MEREDITH BRASELMAN: Hello, and welcome to the Grid Resilience Innovation Partnership Programs Webinar. I’m Meredith Braselman with ICF and I’m going to be your host today. A few housekeeping items to get us started at the top of the webinar. This Web-X meeting is being recorded and may be used by the US Department of Energy. If you do not wish to have your voice recorded, please do not speak during the call. If you do not wish to have your image recorded, please turn off your camera or participate by phone. If you speak during the call or use a video connection, you are presumed consent to recording and use of your voice or image.

 All of our participants are in listen only mode today. If you would like to see only the active speaker during today’s workshops, please select layout in the upper right corner and toggle off show participants without video. If you have any technical issues or questions, you may type them in the chat box and select to send to the host.

We are taking questions today and you submit them throughout the event using the chat function. We will have a Q and A session after the presentation. If you would, it would help us a lot if you would reference the speaker or topic when you submit your question. If you need to view live captioning, please refer to the link that will appear in the chat.

Finally, we will post a copy of today’s presentation on the Grid Resilience Innovation Partnership Program webpage by Tuesday and a recording of the webinar will be available in about two weeks. So today you’re going to hear from Maria Robinson, Director of the Grid Deployment Office, and Tom King, also with the office, who’s going to join us for the Q and A following the presentation. So please put those questions in the chat, select to send to host, and reference the topic when you submit your questions. So let’s get started. Maria, welcome.

MARIA ROBINSON: Thank you so much. Happy to be here and happy to be talking about the Grid Resilience Innovation Partnership program or the GRIP program here today. Wanted to give you all a bit of background on the Grid Deployment Office in the work that we’re doing, acknowledging that we are one of the many new offices out of the Department of Energy. Now that we’re focused on not just research and development, but also deployment or as what the Secretary likes to say, deploy, deploy, deploy.

And so the Grid Deployment Office is one of these new offices set up in large part to facilitate funds from the Bi-Partisan Infrastructure Law, and now of course the Inflation Reduction Act. Our focus is primarily on transmission and distribution systems, or the Grid, and we focus on three primary areas. We’ve got programs relating to power generation assistance, which works with existing generation facilities, specifically on the civil nuclear credits program as well as the hydro power incentives.

We have a large program relating to transmission, focusing on not just financial incentive programs such as our new anchor tenant capacity contract capability, but also on long term planning, permitting, siting, of transmission. Finally, our last division focuses on grid modernization, and that’s a lot of what we’re going to talk about here today, with an emphasis on resilience, preventing outages, prevention of wildfires, enhancing the resilience of the grid as a whole.

And so we’re going to talk today about the work that’s happening through the grid modernization division. Specifically around a major funding opportunity to the tune of over $10 billion dollars, called The GRIP program. Through the Bi-Partisan Infrastructure Law, which is this once in a lifetime funding opportunity for infrastructure, we have several different programs that will focus on resilience and in particular innovation, on the electric grid side and this is for both transmission and distribution.

We’ll talk a little bit about the specific differences of each of these individual programs, all of which have admittedly similar sounding names. So I encourage you to take a look at the section, which is how we tend to refer to them. The first being the Grid Resilience Formula Grants under Section 40101(d). We have these formula grants under specifications given to us by Congress for states, tribes, and territories to the tune of about two and a half billion dollars. All of these different funding amounts are over the course of five years, so through fiscal year 2026.

Our first milestone that is coming up and has been actually extended under this particular program 40101(d) is for states to apply for this formula grant or tribe or territories. And they have the opportunity to do so for FY22 and ‘23, through the end of March next year. We extended that deadline not because we aren’t looking forward to getting applications, and we are accepting them on a rolling basis.

So if your state wants to send that application in today, we would be happy to accept that and provide the funding associated with that formula grant. But also in order to provide some additional time, acknowledging that there is a lot of federal funding coming towards states.

