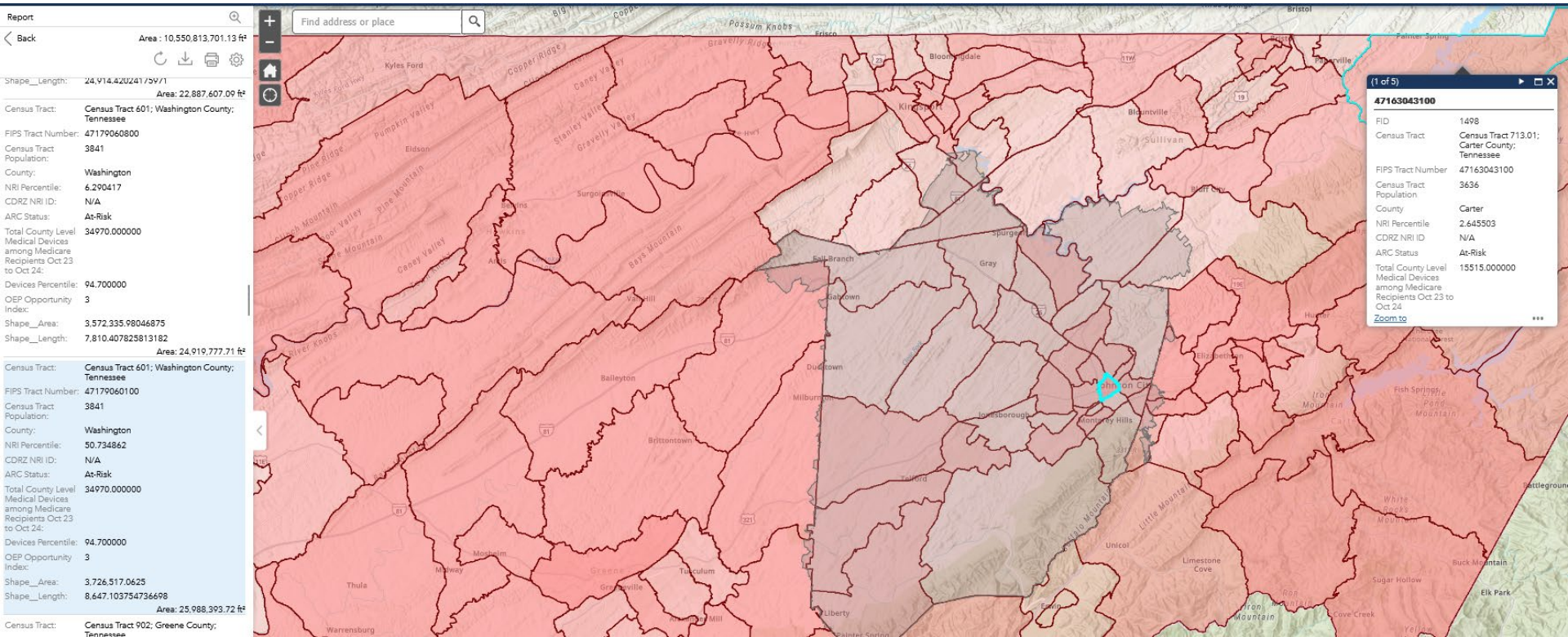
- Detail why the project is needed, potential negative impacts if the project is not completed, and budgetary constraints that prevent the project from being completed without grant assistance.



Worker at electrical transformer substation by Rene Terp

Geographic Considerations

- Attach one or multiple project maps to illustrate where the proposed work will be performed or the area of impact.
- Utilize the TN Grid Resilience Mapping Tool to generate and upload an Excel file export of related geographic metrics, determined by your proposed project's area.



National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA)

- Proposed resilience project activities must go through the NEPA review and approval process.
- All applicants are 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 projects.
- Some projects are eligible for categorical exclusions (CX) from NEPA environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS) requirements. The NEPA compliance officer will make the CX determination based on the Environmental Questionnaire submitted.

