Mississippi Grid Resilience Grant Program
RFA Questions and Answers (Q&A)
September 10, 2025

Is a feasibility study an eligible activity under the grant?

Yes. A feasibility study is an eligible activity.

To be approved, your application must include a strong argument on how the proposed project will make the grid more resilient (e.g., less likely to fail during bad weather or other disruptions). All projects must align with the priority areas of the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Grid Deployment Office (GDO) to be approved. As with all projects, final approval is determined by the DOE's Grid Deployment Office (GDO).

Is a feasibility study to determine the costs required to upgrade generating units to increase reliability an eligible activity under the grant?

Yes. This type of feasibility study is an eligible activity.

Your application should explain how making the generating units more reliable will improve the grid's overall resilience. For example, your explanation could include details about:

- The specific threats or hazards (like hurricanes or ice storms) that could render generating units inoperable.
- How often the units are inoperable without upgrades compared to with upgrades.
- Describe how the community relies on a specific fuel source that could be disrupted if the units are inoperable.

As with all projects, final approval is determined by the DOE's Grid Deployment Office (GDO).

Can grant funds be used to directly pay for repairs to generating units with the goal of improving reliability?

Yes. Using grant funds for repairs is an eligible activity, but you must provide a clear justification. Clearly explain how these repairs will help the power system better handle disruptive events and prevent outages. Additionally, upgrades and enhancements to generating units may also be eligible. The applicant's justification should include arguments about how the project strengthens the grid against threats and improves service for the community.

As with all projects, final approval is determined by the DOE's Grid Deployment Office (GDO).

What is the required historical data period for establishing the baseline SAIDI (System Average Interruption Duration Index) and SAIFI (System Average Interruption Frequency Index) metrics? Should applicants use a 3-year average, a 5-year average, or another specified timeframe to calculate the baseline for projecting future improvements?

The simple answer is that the applicant should choose the metrics that best match the project's specific goals for improving grid resilience. To measure the project's success, applicants should establish a reasonable baseline, which is a starting point based on historical data.

The Grid Deployment Office (GDO) recommends using a 5-year average of data from before your project begins. We understand that not everyone has five years of historical data. However, to complete the application, please use the best and most complete historical data available to your utility to calculate your baseline metrics.

The Pre-Application Webinar states that small operators subaward cost match is 48.4% where all other documentation states that it is 32.6%. Which is correct?

Both **32.6%** and **48.4%** are correct. They are just two different ways of looking at the exact same amount of cash, or "in-kind" services you need to contribute. The difference is what you're comparing your contribution to:

- The **32.6%** (Cost Share) relates your contribution compared to the **Total Project Cost**.
- The **48.4%** (Cost Match) relates your contribution compared to the **Subaward Amount**.

There is an example in the Request for Applications that specifically addresses this question. The document provides an example that shows how these two numbers work together for a Small Operator.
If your total project costs $1,000,000:

- The **Cost Share** must be at least $326,000 which is 32.6% of the $1,000,000 Total Project Cost.
  ($1,000,000 x 32.6%) = $326,000.
- The maximum **Subaward Amount** would be $674,000.
  ($1,000,000 - $326,000) = $674,000.
- In this scenario, the contribution ($326,000) when compared to the grant award ($674,000) is 48.4% as **Cost Match**.
  ($326,000 ÷ $674,000) ≈ 48.4%.
- Whether that amount is called a 32.6% Cost Share or a 48.4% Cost Match**, the minimum dollar amount you need to provide is the same.**

Does the grant allow for any work to begin before awards are made or would we need to wait and start after awarded?

Per DOE's ALRD (pg. 57 - Task 3.0: Resilience Project Approval), "The Recipient may not execute a proposed resilience project or issue subawards/subcontracts for resilience projects without DOE Project Officer review and written determination of adequacy of the Resilience Project Package." Preventing Outages and Enhancing the Resilience of the Electric Grid Formula Grants to States and Indian Tribes – Administrative and Legal Requirements Document

Are indirect costs allowable for subrecipients and if so, what is the rate and guidelines regarding them?

Indirect costs are allowable in accordance with 2 CFR, Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards. Please refer to:

- 2 CFR 200.332 of Subpart D, Post Federal Awards Requirements and
- 2 CFR 200.414 of Subpart E, Cost Principles,

for an explanation of Direct and Indirect Costs. §200.414(f) explains the de minimis rate.

If the subrecipient does not already have a federally approved indirect rate, they should negotiate with MDA using the de minimis rate up to 15%.

Can an applicant submit multiple projects?

Yes, an applicant may submit multiple projects. The award max is per applicant not per project. So, a small entity is allowed to receive up to $1,000,000 in total. All projects should be submitted under one application. Projects will be scored based on their overall outcomes and narrative. MDA reserves the right to partially award applicants, meaning MDA could select only certain projects from the application.