And I think states and territories and tribes, all of whom need a little bit of time to think about how they want to use these different pots of funding in order to maximize impacts in their own area. But today we’ll talk primarily about the GRIP program, which totals a little over $10 billion dollars here. And we currently have an RFI out in the field for this particular program and it encompasses three different types of financial assistance: two grant programs and the grid innovation program here. We released the draft FOA/RFI in August, and are accepting comments until October 14th, with a goal of getting out the finalized funding announcement later this year in order for folks to then actually receive the award in 2023.

So this program, like I mentioned, consists of three different funding opportunities all of which are competitive. The first is the utility in industry grid resilience grants. Second are the smart grid grants and we’ll talk about how those are a little different than the previous smart grid grants that you might remember from ten, twelve years ago now, and the grid innovation program.

Again, we do expect that this FOA release is going to be in mid-November. And again, we’re combining fiscal years ‘22 and ’23, so the combined amount available through this particular funding announcement will be around $4.2 billion dollars. As previously mentioned, we will be keeping this RFI open until the end of the day on October 14th, 2022. We are very excited for any feedback that you might provide. We are not going to respond necessarily to individual submissions, but we will read all of this mission’s that come together.

One question that we have been asked quite a bit, and we want to make sure is clear, you do not need to respond to the RFI in order to be an applicant for the actual funding announcement. The RFI is really there to help inform the final form of the funding announcement to make sure that we are maximizing our available funds in order to meet the needs out in the field.

So again, we will be releasing that FOA later this year. It will be a two-step process. So you’re going to request concept papers which we hope will reduce the administrative burden for applicants and will admittedly reduce the administrative burden for the department as well. Expecting that we’re getting quite a few number of applicants, and this way with concept papers, we’re able to get a good sense as to what the project might entail and then should the project be recommended to move on to stage two, you’ll be asked to provide significantly more information in line with a typical proposal aspect. Each concept paper and application could only cover one topic area, even if you are interested in multiple topic areas to apply for, but make sure that they’re kept separate based on each topic area.

So what is the purpose of this particular program? So the Grid Resilience and Innovation Program wants to make sure that we are catalyzing investment in community, regional, inter-regional and national resilience on our energy system, particularly on our grid.

Our hope is to be able to spur some private sector investment, non-federal public capital as well, in order to deploy some technology in programs that may not have otherwise been deployed as quickly or as completely as it would without that additional federal funding. Putting a deadline on things does tend to make projects happen a little bit faster.

We are asking for input on a number of different program design areas, both on individual topics, as well as the overall proposal that we’ll be putting out there. So we would love for your thoughts on each of these areas. The questions are as broad as how large should each individual award be should there be a cap.

Should some of these awards focus more on the transmission system, or more on the distribution system? We’re trying to take into consideration all of that feedback as we put together our final funding announcement. We also want some input on some of these other key administration priorities including both Build America, Buy America and, of course, the Justice40 components, making sure that these projects are engaging the local community, enhancing community benefits as well and providing high quality jobs to the community in which this project will be located.

In particular, we want to have applicants submit information around these areas, whether it is investing in workforce, how you’re going to engage the community, as well as labor, DEIA priorities, and then working around the Department of Energy’s larger Justice40 initiative, which is really terrific and I encourage you to take a look at on our website as well which will entail a few more of the specifics associated with that particular program.

So let’s get into the individual programs that we have here. We’ll come them one, two and three, to try to keep of them, since all the names do include resilience or innovation. I tend to think of them based on the eligible entity, because I think that narrows it down for different potential applicants who may or may not want to get involved with each of these different funding streams.

So the first funding stream here is the competitive utility and industry grants. For this first round of funding, it will be about $1 billion dollars total available out of the $2.5 across the five fiscal years. And we want to reduce the likelihood and consequences of potential disruptive fronts and events, recognizing that at this point the entire country is liable to face some sort of disruptive weather event. It is not limited to certain areas, but truly nationwide.

And so our goal is for utilities, for TOs, grid operators, storage operators, to apply for this particular funding and use it in order to continue to harden the grid. There’s a certain cap associated with the amount the eligible entity can receive based on the previous three year spending on hardening efforts, so that amount will change year over year as we move forward through fiscal years ’22 to ’26.

