



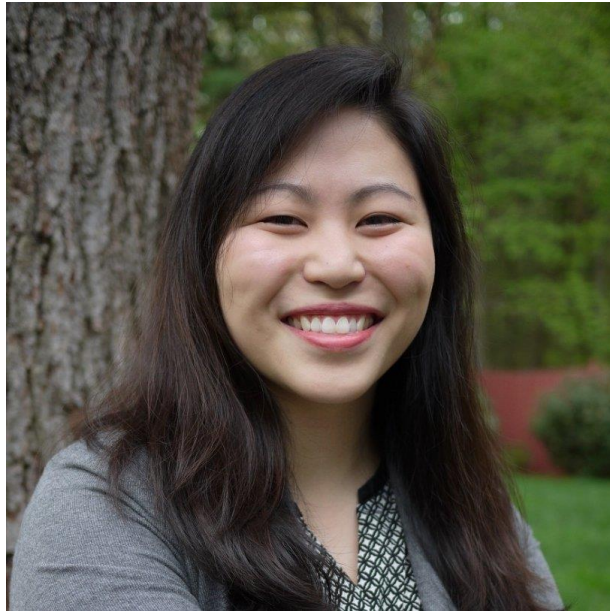
# Transmission Siting and Economic Development Grants Program

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January 25, 2023



# Transmission Siting and Economic Development Grants Program



**Maria Robinson**

Director, Grid Deployment Office,  
U.S. Department of Energy



# DOE's Grid Deployment Office

**Mission Statement:** 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.

Power Generation Assistance  
Division

The Power Generation Assistance Division works with existing generation facilities to ensure resilience and reliability.

Transmission Division

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.

Grid Modernization Division

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



# Transmission Siting and Economic Development Grants Program



**Jeffery Dennis**

Deputy Director, Transmission Development, Grid Deployment Office,  
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U.S. Department of Energy, Grid Deployment Office

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# Overview of Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Transmission Siting and Economic Development Grant (TSED) Program

TSED appropriates \$760 million to make grants to siting authorities and state, local, and Tribal governmental entities to carry out certain eligible activities related to the siting of covered transmission projects that:

1. Will facilitate the siting and permitting of covered transmission projects; or
2. Support economic development projects in communities affected by covered transmission projects.



# Why is DOE Issuing This RFI?

1

Provide resources and tools to siting authorities to improve the chances of approval and shorten the time it takes to process transmission siting and permitting applications, and address the impacts of transmission projects in local communities

2

Gather stakeholder input regarding potential activities by siting authorities and/or economic development projects in affected communities that could be supported with IRA grants

3

Inform program planning purposes and the potential development of a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA)



# What is a "Covered Transmission Project?"

The IRA defines a “covered transmission project” as:

- A high-voltage interstate or offshore electricity transmission line
  - Proposed to be constructed and operated at a minimum of 275 kV (kilovolts) (alternating-current or direct-current) if onshore
  - or at a minimum of 200 kV (alternating-current or direct-current) 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 Activities

The IRA authorizes grants to *siting authorities* for activities such as:

- Studies and analyses of the impacts of a covered transmission project.
- Examination of up to three alternate siting corridors where a covered 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 authorities*** are any State, local, or Tribal governmental entity with authority to make a final determination regarding the siting, permitting, or regulatory status of a covered transmission project.



# Economic Development Grants

*Grants under TSED are also available for economic development activities for communities that may be affected by the construction and operation of a covered transmission project.*

Eligible Recipients:	Funding Availability:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Siting authorities upon approval by the siting authority of a covered transmission project</li><li>➤ Any other local, State, or Tribal government entity upon commencement of construction of a covered transmission project</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Disbursement can occur until funding is expended or until September 30, 2029, whichever occurs first</li><li>➤ DOE cannot enter into grant agreements that could result in any outlays after September 30, 2031</li></ul>

***DOE is seeking more input as to what kind of economic development opportunities could be supported by these grants.***



# Community Benefits and Environmental Justice



Support meaningful  
community and  
labor engagement



Invest in  
America's workforce



Advance diversity,  
equity, inclusion,  
and accessibility



Contribute to President  
Biden's Justice40  
Initiative goal that 40% of  
the overall benefits of  
certain federal  
investments flow to  
disadvantaged  
communities

# Conditions on Grant Funding

- Siting authorities receiving funding for siting activities must reach a final decision on an application for an applicable covered transmission projects no later than 2 years after the grant is provided.
  - The Secretary may extend this timeline for good cause.
- The federal share of the cost for certain eligible siting activities is limited to 50% for participation by siting authority in regulatory proceedings:
  - Or negotiations in another jurisdiction,
  - At the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission or a State regulatory commission.
- For economic development grants, funding may only be disbursed to a siting authority upon approval by the siting authority of the covered transmission project and to State, local, or Tribal governmental entity upon commencement of construction of the applicable transmission project in the area under the jurisdiction of the entity.





# Request for Information

- The RFI seeks broad input from stakeholders to help inform DOE's implementation of the IRA's TSED Program, including how grants under the Program can be used to:
  - Identify, develop, and deploy resources and tools to improve the efficiency of siting and permitting proceedings;
  - Increase community and stakeholder engagement in siting and permitting processes, create quality jobs, and address local community needs and impacts;
  - Identify and prioritize economic development projects in affected communities
  - Identify opportunities, strategies, and approaches to advance environmental justice and equity in disadvantaged communities impacted by transmission projects



# More Information and RFI Response

- [Transmission Siting and Economic Development Grants Program | Department of Energy](#)
- Responses to this Request for Information should be emailed to **GDOIRASection50152@hq.doe.gov** no later than **5pm EST** on February 28, 2023, and include “RFI for Transmission Siting Grants” in the subject line of the email.

A series of frequently asked questions (FAQs) have been posted to offer ideas that may spur additional comments from stakeholder communities. The FAQs can be found at [Frequently Asked Questions on the Transmission Siting and Economic Development Grants Program | Department of Energy](#).



# Learn more about the Grid Deployment Office

- The Grid and Transmission Programs Conductor acts as a clearinghouse for GDO's transmission and grid resilience financing programs
- Find information on Grid and Transmission programs within:
  - Bipartisan Infrastructure Law
  - Inflation Reduction Act
  - And other existing DOE transmission and grid programs

**Grid and Transmission Program Conductor**  
Grid Deployment Office

Grid Deployment Office > Grid and Transmission Program Conductor

The **Grid and Transmission Program Conductor** acts as a clearinghouse for GDO's transmission and grid resilience financing programs, as well as other existing DOE transmission and grid programs.

The Conductor consists of an interactive tool to find the opportunities best suited to individual projects. Scroll down to the [program summary](#) below or visit the [Conductor Guide](#) for more comprehensive information about the available funding opportunities and the application process.

Use this tool to find the best program for you:

Start the course →

Reuse Embed H/P

### Programs Summary

	SOLICITATION	FUNDING MECHANISM	NEXT STEPS
Transmission Facilitation Program	Solicitation for loans, public private partnerships, and additional capacity contracts in Spring 2023	Capacity contracts	Submission deadline for the first phase is February 1, 2023.



# Contact Us



[www.energy.gov/gdo/transmission-siting-and-economic-development-grants-program](http://www.energy.gov/gdo/transmission-siting-and-economic-development-grants-program)



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