

GRANTS ALERT for ElectriCities September 1, 2022

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Highlight:

The Department of Energy (DOE) has opened a new <u>Grid Deployment Office</u> (GDO), through which the Building a Better Grid Initiative, launched in January 2022, will be administered. Currently, the GDO is focused on "ensuring the resilience of critical power generation facilities and the development of high-capacity electric transmission lines nationwide."

Meanwhile, a Request for Information (RFI) for the Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnership Program that is funded under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) is open for comment. The Partnership Program will "enhance grid flexibility and improve the resilience of the power system against growing threats of extreme weather and climate change." The three programs are the Grid Resilience Grants; the Smart Grid Grants; and the Grid Innovation Program. Submit comments by emailing GDORFI@hq.doe.gov. The deadline to submit comments is October 14, 2022 by 5 p.m. EST.

Link: https://www.energy.gov/articles/biden-harris-administration-launches-105-billion-investment-strengthen-americas-electric

Webinars, Blogs, Funding Guides and More:

The Interagency Working Group (IWG) on Coal and Power Plant Communities and Economic Revitalization (Energy Communities IWG) has extended the period for public comment by 30 days. The new deadline is Thurs., September 8, 2022. Comments are sought on the "challenges facing energy communities, measures to address those needs, and recommendations for the Federal Government to consider." The comments will be used by the IWG to "prioritize and plan assistance to energy communities." Submit comments by 9/8, here.

NEW -- The Local Infrastructure Hub will host a webinar on "Advancing Energy Efficiency," energy programs in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and how to develop a competitive application for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG). The webinar is Tues., September 13 at 2 p.m. EST. Registration -- https://localinfrastructure.org/event/eecbg-advancing-energy-efficiency/

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) issued a 3rd round of **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for the Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program**. https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/sites/default/files/2022-08/Middle-Mile-FAQs-Version-3.0-vF.pdf. Applications due September 30, 2022.

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) is hosting a series of "office hours" for those interested in applying to the **Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure grant program**. NTIA staff and subject matter experts will answer questions from all prospective applicants with the intent to prepare them to write high-quality applications. Upcoming sessions, open to all applicants, will be held Tues., September 27 and Wed.,

September 28 from 2 to 3 p.m., EST, respectively. Register, here. Registrations must be completed by Noon the day before the desired session. The deadline to apply to the Middle Mile grant is September 30, 2022.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Economic Development Administration (EDA) released a joint **resource guide to boost economic development in rural communities**. "The resource guide outlines programs and services that can be used to advance community and economic development in rural communities through four key focus areas including planning and technical assistance; infrastructure and broadband expansion; entrepreneurship and business assistance; and workforce development and livability." <u>Link to guide, here.</u>

NEW – The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) issued a <u>Draft for Comment (DE-FOA-0002740)</u> on the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's (BIL) Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRID) program. The deadline to comment is October 14, 2022. Submit written comments to <u>GDORFI@hq.doe.gov</u>.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released the newly updated <u>State Energy and Environment Guide</u> <u>to Action</u> to help states design and implement policies that reduce emissions associated with electricity generation and energy consumption. The guide was first published in 2006 and last updated in 2015.

Recorded Webinars and Other:

NEW – The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has a webinar series on topics including the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program and more.

The Golden LEAF hosted a webinar on the **SITE grant program**. Access the slide deck or watch the webinar -- https://www.goldenleaf.org/SITE-webinar/ The deadline to apply for a SITE grant is **September 19**, 2022 at Noon.

The Interagency Working Group (IWG) on Coal and Power Plant Communities and Economic Revitalization and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) hosted a webinar on **EPA infrastructure programs that are relevant to energy communities** and funded through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). Topics included drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, Superfund sites and brownfield sites. https://energycommunities.gov/events-archive/past-events/

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) hosted a webinar on the **NEVI program (Charging Forward – Bringing Electric Vehicles to Rural America)** as it relates to rural areas. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gu22KL1J5ko

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) hosted a webinar on the ReConnect program "Preparing for ReConnect Round 4." The slide deck and the webinar are available for review -- https://www.usda.gov/reconnect. The Round 4 funding opens September 6, 2022.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) hosted a webinar on the new **Transmission Facilitation Program (TFP)** which was created through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL); the <u>slide deck can be accessed, here.</u>

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) recorded a July 28 webinar on "Getting Ready to Apply" for a Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) grant.

https://www.transportation.gov/grants/smart/webinars Additionally, a Frequently Asked Questions website can be accessed at https://www.transportation.gov/grants/smart/smart-frequently-asked-questions The NOFO will be released in September 2022.