This program has a specific set-aside for small utilities as well. And small utilities in this particular case are defined by those not selling more than $4 million megawatt hours of electricity per year, and 30 percent of that is set aside for those small utilities. There is a cost match associated with this particular program as well, but we anticipate that that will probably be just continued additional investment in these types of programs.

Under this competitive grant program, we have specific types of investments that are made eligible per legislative language. You can see all of them here. A lot of them will provide significant resilience benefits. And we would like to see a combination of multiple different types of projects put together, acknowledging that yes, there’s a universe in which all of this funding can be used for just one type of project. But we also want to make sure that we’re advancing and innovating and growing programs to make sure that we’re doing everything possible in order to reduce the long-term impacts of disruptive events.

There are some specific resilience measures that are not allowed here under this provision. And in particular I would note that construction of a new electric generating facility is not, is prohibited under this particular provision, 40101. There’s also a prohibition on large scale battery storage facilities. However, it is allowed if it is being used for enhancing system adaptive capacity during disruptive events.

And there is also, finally, a prohibition on cybersecurity. We just want to point those out. There are opportunities for all those different types of projects across different funding opportunities, just not this particular one.

So next, number two here, are the smart grid grants, or 401017, under the Bi-Partisan Infrastructure Law. And in this first funding round we’re likely to be made available $1.2 billion dollars out of the $3 billion total across the five years. This one has truly open eligibility. And so for-profit, non-profit, state and local governments, tribal nations, that everybody can possibly apply for these particular smart grid grants which I think makes it a really appealing opportunity for a lot of different entities out there.

There is a cost share associated with this as well, of at least 50 percent of the grant. And there are similar but slightly - there’s some nuance here, slightly different goals than the previous utility program. And so this one, one opportunity is certainly through increasing transmission capacity. And the way in which you do that can either be through re-conductoring or through [unclear]. And so looking at a variety of different technologies available there. Again, mitigation of wildfires is going to be a big concern, acknowledging the significant risk that wildfires pose to the grid across the country.

And then looking at some of the load management necessary on the edge as we continue to electrify everything, there’s certainly going to be more technology needed in order to ensure that our grid remains stable. And then here is some incorporation of cybersecurity as well, this might sound familiar, this market grant program, because it was funded more than a decade ago through the American Recovery Act which provided different types of funding opportunities back in fiscal years ’09 and ’10.

You’ll note that the eligibility, the criteria, the types of projects have been significantly updated as well as this program now being funded additionally. So I would encourage you, if you’re interested in this and you remember something from the RI days, to really closely read and take a look, and make sure that your type of project is eligible under this.

In particular, we’re looking at these general areas for investment under this particular program. Again, increasing that transmission capacity and the operational transfer capacity is so important here and there’s a variety of different technologies in which we can do it.

We continue, as there are more devices being added on the distribution network side, we want to make sure that there’s increased visibility to grid operators as well. And that’s a variety of technologies, be they hardware or software associated. Continuing to focus on secure communications and in the broadband aspects to ensure that data can freely flow, but also securely flow, between the different distribution network components. Aggregation and most importantly integration of DER and other grid edge devices, which again can be a variety of hardware or software solutions. And we want to make sure that we’re allowing for two-way flow of electric power, as well as analytics, acknowledging that we’re changing the grid from being a one-way system to bi-directional and that is going to require some investment.

And then again, which I think is very consistent throughout all three of these different types of programs that we have going on, increasing resilience as much as possible on the grid and helping to mitigate the impacts prevents potential impacts as well and avoiding damage to the grid as a whole.

Our third program is the grid innovation program. This is up to $2 billion dollars in this first funding cycle, $5 billion total. And this one, again, might sound similar to the other programs, but is restricted in eligibility to the list on the right side of the page here. That includes states, groups of states, tribes, local governments, and we certainly heard from some local governments who are interested in this particular program, or potentially a public utility commission as well.