Budget

- Complete the budget summary table and line-item budget worksheet.
 - Budget line-item detail will include cost estimates for personnel, contractual/professional fees, capital purchase, and supplies.
 - Line-item detail will also specify which portion of the budget is to be grant-funded and which portion is to be covered by grantee cost match.
- Provide a narrative budget justification for each line-item category included within the budget summary. Detail any calculations or assumptions used to arrive at the total grant amount requested and non-federal grantee participation (cost match) amount.

Budget (Cont.)

- Upload supporting documentation for the budget (e.g., detailed cost estimates from potential vendors for each proposed expenditure).
- Upload a letter of financial commitment from each expected non-federal cost match contributor. Each letter shall state the amount and source of funds to be contributed to the project.

Schedule

- Grantees will have a 3-year period of performance to complete projects.
- Applications should detail:
 - The estimated timeframe to complete the project. If the proposed project schedule exceeds three years, provide a justification (e.g., supply chain delays, staff training needs, seasonal limitations).
 - The estimated lifespan of proposed activities (e.g., projected service life of components or infrastructure to be installed, duration of anticipated resilience improvements, etc.).

Task	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Project Design	[Blue bar spanning Q1-Q4 of Year 1 and Q1-Q3 of Year 2]											
Community Outreach			[Purple bar spanning Q3 of Year 1 and Q1-Q2 of Year 2]									
Permitting							[Yellow bar spanning Q3 of Year 2 and Q1-Q2 of Year 3]					
Right of Way Acquisition							[Orange bar spanning Q4 of Year 2 and Q1-Q2 of Year 3]					
Construction Activities									[Red bar spanning Q3 and Q4 of Year 3]			

Public Engagement / Workforce Development

Anticipated Public Engagement

- Any potential, planned education and outreach efforts within the applicant's service territory (e.g., public meetings, stakeholder working groups, steering committees, etc.).



Electricity poles and transformers by Diana

Workforce Development (optional)

- Indicate if any requested grant funding will be used for training, recruitment, retention, or reskilling of project workers required for the proposed project.
- Examples include the number of workers expected to be trained and/or upskilled, apprenticeship programs, etc.

Resilience Information / Metrics

- 3-year rolling 12-month average System Average Interruption Duration Index (SAIDI) and System Average Interruption Frequency Index (SAIFI) (major event days excluded) for the proposed project site and/or affected service area.
- 3-year rolling 12-month average Customer Average Interruption Duration Index (CAIDI) (major event days excluded) for the proposed project site and/or affected service area.
- Largest outage cause, the number of outages, and the hours to repair outages for the last three years (for the proposed project site and/or affected service area).

Resilience Information / Metrics Cont.

- Number of Critical Facilities situated in the proposed project site and/or affected service area (reported in whole numbers, a description of their service(s), and address(es)).
- Information on operational technology (OT) systems in use by the applicant (e.g., GIS, demand response management system (DRMS), supervisory control and data acquisition system (SCADA), Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI), etc.).

Applicant Qualifications / Experience

- Provide a list of federal financial assistance that your organization was awarded within the last three years (include no more than five agreements). Note: For consortium applications, the list of federal financial assistance must be from the lead applicant.
- Detail your organizational experience and plan for successfully achieving the objectives of the proposed project, your staff expertise/qualifications, staff knowledge, and resources or the ability to obtain them.



Worker repairing power lines by Sergei Serostin

Applicant Acknowledgements

Applicants must certify within the application that:

- They are authorized to sign on behalf of the applicant and that the information in the application is accurate and complete to the best of their knowledge.
- The project is not a cybersecurity project or does not propose a new electric generating facility.
- There is not planned, actual, or apparent conflict of interest between the applicant and U.S. DOE or between the applicant and TDEC OEP.
- The applicant will comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 prior to commencing any construction activities.

Applicant Acknowledgements (Cont.)

Applicants must certify within the application that:

- The applicant will comply with Build America, Buy America (BABA) Act Requirements for the proposed project.
- The applicant confirms that it will comply with the Davis Bacon Act (DBA), including the use of LCPtracker for certified weekly payroll submission, for its proposed project.
- Whether the applicant or any of its partner organizations anticipate that it will involve foreign nationals in the performance of its proposed project.
- The applicant will comply with the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA).

