

Notice of Intent No. DE-FOA-0001422

Notice of Intent to Issue Funding Opportunity Announcement No. DE-FOA-0001403

The Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) intends to issue, on behalf of the Strategic Programs Office, a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) entitled “Cities Leading through Energy Analysis and Planning (Cities-LEAP)”.

As part of the Cities-LEAP project, EERE’s Office of Strategic Programs, through its Policy and Analysis and Technology-to-Market Teams, intends to solicit applications to advance data-driven decision-making by local governments in support of their climate and energy goals. This anticipated funding opportunity is intended for local and tribal governments as prime applicants and strongly encourages partnerships between local and tribal governments and entities such as academic institutions, technology companies, utilities, regional planning bodies, and non-governmental organizations to develop and pilot data-driven decision frameworks that strengthen the analytical underpinning of energy-impacting actions by local governments across the United States.

In the responses to the related request for information (RFI) (eere-exchange.energy.gov/FileContent.aspx?FileID=c0970764-ed88-4eec-ba74-89b445b30b88), local governments indicated the need to integrate datasets across multiple topical and departmental areas. While respondents acknowledged that collecting energy-related data continues to be a significant challenge, even once collected, merging and cross-tabulating that data with other, often non-energy datasets is a necessary and often missing step for conducting analyses to inform local government actions. Most respondents agreed that improved data integration can lead to more effective policymaking and program design, enabling local governments to target their activities toward the most cost-effective and efficient pathways for reaching community goals.

A recent, associated review (nrel.gov/docs/fy15osti/64128.pdf) of published local government planning documents such as climate action plans and sustainability plans highlights the interconnectedness of energy issues with broader local policy goals. The review also highlights the practical difficulty local governments have in making strong and quantitative linkages between actions and goals. Strong applications in response to this FOA would include data-based analytical approaches that can quantify the linkages between local government actions and the achievement of energy related goals.

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It is anticipated that the FOA may include the following Areas of Interest:

Area of Interest • Data analytics for projecting the energy impacts of future local government actions for the purposes of enabling metrics-driven selection, prioritization, and refinement of programs and policies. Local governments may be challenged in making explicit and quantitative linkages between the aspirational actions expressed in planning documents and the ability of the related suites of policies and programs to achieve climate, energy, or other sustainability goals.

Area of Interest • Data analytics for improving the targeting of local government policies and resources with energy implications toward specific community subpopulations of individuals, households, and businesses to maximize program returns and greenhouse gas (GHG) emission or energy intensity reductions (e.g., by focusing on those entities at a decision point, who would most benefit from an energy program and would be most likely to participate).

Area of Interest • Data analytics for measuring and tracking the realized energy impacts of existing, innovative local government actions for the purposes of determining policy or program effectiveness and opportunities for increased effectiveness. Measuring and tracking policy and program effectiveness frequently is not an explicit consideration during planning and implementation phases, and policy and program effectiveness measurements are often based on alternative criteria to realized energy impacts. Gaps in existing tracking data may need to be filled, in order to construct proper baselines and counterfactuals (i.e., what would have happened in the absence of the implemented policy or program) that are fundamental to high quality impact evaluations for decision support.

EERE envisions awarding multiple financial assistance awards in the form of cooperative agreements. The estimated period of performance for each award will be approximately 24 months.

EERE intends to restrict eligibility for this FOA to U.S. local and tribal governments, or consortia thereof. For the purposes of this initiative, local governments may include a county, municipality, city, town, township, local public authority (including any public and Indian housing agency), school district, special district, intrastate district, council of governments, any other regional or interstate government entity, or any agency or instrumentality of a local government. To be considered as a tribal government for purposes of this Announcement, the entity must be any Indian tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community, including any Alaska Native village or regional or village corporation as defined in or established pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (85 Stat. 688) [43 U.S.C.

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1601 et seq.], which is recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians.

This Notice is issued so that interested parties are aware of the EERE's intention to issue this FOA in the near term. All of the information contained in this Notice is subject to change. EERE will not respond to questions concerning this Notice. Once the FOA has been released, EERE will provide an avenue for potential Applicants to submit questions.

EERE plans to issue the FOA on or about March 2016 via the EERE Exchange website <https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/>. If Applicants wish to receive official notifications and information from EERE regarding this FOA, they should register in EERE Exchange. When the FOA is released, applications will be accepted only through EERE Exchange.

In anticipation of the FOA being released, Applicants are advised to complete the following steps, which are **required** for application submission:

- Register and create an account in EERE Exchange at <https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/>. This account will allow the user to register for any open EERE FOAs that are currently in EERE Exchange. It is recommended that each organization or business unit, whether acting as a team or a single entity, use only one account as the contact point for each submission.

Questions related to the registration process and use of the EERE Exchange website should be submitted to: EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov

- Obtain a Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number (including the plus 4 extension, if applicable) at <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>
- Register with the System for Award Management (SAM) at <https://www.sam.gov>. Designating an Electronic Business Point of Contact (EBiz POC) and obtaining a special password called an MPIN are important steps in SAM registration. Please update your SAM registration annually.
- Register in FedConnect at <https://www.fedconnect.net/>. To create an organization account, your organization's SAM MPIN is required. For more information about the SAM MPIN or other registration requirements, review the FedConnect Ready, Set, Go! Guide at https://www.fedconnect.net/FedConnect/Marketing/Documents/FedConnect_Ready_Set_Go.pdf
- Register in Grants.gov to receive automatic updates when Amendments to a FOA are posted. However, please note that applications will not be accepted through Grants.gov. <http://www.grants.gov/>. All applications must be submitted through EERE Exchange.

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