And so we’re looking for innovative approaches to large scale technology deployment of transmission, distribution, storage, anything that will increase resilience and reliability, all of which would happen within an increase in those particular technologies with some innovative approaches here as well. And we want to make sure that we are also focusing on public and rural electrical cooperative systems on a cost share basis.

Again, this does include a cost share. It’s a 50 percent minimum for the grid innovation program. We anticipate this might kick start some big projects that might have been struggling to just finish out some of the funding, but are things that people have been envisioning doing for many years and trying to really increase resilience, reliability, and to some degree capacity on the grid here. This is one where there is not a ton of direction for the department in terms of how we distribute the funding between transmission, distribution, and storage and certainly are looking for input from folks as to how we would do so.

The goal of this program, again, sounds very similar to the goals of the other programs: increasing resilience, increasing reliability, and continuing to encourage collaboration between public and private sector owners and operators on grid resilience. And so we anticipate seeing applications around transmission capacity, increase or enhancements, advanced distribution grid assets, and maybe some combined systems between the two which we think would be very interesting, as well as innovative approaches to using storage as well.

So, again, want to remind folks of the timeline that we have here. The RFI, as I mentioned, where you can provide feedback on the questions that we’ve specifically asked, or feedback on other items that we may not have called out. By the 14th of this month, make sure to get it in by 5 p.m. Eastern Time. And again, we hope to release that funding opportunity announcements later this year and it will be for all three of those programs, the 40101(c), 40107, and 40103(b) for these particular programs.

A couple questions that have come up frequently, and we are happy to – we are continuing to accumulate a number of frequently asked questions and are also happy to answer them on a one-off basis, both through this webinar and through other means if you want to reach out to folks here at the Department.

So if you don't apply in year one, can you apply in year two or five? Absolutely. This will continue to exist and we hope to ensure that there’s plenty of opportunity in the future. If you don't feel that your technology or your particular project is ready for the end of this year’s application process, we’re very excited to see that application come in in future years.

If funds for a specific program in a fiscal year are not used, will they roll over? But we do have, and also for the small utility set-asides? Yes, we are going to roll over year over year, including that particular set-aside for small utilities. So we want to make sure that that opportunity is still available for our small utilities.

There have been some questions around Justice40. DOE will continue to review our applications that come in, and we want to make sure that there’s strong consideration of our disadvantaged communities, how they might be mitigating any sort of potential negative impacts affecting the disadvantaged communities because of this program or project, or perhaps your project will be reducing some sort of burden on those disadvantaged communities as well.

So there are a number of aspects relating to a community benefits plan. And we encourage folks to address all four of those particular bullets here: community and labor engagement, investing in the workforce, advancing DEIA, and then also contributing to the goal that 40 percent of the overall project benefits flow to disadvantaged communities.

So, if you have more questions either about this particular program or the Grid Deployment Office as a whole, because as I mentioned we do have other programs outside of the GRIP program, we are more than happy to answer your questions. We do have a website and we have funding that’s available through the Bi-Partisan Infrastructure Bill, the Inflation Reduction Act, and then other transmission and grid programs that we have here.

We have set up a webpage that focuses on grid and transmission programs throughout the Department of Energy, not just at the Grid Deployment Office. You can find that here at energy.gov/gdo/conductor. And that will answer some high level questions that folks might have about what funding stream might be right for your particular project in order to ensure that you can maximize your probability of being considered for some sort of grant or potentially a loan, as we also have separate loan programs both through our office, the Loans Program Office, and others throughout the Department. So all things relating to grid transmission financial programs can be found here at the grid in transmission program conductor.

So now we’d like to open it up for some questions from folks who are here on the webinar today. If you submit your questions into the little chat box there, the team will pull those up. And I think we’ve probably got a couple already and we’ll be happy to answer them here. But again, feel free to reach out, look at that grid in transmission conductor page if your question does not get answered today. If you send an email through that page we will make sure that your question is responded to. So thanks so much.