Applicant Acknowledgements (Cont.)

Applicants must certify within the application that:

- The applicant will comply with 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.317—200.327 when procuring property and services.
- The applicant understands the reporting requirements and will comply with these requirements if selected to receive grant funding.
- The project being proposed in response to the State of Tennessee's Grid Resilience Grant Program solicitation was not also submitted in response to either Round 1 or Round 2 of the U.S. DOE GRIP program.

Applicant Acknowledgements (Cont.)

Applicants must certify within the application that:

- The applicant, along with the officers, directors, owners, partners, employees, and agents of the applicant's organization are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, or declared ineligible for an award by any State or federal agency.
- The applicant has attended the mandatory Application Workshop, either by participating in the initial webinar session or by watching the recorded session.

Application Evaluation

- TDEC will conduct a comprehensive review of all complete and eligible grant applications, including all required supporting documentation (see the list of required supporting documents in the Application Manual).
- Based on the concept papers received, there were over \$60 million in potential grant requests (~3x the amount that TDEC has available).
- Please note that TDEC may select parts of a proposal for funding and may offer to fund less than the eligible grant amounts and/or a smaller amount than requested in the application.

Application Evaluation (Cont.)

Proposed projects will be evaluated by a multidisciplinary team and ranked based on criteria including, but not limited to:

- Alignment with project goals (i.e., reduction in frequency and duration of outages caused by extreme disruptions);
- Demonstrated need for proposed project (how instrumental 40101d funding is to the project completion);
- Anticipated resilience and customer benefits;
- Technical soundness;
- Project cost, cost effectiveness, and voluntary cost match commitments beyond the minimum required cost match;

Application Evaluation (Cont.)

Proposed projects will be evaluated by a multidisciplinary team and ranked based on criteria including, but not limited to:

- Whether the project will improve local power company situational awareness regarding outages;
- Estimated project lifespan (i.e., projected useful life of the measures to be deployed);
- Geographic indicators (e.g., how the proposed project area scores on the National Risk Index, whether the proposed project falls within a Distressed or At-Risk County as determined by the Appalachian Regional Commission, the number of critical facilities within the proposed project area, current cost of outages in the proposed project area according to the ICE Calculator Cost of Outages tool, wildfire burn risk as determined by USDA Wildfire Simulation Risk Data);

Application Evaluation (Cont.)

Proposed projects will be evaluated by a multidisciplinary team and ranked based on criteria including, but not limited to:

- Workforce development activities to be conducted as part of the project;
- Applicant team qualifications and experience; and
- Project readiness (e.g., whether the proposed project is anticipated to fall within a NEPA Categorical Exclusion, whether the proposed project anticipates that it will need to apply for a BABA waiver, etc.).

General Grant and Contract Conditions

- After the announcement of a grant award, TDEC will forward a grant contract to the recipient. Grantees will be required to execute (sign) the grant contract, which will include a detailed scope of work, project schedule, budget, and other information.
- The Grantee must comply with 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.317—200.327 when procuring property and services to be funded under the grant contract. Additionally, all vendors must be selected in accordance with State public contracting laws under Tenn. Code Ann. Title 4, Chapter 56; Title 12, Chapter 3; and, Title 12, Chapter 4. The Grantee must obtain prior approval from the State before making any purchases under the grant contract.

General Grant and Contract Conditions (Cont.)

- Grantees will only be reimbursed for eligible costs incurred by the Grantee during the grant contract term.
- The Grantee must submit quarterly reports to include a complete description of the status of the project, including related updates on project milestones and metrics.
- Grantees will be required to submit an Annual Program Metrics and Impact report for each year of the grant contract term and for a period of five years following project completion. Annual reports will include information on resilience metrics, workforce development and training metrics, as well as community engagement metrics.

Next Steps

- TDEC OEP staff will be available to answer questions during the grant application period. Submit questions to TDEC.OEP@tn.gov.
- To keep informed of Grid Resilience Formula Grant Program updates, consider signing-up for our email list at: <https://signup.e2ma.net/signup/1972996/1737620/>

Thank You



CONTACT INFORMATION:

TDEC.OEP@tn.gov
(615) 961-0426