



DOE's Transmission Siting and Economic Development (TSED) Grants Program

Melissa E. Birchard

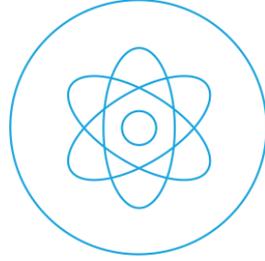
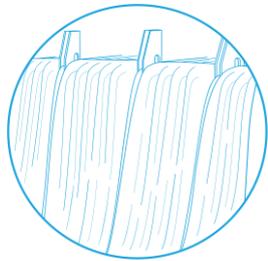
Senior Policy Advisor, Transmission
Division, Grid Deployment Office, DOE

September 27, 2023

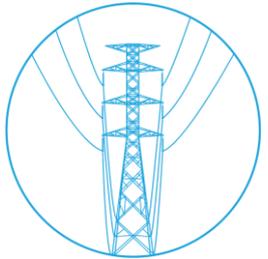


DOE's Grid Deployment Office

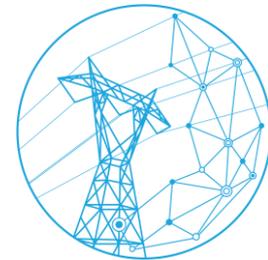
The Grid Deployment Office (GDO) works to provide electricity to everyone, everywhere by maintaining and investing in critical generation facilities to ensure resource adequacy and improving and expanding transmission and distribution systems to ensure all communities have access to reliable, affordable electricity.



The **Generation Credits Division** works with existing generation facilities to ensure resilience and reliability and works to improve electricity markets at the wholesale and distribution level.



The **Transmission Division** supports innovative efforts in transmission reliability and clean energy analysis and programs, and energy infrastructure and risk analysis in support of the Administration's priorities to enhance grid resilience.



The **Grid Modernization Division** oversees activities that prevent outages and enhance the resilience of the electric grid.



GDO Transmission Division

1

Enhanced planning

2

Siting and permitting, including federal permitting coordination and support for state, tribal, & local efforts

3

Commercial facilitation



Transmission Siting and Economic Development (TSED) Funding Program Overview

- ▶ The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA): \$760 million to make funds available to carry out certain activities related to the siting of certain transmission projects. Initial FOA: \$300 mil
- ▶ Strengthening and Accelerating Permitting Processes:
 - ▶ Siting and permitting activities by siting agencies that are reviewing or preparing to review a permit application for a qualifying transmission project
- ▶ Providing Community Economic Development Benefits:
 - ▶ Economic development activities in communities affected by the construction and operation a qualifying transmission project



Who is eligible to apply for TSED funds?

- **For siting and permitting activities:** siting authorities – defined by the IRA as “any state, Tribal, or local governmental entity with authority to make a final determination regarding the siting, permitting, or regulatory status of a covered transmission project.”
- **For economic development activities:** siting authorities or any state, tribal, or local government entity proposing to undertake an economic development project in a community impacted by the construction or operation of a “covered transmission project.”



Key definition: "covered transmission project"

The Inflation Reduction Act defines a “covered transmission project” as:

- A high-voltage interstate or offshore electricity transmission line that is proposed to be constructed and to operate:
 - at a minimum of 275 kV AC or DC if onshore, or
 - at a minimum of 200 kV AC or DC if offshore
- by an entity, and for which the entity has applied, or informed a siting authority of its intent to apply, for regulatory approval.



Eligible Siting and Permitting Activities

The IRA authorizes grants for the following siting and permitting activities:

- Studies and analyses of the impacts of a qualifying transmission project.
- Examination of up to three alternate siting corridors where a qualifying transmission project could be sited.
- Participation by the siting authority in regulatory proceedings or negotiations in another jurisdiction.*
- Participation by the siting authority in regulatory proceedings at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission or a State regulatory commission.*
- Other measures and actions that may improve the chances of, and shorten the time required for, approval by the siting authority.

** Subject to 50% cost share*



Siting and Permitting Activities:

Examples of “other measures and actions”

- What are “other measures and actions”? Examples of potential activities DOE could consider:
 - Human resources capacity, such as staff or consultants.
 - Coordination with other state, Tribal, or federal jurisdictions.
 - Coordination among permitting authorities within the same state.
 - Robust engagement and communication with stakeholders including impacted communities.
 - Other activities to improve efficiency and strengthen permitting processes.
- These are examples only – DOE is flexible and encourages innovation.
- All activities should contribute to improving the chances of, and reduce the time required for, approvals. DOE also urges proposals that adopt innovative approaches or advance best practices. See FOA p. 52-53 for more information.



Economic Development Activities

TSED provides funds for economic development activities for communities that may be affected by the construction or operation of a transmission project.

Eligible TSED Award Recipients:

- Siting authorities - working with communities
- Any other state, tribal, or local government entity – working with communities

DOE encourages communities to reach out to their government representatives with locally targeted proposals. Note that eligible applicants can partner with community organizations such as non-profits.



Economic Development Activities – examples only

- Examples of potential types of projects DOE could consider:
 - Sub-grant programs enabling communities to propose local activities.
 - Investments in local energy resilience, such as microgrids or solar.
 - Affordable and sustainable housing.
 - Community infrastructure (e.g. broadband, public safety facilities, community centers, green spaces, or species habitat).
 - Job training and apprenticeship programs.
 - Low-income energy funds to reduce costs for qualifying community members.
- These are examples only – DOE is flexible and urges communities to propose projects tailored to meet local needs

Key Information for Economic Development Applicants

- DOE can make an award now for economic development activities and then will provide the funds when the transmission line receives its permits or when construction begins. In other words, we can award funds now but cannot disburse the funds until certain milestones are hit in the development of the transmission project.
- Please refer to the Funding Opportunity Announcement for more details.



TSED Program Application Process

➤ **Concept Papers**

- Due October 31, 2023 by 5:00 PM ET
- DOE will respond to Concept Papers by the end of January 2024
- What is a Concept Paper?
 - A brief, high level expression of interest (approx. 4-6 pages)
 - Concept Papers are required for all applicants
 - Concept Paper checklist [here](#) (see TSED website)

➤ **Full Applications**

- Due April 5, 2024 by 5:00 PM ET
- Eligible applicants who submitted a Concept Paper may apply

➤ **Selection Notifications: Summer 2024**





More Information

GDO's TSED Program Website:

<https://www.energy.gov/gdo/transmission-siting-and-economic-development-grants-program>



**[Funding Opportunity Announcement
DE-FOA-0003101](#)**



FOA3101@netl.doe.gov