MEREDITH BRASELMAN: Maria, thank you so much. I also want to welcome Tom King now, also from the Grid Deployment Office, who’s going to join us for the Q&A. And just a quick reminder, we will be posting a copy of today’s presentation on the website by Tuesday and a recording will be available in about two weeks. So, with that let’s start with our first question. How do the formula grants align with the GRIP programmatic activities?

MARIA ROBINSON: So, Tom can answer lots of questions more specific to the Grid formula grants as well. But our goal in putting out this RFI as one sort of group and also doing it around the same time as the formula grants, is to give states and other entities the opportunity to really think holistically about all of the different funding opportunities available to them. Some states may want to go just the formula route; some states may want to compete for some of these larger grants as well, but all of which are in the name of resilience.

And Tom, you might want to talk a little bit about where we are with those programs, and maybe also the state energy program that provides additional funding through a different office. Again, lots of funding flowing; it’s just being able to keep track of it. And we’re trying our best to make sure that it’s a straightforward process.

TOM KING: Yeah, absolutely. The opportunities are immense. And we were at the Tribal Energy Summit the past two days and sitting in a conference, seeing all the opportunities, it really is intimidating. When it comes to grid resilience, the formula grants are based upon five different factors and these factors have been laid out. And so we have gone through the allocation process that has been updated. We’re in the process of, well, we extended the deadline. And as Maria indicated, we’ve extended the deadline to March 31st and that means we’ll be looking at year one and year two.

But if states, tribes, and territories want to submit early, as Maria mentioned, they’re able to do that at any point. So, we’re anticipating that the year two allocations will be done by January. We’re hoping to get those out as soon as possible, but we’re anticipating by January so we’ll have that information out as soon as possible. We are trying to continue to improve the process of that formula and update that information, so we’re always looking for better datasets. And if you have opportunities to share that with us, that’s something we’re encouraging as well.

And then when it comes to being able to lay out a plan, we’re encouraging this grid resilience planning process through technical assistance and we’re developing a technical assistance program that’s tied to a lot of the grid resilience activities. And the more that we can lay out a plan and improve that planning process, where we’re trying to encourage the states, tribes, and territories to let us plan and have competitive solicitation and process kind of feed into that, and hopefully there’s some nice tie-ins and integration across that.

We’re working with our other offices within the Department of Energy, so the State Energy Program. There’s opportunities through there with the Energy Efficiency Conservation Block grants, that there’s coordination through those offices. A lot of activity that’s going on, and a lot of coordination. But as we continue to move forward, we are going down the runway and we’re putting the wings on the plane.

So we continue to move forward and advance, yet we’re still kind of trying to take off here. So a lot of activity that’s going on. Please continue to work with us. We look forward to your comments through the RFI, through the GRIP program, as well the formula grants. So, thank you.

MEREDITH BRASELMAN: All right, thank you. Can a utility apply for all three of the GRIP programs as well as the Grid resiliency state formula grants when they are launched by the state?

MARIA ROBINSON: So, a utility can apply for the utility program directly. The utility can be a sub-grantee on the grid innovation, but if states or tribes or a local government or POC needs to be the primary applicants to whom the state then chooses to sell grant out, there are no restrictions associated with that. And then a utility can apply for the smart grid grants as well. And so, and then they can also be a sub-grantee on the 40101(d) formula grants. So yes there’s a lot of opportunity again available; it’s just keeping track of the many moving deadlines.

MEREDITH BRASELMAN: Very good. And Tom you’ve mentioned the conference you’ve been at for the last couple of days, so this one is a good segue. Are tribal governments an eligible applicant for the program?

TOM KING: So, once again as far as eligible applicants, depending on the topic area within the GRIP program or the formula grants, obviously the formula grants, the tribes are eligible applicants depending on the topic area. So with the large scale demonstrations, topic area three on the grid innovation program, Indian tribes are eligible applicants through there, as well as the other areas. So, partnerships are an important part of this.

It’s kind of in the name of the GRIP program, with the grid innovation and the grid resilience innovation partnerships program. So Indian tribes are eligible. And through the needs there are, depending on the topic areas, there’s specific requirements, eligibility requirements, but through partnerships there’s a lot of opportunities across each of those three topic areas.

