Grid 40101 (d) FAQ

What is the Mississippi Grid Resilience Program?

The Mississippi Grid Resilience Program is a federal initiative created under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Section 40101(d). The overarching priority of IIJA Section 40101(d) is to deploy funding for projects that enhance the reliability and resilience of Mississippi's electric grid. Additional priorities include protecting the power grid from interruptions and outages caused by natural and man-made disasters and providing funding to Mississippi electric utilities and other Eligible Entities for modernization and resilience projects.

How much Funding will be available?

Program funding has been awarded to Mississippi from the Department of Energy for funding years 2022, 2023, and 2024, totaling approximately $17.8M. It will be distributed to selected Award Applicants for grid resilience projects that meet Program objectives. A set aside amount of at least $10.78M will be allocated to Small Operators.

What is a Small Operator?

- A Small Operator is any entity that sells less than 4,000,000 MWh of electricity per year

What is a Large Operator?

- A Large Operator is any entity that sells more than 4,000,000 MWh of electricity per year
- Any Other Eligible Entity

What are the Cost Match Requirements?

Cost match requirements require a percentage of the grant award to be matched by the Subrecipient.

- For a Small Operator, the Cost Match amount must be at least 48.4% of the total award amount.
- For a Large Operator, the Cost Match must be at least 115% of the total award amount

Applicants are required to submit a letter committing to the Cost Match funding amount and providing a justification of the funding sources. Instructions and a template will be provided as a part of the application package.

Who is Eligible to participate in the Mississippi Grid Resilience Program?

- Electric Grid Operator
- Electricity Storage Operator
- Electricity Generator
- Transmission Owner/Operator
- Electricity Distribution Provider
- Fuel Supplier
- Other Relevant Entity as determined by DOE

A prospective applicant deeming itself an "Other Relevant Entity" may submit a form to the MDA requesting consideration as an eligible applicant by visiting the MDA website.

What kinds of projects will the Mississippi Grid Resilience Program Fund?

Eligible projects include:

- Weatherization technologies and equipment
- Fire-resistant technologies and fire prevention systems
- Monitoring and control technologies
- Undergrounding of electrical equipment
- Utility pole management
- Power line relocation
- Reconductoring of power lines with low-sag, advanced conductors
- Vegetation and fuel-load management
- The use or construction of distributed energy resources for enhancing system adaptive capacity during disruptive events, including microgrids
- Battery-storage subcomponents
- Adaptive protection technologies
- Advanced modeling technologies
- Hardening of power lines, facilities, substations, or other systems
- The replacement of old overhead conductors and underground cables
- Other measures as determined or approved by DOE

What kinds of projects are ineligible?

Grants under Section 40101(d) CANNOT be used for:

- The construction of a new electric generating facility that is not used for enhancing system adaptive capacity during disruptive events
- The construction of a new large-scale battery-storage facility that is not used for enhancing system adaptive capacity during disruptive events
- Cybersecurity
- Projects funded by the Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) Program 40101 (c)

What is the timeline for this program?

The timeline for this program includes the solicitation phase, the award phase, and the project delivery phase. Respective timelines for each phase are outlined as follows:

Solicitation Phase	**Dates**
Informational Webinar on the RFA Release	August 13, 2025
Request for Application (RFA) Release	August 15, 2025
RFA Questions Due	August 29, 2025
Q&A Response Posted	September 12, 2025
Request for Application Due Date	October 1, 2025, 5 PM CT
Application Review and Award Phase	**Dates**
Application Evaluation and DOE Approval	October 1- Early 2026 (subject to DOE Review timeline)
Award Notifications and Contracting	Early 2026
Project Delivery Phase	**Dates**

Project Delivery and Monitoring	Project dependent. All projects MUST be completed by 2032.

What is the period of performance for awards?

The initial award period is **five years**, with flexibility to accumulate annual allocations for larger projects. All projects must be completed by 2032.

How is an applicant notified of the award?

By November 15th, MDA-ERND will notify all applicants of provisional awards or rejections. The provisional awards will be shared with the Department of Energy for final review and approval. The timeline for this review can take from 1 – 6 months. After the DOE approval, successful applicants will be notified of their award and can enter into the contracting phase.

What information is necessary for the application to be completed?

The applicant must submit:

- Application form with Applicant information and eligibility (pre-screening for eligibility), commitment to federal compliance, project scope, and workplan
- Cost Match Letter
- Award Applicants must submit a NEPA Environmental Questionnaire Form for each work location proposed in the application.
- Budget Justification sheet; CFR 200 compliance

What are the Objectives of the Mississippi Grid Resilience Program?

The objectives of the program are:

- **Objective #1: Hardening** - To mitigate the risk of severe weather and other identified threats to critical facilities and the broader electric grid by enhancing its physical resilience. This may involve activities such as reinforcing or replacing vulnerable grid components and strategically relocating assets to withstand impacts.
- **Objective #2: Technology** - To invest in solutions and integrate advanced grid technologies and digital solutions. The aim is to improve real-time monitoring, fault detection, and automated restoration capabilities across the network, thereby enhancing system adaptive capacity.
- **Objective #3: Economic Development** - To drive resilient infrastructure investments that reinforce local economic growth, specifically supporting economic development sites, existing businesses, and Historically Underutilized Business Zones (HUB Zones).
- **Objective #4: Workforce** - To develop Mississippi's workforce to meet electric grid resilience skill requirements and other long-term utility employment. This involves cultivating a skilled and adaptable local workforce capable of supporting the design, installation, operation, and maintenance of electric grid infrastructure through targeted training programs and educational initiatives.

- **Objective #5: Innovation** - To support microgrid and other innovative Non-Wires Alternative (NWA) projects and more broadly to drive adoption of innovative grid technology solutions and operational strategies. This aims to address evolving threats and future resilience challenges with forward-thinking approaches.

Can an entity apply for both 40101(c) and 40101(d) grants?

Not for the same project scope. Separate applications must address different resilience measures.

What reporting is required from sub-awardees?

Sub-awardees must provide:

- Quarterly and annual reports
- Documentation of expenditures
- Impact assessments
- Compliance with Davis Bacon Act
- Compliance with Build America, Buy America
- Compliance with 2 CFR 200 and 2 CFR 910

How do I find local wage information for the Davis Bacon Act?

Information about Davis Bacon Act wage: Prevailing Wage and Davis-Bacon Compliance in Mississippi | eMars Please keep in mind that Mississippi does not have their own state-level prevailing wage law.

Are there any resources available about Federal Compliance Requirements?

On the MDA website, you can access 2-page documents for each Federal Act requiring compliance for the Mississippi Grid Resilience Program. This will provide you with more information on the purpose of the Acts and the steps to follow to ensure compliance.

Where can I find official guidance and templates?

The MDA website and portal hosts all necessary information for the application to the Mississippi Grid Resilience program. The application package will be posted on a third-party platform Submittable, with a link accessible from the MDA Grid Resilience Program website. The package includes all necessary templates and instructions to complete the application process.

Who should I contact with questions or for further information about the program?

If you have any questions, please contact Pierre Andrews at msgrid@mississippi.org. Please allow up to 3 business days for response.