MEREDITH BRASELMAN: All right, very good. Next question. Would new transmission be an eligible activity for 40101(c)?

MARIA ROBINSON: So, 40101(c) has specific statutory requirements. We would encourage folks who are looking at new transmission to be looking at 40103(b) as an opportunity, or if you’re re-conductoring, 40107, as more of that opportunity. Whereas the 40101c is looking more at those hardening activities that were listed on that slide previously.

MEREDITH BRASELMAN: All right. Next question. Regarding the smart grid grants, would AMI smart meters fall under this program?

MARIA ROBINSON: So there’s been a lot of feedback so far and we’re looking forward to hearing more feedback on whether AMI smart meters should qualify under smart grid innovation grants. And so, we acknowledge that that was a big part of the last rounds, again over a decade ago, of smart grid innovation and we think the grid innovation has come a long way over those past ten years, and would be strongly encouraging applicants to consider some more of the innovative technologies that have been specifically listed on the previous slides.

MEREDITH BRASELMAN: Okay, great, next question. Can applicants submit more than one concept paper?

MARIA ROBINSON: Applicants can submit more than one concept paper, but you can only submit one concept paper per topic area. Your concept paper cannot include multiple topic areas, but you can submit multiple concept papers and they can presumably related to one another. But you do need to keep them separate because for accounting purposes we need to keep these streams of funding separate from one another, as well as the actual application and selection process separate from one another.

MEREDITH BRASELMAN: All right, the next question. Can you please clarify the cost match provisions for these programs? It appeared that number one had different requirements than two or three.

MARIA ROBINSON: Tom, would you like to dive into the cost matching issue?

TOM KING: Sure thing. So, by statute things are not necessarily the same across each of the divisions. And so there’s differences when it comes to the cost share and cost match requirements. And when you look at topic area one, and that’s the grid resilience grants, and this is laid out and it’s documented and it may be something that you would just want to take a look at when it’s called out, because it’s specifically called out in the draft FOA.

There’s a table in the draft FOA that kind of lays out the three different cost match requirements. And I can quickly go through it, but the whole idea is, when you’re looking at these larger scale demonstration projects, by law these tend to be, have 100 percent cost share or 100 percent cost match. The differences associated with that is the cost match is matching the dollar per dollar of the federal investment; the cost share is based upon the entire project cost.

And so those are the slight differences between cost match and cost share. But I would encourage you to look at the table within the draft FOA that kind of lays that out because area number one, topic area number one, looks at 100 percent of the amount of the grant or at least 50 percent of the total project costs, and then there’s exceptions for small utilities.

Topic area two is 50 percent of the total project cost. And then topic area three, based upon the Energy Policy Act, cost share must be at least 50 percent of the total project cost. So these are laid out. If there’s questions or comments we can continue to go into more detail in regards to that.

MEREDITH BRASELMAN: Okay, very good. Next question. Would any of these opportunities allow a consortium of small local munis or co-ops together? Many munis and co-ops have major resource issues even to apply for grants and to undertake projects, and a consortia or a partnership approach would increase their ability to participate.

MARIA ROBINSON: Certainly. So as long as the members of said consortium are eligible entities themselves, then they may apply as a group. But if you have someone in said consortium who is not an eligible entity, then we might run into some issues associated with that as to whether the consortium would be considered eligible. But if you are, say, a trade association made up solely of eligible entities, munis, co-ops, [unclear], that is completely fine because that is a group of them, they’re applying together, as long as, again, they are all municipal entities themselves.

MEREDITH BRASELMAN: Okay, great. The next question. Are there any significant differences in the types of projects that 40101(c) or 40101(d) will fund?

TOM KING: So I think the question of differences between the formula grants versus the competitive, when you look at the twelve different areas that have been outlined, those are consistent across (c) and (d). So there’s going to be some common area there, or there could be some common areas across those twelve different eligible projects that have been identified.

MARIA ROBINSON: And I think one difference is just in potential ownership structure. You can see states applying for the formula funding and wanting to do a project themselves as opposed to then sub-granting off to a utility. So that might provide opportunities for, or for munis or co-ops that might struggle to put together the paperwork for a competitive grant. So I think states are in, probably through their process and their public hearing when to take into consideration all of that, acknowledging, again, that we’ve got other competitive funding available to other eligible entities.

MEREDITH BRASELMAN: Okay. This next one is about collaboration across the agency. Are all three GRIP programs going to be managed by the Grid Deployment Office and how are the Office of Electricity, the Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations, and other offices at the agency going to work on these funding areas?

MARIA ROBINSON: Such a great question. So the Department has gone through a major realignment earlier this year. So the offices that you might be really familiar with, the Office of Electricity, Nuclear Energy, EERE, they all exist under one Secretariat, the Under Secretary for Science. Some of the new offices, the Office for Clean Energy Demonstrations, the Loan Programs Office, there’s a Manufacturing and Supply Chain Office, and State and Community Programs Office, and the Grid Deployment Office, all live under this other Secretariat which is the Under Secretary for Infrastructure.

So we are certainly collaborating a ton with our other offices here. I will say that the Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations versus the Grid Deployment Office, the answer is kind of in the name. They’re working on demonstration level projects, pilot projects, a variety of different technologies.

We’re really focused, again, on grid technologies in particular as well as a strong focus on deployment. That being said, we are certainly working closely with our friends at some of these other offices as well and making sure that they are a part of the conversation as we are putting together the program design.

So I acknowledge that there are a lot of offices, many of which are new and people are trying to get to know all the different offices and who houses which of these opportunities. But these opportunities are housed here at the Grid Deployment Office. And so we’re excited to be working on all of these particular programs, but we are also happy to direct you and have had many conversation with folks who have come to us where it might not be an exact fit with one of our programs, but can generally point you in the right direction if you’re looking for opportunities that might live under some of our sister offices.

MEREDITH BRASELMAN: Very good. This next one, will technical assistance be available for all three GRIP programs? We noticed that it was only asked about for feedback on the section three grid innovative program. Is the timing on technical assistance similar to the timing of the full funding opportunity?

MARIA ROBINSON: I think I might need to get back to you on that to look and make sure I give a very correct answer unless Tom, you know that off the top of your head.

TOM KING: Yeah, specifically I’d have to – I’m not sure where the question is coming from. I’d probably need more information on the specific question. But there is technical assistance activities that’s part of the Grid Resilience Program from the funds that we have available through, for example, the formula grids. States, tribes and territories can use five percent of those funds for technical assistance.

The department also has the ability to use five percent for technical assistance where it’s touching grid resilience as a whole. So when you look at the overall touchpoints of where the grid comes into play, whether it’s some of the state energy security plans, we’re trying to have conversations across the department of where is the technical assistance needed and how can we utilize these funds to work across the areas where it specifically comes to grid resilience.

So this program’s continuing to be formed and evolving, but we’re really excited about the opportunities that we can work with the different stakeholders, eligible applicants, as well as entities in helping with the technical assistance from a near-term efforts with application assistance, but also with grid resilience planning opportunities and the touchpoints associated with that where there’s analysis that’s needed, as well as other types of outreach activities. So this is continuing to form and evolve, but we’re extremely excited about the opportunities to be able to make impactful differences here.

MEREDITH BRASELMAN: Very good. Well, that wraps up the Q and A for today’s webinar. We know that we have a lot more questions that have come through and we are going to be working to answer those publicly very soon. Likewise, we are moving up to post copies of today’s presentation on the website tomorrow, not on Tuesday, but tomorrow, we’re going to do that.

Again, the full recording, though, will take a little bit longer, but we’ll get the slides up as soon as we possibly can tomorrow. If you have additional questions and comments on the Grid Resilience Innovation Partnership program, please email us at gdorfi@hq.doe.gov and we will put that in the chat for you as well. So Maria, Tom, thank you very much for joining us today. Thank you to all of our attendees for participating. Everyone take care and we will talk soon. Thank you.

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